



## REPORT ON SATTIFS MID-TERM DISSEMINATION CONFERENCE



**BY**

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## SUMMARY

As part of the project “*Strengthening Innovations and Technology Dissemination for Sustainable Development in Cereals, Cocoa and Coffee Value Chains in Western and Eastern Africa*” (SATTIFS) in Ghana, a three day Dissemination Conference, Steering Committee Meeting and Field Visit were held at the University of Energy and Natural Resources (UENR), Sunyani, Ghana from 27 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015. The objectives of the Dissemination Conference were to:

- Review the project activities in the participating countries to date.
- Highlight the achievements of the project, and
- Present the way forward of the project to participants.

The participating countries present were Uganda, Ethiopia and the coordinating country, Italy. The Conference was opened by the Vice-Chancellor of UENR, Prof. Mrs. Esi Awuah, who welcomed all participants to the conference and asked them to have fruitful deliberations. The conference was chaired by Professor S. Nokoe, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, UENR, who observed that the conference was timely in the present circumstances we find ourselves with climate change issues and other challenges bothering our farmers and food security. The key note address was delivered by the Brong Ahafo Regional Minister, Hon. Eric Opoku, who enjoined the participants to be serious in the knowledge being shared in the project to enhance food security. The Project overview was given by the Coordinator, Prof. Luciano Cinquanta of the University of Molise in Italy. The Operational Unit Coordinators from Ghana (Prof. Obeng-Ofori), Uganda (Dr. Martine Oyeko) and Ethiopia (Mr. Ashenafi Mitiku) briefed participants on their respective activities and achievements from inception to date. Participants included the project partners, including staff of the Ministry of Agriculture (MOFA), Cocoa Board (COCOBOD), Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana (CRIG), maize and cocoa farmers from Wenchi, Techiman, Nkoranza, Sunyani, Goaso and Akrodie. All media houses in Sunyani also participated. The Team also went on a field visit to one of the cocoa farms established during the Farmer Field School in Akrodie. The Project Steering Committee was also held. At the end of deliberations, participants were all satisfied with the project update and the achievements of the farmers so far. The end of project conference is schedule in Ethiopia in September 2016.

## Introduction

The “*Strengthening Innovations and Technology Dissemination for Sustainable Development in Cereals, Cocoa and Coffee Value Chains in Western and Eastern Africa*” is a project aimed at building capacity in science, technology, and innovation in West and East Africa to boost food security, reduce/alleviate poverty and enhance socio-economic development. It is being implemented in Ghana, Ethiopia and Uganda. It is being implemented in several communities in the Brong Ahafo and Ashanti Regions of Ghana. The Ministry of Food and Agriculture, cocoa and maize farmers, artisans, processors and other practitioners in the cocoa and maize value chains have been identified as key stakeholders to participate in the research and as beneficiaries of the training and the research outcomes of this project.

The Mid-Term Dissemination Conference organized for stakeholders of the Project and participants, made up of Directors of Agriculture, Agricultural Extension Officers, COCOBOD, CRIG, Cocoa and Maize farmers from various farmer groups, Food processors and staff from Gratis Foundation in Sunyani, Goaso, Akrodie, Techiman, Wenchi and Nkoranza in the Brong Ahafo Region of Ghana. The Conference was organized to provide stakeholders and participants with an insight into the objectives of SATTIFS and to expose the participants to activities undertaken by CITED in the three countries; highlight some of the achievements of SATTIFS to the participants and also to discuss the way forward for SATTIFS.

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## Opening Ceremony of the Dissemination Conference

The Mid-term dissemination conference was held on September 29, 2015 at the Auditorium of UENR, Sunyani, Ghana and chaired by Professor S. Nokoe of the School of Graduate Studies, University of Energy and Natural Resources (UENR) and was opened by the Vice Chancellor, of UENR, Prof. (Mrs.) Esi Awuah. Professor Nokoe in accepting to chair the function reiterated the strategic importance of all efforts aimed at reducing hunger and improving food security. The Chairman's address was followed by a welcome address by Prof. (Mrs) Esi Awuah, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Energy and Natural Resources (UENR) Sunyani. She also expressed her appreciation for the impacts the SATTIFs project is having on local farmers and consequently on Ghana socioeconomic development. She welcomed all participants and encouraged students and staff to participate actively in the days' events as well as the activities of the project. The key note address was given by Mr. Fritz Mensah, the representative of the Brong Ahafo Regional Minister.



**Figure 1:** Dr. Phyllis B. Opare, Operational Unit Assistant at UENR introducing the Chairman for the Opening Ceremony



**Figure 2:** The Conference Chairman (Prof. Nokoe) and the Vice-Chancellor (Prof. Mrs. Esi Awuah) delivering their addresses.



**Figure 3:** Mr Fritz M. Mensah, reading a speech on behalf of the Regional Minister

The Regional Minister emphasized that the high agricultural growth can only be realized through modernisation and diversification, driven by public and private investment in the agriculture sector. He also mentioned that one area the government of Ghana is seriously and vigorously pursuing is encouraging public-private partnership in agro-business.

The Opening Ceremony was ended with a Vote of Thanks by Rev. Dr. Phyllis Opare.



## Project Highlights in Ghana, Uganda and Ethiopia

Presentations on the project were made by the respective Operational Unit Coordinators from Ghana, Uganda and Ethiopia on their activities to date and some of the farmers also gave their experiences with the project.



**Figure 4:** Project Coordinator, Prof. L. Cinquanta (left) and Prof. Obeng-Ofori (right), Unit Coordinator in Ghana giving their presentations

The Project Coordinator Prof. Cinquanta emphasized that he was satisfied with the working relationships among the participating countries and the establishment of the respective Centers for Innovation and Technology Dissemination (CITED) in all the SATTIFS regions. He was also satisfied with the improved knowledge, skills and attitudes about various appropriate technologies that have helped improve productivity and food safety amongst the various farming groups in the target regions.



**Figure 5** Unit Coordinators from Uganda, Dr. Martine Oyeko (left) and Ethiopia, (Mr. Ashenafi Mitiku (right) giving updates on the progress of the project

The conference was very interactive with participants asking questions about the project activities and expectations.



**Figure 6:** Participants contributing to discussions at the conference



**Figure 7:** Participants listening to presentations



**Figure 8:** Some of the Conference Participants





**Figure 9:** Participants contributing to discussions during the Conference

### Field Visit

On September-2015, the team then went on a field visit to one of the cocoa farms established during the Farmer Field School in Akrodie, where they interacted with the farmer. The farmer showed her appreciation to the SATTIFS team. She explained that the new techniques the project team has exposed her were yielding good results.



**Figure 10:** Project team members in the Cocoa Farm in Akrodie



**Figure 11:** Farmer collecting fermented cocoa beans for drying