



SIDE EVENT #1: Agricultural Transformation in Ghana: Findings from Ghana Strategy Support Program's Research

Venue: **OBUASI**

Organizer: Ghana Strategy Support Program (GSSP), IFPRI

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Presenters:

Nazaire Houssou, Research Coordinator, GSSP, IFPRI
(*Agricultural Intensification in Ghana*)

Kwaw Andam, Research Fellow, GSSP, IFPRI
(*Agro-processing Sector in Ghana*)

Shashidhara Kolavalli, Senior Research Fellow and Program Leader, GSSP, IFPRI
(*The Board Managed Cocoa Sector in Ghana*)

Abstract

The research focus of the Ghana Strategy Support Program (GSSP) is on the strategic question of “how” can Ghana transform agriculture into a modernized sector that makes substantial contribution to the overall economic growth. In this context, the program works on key policy areas like increasing productivity in the agricultural sector, improving competitiveness of the domestic agricultural sector, and creating an enabling environment for private sector investment in agriculture, with research having been conducted on a wide array of themes - technology adoption, seed policies, mechanization, land tenure and gender, value chain development strategies, management of the cocoa sector. In the recent years, the scope of the program has been further expanded to include research on agro-processing, rural labor markets, and macroeconomic management, to better understand agricultural transformation in the bigger context of the economic transformation of the country.

In this side event, we will present some of our research findings on agricultural intensification, agro processing and management of the Ghanaian cocoa sector. The presentation on agricultural intensification will offer the findings from research on the supply and demand side of technologies and inputs; and the institutional factors such as land tenure and participation by women. This presentation seeks to explain instances of agricultural intensification in the country to achieve higher levels of productivity with irrigation and appropriate technologies; or cases where women’s access to land is not undermined despite of individualization of land rights and the increase of land market transactions.

The presentation on agro processing in Ghana will highlight research on how viability of food processing is tied with agricultural productivity and raw material quality issues, rather than policy constraints. Because in Ghana there has been no dearth of policy for promoting the processing sector, be it for processing of tomatoes; or a presidential initiative for processing cassava; intentions to process half of





the cocoa produced; or more recently, the interest in promoting poultry processing as a means of supporting the domestic poultry sector. But the cost, quality, and reliability of supply of primary inputs seem to be holding back the agenda for agricultural transformation through agro-processing.

The presentation on the cocoa sector in Ghana will provide insight into the history, management and political economy of the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) and is combined with detailed analysis of smallholder production, domestic marketing and the global cocoa value chain. This presentation will discuss how after nearly two decades of decline in cocoa production, Ghana was able to, through reforms but without liberalization of internal and export marketing, increase the share of export prices going to producers, thus stabilizing and more than doubling production in the last decade.

Objectives

This side event aims to familiarize country-level stakeholders, interested in issues of agricultural transformation, with GSSP's work, by sharing the key policy messages emerging out of our research. The presentations will be followed by discussions, enabling the sharing of ideas and identifying possibilities for collaborative work.

