

**IN THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE SIXTH
PARLIAMENT OF
THE FOURTH REPUBLIC OF GHANA**



**REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY**

ON THE

**HOST COUNTRY AGREEMENT
BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE
OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE (IITA)
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

17TH MARCH, 2016

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Host Country Agreement between International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and the Government of Republic of Ghana was laid before Parliament on 1st of December, 2015 by the Hon. Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Mr. Mahama Ayariga (MP) and referred to the Committee on Environment, Science and Technology for consideration and report to the House in accordance with Article 75 of the 1992 Constitution and Order 185 of the Standing Orders of Parliament.

2.0 DELIBERATIONS

The Committee met on 8th March, 2016 with the Hon Minister for Environment Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) and other officials from the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA). The Committee is grateful to the Minister and his team for their valuable inputs in the deliberations.

3.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENT

The Committee was guided by the following documents:

- i. The 1992 Constitution of Ghana;
- ii. The Standing Orders of Parliament;
- iii. Host Country Agreement between the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture and the Government of the Republic of Ghana.

4.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) is a non-governmental and non-profit making organisation involved in research-for-development (R4D) on tropical cash and food crops.

The Institute has been collaborating with National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) in almost all the Sub-Saharan countries through staff located in Benin, Burundi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

In Ghana IITA started collaborating actively with research institutions in 1979 and worked together with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT), the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Crop Research Institute (CRI) and other government agencies in the collaboration with Ghana Grains Development Project funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

5.0 OBJECTIVE OF THE AGREEMENT

The Agreement (IITA) seeks to regularize its mutually beneficial relationship with the Government of the Republic of Ghana through a legal arrangement in the form of a Host Country Agreement. The proposed agreement therefore aims to confer a legal status and personality as well as privileges and immunities on the beneficial relationship in accordance with the laws of Ghana, to facilitate the efficient and effective discharge of IITA's operations. It needs to be stressed that the immunities and privileges that would be accorded are primarily for functional purposes.

5.1 Contents of the Host Agreement:

The Agreement provides for the following reliefs:

- Privileges, immunities and controls
 - Exemptions for communication and transportation controls
 - Other appropriate support needed to establish the West African Hub in Tamale
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- Exemption from local taxes

6.0 OBSERVATIONS

- 6.1 The Committee observed that, IITA would invest approximately five (5) million USA dollars annually to the agricultural sector and Research-For-Development (R4D) efforts in Ghana through joint research programs and/or projects. This investment excludes remittances for salaries of local and international staff and operational as well as administrative expenditures.
- 6.2 The Committee again observed that, stronger Ghana-IITA collaboration will bring significant benefits to farmers and the national economy, through building individual and institutional capacity in science and technology, improved farm productivity and profitability, household income and nutrition, as well as consumer welfare.
- 6.3 The Committee also noted that, the Agreement was revised by the Legal and Consular Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and regional Integration as well as the Attorney General's Department in order to bring it into conformity with the relevant legislation and similar Agreements that Ghana has entered into with comparable international organizations, such as the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), International Food Policy and Research Institute (IFPRI) and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA).
- 6.4 The Committee observed that the cost of office and residential accommodation facilities for staff and officials would be borne by the IITA and not the Government of Ghana.
- 6.5 The Committee also noted that the physical establishment of the IITA West Africa Hub would benefit the tourism sector immensely as officials of IITA would be drawn from across the globe to access the IITA facilities in Ghana.

6.6 The Committee further observed that IITA has entered into similar Agreements with some ECOWAS member states, notably Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Liberia. Ghana, by entering into the Host Agreement with IITA therefore stands to benefit immensely.

6.7 The Committee observed that a stronger presence of IITA in Ghana through the establishment of the West African Hub in Tamale would bring about a significant increase in the number of scientists and administrators (as IITA continues to grow to target staff numbers projected in its strategy), and make Ghana more visible to the international research community through:

- creation of employment of local staff to work with the scientists and administrators, and employment opportunities for Ghanaians through demand by IITA staff for housing and services provided by schools, utility and service companies,
- better alignment of IITA's work (both applied and adaptive agricultural research) with national priorities through more regular contact with the national programs,
- enhancement of IITA's ability to contribute to the mentoring of Ghanaian students, especially through postgraduate thesis research, in collaboration with Universities in Ghana,
- involvement of more Ghanaian researchers, extension agents, technicians, and other value chain actors (farmers, processors, traders, etc) more readily in IITA's R4D events,
- International conferences and workshops organized by IITA, and
- IITA staff assisting with teaching of courses at the Tertiary Institutions
- ~~- direct investment by IITA in infrastructure such as offices, laboratories,~~
- research fields, etc.

6.8 It will further strengthen IITA's collaboration with Agricultural Research and Development Institutions, e.g., Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ministry of Environment Science, Technology and Innovation, Ministry of Education, the private sector and other non-governmental organizations in terms of:

- Sharing of new knowledge and germplasm of major staple crops
- Joint development and release of improved varieties for better food security and income
- Joint formulation and implementation of R4D projects
- Joint resource mobilization in support of R4D
- Access to state of the art facilities at IITA and
- Increased training opportunities for young national scientists

6.9 The Committee however noted that besides the benefits enumerated above, Ghana would also contribute in the form of tax exemptions for IITA establishment.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

7.1 The Committee has thoroughly examined The Host Country Agreement between International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and the Government of the Republic of Ghana and is of the view that agreement will be beneficial to the nation's interests.

7.2 The Committee accordingly recommends to the House to approve the Host Country Agreement between International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and the Government of the Republic of Ghana.

Respectfully submitted.



HON. EDEM SIMON ASIMAH
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



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JOANA A. S. ADJEI (MRS)
CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE
