
**COMPLETION
REPORT
FOR
STAGE TWO
TRAINING
FOR
KULPAWN
VEGETABLE
GROWERS
FARMERS
GROUP,
YAGABA**

8th – 22nd
December
2010.

**DR (MRS) MARY
OBODAI**

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Kulpawn Vegetable Growers Farmers Group at Yagaba in the West Mamprusi District of the Northern Region of Ghana was assigned to Food Research Institute of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research for MiDA Stage 2 Training.

Kulpawn Vegetable Growers Farmers' Group Based Organisation consists of 26 men and 13 women and was established in 2009. The trainers for the group were Dr (Mrs) Mary obodai (CSIR-FRI) and Mr. Mr Abukari Bawa (Agric Extension Agent, Gbimlisi). All members of Kulpawn Vegetable Farmers Group attended the training except for some absenteeism as a result of market days and funerals. The Kulpawn Vegetable Growers Farmers' Group were interested in the training and the information on modern agriculture, whilst a few were interested in starter pack and credit facilities. The farmers' were pleased about the positive impact of the MiDA Programme because it would help them alleviate poverty and improve their livelihoods. Lessons learnt according to trainee farmers during the MiDA Stage 2 Training were the modern agriculture technologies and post harvest management with emphasis on maize, which is their commercial crop. Kulpawn Vegetable Growers Farmers' Group did not identify any shortcomings in the MiDA Stage 2 Training. They really welcomed the training and believe it will go a long way to improve their farming activities.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

The Food Research Institute of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has been tasked by Millennium Development Authority (MiDA) to conduct a three weeks training programme for Stage 2 Training of the Commercial Development of Farmer-Based Organization (CDFO) for Kulpawn Vegetable Growers Group, Yagaba, West Mamprusi District of the Northern Region of Ghana. The training on MiDA Stage 2 commenced on 8th December and was completed on 22nd December, 2010. Kulpawn Vegetable Growers Farmers' group received three teaching sessions of four hour duration each per week over the course of three weeks.

The Kulpawn Vegetable Growers Farmers group, Yagaba during the MiDA Stage 1 Training identified some training needs. These training needs as stated in their Action Business Plan are as follows:

- Lack of credit facilities for farming
- Lack of inputs (agrochemicals)
- Gradual reduction in soil fertility
- Poor tractor services at opportune time
- Unavailability of improved seeds
- Lack of storage facilities
- Lack of reliable transport services
- Poor market information
- Prize monopoly by market person
- Lack of irrigation facilities in the dry season

The training needs as identified in the Action Business Plan of Kulpawn Vegetable Growers Farmers group were addressed to the best of our knowledge during MiDA Stage 2 Training.

3.0 TRAINING VENUES AND LOGISTICAL CHALLENGES

The MiDA Stage 2 Training for the Kulpawn Vegetable Growers Farmers group, Yagaba was conducted initially at the Bible Church of Africa, Yagaba for the first two weeks and the third week training was conducted at the World Vision Primary school. The venues were easily accessible and appropriate for the training.

4.0 TRAINERS AND TRAINING EQUIPMENT

Table 1: Identification of Kulpawn Vegetable Growers Farmers group and trainers assigned to the group

FBO Identification Number	FBO name	Location of FBO	Names of trainer(s)
NAZ081206G0037	Kulpawn Vegetable Growers Farmers group	Yagaba, West Mamprusi District	Dr (Mrs) Mary Obodai Mr. Abukari Bawa

The Kulpawn Vegetable Growers Group was trained by two trainers. The modules on Crop Production, Integrated Crop Management and Post-harvest management were taught by Mr. Abukari Bawa (Agriculture Extension Agent), who has a lot of experiences in agronomy, whilst modules on Farm Management and Environmental and Social Impacts were taught by Dr (Mrs) Mary Obodai of the CSIR- Food Research Institute.

Flip boards, chats and markers were the materials used for the training. Generally the training materials successfully facilitated the MiDA Stage 2 Training.

