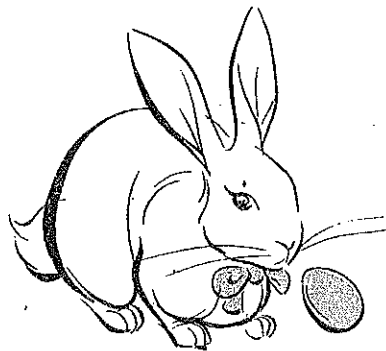


IN THE THIRD SESSION OF THE FOURTH
PARLIAMENT OF THE FOURTH REPUBLIC OF
GHANA

*REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOOD
AGRICULTURE AND COCOA AFFAIRS*



ON THE ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE
MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
FOR THE YEAR 2008

6TH DECEMBER, 2007

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND COCOA
AFFAIRS ON THE 2008 ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD
AND AGRICULTURE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Kwadwo Baah-Wiredu, on Thursday 15th November, 2007 presented to Parliament, the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2008 financial year in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution.

Pursuant to Standing Order 140 (4) and 176, Mr. Speaker, referred the draft Estimates of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture to the Committee for consideration and report to the House.

2.0 DELIBERATION

The Committee held a series of meetings with the following to deliberate on the 2008 Draft Annual Estimates:

1. The Minister of Food and Agriculture, Mr. Ernest A. Debrah, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Ms Esther Nyamekye and the Chief Director Dr. Gyiele Nurah
2. Directors and Project Co-ordinators of the following:
 - i. Directorate of Policy Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.
 - ii. General Administration
 - iii. Statistics, Research and Information Directorate
 - iv. Human Resource Development and Management Directorate
 - v. Irrigation Development Authority
 - vi. Inland Valley Rice Development Project
 - vii. ICOUR

- viii. Grains and Legumes Development Board
- ix. Ghana Veterinary Council
- x. Crop Services Directorate
- xi. Animal Production Directorate
- xii. Agricultural Extension Services Directorate
- xiii. Agricultural Engineering Services Directorate
- xiv. Plant Protection and Regulatory Directorate
- xv. Veterinary Services Directorate
- xvi. Women in Agriculture Development
- xvii. Afram Plains Project
- xviii. Roots and Tubers Improvement & Marketing Programme
- xix. Cashew Development Project
- xx. Nerica Rice Development Project
- xxi. Livestock Development Project
- xxii. Export Marketing and Quality Awareness Project
- xxiii. Tsetse Eradication Project

The Committee is grateful to them for their support and co-operation.

3.0 REFERENCE MATERIALS

1. The 1992 Constitution of Ghana
2. The Standing Orders of Parliament
3. The 2007 Draft Annual Budget of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture
4. The 2008 Draft Annual Budget of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture

5. The 2007 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for 2007 financial year.

6. The 2008 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for 2008 financial year.

4.0 MISSION STATEMENT (GENERAL)

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture was established to promote sustainable agriculture and thriving agribusiness through research and technological development, effective extension and other support services to farmers, fishermen, processors and traders for improved human livelihood.

5.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE MINISTRY

For the 2008 fiscal year, the Ministry will pursue the following objectives.

1. Formulate sound agricultural Policies
2. Facilitate modernization of agricultural production to achieve food self-sufficiency and food security.
3. Ensure the availability of timely, reliable and relevant data and information on agriculture.
4. Facilitate Farmers / Fishermen / Processors / FBOs access to credit, storage, market and other facilities.
5. Establish, strengthen, and maintain linkages within the sector and enhance the integration with the rest of the economy.
6. Facilitate the production of raw materials for local industries and commodities for export.
7. Strengthen Institutional Capacity of MOFA

6.0 BUDGETARY PERFORMANCE IN 2007

6.1 ALLOCATIONS FOR 2007

In the 2007 an amount of ₦1,206,833 million was allocated to the Ministry to carry out its activities. Out of the allocated amount, GOG was ₦338,253 million, IGF ₦5.603 million, Donor ₦688,977 million and HIPC ₦174,000 million.

