

# 2014 Pathways Semi-Annual Report

## Ghana



**January to June 2014**

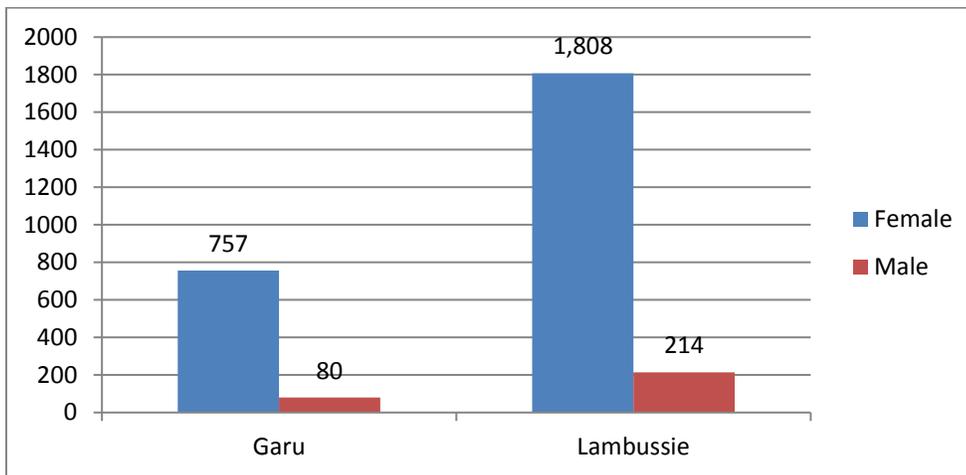
**Progress and Results by Objective:** Describe the progress of the project, including where the project is progressing as expected, where it is not, whether the project is still on track to complete expected results, and if not, what proposed modifications are contemplated.

- Objective 1:** To increase the productive engagement of 52,000 poor women in sustainable agriculture, and contribute to their empowerment

### Project Dashboard

	<i>Impact and target groups, members and outreach</i>						<i>Total</i>
	<b>India</b>	<b>Tanzania</b>	<b>Mali</b>	<b>Malawi</b>	<b>Ghana</b>	<b>Bangladesh</b>	
Number of groups by type							
- VSLA					<b>120</b>		
- Producer groups							
- Self Help Groups							
- Solidarity groups							
- Co-operatives /Networks							
- Other ( <b>Marketing Committees</b> )					<b>120</b>		
Total number of poor women smallholder farmers in collectives					<b>2, 565</b>		
% of women in leadership position					<b>80%</b>		
Total number of other target group							
- Men and Boys e.g spouses, other					<b>294</b>		
- Elite including traditional leaders					<b>66</b>		
- Other							
Total number of small holder farmers					<b>2,859</b>		
Total number of Groups					<b>120</b>		

For the period January to June 2014, the total number of small holder farmers engaged in the Pathways Project increased from 2, 035 small holder farmers to 2,859 from 120 Village savings and Loans Associations in two districts, this represents 40% of the total target of 7,000 small holder farmers the project is expected to reach out to by end of March 2016. Below is a graph depicting the geographical distribution of the Village Savings and Loans Associations Pathways is working with in the Garu Tempene and Lambussie Karni Districts.



## Results by change lever

**Change Lever 1 - Capacity: Improved knowledge, skills, relationships, self-confidence, and conviction of women smallholder farmers.**

### Key Activities Carried Out

**Assessment and Training of old and new Community Based Extension Agents (CBEAs):** As part of the project's strategy of improving the confidence and capacity of the smallholder women farmers, refresher trainings were organized at Garu and Lambussie Districts for the CBEAs. Prio to the trainings, the project team met with each of the VSLA groups to assess the performance of the CBEAs and to agree on the roles of the CBEAs for the season. All 86 old CBEAs participated in three (3) separate trainings during the period under review. The first training focused on GAP practices for soybean and groundnuts, general agricultural extension delivery techniques and the role of CBEAs in educating farmers beyond their collectives in the communities. The trainings in both districts were facilitated by the project team and staff from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA). The second training for the CBEAs focused on the treatments for the Farmer Field and Business School Demonstration Fields, the CBEAs together with the male champions who facilitated the acquisition of the FFBS demonstrations fields were taken through the various treatments, their roles in facilitating the demonstrations. This was facilitated by Project staff and Researchers from Savannah Agricultural Research Institute (SARI) across the two geographical districts. The third training concentrated on the field layout of the FFBS plots and treatments. During the period 34 new CBEAs were selected from the 34 new VSLAs that have been enrolled unto the project. These new CBEAs were equally taken through trainings on their roles, extension delivery techniques and agronomic practices.

As part of the process of making motivating and enhancing the work of CBEAs, the Pathways acquired 86 bicycles, safety boots, rain coat a file and note books for all the 86 CBEAs in Garu and Lambussie to facilitate their community work.

**Timeline review analysis:** The timeline analysis was conducted in all project communities using the Timeline Analysis Tool in the PATHWAYS gender tools. As part of the process, project participants undertook a review and reflection of project activities for 2013. As part of the reflection participants discussed, what went well, what didn't go well and recommendations. The following are a sample of the issues that were discussed in the communities.