5.0 LESSONS FROM APPROACHES AND METHODOLOGY

Table 2: Summary of modules, topics for each week and a brief outline of the methodology used for each in a tabular form.

Week (with dates)	Module number and title	Topic (if applicable)	Training methodology
1			
08-12-2010	Module 4. Maize Production and Post-harvest Technologies	Crop Production -Introduction -Site selection -Spatial organization and infrastructure	Lectures, discussions and demonstrations

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> planning -Land preparation -Choosing a variety 	
09-12-2010	Module 4. Maize Production and Post-harvest Technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crop Production -Planting -Cultural practices -Harvesting -Post harvesting 	Lectures, discussions and demonstrations
10-12-2010	Module 11. Cross Cutting Technologies for Adoption by Farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated Crop management Practices: -Introduction to Integrated Crop Management -Integrated Pest Management -Integrated Pest Management in Practice -Case Stories of IPM in practice 	Lectures, discussions and demonstrations
2			
13-12-2010	Module 11. Cross Cutting Technologies for Adoption by Farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -What is Plant Protection Products (PPP) -Choice of Plant Protection Products -Application of Plant Protection Products -Basic principles of spraying -First Aid -Storage of Plant Protection Products -Disposal of pesticide containers and obsolete Products 	Lectures, discussions and demonstrations
14-12-2010	Module 4,8 Maize Production and Post-harvest Technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post-harvest Management and Quality Control: -Understanding post-harvest 	Lectures, discussions and demonstrations

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> management -The importance of post-harvest management -Components of post-harvest management -Harvesting -Sorting, gathering, grading and standardization -Transportation -Primary processing -Treatment -Packaging -Storage -Secondary processing -Tertiary processing 	
15-12-2010	Module 11. Cross Cutting Technologies for Adoption by Farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farm Management: -Introduction and Importance of Farm Management -Basic Farm Management Problems -Farm Management Tools -Agribusiness -Farm Business Plan 	Lectures, discussions and demonstrations
3			
20-12-2010	Module 11. Cross Cutting Technologies for Adoption by Farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-site demonstration 	Demonstrations
21-12-2010	Module 11. Cross Cutting Technologies for Adoption by Farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental and social impacts: -Environmental issues in relation to production -Environmental issues in relation to 	Lectures, discussions and demonstrations

		post-harvest -Environmental issues in relation to processing	
22-12-2010	Module 11. Cross Cutting Technologies for Adoption by Farmers Evaluation of Training	Environmental and social impacts: -Social impacts on crop production and post-harvest management	Lectures, discussions and demonstrations Discussions

b. Experiences with the usefulness of developing a lesson plan, and usefulness of the different aspects of the lesson plan (items 1-vii below) for learning by FBO members.

i. Topic

The topics studied under Module 11 (Cross Cutting Technologies for Adoption by Farmers) included the following:

- Farm Management
- Integrated Crop Management
- Safe handling and Storage of Plant Protection Products
- Environmental and Social Impacts

The topics studied under Module 4 (Maize Production and Post-harvest Technologies) included the following:

- Crop Production
- Post-harvest Management and Quality Control

The topics studied under Module 8 (Post-harvest Activities) included the following:

- Post-harvest Management and Quality Control

ii. Why the Topic

These topics addressed the training needs of Kulpawn Vegetable Growers Farmers' Group as enumerated in their Action Business Plan.

iii. Learning objective of current lesson

The learning objective of the topics was to provide technical training on modern Agriculture technologies and post harvest technologies for Kulpawn Vegetable Growers Farmers' Group in order to help the farmers to move into growing new varieties and fully adopt Good Agricultural and post-harvest practices into commercial activities.

iv. Steps in knowledge/skills acquisition

Kulpawn Vegetable Growers Farmers' Group were taught and evaluated on the topics treated under each module. Emphasis was placed on areas where trainee farmers were observed to be lacking in knowledge until trainees understood the topic under study.

v. Training methodology (Activities/Steps in the provision of learning experiences)

Lectures, discussions, demonstrations and evaluation of topics were the training methods employed for the training of Kulpawn Vegetable Growers Farmers' Group.

