



**SUPPORTING THE REGIONAL MANAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RICE FARMERS' ORGANISATIONS IN THE NORTHERN REGION OF GHANA WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FOOD SECURITY AND RICE PRODUCERS ORGANISATION PROJECT (FSRPOP)**

**Ref.**  
5

Expert(s)	Country	Volume (md)	Amount (€)	Beneficiary	Funding	Start date	End date	Partner(s)	Reference
O. Bouyer	Ghana	2 years of TA	400 000	Rice producers and MoFA	French Co-operation	Jan. 2002	Jan. 2004	AFD, UDS, REFLECT	<a href="mailto:olivier.maes@ec.europa.eu">olivier.maes@ec.europa.eu</a> Off : +66 2 305 2700

Detailed description of the project	Services provided
<p>For a long time, the development of the agricultural sector in Ghana was oriented towards a cash crop culture. Food crops were promoted less and food security in the country was threatened. In the early 2000s, the Government of Ghana had focused on the development of food crops with the rice sector being a main priority, in order to reduce imports by 30% in favour of local rice.</p> <p>Nevertheless, if there was at that time a net disengagement of the State from directly supporting the productive sector, Farmer Based Organizations (FBOs), meanwhile, remained underdeveloped and could not handle all the public agricultural services.</p> <p>To this end, the Food Security and Rice Producers Organisation Project (FSRPOP) was set up to support both the Ghanaian Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) in defining a food security policy and the Northern Region FBOs in rice production development. The implementation of this project, financed by the French Co-operation, operated in parallel with the Lowland Rice Development Project (LRDP) financed by the <i>Agence Française de Développement</i> (AFD).</p> <p>The project manager, based in Accra, worked within the central services of the MoFA with the aim of strengthening food security policy. A co-project manager, based in Tamale in the savanna zone of the Northern Region, worked within the MoFA regional services to support more than 2,500 rice farmers organised into FBOs.</p>	<p>As a French civil servant at the disposal of the Ghanaian MoFA, the Technical Assistant was fully integrated within the regional services of the MoFA in Tamale and he advised the Regional Director on all issues related to agriculture, forestry, land tenure, micro-credits, etc. To accomplish his mission, the Technical Assistant also directly managed €0.4 million of the €1.3 million FSRPOP budget.</p> <p>Specifically, he created the development bureau of the FBOs within the Regional Directorate and was responsible for the day to day management of a team of 5 field agents to build the capacity of rice grower FBOs at local, Union and Apex levels (in total, more than 2,500 producers for more than 1,000 ha of lowland rice fields): support in the bulk purchase of improved seeds, fertiliser, agriculture or agro-processing tools and machinery, collective marketing of parboiled rice for the domestic market, strengthening of technical and management capacities (including a literacy campaign with the REFLECT network - Regenerated Freirean Literacy through Empowering Community Techniques), strengthening of the FBO negotiation skills when dealing with retailers and wholesalers of agricultural products, banks, local administrations, etc.</p> <p>The Technical Assistant also supported the Project Manager in the macroeconomic modelling of the rice sector and the creation of an inter-professional body for the same, with the aim of reinforcing food security in Ghana.</p> <p>At the end of the two years, the rice yields were substantially increased (from 1 t/ha to 2.5 t/ha), as well as rural incomes. The rice FBOs were strengthened and the MoFA decided to up-scale the project to include the Upper East and Upper West Regions.</p>