
REPORT
ON
PHASE 2 STAGE
2 TRAINING
FOR TINIG NYA
FARMER BASED
ORGANIZATION,
KUBAGNA-
WEST
MAMPRUSI
DISTRICT

9th – 22nd
December 2009

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Tinig Nya Farmer Based Organisation at in the West Mamprusi District of the Northern Region of Ghana was assigned to Food Research Institute of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research for MiDA Stage 2 Training. Tinig Nya Farmer Based Organisation is made up of 26 men and 20 women and was established in 2005. Mr. Elvis Baidoo (CSIR-FRI) and Mr. Abukari Bawa (Agric Extension Agent, Walewale) were the trainers of Tinig Nya Farmer Based Organisation. The perception of majority of the Tinig Nya Farmers Based Organisation of the MiDA Stage 2 Training was to access training and information on modern agriculture, while a few were interested in credit facilities. Trainee farmers were pleased about the positive impact of the MiDA Programme because it was a means to help them alleviate poverty and improve their livelihoods. Lessons learnt according to trainee farmers during the MiDA Stage 2 Training were the modern agriculture technologies and post-harvest management with emphasis on maize, which is their commercial crop. Tinig Nya Farmers Based Organisation did not identify any shortcomings in the MiDA Stage 2 Training. They really welcomed the training and believed it will go a long way to improve their farming activities.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

The Food Research Institute of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has been tasked by Millennium Development Authority (MiDA) to conduct a three weeks training programme for Stage 2 Training of the Commercial Development of Farmer-Based Organization (CDFO) for Tinig Nya Farmers Based Organisation, Kubagna, West Mamprusi District of the Northern Region of Ghana. The training on MiDA Stage 2 started on 9th December and was completed on 22nd December, 2009. Tinig Nya Farmers Based Organisation received three sessions of four hour duration each per week over the course of three weeks amounting to nine training sessions or 36 hours of training.

The Tinig Nya Farmers Based Organisation, Kubagna during the MiDA Stage 1 Training identified some training needs. These training needs as stated in their Action Business Plan are as follows:

- Lack of credit facilities for farming
- Lack of inputs (agrochemicals)
- Gradual reduction in soil fertility
- Tractor services at opportune time
- Unavailability of improved seeds
- Lack of storage facilities
- Lack of reliable transport services
- Poor market information
- Prize monopoly by market person
- Lack of irrigation facilities in the dry season

The training needs as identified in the Action Business Plan of Tinig NyaFarmers Based Organisation were addressed successfully during MiDA Stage 2 Training.

3.0 TRAINING VENUES AND LOGISTICAL CHALLENGES

The MiDA Stage 2 Training for the Tinig NyaFarmers Based Organisation, Kubagna was conducted at the Kubagna specifically under a big Mango tree. The venue was easily accessible and appropriate for the training.

4.0 TRAINERS AND TRAINING EQUIPMENT

Table 1: Identification of Tinig NyaFarmers Based Organisation and trainers assigned to the group

| FBO Identification Number | FBO name | Location of FBO | Names of trainer(s) |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| NAZ081216 | Tinig NyaFarmers Based Organisation | Kubagna, West Mamprusi District | Mr. Elvis Baidoo Mr. Abukari Bawa |

Two trainers trained the Tinig NyaFarmers Based Organisation. The modules on crop production were taught by Mr. Abukari Bawa (Agriculture Extension Agent), who has a lot of experience in agronomy, whilst modules on post-harvest were taught by Mr. Elvis Baidoo of the CSIR- Food Research Institute.

Materials used for the training included flip boards and charts, makers and posters. Posters were given to farmer trainees to facilitate training. Generally the training materials facilitated the MiDA Stage 2 Training successfully.