Conclusion/Key message

Kulpawn Vegetable Growers Farmers' Group received the Stage 2 Training as timely and knowledge acquisition experience in their farming business and promised to use all the technologies learnt in their farming activities.

vi. Follow-up activities by trainers and trainees

Trainers will follow-up on a 2 weeks field demonstration for trainee farmers of Kulpawn Vegetable Growers Farmers' Group, which form part of the MiDA Stage 2 Training for the group.

c. Lessons for improving future training

The different modules taught during MiDA Stage 2 Training were very relevant. Participants agreed to use all the technologies acquired in the next 3-6 months to improve their farming activities.

Trainee farmers understood the modules taught very well and it is expected that they will all adopt the good agronomic practices and technologies to upgrade their farming activities. Farmers of Kulpawn Vegetable Growers Farmers' Group agreed to engage in group marketing as well as other activities of each other.

The training for groups was very appropriate and it is hopeful that the group will be successful in employing the knowledge in their farming activities. However, the farmers' efforts will materialise only by the availability of credit facilities for members to engage in their agriculture activities.

6.0 TRACKING INDICATORS

Table 3: Number of Kulpawn Vegetable Growers Farmers Group trained by districts and modules (Indicate percentage of participation by FBO leadership)

Name of FBO	Location	District	Number FBO members trained for each module (percentage of leadership of FBO participating)		
			Module 4	Module 8	Module 11
Kulpawn Vegetable Growers Farmers' Group	Yagaba	West Mamprusi	29 (74.4 %) 4 (100 %)	37 (94.9%) 4 (100%)	35 (89.7%) 3 (75 %)

7.0 TRACKING INDICATORS

Table 4: Level of knowledge scored for Kulpawn Vegetable Growers Farmers' Group for all training sessions

Date	Name of FBO	Location	District	Modal level of knowledge and skills before training	Modal level of knowledge and skills after training	Remarks
08-12-10	Kulpawn Vegetable Growers Farmers' Group	Yagaba	West Mamprusi	Poor	Very good	Farmers followed with much attention
09-12-10	Kulpawn Vegetable Growers Farmers' Group	Yagaba	West Mamprusi	Poor	Very good	Farmers discussions was very good
10-12-10	Kulpawn Vegetable Growers Farmers' Group	Yagaba	West Mamprusi	Poor	Very good	Farmers showed much interest in topics
13-12-10	Kulpawn Vegetable Growers Farmers' Group	Yagaba	West Mamprusi	Poor	Very good	Farmers contributed significantly

14-12-10	Kulpawn Vegetable Growers Farmers' Group	Yagaba	West Mamprusi	Poor	Very good	Farmers discussions was very impressive
15-12-10	Kulpawn Vegetable Growers Farmers' Group	Yagaba	West Mamprusi	Poor	Very good	Farmers showed strong interest in topics
20-12-10	Kulpawn Vegetable Growers Farmers' Group	Yagaba	West Mamprusi	Poor	Very good	Farmers discussions was very good
21-12-10	Kulpawn Vegetable Growers Farmers' Group	Yagaba	West Mamprusi	Poor	Very good	Farmers showed strong interest in topics
22-12-10	Kulpawn Vegetable Growers Farmers' Group	Yagaba	West Mamprusi	Poor	Very good	Farmers followed with much attention

8.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE FBO CAPACITY BUILDING STRATEGIES

The MiDA Stage 2 Training for Kulpawn Vegetable Growers Farmers' Group was conducted successfully and the farmers confessed that they had gained much knowledge on technologies of modern agronomic practices and post-harvest treatment during the entire period of training. Kulpawn Vegetable Growers Farmers' Group agreed to use the newly acquired knowledge in their farming activities and share with other farmers who did not benefit from the MiDA training. The Farmers however reiterated that the timely release of starter packs and credit facilities will facilitate the early application of their newly acquired knowledge in their farming activities and consequently improve their livelihoods.