The table below provides a breakdown of the sector's allocation:

NO	ITEM	GOG	DONOR	IGF	HIPC	2007
1	P.E	178.33	--	0.375	-	178.708
2	ADMIN	10.307	-	1.474	-	11.781
3	SERVICE	5.441	206.693	2.565	-	214.699
4	INVESTMENT	144.172	482.284	1.189	174.00	801.674
	TOTAL	338.253	688.977	5.603	174.00	1,206.833

6.2 BUDGET ALLOCATION AND EXPENDITURE AS AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER 2007

ITEM	ALLOCATION	EXPENDITURE	DIFFERENCE
P.E	17,833,300	16,947,786	885,514
ADMIN	1,030,700	N/A	N/A
SERVICE& INVES	14,961,300	10,451,842	4,509,458
FABS	17,700,000	13,196,326	4,503,674
SASH	2,565,000	1,314,640	1,250,358
HIPC	17,400,000	11,592,821	5,807,179
TOTAL	71,490,300	53,503,417	17,986,883

Within the scope of the funds provided the following activities were performed:

6.2 Crops Sub-Sector

The Ministry under the Food Security objective continued to supply quality seeds and planting materials to farmers to boost increases in crop production.

Under its cereal programme, the Grains and Legumes Development Board (GLDB) produced 70mt, 16mt and 2mt of maize, rice and sorghum foundation seeds, respectively, for the production of 3,500 ha of certified seeds of maize and 400 ha each of rice and sorghum seeds by seed growers. In addition, 20 metric tonnes of rice foundation seeds and 405 metric tonnes of certified rice seed is expected to be harvested by December, 2007 under the Nerica Rice Development Project (NRDP).

Under the legumes production programme, GLDB also made available 16mt and 40mt of cowpea and soybean foundation seed to farmers for the production of certified seeds.

To increase the production of root and tuber crops in the country, varietal trials for cassava, yam, cocoyam, sweet potato and Frafra potato are being carried out at various locations under the Roots and Tubers Improvement and Marketing Project (RTIMP). This is to select high yielding varieties for multiplication and distribution to farmers. Also, GLDB produced about 100,000 high yielding plantain suckers for farmers to plant 60 ha of plantation for the multiplication of plantain planting material. These farmers were trained on improved technology for plantain production through demonstrations and provision of production guides.

Efforts were made to increase the supply of seed and planting material for horticultural crops. To supply quality planting materials to farmers in the cashew industry, about 4mt of improved cashew seed nuts were procured from Benin for distribution to farmers for planting. Furthermore, to promote citrus cultivation, GLDB produced 20,000 citrus seedlings at the Afraku nursery in the Ashanti Region for supply to farmers for cultivation.

In response to the high demand of MD2 pineapple variety on the world market, the Ministry supplied 1,000,000 plantlets of this variety to 20 nursery operators (farmers) for the production of 6,000,000 units of pineapple suckers for small holders.

To improve on the export of the horticulture crops the rehabilitation of shed 9 at Tema Harbour has been completed and will be handed over to the private sector to manage. Under the Cashew Development Project, about 15,258 unproductive cashew trees were grafted with scions. The Ministry also facilitated the establishment of about 901.8ha of new cashew farms.

To reduce post harvest losses and to improve the quality of local crops, 2 sites for the establishment of demonstration centres were identified for the construction of Pack Houses. In addition, the Post-harvest Management Unit (PHMU) of the Ministry procured 10,000mt grain pro-cocoon for distribution to farmers to improve the quality of stored grains. The Ministry has gone a step further to use the pro-cocoon technology to store 400 and 500 mt of maize at Ejura and Sunyani, respectively, as part of the National Strategic Stock.

6.3 Plant Protection and Regulatory Services

The Ministry continued its surveillance on our borders to check locust build up and is holding strategic pesticides stocks in readiness to combat any unexpected outbreak of pests. Army worm infestation was discovered in Ejura Sekyedumasi in Ashanti Region and Nkoranza in the Brong-Ahafo Region, but this was promptly brought under control by the Plant Protection and Regulatory Services unit of the Ministry.

To reduce the frequency of interception of our agricultural exports to foreign markets, as well as ensuring compliance with phytosanitary regulations and pest free trade in agricultural produce, 52 Wood Packaging Materials (WPM) manufacturers were trained and accredited with certifications that meet International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) No. 15.

In order to control the Larger Grain Borer (LGB), 35,000 bio-agents of *terrestris nigrescens* were produced and released. About 805,000 bio-agents of *typhrodromalus manihoti* have also been mass-produced and released.

The Ghana Irrigation Development Authority (GIDA) has prepared a draft National Irrigation Policy, Strategy and Regulatory Measures that will support the food security objective of the Ministry. To increase public-private partnership, about 280 farmers from 14 irrigation schemes were provided with training in Joint Irrigation System Management (JISM). Civil

works for the rehabilitation of the following schemes have also been completed:

- Weija
- Aveyime, Afife and Kpando Torkor;
- Sata and Akumadan
- Tanoso and Subinja
- Bontanga

Under the Small Scale Irrigation Project, an area of 100 ha has been developed and handed over to farmers for cropping while another 2,236.5 ha is being developed. The underground and surface water exploitation for irrigation purposes is also on course. In the Dangme West and Accra Metropolitan Assembly Districts 15 mechanised boreholes were drilled in a pilot programme.

6.4 Extension Services

To enhance the application of science and technology in food and agricultural development 18,000 demonstration plots were established to show to farmers the effect of modern inputs such as fertilizer on production. The outputs of this activity contributed to the storage of 900mt of maize as National Strategic Stock in Ejura and Sunyani as mentioned earlier.

6.5 Agricultural Mechanisation Services

The use of animal traction as a viable mechanization option was vigorously promoted. A total of 120 farmers (including 50 women) were trained in the technology as trainer of trainers.

To enhance farmers' access to mechanized services, 900 tractors, 21 power tillers and 39 water pumps were assembled and distributed to individual farmers, farmer groups and district assemblies throughout the country.

6.6 Livestock Services

The Ministry supplied improved breeds of livestock to farmers and also trained farmers in good animal husbandry practices. Key services and activities included the supply of 339 pigs, 608 sheep/goats and 59 cattle as breeding stock to farmers; awareness creation on rangeland management, establishment of 139 acres of fodder bank to ensure the availability of fodder and the production of stylosanthes seeds and training

of 1,721 ruminant farmers (1,308 males and 413 females) on hay silage conservation and utilization of forage; and in the use of Urea to treat crop residue (rice straw and maize stover) for use as feed in the dry season.

The Ministry also secured permanent sites for the establishment of 2 communal grazing grounds at Maame Krobo in the Afram Plains District and Dawadawa in the Kintampo District. The Ministry also continued the training of farmers on how to recognize, prevent and control African Swine Fever (ASF); Foot and Mouth disease; Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP); New Castle Disease (NCD) and Pestes de Petit Ruminants (PPR).

6.7 Outbreak of Avian Influenza

The Ministry in collaboration with other relevant MDAs instituted appropriate measures to control the incidence and spread of the Avian Influenza. Due to the early warning system of the Veterinary Services Directorate (VSD), the Ministry detected and controlled the first outbreak of the Bird Flu in the country at Tema. Two other outbreaks at Sunyani and Aflao were also detected and contained.

The Ministry took the following measures to control the spread of the disease; creating awareness in the public about the Bird Flu; movement control inside the outbreak district; sampling out; quarantine of outbreak districts; disinfection of affected premises; screening of all poultry farms within the outbreak districts and bio-security on poultry farms; and surveillance and monitoring of poultry farms and live birds markets within the outbreak districts. More importantly, an amount of about GH¢160,000 has been paid as compensation to affected poultry farmers.

Again, to control endemic poultry diseases such as New Castle, 5 million doses of gumboro vaccines and 14 million doses of Newcastle disease vaccines were procured and administered in the poultry industry. The Accra Veterinary Laboratory produced 4,250,000 doses of 12 vaccines for the control of New Castle Disease in village chicken.

6.8 Agricultural Financing

On agricultural financing, the Ministry in collaboration with Agricultural Development Bank (ADB) extended credit to a significant number of farmers under the National Livestock Development Project and Cashew Development Project. A total sum of GH¢544,238.92 was disbursed as credit to farmer groups in production, storage, processing and marketing activities in the project districts.

7.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2008

The goal of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) for the 2008 fiscal year is to develop a progressive, dynamic and viable agricultural economy that will ensure food security, (vulnerability and emergency preparedness), income growth and hence poverty reduction.

7.1 ALLOCATION FOR THE 2008 FISCAL YEAR

For the implementation of the Ministry's mission for 2008, an amount of GH¢87,102,117 has been allocated. Out of this, GOG is GH¢31,005,763, IGF is GH¢987,190 and Donor is GH¢55,109,164.00.

The table below indicates the breakdown of funds allocated:

BREAKDOWN OF ALLOCATION FOR 2008

ITEM	GOG	IGF	DONOR	TOTAL
P.E	17,833,296	-	-	17,833,296
ADMIN	1,094,603	122,150	-	1,216,753
SERVICE	544,104	584,740	-	1,128,844
INVESTMENT	11,533,760	280,300	55,109,164	66,923,224
TOTAL	31,006,763	987,190	55,109,164	87,102,117

The funds provided will be committed to the following activities:

7.3 ACTIVITIES FOR 2008

In the 2008 fiscal year, the Ministry will pursue its goal through the Second Food and Agriculture Sector Development Programme (FASDEP II) which seeks to achieve inter alia the following objectives:

- Food security
- Improved growth in incomes
- Increased competitiveness and enhanced integration into domestic and international markets
- Sustainable management of land and environment

- Application of science and technology in food and agriculture development; and
- Enhanced institutional coordination.

The Ministry's medium term targets are as follows:

- maintain self sufficiency in staple food production (maize, yam and cassava)
- increase production of rice and cowpea by 50 per cent respectively by 2010;
- secure 5 per cent of maize demand for human consumption, animal feed and seed as national strategic stocks;
- increase population of small ruminants (sheep and goats) and rural poultry (including guinea fowls) by 50 per cent by 2010;
- increase production of tree crops (oil palm, citrus, mangoes and cashew) by 5,000 hectares each by 2010;
- provide 66,400 youth farmers with entrepreneurial skills and farm plots by 2010;
- develop and implement national agricultural youth programme by December 2008
- train farmers, processors and exporters in the export sector in export commodity production, processing and marketing by 2010; and
- empower 30 per cent of Ghanaian farmers to receive extension information through audio-visual aids by 2010.

7.4 Food Security

Under this objective the focus will be addressing food security issues through contingency planning, emergency preparedness including establishment of strategic stocks to address disasters. The Ministry will pursue the following interventions to achieve this objective:

The Grains and Legumes Development Board (GLDB) will continue to provide improved seeds and planting materials to ensure increased food production. About 80 mt of foundation seeds of maize is planned to be made available to seed growers. In addition, 30 mt of rice and 10 mt of sorghum foundation seeds are targeted for production. A target of 25mt of cowpea, 50mt of soybean and 15mt of groundnut foundation seeds will also be cultivated by GLDB.

An estimated 720mt of certified seed will be procured from private seed growers for processing and storage by GLDB. Out of this quantity, GLDB

will also store and manage 600mt of certified seeds of maize and other crops in 2008.

To boost the production of yam, about 250,000 yam setts will be produced by GLDB. Again, about 500 ha of cassava planting material will be established. Furthermore, the RTIMP will multiply 50 ha of breeder seed and identify and train 5 private commercial seed growers and distributors to develop market based planting materials production systems. The RTIMP will also support the distribution of certified planting material in 59 districts.

7.5 Agricultural Mechanisation

The Agricultural Engineering Services Directorate will continue the promotion of sustainable water harvesting and efficient water management by the installation of 22 tractor mounted drill rigs for underground water exploitation. Training will be provided for mechanics/technicians in ground water technology. About 11 tractor services centres in 11 strategic areas will be established to facilitate access to farm power machinery.

As part of efforts to modernize agriculture in this country, the Ministry also plans to procure and distribute to farmers about 1000 tractors, 500 power tillers and 500 tractor mounted harvesters.

7.6 Pest Management

The RTIMP will strengthen the implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) systems by establishing an effective capacity for biological control of common pests and disease of Roots and Tubers (R&T) by adopting appropriate control measures for the management of tuber root disease, Polyporous sulphurous and mass producing, releasing and monitoring the spread, establishment, and impact of 50,000 actives of *teretrius nigrescens* against the Larger Grain Borer (LGB) and 5 million actives of *typhlodromalus manohoti* against the Cassava Green mite (CGM) from 3 insectaries.

In addition, the Ministry will equip and provide logistics for the running of 3 insectaries and conduct 6 pest and disease surveys, 30 fields in each of 3 zones (southern, mid and northern) of the country. It will also establish 20 IPM related Farmer Field Fora (FFF) in 5 districts for cassava, yam, sweet-potato and cocoyam.

7.7 Irrigation

Under the new National Irrigation Policy, MOFA will improve the operational efficiency of existing and new irrigation schemes to contribute to the food security objective. This will be pursued by sensitizing and training 500 stakeholders in irrigation technology and providing marketing infrastructure such as drying floors, packing houses, farm tracks, among others, to facilitate production on irrigation schemes.

The Ministry will also facilitate the utilization of 10,000 ha under both formal and informal irrigation. This will be achieved by implementing the following activities:

- Training of 100 contractors in the construction and management of dams and dugouts
- Rehabilitating Tono Irrigation Scheme to put an area of 3,000 ha back into production
- Establishing about 5,000 ha of farm land using surface water extraction method along perennial rivers in the country;
- Completing the irrigation of 820ha of farmland under the Small Farms Irrigation Development Project;
- Completing 1,200ha under the Small Scale Irrigation Development Project;
- Rehabilitating of Nakori Dam in the Upper West Region to put about 81ha under irrigated crop production; and
- Sinking 5,000 boreholes in 5 regions in the country

The GIDA will continue to identify potential areas for irrigation and review existing studies for update of data and subsequent implementation through the review of feasibility studies for Accra Plains Irrigation Project. GIDA will conduct feasibility studies into surface water extraction irrigation to identify an area of 5,000ha, review feasibility studies of Kamba Irrigation Project in the Upper West Region and conduct detailed designs for a net area of 1,500ha. Furthermore, GIDA will create and update studies on culvert diversion in the Upper East and West Regions.

