The “Alafei Wulijo” Revolution is Beginning in Northern Ghana

Yunus Abdulai, RING DCOP/Agriculture & Livelihoods Specialist

MSN-GLEE

19 January 2016
USAID Resiliency in Northern Ghana (RING) Project

- **Dates:** June 15, 2014 – June 14, 2019 (5 years)
- **Geographic Location:** 17 districts of the Northern Region
- **Funding:** 9 districts receive direct government-to-government funding from USAID; 8 districts funded through Global Communities
- **Goal:** Improved livelihoods and nutritional status of vulnerable households
- **Expected Results:** RING is designed to contribute to USAID/Ghana FTF goals:
  - 20% decrease in stunting among CU5
  - 20% decrease in wasting, underweight, and anemia among CU5
  - 80% of target HHs have increased incomes of ≥100%
- **Three primary activity areas:** 1) Agriculture & Livelihoods; 2) Nutrition and WASH; and 3) Governance
Nutrition-Sensitive Activity Spotlight: OFSP

- **Vitamin A deficiency, and timely and appropriate introduction of complementary foods are significant problems in the Northern Region (NR)**
  - Only 56% of children age 6–23 month ate foods rich in vitamin A in past day (compared to 67% nationally) (GDHS 2014)
  - 44% of CU5 received a vitamin A supplement in the past 6 months (compared to 65% nationally) (GDHS 2014)
  - 8% of infants age 6–8 month had taken solid food in the past 24 hours (METSS 2015)

- **RING scaling-up OFSP in the Northern Region**
  - In 2015, 92,000 vines were distributed to 439 women farmers who harvested 23,000 kg of OFSP (equivalent to 700 basins shown in the photo)
  - In 2016, 1 million OFSP vines will be provided to an additional 2,000 women to harvest over 250,000 kg of OFSP
  - For further scale-up and sustainability, 8 vine multiplication sites will be established throughout the NR (in 8 districts)

- **Emphasis on consumption for complementary feeding and for maternal diet**
  - Promotion of improved porridge for children (OFSP, soy flour, smoked fish, oil), potato chips, leaf stew, boiled potato, *mpotompoto*

- **Includes market-driven approach**
  - Setting up additional vine multipliers through women groups
  - Promoting storage as part of the OFSP chain for good prices
  - Linking up with local food vendors as restaurants including OFSP in their menus
Conceptual Pathways between the OFSP Activity and Nutrition

Source: Herforth and Harris, 2014
Successes

• Multi-sectoral coordination and collaboration
  • Kick off sensitization meeting for district-level Ag Officers, Nutrition Officers, and District Assembly staff broke down siloes and built enthusiasm
  • Well-defined roles for officers from each sector that were understood and valued by all
  • Emphasis on joint planning and participation

• High acceptability
  • Well-liked taste and easily incorporated into local dishes
  • Great consistency for complementary foods, e.g. enhancing local porridge *koko*

• High male engagement
  • Community events saw 40% male participation—important in cultural context where a food will not be cooked at the house if the husband/father does not enjoy it
Lessons Learned

• OFSP has low nutrient demands and able to thrive well on fields closer to homes which saves time and effort for women

• Seen as a “woman’s crop;” consumption and incomes by, and for women

• Engagement of relevant stakeholders facilitated rapid scale up (Agriculture Officers, Planning Officers, Nutrition Officers, Gender Officers), Research-SARI, Academia-UDS, CIP etc.

• Engagement of stakeholders at the district level helped multi-sectorial coordination between Agriculture Officers and Nutrition Officers.

• Because of the dry season in the region, strategically located vine multiplication sites will ensure year round production and timely supply of vines for further scale up regionwide.
Looking Forward

- There is tremendous enthusiasm and acceptability among growers.
- Need to measure the uptake, consumption, and outcomes through project M&E
- Multiplication of vines, as demand for vines increases, can create additional income for women beneficiaries.
- Scale up to additional communities and women farmers
- Focus on demand generation through SBCC (Alafei Wulijo Campaign)
Thank you

Photo: Women beneficiaries in Kumbungu district prepare their OFSP crop for harvesting.
Victory Against Malnutrition Project (ViM)
Centre-North Region, Burkina Faso
January 2016

Presented by: Dr. Sidi Coulibaly,
Health and Nutrition Director
ViM at a glance

• **Project ViM**: ACDI/VOCA partnering with Save the Children and SNV

• **Period of Performance**: August 2011 to September 2016

• **Location**: Four communes in the Center North Region of Burkina Faso in the Sanmatenga province

