

Ghana – “Non-shattering soybean variety”, International Center for Soil Fertility and Agricultural Development (IFDC)

- Objectives:

Provide solutions to low productivity in soybean production and develop backward and forward linkages in the soybean value chain to reinforce it.

- **Context:** Since late harvesting of soybeans leads to low or fluctuating soybean production (shattering of the pods due to late harvesting), demand for soybeans from processing industries (e.g. oil mills) has decreased. Via the Research and Extension Linkage Committee, farmers requested that solutions be explored. The Savanna Agricultural Research Institute (SARI) then developed two varieties of non-shattering soybean (Jenguma and Quarshie).

- **Project Summary:** Beyond offering solutions for low productivity, the SARI along with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and NGOs, aimed at reinforcing a steady and sustainable soybean production: this could be achieved only if farmers were guaranteed with input supply and outlets. The project tried to develop close linkages among actors in soybean production and trade. Farmers were linked backward to input dealers and forward to soybean marketers and processing factories. Reflection was conducted on access to credit for farmers for input supply to boost their production.

- **Impacts:** Over 5,000 soybean farmers have been linked to input suppliers and to the Savanna Farmers Marketing Company. The Soybean value chain has been reinforced.

- Main obstacles encountered

- Lack of financial products for farmers to give them access to input supply to boost their production. Rural banks and micro-finance institutions should be strengthened.
- Most input dealers sell compound fertilizer in place of specialized fertilizer.

- **Private sector involvement:** The project tried to develop linkages between farmers and other actors of the value chain. These include linkages with oil mills, linkages with local entrepreneurs, linkages with input suppliers, linkages with Savanna Farmers Marketing Company, and linkages with micro-finance institutions.

- Agricultural producer organizations/villagers involvement:

- The soybean varieties were developed on farmers' request through the Research and Extension Linkage Committee
- The project worked on building capacity of farmers to enable them to set up a community seed production.

- **Training:** Training in agribusiness was delivered to the actors involved in the soybean commodity chain by IFDC.

- **Date of creation:** 2003

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