



WORLD FOOD SUMMIT PLAN OF ACTION

COUNTRY PROGRESS REPORT 2003

GHANA

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AgSSIP	-	Agricultural Services Sub-sector Investment Programme
AIDS	-	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ASIP	-	Agricultural Sector Investment Project
CDD	-	Centre for Democratic Development
CEDAW	-	
CFS	-	Committee on Food Security
CHRAJ	-	Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice
CWIQ	-	Care Welfare Indicators Questionnaire
CWSA	-	Community Water and Sanitation Agency
EC	-	Electoral Commission
ECOSOC	-	UN Economic and Social Council
ENOWID	-	Enhancing Opportunities for Women in Development
EPA	-	Environmental Protection Agency
ERP	-	Economic Recovery Programme
FAD	-	Financial Administration Decree
F AO	-	Food and Agriculture Organization
FAR	-	Financial Administration Regulations
FSCBP	-	Fisheries Sector Capacity Building Project

GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
GER	-	Gross Enrolment Ratio
GFDC	-	Ghana Food Distribution Corporation
GLSS	-	Ghana Living Standard Survey
GPRS	-	Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy
GRATIS	-	Ghana Regional Appropriate Technology & Industrial Services
HIPC	-	Highly Indebted Poor Countries
HIV	-	Human Immune Virus
ICPD	-	International Conference on Population and Development
IDA	-	International Development Agency
IEA	-	Institute of Economic Affairs
IMCPR	-	Inter Ministerial Committee on Poverty Reduction
IMO	-	International Maritime Organization
ITTU	-	Intermediate Technology Transfer Unit
KVIP	-	Kumasi Ventilated Improved Pit Latrine
LACOSREP	-	Upper East Land Conservation and Smallholder Rehabilitation Project
LWMP	-	Land and Water Management Project
MDA	-	Ministries, Departments and Agencies

MOFA	-	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
MOH	-	Ministry of Health
MP	-	Member of Parliament
MTADP	-	Medium Term Agricultural Development Programme
NADMO	-	National Disaster Management Organization
NAEP	-	National Agricultural Extension Project
NARP	-	National Agricultural Research Project
NBSSI	-	National Board for Small Scale Industries
NCCE	-	National Commission for Civic Education
NCWD	-	National Council for Women and Development
NGO	-	Non-Governmental Organization
NLSP	-	National Livestock Services Project
OPRC	-	Oil Pollution Preparedness Response and Co-operation
PEF	-	Private Enterprise Foundation
PHC	-	Primary Health Care
PNDCL	-	Provisional National Defence Council Law
PPAG	-	Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana
RELC	-	Research/Extension Liaison Committee
ROSCA	-	Rotating Savings and Credit Association

SCIMP	-	Smallholder Credit, Input Supply and Marketing Project
SMCD	-	Supreme Military Council Decree
T & V	-	Training and Visit
TCOP	-	Technical Committee on Poverty
UN	-	United Nations
UNCED	-	United Nation's Conference on Environment and Development
UNHCR	-	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNDP	-	United Nations Development Programme
UNCCC	-	United Nations Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	-	United Nations Children's Fund
V A T	-	Value Added Tax
VIP	-	Village Infrastructure Project
WFS	-	World Food Summit
WHO	-	World Health Organization
WIAD	-	Women in Agricultural Development
WTO	-	World Trade Organization

Introduction

This document presents an update of Ghana's progress report on the World Food Summit Action Plan. The World Food Summit Plan of Action prepared in 1996, comprise seven commitments and actions which governments pledged to implement through collective effort with the International Community to reduce the number of undernourished people to half their level (800 million) not later than 2015. The last Country report was prepared in 2002.

Achievements in each action area as at 2003 are reported under each of the seven commitments.

COMMITMENT ONE

We will ensure an enabling political, social and economic environment designed to create the best conditions for the eradication of poverty and for durable peace, based on full and equal participation of women and men, which is most conducive to achieving sustainable food security for all.

Objectives to be pursued under this commitment are:

- conflict prevention and peaceful resolution and creation of a stable political environment,
- ensuring stable economic conditions for effective implementation of development strategies,
- ensuring gender equality and empowerment of women and
- encouraging national solidarity and providing equal opportunities for all.

