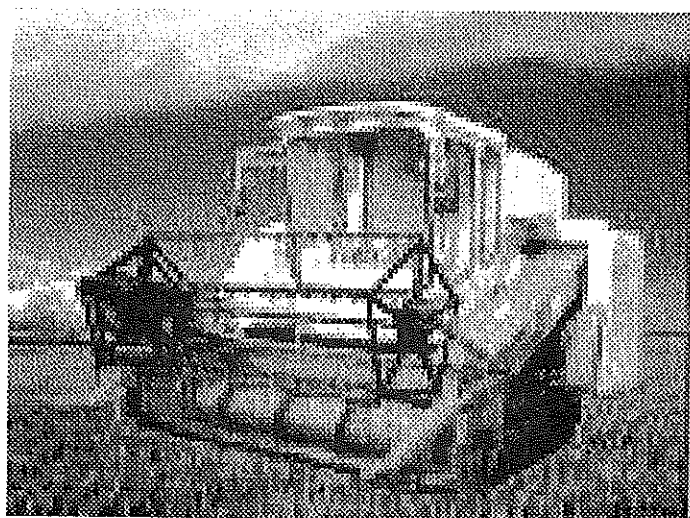


**IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTH
PARLIAMENT OF THE FOURTH REPUBLIC OF
GHANA**



**REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE ON FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND
COCOA AFFAIRS
ON THE 2010 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES
OF THE
MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

December 2009

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND COCOA AFFAIRS ON THE 2010 ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Minister of Finance, Dr. Kwabena Duffuor, on Wednesday 18th November, 2010 presented to Parliament, the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2010 financial year in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution.

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

2.0 DELIBERATIONS

The Committee held a series of meetings with the following to deliberate on the 2010 Draft Annual Estimates of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture:

1. The Minister of Food and Agriculture, Mr. Kwesi Ahwoi, the Deputy Ministers of Agriculture: Hon. Yaw Effah-Baafi, Hon. Nii Amasah Namoale, Hon. Alfred Sugri Tia (Dr) and Ing. J. K. Buamah, Acting Chief Director.
2. Directors and Project Co-ordinators of the following:
 - i. General Administration
 - ii. Human Resource Development and Management Directorate
 - iii. Statistics, Research and Information Directorate
 - iv. Crop Services Directorate
 - v. Ghana Irrigation Development Authority
 - vi. Irrigation Company of Upper Region
 - vii. Grains and Legumes Development Board
 - viii. Policy Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate
 - ix. Ghana Veterinary Council
 - x. Veterinary Services Directorate
 - xi. Animal Production Directorate
 - xii. Fisheries Commission
 - xiii. Agricultural Extension Services Directorate
 - xiv. Plant Protection and Regulatory Service Directorate
 - xv. Roots and Tuber Improvement and Marketing Project
 - xvi. Cashew Development Project
 - xvii. Export Marketing and Quality Awareness Project
 - xviii. Inland Valley Rice Development Project
 - xix. Nerica Rice Development Project
 - xx. Tsetse Eradication Project

- xxi. Afram Plains Agricultural Development Project
- xxii. Irrigation Development Authority
- xxiii. Livestock Development Project
- xxiv. Oncho Secretariat

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 2009 Annual Estimates of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture
4. The 2010 Annual Estimates of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture
5. The 2009 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana.
6. The 2010 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana.

4.0 MISSION STATEMENT (GENERAL)

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

5.0 PERFORMANCE OF THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR FOR YEAR 2009

5.1 Allocations for the Financial Year 2009

The Ministry was allocated a total of **Two hundred and two million, six hundred and twenty-nine thousand, three hundred and seven Ghana Cedis (GH¢202,629,307)** to carry out its programmes and activities. This comprised GoG component of Sixty million, five hundred and forty-one thousand, eight hundred and twenty-five Ghana Cedis (GH¢ 60,541,825) representing 30% whilst One hundred and thirty-eight million, eight hundred and seventy-six thousand, five hundred and forty-two Ghana Cedis (GH¢ 138,876,542) and three million, two hundred and ten thousand, nine hundred and forty Ghana Cedis (GH¢3,210,940) represented Donor and IGF components respectively.

ACTUAL 2009 EXPENDITURE AS AGAINST 2009 ALLOCATION

| Expenditure Item | Allocation (GH¢ million) (A) | Actual Expenditure (GH¢ million) | VARIANCE (B) | PERCENTAGE (%) (a/b X 100) |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Personnel Emoluments | 33,758,132.00 | 31,581,317 | 2,176,815 | 6.44 |
| Administration | 2,334,177.00 | 307,017 | 2,027,160 | 86.84 |
| Service | 19,710,304.00 | 38,217,579 | (18,507,275) | (93.89) |
| Investment | 146,829,713.00 | 62,674,682 | 84,155,031 | 57.31 |
| | 202,632,326 | 132,780,596 | 69,851,731 | 65.53 |

The budget performance for the 2009 indicated that only 65.53% of the total amount allocated was expended. Specifically, the votes for investment fell by 42.7%.

