



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

**REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND COCOA AFFAIRS**

**ON**

**THE ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD  
AND AGRICULTURE FOR THE 2018 FISCAL YEAR**

**December 2018**



# REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND COCOA AFFAIRS ON THE 2018 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

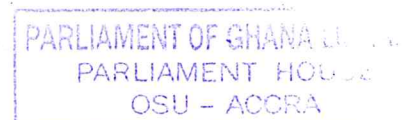
The Budget Statement and Financial Policy of the Government of Ghana for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2018 was presented to Parliament, by the Minister for Finance, Hon. Ken Ofori-Atta on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution.

Pursuant to Orders 140 (4) and 176 of the Standing Orders of Parliament, Rt. Hon Speaker referred the estimates of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture to the Committee on Food, Agriculture and Cocoa Affairs for consideration and report to the House.

## 1.1 DELIBERATIONS

The Committee met on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 and examined the Programme Based Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the programmes of the Ghana Cocoa Board as captured in the 2018 Budget Statement. Present at the meetings were the Minister for Food and Agriculture, Hon. Dr. Afriyie Osei Akoto, Minister of State for Food and Agriculture, Dr. Gyiele Nurah, CEO of Ghana Cocoa Board, Mr. Joseph Boahen Aidoo, the Chief Director of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Mr. R. P Ankobiah as well as officials of Ghana Cocoa Board and Directors and Project Co-ordinators of the following Directorates and Projects under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture:

- i. Human Resource Development and Management Directorate;
- ii. Crop Services Directorate;
- iii. Ghana Irrigation Development Authority;
- iv. Grains and Legumes Development Board;
- v. Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate;



- vi. Women in Agricultural Development;
- vii. Veterinary Services Directorate ;
- viii. Ghana Cocoa Board
- ix. Animal Production Directorate;
- x. Agricultural Extension Services Directorate;
- xi. Agricultural Engineering Services Directorate;
- xii. National Buffet Stock Company

The Committee is grateful to all who in diverse ways provided clarifications and explanations to questions during the meetings.

## **1.2 REFERENCE MATERIALS**

In considering the sector estimates, the Committee was guided by the following documents:

- I. The 1992 Constitution of Ghana;
- II. The Standing Orders of Parliament;
- III. The Budget Statement and Financial Policy of the Government of Ghana for 2018 financial year.
- IV. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for 2017 Financial Year;
- V. The Medium Term Expenditure Framework for 2017-2019 for the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

## **1.3 MISSION STATEMENT OF THE MINISTRY**

The Ministry Food and Agriculture exists to promote sustainable agriculture and thriving agribusiness through research and technology development, effective extension and other support services to farmers, processors and traders for improved livelihood.

The Ministry will pursue a value addition strategy aimed at rapidly ramping up agro-processing and developing new and stable markets for our products. The Ministry will achieve these through the implementation of the following programmes

## 1.4 STRATEGIC POLICY OBJECTIVES

The strategic policy objectives of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture are as follows:

- a. Promote Agriculture Mechanisation.
- b. Improve science, technology and innovation application.
- c. Promote seed and planting material development.
- d. Increase access to extension services and re-orientation of agriculture education.
- e. Improve institutional co-ordination for agriculture development.
- f. Increase private sector investment in agriculture.
- g. Improve post – production management.
- h. Develop an effective domestic market.
- i. Expand agriculture exports.
- j. Promote irrigation development.
- k. Improve Agriculture Financing.
- l. Promote sustainable environment, land and water management.
- m. Promote the development of selected staple and horticultural crops.
- n. Promote the development of selected cash crops and
- o. Promote livestock and poultry development for food security and income generation.

## 2.0 REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE FOR 2017

### 2.1 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR 2017

In the 2017 fiscal year the Ministry of Food and Agriculture was allocated an amount of **Seven Hundred and Fifty Nine Million, Six Hundred and Seventy Six Thousand, Three Hundred and Forty Two Ghana Cedis (GH¢759,676.342)** to implement its planned programmes and projects. The allocation was comprised of a GoG component of **GH¢246,378,000**, a Donor element of **GH¢372,619,029**, an IGF of **GH¢2,465,093** and ABFA of **GH¢138,214,220**.

