



GHANA ADVANCE II

*Fostering Climate-Smart Agriculture, Innovative
Technology Solutions, and Sustainable Relationships*



By 2018, ADVANCE II will foster the learning, cooperation, and growth of more than 110,000 farmers and agribusinesses.





Optimizing Business Potential *for all*

The Feed the Future Ghana Agricultural Development and Value Chain Enhancement (ADVANCE) II Activity is committed to optimizing business potential for all actors in the maize, rice, and soybean value chains. The project is implemented by ACDI/VOCA and partners TechnoServe, ACDEP, and PAB Development Consultants Ltd.

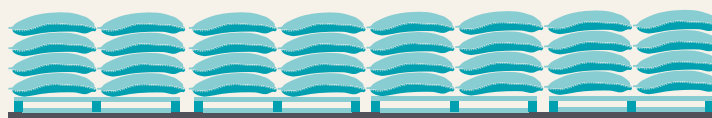
Project interventions include technology and business trainings, mentorship programs, demonstrations of good agricultural practices, especially relating to climate-smart techniques, and networking initiatives.

ADVANCE II is establishing a foundation for sustainable business partnerships, while addressing gaps and barriers along the value chain to ensure income growth for all value chain actors.

We highlight a few of ADVANCE II's many initiatives, with a focus on enhancing yields, and fostering climate-smart agriculture, innovative technology solutions, and sustainable relationships.

*Based on the lessons we have learned
we can together chart a course for greater
success in the future.*

Emmanuel Dormon
USAID ADVANCE II Chief of Party



\$60M of maize, rice, and soybeans were sold
by ADVANCE II smallholder farmers in 2016.
(A 200 percent increase from the baseline.)



CULTIVATING RESILIENCY TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate-smart production practices will reach over 20,000 farmers.

Around the world, the occurrence of climate change-induced extreme weather events, such as floods and droughts, is all too familiar. For people in the developing world, especially for those living in environmentally challenging areas like the savannas of northern and central Ghana, addressing climate change *is no longer an option, it is a necessity*.

Given these circumstances, ADVANCE II seeks to improve smallholder agricultural systems to adapt to and mitigate climate change while achieving food security. The objective of ADVANCE II's climate-smart agriculture (CSA) program is to increase awareness and adoption of CSA practices among project participants and, ultimately, enhance crop productivity and income.

Project interventions make cropping systems resilient to climate change and contribute to mitigating climate change through enhanced soil (and tree) carbon sequestration. The project promotes conservation agriculture practices, particularly minimum tillage and cover crop systems, to boost maize, rice, and soybean productivity for increased incomes and food security.



Photo by Lauren Bell

Climate-Smart Interventions Increase Productivity



MINIMUM TILLAGE

374 acres of land
"ripped" by outgrower
businesses



NO-BURN CAMPAIGNS

3M people reached by
the project's no-burn radio
campaign



CLIMATE MITIGATION

20,000 farmers
applied climate mitigation
technologies



AGROFORESTRY

160 acres of land
were assessed for
agroforestry implementation

"If we do something about it, maybe our children will get a good environment to live in. But if we keep doing what we are doing now, then our children will suffer from climate change in the future."

—Afena Yorke, maize farmer



DRIVING PROGRESS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

*SmartCards and web-based databases benefit over
100,000 participants.*



Technological Tools Benefit Farmers



29,000 farmers
receive agriculture alerts
via radio



9,000 farmers receive
weather forecasts via SMS



\$660,000
worth of transactions via
mobile money

To effectively and efficiently achieve its objectives, ADVANCE II is harnessing the power of information and communications technology (ICT) in varied and innovative ways. Through the use of tablets, portable projectors, speakers, and memory cards pre-loaded with training videos, ADVANCE II is helping outgrower businesses provide extension services to farmers on management techniques and good agricultural practices.

ADVANCE II also promotes digital financial services like mobile money to enable safe and secure transactions between value chain actors. To foster private sector involvement, ADVANCE II is linking ICT service providers with project participants as potential clients.

ADVANCE II uses ICT not only to implement its activities but also to monitor them. By distributing SmartCards among project participants, ADVANCE II is compiling beneficiary data to track activities and progress. With 70,000 SmartCards now in circulation, data capture and analysis is faster and more accurate, providing an opportunity for adaptive management within the project.

“The Ignitia weather alerts [are] helping us to plan our farming activities. Every day the farmers in the community come to ask me if my people have any news on the weather.”

—Mahama Amadu, maize farmer



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

50,000 farmers are directly linked to suppliers and buyers to create lasting partnerships.



ADVANCE II's sustainability strategy revolves around facilitating profitable, equitable, and inclusive business relationships and promoting the private sector's role in supporting, expanding, and benefitting from maize, rice, and soybean value chains. ADVANCE II believes that when relationships between value chain actors are profitable, they will continue to thrive.