Amount utilized for service activity during the year under review was nearly doubled. This could be attributed to increased expenditure on governments new initiatives and programmes.

5.2 ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MINISTRY IN 2009

Notwithstanding the inadequacy registered with regards to allocations to the various Directorates, Projects and Agencies of the Ministry, remarkable achievements were chalked by various Directorate and Agencies of MoFA which need to be acknowledged. These include:

5.2.1 General Administration

In 2009, General Administration of the Ministry successfully planned and executed many important programmes and events which included:

- i. Compilation of data on all MoFA Assets,
- ii. Celebration of the World Food Day,
- iii. Participation in the Royal Agricultural Show in Coventry, UK
- iv. The launching and organization of the National Farmers' Day among others.

5.2.2 Human Resource Development and Management Directorate

In 2009, the Directorate among other achievements, pursued the painstaking process of getting the Animal Health and Production College of Pong Tamale to become an accredited tertiary institution and permitted by the National Accreditation Board to award Diploma Certificates to successful products of the Institution. An exercise was conducted to collate staff bio-data from all the Regions for the development of a digital staff data-base.

5.2.3 Statistics, Research and Information Directorate (SRID)

During the year under review, certain targets were met. These included the compilation of monthly and weekly wholesale and retail prices of major food items and commodities, and the successful organization of a multi round crop and livestock survey to obtain data on crop and livestock production.

5.2.4 Crop Services Directorate (CSD)

In the year 2009, among many achievements, the Directorate successfully reviewed and forwarded to cabinet the Draft Seed Law; and approved for release, five improved rice varieties namely Jasmine 85, Nerica I & II, Otoo and Emo Tiaa. Four improved Cassava varieties namely Broni, Ampong, CRI Otuhia and Sika Bankye were also released to farmers for cultivation, and a production guide for 9 selected vegetable crops were developed for dissemination to stakeholders.

5.2.5 Ghana Irrigation Development Authority (GIDA)

During the year under review, GIDA established seed multiplication and demonstration plots of aromatic rice namely Jasmine, Marshall and Hope at Ashiaman and Okyereko. A successful organic insecticide trial on okra was also conducted. Lake front protection activities were conducted at Ashiaman, Dawhenya and Okyereko.

Under the small scale Irrigation Development Project, thirteen (13) schemes have been completed, increasing the irrigable area by 325 hectares. Detailed designs of a 5,000 hectare Accra Plains development Project was concluded and ready for stakeholder validation workshop. The project is expected to take off in 2010.

Repair works are being carried out on damaged dams in the Northern, Upper East and Upper West regions whilst civil works for selected schemes in the Greater Accra, Volta, Ashanti, Brong Ahafo and the Northern regions were completed.

5.2.6 Irrigation Company of Upper Region (ICOUR)

In the year under review, ICOUR developed and managed 1,720 hectares of land under irrigation to produce about 12,751 metric tonnes of paddy rice, millet, sorghum, groundnut, soyabeans, vegetables and other crops, in both dry and wet seasons farming. The Tono Scheme was under rehabilitation for most part of the year, as a result, only the Veve Irrigation Scheme was put under utilization.

5.2.7 Grains and Legumes Development Board (GLDB)

Harvesting is still in progress for almost all the selected crop varieties the Board earmarked for production. However, indications are that most of them would either exceed or meet the set targets. Revenue Returns of the Grains and Legumes

Development Board stood at Sixty-eight thousand, five hundred and fifty-seven (GH¢68,557) as at September 2009, against a projected figure of Eighty thousand, three hundred and twenty Ghana Cedis (GH¢80,320).

5.2.8 Policy Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate (PPMED)

The main objective of the Directorate for 2009 was to facilitate and co-ordinate the implementation of the approved Food and Agricultural Sector Development Policy (FASDEP). The design of the sector plan as well as strengthening the capacity of the departments and directorate under MoFA.

A five day stakeholder consultation and a three day Round Table Conference on the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme were organized as a prelude to the signing of the CAADP Compact in October 2009 (CAADP).

5.2.9 Ghana Veterinary Council (GVS) and Veterinary Services Directorate (VSD)

In 2009, the Ghana Veterinary Council (GVS) updated the register of veterinary surgeons. Workshops were also organized for veterinarians from the Northern, Upper East, Upper West and the Brong Ahafo regions on diagnosing and treatments of emerging trans-boundary diseases.