The breakdown of allocation is as shown in tables 1, 2 and 3 below:

**Table 1: ALLOCATION FOR 2017 – FUNDING SOURCES**

	<b>GOG (GH¢)</b>	<b>DONOR(GH¢)</b>	<b>IGF(GH¢)</b>	<b>ABFA(GH¢)</b>	<b>TOTAL(GH¢)</b>
<b>WAGES AND SALARIES</b>	53,905,470	-	-	-	<b>53,905,470</b>
<b>GOODS &amp; SERVICES</b>	191,872,529	252,622,346	1,757,495	9,814,220	<b>456,066,590</b>
<b>CAPEX</b>	600,000	119,996,683	707,598	128,400,000	<b>249,704,281</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>246,378,000</b>	<b>372,619,029</b>	<b>2,465,093</b>	<b>138,214,220</b>	<b>759,676,342</b>

Source: The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of GOG for 2017 fiscal year

**Table 2: Breakdown of Allocation by Programme and Economic Classification**

Source: The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of GOG for 2017 fiscal year

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Sources of funding</b>				
	<b>GOG (GH¢)</b>	<b>IGF (GH¢)</b>	<b>ABFA (GH¢)</b>	<b>Donor (GH¢)</b>	<b>Total (GH¢)</b>
<b>Management and Administration</b>	11,996,871		5,000,000	358,548,999	<b>375,545,870</b>
<b>Food Security &amp; Emergency Preparedness</b>	219,886,802	2,100,000	98,214,220	13,262,030	<b>333,463,052</b>
<b>Increased Growth in Incomes</b>	13,455,240	365,093	-	778,000	<b>14,598,333</b>
<b>Marketing of Agric. Produce/Products</b>	-	-	-	30,000	<b>30,000</b>
<b>Application of Science and Technology in Food &amp; Agric. Development</b>	1,039,086		35,000,000	-	<b>36,039,086</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>246,378,000</b>	<b>2,465,093</b>	<b>138,214,220</b>	<b>372,619,029</b>	<b>759,676,342</b>

Source: The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of GOG for 2017 fiscal year

### 3.0 Financial Performance for 2017

**Table 3: 2017 Financial Performance by**

<b>Fund source</b>	<b>Approved budget (A) (GH¢M)</b>	<b>Released budget (B) (GH¢M)</b>	<b>Actual Expenditure as@ Sept. (C) (GH¢M)</b>	<b>% Released (C/B *100) (GH¢M)</b>
<b>Wages and Salaries</b>	53.905	35.99	35.99	71.0
<b>Goods and Services</b>	454.858	116.412	116.412	<b>25.59</b>
<b>Capex</b>	250.883	88.499	57.654	35.28
<b>Total</b>	<b>759.646</b>	<b>240.901</b>	<b>210.056</b>	<b>32.8</b>

The Committee observed that an amount of Two Hundred and Forty Million Nine Hundred and One Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢240.901m) which represents 32.8% of the approved budget had by September, 2017 been released for the approved activities of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

### 3.0 Programme Performance for 2017

Funds approved and released in the 2017 fiscal year were committed to the following activities:

#### 3.1 Food Security and Emergency Preparedness Programme

- ❖ To increase production of selected crops for food security and creation of jobs, the “ Planting for Food and Jobs Programme was made a flagship programme in 2017 and 201,000 farmers were registered across the country, 2,160 university graduates and 1,070 youth were recruited.
- ❖ To further promote seed and planting material development, 121, 000 metric tonnes of subsidised fertilizers and 4,454.98 metric tonnes of subsidised seeds of maize, rice, sorghum, soybean and vegetables were distributed to beneficiary farmers.

- ❖ To promote agricultural mechanization, 220 tractors and accessories comprising 141 maize shellers, and 77 multi-crop threshers were distributed to farmers and service providers.
- ❖ The Ministry in collaboration with Ghana Irrigation Development Authority (GIDA) completed the rehabilitation of the Mprumen dam and continued works on the other schemes including Tamne phase 1 headworks which is 70% complete, Sakpe Zakpalsi at 50% complete, Kornorkle at 90% complete and Uasi at 45% complete. Additionally, feasibility studies on Kamba, Kpeli, Ho-Keta plain and Sabari irrigation schemes were completed.
- ❖ The invasion of the Fall Army Worm (FAW) was managed and kept under control. The Ministry procured chemicals for distribution to farmers, recruited spraying gangs and undertook monitoring and surveillance. 123,232 hectares of farm lands were recovered out of a total area of 137,479 hectares of affected farms.

