

GHANA

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COMPOSITION OF THE TRAINING TEAM

- Minia Z, Deputy Director General (Ghana meteorological Agency Hqtrs Accra)
- Dominic Pokperlaar, Basic Network and data Processing (Ghana meteorological Agency Hqtrs Accra)
- Charles K. Yorke, expert in seasonal forecasting, research division (Ghana meteorological Agency, Hqtrs Accra)
- Other relevant supporting staff

Food Production Sector

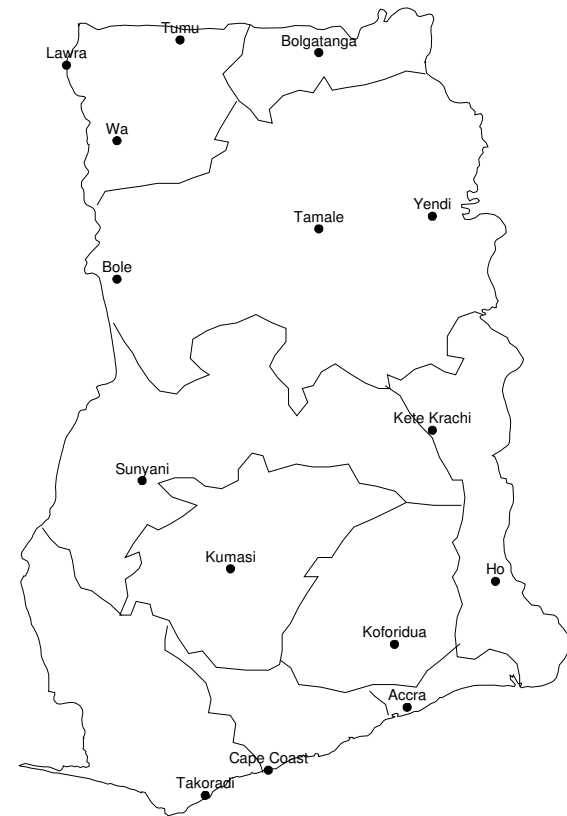
- The ministry of food and agriculture (MOFA) is responsible for food and animal production in Ghana.
- The extension officers of this ministry, work closely with farmers, giving advisory on the type of crop variety to use and method of farming to adopt.
- They advice government on food availability for the necessary action to be taken .

CONTENTS OF THE ROVING SEMINAR

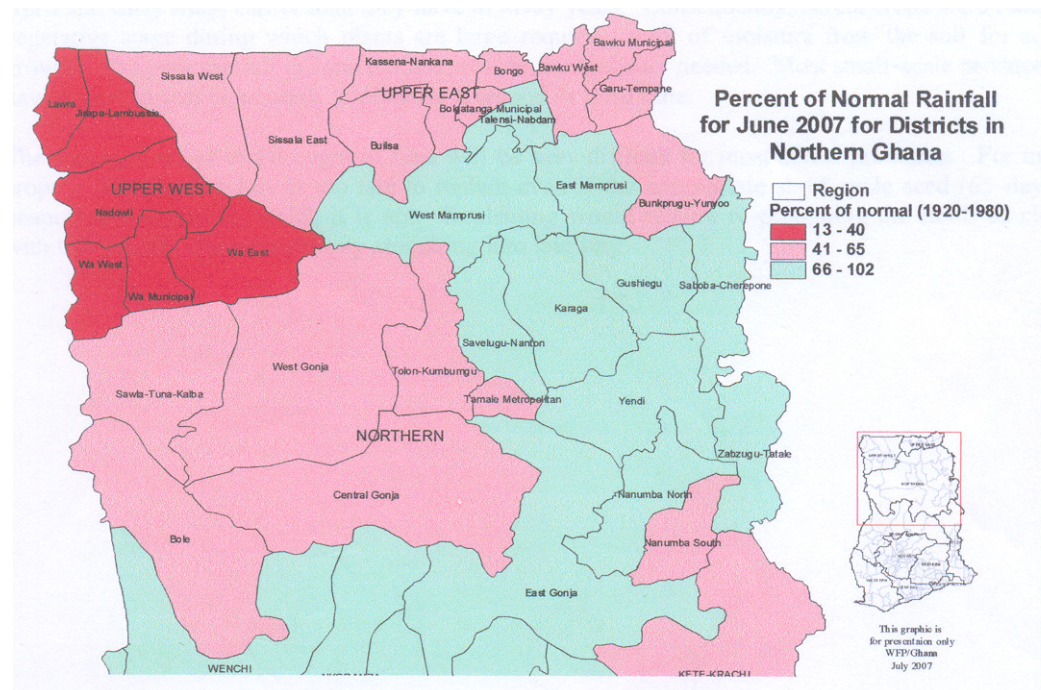
- Workshop Objectives
- Climate Change and its associated risks in Ghana
- Seasonal Forecast and subsistence crop farming in the Savannah regions of Ghana
- Importance of water in the life cycle of crops and animal rearing
- Introduction and practical demonstration on:
 - ✓ Care of the rain gauge
 - ✓ Parts of the rain gauge
 - ✓ How to install the rain gauge
 - ✓ Methods on how to measure the rainfall amounts
 - ✓ Methods on how to compile the rainfall amounts into a form
 - ✓ Methods of sending the recorded rainfall values to the meteorological office

