



Family Farming in Ghana

Family farms feed and employ two thirds of the African population and work 62% of the land. Family farmers ensure the future of Africa and are at the heart of food security and sustainable food systems. The United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNDFE 2019-2028) aims at unleashing the potential of family farmers as key agents of change to transform food systems world-wide. Within this framework, the Yenkasa Africa communication initiative implements a regional campaign to raise awareness on the UNDFE and promote improved communication capacities and services for family farming in Africa.

KEY FIGURES

In Ghana, family farmers make up approximately 70% of the estimated five million farming household population, with agriculture contributing 54% of the GDP and accounting for 40% of export earnings.

Ghana family farmers make use of about 2.2 hectares of land and the average farm size in the country is 0.4 hectares, or a little less than one acre.

They mostly produce cash crops include cocoa, plantains, palm oil and kola nuts. While some raise livestock that includes cattle, poultry, swine, sheep, and goats for milk, meat, and eggs.



UNDFE in Action

Ghana has made progress in mobilizing the actors to elaborate the UNDFE National Action Plan for their country.

Leading up to the UN Food System Summit 2021, Ghana held an independent dialogue in Accra that focused on Developing a Resilient and Equitable Food System for Improved Food and Nutrition Security. It gathered food systems actors from across the supply chain to discuss ideas towards building more relevant, vibrant, adoptable, and sustainable food systems for Ghana.

In Tamale Ghana, an Independent dialogue was held to discuss the actions to build a climate resilient food system, through innovative strategies and action planning. These ongoing dialogues highlight the role that local governments and family farmers play in improving food systems. The processes also promote a lasting collaboration on urban food systems among key stakeholders to continuously support and elevate their voices in regional and international fora.





Contribution to sustainable food systems

Family farmers can play a crucial role in establishing sustainable food systems in Ghana.

Under the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) programme promoted by FAO in Ghana, The Ghana Federation of Forest and Farm Producers trained family farmers on processing Shea, baobab and cocoa pods, which impacted on their livelihoods and improved their links to market. As part of this effort, GhaFFap is working to develop a Green charcoal initiative which family farmers will benefit from.

Family farmers through local producer organizations are working to set up modern and more efficient food supply chains, and get access to appropriate post-harvest facilities, technologies and services that guarantee food safety and quality standards. Small-scale women processors of blended flours are being trained to produce safe and nutritious foods in their communities.

Furthermore, farmers receive trainings on the field to get hands-on knowledge on sustainable farming practices. The plots made available for the practices are provided by the communities.



Ghana – A story of women farmers’s partnership to build a soapmaking business.

Farmers in Adansi South district of Ashanti region, Ghana, have since wallowed in poverty, with little or no source of income from their farms. To improve the farmers’ livelihoods, the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) programme through the Kokoo Pa Farmers Association has given the women a means to make a profit for themselves and their families. Mabel Bamflore and Portia Botwe, who are members of the Kokoo Pa farmers association, narrates how the organizations have helped them by teaching them new skills in soap making and financial management.

They produce cocoa, rice, and other food crops and are now financially stable with the training received from the farmers’ association. The training has helped Mabel and Portia partner with each other to bring together resources to build a strong business in soap making while managing their finances through the VSLA (Village Savings and Loan Association) method of saving their profit. Through the knowledge acquired, some women farmers have started their businesses in soap making. This is also the case of Mabel and Portia who started a partnership business together and have since made a great profit for themselves and their families.

Useful links

<https://yenkasa.org/>

[FAO in Ghana](#)

[UNDF](#)

[Family Farming Knowledge Platform](#)

[Family Farming Campaign](#)

[Forest and Farm Facility](#)

[GHAFFAP](#)