***What went well?***

- Received training on good agronomic practices like plant spacing, fertilizer application, harvesting from FFBS fields.
- Cooking demonstration on soya utilization and nutrition education.
- Received training on conservation agriculture practices.
- Received training on marketing of produce and were linked to markets.
- Access to seed.
- Received training on gender.
- Selection and Training of Community Based Extension Agents.
- Education on seed selection and varieties of seed.
- Training on land negotiation.

***What didn't go well?***

- Prolonged draught after flowering affecting yield.
- Limited access to ploughing services.
- Delay in supply of seeds.
- Limited access to land and other farm inputs such as fertilizer.
- Delay in buying of produce.
- Difficulty in conveying farm produce from farm to their houses.
- High cost of certified seeds.

***Recommendations.***

- Improve linkage to ploughing services.
- Improve access to input and land.
- Access to credit facilities.
- Good pricing.
- Hold discussion with livestock owners to discuss animals grazing on fields.
- Organize more training on GAPs and gender issues.

**Farmer Field and Business School (FFBS) reflection and planning meeting.** In a bid to improve the FFBS demonstration field activities for 2014, district level meetings were organized in both project districts to review the performance of the 2013 FFBS demonstrations and agree on recommendations for improving the FFBS demonstrations for this season. The meetings were attended by the CBEAs, lead farmers and the researchers from SARI who provided technical support for the implementation of demonstrations last season. At the meeting, participants discussed the relevance of FFBS in the project, lessons from 2013 demonstrations and the use of field note books. The meeting also offered the opportunity for participants to agree on existing challenges of soybean and groundnuts production in both districts in order to inform the design of the treatments to address these challenges. Key recommendations from the meeting were;

- CBEAs should facilitate the selection for FFBS demonstration plots in the communities with the use of the use of the demo plot selection guide in the agricultural tools.
- Community specific seasonal calendar will be developed for each community at the community level to ensure ownership and effective implementation of FFBS activities.
- Organize meeting with input dealers before the start of the season to improve farmers' access to inputs.

**Development of Community Specific Seasonal Calendar;** Seasonal calendars were developed by the community members for each of the 32 project communities. The calendar includes activities they would be carrying out during the farming season. The calendars were developed for a period of four months. Major activities on the calendar include agronomic practices, gender, marketing and nutrition.

*Below is an example of a community calendar for the Barboaka community in Garu;*

Date	Activity	Objective	What to observe
07/06/2014	Ploughing Sowing		
14/06/2014	Monitor field	Germination	Germination rate
21/06/2014	Fertilizer application		
28/06/2014	First weeding		
05/07/2014	Monitor field	Scout for pest	
12/07/2014	Nutrition education	Nutritional benefits of soya bean	
17/07/2014	Gender training	Workload	
26/07/2014	Marketing	How to negotiate for better prices	Negotiation skills
02/08/2014	Monitor field	Observe flowering Scout for pest	
16/08/2014	Ploughing in/ weeding		
23/08/2014	Gender training	Daily clock	
30/08/2014	Nutrition education	Food groups	How to combine food groups
06/09/2014	Prepare plan for harvest	Platform to thresh Find a storage place	

14/09/2014	Harvesting	Harvesting techniques	Method of harvesting
20/09/2014	Threshing, Winnowing Bagging, storage		

**Soybean Processing Demonstrations;** As at the end of 2013, the soybean processing demonstrations were organized in nine (9) out of a total of 18 communities. Thus during the reporting period, 9 processing demonstrations were organized. The processing demonstrations were facilitated by Women in Agricultural Development (WIAD) officers from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. In addition to learning about how to prepare various dishes with soybean participants were also thought how to fortify local dishes that are already been prepared and consumed in the communities with soybean. The women provided the fuel (wood), cooking utensils and CARE provided the ingredients.

**Establishment of Farmer Field and Business Schools:** For the second season running, the FFBS field demonstrations have been set up to serve as platforms for facilitating learning among beneficiaries on sustainable agriculture, marketing, gender and nutrition. The session considered areas such as the period of planting, land acquisition, access to inputs and community entry for field workers as key to the success of the FFBS. A total of 36 FFBS demonstrations on soybean and groundnuts have been established in 23 communities in the two districts. In a bid to address women’s challenge of assessing ploughing services, conservation agriculture is being promoted by the project. As a result, this season, the soybean treatments are being replicated on a non-ploughed (Zero-tilled) plot as part of the demonstrations.

**Table 1: Treatment for soybean demonstration fields**

Treatment code	Treatment description for soybean
T1	No fertilizer (control)
T2	Actyva only
T3	Green Ok only
T4	½ of Rhizobium Inoculants + ½ Actyva
T5	Rhizobium inoculants

**Table 1: Treatment for Groundnuts demonstration fields**

Treatment code	Treatment description for Groundnut
T1	No fertilizer (control)
T2	Actyva Only
T3	Green Ok Only

*This season the Rhizobium treatment for groundnuts was dropped because it is not available. The team did not find it prudent to introduce farmers to an input they will not be able to access.*

## **Results of Activities Carried out**

The project has continued to make strides towards improving the capacity and confidence of the women small holder farmers that the project is working with. A review of the performance of CBEAs that was conducted at the beginning of the season has revealed a good level of commitment by CBEAs in disseminating information to members of their VSLA/Producer groups.