5.0 LESSONS FROM APPROACHES AND METHODOLOGY

Table 2: Summary of modules, topics for each week and a brief outline of the methodology used for each in a tabular form.

| Week (with dates) | Module number and title | Topic (if applicable) | Training methodology |
|--------------------------|---|--|--|
| 1 | | | |
| 09-12-2009 | Module 11. Cross Cutting Technologies for Adoption by Farmers | Farm Management: -Introduction and Importance of Farm Management -Basic Farm Management Problems -Farm Management Tools | Lectures, discussions and demonstrations |

| | | | |
|------------|--|---|--|
| | | -Agribusiness -Farm Business Plan | |
| 10-12-2009 | Module 4. Maize Production and Post-harvest Technologies | Crop Production -Introduction -Site selection -Spatial organization and infrastructure planning -Land preparation -Choosing a variety | Lectures, discussions and demonstrations |
| 11-12-2009 | Module 8 Maize Production and Post-harvest Technologies | Crop Production: -Planting -Cultural practices -Harvesting -Post Harvesting | Lectures, discussions and demonstrations |
| 2 | | | |
| 13-12-2009 | Module 11. Cross Cutting Technologies for Adoption by Farmers | Integrated Crop management Practices: -Introduction to Integrated Crop Management -Integrated Pest Management -Integrated Pest Management in Practice -Case Stories of IPM in practice -What is Plant Protection Products (PPP) -Choice of Plant Protection Products -Application of Plant Protection Products | Lectures, discussions and demonstrations |
| 14-12-2009 | Module 11. Cross Cutting Technologies for Adoption by Farmers | Safe handling and storage of plant protection products: -Basic principles of spraying -First aid | Lectures, discussions and demonstrations |

| | | | |
|------------|--|--|--|
| | | -Storage of Plant Protection Products --Disposal of pesticides containers and obsolete products | |
| 15-12-2009 | Module 4. Maize Production and Post-harvest Technologies | Post-harvest Management and Quality Control: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Understanding post-harvest management -The importance of post-harvest management -Components of post-harvest management -Harvesting -Sorting, gathering, grading and standardization -Transportation -Primary processing -Treatment -Packaging -Storage -Secondary processing -Tertiary processing | Lectures, discussions and demonstrations |
| 3 | | | |
| 20-12-2009 | Module 8. Post-harvest Activities | Post-harvest Management and Quality Control: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Harvesting -Transportation and Temporary Storage -Primary processing -Secondary processing | Lectures, discussions and demonstrations |
| 21-12-2009 | Module 11. Cross Cutting | Environmental and social impacts: | Lectures, discussions and |

| | | | |
|------------|---|---|---|
| | Technologies for Adoption by Farmers | -Environmental issues in relation to production -Environmental issues in relation to post-harvest -Environmental issues in relation to processing | demonstrations |
| 22-12-2009 | Module 11. Cross Cutting Technologies for Adoption by Farmers Evaluation of Training | Environmental and social impacts: -Social impacts on crop production and post-harvest management | Lectures, discussions and demonstrations Discussions |
| | | | |

b. Experiences with the usefulness of developing a lesson plan, and usefulness of the different aspects of the lesson plan (items 1-vii below) for learning by FBO members.

i. Topic

The topics studied under Module 11 (Cross Cutting Technologies for Adoption by Farmers) included the following:

- Farm Management
- Integrated Crop Management
- Safe handling and Storage of Plant Protection Products
- Environmental and Social Impacts

The topics studied under Module 4 (Maize Production and Post-harvest Technologies) included the following:

- Crop Production
- Post-harvest Management and Quality Control

The topics studied under Module 8 (Post-harvest Activities) included the following:

- Post-harvest Management and Quality Control

ii. Why the Topic

These topics addressed the training needs of Tinig Nya Farmer Based Organisation as spelt out in their Action Business Plan.

iii. Learning objective of current lesson

The learning objective of the topics was to provide technical training on modern Agriculture technologies and post harvest technologies for Tinig Nya Farmer Based Organisation in order to enable the farmers to move into growing new varieties and fully adopt Good Agricultural and post-harvest practices into commercial activities.

iv. Steps in knowledge/skills acquisition

Trainee farmers of Tinig Nya Farmer Based Organisation were taught and evaluated on the topics treated under each module. Emphasis was placed on areas trainee farmers were observed to be lacking in knowledge until trainees understood the topic under study.

v. Training methodology (Activities/Steps in the provision of learning experiences)

Lectures, discussions, demonstrations and evaluation of topics were the training methods adopted for the training of Tinig Nya Farmer Based Organisation

