

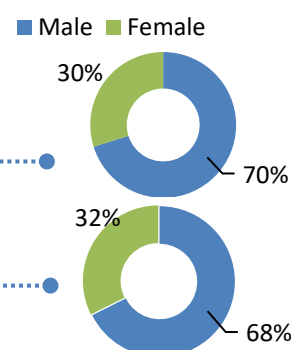
GHANA MISSION

Q2|FY2017



KEY DATA POINTS

PROGRAM RESULTS BY INDICATOR	Q2	PY4
Number of organizations supported	12	36
Number of individuals trained	171	171
Number of trainings conducted	2	2
Number of food security event participants	171	213
Number of food security events	2	4



KEY PARTNERS

ORGANIZATION	TYPE	AL SUPPORT
Savanna Integrated Rural Development Aid (SIRDA)	NGO	Capacity enhancement
Business and Development Consultancy Centre (BADECC)	NGO	Capacity enhancement
African Youth in Agricultural Transformation Network (AYNAT)	NGO	Capacity enhancement

ACTIVITIES

- Promotion of Youth Workforce Development through the Africa Lead Agribusiness Internship Program.** In February, Africa Lead relaunched its Agribusiness Internship Program (A-LEAP Internships) and invited more than 100 agribusiness related host entities to participate in the new youth workforce development strategy to shape and mold Africa's next generation of entrepreneurs, thinkers, and innovators and to create youth employment opportunities in Africa through internships. Africa Lead partnered with select universities (Ashesi University College, University for Development Studies, University of Ghana, and Lancaster University) to place talented students in agriculture-oriented companies and organizations to meet a critical strategic need. Approximately 40 host institutions responded favorably to our call for application. Through this demand-driven approach, Africa Lead intends to place 100 youth in internships by the end of the fiscal year.
- Establishment of Village Saving Loans Associations (VSLA).** With support from Africa Lead, grantee Savanna Integrated Rural Development Aid (SIRDA) is working with Village Saving Loans Associations (VSLA) groups in Ghana's northern region. The VSLA is a successful microfinance savings model under which community women's groups are formed make contributions to a joint savings process. The leaders of the groups have been trained in areas such as basic accounting, bookkeeping, and leadership principles. The women were also trained on group dynamics and on the VSLA methodology to enable them to self-manage the group, ensure a thorough understanding



of the models operating principles, and start the savings and loan activities with understanding of the models' operating principles.

- **Support to the Business and Development Consultancy Centre in Enhancing Agricultural Policy Information-Sharing.** In Ghana, the Business and Development Consultancy Centre (BADECC) is the host organization for the Agricultural Advisory Services Network, which aims to ensure that agricultural advisory service delivery is made accessible to resource-poor farmers and organizations in the agricultural sector through capacity building and dissemination of strategic information. Through a grant, Africa Lead is supporting BADECC to improve its capacity to engage and report effectively on NSA contributions to policy systems changes. This quarter, BADECC launched a new website that will increase the networks' visibility and create a knowledge-sharing platform where members can access information to support evidence-based policy advocacy and policy engagement campaigns. To enhance the network's communications strategy, BADECC also produced a policy research video documentary titled, "Research on Impact Assessment of Government Policies on Agricultural Extension Services in Ghana". This documentary highlights farmers' and other non-state actors' recommendations on policy options to improve extension service delivery and the agriculture sector. The target audience of this production is elected officials.
- **Launch of the Growing Sustainable Horticulture (GrowS-Hort) Incubator.** Africa Lead grantee African Youth in Agricultural Transformation Network (AYNAT) officially launched the Growing Sustainable Horticulture (GrowS-Hort) Incubator. The launch served as a platform to raise awareness about startup business opportunities in agriculture and to educate the public about a new business promotion model that is still relatively unknown in Ghana. AYNAT invited government officials, representatives from Youth Employment Agency, students, recent graduates, the private sector, and the media to participate in the launch. This event also provided a networking opportunity for incubatees to meet and exchange with business owners, the head of the Agribusiness Unit at the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, and other like-minded youth who are considering agribusiness ventures.
- **Organization of the Champions for Change Leadership Training for Target Universities and Non-State Actors.** Africa Lead delivered the Champions for Change leadership course to a total of 78 students and lecturers from the University for Development Studies (UDS) and non-state actor representatives, and to 93 participants at the University of Ghana. The course strengthened the leadership and management skills of participants, who are expected to influence the development path of agriculture and food security in Ghana. Participants were equipped with tools to implement food security initiatives, ensure mutual accountability, and engage in policy advocacy campaigns that will help drive agricultural transformation.
- **Recruitment of Graduating Talent for Internship Opportunities.** Africa Lead participated in the Lancaster University (Ghana) inaugural career fair as well as in the 11th Annual Ashesi University Career Fair this quarter to showcase the project's work, while also establishing a recruitment platform for the Agribusiness Internship Program. Africa Lead organized a total of 32 speed-interview sessions during the fairs to shortlist candidates for internship host entities. Host companies and organizations include Federation of Association of Ghanaian Exporters, Growth Mosaic, Eden Tree, Agrocenta, and Solidaridad West Africa. Participating in these events was part of Africa Lead's ongoing partnership with Ashesi and Lancaster Universities in support of promoting career and entrepreneurship opportunities for youth in agriculture.