

## Boosting Livestock Production in Avenor - Ghana

The Avenor project groups started as Community-Based Organizations (CBOs). The members are farmers who came together with the hope of mobilizing support to go into other areas of agriculture in order to improve upon their lot. A number of these CBOs contacted the project holder (Development Solutions Centre) for support.

At present, a total of 188 members have benefited from the project by receiving interventions ranging from grasscutters and cages, beehives & stands, goats, sheep, and cockerels. Out of the 188 beneficiaries 76 were female, a fulfillment of the gender component of the project, even though they made up less than 50% of the total beneficiaries. Within two years of operation in Avenor, the following support has been given.

- 29 families were assisted with five grasscutters each and a cage.
- 78 families were assisted with goats and sheep
- 76 families were assisted with 380 beehives & stands, and two sets of harvesting equipments
- 600 hundred improved mango seedlings were given to 9 CBOs.



*A Beneficiary Exhibiting Different types of Goats at the 2009 Farmers Day Celebrations – Akatsi District.*

These groups include the Dorveme Co-operative Food Crop Farmers and Marketing Society, Mamedo- Alavanyo Farmers Association, Pig Farmers Association, Woe Multi Purpose Co-operative society Ltd, and Kpohe Beekeeping Group and Ave-Sanyi Women's Lorloronyo Group. Others include the Akatsi Parish Catechists Association, Milenorvisi-Live Women Farmers Group, Agbeyeye Farmers Group and Edudzi Farmers and Traders Association.

### Project Impact



- About 90% of farmers involved in grasscutter management, and goat and sheep production affirmed the use of manure from animals as well as compost prepared.
- 80 % of the farmers acknowledged the relief brought to women in attending to domestic chores.
- 95% of farmers involved in apiculture stated family income had improved by 10% with the introduction of the intervention.

*Mr. Soetorwor Agordor, a beneficiary being awarded the Best Bee Keeper Award in the Akatsi District during the 2009 Farmers Celebration*

Three families benefited from Pass on Gifts (POGs) from the original beneficiaries. The various groups had some incomes from honey sales and are in the process of constructing hives towards POGs.

### **How it Worked**

Successes chalked so far can be attributed to the effective involvement of project beneficiary members by DSC. In addition, CBOs were sensitized to own the projects.

Supervision partly placed at the door-step of the various group executives also increased field reporting. Also, the executives were tasked to submit monthly reports to the project staff upon demand.

### **Scaling –up Project**

The first phase of the project is now attracting a lot of attention from other farmer CBOs. One main concern was the DSCs ability to take them on to enable them benefit from the project. With other project imperatives in mind a few of the groups are being given a close study for a possible selection. The new groups when selected will benefit from the training passed on from the earlier groups. The first groups who benefited from the original placement will pass on not only animals but also knowledge and skills to the new groups.