

BOLGATANGA MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SUCCESS STORY

SITUATION

Urbanization is a challenge in Agriculture production in the Bolgatanga Municipality. Settlements and other concrete structures are springing up daily and gradually claiming all productive agricultural lands. This development leaves the peasant farmers who were once gainfully employed in the agriculture sub-sector jobless. Their industrious hands itch for the only job they have known all their lives in a tied scarcity of land.

As a result of Urbanization, many families are overwhelmed and subdued financially as their only source of income (farming) is gradually becoming bleak and unreliable. The cost of living in the Municipality that is feeding, clothing, medication and school-fee is high and almost unaffordable for people without irregular sources of income.

RESPONSE

To help mitigate the challenge, the Boltanga Municipal Department of Agriculture introduced farmers to Urban Agriculture practices through sensitization, training and demonstrations. The objective was to stimulate the farmers' interest in an alternative farming practice that utilizes little space and can supply the urban



market with fresh and organically safe vegetables while bridging the gap of Food Insecurity and improving the livelihoods of the Peasant farmers.

RESULTS

To keep pace with the changing trends and ensure food security, the Department facilitated farmers to go into Urban Agriculture practices as one of the strategies for the farmers to produce organically safe vegetables for the populace. Madam Felicia is 32 years of age who accepted the initiative introduced to them by the Department and cultivated vegetables using discarded oil containers in an uncompleted room in her house. She produced watermelon, cucumber, cabbage, tomatoes and okra and sold them to the public.

She harvested the farm produces worth a total of Ghc 613.00 Ghana Cedis, her cost of production was 24 Ghc for seeds and the time she spent irrigating the crops.



Madam Felicia (in yellow) with AEA practising backyard farming

The table below is a summary of the cost-benefit analysis.

Crop	Cost of Seeds	Quantity Harvested	Estimated price/income made	
			Unit cost	Total cost
Watermelon	10	15 melon fruits	10.00	150.00
Cucumber	5	50 fruits	3pieces=5.00	83.00
Cabbage	5	40 heads	7.00	280
Okra	4	200 fingers	4pieces=2	100
			Total Ghc	613.00



Okra harvested from Madam Felicia's field