

## **2023 BIRIM SOUTH DISTRICT RELC MEETING.**

Research Extension Linkage Committee (RELC) is an annual meeting where all stakeholders along the agricultural value chain to brainstorm and find solutions to the challenges confronting the farmers on their farmlands and crops. It also helps the Agric Department to plan and serve the farmers well and know what to include in the work plan for the following year and be of better service to the stakeholders.



This year the Agric Department of the Birim South District Assembly did not forget their famers, the programme was held at the Assembly Hall of the District Assembly on 20<sup>th</sup> of July 2023. In attendance was the Regional Coordinator, the District Chief Executive, the District Planning Officer, the District Agric Director, Farmers and all officers from the Agric Department.



The Regional Coordinator made some education on palm tree to the farmers and the importance of the activity they were doing. He made it known that, the solution that are given to the farmers each year are in three forms, which are Extension officer, Research and Government. Most problems faced by the farmers are solved by the Extension officers, a problem that is new to the extension officers are given to the Researchers to find a solution to the problem and the Government comes in when the first two has no power over to problem then is given to the government for intervention.

Highlights were given on last year's problems faced by farmers and how they were solved. Some problems faced by farmers last year were, Termites Attack, Beetle Attack, Rice Blast and few others and all this were solved by the Extension Officers. They encouraged the farmers to always inspect and keep their farms neat. Some pictures of insects that harm their crops and animals were shown to the farmers to easily identify them when they see them on their crops. All Farmers are been grouped into various zones and each zone has its own Extension Officers to address any problems they face.



To address this year's problems faced by the Farmers, they were made to sit in their various groups together with their Extension officers to give out their problems and see how best it can be solved. Some problems the farmers faced and solutions given by the extension officers were;

CONSTRAINTS	POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS
Fruit rot of pepper caused by fungi.	Application of recommended fungicides.
Leaf curling of okro caused by white fly.	Early control by spraying fungicides.
Poor road network.	Government Intervention.
Rice blast.	Application of fungicides.
Improper storage of maize which are destroyed by weevils and other insects.	Proper storage bags or hermetic bags.
Leaf rot of coconut caused by bipolaris halodes.	Covering it with a net to prevent the insect getting access to the leaves or the plant itself.
Animal stillbirth caused by Aggression or infection.	Curling of animals. Invite veterinary officer for inspection.



With this year's problems faced by the farmers, all were problems that can be solved by the extension officers.



At the end of the programme, the farmers were encouraged to be ambassadors of what they have learnt and spread it to their fellow farmers and also apply the solutions given to them by the extension officers. It was made known to them that, Farming is a business and classified as an occupation so they should not see it as a hobby.