For female CBEAs, being recognized as extension agents by both male and female members of their producer groups served as major source of commitment and confidence. At a CBEA training in Lambussie this was what a female CBEA had to say about her experience over the past year;

*“I have served as the CBEA for my group for the past 15months, I have had the opportunity of participating in several trainings and I have in turn shared this information with members of my group and other community members. Although I do not get paid for the work I do, I get a lot of satisfaction from doing it, I feel respected in my group and even in the entire community and I am especially happy that the men recognize that I am knowledgeable and respect my opinion”. M-mello Abena-Kongo community.*

Both the timeline analysis and dissemination of the FFBS results revealed that farmers have learnt and are practicing GAPs such as the recommended plant spacing, the need to thin out or fill in, when and how to apply fertilizer, how to use rhizobium inoculants and proper harvesting practicing. A lot of the farmers expressed their willingness to adopt practices they had learnt from the FFBS fields.

The outcome of the FFBS reflection exercises have been very useful in helping the team address the challenges that were encountered during last season’s demonstrations. This year, the producer groups themselves were allowed to assign a communal plot that they found suitable for the demonstrations. This was meant to address the issue of some group members not being comfortable with working on an individual group member’s field. As a result of this modification and also the approach of developing community specific seasonal calendars there has been a good demonstration and ownership of the process by the VSLA/Producer groups.

Monitoring meetings at the community level have revealed that most project participants have started using soybean to prepare meals in their homes. Notable among meals that are mostly prepared with soybean are porridge, Tuo Zaafi, Soya Apapransa and Soya Tubani.

**Change Lever 2 - Access: Increased access to productive resources, assets, markets, and appropriate and reliable services and inputs for poor women farmers.**

### **Activities Carried Out During the Period**

**Multiplication of Soybean and Groundnut Seed by Community Seed Growers:** To address the challenge the project encountered last cropping season on seed viability, community seed growers have been identified and trained in collaboration with SARI to multiply foundation seed that has been sourced from SARI. In Total of 10 acres of soybean seed is being produced by five (4m, 1f) farmers in Lambussie and Garu Tempane districts. The seeds that will be produced will be used for the FFBS demonstrations for next season and will also be purchased by farmers for cultivation next season. Since the inception of the project, farmers in the Garu Tempane District have not been engaged in groundnut production one major reason for the situation is the absence of good groundnut seed in the district. The project has therefore liaised with SARI to source improved groundnut seed to run a trail in Garu. The groundnut trail field is being managed by one (1) of the female participants of the project. It is anticipated that if the trial is successful, farmers will be motivated to take up groundnut production in the district again.

**Input Fairs:** Increasing access to quality productive resources is one of the key components of the Pathways project and to achieve this, the project organized input fairs at both Garu and Lambussie where input dealers were invited to exhibit and take farmers through pricing, appropriate use of the Agrochemicals at the community level prior to 2014 cropping season. Agro Input companies were invited to show case their products at the fairs, among them are 18th April Agro- chemical company Ltd an inputs dealer based in WA the regional capital, Green Ok Company Limited based in Accra, Azuuri Farms Enterprise in Garu. The fair was organized at three centers in Garu; Denugu, Kongo and Zaari and two centers in Lambussie; Kpare and Chum. During the fairs farmers took advantage to purchase some of the products at the centers. Prior to the fairs, the community members were already informed to prepare and buy any inputs of their choice during the fair. What the farmers found unique about these fairs was that the prices of the inputs at the community level were same as they are sold at the shops in the big cities. Among the products that were patronized by the farmers are;

- 55 farmers bought the Green Ok 250ml (Garu).
- 38 liters of glyphader (Garu).
- 24 litters of Activus 500EC (Garu).
- 1 Knapsack sprayer (Lambussie).
- 75 liters of sunphosate (Lambussie).
- 23 liter of Activus 500 EC (Lambussie).

**Participatory Scenario Planning (PSP);** One major challenge that affected both FFBS fields and project participants' field was a dry spell and a general unpredictable rainfall pattern. To address the situation,

the Pathways project supported CBEAs to participate in the participatory Scenerio Planning Session that was organized by the Adaptation Learning Programme in Ghana.

PSP is a mechanism for collective sharing and interpretation of climate forecasts in a workshop setting over one or two days. PSP brings together meteorologists, community members, local government and local NGOs, agricultural extension officers and researchers. Local farmers are provided with an opportunity to explain how they go about planning and implementing their farm work, and how they try to predict and mitigate the risks of climate fluctuations. They also outline what they need to strengthen their approach.

CBEAs participated in a participatory scenario planning workshops in Wa and Garu in April 2014, both workshops were aimed at sharing with farmers Northern Ghana's seasonal forecast for the rains in 2014. At the workshops, communities also presented their forecast using local indicators such as wind direction, the time of fruiting of some trees, appearances of some insects to indicate if there's going to drought, floods, storm and time to plant. To plan effectively for this season, participants identified hazards, the impact of the hazards and the possible solutions. The predicted mean onset of rains for the region was 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2014 and the mean cessation date was 12<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> October, 2014. After the workshops the CBEAs were supported by the project and partner staff to share the information with their community members so that they can use the information for planning their farming activities for the season.

**Formation of Marketing Committees;** In view of the fact that project has started working with 34 new groups, 34 marketing committees have been set up by these new VSLA/Producer groups. Each group selected two members to serve on their marketing committee. In total, the marketing committees in the two districts are composed of 206 members (85% of whom are women).