7.8 Strategic Stocks

In order to respond adequately to the food needs of victims of natural disasters and other calamities, the Ministry will use the pro-cocoon technology to store about 53,000 mt of maize as national strategic stock. In addition, warehouses, dryers and other facilities of the former Ghana

Food Distribution Corporation will be rehabilitated for use in the national buffer stock programme.

7.9 Improved Growth in Incomes

The purpose of interventions for enhancing growth in incomes in the sector is to provide opportunities for diversification into cash crops and livestock, and for value addition on all commodities. Diversification will be pursued by the introduction of new commodities and creation of opportunities for value addition to primary commodities. The planned interventions are as follows:

7.10 Tree Crop Development

To expand further on the area under cashew, the Cashew Development Project will procure additional 4mt of improved cashew seed nuts from the Republic of Benin for distribution to farmers. This will plant an additional 2,000 ha of cashew farms intercropped with food crops. The project will also supervise canopy substitution of 20,000 unproductive cashew trees and improve the performance of poorly maintained farms. The GLDB will again make available in 2008, 20,000 seedlings of citrus for the establishment of new plantations.

7.11 Livestock Subsector

In the livestock sector, the main focus is to improve the animal protein intake of the average Ghanaian through the increase of livestock numbers. This will be achieved through various services to be provided by the Animal Production and Veterinary Service Directorates as well as the Livestock Development Project.

The key services to be provided in 2008 include:

- rehabilitate 6 breeding stations (Babile, Ejura, Nungua and Armhia, Pong-Tamale and Kintampo)
- restock breeding stations at Ejura and Kintampo with 50,000 sheep and goats for out breeders
- supply 2000 small ruminants farmers with 100,000 sheep and goats; and monitor the performance of participating breeders
- facilitate the establishment of 150 acres of pastures (stylosanthes fields) by livestock farmers
- rehabilitate office blocks and existing quarantine stations at Paga, Zebilla, Mognori and Pusiga

- construct 20 dugouts and 10 boreholes for selected communities in the project districts
- train of 7,000 livestock farmers in credit management and 20 livestock Specialist in meat processing
- support 200 private sector operators with simple equipment to add value to livestock products through processing

The Veterinary Services Directorate (VSD) will provide health services by conducting TB and brucellosis screening of peri-urban dairy cattle and train 10 Veterinary Technicians in meat inspection. It will also train 3 Veterinarians in epidemiology, parasitology and entomology and continue to conduct active surveillance for Avian Influenza (Bird Flu). In addition, the VSD will produce 30 million doses of 12 vaccines for rural chicken, 400,000 doses of Antrax Spore vaccine and also train and equip 138 Veterinary Technicians as trainers of Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs).

7.12 Youth in Modern Agriculture Programme

The main objective of the Youth in Modern Agriculture Programme is to provide gainful employment for the unemployed and underemployed youth, particularly those in the rural areas, so as to improve their living conditions and encourage them to stay in the rural areas instead of migrating to urban areas. The Programme will support at least 66,400 unemployed youth in each district to cultivate a minimum of 2 hectares each of economic trees, intercropped with food crops under the block farming system by 2010. Further, it will support at least 100 unemployed youth in each district to undertake dry season gardening by 2010 and to support at least 100 unemployed youth in each district, except the forest ecological zone, to undertake rearing of animals using improved methods by 2010.

7.13 Agricultural Credit

Under the Inland Valley Development Project, a total credit of GH¢2.43 million (US\$2.6 Million) will be disbursed to 360 beneficiary groups for production, processing and marketing activities. Similarly The Livestock Development Project will also disburse a total amount of GH¢4.94 million to 3,258 farmers for similar activities.

7.14 Export Marketing and Quality Awareness Project (EMQAP)

MOFA aims to enhance Ghana's comparative advantage and translate it into competitive advantage in producing the needed volumes and quality of

commodities on a timely basis. The capacity of semi-commercial smallholders and commercial farms will be enhanced to produce for the international and expanding domestic markets, including agro-industry.

