

## PROFILE – KPOHEGA NORVISI BEEKEEPING GROUP

Kpohega is a community in the north eastern part of Akatsi town located in the Volta Region of Ghana. The community is located close to Gefia off the Akatsi – Tadzewu road. The vegetation is savanna with two good rainfall seasons per year. Land acquisition is basically on leasehold. The community is blessed with abundant velvet tamarind or black berry trees which are very good sources of nectar for honey bees. On the way to the community are pockets of settlements which announce the poverty level of the community.

The Kpohega Norvisi Beekeeping group is made up of both men and women and has a population of 23 members. Members of this community-based group are from the catchment of Kpohega. The basic crops cultivated by the members of this group are cassava, sweet potato, maize, cowpea, peanuts (groundnuts), okro and chili pepper. In addition, the community is noted for velvet tamarind (black berry), cassava dough, gari and palm wine.

The Norvisi Beekeeping group was formed in 2002 as an umbrella body of beekeepers and would be beekeepers to come together and share their knowledge and skills pertaining to beekeeping and other areas of endeavour. Their collaboration also enables them to pull resources together and to attract the donor community to support them in their quest to develop their community. The group was supported by the cooperative unit of the Akatsi District Assembly. Training received from the cooperative unit includes; group formation, group dynamics, record keeping, leadership skills and group cohesion.



A photograph of members with POG hives

Upon DSC's entry into the community for the implementation of the DSC/HPI livelihood support package, DSC took the group through training in areas of beekeeping, HIV/AIDS, gender and domestic violence. Additional training was also given to cover areas such as group dynamics, group cohesion, record keeping and leadership skills. DSC supported the group with a livelihood package consisting of the following items; 100 beehives and stands, bee keeping equipments (bee suits, boots, knives, flash lights, hats & veils, gloves, buckets and smokers), 200 cockerels and 60 improved mango seedlings.

The support package has positively contributed to to the beekeeping efforts of the farmers in the area. The DSC/HPI intervention has not only improved the quantity of honey harvest but also the quality.

“The beekeeping project is very lucrative and is helping us a lot. We have started our POG obligation with 12 hives constructed for the POG” – Kodzo Kutsika Gbleedeme.

“With the inception of the project, Kpohega has become the reference point for quality honey in the District”- Gideon Akadzro.

“Thanks to DSC and HPI for their role in educating us on the best practices in beekeeping. I am grateful to them for the award I won at the District farmers’ day rally. I dedicate my award as the District’s Best beekeeper 2009 to both DSC and HPI. May you continue with the good work in the course of supporting humanity. May I use this opportunity to share my award with you, my group members, and to also ask you to strive for laurels. You can also do it. Thank you all for the support”. - Soetorwor Agordor the award winner in the picture at the side.