### **3.2 Increased Growth in Incomes Programme**

- ❖ In 2017, to improve livestock farming and increase meat production, 70 livestock farmers were supported with 350 superior breeds of small ruminant in the Eastern and Central regions.
- ❖ To reduce the incidence of diseases and increase production in small ruminants, 430,000 small ruminants and 335,000 cattle were vaccinated against Pest des Petite Ruminants (PPR) and Contagious Bovine Pleuro Pneumonia (CBPP) respectively, throughout the country.

### **3.3 Marketing of Agricultural Produce/ Product Programme**

- ❖ Work started on the rehabilitation of five ware houses at Yendi, Tamale, Wenchi, Sunyani and Kumasi.
- ❖ The National Buffer Stock Company in collaboration with the Agricultural Development Bank registered over a thousand licensed buying companies to procure food stuffs from farmers including those participating in the planting for Food and Jobs Programme.



- ❖ The Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and other MDAs registered suppliers to distribute farm produce from the Planting for food and jobs programme to public institutions including the school feeding programme, the free senior high school programme, prisons, defence and police to ensure quality food is supplied in a timely manner.

### **3.4 Cocoa Sector**

#### **3.5 Loan Syndication**

- ❖ In the 2017/18 crop year, an amount of US\$1.3 billion was raised in the syndicated loan market. The loan was acquired to fund purchases of cocoa as well as support other key interventions in the cocoa sector. COCOBOD repaid the US\$1.8 billion syndicated loan for the 2016/17 cocoa season.
- ❖ During the 2016/17 season, COCOBOD purchased 969,000 metric tonnes of cocoa. The average Free on Board (FOB) price of cocoa in the past season witnessed a 30 percent drastic decline from US\$2,950 to US\$2,080. This situation compelled other countries to reduce the producer prices of cocoa.
- ❖ Government, however, maintained the producer price of cocoa at GH¢7,600 per tonne, this price represents 88.66 percent of the net FOB price (83.04 percent of gross FOB price).

#### **3.6 Cocoa Consumption**

- ❖ COCOBOD embarked on a campaign of promoting the consumption of cocoa both domestically and internationally, strengthening the demand for cocoa products produced in the country.
- ❖ As part of measures to promote industrialization, government modified the incentives to increase processing of cocoa in Ghana, through progressive discounts to encourage tertiary processing, thus, raising value addition to cocoa and creating jobs.

### **3.7 Cocoa Rehabilitation and Intensification Programmes**

- ❖ COCOBOD introduced initiatives aimed at increasing productivity and adapting to climate change without compromising the integrity of the environment.
- ❖ In addition, it re-energized the rehabilitation of existing farms, replanting of old and moribund cocoa farms as well as cutting and replanting diseased cocoa trees. To this end, an efficient, cost effective and targeted supply of free hybrid cocoa seedlings to farmers was carried out.

### **3.8 Cocoa Mass Spraying and Hi-Tech**

- ❖ The re-designed cocoa mass spraying programme which enhances private sector participation took off.
- ❖ All inputs for the Hi-tech programme (including subsidized fertilizers), have been procured and evacuated to the various cocoa districts. A stringent and efficient fertilizer testing regime that guarantees the quality of all approved fertilizers was put in place.

### **3.9 Artificial Pollination**

- ❖ COCOBOD introduced hand pollination on cocoa farms with the aim of enhancing productivity per hectare. This initiative was to raise the number of pods per tree by at least three folds, and to increase productivity from an average 450kg per hectare to more than 1,300kg per hectare.
- ❖ COCOBOD has trained and deployed the first batch of 10,000 youth in the 2016/17 season.

### **3.10 Cocoa Roads**

- ❖ COCOBOD, over the past three years, awarded cocoa road contracts to the tune of GHC5.1 billion against a budget of GHC1.6 billion resulting in excess budget of GHC3.5 billion. The construction and maintenance of cocoa roads will resume after the audit of outstanding contracts.