Under this Project, the Ministry will develop and validate standards for planting materials certification, carry out certification of nursery sites and distribute high quality seeds and other planting materials. It will further print and distribute certification materials, construct a residue analysis laboratory for GSB, rehabilitate a total of 125 km of Feeder Roads and train 240 farmers on production technology with emphasis on good agriculture practices.

In order to meet the challenges posed by the stringent sanitary and phytosanitary standards being imposed by developed economies on our agricultural exports, the Seed Certification and Plant Quarantine Laws will be amended to comply with the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) 1997 standards, respectively.

To ensure that exports of fresh Ghanaian fruits and vegetables comply with Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards, the PPRSD of the Ministry will continue to carry out pesticide monitoring and surveillance of 340 trained pesticide dealers. It will also provide training for additional 200 licensed pesticide dealers and applicators. This will ensure responsible handling and use of pesticides in the country.

The Ministry will also conduct phytosanitary inspection at all the 42 inspection points to ensure pest free exports while at the same time inspecting agricultural imports to prevent the introduction and establishment of foreign pests. Furthermore, the Ministry will intensify its inspection and certification activities to ensure that quality safe food and planting materials are available.

Manuals on quality and safety of food and planting materials will also be developed. The provision of prototype seed processing and drying equipment will be facilitated. Field and laboratory diagnosis of diseases and pests will be carried out for farmers and importers.

MOFA, through the PPRSD will continue to monitor the outbreak of major pests such as army worms and the spread and host range of the invasive fruit fly (*bactrocera invadens*) which was introduced into Ghana in 2004 and has been found to attack mango, citrus and cashew among other

fruits. This will be done by purchasing 2,500 pheromones and their traps for all outbreak zones and affected regions.

MOFA staff and farmers will be trained in the management of the fruit fly to reduce the pest population and its resultant yields and quality loss. Strategic pesticides and equipment stocks will be purchased to control any incipient army worm outbreak. About 15,000 litres of insecticides, 1000 spraying machines and 500 sets of personal protective clothing would be purchased.

7.15 Feeder Roads Improvement

MOFA through the Cashew Development Project will supervise the completion of contract works under spot improvement of identified feeder roads within target districts in collaboration with the Department of Feeder Roads. Similarly, the Nerica Development Project will initiate spot improvement works on a total of 270km of feeder roads in the project communities.

7.16 Sustainable Management of Land and Environment

Under this objective a framework will be developed for collaboration with appropriate agencies to ensure environmental compliance and capacity building of both farmers and MOFA staff on the maintenance of bio-security of farms. A national agricultural land-use policy will be developed.

RTIMP will continue the development and extension of appropriate integrated soil fertility management practices to enhance soil productivity in R&T based cropping systems by conducting on-farm testing of new technologies and integrated nutrient management techniques.

GIDA will train about 250 lead irrigation farmers in efficient soil and water management technology and facilitate lake front protection by supplying seedlings of economic trees free of charge to farmers.

7.17 Application of Science and Technology

MOFA will enhance the application of science and technology by all economic agents, improve technologies to support priority areas and client linkage systems to ensure demand driven research and utilisation of results.

Under the Ministry's technology dissemination support program, all Agricultural Extension Agents (AEAs) will be retrained to demonstrate

best practices and proven technologies in both crop and livestock production to about 60,000 farmers countrywide. Areas of biotechnology will also be explored. The use of audio visual aids (radio, TV, videos) in agricultural work will be intensified. Application of I C T will be adopted at all levels of agriculture development.

7.18 Enhanced Institutional Coordination

The public sector has been dominant in the delivery of services in the agricultural sector. However, expansion of the sector and its transformation requires greater involvement of the private sector in service delivery, investment and management of the sector as a whole.

In view of this, MOFA will collaborate with development partners through harmonisation of efforts in order to achieve maximum results in growth and development. The capacity of staff will be built for effective coordination as well as promoting Public-Private Partnerships.

8.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 PERSONNEL EMMOLUMENTS

It was realized that funds allocated to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture towards the payment of personnel emoluments were less than what was provided in the 2007 fiscal year.

In this regard, the Committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning should reconsider the allocations and ensure that personnel of the Ministry obtain salaries due them.

8.2 INVESTMENT

The Committee also observed that funds approved for the Ministry's investments were woefully inadequate. The Ministry was therefore not able to carry out most of its investment activities. Prioritised investment material could not also be immediately obtained because all equipment had to be purchased at a go.

The Committee therefore urges the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning to commit adequate resources to the investment programmes of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in order not to stall its activities.

8.3 PROCUREMENT

Delays in the implementation of some investment activities of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture were blamed on slow procurement processes.