Conclusion/Key message

Trainee farmers of Tinig Nya Farmer Based Organisation fully accepted the Stage 2 Training as timely and knowledge acquisition experience in their farming business and promised to use all the technologies learnt in their farming activities.

vi. Follow-up activities by trainers and trainees

Trainers will follow-up on a 2 weeks field demonstration for trainee farmers of Tinig Nya Farmer Based Organisation, which form part of the MiDA Stage 2 Training for the group.

c. Lessons for improving future training

The different modules taught during MiDA Stage 2 Training for Tinig Nya Farmer Based Organisation were very relevant. Participants agreed to use all the technologies acquired in the next 3-6 months to improve their farming activities.

Trainee farmers understood the modules taught very well and it is expected that they will all adopt the good agronomic practices and technologies to upgrade their farming activities. Trainee farmers of Tinig Nya Farmer Based Organisation agreed to engage in group marketing as well as other activities of each other.

MiDA Stage 2 Training for Tinig Nya Farmer Based Organisation was very appropriate and it is anticipated that the group will be successful in employing it in their farming activities. However, the trainee farmers' efforts will be completed by the availability of credit facilities for members to engage in their agriculture activities.

6.0 TRACKING INDICATORS

Table 3: Number of Tinig Nya Farmer Based Organisation trained by districts and modules (Indicate percentage of participation by FBO leadership)

| Name of FBO | Location | District | Number FBO members trained for each module (percentage of leadership of FBO participating) | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|---------------|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| | | | Module 4 | Module 8 | Module 11 |
| Tinig Nya Farmer Based Organisation | Kubagna | West Mamprusi | 37 (93 %) 5 (83.3 %) | 34 (85%) 5 (83.3%) | 38 (95 %) 5 (83.3 %) |

7.0 TRACKING INDICATORS

Table 4: Level of knowledge scored for Tinig Nya Farmer Based Organisation for all training sessions

| Date | Name of FBO | Location | District | Modal level of knowledge and skills before training | Modal level of knowledge and skills after training | Remarks |
|----------|-------------------------------------|----------|---------------|---|--|--|
| 9-12-09 | Tinig Nya Farmer Based Organisation | Kubagna | West Mamprusi | Poor | Very good | Farmers followed with much attention |
| 10-12-09 | Tinig Nya Farmer Based Organisation | Kubagna | West Mamprusi | Poor | Very good | Farmers discussions was very good |
| 11-12-09 | Tinig Nya Farmer Based Organisation | Kubagna | West Mamprusi | Poor | Very good | Farmers showed much interest in topics |
| | | | | | | |
| 13-12-09 | Tinig Nya Farmer Based Organisation | Kubagna | West Mamprusi | Poor | Very good | Farmers contributed significantly |
| 14-12-09 | Tinig Nya Farmer Based | Kubagna | West Mamprusi | Poor | Very good | Farmers discussions was very |

| | | | | | | |
|----------|--|---------|------------------|------|-----------|--|
| | Organisati on | | | | | impressive |
| 15-12-09 | Tinig Nya Farmer Based Organisati on | Kubagna | West Mamprusi | Poor | Very good | Farmers showed strong interest in topics |
| 20-12-09 | Tinig Nya Farmer Based Organisati on | Kubagna | West Mamprusi | Poor | Very good | Farmers discussions was very good |
| 21-12-09 | Tinig Nya Farmer Based Organisati on | Kubagna | West Mamprusi | Poor | Very good | Farmers showed strong interest in topics |
| 22-03-09 | Tinig Nya Farmer Based Organisati on | Kubagna | West Mamprusi | Poor | Very good | Farmers followed with much attention |

8.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE FBO CAPACITY BUILDING STRATEGIES

The MiDA Stage 2 Training for Tinig Nya Farmer based Organisation was successfully conducted and trainee farmers gained much knowledge on technologies of modern agronomic practices and post-harvest treatment during the 3 weeks training. Tinig Nya Farmer based Organisation agreed to use their newly acquired knowledge in their farming activities and share with other colleague farmers who did not benefit from the training. The timely release of credit facilities to trainee farmers will facilitate the early adoption of their newly acquired knowledge in their farming activities and subsequently improve their livelihoods.