### 3.11 Coffee Programme

- ❖ In 2010, government developed a 5-year coffee revamping programme to raise coffee production in Ghana. The project was effective in increasing coffee production from 1,700 tonnes per annum to 6,000 tonnes per annum.

## 4.0 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR THE 2018 FINANCIAL YEAR

**Table 4: Breakdown of the 2018 Budgetary Allocation Economic classification**

Expenditure Item	ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATION					
	Compensation	Goods & Services	CAPEX (GH¢)	OTHERS (GH¢)	Total (GH¢)	% Allocation
GOG (GH¢)	61,052,712	154,147,870	2,000,000	-	217,200,582	36.28%
IGF (GH¢)	-	1,644,355	1,096,237	-	2,740,592	3.83%
DONOR (GH¢)	-	107,902,902	21,310,368	-	129,213,270	21.58%
ABFA (GH¢)	-	-	-	249,465,991	249,465,991	41.67%
GRAND TOTAL	61,052,712	263,695,127	24,406,605	249,465,991	598,620,435	100%
% ALLOCATION	10.19%	44.05%	4.07%	41.67%	100%	-

Source: The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government for 2018 Financial Year.

**Table 5: Breakdown of 2018 Allocation by Programme and Economic Classification**

Programme	Sources of funding					Total (GH¢)	Percentage allocation
	GOG (GH¢)	IGF (GH¢)	ABFA (GH¢)	Donor (GH¢)			
Management and Administration	14,586,800	1,240,181	4,000,000	120,373,270		136,200,251	22.75
Food Security & Emergency Preparedness	184,898,365	1,500,411	235,816,000	5,165,000		427,379,776	71.39
Increased Growth in Incomes	17,715,417	-	9,649,991	3,040,000		30,405,408	5.07
Marketing of Agric. Products at International Markets	-	-	-	20,000		20,000	0.0003
Management of Land and Environment	-	-	-	85,000		85,000	0.014
Application of Science and Technology in Food & Agric. Development	-	-	-	530,000		530,000	0.08
<b>Total</b>	<b>217,200,582</b>	<b>2,740,592</b>	<b>249,465,991</b>	<b>129,213,270</b>		<b>598,620,435</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Programme Based Budget Estimates for 2018, Ministry of Food & Agriculture.

## **5.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2018**

### **Food Security and Emergency Preparedness Programme**

- ❖ In 2018, 500,000 farmers are targeted to be registered whilst 2,700 extension agents are expected to be recruited to support the Programme. Government will continue with the Fertilizer and Seed Subsidy Programme.
- ❖ The Ministry will distribute 200 tractors and matching implements, 1,000 power tillers and walking tractors, 30 tractor mounted rippers, 10 tractor drawn rear blades, 10 tractor mounted slashers, 60 boom and orchard sprayers, 4000 motorised sprayers, 60 mechanical and pneumatic planters, 50 cereal harvesters, 200 multi-crop threshers, 400 irrigation kits (engine and solar powered sprinklers sets), and 100 green house technology for horticulture production.
- ❖ To increase productivity and reduction in post-harvest losses, the Ministry will establish 50 Farmer Service Centres (FSC) for timely and enhanced access to mechanization services. The Centres will provide the following services: farm machinery; input supply; farmer training; machine manufacturing and repair; and storage services.
- ❖ The Ministry will continue to facilitate and promote double cropping by constructing 50 small dams and dugouts as well as complete Phase 1 of the Tamne, Kornorkle and Uasi Irrigation Schemes, making available additional 147 hectares of irrigable land for crop production. In addition, 30 pumping schemes and 100 boreholes will be developed and feasibility study conducted for water transmission lines in Northern Ghana.
- ❖ A strategic stock of insecticide and other logistics will be built to ensure ready availability of chemicals during future outbreaks as well as intensification of farmer education, monitoring and surveillance.

### **Increased Growth in Incomes Programme**

- ❖ In 2018, about 2,000 livestock farmers will be supported with 70,000 small ruminants (Sheep and Goats) in all 10 regions. The Ministry will also support

six National Livestock Breeding Stations to produce and distribute 200 crossbred heifers, 1,700 improved pigs and 100,000 cockerels.

- ❖ The Ministry will produce 26 million doses of various vaccines (ND1-2, La Sota etc.) for poultry and PPR vaccines for small ruminants.

