Ghana advances a more professional climate-smart extension service

Pluralistic extension and climate-smart agricultural policy

Scope • National policy and extension process in Ghana
Partners • GFAASS, AFAAS, Ministry of Food and Agriculture and about 350 consulted stakeholders

The starting situation

Ghana's extension policy dated from 2013, while private extension provision had grown and climate change had become a pressing concern. Input subsidies under Planting for Food and Jobs were costly and not always well targeted.

How partners contributed

GFAASS members participated in reviewing the first phase of Planting for Food and Jobs and designing the second phase. They consulted about 350 extension staff, community advisers, private-sector actors, academics, NGOs and researchers on a new extension bill and revised policy. With AFAAS support, a climate-smart agriculture policy dialogue involved 26 participants and included training on the National CSA and Food Security Action Plan.

What changed

Input subsidies were replaced with an input-credit system in the second phase of Planting for Food and Jobs. A draft Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Bill was prepared to professionalise extension and embed climate-smart approaches; the revised policy included climate objectives and strategies. Three CSA policy briefs were produced and coordination among actors improved.

Evidence and source

The bill was still a draft and had not gone to Parliament. The case lists the draft bill, revised policy document and three briefs as evidence.

Source record • SS17 Infographics

Sustainability and lessons

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture leads and owns the policy and bill process. Continued stakeholder coordination and a clear route from draft to parliamentary consideration and implementation will determine whether the policy changes translate into a more professional, climate-smart extension service.