**Pre-season Stakeholders Engagement Forum;** In preparation towards the season, an engagement session was organized for key stakeholders **in the in the soybean and groundnuts value to chains** to prepare for the season. The forums in both districts were attended by the CBEAs, MoFA, marketing committee members, input dealers, ploughing service providers, produce buying companies. In total 74 (45f, 29m), participated in the forums in both districts.

## **Results of the Activities Carried Out**

In line with the project's aim of improving small holder women farmers' access to inputs, the input fairs provided the opportunity for the farmers to purchase inputs that were previously not accessible in their communities. After the input fairs, the big companies left behind some of their products with local input dealers and the local implementing partner for the farmers to purchase at a later date.

Due to 100% recovery of credit that was given to farmers in the form of input last season, PRUDA has again linked farmers to an agro input company (18<sup>th</sup> April). The company has provided seed and weedicides to farmers on a 50% credit basis which will be repaid after harvest.

The pre-season stakeholders' forum also offered farmers the opportunity to take advantage of services that are being offered by stakeholders who participated in the sessions. For instance through the forum farmers in Garu Tempane were linked to the Agricultural Station to access ploughing services on credit.

During the period under review purchasing companies that farmers were linked to followed up to the project communities to purchase soybean. In Garu Tempane Zibasung Produce Buying and Marketing company purchased from the farmers at the price that was agreed at the Yi-Po-Co-Ma training and during the season when the prize of soybean increased, they negotiated for a better prize from the company. In Lambussie Karni District, farmers were linked directly to a soybean processing company (Golden Web Ghana Ltd.), In March 2014, the company went to the project communities and purchased a total of 10 tons of soybean the farmers were very excited that the company came to pick the products from the community and they were paid cash at the point of sale. This obviously stresses the importance of farmers working together in collectives to gain access to markets and other services.

## **Change Lever 3 - Productivity: Improvements in yield and income through adoption of sustainable and intensified agriculture and value addition.**

### **Activities Carried Out During the Period**

**Field Inspection and Extension Support for Farmers;** Prior to the inception of the season the project team and partner staff undertook physical inspection of the women's plots to ensure that they are suitable soils for the cultivation of their crops. The inspection was however preceded by sensitization sessions for producer groups on land selection and preparation. This year's exercise was quite unique as most husbands showed a great deal of interest in their wives plots inspection and in most cases went together with their wives to farms during their plots inspections.

**FFBS results dissemination:** Following the submission of the scientific analysis of the FFBS treatments by the researchers from SARI, the project team organized dissemination meetings with all producer/VSLA groups in both districts to share the results from various FFBS demonstration plots at the community level. Information shared during these meetings includes the yields and cost of production per treatment

and recommendations from the researchers. The use of the rhizobium inoculants was encouraged because it's cost of production was lower and it can increase yields of farmers by over 100%. These meetings also enabled the farmers to compare their own observations on the FFBS fields with the scientific data from SARI and to take decisions on which of the practices to adopt this season.

### **Results of Activities Carried Out**

In 2013, the average yield of an acre of soybean in the project communities was 428kg. The average income per farmer at the initial price of 80 Ghana pesewas is GHC 342.00. Considering the fact that farmers did not use fertilizer, the average cost producing an acre of soybean at GHC 150, the average returns over cost is GHC 192. Farmers are therefore very confident about the profitability of the cultivation of soybean and groundnuts. The income that has been earned by the women has been very useful in helping them contribute to the upkeep of their homes and to make their weekly savings in their VSLA groups.

Following the dissemination of the FFBS results majority of farmers opted for the adoption of the Rhizobium inoculants because that treatment proved to be more economically beneficial to the production of soybean. Thus at the beginning of the season **they was** high demand for the inoculants unfortunately it was not available for farmers to purchase. Although SARI had been given approval to produce inoculants in Ghana, production did not start this season and the inoculants still had to be imported from outside the country.

Some project participants have started producing soybean products on commercial basis, in both districts, about 10 women have started the production of soybean winimix and "dawadawa" in their communities for sale. This has provided an additional income generating activity for the women.

### **Change Lever 4 – Household Influence: Increased poor women farmer contributions to and influence over household income and decision making.**

#### **Activities Carried Out During the Period**

**Training of Male Gender Champions;** To improve on the work of Male Gender champions selected by the project in consultation with the communities, a four day gender training was carried out in February 2014 for all the male champions in the Garu/Tempene District and one Community Based Extension Agents from each of the 8 communities in the District. The training which was facilitated by Emily Hillenbrand was meant to build their capacity to facilitate discussion in their communities on gender related issues. As part of the training they were taken through some key gender concepts and the use of the gender tools. During the training participants had the opportunity of practicing the facilitation of the gender tools. At the end of the training, the male champions and CBEAs were assisted to develop action

plans for their work in their respective communities. The project team has been following up to monitor and provide support to the male champions for the implementation of the action plans.

**Facilitation of Gender Dialogues;** Community level gender dialogues were held in 8 communities in Garu Tempane District involving men, boys and the opinion leaders in the community these dialogues were facilitated by the male gender champions and CBEAs where had participated in the gender trainings. Depending on the topic to be discussed at the gender dialogues, the discussions were either held with members of the VSLA group members and their spouses or meetings involving other community members. There are also instances where such dialogues have been held with specific couples. The topics discussed during those sessions were decision making at the household level, daily workload schedule and cash flow tree. On decision making, the discussions focused on how decisions are made at the household level, who is involved, who is responsible and how participatory discussions can be taken at the household level. The discussions also looked at issues such as access to productive resources such as bullocks, seeds and labor. On daily activity clock at the household level, the discussions centered on what each person does in the house in a typical farming household. The purpose was to reflect on the work load on some particular members of the household and the need for members to support each other. On the cash flow tree, the discussion centered on the income sources of the family, expenditure pattern and financial decision making at the household level.