The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Food and Agriculture should speed up its procurement system to ensure that funds committed to projects/activities are not in future returned to chest due to inactivity.

8.4 SHIFT IN MOFA'S VISION

It was further noted that MOFA has shifted its vision to conform to the dictates of the GPRS II. The Committee commends the MOFA for this move because it would ensure uniformity in the country's developmental goals.

8.5 CASHEW DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The Cashew Development Project was instituted to ensure an increase in cashew production, village level processing to improve the living standard of farm families, enhance food security and contribute to the foreign exchange earnings of the country. It was realised that although the project is earmarked for completion in 2008, it has exceeded most of its targets.

The Committee was however not comfortable with the continuous decline in the recovery of loans from farmers. Farmers from Yendi, Nkwanta as well as North and South Gonja were sited as the worst defaulters. The African Development Bank on the other hand has indicated that until a 90% recovery rate is obtained the project cannot draw down any more funds. To recover the outstanding loan of ₦8.74b the project has prosecuted all defaulting farmers.

In addition to the steps taken at recovering the loans, the Committee recommends that farmers should be educated on the source of the loan given them to ensure maximum recovery. The Committee further commends the projects for its achievements so far.

8.6 PLANT PROTECTION AND REGULATORY SERVICE

The Plant Protection and Regulatory Service is the national agency with the mandate to organise, regulate, monitor and coordinate plant protection services needed for sustainable agricultural growth. It planned to produce 50,000 activities of *Terestrius nigrescence* for the control of larger grain borers. Unfortunately only 5,000 were produced and released. The shortfall was blamed on the Savannah Research Institute and the Crop Research Institute for their inability to produce the organisms.

The Service was also given approval to use 20% of its internally generated funds but could not do so because it could not open an account for the funds. As a result, 46 of its offices nation wide could not be renovated.

The Committee considers the inactions of the Service very unfortunate because the number of *Terestrius nigrescence* produced when released would have very little impact. Independent checks however revealed that the Savannah Research Institute alone produced and released 75,000 actives to control the insect between February and November 2007. The difference in reporting may have been due to a communication gap.

The inability of the Service to renovate its offices also had an effect on productivity and should not be repeated. The Service should further ensure that in future its targets are met.

8.7 AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING SERVICES DIRECTORATE

The country's agricultural mechanisation programme is hinged on the activities of the Agricultural Engineering Services Directorate. The directorate is therefore expected to provide machinery and equipment to support agriculture during the year. It was however observed that funds provided for these activities were not enough although government has promised to obtain funds from Exim Bank of India in support of the mechanisation programme.

The Committee recommends that the directorate should be provided adequate funds for the purchase of equipment to ensure that the mechanisation programme succeeds.

8.8 ICOUR

ICOUR was established in 1985 to promote the production of food crops by small-scale farmers within organized and managed irrigation schemes located at Bolgantanga (Veua) and Navrongo (Tono) in the Upper East Region.

The two (2) schemes are able to produce food crops in both dry and wet seasons in a year thereby improving food security, assist farmers to increase their income as a source of rural employment.

The production was however low because of the high cost of fertilizer and the flooding of some of its crop fields. Allocations for the 2008 fiscal year are also woefully inadequate.

It is the hope of the Committee that ICOUR would be supported with adequate funds to perform better in the coming year.

8.9 EXPORT MARKETING AND AWARENESS PROJECT

The Export Marketing and Awareness project was established with the objective to increase the income of horticultural crop farmers and exporters as well as cassava producers through the increase of export earnings of non-traditional agriculture products.

The project was however not able to fully draw on its investment allocation because of disjoints in the appraisal document and the detailed cost table. Items/activities not budgeted for were specified in the appraisal document, certain cost items were also put under the wrong expenditure category in the appraisal report and particular activities were not adequately budgeted for. Approval was sought for a no objection for a revision in the list of goods and services. AfDB has given approval and all the project activities would be rolled over to the 2008 fiscal year.

The Committee commends the Export Marketing and Awareness project for their initiative and urges them to be more proactive in future to ensure that the anomaly that occurred in 2007 does not repeat itself.

8.10 AFRAM PLAINS DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

This is a government of Ghana and Africa Development Fund project which commenced on 25th of May 2007. The goal of the project is to increase the agricultural output and household incomes of the beneficiary farmers. It is also to reduce rural poverty and ensure food security. The project components are production development, infrastructure development, institutional capacity building and project management.

The Committee realised that the project is very broad and cuts across all features of agriculture. It even dovetails into road construction. It was explained that the project is a pilot and when successful would be replicated in other districts. Members were further assured that a value chain approach would be used to ensure the success of the project.

