

**MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACCOUNT (MCA), GHANA PROGRAM
DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DAC) MEETING.**

MEETING DATE	: 26th MAY, 2009
DISTRICT	: MAMPONG MUNICIPAL
CAPITAL	: MAMPONG
NUMBER OF DAC MEMBERS PRESENT	: 28

PROJECT	QUESTIONS ASKED	RESPONSE	CONTRIBUTION FROM MEMBERS	REMARKS
Farmer and Enterprise Training	Why haven't all FBOs selected been trained?	The number of FBOs selected in each district is split into two halves. One half first receives training ahead of the other. This is to ensure effective training. For Monitoring and Evaluation purposes also the group that receives training later is monitored as the "control subject" along with those being trained as a way of evaluating the effectiveness and impact of the training.		
	What happens if a farmer drops out of the training?	The whole essence of the training is to impart knowledge and change the commercial orientation of all operators in the agricultural value chain including farmers. It is therefore in the farmers' interest to complete the training successfully because the knowledge acquired will go a long way to improve farming practice. Additionally dropping out of the training will also disqualify a farmer from accessing the credit component of the Programme	The framers should recognize that the value of the training is much more than what they might be receiving as loans. They must therefore take it more seriously.	
	Farmers are complaining that they have been promised some GH30 which does not seem to be forth coming. When will they get the money?	The farmers are to receive the money as part of the package of farm inputs which they are to use on their demonstration farms to practice what they learnt during the training. As we speak, preparations are underway to pay the money to the farmers.		

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Agric Credit	<p>Will all farmers benefit from the credit</p> <p>The rains have started and the credit has taken too long in coming. When is it going to reach the farmers?</p>	<p>There are a number of criteria to be met in accessing credit among which are successful completion of Phase 1 of training and submission of a business plan to a bank. It is only FBOs/farmers who satisfy all the set criteria who will access a loan. It must be noted that the MCA loans are not free government money. Anyone who takes a loan will have to pay it back.</p> <p>The timing for accessing the loan is indeed key to MiDA. As we speak farmers who have gone through the training in this district as well as other districts have had their Business Plans prepared and the Banks are currently processing such requests.</p>	<p>There seem to be too much premium being put on credit. The training alone is a good enough asset which farmers can rely on. The FBOs should therefore not make access to credit the basis for going through training and become so focused on getting loans and forget the value of the training.</p>	
Post Harvest Infrastructure	<p>Which post harvest project will be carried out by MiDA in the district.</p> <p>Are district Assemblies allowed to make request for such facilities?</p>	<p>The Post Harvest Infrastructure activity is an on-demand activity. Consideration for rehabilitation or construction of a facility will therefore be based requests from FBOs, individuals or firms. Advertisement came out about a week ago inviting these entities to express interest and send in their proposal.</p> <p>The District Assemblies are at liberty to assist the various entities to submit proposals and put in bids. However the District Assembly on its own can directly put in bids.</p>		

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Irrigation	What is the status of the irrigation projects to be provided? Will Mampong get any?	Two irrigation schemes have been selected in what used to be the Sekyere West District which is now Mampong Municipal and Sekyere Central. One of them is Sata which was constructed 1994 with a potential of 100 HA but only 16 HA has been developed. The other is Aframso which also has a capacity of 120 HA but 40 HA is in use. These two, one of which is in Mampong (Sata) will be worked on		
Ferry Activity	What is happening with the Ferry activity?	The MCA Ghana Program is to put two Ferries on the Volta Lake at the Ekye Amanfrom and Adawso crossing. The Ferry Activity include the rehabilitation of the floating Dock at Akosombo, the Landing facilities at both Ekye Amanfrom and Adwaso as well as construction of modern terminals to make passengers more comfortable		
Roads	Where are the trunk roads promised in the compact? Will Mampong get its share of the Trunk roads?	Under the Transportation Project all the trunk roads to be built are within the Afram Basin. Some of the roads selected for construction have recently been advertised on both the internet and in the national dailies. The rest will be advertised in due course. So far over seventy kilometers of trunk roads have been advertised for construction to begin The selected roads in the Afram Basin which have been advertised include the 42.7 km road from Afrisere-Dome through Ashanti Akim North and the Sekyere East districts, and a 32.5 km stretch from Agogo through Afrisere to Dome. Another one from Ejura to Dome will soon be advertised.		