**Community level Gender Sensitization;** As part of the project start up activities in the 14 new communities in the Lambussie Karni district, community level gender sensitizations were held with community members. Among issues discussed during these meetings were the introduction of the project to the spouses of the participants of the projects, the challenges faced by women in the agricultural sector and the need for men and traditional leaders to allocate fertile land to women for cultivation.

### **Results of Activities Carried Out**

The gender sensitization sessions provided the opportunity for men and women in the communities to openly deliberate on major gender issues. For instance in most of the communities, one issue that was of interest was the issue of women's access to land. Similar to the what pertained in the first set of communities that the project engaged with in the Lambussie Karni district, the men expressed their fear that giving their wives land to cultivate will mean might result in the women no longer paying attention to the man's farm. Whenever such concerns were raised, the project team encouraged couples to plan together and to support each other with both household and farm related activities in order to reduce the workload burden on one person.

In Garu Tempane District, Male gender champions and CBEAs have been able to reach out to 129 men, 276 women and 34 community leaders in seven (7) communities through the facilitation of gender dialogues. Through these dialogues, communities have learnt that good communication is a major tool

to peaceful co-existence among families. Through the communication dialogue sessions most men have acknowledged that they have learnt and felt how one feels when she/he has no input in decision making at the home or in the community. Both men and women have reported changes in decision making in their homes and in men supporting women with household chores such as fetching water and bathing children. Men who are making such changes in their homes have indicated being questioned and discouraged initially by both male and female neighbors. Major obstacles to making changes are tradition and peer influence.

Women report feeling more respected by their spouses, the reason most women attribute to this change is their financial contribution to the upkeep of their homes. In Lambussie Karni district, most of the men who initially expressed fear of losing respect from their wives if they give them land to farm have this year joined their wives to their farms for the inspection of the farms by the project team. This is in recognition of the fact that the income that is earned by the woman through soybean and groundnuts production contributes to the welfare of the home.

### **Change Lever 5 – Enabling Environment: More positive and enabling attitudes, behaviors, social norms, policies, and institutions.**

#### **Activities Carried Out**

- **Engaging with traditional leaders to improve women’s access to productive resources; PRUDA** organized a meeting involving Lambussie-Karni traditional council where the Paramount chief and all his sub and divisional chiefs, women leaders were invited to deliberate and discuss on measures to eliminate social and cultural practices that affect women’s empowerment in the area. This meeting was a platform for the women leaders to lobby and negotiate directly from the opinion leaders their needs. The meeting made a great positive impact as all the chiefs promised to support the idea and even agreed to hold meetings at their sub divisions to ensure release of productive resources such as land to women for the cultivation of crops.
- **Stakeholder Review and Planning Meetings;** Stakeholders’ meetings were organized at Lambussie and Garu with CARE team, CBEAs and district level stakeholders such as the district heads of departments, agro input dealers and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture from the two districts. Apart from reviewing the progress of project implementation, the stakeholder meetings also offered participants the opportunity to agree on roles they can play to address the challenges that are currently being faced by women farmers..

#### **Results of Activities Carried Out**

The engagement with traditional leaders has contributed to an increase in land allocation for women by traditional leaders and spouses of project participants as most women indicated that their husbands were more willing to give them land to cultivate this year.

Ensuring an enabling environment for improved production and productivity and sustainability of outcomes requires the establishment and strengthening of resourceful and mutually beneficial relationships. In this regard, the project has continued to build and strengthen relationships with key institutions and service providers across various levels of the value chain. Key among these relationships is the partnership with SARI for technical support in running FFBS field demonstrations and other technical agricultural support such as the establishment of community seed multiplication centers. The partnership with the Ministry of Food and agriculture has improved farmers access to agricultural extension information. Linkages with input dealers and produce buying companies have also improved farmers’ access to both input and output markets.

**a. Partnerships:** Describe all internal and external partnerships and linkages you have described.

Partner	Describing what you are doing with the partners and results of these partnerships. What lessons have you learned from these partnerships?
Partnership for Rural Development Action (PRUDA)	PRUDA is the local implementing partner for the Pathways Project in the Lambussie Karni district. They are therefore responsible for direct field implementation of project activities in the district with technical support from the project team. Results from our partnership with PRUDA has proved that because of the existing relationship and the trust that exists between them and the communities, the VSLA groups and community leaders have been very supportive of project activities.
District Directorates of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA)	MoFA at the district level is the Government Department responsible for the implementation and coordination of Agricultural activities. MoFA at the district level provides technical support for the implementation of project activities and the services they provide include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Direct agricultural extension advise for members of VSLA groups</li> <li>-Training of CBEAs</li> <li>-Technical advice to VSLAs</li> <li>-Facilitate the organization of soybean processing demonstrations</li> <li>-Participate in the setup and monitoring of FFBS fields.</li> </ul> Through our work with them we have learnt that such institutions have people with different expertise for example a crops specialist, women in agricultural development focal person etc, hence it is important for the project to know the type of support that is required at a particular time to engage with the right staff.

