

SENSITIZATION OF STAKEHOLDERS ON PLANTING FOR FOOD AND JOBS PHASE 2.

Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ) is a flagship initiative launched by the government to revitalize Ghana's agricultural sector and ensure food security. This phase aims to transition from a direct input subsidy to a direct credit system linked to a structured market arrangement. The five-year period of implementing PFJ 2.0 is expected to increase the availability and access to improved inputs, mechanization, extension services, and output markets. The Phase 2 policy seeks to build on the successes of the initial phase and address emerging challenges. Sensitizing farmers about the Phase 2 policy is crucial to its successful implementation and the overall development of the agricultural sector. The planting for Food and Jobs Phase II (PFJ 2.0) Program has clear strategic objectives and interventions for Agriculture to deliver food security and resilience within five years.

The sensitization program was organised by the Birim South District Assembly's Agric Department led by Mr Edward Sawodji, the Agric Director together with his agricultural extension officers, local farming associations, community leaders and the Assembly was lucky to have the Eastern Regional Director of Agric, Hajia Abiba Yusif to grace the programme.

The key component of the program was to educate the farmers about the PFJ2.0 on how to register and what is expected of them after registering. PFJ 2.0 program is starting with eleven priority commodities, which includes Poultry, Rice, Maize, Soyabean, Sorghum, Tomato, Onion, Pepper, Cassava, Yam and Plantain. The PFJ 2.0 program is set to tackle these challenges, the difficulty in accessing credit facilities, the issue of inadequate productivity and production, the instability of food prices, the insufficient promotion of commercial agriculture and the unreliability of food security and resilience.

Charts were pasted and they indicated how PFJ 2.0 will work as an intervention on a sound footing. Statistics have it that, for poultry, Ghana consumes a total of 324,000 MT, and is only able to produce just about 15,000 MT, implying a woeful self-sufficiency of under 5%. In the five-year plan of PFJ 2.0, Ghana is expected to move its self-sufficiency from 5% to 7% by the end of 2023, and to 13% in 2024, and progressively attain full self-sufficiency of 110.6% by 2028. Specific steps have been taken in this regard.

The Regional Director mentioned some interventions that are been implemented to result in the production of an additional 13,200 MT of poultry meat by the end of this year, which will increase Ghana's self-sufficiency to 7%.

The sensitization program on the Planting for Food and Jobs Phase 2 policy has been instrumental in equipping farmers with the knowledge and skills necessary to enhance agricultural productivity and sustainability. Continued support, monitoring, and capacity-building initiatives will be essential for ensuring the successful implementation and impact of the policy. By empowering farmers and promoting best practices, Ghana can further strengthen its agricultural sector and contribute to national development goals.