

PORTRAIT



Gladys Adusah Serwaa: rural women as agriculture workforce

My name is Gladys Adusah Serwaa, a Ghanaian by birth, and the eldest child among five siblings, from Techiman in the Bono Region of Ghana. I am a 61 year-old farmer who is into cassava, maize, and cashew production. I also possess a Bachelor of Education and a Master's degree in Democratic Governance, Law and Development with 13 years of working experience as a teacher and 14 years in the development sector.

Currently, I am a national women's leader for the *Ecumenical Association for Sustai-*

nable Agriculture and Rural Development (ECASARD) and the Farmers Organisation Network In Ghana (FONG) in the middle zone of Ghana.

My involvement with rural agricultural development in Ghana has to do with an annual programme that I organize every September to award and recognize the hard work of the rural women. It is a personal initiative which is supported by ECASARD and FONG. The rural women's day celebration brings together stakeholders, women groups, farmer groups, faith base groups, community base groups

etc. It is a day where these rural women in agriculture showcase their produce in a form of exhibition. I am also involved in capacity building, advocacy workshops, lobbying for funds/support for rural women base groups in agriculture.

My perception on agricultural development in Ghana is that the policies enforcement does not get to the rural areas to benefit the women who are into production, processing, packaging, and marketing. Rural women are the majority in agriculture workforce in Ghana but their efforts are not appreciated. For example, getting standard weight and measuring scales in all the markets throughout Ghana is a real issue. Another challenge is also getting aflatoxin policy in Ghana to help rural women produce and consume aflatoxin free maize in the country as this will raise income as well as standard of living for the rural women. ■

GRAIN DE SEL Get involved!

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