Partner	Describing what you are doing with the partners and results of these partnerships. What lessons have you learned from these partnerships?
Savannah Agricultural Research Institute (SARI).	<p>Our partnership with SARI has focused on the provision of technical support for the implementation of FFBS demonstration fields. The project signed contracts with two staff from SARI who provided the following services;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-design of FFBS treatments</li> <li>-set up of FFBS fields</li> <li>-training of partner staff, CBEAs and</li> <li>-design of data collection sheets</li> <li>-monitoring FFBS fields</li> <li>-analysis of data from the fields</li> <li>-recommendation for subsequent FFBS</li> <li>-training of seed growers</li> </ul> <p>The partnership with SARI contributed greatly to the successful implementation of the FFBS activities.</p> <p>In our work with SARI we have learnt that we need to take advantage of other research work of the institute such as improved crop varieties, access to their seed and other inputs such as inoculants Working with SARI also increases the confidence on the authenticity of information and knowledge we are passing to farmers.</p>
Green Ok Company Limited	<p>Green Ok is also an agro chemical company which is dealing in Organic Foliar fertilizer. For the second year running, the company has provided 40 bottles of their product for the establishment of FFBS fields. They participated in input fairs organized by the project and have identified local input dealers in the project locations who serve as distributors for their products. Considering the project's strategic focus on climate smart agricultural practices and economic benefits to farmers, the partnership with Green Ok is an important link to pursue to ensure sustainability.</p>
18 <sup>th</sup> April Company Limited-Wa Fara Naaya Company Limited- Garu Asong Kpaab Limited-Garu Basing Enterprise-Lambussie	<p>These are all local agro-input dealers in the regional and district capitals of the project locations that have been linked to project participants for the purchase of agro inputs. They participated in input fairs organized by the project and some of them have developed credit schemes for the women to purchase inputs eg, 18<sup>th</sup> April Company Limited.</p>
Yaya Iddri Company Limited –Wa	<p>These are produce buying companies located in the project locations who are purchasing soybean from producers in the project locations.</p> <p><b>Lessons:</b> It useful for farmers to have an interaction with the potential buyers of their products even before they start cultivation.</p>

Partner	Describing what you are doing with the partners and results of these partnerships. What lessons have you learned from these partnerships?
Zibahsuk Produce Buying and Marketing Company-Garu.	This ensures that they are able to produce to meet the quantity and quality demand of the market.

## Objective 2: To enhance the scale of high quality women responsive agriculture programming

Knowledge and incentives applied to scale improvements in program quality across other CARE initiatives, partners and development organizations. A table for responses is included below. In this section, include information on how Pathways is influencing other CARE programs, operations and strategies

Focus areas	Describe giving bulleted examples
Is your Pathways team engaging with other CARE project teams to learn and improve implementation? Please describe how.	<p><i>Describe what aspects of Pathways have you passed on and to what extent are they being used by these programs.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The PROMISE project has adopted the Pathways FFBS model, the Pathways team has therefore conducted trainings for promise team and project participants on the FFBS model and provided technical support to for the development of their seasonal calendars and the design and layout of their FFBS field demonstrations.</li> <li>• The PROMISE project team and male champions participated in the gender training organized by Pathways to build capacity of male gender champions. After the training the PROMISE staff and male champions have been using the PATHWAYS gender tools to facilitate gender dialogues in their project communities.</li> <li>• The agro input fairs that have been organized annually by the Pathways team have been highly patronized by other CARE projects in the same districts. This year, project participants for the PROMISE and WA-Wash projects participated in the input fairs that were organized in Garu and Lambussie Districts respectively.</li> </ul>
Have you shared Pathways results, tools or lessons with colleagues and CARE partners beyond the Pathways team? How?	<p><i>Describe any internal mechanisms, presentations on Pathways you have done within CARE and the results of this sharing. How many people attended? Were there any outcomes from these presentations?</i></p>

Focus areas	Describe giving bulleted examples
	<p><b>Bi Monthly Programme Meetings:</b> These are bi-monthly project meetings and presentations made every other month to update staff on the successes, plans and challenges of each project in the sub-office. Staff are given time to question each other on the presentation and how each project plans to over-come the challenges identified in the presentation. Issues of coordination of the activities are discussed at these meetings. A total of 30 staff members attend these meeting and out of the 33, 7 are women. The Pathways team has participated in 3 of such meetings during the year under review. As a result of these presentations, staff have been informed about the experiences of Pathways work on the field. Through these meetings they also get to know about planned events by Pathways and they often prepare to participate in those events.</p>
<p>Have you adopted Pathways tools or lessons and included them in any new proposals in the past 12 months? Please list those including the total value of the proposal, whether we have won the funds and how many people the project targets.</p>	<p><i>Describe any new proposals or programs that you have been involved in where aspects of Pathways have been integrated or adapted? Indicate the program, amount of funding, donor and other relevant information.</i></p> <p>CARE Ghana has also submitted detailed proposal to the big lottery fund in the UK. The proposed intervention is expected to build on the current PATHWAYS initiative the two Pathways districts. The project is targeting 4,000 direct beneficiaries and 24,000 secondary beneficiaries. The amount of funding being requested for is 450,000 pounds.</p> <p>The Ghana Pathways team has submitted a proposal to the MAC foundation in the US. The focus of the proposed intervention is to build on the current Pathways initiative but with a stronger focus on climate resilient agriculture. The proposed project is targeting 3,000 beneficiaries with an estimated budget of USD 750,000.</p>
<p>Is Pathways an anchor project for your long-term program? Please describe how Pathways is informing your broader country strategy and progress made in the past 12 months.</p>	<p><i>Has Pathways influenced strategic programming in the country? Describe how and give some examples.</i></p> <p>Pathways approaches and models have served as the corner stone for CARE Ghana’s work on value chains. Both existing and anticipated projects build on approaches such as FFBS. For other projects that are not directly focused on agricultural production, conscious efforts are being made to ensure that there is better synergy between Pathways and projects.</p>