### **Marketing of Agricultural Produce / Product Programme**

- ❖ At least 140 existing warehouses would be rehabilitated and 18 new ones would be constructed and equipped with seed cleaners, dryers and weighing scales.

### **Cocoa Sector**

- ❖ For the 2017/18 season, a crop size of 850,000 tonnes of Cocoa has been targeted.
- ❖ Government will re-introduce compensation payments under the Cocoa Disease and Pest Control Programme (CODAPEC) along with an inducement package that takes care of bottlenecks in the customary land tenure system.
- ❖ Recruitment will be scaled up to provide jobs for 30,000 youth in the 2017/18 season for the hand pollination technique.

### **Cocoa Farm Irrigation**

- ❖ Through public-private partnership, COCOBOD will introduce solar-powered pump irrigation on cocoa farms in the 2017/18 cocoa season. Piloting was carried out in COCOBOD-owned experimental farms, and the programme is ready to be rolled-out in 2018.

### **Scholarship Scheme**

- ❖ COCOBOD's Scholarship Fund, Child Education support programme and the support for the elimination of worst forms of Child Labour will be continued in 2018. The programme will be re-designed to align with the Free Senior High School Programme in the 2017/2018 academic year.

### **Coffee Programme**

- ❖ Government in collaboration with stakeholders will implement a new project in 2018, i.e. the Ghana Coffee Development Programme, with the aim of raising production to about 25,000 tonnes per annum over four years.

- ❖ To ensure the long-term sustainability of coffee production, reforms in the marketing of coffee will be strengthened to assure farmers of ready market and remunerative prices for the coffee produced.

### **The Shea Programme**

- ❖ Government will continue to implement programmes aimed at improving the shea sector of Ghana. As part of Ghana's programme for reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, COCOBOD in collaboration with the Forestry Commission will undertake interventions to accelerate conservation of shea parklands, increasing shea production and processing as well as improving the marketing of shea that benefits shea value chain actors.
- ❖ The Shea unit of COCOBOD will remain pivotal in the implementation of these programmes. COCOBOD will therefore continue funding the Shea Unit as part of its operational activities to revamp the Shea industry.

## **6.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **6.1 General Budgetary Performance**

The Committee realised that in the 2017 fiscal year, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture was not provided adequate funds for the execution of its earmarked programmes. Only 32.8% of the approved sum of GH¢**759,676,342** was released for the 2017 fiscal year. Indeed only GH¢240,901,000 had by September 2017 been released to the Ministry for its activities.

The Committee was not pleased with the general releases made to the Ministry due to the general benefits of agriculture to the economy. It therefore recommends that the Ministry of Finance should ensure that adequate funds are released in the 2018 fiscal year to guarantee agricultural growth and success of the **"Planting for Food and Jobs"** programme.

### **6.2 Fall Army Worms**

The incidence of fall army worms occurred in 2016. Cabinet approved an amount of GH¢15,857,280 million for the control of the fall army worms. The approved sum was to pay for the cost of chemicals provided to the farmers, monitoring and

surveillance as well as remuneration of spray gangs recruited. The approved amount should have been withdrawn from the National Emergency Fund. However, the Committee realised that the Ministry of Finance withdrew the amount from the approved budget of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. This affected the percentage of releases made to the departments under the Ministry and to a large extent planned activities for the year. The Committee recommends that in future the Ministry of Finance should withdraw funds from the appropriate emergency accounts to ensure that all approved activities of the Ministry are executed to the benefit of the nation.

### **6.3 “Planting for Food and Jobs” Programme**

In April, 2017 the “Planting for food and jobs” programme was launched with the aim to increase food production and provide jobs for the unemployed youth.

It was also anticipated that the programme would encourage all citizens to take up farming as a full time or part-time activity. The programme included the production of maize, sorghum, rice and vegetables and was anchored on five pillars namely; supply of fertilizer, provision of dedicated extension officers, marketing, e-agriculture and monitoring.

The programme in 2017 registered 201,000 farmers across the country, 2,160 university graduates and 1,070 youth were engaged as extension officers. 4,454.98 MT of seeds of maize, rice, sorghum, soybean and vegetables were also distributed to farmers.

