



THE PARTNERS

The Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada (CDF) is a registered charity that helps smallholder farmers and producers in developing countries achieve prosperity by building and strengthening financial and nonfinancial co-operatives and networks. CDF and the Canadian Co-operative Association amalgamated in 2017 under the CDF Canada brand.

www.cdfcanada.coop

SEND-GHANA, an affiliate of Social Enterprise Development (SEND) Foundation of West Africa is a non-governmental organization working to promote good governance and equality of women and men in Ghana.

www.sendwestafrica.org

The Ghana Co-operative Credit Unions Association Limited (CUA) is a financial co-operative organization and the umbrella body of all co-operative credit unions in Ghana. It provides an enabling environment for financial and other technical services to its members.

www.cuagh.com



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Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada

SINCE 1947

Fostering FOOD SECURITY THROUGH CO-OPERATIVES IN NORTHERN GHANA





WE'RE FOSTERING FOOD SECURITY

Hardworking small-holder farmers in the Eastern Corridor are struggling to meet their nutritional needs during hunger gaps when food and money are scarce. Women and young children are particularly affected and are unable to reach their full potential.

The Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada (CDF), in collaboration with **SEND-GHANA and the Ghana Co-operative Credit Unions Association (CUA)**, has assisted women and men small-holder farmers living in eight districts in the Eastern Corridor of Northern Ghana to increase sustainable, gender equitable food security.

Food Security Through Co-operatives in Northern Ghana (FOSTERING) was a five-year (2013–2018), CAD \$8 million project with financial support from **CDF Canada and the Government of Canada**.

FOSTERING has established farmer-owned and managed credit unions and agricultural co-operative enterprises that deliver the tools farmer members need to become food secure — skills and inputs to produce more and better crops, and financial and marketing services to secure higher household income.



FARMERS PUTTING CO-OPERATIVE TOOLS TO WORK

We have learned that food security can be achieved and sustained by building the capacity of men and women small-holder farmers to work together as member-owners of local, financially viable agricultural co-operatives and credit unions.

- **Agricultural co-operatives** to improve production, provide storage, harvesting, and marketing services, and diversify farmer economic activity.
- **Credit unions** to deliver the stable financial services — loans and savings — that agricultural co-operatives and small-holder farmers require to finance their farming and off-farm business activity.

The project employed strategies to ensure equal opportunity for men and women, and climate resilience strategies to reduce farmer vulnerability to climate change.

We worked closely with local, district and regional governments and stakeholders to help strengthen their capacity to serve small-holder farmers in the region.



THE BENEFITS

FOSTERING put small-holder farmers in the driver's seat as they adopted and adapted time-tested co-operative tools to achieve food security, prosperity, and the resilience and confidence to build a better future for themselves and their communities.

Small-holder farmers learned to:

- **improve** production with better farm and business management methods
- **diversify** household food consumption to meet nutritional needs
- **harvest**, pool and effectively store crops to earn better prices
- **manage** household savings and loans to diversify household revenue through off-season and off-farm businesses
- **contribute** to the success of their co-operative enterprise
- **hold** government accountable for the effective planning, monitoring and implementation of pro-poor agriculture policies and programs.

THE REACH

The project increased sustainable, gender equitable food security for over 50,000 men and women small-holder farmers and their families in 130 communities in East Gonja, Kpandai, Nanumba South, Nanumba North, Krachi-Nchumuru, Zabzugu, Tatale-Sanguli and Chereponi districts of the Eastern Corridor. This integrated, co-operative approach supported Ghana's Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition Co-operation Framework.

THE IMPACT

Since the project began:

- Sharing household chores is trending in nine farm communities in Northern Ghana.
- Women with improved leadership skills have increased twenty-fold and 47% of credit union and co-operative leadership positions are now held by women.
- 30,000 more small-holder farmers now have access to microfinance.
- Women have increased their annual income tenfold.
- Farmers' incomes are 50% more stable after diversifying their crops.
- Almost 100% of farmers are now able to feed their families every day.