SITE LIST OF SEMINARS

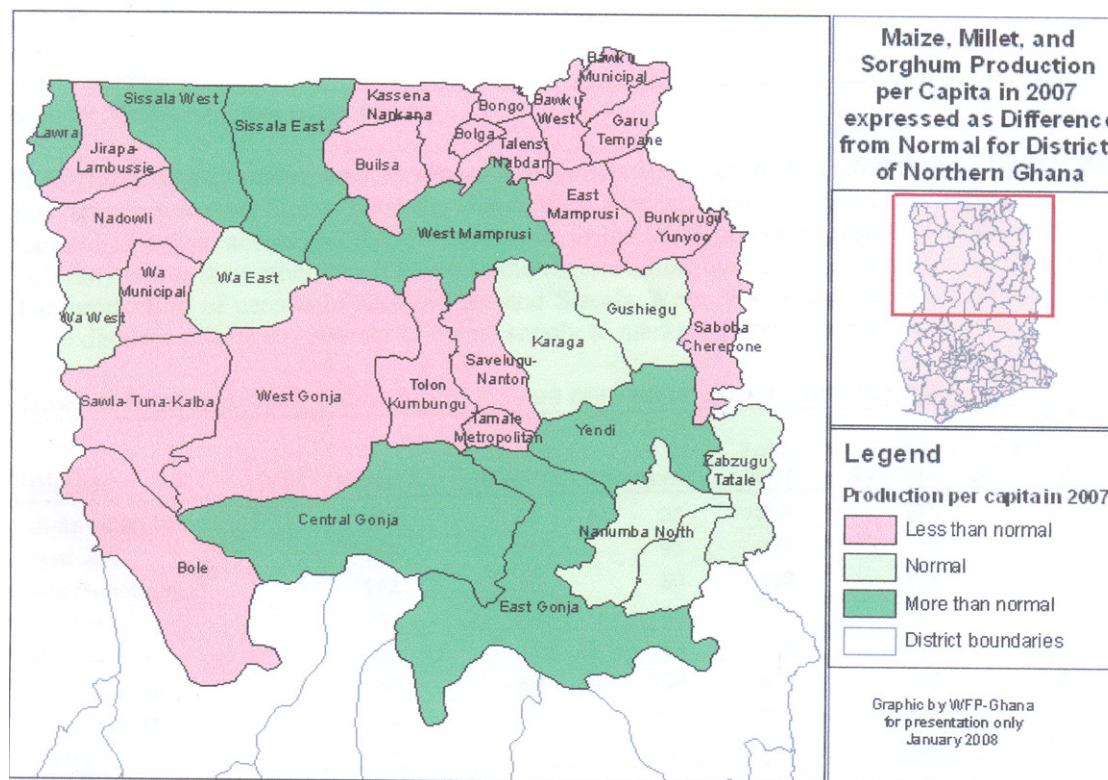
1. WALEWALE
2. KARAGA
3. DAMONGO
4. SALAGA
5. BIMBILLA
6. EJURA
7. TECHIMAN
8. WENCHI