The Committee wondered if the project would be a success but encouraged the ministry to ensure that the project is handled well to the benefit of the people of the Afram Plains.

8.11 ANIMAL PRODUCTION DIRECTORATE

One of the functions of the Animal Development Directorate is to promote the development of appropriate technologies on management, breeding, nutrition and housing of livestock. To achieve this goal, personnel of the directorate are expected to continuously liaise with breeders. The Committee however realised that this activity is rarely executed because resources allocated to extension officers for that activity are limited. They are provided three gallons of petrol per month for that activity. It was explained that farmers field schools are organised within the year to compensate for the shortfall.

The Committee was not however satisfied with the explanation and urges the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning to commit more funds to that activity.

8.12 VETERINARY SERVICES DIRECTORATE

The directorate during the year under review played a yeoman's roll in the detection and the combating of the Bird Flu epidemic through the early

detection and monitoring processes. Realising their role in the prevention, control and management of the Avian Flu they are still training farmers and doctors on the appropriate use of protective equipment, biosecurity and decontamination procedures.

The Committee again realised that African swine fever has become endemic because our neighbouring countries have not been able to effectively monitor the disease.

Veterinary laws were also found to be very obsolete and need to be reviewed to conform to modern practice.

The Committee commends the directorate for its hard work and urges its officers to continue in their work at ensuring that the Bird Flu epidemic does not recur. The Attorney General is also urged to ensure a review of the veterinary law to conform to modern practice.

8.13 VETERINARY COUNCIL

It was realised that, although the council has over the years sought funds for the acquisition of capital items like, a vehicle, office furniture, computers filing cabinets photo copiers and scanners approval have not been given.

In the year under review however, although very little money was sought under Service, an amount of GH¢ 622 GOG and GH ¢15,578 Donor has been provided. Surprisingly however, no allocation has been provided for investment. This presupposes that no provision has been made for the council's capital investment.

It is the considered view of the Committee that, the Ministry should reconsider the council's request and provide some funds for the council's capital investment.

8.14 STATISTICS, RESEARCH AND INFORMATION DIRECTORATE

The directorate has one of its functions monitors the national food supply situation on quarterly basis culminating in a quarterly national food situation report. This often serves as an input in the calculation of the country's GDP. The directorate is however not very well resourced to perform its functions.

The Committee is of the considered view that the directorate should be well resourced to perform its functions particularly when the GDP contribution of agriculture keeps dwindling.

8.15 GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The directorate provides financial and administrative support services to the Ministry and co-ordinates the administrative activities of all directorates – technical, regional, districts. It also plans and organises conferences, seminars, workshops and agricultural shows.

It was however realised that funds were provided under administration for a project that does not fall within the mandate of the directorate. The funds were provided for the Mango Development Programme one of the Ministry's interventions.

It was further observed that the Ministry is currently inundated with court cases regarding lands that were acquired by government for agricultural purposes without compensation. Owners of the lands are currently prosecuting and winning cases against the Ministry and need to be compensated. Funds were not committed to these cases in the 2008 budget.

The Committee considers lodging of funds for the Mango Development programme into the administrative vote of the Minister's office inappropriate and therefore urges the Ministry to redirect the funds into that of the Crop Services Directorate with strict supervision by the Minister of Food and Agriculture.

The Committee further recommends that government and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning should consider the issue of compensation seriously and obtain funds to support the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in that regard.

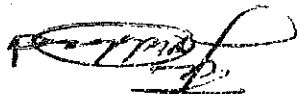
9.0 CONCLUSION

If the Ministry of Food and Agriculture would continue to effectively develop a progressive, dynamic and viable agricultural economy aimed at ensuring food security, income growth and reduced poverty, then more funds should be committed to its activities.

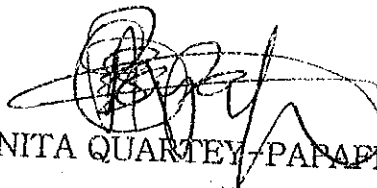
The sum of GH¢87,102,117 allocated the Ministry in the budget is grossly inadequate. While the Committee has no choice but to recommend the allocated funds to the House for approval, it is the prayer and hope of the

Committee that an amount not less than this allocation shall be provided for in the 2008 supplementary budget for the Ministry of Food and Agriculture to finance its activities for the benefit of Ghana.

Respectfully submitted for your approval



P. C. APPIAH OFORI
CHAIRMAN



ANITA QUARTEY-PAPAFIO
CLERK