During the year, VSD conducted active surveillance on Avian Influenza in domestic poultry and wildlife in parts of the regions bordering La Cote D'Ivoire, however, all samples tested proved negative. 41,000 doses of Anthrax Spore vaccines and 40,700 Blackleg vaccines were locally produced at the Pong Tamale veterinary laboratory for the control and prevention of endemic diseases of pets and farm animals.

Monitoring visits were also conducted during the year by staff of VSD to slaughter houses in the Volta and Eastern regions to assess the facilities and meat hygiene practices.

5.2.10 Animal Production Directorate (APD)

In the 2009 fiscal year, the Animal Production Directorate supplied 370 sheep, 325 pigs and 574 rabbits from the National Breeding Stations to livestock farmers. One livestock demonstration centre was established in the Kwahu North district to facilitate effective livestock extension delivery and 25,000 cockerel chicks were also distributed to selected farmers country wide at subsidized prices to boost local poultry production and breed improvement. 21,000 breeding sheep are currently being quarantined for distribution to youth farmers as part of the youth in agriculture program.

5.2.11 Fisheries Commission

The Commission, in the 2009 Budget Year, installed 207 new cages on the Volta Lake and about 17,000,000 fingerlings produced locally.

The National Premix Committee and Landing Beach Committees were established to manage, monitor and supervise the sale of premix fuel at the various landing beaches. The construction of patrol boats commenced during the year. Naval and Air patrols continued to monitor and control unorthodox fishing methods in Ghana's Territorial Waters.

The Commission also procured cold store and ice making equipment for the establishment of cold stores and ice making plants at Nyanyano, Half Assini and Shama all in the Western Region. Farmed Fish production increased from 6,514 metric tonnes to 9,771 metric tonnes in 2009; however capture fish production is expected to decrease by 10% by the end of the year.

5.2.12 Agricultural Engineering Services Directorate (AESD)

AESD drilled 39 boreholes in the Ashanti, Central and Greater Accra Regions towards the set target of developing 600 hectares of lands by utilizing ground water resources. A hydro-fracturing technology was tested to improve yields of boreholes, whilst solar submersible pumps were tested. 332 tractors and 63 combine harvesters were procured and distributed to farmers and farmer based organizations. Simple and appropriate labour saving machinery have also been procured and distributed to beneficiaries.

Mechanization centres have been established in 85 districts to provide mechanization services to small scale farmers.

5.2.13 Agricultural Extension Service Directorate (AESD)

Extension materials to support various Projects under MoFA were developed and video documentaries on rice and oil palm were also produced.

The Directorate also reviewed the Fertilizer Subsidy Programme whilst serving as front liners in the 2009 Government fertilizer Subsidy programme.

5.2.14 Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate (PPRSD)

In 2009, the PPRSD certified and packaged various kinds of seeds for sale. Seed health tests were also carried out on over 400 samples of various imported seeds. 25 seed Inspectors and Agricultural Extension Agents were trained in the production and certification of planting materials to enhance certified seed production. Sensitization programmes were also carried out to enhance the utilization of certified seeds by farmers. Biological control agents (260,000 actives) were released in the Western,

Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Eastern and the Volta regions to control Cassava Green Mite (CGM) in these areas.

During the year, the army worm outbreak which occurred in 16 districts in Ashanti, Brong Ahafo and the Northern regions was brought under control through the timely intervention of the PPRSD.

Phytosanitary inspection and certification were carried out at all approved entry and exit points of the country to ensure the imports and exports of pest free plants and plant products and to prevent the introduction and spread of new pest in the country.

5.2.15 Root and Tuber Improvement and Marketing Programme (RTIMP)

In 2009, the Project held public awareness activities in 26 districts. These were carried out with the production and distribution of fact sheets, posters, stakeholders' forums and interactive sessions on radio programmes. A TV documentary was also produced for dissemination of information.

About 40 women were trained in potaghurt production (yoghurt made with sweet potato as the main ingredient) and 26 bakers at Nsawam were also trained in wheat flour substitution techniques. 2,500 farmers, 1,200 processors and 200 traders were mobilized and empowered to access improved technologies, credit and markets.

The project also supplied beneficiaries with 104,000 bundles of improved cassava planting materials and 120 secondary farmers with 15,000 mother seed yam.

Three additional zonal offices at Tamale, Techiman and Koforidua were established to support the work of the Project Co-ordinator.

5.2.16 Cashew Development Project

In year 2009, the Cashew Project established about 2,118 hectares of new farms intercropped with many viable crops. These resulted in a cumulative total of 24,524 hectares of cashew planted representing 136.27% of the overall project target of 18,000 hectares.

The Project also achieved loan recovery rate of 86% from beneficiaries who were all clients of the Agricultural Development Bank. Another achievement worth mentioning is the capturing of local markets for processed cashew nut. Well packaged processed cashew has now become the latest phenomenon on local streets and markets and the patronage is remarkable.

