

## WESP ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

- Organised one Group formation and leadership workshop and one crop management training for seven clusters comprising of 48 groups in 34 villages in Kori and Kowa chiefdoms in moyamba district
- Disbursed funds for the procurement of Groundnut and rice seeds for cultivation in Kori and Kowa chiefdoms.

The disbursement was done at the Taiama – Kori Court Barrie (community meeting place) to raise community awareness and increase transparency and accountability. The occasion was witnessed by the head of the land – Paramount Chief Thomas B. Gbappy III and other traditional/local authorities, while the print and electronics media made coverage.

### Breakdown of Seeds provided, estimated area coverage with planting dates:

Cluster community	No of Villages	No of Males	Female	No of Groups	Input Received Quantity	Estimated Acreage	Planting Date	Month
Njama – Kowa	3	87	177	10	41 Bags	13.66	23 <sup>rd</sup> /08	April
Mokaba – Kori	5	104	201	10	43 Bags	14.33	15 <sup>th</sup> /08	May
Konda – Kori	5	81	145	5	19 Bags	6.33	25 <sup>th</sup> /08	April
Bia Largo – Kori	5	65	156	5	26 Bags	8.66	17 <sup>th</sup> /08	April
Fogbo – Kori	5	99	162	5	16 Bags	5.33	25 <sup>th</sup> /08	April
Waima – Kori	6	98	159	6	21 Bags	7.00	18 <sup>th</sup> /08	May
Largo/Mbohun – Kori	5	69	155	6	25 Bags	8.33	15 <sup>th</sup> /08	May
<b>Grand total =</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>1,164</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>191 bags</b>	<b>61.264</b>		<b>May</b>

- Cultivation of new/improved cassava/maize on the newly WPJP acquired land in Taiama in Kori chiefdom.

### Breakdown of Cassava cutting cultivated:

Variety of Cassava	Bundles Pruchased	Estimated Acreage
Slicker 4	50	3
Slicker 6	50	3
Local Variety	100	2

- General assessment on crop growth and seed collection according to the MOU signed between WPJP and the farming communities/groups.
- Impact Assessment of 2007 income generating support and agricultural support in Kori chiefdom.

- Launching of the WPJP “Lend me a Hand” Micro-credit Scheme and holding of phases two (2) micro credit/business management training for women entrepreneurs in Taiama and Njala communities.
- Disbursement of loans to 58 beneficiaries in eleven groups in two communities (Taiama and Njala) for business expansion.
- On-going animation, monitoring and evaluation

**B) KEY OUTCOMES:**

1. The average estimated is 61 acres cultivated in 2008 by 7 cluster communities, 34 villages, 503 men, 1,164 women and 47 groups in Kori and Kowa chiefdoms.
2. A good number of women benefited from group formation and leadership training workshop, which has empowered them to manage the various groups formed.
3. After the monitoring of the various farms, the beneficiaries were taught to space the seeds on the field in order to have free movement of air, to avoid pest attacks etc.
4. The beneficiaries learnt new/additional skills such as: first weeding, fencing where necessary, general monitoring, harvesting and post harvesting activities.
5. The cultivation of cassava and maize on the demonstration farm has given the zeal to communities surrounding the farm to farm extensively and invest in new and improved crop varieties.
6. New farming methods were taught to beneficiaries such as roll planting and its advantages and random planting and its advantages. This aided communities in actualising better outputs this year.
7. There has been increased availability of groundnut seeds in most communities and alternative income generation outlets created for most rural women farmers/groups. WPJP also has enough cassava cutting for expansion into other communities and also to start processing of cassava into “gari, Fofu, etc for local consumption.

This is manifested by the illustration below:

a) Groundnut Cultivation:

Groundnut Seeds Supplied/bag	Seed Collected	Distribution of Proceeds based on MOU		
		Community Seed Banks	Profit to group members	Return to WPJP for other com.
191	223	115 bags	39 bags	69 bags
<b>Cassava Cultivated</b>				

**b) Cassava Cultivation:**

Variety of Cassava	Estimated cuttings/Bundles in return	Estimated Acreage for 2009	Estimated Cassava/bag		
			Acreage	Estimated bags/acre	Total bags
Slicker 4	250	15	3	25	75
Slicker 6	250	15	3	25	75
Local Variety	500	10	2	15	30

8. From the income generating support (Re: impact assessment) most women were able to provide additional learning materials, pay for extra lessons and provide launch for their children.
9. Also the support increased cordial relationship amongst the groups and between the children and their mothers.
10. In addition, there has been strong solidarity among women in the community in patronizing each other especially in dealing with issues related to their children's education and general wellbeing. Generally, there is the feeling of the girls belonging to the groups and not to individual mothers/families.

**Life testimonies/acclamations from some beneficiaries:**

Tenneh Jalloh a member of Ndogbormie group explained:

“Out of the profit, I was able to loan my husband 50,000 to repair his Honda with an interest. I was also able to provide basic school materials for my daughter”.

Further reiterated by Mildred Gordon of the same group:

“Out of the profit I was able to buy kerosene for my child to study, lunch to school and also solve other domestic problems”.

Fatmata Conteh of Ngoyela group said:

“Out of the profit I was able to solve most of my children's extra school charges and to provide food especially in the morning and also lunch”.

Fatu Serry of Sinava group said:

“Out of the profit I was able to make a table for my daughter to study at night, lamp, school bag, lunch and food at home every day.