The Committee noted that the Ministry had implementation difficulties including inadequate domestic supply of improved seeds, unreliable farmer database, inadequate extension officers and inadequate storage capacity.

The Committee was however gratified to note that an amount of GH¢700 million has been allocated to the programme for 2018 fiscal year. Out of the allocated amount, GH¢400 million would be from general budget support and GH¢300 million would be posted to the District Assemblies Common Fund for Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies to run the programme. The Committee was again informed that 140 warehouses had been identified and are being renovated for use while 18 new ware houses would be constructed. Institutions like the Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research, and Grains and

Legumes Development Board have been identified to provide certified and foundation seeds for farmers registered for the programme. A nationwide registration of farmers would be executed.

The Committee is satisfied with provisions made so far in support of the programme and urges the Ministry of Food and Agriculture to ensure that adequate education and extension service support is given to the farmers to ensure the success of the programme. The Committee again recommends that the relevant legislation should be passed to make the role of the District Assemblies in the management of agricultural funds legal.

#### **6.4 Farmers Census**

The Committee was informed that there is unreliable or non-existent data on the number of farmers in Ghana, acreages of land that they farm and crops that are farmed. This does not aid in projections in agricultural development and growth. The Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the Ghana Statistical Service would therefore carry out census or e-registration in the year 2018 to identify all farmers in Ghana and the crops and acreages that they farm. 9,000 enumerators have so far been identified and are being trained to carry out the census. The Committee lauds the Ministry of Food and Agriculture for this initiative and hopes that it would help in the growth and development of agriculture.

#### **6.5 Fertilizer Programme**

The Committee was informed that the Ministry would continue with its fertilizer programme within the 2018 fiscal year. The Committee however realised that there are two different fertilizer programmes running concurrently. The distribution of fertilizer under the programme for “Planting for food and jobs” as well as the National Fertilizer Subsidy programme. The two programmes appear to be the same but the modes of distribution and payment are different. The Committee recommends that the two programmes should be harmonised to prevent confusion among farmers.

The Committee again noted that there has been arrears in the payment for fertilizer supplied to farmers under the National Fertilizer Subsidy Programme and the programme for “Planting for Food and Jobs”. An arrears of **GH¢58,830,562.00** is yet to be paid for fertilizer supplied under the National Fertilizer Subsidy Programme. With regards to fertilizer supplied to farmers under



the programme for “planting for food and job” an amount of GH¢67,094,346.80 has been paid to the suppliers out of a GH¢130,000,000.00 allocated, while invoices have been prepared and submitted for payment of GH¢62,905,653.20.

The Committee urges the Ministry to ensure that adequate measures are put in place to recoup funds invested since the funds allocated for the purchase and supply of the fertilizer would be revolved.

#### **6.6 One Village One Dam Programme**

The Committee also realised that as regards the *One Village One Dam* programme the Ghana Irrigation Development Authority would rehabilitate 131 existing dams and build 180 new ones. The Authority also inspected about 311 sites for dams and dugouts in 64 districts in the Volta, Northern, Upper East, Upper West, Brong Ahafo and Ashanti regions. The Committee however considers the allocation to the Authority inadequate to carry out its planned activities. The Authority in 2017 relied mostly on its non-budgetary support project amount of GH¢5,525,193.38 to fund its activities. Out of its non-financial assets allocation of GH¢85,000,000.00 approved for the 2017 fiscal year only an amount of GH¢17,370,636.00 was released. For the 2018 fiscal year an amount of GH¢165,816,000.00 has been allocated.

The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance should release adequate funds appropriated to assist the Authority pay for arrears owed consultants and ensure success of the One District One Dam Programme.

#### **6.7 Ghana Grains and Legumes Board**

The Committee was informed that at the commencement of the implementation of the programme for “Planting for Food and Jobs”, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture relied on neighbouring countries for improved seeds because what was in stock in Ghana was inadequate. The Ghana Grains and Legumes Board is however established to produce healthy foundation and certified seeds for farmers. It is therefore anticipated that adequate funds would be allocated to the board to ensure that adequate certified seeds are produced to support the programme for “Planting for Food and Jobs”. It was however realised that the allocation to the Board has been capped by 66% and it may not be able to achieve its target for the year. The Committee was however assured by the Ministry of

Food and Agriculture that the Board would be provided other funds from ADRA to assist in the production of adequate seeds to farmers during the 2018 planting season.

