

Umb solar loan ghana

In Ghana, Assibi Ayambila found support and solace through a dry-season garden initiative by Open Ghana, improving livelihoods and fostering community empowerment and gender inclusivity in rural areas. This story is part of a series celebrating the locally-led solutions supported by the UNDP implemented - Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator programme.

using a grant from the Adaptation Fund and the European Union. The fund supports climate innovation in developing countries through its UNDP-Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA) programme.

"We were able to sell surplus vegetables at the local markets, gaining economic independence and contributing to our household finances. This newfound financial stability has allowed me to invest in my children's education and provide them with better healthcare. I now have hope for a brighter future for my family," she says according to an Open Ghana report.

The group established similar gardens in several other villages, including Vugundaa and Mettoh Yipaal, all within the northern, north east, upper east and upper west regions of Ghana.

"We have a lot of sunshine in Ghana," says Isaac Naanpukin Kombat, executive director of Open Ghana. "Instead of using diesel water pumping machines, which will involve the farmers having to buy fuel for the machine, we are using the solar water pumping machine."

While the gardens will certainly boost food security and nutrition in these areas, Kombat says their focus was really on creating sustainable incomes for the women, youth and people with disabilities who live there.

"With Open Ghana and AFCIA support and guidance, we learned sustainable agricultural practices suitable for our region's climate," says Ayambila. "They provided us with tools, seeds, and training to cultivate a variety of vegetables and fruits in the dry season. The joy and sense of empowerment I felt when I saw the garden flourishing were indescribable."

Alidu Seidu, a farmer from Vugundaa in the North of Ghana, agrees. He says where he lives, farmers are now able to intercrop maize and rice, in addition to the vegetables they produce in the dry season, bringing in more money than ever before. "It has been a huge relief to have a farm that is fenced," he tells the Open Ghana team in his home language.

As in many of their intervention areas, Open Ghana also helped establish a Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) here. The association meets weekly so that residents can pool savings, while sharing experiences and encouragements to foster social cohesion.

Kombat says people in Mettoh Yipaal previously had to travel as far as Burkina Faso to purchase vegetables for retail, making it expensive to sell and for consumers to buy locally.

"Metttoh-Yipaal has now become a vibrant hub of fresh vegetable production. The arid land has been transformed into a productive one. Local vegetable businesses have flourished, fostering entrepreneurship and creating economic opportunities."

"As one of the vegetable market queens ... we faced tremendous challenges in providing for our families," she says. "Travelling long distances to purchase vegetables was not only physically demanding, but financially burdensome and risky as well. This initiative has given us hope, financial independence, and a brighter future for ourselves and our families."

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