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**Special points of interest:**

- ADP presents findings on Policy Analysis and Capacity Needs Assessments
- ADP calls on Government to expedite action on the provision of suitable and sustainable energy alternatives for poor rural households.
- ADP joins the fight against corruption.

## RESTRUCTURING OF FBOs VITAL TO POVERTY REDUCTION AND RURAL INSTITUTIONS AND PEOPLE'S EMPOWERMENT

ADP in a commissioned study for the FAO Strategic Objective 3 – Programmatic Regional Initiative in Ghana (SO3-PRI-Ghana) identified that key to reducing poverty was the need to restructure FBOs ,

main vehicle for rural poverty reduction with residual attention to other commodities grown by poor farmer households.

*In-set below Dr. Ahadzi presenting findings at workshop*

The SO3-PRI project focused on



opportunities to engage in remunerative livelihoods and employment and in the reduction of inequalities in cassava growing areas in Northern Ghana. The initiative proposed an inclusive approach to addressing rural poverty that cuts across and integrates a number of outcome areas, including enhanced productivity, rural employment and social protection. The strategy sought to use the cassava value chain as the

Under the theme Rural Institutions and People's Empowerment the study revealed that a large number of FBOs have weak governance structures. Many of the FBOs have no written laws and clearly spelt out regulations to guide the operations and activities of the associations. There also existed weak linkages between grassroots FBOs and national apex associations – little evidence existed at

the sub-national level on a functional and working collaborations and partnerships between grassroots FBOs and national apex associations.

Particularly with FBOs in the West Gonja District, majority of FBOs in the district are not registered with the Department of Cooperatives this largely accounted for the inability of these groups to access formal financial schemes to enhance objectives and service-delivery to its members.

Thus ADP by way of recommendation calls for restructuring of FBOs which is coordinated from the national level to the grass roots level. Having recognized that FBOs serves as tool for bargaining and influencing policy, FBOs should be restructured such that every FBO at the grass root level is linked to one at the regional and National levels so they have a strong voice for better advocacy of better policies and programs.

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### **COMPLETE REMOVAL OF ENERGY SUBSIDIES TO AFFECT POOR RU- RAL HOUSEHOLDS**

African Development Programme has urged the Government of Ghana to expedite action on the provision of suitable and sustainable energy alternatives for the poor rural households, especially in Northern Ghana.

This call was made in Accra during a press interaction with a private radio (Pink 96.9fm) on the likely impact of this government intent. According to Mr. Charles Othniel Abbey, ADP's Head of Programs, about half of the rural households rely on wood fuels in addition to the subsidized electricity programme they benefit from. Hence, any immediate attempt to withdraw the subsidies on electricity without an accompanying plan would worsen the current state of deforestation in Ghana.

He contended that the National Action Plan on Afforestation highlights the reduction of forest reserves from a 1990 figure of 9 million hectares plus to less than 2 million hectares which has negative consequences on climate change, agriculture and food security. Thus, it is imperative to fast-track energy investments in gas, and other renewable energy sources which are affordable for these poor rural households.

*The African Development Programme is an NGO that has been in existence since 1993. In collaboration with national and international partners, it has been actively engaged in Social Protection Issues with core specialization in Education, Health, Social Development, Vulnerable and Excluded Group and the Physically Challenged in Society. Governance and Gender Issues are cross-cutting programme areas.*

### **ADP JOINS THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION USING THE TOOLS OF MONITORING & EVALUATION**

The Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), on 14th August, 2014 organized a forum on Using Monitoring and Evaluation to fight Corruption at British Council, Accra. The forum drew participants from Development organizations, M&E practitioners, as well as public and private sector professionals. ADP a Civil Society Organization took part in this forum.

Ms. Linda Ofori-Kwafo, Executive Secretary of the Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), said monitoring and evaluation were necessary to track the use of resources and progress in order to minimize corruption. In another speech Ms. Ofori-Kwafo said M&E ensures effectiveness, efficiency and value for money and, thereby, contributed to the achievement of improved development. She said the Right to Information law would ensure the availability of quality information for effective M&E. Mr. Quayson described M&E as the driver of the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan (NACAP), adding that a National M&E Mechanism that was mandatory and had the backing of legislation had more chance of succeeding than one that largely depended on the goodwill and co-operation of persons who had the duty to report. He said a National M&E Mechanism would help improve performance outcomes; improve delivery, performance and commitment; ensure public office and ministerial accountability; and institutionalize government-wide M&E.

Speaking on the topic: "Development of national legislation to fight corruption in Ghana" Hon. Fritz Baffour, Member of Parliament for Ablekuma South, said that the oversight role of Parliament, which included the monitoring and evaluation of government activities and programmes, with the aim of ensuring timely and effective implementation, was one such tool that Parliament could use to fight corruption. He said a national legislation could be developed to fight corruption if government and the citizenry collaborated to pursue such an agenda, adding that Parliament required adequate logistics and resources to support the drafting of more efficacious and effective anti-corruption laws.

The chairperson Dr Edith Tetteh, also noted that all citizens had a role to play in the fight against corruption. Dr Tetteh said Monitoring and Evaluation should be made to be a reality in stemming the tide of corruption and not be a mere rhetoric .

The forum brought to view that ADP as well as other CSOs can effectively join the fight against corruption. ADP already has started with the beneficiary assessment of LEAP payments. Soon ADP will come up with monitoring mechanisms for other programs to strengthen the fight against corruption.