

**MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACCOUNT (MCA) GHANA PROGRAM
SECOND DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DAC) MEETING (2009)**

MEETING DATE : 21 / 12 / 09
DISTRICT : SOUTH TONGU
CAPITAL : SOGAKOPE
NUMBER OF DAC MEMBERS PRESENT: 16

PROJECT	QUESTIONS ASKED	RESPONSE	CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBERS	REMARKS
Agriculture Project	<p>We are not seeing our way clear, when it comes to implementation of the Compact. We are not seeing anything being done on the ground.</p> <p>Am not sure what MiDA has done to improve the capacity to produce the “primary produce” but there is a need to improve storage and marketing of the produce.</p>	<p>Luckily the Board Member representing the South Zone is a member of this Assembly and she is here with us today to throw more light on what has been done. Indeed a lot has been achieved but there seems to be a perception that the program is slow. That perception is borne partly out a lack of information in spite of MiDA’s best efforts to communicate. For instance in the South Tongu District alone, 15 FBO have been reached. That is 750 individual farmers who are benefiting directly. 7 of those FBOs had their starter pack.</p> <p>By “Primary Produce” if you mean agricultural produce, that is exactly what the farmer training is meant to fix. As the Program Objective suggests, the Farmer and Enterprise Training is to enhance Production and Productivity and enhance the market competitiveness of their produce. The farmers here will attest to the fact that the training is helping them produce more efficiently and they find market even before they produce.</p>	<p>MiDA must collaborate with CSIR to convert Okra for instance to be stored properly</p>	

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<p>Farmer and Enterprise Training</p> <p>Transportation Project</p>	<p>Farmers in here are close to the Volta river and they require help in the form of irrigation facilities. What is happening to their request?</p> <p>What is happening to our roads? When will we see contractors at work?</p> <p>MiDA's mandate is seemingly being interfered with, politically. How true is that?</p> <p>Kodzi to Agbeve road is very important and strategic considering the farming activities in that area?</p>	<p>The two irrigation facilities chosen in the Southern Zone are unfortunately not in South Tongu. However if there were requests made by the farmers, it should be in their business plans which have been submitted to the banks for consideration.</p> <p>You will see progress as we enter next year. At the moment the procurement process is near completion for contract to be awarded.</p> <p>If it is happening I 'm not in the position to know about it. However I doubt if any such thing is happening because, the way the program has been structured makes it difficult for political interference to take place.</p> <p>The roads I know of which have been selected are from Sogakope through Gbonakope, Detsawume, Atitekpo to Adidokpe . there is another one from Dabala to Agbakope and another from Adutor to Bekpe am not sure if that covers the road you mentioned. I must state that all these roads were chosen in close collaboration with district officials. The choice is also dependent on the fact that there are FBOs in the area who are part of the MiDA Program.</p>	<p>.</p> <p>The road being talked about does not seem to be part of the roads MiDA has selected. In fact there are FBOs in that area who are part of the MIDA program. It must however be made clear that MiDA cannot solve all the problems in the district. There are other interventions we can look up to.</p>	

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Community Services	<p>Up until now, South Tongu does not have any school project. Yet we see on television schools being commissioned in other districts?</p> <p>Which schools will be tackled and how many of them will be done?</p>	<p>As we enter the new year South Tongu like all other districts will also see concrete work on schools since we have gone past the paper work.</p> <p>The specific numbers of schools and particular schools to be constructed are not yet out. I will let you know when I have the information. What I do know is that, across the MiDA districts, there will be more than 250 schools to be built.</p>		
Credit	<p>Interest rates are too high even though they are at (short term = 91 day Treasury Bill rate, Medium Term = Bank of Ghana Prime Rate)</p>	<p>MiDA recognizes the high interest rate. But, it is not a simple issue of reducing the rate for farmers. The ultimate objective of Program is to pull FBOs with the capacity to grow along, so that they will grow. When those FBOs grow, those other FBOs willing to accept change and move along will also be taken along eventually. The plan is to enable farmers to become businesses that can operate within the economy like any other business MiDA wants a situation where some farmers will grow and be strong enough to stand on their own feet even when MiDA is not around to support them.</p>		