ADVANCE II is increasing capacity and improving productivity by linking farmers with the right services, inputs, and equipment providers. ADVANCE II's outgrower business model, which supports a range of local value chain actors, is equipping entrepreneurs with the skills and confidence to seek out profitable business relationships. Independently, seven outgrower businesses recently signed contracts involving 650 metric tons of maize, rice, and soybean, valued at \$198,741.

ADVANCE II works with the Ghanaian government and its Ministry of Food and Agriculture to build the capacity of local associations and networks to advocate for a favorable business environment as well as promote environmentally friendly technologies and approaches.

"Local farmers need input, resources and the same farmers need technology. Apart from that they need a market and an end buyer."

—William Awuku Ahiadormey,
Managing Director, Agricare



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contracts were facilitated between buyers and outgrower businesses and farmer groups

These contracts involved over 92,000 MT of maize, rice, and soybeans, valued at over

\$4.4M



Photo by Lauren Bell

ADVANCE II AND NESTLÉ PARTNER TO TRAIN FARMERS

ADVANCE II is collaborating with Nestlé to build the capacity of farmers and aggregators in northern Ghana through training on agronomic and post-harvest protocols. Training ensures that producers meet Nestlé's standards, including reduced mycotoxin in maize. To foster continued success, ADVANCE II is helping suppliers learn how to successfully execute supply contracts with Nestlé.

PERSONAL SUCCESSES

Mary's Story

To help smallholder farmers access improved farming equipment and supplies, ADVANCE II provides matching grants to participants like Mary Anabila. In Mary's community, men traditionally own farm equipment. In order to grow her crop aggregation business, Mary broke with tradition and raised enough money for a 30 percent down payment on a tractor. Through its grants program, ADVANCE II provided the remaining 70 percent.

This is a great personal achievement for Mary. In her words, she "decided to get a tractor to help provide timely plowing for the smallholder farmers from whom I buy maize. When they get their fields plowed early enough, they will be able to plant at the right time so that I can buy from them at the right time. The timely plowing service can even let them increase their acreage so that I can get more grains to buy." Increased production through improved equipment will allow farmers to boost their sales and buy more inputs, creating self-sustaining incentives for business growth.



"ADVANCE II has opened my eyes to become more business minded. Now I know how to manage my business better. I am a widow, but I can afford to buy anything I want to support my family."

—Mary Anabila

Prince's Story

To promote ICT in agriculture, ADVANCE II provided tablets pre-loaded with videos to help outgrower businesses train farmers in good agricultural practices.

Nucleus farmer Prince Danso noted that, "The tablet is really helping me. I train my [239] farmers and others on good agricultural and post-harvest handling practices (land selection and preparation, row planting and spacing, appropriate fertilizer application, as well as pest and weed control) using the videos on the tablet, which I show with the projector. It also helps me keep records of my farming activities so I can follow the progress I am making. In addition, with the tablet, I take photos of my farmers' fields so we can discuss what we observe in them during training."

ADVANCE II also uses the tablets to gather data, replacing manual collection done with pen and paper. Better data collection helps the project plan for future trainings.

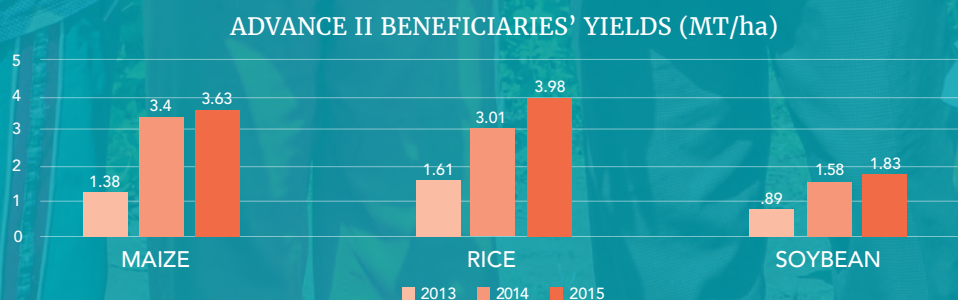


"I am now an 'ICT farmer.'"

—Prince Danso



Thanks to the project's interventions, smallholder farmers are steadily increasing their yields. In the last five years, maize and soybean yields more than doubled while rice yields almost tripled.





The Feed the Future Ghana Agricultural Development and Value Chain Enhancement (ADVANCE) II Activity supports the scaling up of agricultural investments to improve the competitiveness of the maize, rice, and soybean value chains in Ghana.

The ADVANCE II model simultaneously supports emerging commercial agriculture and smallholders realizing the value of aligned business incentives.



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www.feedthefuture.gov

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