1.1 Conflict prevention and resolution and creation of stable political environment

Constitutional Reforms

Since 1992 Ghana has enjoyed relatively peaceful and stable political environment under the 4th Republican constitution. Under the democratic dispensation, Ghana has

experienced three peaceful elections, one including a change of Government without any upheaval.

The constitution guarantees liberties and fundamental human rights irrespective of gender, age and race. It recognizes a range of social, economic and cultural rights as well as the rights of the sick, disabled and spouses. There is political participation and protection of civic rights. The necessary institutions to promote democratic governance have been established. They include the Parliament, district assemblies, the judiciary, the Electoral Commission (EC), Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), National Commission for Civic and Education (NCCE), and the National Media Commission.

Freedom of speech and expression is also guaranteed by the 1992 constitution and over the last few years, Ghana has witnessed the proliferation of both the print and electronic media. There are about a dozen newspapers with 10 of them independently owned and over 40 radio stations and three television stations. The constitution places a duty on the media to make government accountable. The freeing of the airwaves and the useful discussions and programmes that emanate from some of these stations demonstrate progress towards achieving a culture of free expression of opinion.

Concerning personal liberties, key institutions involved in ensuring the observation of personal rights include CHRAJ, the judiciary, the police and civil society. A special unit under the Police known as Women and Juvenile Unit (WAJU), established to address women and children issues receive an increasing number of cases each year.

Land Reforms

Some of the measures in place to improve land administration include:

- the facilitation of equitable access to and security of tenure of land for socioeconomic development.
- the Harmonization of rules and functions of public land administration institutions to facilitate efficient land service delivery

- development of the capacity of traditional land administration institutions to complete public sector institutions to ensure efficient and effective land administration.

Other strategies include:

- Develop stool lands which have been vested in government
- Release lands compulsorily acquired by government but not currently used and for which compensation has not been paid by government
- Bring unutilized and underutilized state land onto the open market.
- Currently the Ministry of Lands and Forestry is implementing the Ghana Land Administration Programme (LAP) which seems to reform land tenure and land administration. This involves:
 - Legistrative reform study
 - Institutional reforms
 - Inventory of Government acquired lands
 - Systematic titling
 - Establishment of Customary Land Secretariats.

National Security

In the area of conflict prevention and resolution, various mechanisms are in place at the district, regional and national levels. The establishment of the security councils at the three levels is to ensure that conflicts are prevented and readily resolved to ensure peace. Institutions such as the law courts and the houses of chiefs are empowered to resolve conflicts amicably to foster peace. Ghana continues to make significant contribution towards regional and international peace efforts through its peace-keeping missions in the Middle East, Far East, Congo etc.

In an effort to promote lasting peace among its citizens some of whom might have suffered unduly under various governments in the past, the government of Ghana has

passed a National Reconciliation Bill. It will provide citizens whose liberties were infringed upon the opportunity to seek redress.

1.2 Ensuring stable economic conditions

Since 2002, three fundamental changes have occurred in the Economy. Firstly the perennial problem of deficit financing which caused uncontrolled inflation has been checked by a new law that restricts government borrowing to not more than 10% of total government income in the previous year. This has reduced inflation from 45% in 2000 to about 12% as August 2004. .Secondly debt service ratio has reduced significantly as a result of debt forgiveness through the HIPC Initiative. Interest rates have also dropped significantly. Thirdly, Ghana has significantly exports especially sector through mass spraying (to control to pests and diseases) and price incentives. As a result of the boost in export earnings, Ghana has able to build her foreign reserves equivalence of three import as against one and half months previously.

The need to integrate population concerns into our development plans is imperative. The 2000 population census puts Ghana's population at 18.8 million growing at 2.6%. The government's long term objective is to reduce the population growth rate from 2.6% to about 1.5% by the year 2020.

Work to combat the menace of HIV/AIDS has culminated in the establishment of the Ghana AIDS Commission with considerable support from multilateral and bilateral development partners. As a national development issue, all sector Ministries are to incorporate aid activities into their development plans and budgets. Along side these initiatives, the Ghana Population Council and the Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana (PP AG) continue to promote family planning issues.

1.3 Ensuring gender equality and empowerment of women Women's participation in governance is recognized as a matter of human rights and a condition for social justice.

Many more women are involved in political activity now than at any other time in Ghana's history. However it appears that insignificant changes have occurred in terms of the essential character of women's participation which has been mainly in supporting roles, and in very few cases as leaders of political parties and holders of high political office.

Representation of women in the executive is still low thus limiting the participation of women in the decision-making process. The National Council for Women and Development (NCWD) has presented a set of proposals on affirmative action that seeks 40% female participation and representation in all political parties as well as for all government appointees to District Assemblies, Boards of public corporations and all commissions and committees. These proposals are in line with Article 4 of CEDA Wand the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) recommendations that call for at least a 30% participation of women at all levels of decision-making.

The government in an effort to bring women's concerns to the highest level of decision-making established a Women's Ministry with cabinet status. The Ministry has oversight responsibilities over all organizations dealing with women and children issues.

Ghana has in place a Gender and Development Strategy that aims at promoting full and equal participation of women in the economy. In line with this strategy, various sectors have developed similar strategies specific to each sector. The Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) has for example developed its gender and development strategy that aims at providing women with equal access to and control over productive resources including credit, extension services, land and water. It also aims at mainstreaming gender into the policy planning and implementation processes while ensuring that gender disaggregated data is obtained for planning. Based on this strategy the questionnaire of

the National Annual Agricultural Survey now has incorporated gender disagreement variables.

The Women in Agricultural Development (WIAD) Directorate of MOFA through the extension system is providing training to women in food production, processing and utilization. The staff numbers are however limited, a situation which calls for an increase in enrolment of women into agricultural colleges and the encouragement of women farmers to accept male extension agents. To achieve this, some agricultural have expanded the dormitory facilities to encourage the women enrollment. MOFA has used some of its female Directors as role models in visits to second cycle institutions to encourage female students to take up agricultural profession.

1.4 Encouraging national solidarity and provision of opportunities

Gross Primary Enrolment Ratio (GPER) nation-wide shows that GPER increased from 79.5% in 2002/2002 to 81.1% in 2002/2003 academic year. The analysis GPER with regard to progress towards the achievement of gender parity in education point to similar trends. The National GPER for girls increased from 77% in 2001/2003 to 77.7% in 2002/2003. Girl-child enrolment increase by 6.6% between 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 compared to 5.8% for boys in the period.

COMMITMENT TWO

We will implement policies aimed at eradicating poverty and inequality and improving physical and economic access by all at all times, to sufficient, nutritionally adequate and safe food and its effective utilization

Objectives to be pursued under this commitment are:

- to pursue poverty eradication and sustainable food security through secure and gainful employment and access to productive resources;

- to enable food insecure households and individuals meet their food and nutritional requirements,
- to ensure that food supplies are adequate, safe, and physically and economically , accessible to meet the energy and nutrition needs of the population; and
- to promote access for all to basic education and primary health care in order to strengthen their capacity for self-reliance;

2.1 Pursue poverty eradication and sustainable food security through secure and gainful employment and access to productive resources

Ghana is currently implementing its three year Poverty Reduction Strategy that aims at creating opportunities for employment by investing in the social and economics sectors of the economy. Agriculture has been put in the priority list in this regard. Government's goal is to modernize the sector through productivity enhancement, value addition especially in agroprocessing, improvement in farmer access to irrigation

Employment

To build the requisite human resource for gainful employment the following strategies are in place:

An Education Strategic Plan covering the period 2003 – 2015 has been developed to provide the strategic framework and guide that will inform the development of the education sector and provide the basis for adoption of sector-wide approach to education financing.

The Ghana Education Fund made from contributions of 2.5% of Value Added Tax Collections of government is still in existence. It has in the few years of its existence improved infrastructure facilities at many secondary and tertiary institutions.

As a result of government strategy to enlarge the infrastructure capacity of universities and polytechnics, admissions of these institutions rose by 30% between 2001 and 2003.

Distance learning programmes have been introduced and this has reduced the number of teachers going on study leaving, therefore increasing teacher retention for effective teaching.

Various Ministries are training the youth in employable skills. The Ministry of Food and Agriculture for example is training the first batch of 287 unemployed youth under the Skills Training and Employment Programme (STEP).