5.2.17 Export Marketing and Quality Awareness Project (EMQAP)

The Export Marketing and Quality Awareness Project developed standards for mango, citrus and pineapple cultivation and handling. Improved Cassava Planting Materials

were supplied to farmers in the Ayensu Cassava Enclave for the development of a 100 multiplication nurseries.

The designs for a 93 km feeder road was completed and awarded for commencement of work, whilst contracts were also awarded for the construction of three dams at demonstration centres.

About 225 Agricultural Extension Officers were trained in harvesting and post harvesting handling of mangoes and pineapples. Training was given to 60 tractor operators to improve their land preparation techniques, whilst 200 farmers received intensive training to enable them obtain certification in organic farming.

5.2.18 Inland Valleys Rice Development Project

In the 2009 budget year, 19 contracts were awarded for the construction of water control structures which are expected to develop 126 hectares of land for rice production in the Ashanti, Western and Brong Ahafo regions. The upgrading of a total of 38.4km farm access tracks were also completed during the year and 36.5 tonnes of improved rice seeds were distributed to farmers.

5.2.19 Nerica Rice Dissemination Project (NRDP)

The achievements of the Nerica Rice Project for year 2009 included the establishment of 3 multiplication sites expected to produce 42.5 tonnes of foundation seeds. The project also trained 440 seed growers and cultivated a total of 172 hectares of Nerica 1 & 2 certified seeds for the 2010 cropping season.

A total of 13,099 rice farmers were mobilized to cultivate Nerica which is expected to generate about 12,071 metric tonnes of paddy rice.

5.2.20 The Tsetse Project

During the year under review, the Tsetse Project screened 21,656 persons in 13 endemic districts, over 7,000 cattle were also treated. About 272,000 litres of Aerial Spraying Chemicals (ULV Deltamethrin) and other logistics have been procured and ready for utilization in March 2010. Land maps for the project area have been developed and data collected integrated into GIS environment.

5.2.21 Afram Plains District Agricultural Development Project

This is a GOG/African Development Bank funded Project. It is expected to directly benefit over 27,260 farm families, provide regular employment and promote cassava production. The Project was formulated to address the problem of low utilization of the vast agricultural potentials of the area, poor access and the weak institutional framework confronting the District.

In 2009, the project exceeded almost all of its target outputs, thus chalking remarkable achievement in the area of operations.

6.0 OUTLOOK FOR THE 2010 BUDGET YEAR

The main focus of government's objectives and policy on Agriculture has informed the Ministry's programme and activities for the year. These are:

- Food Security and Emergency Preparedness
- Increased competitiveness
- Improved growth in incomes and Reduced Income variability
- Agricultural Mechanisation
- Accra Plains Irrigation Project
- Youth in modern Agriculture Development Programme.

6.1 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR THE 2010 FISCAL YEAR

For the 2010 Budget year, a total amount of **Two hundred and fifty-six million, Three hundred and twenty-one thousand, Four hundred and ninety-five Ghana Cedis (GH¢256,321,495)** representing about 3.9% of the total discretionary votes of MDA, has been allocated to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture for the implementation of its programmes, activities and projects. The breakdown of the allocation is stated in the table below:

Break down of 2010 allocation

| N o | Item | MoFA Require- ment | 2010 APPROVED BUDGET | | | | | Funding GPB (GH¢) |
|--------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| | | GOG GH¢ | GOG GH¢ | IGF GH¢ | HIPC | DONOR GH¢ | Total GH¢ | |
| 1 | Personnel Emolument | 48,822,697 | 48,822,697 | - | | - | 48,822,697 | - |
| 2 | Admin. | 3,543,995 | 1,977,483 | 5,026 | | | 1,982,509 | 1,561,486 |
| 3 | Services | 21,656,700 | 2,500,000 | 4,842,504 | | 11,217,315 | 18,559,819 | 3,096,881 |
| 4 | Investment | 849,544,824 | 23,900,000 | 87,500 | 10,000,000 | 152,968,970 | 186,956,470 | 662,588,354 |
| | Total | 923,568,216 | 77,200,180 | 4,935,030 | 10,000,000 | 164,186,285 | 256,321,495 | 667,246,721 |

The above table gives an indication of the budgetary needs of the Ministry, to enable it deliver on set targets for the 2010 fiscal year.

6.2 General Administration

The major programmes and activities of the year will include the establishment of an office for the co-ordination of all stores under the Ministry and the following;

- i. Farmers' Day Celebration
- ii. Participation in World Food Day Celebration
- iii. International Agricultural Fairs
- iv. Payment of judgment debts, compensations and International Commitments

A total of **Two million, nine hundred and Seventy-three thousand and Thirty-nine Ghana Cedis (GH¢2,973,039)** has been allocated for the implementation of programmes and activities under General Administration.