11. In most rural homes that have benefitted from the programme, there is an improvement in the general situation of women e.g. from receivers to givers. Some have become breadwinners. The women have accrued some respect in the communities. The chairlady in Njala is now recognised as the chair lady for the entire Njala community.
12. Through the micro-credit scheme, beneficiaries have formed the “Human Rights Committee” to check on rape cases, wife beating and other gross gender-based abuses in their communities.
13. Two earlier communities (Konda, Yandu and Largo) have initiated community lending scheme that is open to other community members.

14. Furthermore, the group in Konda is slowly growing into a cooperative – buys proceeds from other community members during harvest and sell during shortage in the same community.
15. There is growing interest and healthy competition among the groups to a point that they are requesting the organisation to organise yearly agricultural show – to compete, share ideas and proceeds.

**a. IMPACT CREATED:**

In the project operational areas, there is the existence of permanent cluster executive that oversees development activities undertaken by the different villages/groups.

1. The micro-credit scheme has put in place a permanent body (Loan Steering Committee) to manage loans in the communities.
2. Women have been empowered to manage large sums of money all by themselves.
3. Rural women in the operational areas have become exposed to dealing with issues that concerns them and their communities.
4. The micro-credit scheme has increased relationship between mothers and daughter. It has also increased monitoring of children by their mothers.
5. Village women now have seed banks in their communities which provide collateral for members and has facilitated group solidarity and harmony. This was shown in one of the communities i.e. Mbawomahun when WPJP seed collection team (Re: MOU which is. 40% of the total proceeds to the group, 30% as seed bank and 30% to WPJP for expansion into new communities). A woman in position of authority, who refused to pay a fine of Le 5,000 begged openly not to be terminated from the group and promised to pay the said amount immediately once accepted into the group again.
6. Women are slowly claimly ownership and are consulted on household and community issues for their views. This was manifested when the only lettered man who served as the secretary in Nkolahun wanted to tamper with the group's money. The women stood their grounds to immediately sacked and dismissed him from the group.

**D) HELPING/CONTRIBUTING FACTORS**

A number of factors contributed to the success here-mentioned. They are:

1. Available funding to undertake trainings/workshops, buy groundnut seed for cultivation in Kowa and Kori chiefdoms and seed loan for micro-credit scheme at Njala and Taiama.
2. Community willingness and support to undertake the project activities e.g. establishment of community mobilising and monitoring structures e.g. cluster executives, loan steering committes etc.
3. Continuing sensitization on the education of the girl-child and the rights of women to participate and benefit from development engagments.
4. Technical capability of programme staff to train, mentor, monior and evaluate activities.

5. Administrative and monthly in-house staff capacity development trainings undertaken by the organisation.
6. The availability of WPJP land (ten acres) to do the demonstration farm.

#### **E) MAJOR CONSTRAINTS/HINDERING FACTORS:**

Although the programme undertook many activities yet successes were constrained by other major factors. Key among these were:

1. Lack of mobility to monitor project activities as planned. Hence activities were left in the hands of groups to monitor and report
2. Lack of adequate funding for the programmes. The programme relied largely on the Political Empowerment and Advocacy support for funding.
3. 85% of the women (including their leaders) were illiterate, i.e. could not read or write. Thus training sessions had to be extended for translation and practices
4. Some of the groundnut seeds were not good for planting.
5. Most of the farming communities were not motorable; they were therefore difficult to access especially during the raining seasons.
6. Involvement of the farmers into other farming activities, to some extent hindered the group work.
7. Inclusion of some male members who wanted to use their beings to dominate, dictate and misdirect the groups.
8. The lack of storage facilities for the proper storing of groundnut seeds led to the earlier sale of seeds in some communities and incorrect preservation methods.
9. Finally the weak financial capacity of the organisation undermined staff commitment and withdrawal e.g. resignation of programme head before the completion of the one year contract.

#### **F) KEY LESSONS LEARNT**

1. In the absence of effective monitoring, groups become fragile and less committed and may even collapse. This was manifested by comparing group cohesion and proceeds among groups often visited and those hardly visited by the programme animator and other staff.
2. Some of the groundnut seeds bought were not good for production e.g. groups in Taninahun is a show case where a whole bag of groundnut seeds were in productive.
3. Agricultural support extends beyond provision of seeds to providing food for work in newly resettled communities. Most groups used part of the seed money to purchase food for work.
4. Financial Support to groups could be used as an entry point to change community perception of the roles and responsibility of women and girls in society.
5. Men are more willing to join hands with women (as equal partners) in community projects when such groups manifest significant breakthroughs.

6. Rural women community project cannot be isolated from men but must make provision for the inclusion of men if successes and satisfactions are to be realised.
7. Women once convinced, could make significant contributi

## **G) GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

After highlighting the activities, outcomes, limitations and the lessons learnt, it is recommended that:

1. To extend the micro-credit scheme to two more neighbouring chiefdoms; Kamajei and Dasse cheifdoms.
2. Agricultural activities should not be limited to only groundnut cultivation. Other food crops such as potato, cassava, rice etc rearing of animals and planting of permanent crops like banana, oranges, palm fruits ect should be encouraged and included.
3. Increase the number of field staff to a minimum of three and build their capacity to animate and monitor groups and activities.
4. It is very necessary to strengthen the capacity of group leaders and the cluster executives through the provision of logistice like bicycles, mobile phone and training workshops for effective project/group management.
5. Also introduction of adult literacy classess would improve members ability to document and report activities at community and/or cluster levels.
6. To avoid wastage and increase availability and access to food within rural communities, it is also recommended that the programme launch a pilot cassava processing project at the demonstration site.