The Ministry of Education has also initiated a programme aimed at strengthening vocational and technical education.

Programme areas are:

- Equipping and supporting existing state vocational training institutes,
- A campaign to increase public awareness and involvement in vocational training - Engage medium and large-scale manufacturing firms in apprenticeship to provide trainees with on-the-job training.
- Upgrade curriculum of Vocational Training Institutes particularly in areas of agriculture and small-scale businesses.
- Improvement of certification system to provide certification for informally trained apprentices.

The churches, NGOs and the private sector also play an important role in education and provision of skills. For example, private schools have a share of 19% of the total enrolment in basic schools.

In areas of pre and on-the-job training, the sector Ministry of Employment and Manpower Development and the Department of Community Development have put in place programmes to train the youth in employable skills with the support of the District Assemblies. The programme consists of:

- identification of master-craftsmen and the up-grading of their skills; -provision of working spaces by District Assemblies;

- attachment of manageable number of apprentices to each workshop; -providing trainees with training equipment;
- supporting graduants from the training programmes to start their own enterprises.
- Other schemes aimed at generating employment and improving production include: .credit schemes for small-scale enterprises and farmers through organizations like Empretec and NBSSI
- enhancing Opportunities for Women in Development (ENOWID); .community initiative projects;

2.2 Providing for food insecure households, families and individuals

Food insecurity is more pronounced in the Northern part of the country where only one farming season is permissible and the land is so degraded that yields are very low. Government with the support of international agencies like the World Food Programme, have always responded quickly to calls for food supplies when the need arises. Several local and International NGOs including the Catholic Relief Services also provide school feeding programmes in the Northern regions.

2.3 Ensuring, food supplies are safe, adequate and physically and economically accessible to meet the nutritional and energy needs of the population.

Food Safety

The organization responsible for food safety such as the the Food and Drugs Board, the Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate (PPRSD) of Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA), the Veterinary Services Directorate (VSD), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the District Assemblies and the Ghana Standards Board continue to be resourced to carry out their activities.

The PPRS of MOFA has undertaken the following programmes to improve food safety:

- It has drafted a pesticide law for the consideration of government to control the safe use of pesticides in the growing and storage of food stuffs.

- In collaboration with International Fertilizer Development Corporation (IFDC) the PPRS has helped to establish an Association of Pesticide Dealers to build their capacity to more safely dispense agro-chemicals.
- Farmers continue to be educated on the proper use of agro-chemicals on crops to avoid contamination of the food crops.

Reducing post-harvest losses to increase food availability

A number of efforts are made to reduce post harvest losses. The government has supported the establishment of two major tomato processing plants in areas where there are usually perennial gluts of the commodity. Similarly, cassava processing has been stepped up and bakeries are encouraged to use cassava flour in composition with wheat flour for baking. With respect to other interventions, MOFA is consulting with GTZ to collaborate in the promotion of the grain banking concept in communities across the Country.

Further, the Intermediate Technology Transfer Units (ITTUs) have been established in all the regional capitals to develop and supply appropriate equipment for agro-processing. Women in Agriculture Development (WIAD) Directorate of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture is promoting improved food processing, preservation and utilization technologies. They have had demonstrations on the utilization of soyabean and cassava in their processed forms. The Agriculture Engineering Services Department is also promoting the construction of improved storage structures such as cribs and barns to improve farm level and household storage.

2.4 Promoting access for all to basic education and primary health care in order to strengthen their capacity for self reliance

Basic Education

(Addressed in Commitment one and above)

Primary Health Care

Ghana's health policy over the years has been based on the principle of Primary Health Care (PHC) and aimed at maximizing healthy lives and living of the population. Health policies and priorities have focused on achieving universal access and promoting preventive, rehabilitative and curative health services. Policies have also aimed at reducing disparities in health status among rural, peri-urban and urban communities with special attention focused on closing the gap between the rich and the poor and between different age groups.

Government's commitment to achieving the above goal is demonstrated in the Ministry of Health's Medium Term Health Strategy and the Five Year Programme of Work. Specific measures include:

- Decentralization of the management and delivery of health services to ensure responsiveness to local needs.
- Introduction of special exemption arrangement for vulnerable groups alongside cost recovery and cost-sharing policies.
- Prioritization of the use of government funding towards cost-effective services; and
- MOH working in partnership and in collaboration with other providers to ensure increased access to services.