6.3 Human Resource and Management Directorate

The Directorate will develop and review the agricultural sector human resource development and management policy, organise outreach training programmes for the youth in Agriculture programme and develop a digital human resource database for the Ministry.

The Directorate has also budgeted for the procurement of materials and logistical requirements for the colleges and farm institutes. But most importantly, funds have been earmarked for rehabilitation works at the Animal Health and Production College at Pong Tamale which is in a very deplorable state at the moment.

For the implementation of these activities in the year, the Human Resource Directorate of MoFA has been allocated an amount of **Six million, One hundred and eighteen thousand, four hundred and fifty-six Ghana Cedis (GH¢6,118,456)**.

6.4 Policy Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate (PPMED)

An allocation of **Eight hundred and thirty-six thousand and fourteen Ghana Cedis (GH¢836,014)** out of a budgetary request of **Four million, nine hundred and twenty-eight thousand, two hundred and thirty-five (GH¢ 4,928,135)** has been earmarked for the PPMED to carry out its programmes and activities for the 2010 fiscal year. This leaves a funding gap of Four million and ninety-two thousand, one hundred and twenty-one Ghana Cedis (GH¢4,092,121).

6.5 Crop Services Directorate

Some of the outlined activities to be carried out by the Crop Services Directorate will include, enhancing access to improved seed and planting materials in all regions, especially the three regions in Northern Ghana. There will also be an introduction of 6 improved varieties of Roots and Tuber, Cereals and legumes and improved horticultural planting materials to farmers. Capacity building workshops will be organised for cash crop growers for improved productivity. Workshops on climate change will also be organised for environmental desk officers.

These activities and other programme would be implemented with a budgetary allocation of **Five hundred and twenty thousand, nine hundred and seventy-**

three Ghana Cedis (GH¢520,973). No allocation was made for Investment Expenditure. The service vote is also inadequate. This will result in the delivery of fewer services by the Directorate in 2010.

6.6 Animal Production Directorate

For the 2010 fiscal year, a total allocation of **Five million, four hundred and fifty-two thousand and sixty-one Ghana Cedis (GH¢5,452,061)** has been made to the Animal Production Directorate to carry out its programmes and activities. However, Five million Ghana Cedis (GH¢5,000,000) of the total amount, representing 92% of the allocation has been earmarked for the youth in Agriculture programme on livestock, thereby leaving only 8% for the programmes and activities of the Directorate. Some of outlined activities of the Animal Production Directorate will include, supply of 100,000 chicks to rural household poultry farmers.

The establishment of two communal grazing paddocks, provision of incubators to Guinea Fowl farmers, organisation of a livestock/meat show, to promote the consumption of marginally consumed species and the training of MoFA staff and farmers in hatchery management among others are expected to be carried out.

6.7 Grains and Legumes Development Board (GLDB)

The Grains and Legumes Development Board has targeted to process and store a 1000 metric tonnes of certified seeds and food grains namely maize, rice sorghum, soya bean and ground nuts. It will also engage in the production of vegetatively propagated materials such as plantain suckers, yam mini setts and cassava cuttings.

The Board faces the challenge of using old dilapidated field equipment which are characterized by frequent breakdowns. This affects land preparation and achievement of set targets. It will therefore perform more efficiently when tractors and new equipments are acquired for the use of GLDB. Two approved vehicles which were bidden are still out.

For the 2010 year, a budgetary allocation of **One million, forty thousand, three hundred and ninety-seven Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,040,397)** has been made to the Grains and Legumes Development Board for the implementation of activities.

6.8 Ghana Veterinary Council (GVC) and Veterinary Services Directorate (VSD)

The Ghana Veterinary Council has been allocated a total of **Eighty-two thousand, five hundred and eleven Ghana Cedis (GH¢82,511)**. This figure include an IGF component of One thousand, two hundred and forty Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,240). The Veterinary Service Directorate was allocated a total of **Eighteen million, six hundred and eighty-nine thousand and thirty-five Ghana Cedis (GH¢18,689,035)** for the realisation of its activities. This will include the utilisation of technologies to ensure increased in local poultry, guinea fowl, pigs and small ruminant production. The

directorates is expected to locally produce 10,000,000 doses of I-2 vaccine for rural chicken and 400,000 doses of Anthrax Spore Vaccine. The budget allocation will also help in organising a nationwide campaign to vaccinate and deworm local chicken and guinea fowl. It will procure cold storage facilities for holding of vaccines and other veterinary drugs.

6.9 Fisheries Commission

A total allocation of **Eighteen million, seven hundred and fifteen thousand, seven hundred and thirty-eight Ghana Cedis (GH¢18,715,738)** has been made to the Commission to enable it carry out programmes and activities to meet set targets. GOG allocated 23% while 64% is expected donor inflows and 13% is the Commissions revenue projections (IGF).