Rainfall Pattern in Northern Ghana



Crop Production in Northern Ghana



GENERAL VIEW OF THE NORTHERN PART OF GHANA

1. Large populations of subsistence agriculturalist and pastoralists.
2. Scarcity of water supply.
3. Strained infrastructure for water resources and agriculture.
4. Further more the area's major rivers (White Volta, Black Volta and River Oti) flow through several regions and the inhabitants migrate across regional boundaries in response to drought conditions

MAP OF THE VOLTA BASIN



WALEWALE SEMINAR

- On 13th August 2012 the first of eight METAGRI roving seminars was held at Ashari Ecological Farms Project training center in Walewale.
- In attendance at the seminar were:
- Twenty (20) farmers from various communities in and around Walewale
- Personnel from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) including five agricultural extension agents who are to help advice the farmers on weather information from the Ghana Meteorological Agency and also monitor the compilation of rainfall data
- Staff of Ashari Ecological Farms Project (NGO) working in the Walewale district on organic farming and some opinion leaders.
- In order to receive the weather reports (rainfall data) on time, the farmers were put into groups and one agricultural extension agent for each group is responsible for collecting and sending the data to the Meteorological Agency's offices nearest to the agricultural extension agent.



LEARNING



DISTRIBUTION OF GAUGES



KARAGA

- On 14th August 2012 the second of eight METAGRI roving seminar was held at Karaga.

LEARNING



LEARNING CONT'NED



DISTRIBUTION OF GAUGES



EJURA

- On 28th August 2012 the sixth of eight METAGRI roving seminar was held at Ejura.

EJURA



LEARNING



LEARNING CONT'NED



DISTRIBUTION OF GAUGES



Logistical Arrangement at conference centers

The following arrangements were made to host the seminars.

1. A conference hall was hired for one day to accommodate the expected number of delegates to the seminar
2. A projector and screen was provided by GMet to host the seminars at all the centers
3. Stationery for the invited farmers for rainfall recordings to last till the end of 2013 provided by GMet
4. Cross country vehicle provided by GMet to carry the gauges, masts and trainers to all the centers
5. Tea / coffee break for all invited participants
6. Lunch for all invited participants
7. Transport allowances for the invited farmer participants
8. Allowances for all resources persons at the centers

RESULTS AND IMPACTS

- There were report journalists from local FM stations that carried the results of the seminar into the local languages at all the seminar sites.
- This year we had a total lower estimate of 400 participants (average of 50 at each seminar).
- The interest and enthusiasm shown by the farmer participants during the seminars were quite encouraging and would go a long way to help maintain food security in the local communities in the regions.

CHALLENGES

- Most journalist, from the electronic and print media are employed by private organizations. Their time and resources are geared towards making profit and are therefore not willing to cover these seminars without being given some incentives.
- Environmental and long term economic gains like increase in the output of rural farmers are not attractive to the private businessman in journalism.
- Negative impacts of weather and climatic issues in most West African countries are a gradual and slow process, which does not catch the attention of both electronic and print media to prompt policy makers.

WAY FORWARD

- NMHD need to identify young journalist from Government print and broadcast houses to take up the challenge of putting up stories concerning weather and climate
- NMHD need to be more aggressive in order to be more visible by bring out credible, reliable and actionable environmental and climatic issues to the policy makers.

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