**2. Objective 3: To contribute to the global discourse that surrounds women and agriculture by influencing debates and policy dialog on women and agriculture at local, national and global levels.:** *Strengthened relationships, effective dialog, and proactive engagement with external actors in learning partnerships and platforms at multiple levels. A table for responses is included below.*

Focus Area	Describe giving as much detail as possible
<p>Have you shared Pathways experiences, tools or lessons in external forums or events? Please describe the events, the participants and the strategic value.</p>	<p><i>Describe meeting, venue, organizers and other relevant details of meetings where Pathways has been presented or where Pathways approaches, experiences, and tools have been presented/discussed.</i></p> <p>During the period under review, the Pathways team participated in a district value chains committee meeting that was organized by MoFA in the Garu Tempene District. The event brought together key stakeholders in the soybean value chain in the district. The event was meant to bring stakeholders together to plan towards the production season. At the event the Pathways team had the opportunity to share the approaches being used by the project and lessons.</p>
<p>Have any external stakeholders – donors, partners, etc – come to see CARE’s Pathways work in the field or come to meet with Pathways staff to learn more? Please describe these visits.</p>	<p><i>Describe visits by external stakeholders where Pathways has been discussed. Describe who, from where, aspects of Pathways discussed and any known results or use of the information by the external visitors after the visit.</i></p> <p>A staff of Landessa was in Ghana to work Pathways team on a study on land tenure security, the study was meant to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Document and identify current project challenges and successes in ensuring women access land as secure tenants;</li> <li>(ii) Document women’s specific uses of, access to, and control over land;</li> <li>(iii) Document gender differences in land allocation;</li> <li>(iv) Devise a plan to increase women’s ability to negotiate; and</li> <li>(v) Identify methods to formalize agreements regarding land.</li> </ul> <p>The report of the study has been submitted by Landessa and the team will review and follow up on the recommendations.</p>
<p>Does your team have a regular external communications system (newsletter, etc), have you shared any reports externally or hosted an</p>	<p><i>Describe any Pathways publications that you have produced that have been disseminated. Include details on the content of the publication, number of people to who these have been disseminated, any feedback on the publication, etc if available</i></p>

Focus Area	Describe giving as much detail as possible
external event featuring Pathways? If so, please describe this/these.	

**3. Lessons Learned:** What lessons have you learned during the past year that will help you to achieve your intended results moving forward? To what extent have these lessons led to modification of the results identified in the results framework?

*Note: To complete this section, teams should organize a reflection session at country office level and with partners that reviews the year's results by change lever and objective. Reports should include the 1-2 most significant lessons you learned by change lever, and objective. Each lesson should clearly communicate what you had initially expected, what actually happened and what changes you have made, if any, as a result of this lesson.*

Lessons Learned	Proposed Modification/ Way Forward
<p><u>Lever 1:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The design of community specific seasonal calendars has improved community ownership and participation in FFBS field demonstration activities.</li> </ul>	
<p><u>Lever 2:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When producers are linked to institutional buyers, they have very high expectations for the price at which their products will be bought it is therefore very useful to manage such expectations of the producers.</li> </ul>	There are some emerging large scale buyers for groundnuts. The project will therefore work on establishing linkages with such buyers to buy from Pathways producer groups.
<p><u>Lever 3:</u></p> <p>Because of high illiteracy rates among the CBEAs it has been quite challenging for them to take frequent notes on technology adoption.</p>	The project is exploring the possibility of developing very simple data tracking sheets that can be used by the CBEAs.
<p><u>Lever 4:</u></p> <p>Cultural and religious differences between communities contributes to differences in levels of women's involvement in decision making and at the household and</p>	It is important for the project team to study such differences and design activities that are suited towards addressing the peculiar challenges of communities.

Lessons Learned	Proposed Modification/ Way Forward
community level and other women's empowerment issues.	
<p><u>Lever 5:</u></p> <p>Addressing some of the challenges encountered by the project beneficiaries requires some level of advocacy targeted at specific government institutions. An example is the issue of poor quality of certified seed that is circulating in the system.</p>	<p>Identify agricultural sector advocacy focused CSOs and share our field level experiences with them to inform their advocacy activities.</p>
<p><u>Partnerships:</u></p> <p>It is good to link farmers/producers to stakeholders however due to the high level of illiteracy we need to over some guidance and also ensure some level of due diligence so that service providers will not take advantage of the farmers.</p>	
<p><u>Objective 2:</u></p> <p>Most of the approaches that are used by the project are producing good results on the ground and as a result a lot of projects are interested in learning from the experiences of Pathways.</p>	
<p><u>Objective 3:</u></p>	
<p><u>Monitoring and Evaluation:</u></p> <p>The project currently has some useful M&amp;E tools and systems in place such as the PPT and the annual cohort study. These however need to be complemented with some performance tracking tools to ensure effective utilization of the project's M&amp;E plan.</p> <p>Review and planning meetings serve as a good platform for sharing experiences from</p>	<p>It is anticipated that the recruitment of an M&amp;E officer for the project will result in a more comprehensive implementation of the project's M&amp;E plan.</p>