In the year 2010, the Fisheries Commission will facilitate the acquisition of outboard motors to enhance output from capture fisheries production. It would also embark on vigorous technology transfer drive to enhance aquaculture production from 1.5 tonnes to 2.5 tonnes. The youth in aquaculture programme would be continued with the additional engagement of 3,500 youth. Five fingerlings producers will be supported to raise 50 million fingerlings. Work on the cold storage project is expected to be completed at Nyanyanor, Half Assini and Shama. A new project to be known as the Alternative Livelihoods Programme would be introduced to minimize the impact of declining fish stocks.

6.10 Ghana Irrigation Development Authority (GIDA)

A total allocation of **Fifteen million, eight hundred and twenty-one thousand, six hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢15,821,600)** has been allocated to GIDA to implement its programme and activities for the year. Donor component of the fund is 77%, GOG, 12% and the remaining 11% is revenue projections of GIDA for the year 2010.

In 2010 GIDA will continue the rehabilitation of damaged irrigation sites and provide the necessary logistics and equipment for efficient management of irrigation systems. Farmers on the various irrigation schemes will be trained on soil, water and integrated nutrients management techniques.

6.11 Irrigation Company of Upper Region (ICOUR)

For the 2009–2010 cropping year, ICOUR will facilitate the development of 2,030 hectares of land to dry season farming for the cultivation of rice, tomato and onion whilst an area of 2,900 hectares would be developed during the wet season for the cultivation of rice, rice seed, soya bean seed and grains, millet, sorghum, groundnut and other crops. The two seasons are expected to yield 28,464 metric tonnes of crops. The projected output could partly be attributed to the availability of tractors, harvesters and subsidized fertiliser. **A total sum of six hundred and seventy-seven thousand, three hundred and twenty-two Ghana Cedis (GH¢677,322)** has

been allocated to ICOUR in addition to Four hundred and eighty-five thousand, seven hundred and fifty-four Ghana Cedis (GH¢485,754) being projected revenue of the company.

6.12 Agricultural Extension Service Directorate (AESD)

The activities that would be carried out by the AESD will include the dissemination of improved technologies to farmers through the distribution of extension materials, telecasting of agricultural technologies on National television, use of smart phones and talking books, where information on improved technologies can be stored and easily accessed by both field staff and farmers. Linked to this will be the setting up of a central unit where field staff and farmers can dial up for additional information on agriculture.

There will be the continuation of the fertilizer subsidy programme and other interventions to enable farmers adopt improved seed and fertilizer applications. The programme will train farmer based organisations on value chain processes and improve interactions between research, extension and farmers for improved technology uptake. For the implementation of these activities, a total of **Fifteen million, nine hundred and eighty-two thousand, four hundred and eighty-seven Ghana Cedis (GH¢15,982,487)** representing 23% of the total budgetary request of Sixty-eight million, five hundred and fifty-six thousand two hundred and eighty-five (GH¢68,556,285) has been allocated to Agricultural Extension Service Directorate for the 2010 Budget Year.

6.13 Agricultural Engineering Services Directorate

The government's focus on Agriculture for the 2010 fiscal year is to encourage mechanisation of the sector to enhance productivity. Irrespective of the above, a paltry sum of **Ten million, four hundred and three thousand, six hundred and sixty-six Ghana Cedis (GH¢10,403,666)** has been allocated to the Agriculture Engineering Services Directorate for the implementation of programmes, which is expected to move Agriculture towards its mechanisation drive.

Activities earmarked include a programme of facilitating the establishment of mechanisation centres in all the districts in the country and further training of technicians to operate the machines. There is going to be improvement of storage facilities along the value chain, by rehabilitating existing ware houses and silos and collaborating with NGOs to intensify the use of animal traction by small holder farmers.

6.14 Root and Tuber Improvement and Marketing Project (RTIMP)

For the 2010 year, the Project will support the development of a viable commodity chain system to sustain and consolidate gains made by the programme through policy dialogue. Expansion, multiplication and distribution of planting materials and capacity building programmes for beneficiaries will be organised.

There is the urgent need for resources to be made available for the procurement for flash dryers for all cassava growing areas for the processing of quality cassava flour.

For the implementation of programmes and activities of the project, **a total sum of Six million, seven hundred and thirty-two thousand seven hundred and eighty-three Ghana Cedis (GH¢6,732,783)**, comprising 6% GOG and a donor portion of 94% has been allocated for the year 2010.

6.15 Export Marketing and Quality Awareness Project (EMQAP)

In 2010, the project will complete and operationalize demonstration centres where farmers would be trained in modern horticulture production practices. Construction work would be completed on a modern residue studies Laboratory at the Ghana Standard Board and three small dams at demonstration centres.