#### **6.8 Veterinary Services Directorate**

The Committee noted that the issue of inadequate veterinary officers still persists. This continues to affect the work of the Veterinary Service Directorate and it is not able to function as effectively and efficiently as expected. In 2017, the directorate was not for instance able to tackle the outbreak of African Swine Fever in the Brong Ahafo, Eastern, and Volta Regions very well due to the lack of personnel to advise or assist farmers. This resulted in the loss of almost all stock of the farmers. The Committee urges the Ministry of Finance to provide financial clearance to the directorate to employ more Veterinary Doctors to ensure disease outbreaks are managed well and routine inspections are carried out thoroughly.

#### **6.9 Directorate of Agriculture Extension Services**

The Committee noted that the current extension officer ratio to a farmer is 1:2,500 when the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) ratio is 1:500. This calls for rapid engagement of extension officers by the directorate to ensure that farmers receive the needed technical support for their work. In the 2017 financial year under the programme for "Planting for Food and Jobs", 1,070 persons under the Youth Employment Programme and 2,160 National Service Persons were engaged as extension officers. Some of the engaged personnel were trained, while others were given pen drives with information on their work to study. The Committee urges the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and Ministry of Finance to ensure that approval is given to engage adequate staff for the directorate and staff are amply trained to carry out agricultural extension work.

#### **6.10 Ghana Cocoa Board**

##### **Producer Price of Cocoa**

The Committee noted that although the Free On Board price of cocoa continues to fall on the World market, the producer price of cocoa in Ghana has been maintained at GH¢7,600 per tonne by the Ghana Cocoa Board. This is to

encourage cocoa farmers to continue to produce cocoa and not sell their lands to Galamsey operators. The Committee considers this laudable but urges the Ghana Cocoa Board to ensure that the policy does not encourage smuggling of cocoa from Ivory Coast to Ghana since it may lead to the compromise of the quality of Ghana's cocoa. Quality Control Officers of the Ghana Cocoa Board should also ensure that cocoa that come into the country are certified.

### **Scholarship Programme**

The Committee was informed that the COCOBOD Scholarship Trust Fund Programme would be adjusted in the ensuing year due to the Free Senior High School programme. Ghana Cocoa Board would continue to pay for the scholarship for students in the second and third years. The scholarship would however be phased out when those in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> years complete their secondary education. This is because it is anticipated that the Free Senior High School Programme would cater for the fees of all beneficiaries. The Committee urges Ghana Cocoa Board to be sure that all stakeholders are consulted and beneficiary needs would be catered for before the scholarship scheme is brought to a close.

### **Cocoa Roads**

The Committee was informed that all cocoa road projects have been put on hold because of an ongoing audit to ensure value for money. It is also because within a period of three years, road contracts to the tune of GH¢5.1 billion have been awarded against a budget of GH¢1.6 billion. The road construction would continue after the audit. The Committee appreciates the financial difficulty that the Ghana Cocoa Board has to grapple with. However it urges the Board to expedite action on the value for money audit to ensure continuation of the road projects since most of the cocoa roads are currently in a deplorable state.


### **Cocoa Mass Spraying**

The Committee noted that cocoa mass spraying programme has been redesigned to ensure that more farmers benefit from it. The new design is expected to encourage private sector participation. The Committee urges Ghana Cocoa Board to ensure that the new programme design benefits all farmers.

## 8.0 CONCLUSION

Agriculture continues to be the back bone of Ghana's economy. It is therefore necessary that attention and financial resources are given to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture to ensure growth in the agricultural sector. The funds committed to the sector for the year is not adequate and may not allow the Ministry to carry out most of its activities. This notwithstanding, the Committee urges the House to adopt its report and approve the total sum of *Five hundred and ninety eight million, Six hundred and twenty thousand, four hundred and thirty five Ghana Cedis (GH¢598,620,435.00)* to enable the sector undertake its planned programmes and activities for the 2018 fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted.



**HON. KWAME ASAFU-ADJEI**  
**CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE**



**ANITA QUARTEY- PAPAPIO (MS.)**  
**CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE**

*December, 2018*