Lessons Learned	Proposed Modification/ Way Forward
different project locations and developing strategies for addressing challenges.	
<i>Program Management:</i>	

4. **Challenges and Risks:** Are you aware of any significant risks or concerns that have not previously been identified, and that may affect your ability to achieve the agreed-on results? If so, indicate how you are addressing those risks and challenges? Note: This is the opportunity to raise awareness of any internal or external threats that have emerged to your ability to execute the project. This could include anything from staffing challenges to political turmoil or bad weather.

It was anticipated that, the rainfall pattern for the 2014 cropping season will be more favourable but the rainfall pattern has equally been very erratic. At the beginning of the season, there was a very long dry spell. This has therefore resulted in late planting of most of the fields. The project tried to address this challenges by liasing with the Adaptation Learning Project for project beneficiaries to participate in the participatory scenario planning sessions in both project districts. Unfortunately most of the seasonal forecasts from the Meteorological Department have not happened as predicted.

Based on the FFBS demonstration results a lot of farmers developed interest in using the soybean inoculants however this year, the inoculants were not available in the market. Although SARI has secured approval to produce the inoculants, production did not start this year. The inoculants still had to be imported and they arrived quite late in the country.

5. **Program Management, Monitoring and Evaluation:** What are the significant program management, monitoring and evaluation activities that have occurred in the past 12 months? *A suggested table format for responses is included below.*

<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	
Monitoring and evaluation activities carried out in the last 12 months giving details	<p><i>Describe activities, who were involved, results. These could include dissemination of baseline findings, development of monitoring tools, etc..</i></p> <p>Both group and PTT tools were administered during this period. The data was entered and shared with the Pathways team for analysis. The report of the individual PPT has been shared with the team.</p>

	<p>The annual cohort study for 2013 was also conducted during this period, a total of 40 project participants were sampled for this study. The data has been entered and shared with the Pathways team.</p> <p>The Pathways project organized review and planning meetings at the district level.</p>
<p>Monitoring tools developed and being used. Please specify tools for activity/output tracking as well as tools for outcome monitoring.</p>	<p><i>Describe tools being used for monitoring and extent of use as well as summary of some of the results collected through monitoring</i></p> <p>During the period under review, the PPT tool was used to monitor the performance of individual collective members on a number of areas, such as the GAP, Gender, market access and group cohesion. The PPT report has been shared with the project team.</p> <p>Data collection sheets have been designed to be used by CBEAs to track information dissemination and adoption.</p>
<p>Review or reflection meetings</p>	<p><i>Describe any reflection meetings held, who, why, with what results? What lessons learnt and what adjustments being done based on these?</i></p> <p>-During the period the team participated in three PMLT meetings and other thematic working group meetings through webwex.</p> <p>-The FFBS treatments for this cropping season are meant to address some of the challenges identified during the last season and the gaps identified in the district and project level reviews.</p> <p>Some key lessons and proposed adjustments from these reviews are as follows;</p> <p>-One of the key issues identified is the use of recommended inputs for ground nuts, such as use of certified ground nut seed for sowing.</p> <p>-the team is working on ground nut trail with SARI on three different varieties,</p> <p>- the project has acquired some varieties from ICRASAT through SARI to check on the flatoxin levels in ground nut in Boko.</p> <p>-Established 17 FFBS plots for ground nuts to encourage farmers to adopt the good agricultural practices.</p>

	-CBEAs have been given files and notebooks to keep records of the activities on the field.
<b>sProgram Management</b>	
Describe any changes in staffing in the last 12 months.	PATHWAYS secured funding from Gates, this will enable the project to increase its target and extend implementation till March 2016. The project is therefore currently recruiting an additional project facilitator for Garu and an M&E officer for the project.
Planning meetings carried out	<p><i>Describe type of meetings, attendance, deliberations</i></p> <p>The project team met in January 2014 to develop an implementation plan for the 2014.</p> <p>The project team also held a planning meeting with the staff of the partner organization in Lambussie Karni. The meeting was attended by the project manager and officer and six staff from the partner organization. During the meeting the implementation plan for the Lambussie Karni district for 2014 was developed.</p> <p>The project team has also constantly organized monthly planning meetings to review and plan for the following month.</p>
Value and assessment of technical support by global pathways team	<p><i>Describe technical support provided by the global team during this period and your reflections of its utility, timeliness, appropriateness etc</i></p> <p>The technical team has provided very timely and relevant information to facilitate the PATHWAYS Ghana team's work. For example gender advisor was in Ghana in February to organize gender training for the project team, gender champions and CBEAs.</p> <p>The webex working group meetings created a platform for learning and sharing best practices from other country offices.</p>

**6. Appendices to be included in the report:**

- (i) Key activities for the next 6 months
- (ii) Group Training Activity Tracker (see template attached)
- (iii) Milestone tracker with key milestone status
- (iv) Case Studies or other reports to share