The project intends to construct two temperature controlled Pack Houses to provide access to storage and pre-cooling services. Work would be carried out on a total of 94.3km feeder roads, whilst an additional 119km would be surveyed and designed for construction in the course of the year.

A GoG matching fund of **Nine hundred and eleven thousand, three hundred and twenty Ghana Cedis (GH¢911,320)** and an expected donor inflow of **Thirteen million, three hundred and sixty-five thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢13,365,000)** have been allocated to the project for delivery on its mandate.

6.16 The Cashew Development Project

The year 2010 will be the final year for the project. Activities for the year are therefore designed towards the conclusion of the project. Irrespective of that, 1,500 hectares of cashew farms would be established, whilst 20,000 clonally propagated seedlings from two nurseries would be produced. An improved technology dissemination programme to conclude all implementation agreements with relevant agencies at all levels will be held in the course of the year.

A GOG component of **One million, ninety-one thousand, two hundred and eighty-five Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,091,285)** and a donor portion of **Two million, eight hundred and five thousand, three hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢2,805,300)** have been allocated to the Cashew Development Project for implementation of its activities.

6.17 Inland Valleys Rice Development Project

The project which was to be completed in 2008 has been granted a two year extension due to its late start up and the need to allow for the completion of critical activities.

For 2010, the Project will complete the construction of water control structures on at least 1261 hectares of surveyed inland valleys in Ashanti, Brong Ahafo and Western

regions. 300 farmer groups, 37 trader groups and 5 rice processors will be linked to credit facilities. The Project will also procure and distribute at least 45 tonnes of good rice seed for farmers for cultivation.

An expected Donor inflow of **Ten million, three hundred and twelve thousand, five hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢10,312,500)** and a matching fund of **Seven hundred and three thousand, one hundred and seventy-nine Ghana Cedis (GH¢703,179)** has been allocated to the Project.

6.18 Nerica Rice Dissemination Project

A total sum of **Three million, three hundred and thirty-one thousand one hundred and forty-one Ghana Cedis (GH¢3,331,141)** has been allocated to the Nerica Project for implementation of its programmes and activities for the 2010 fiscal year.

Some of the programmes and activities earmarked for the year will include the organisation of Nerica awareness shows and exhibitions in six Project Communities and the designing of Marketing Systems for Nerica Rice. Nerica Seed multiplication sites in four zonal communities will be established and beneficiary groups will be organised to access credit. Sensitization programmes would be organized for 4000 new beneficiaries in 60 communities.

The project will also complete renovation works on office for research scientists at CRI in Kumasi. 3 communities managed improved rice mills will be installed with drying floors to facilitate the drying of paddy and milled rice.

6.19 Livestock Development Project

The main activities of the Livestock Development Project will include;

- i. The construction of 44 dugouts and 28 boreholes in the Northern, Brong Ahafo, Upper East and Upper West regions.
- ii. Facilitate and ensure the completion of civil works in the Greater Accra, Ashanti, Brong Ahafo and Upper East and Upper West Regions.
- iii. The supply of 2000 small ruminant farmers with 20,000 sheep and goats for multiplication
- iv. To facilitate the training of ten professional staff in artificial insemination.
- v. To facilitate the training of 7000 livestock farmers in credit management, loan mobilization and recovery techniques. The capacity of beneficiaries of credit-in-kind scheme will also be built in good husbandry practices and stock management.
- vi. The project will also support district and regional veterinary staff to intensify disease surveillance and vaccination against endemic diseases in Project districts.

For these activities, the Livestock Development Project has been allocated a matching fund of **Four hundred and twenty-three thousand, five hundred and eighty Ghana Cedis, sixty pesewas (GH¢423,580.60)** and expected Donor inflow of **fourteen million, four hundred and seven thousand, nine hundred and fifty Ghana Cedis (GH¢14,407,950)**.

6.20 Northern Rural Growth Programme (NRGP)

The programme has been allocated a total of **thirty-one Million, eight hundred and fifty-seven thousand, four hundred and seventy Ghana Cedis (GH¢31,857,470)** for the implementation of its activities. GOG is funding 3% of this amount, whilst 28% and 69% is expected Donor inflow from IFAD and AfDB respectively.

Over 70% of the 2010 programmes and activities would be the strengthening of structures established for start-up of the NRGP and infrastructure development. This will expand the agricultural potential of Northern Ghana, thereby increasing productivity and general production.

6.21 The Afram Plains District Agricultural Development Project

This Project has been allocated a sum of **Fourteen million, eight hundred and seventy-three thousand, one hundred and seventy-three Ghana Cedis (GH¢14,873,173)** for the realisation of its programmes and activities. The amount comprises of 9.4% GOG counterpart funds whilst 90.6% is expected donor inflow.

