



PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE SOYBEAN PRODUCTION IN GHANA

Soybean is becoming a key crop for smallholder households in Ghana, providing income and a valuable protein source for both humans and animals. Its growing demand has the potential to reduce poverty, improve nutrition, and boost foreign exchange earnings. Soybeans also enhance soil fertility through nitrogen fixation, making them environmentally sustainable. Ghana has the potential to produce 700 000 metric tonnes annually, but only 26 percent of this is realized. Despite 250 000 ha of suitable land, only 102 000 ha are cultivated, and yields are low (1.2–1.5 tonnes/ha, compared to a potential 3–3.5 tonnes/ha). This results in a supply-demand gap, leading to increased imports. Key challenges include limited access to productivity technologies, declining soil fertility, and climate change.

The project "Support to Soybean Development Programme in Ghana" employed green production technologies including the use of improved certified seeds and inoculants (biofertilizers), and green storage and processing to harness the potential of soybean to increase small actors' resilience and improved livelihoods.

The project was organized around four Outputs: Output 1: Improved land development for soybean production; Output 2: Improved production technologies promoted; Output 3: Increased capacity and access to post-harvest technologies; and Output 4: Improved processing and utilization of soybean among farm families.



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WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project supported the Government of Ghana in its effort to increase soybean production through significant investments in land clearing/development, solar-powered irrigation systems, farmers' access to improved production, and post-harvest management technologies to ensure sustainable and resilient soybean production the ten selected communities where the project was implemented.

The project benefitted 500 farmers (60 percent women) in ten farmers' groups and 24 value chain actors. Additionally, 14 staff from the Department of Agriculture, including two women, received training in post-harvest handling and group management to support the sustainability of the project. The project improved soybean production by developing 50 ha of land, training 661 farmers (456 women) on sustainable farming practices, and training 478 farmers (356 women) and 45 value chain actors on better post-harvest management. It also trained 282 women farmers and school feeding caterers on better soybean processing and use.

The project provided farmers with 3 750 tonnes of soybean seeds, 270 liters of inoculants, 28.4 tonnes of fertilizer, tarpaulins, Purdue improved crop storage (PICS bags) wellington boots, and gloves. With these resources, farmers increased their yields from 0.8 tonnes/ha to 1.5 tonnes/ha. The project also supported a soybean value chain analysis, helping guide Ghana's national soybean strategy and create guidelines for incorporating soy into school feeding and household diets.

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget
USD 600 000

Duration
March 2023-September 2024

Resource Partner
Government of Japan

Partner
Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA)

Beneficiaries
Smallholder farmers working with soybean production



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IMPACT

This project contributed to significantly improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in Ghana by boosting soybean production and increasing incomes. By addressing challenges such as low yields and limited access to productivity-enhancing technologies, it helped farmers achieve higher and more sustainable yields, reducing reliance on imports. The project also enhanced food security and nutrition, as soybeans are a rich source of protein for both humans and livestock. Additionally, by promoting soil health through nitrogen fixation, the project supported environmentally sustainable farming practices. Ultimately, the project benefited rural communities, and particularly women farmers, with improved practices and improved livelihoods.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

ACTIVITIES

- Community engagements on land development for soybean.
- Development of land for soybean production.
- Training of farmers on green production technologies.
- Training of producers and small actors in post-harvest handling of soybean.
- Building capacity of women farmers to include soybean recipes in household diets.
- Enhancing capacity of school caterers to include soybean recipes in school meals.
- Capacity development of small value chain actors.



Project Title
Support to Soybean Development Programme in Ghana

Project Code
FAO: GCP/GHA/039/JPN

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