• **Goal**: Project ViM’s goal is to reduce food insecurity among vulnerable rural populations in Sanmatenga province

The three strategic objectives (SO) are as follows:

- SO 1: Increased and diversified agricultural production
- SO 2: Improved household incomes
- SO 3: Reduced chronic malnutrition among children under 5 years of age and pregnant and lactating women (PLW)
Women’s savings and loan groups positively affect nutrition in ViM

Savings and loan groups:
- A local microfinance institution (MFI) is training women to form savings and loan groups
- Women contribute a fixed amount every month as savings, serving as a guarantee for the MFI
- 55 village banks established; increased use of financial services by women

Positive effect on nutrition:
- Increase in disposable income has had positive effects on the quantity, quality and variety of foods HHs can purchase. 44% increase in value of purchases of targeted commodities
- Increase in women’s decision-making power in HH appears to lead to greater investment in nutrition-related expenses
What has worked?

Women’s involvement in savings groups improved:

✓ Increased women’s decision-making power increased the use of health centers for preventive care and attendance at growth monitoring and promotion sessions

✓ Income earned and saved allowed women to purchase and consume garden produce and livestock products

✓ Children 6-23 months receiving a minimum acceptable diet improved to 36.0% from 5% baseline

✓ Average value of HH assets increased to $495 from $294 baseline.
Lessons learned

• Lessons learned
  ✓ Integration of production and income generating activities using Care Groups led to a reduction in malnutrition
  ✓ Empowering women through trainings and literacy classes led to an increase in leadership and a significant increase in their control of their incomes, which is correlated with improved mother and child nutrition

• Mitigation
  ✓ Strengthen community mobilization using agents like Mother Leaders to get the buy-in from communities for the implementation of project activities
  ✓ Involve husbands to ensure that they understand the women’s activities
  ✓ Prioritize participatory approaches
Additional information needed

- Rural credit schemes adapted for farmers with low resources, particularly women
- Increasing access to credit for ViM beneficiaries to increase on-farm production and incomes, thereby increasing nutrition outcomes for women
- Leveraging USAID Development Credit Authority resources for local financial institutions in Burkina Faso
Thank you
USAID|Yaajeende Project Overview

- One of the first USAID funded projects designed for FTF
- 7 Year $50 million USAID investment, started 11/2010
- 800,000 beneficiaries in 4 regions in Senegal
- Core Target beneficiaries = Mothers and children under 5 years old
- Project uses NLA, a Structural Approach focusing on Institutions to improve nutritional food production and using all 3 pathways SPRING just presented
NLA VIDEO

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-xQ_Lxo-b8E
“Nutrition-led agriculture” means you focus on what is missing in Nutrition and then do the Agriculture work based on that.

It starts with assessing what micronutrients are missing then work on those.

No introduction of crops randomly; introduce based on the needs. In our zones, 48% of women are anemic and 51% of children are vitamin A deficient.

We decided to have, as one of our focus areas: **Biofortified crops**—high-iron-zinc millet, high zinc-iron beans, and provitamin A OSP.

Using all three, plus vegetables, fruits and animal-sourced foods we promote, we offer a food basket that addresses various micronutrients.
Biofortified Crops: An example of one of our NLA interventions

Orange Sweet Potato (Vit A)
Y4: 650,000 plants on 21 ha of OFSP (30,000 plants per ha); Year 5 100 ha (3mn plants) for a total production of 1000 MT of OFSP tubers;

Biofortified Millet Seed (Iron/Zinc) - Year 2: 10 ha, Year 3: 300 ha, Year 4: 600 ha, Year 5: 1000 ha; Production: 1MT/ha;

Biofortified Common Beans (Zinc/Iron) - 5 ha of seed in Kedougou Region

9 new Vitamin A rich Maize varieties - Field testing with ISRA in our 4 zones

Support ISRA to become a “center of excellence” for distribution of Biofortified Crops

6000 micro-gardens
Steps taken to get clear effect on Nutrition through Ag.

1. Getting technical sectors to work together through Cellule de Lutte contre la Malnutrition and Food and Nutrition Division of Ministry of Health;

2. Including nutritionists on ag. research and other teams;

3. Working with local CSOs as well as Local Government;

4. Supporting the emerging farmers to produce a lot of good food for the market and make money;

5. Advocating to farmers, private sector and policy makers for biofortification to become a priority.
Merci!