Activities of the Project would be geared towards increasing production and yields in all crops taken up by the Projects. Cattle, small ruminants and poultry production are also expected to increase.

The Volta Lake will be re-stock with 1.5 million fingerlings and fisheries management training programmes organised for beneficiaries. The Project will target the production and planting of 535,000 seedlings to ensure sustainable management of forest resources.

The Project has also planned to improve feeder roads, provide drainage and construct 200km feeder roads in the Kwahu North District by the end of 2010. Rehabilitation of the engine of the Agodeke-Kpando ferry (MV 4th Republic) is expected to be carried out by the Project in 2010.

6.22 National Oncho Secretariat and the Tsetse Trypanosomiasis Project

The Oncho Secretariat has been allocated an amount of **Two hundred and ten thousand, eight hundred and fourteen Ghana Cedis (GH¢210,814)** for the control of the incidence of the onchocerciasis disease and to facilitate the accelerated socio-economic development of the Oncho-free zones in the country.

The Tsetse Project on the other hand, was allocated a GOG component of **One million, one hundred and twenty-five thousand and eighty-six Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,125,086)** and expected Donor inflow of **Sixteen million and five hundred thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢16,500,000)** for the eradication of tsetseflies in areas where trypanosomiasis impedes livestock and general agricultural productivity. Thereby increasing rural poverty and endangering human lives. The 2010 work plan is focused on:

- i. Conducting Aerial spraying along the three major rivers in the Project area i.e Black Volta, Sissili and the Kulpawn rivers.
- ii. Continue ground spraying within 10km radius of river banks.
- iii. Continue with treatment of livestock in the affected areas.

7.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1

Government's current agriculture development focus needs to be supported. The initiative on mechanisation that focuses on ensuring access to services will facilitate the growth and development of rural agriculture.

The committee recommends that, the momentum to appropriately mechanise agriculture should be sustained by providing the full complement and affordability of machinery that will be needed in the entire value chain. Most importantly the mechanisation centres are brilliant interventions that will ensure reduction in the drudgery associated with farming. This will motivate the youth into agriculture and ensure expansion in holdings of small scale farmers.

7.2

In view of the strategic importance of the 5,000 hectare Accra Plains Irrigation Development Project, Government is encouraged to harness all effort to secure the necessary resources for its implementation.

7.3

Making livestock part of the youth in agriculture programme and expanding aquaculture to include more youth is a commendable programme that will respond to the youth unemployment situation whilst guaranteeing the growth of the aquaculture and livestock sectors, thereby, improving the protein nutritional intake of Ghanaians.

Extra resources need to be found to support the coastline programme of getting the beaches cleaned up. Apart from contributing to the tourism improvement drive, production of fish under hygienic conditions will also be enhanced. **The Eco-brigade programme which has employed about 10,000 youth is a good start and need to be adequately resourced in order to ensure its sustainability and enhance fish production.**

7.4

The Committee urges the Ministry of Food and Agriculture to undertake a critical review of all agricultural training institutions, i.e Colleges and Farm Institutes, with a view to

repositioning them in terms of content, so that they respond to the demands of modern educational and training needs. The review process must include the provision of practical skills in modern agriculture for farmers and actors in agri-business.

7.5

It is noteworthy that the Animal Health and Production College at Pong Tamale has been accredited into a Diploma awarding College.

However, the Committee urges the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning to allocate more resources for the renovation of its dilapidated structures to facilitate effective teaching and learning.

7.6

Government should take steps to protect lands allocated to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture across the country. It is of grave concern that most lands acquired for research, demonstration and extension purposes are being forcefully repossessed by some traditional authorities. This phenomenon seems to be derived from government policy of releasing unutilised lands to their original owners.

Typical examples are the situation at the Nungua Livestock Breeding and Amrahia Livestock Stations, where even developed portions of the allocated lands have been demarcated for release to the traditional authorities.

The government should ensure that proper consultations take place between all stakeholders before decisions are taken to release these lands.

It is important that this problem is urgently addressed to protect life and property of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

7.7

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture is also saddled with huge judgement debts mostly as a result of land litigations and lack of defence at court hearings. Consequently, judgements are mostly awarded in absentia against them. As a result, MoFA's properties are being impounded all over the country to defray compensation costs and accumulated interest.

It is time government intervenes by holding consultations with litigants for settlement, so that MoFA can deliver on its mandate without hindrance. The Committee also recommend the setting up of a legal desk at MoFA to manage and co-ordinate all the legal issues that regularly confront the Ministry.

The Committee is reiterating its observation that several Departments, Agencies and Projects engaged in the promoting the production of the same crops, example, rice, maize and other grains and livestock. There is therefore the urgent need to engage the services of a management consultant to