Other measures put in place include:

- Strengthening and decentralizing management within the context of a Ghana Health Service;

- Expanding and rehabilitating the health infrastructure to increase coverage and improve quality;
- .Strengthening human resource planning, management and training as a means of providing and retaining adequate number of good quality and well motivated health teams to provide the services;
- .Providing and managing adequate logistics such as drugs and other consumables; and supply of equipment to all levels of the health system.

According to the Ghana Health and Demographic Survey of 2003, child malnutrition in Ghana has worsened since 1998. The proportion of children under five who are stunted has increased from 26% in 1998 to 30% in 2003. The proportion underweight decreased from in 1998 to seven percent in 2003. Nine percent of women are found to be chronically malnourished while 25% are overweight. Government and NGOs continue to make efforts through education, provision of food supplements at health clinics, and school feeding programmes to improve nutritional status of children and women.

A national health insurance has been instituted to though a national levy of 2.5% as value added tax to enhance access to health services.

Water and Sanitation

The water situation in the country is less than satisfactory. Most of the rural dwellers depend on unprotected wells/river/lake for drinking water. Only 2.1 percent depend on in-house pipe borne water. Access to water by rural population increased from 40% in 2000 to 46.4% in 2003

COMMITMENT THREE

We will pursue participatory and sustainable food, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development policies and practices in high and low potential areas which are essential to adequate and reliable food supplies at the household, national, regional and global levels and combat pest, drought and desertification, considering the multifunctional character of agriculture.

Objectives under this commitment are:

- .to pursue sustainable, intensified and diversified food production, increasing productivity, efficiency, safety gains, pest control and reduced wastes and losses
- .to combat environmental threats to food security
- .to promote sound policies and programmes on transfer and use of technologies, skills development and training appropriate to the food security needs
- .to strengthen and broaden research and scientific cooperation in agriculture, fisheries and forestry through cooperation between public and private sectors
- .to formulate and implement integrated rural development strategies that promote rural employment, skill formation, infrastructure, institutions and services.

Most of Ghana's staple food requirement is met through domestic production. The annual net food requirement per capita of cereals is estimated at 82kg and that for starchy staples is 572kg. National requirements for these foods based on per capita consumption estimated in 2003 were: 1,900,800 tonnes for cereals; 12,868,000 tonnes for starchy staples; 100,000 tonnes for meat; and 700,000 tonnes for fish. Ghana's food self-sufficiency in these foods are: 80% for cereals (excluding rice); 30% for rice; 100% for roots and tubers; 30% for meat; and 60% for fish. While sufficiency levels for cereals and the starchy staples could be said to be satisfactory, more need to be done to improve supplies of rice, meat and fish.

Trends in Production of Major Staples 1997-2000 in '000 Mt

commodities	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Millet	143.5	162.3	159.8	169.4	134.4	159.12	176
Plantain	1818.4	1912.6	2040.2	1932.4	2073.8	2278.8	2328.6
Rice	197.1	281.1	209.8	248.7	253.2	280	239.0
Sorghum	332.6	355.4	302	279.8	279.7	316.1	337.7
Yam	2407.9	2702.9	3249	3362.9	3546.7	3900.0	3812.8
Cocoyam	1529.8	1576.7	1707.4	1625.1	1687.5	1860	1804.7
Cassava	6999.5	7172	7845.4	8106.8	8965.8	9731	10239.3
Maize	996	1050.1	1014.5	1012.7	938	1400	1289.0

Source: Statistics Research and Information Directorate (SRID), MOF A

3.1 Pursuing intensified and diversified food production, increased productivity and reduction in food losses in a sustainable manner

In pursuance of this objective in Ghana the following projects are being implemented.

Root and Tuber Improvement Programme (RTIP)

It is designed to improve productivity and marketing of root and tuber crops. The first 5-year phase of the project is ending in 2004. An extension is being considered.

Food Crops Development Project (FCDP)

The project is aimed at increasing food security and incomes through increased production and village level processing of cereals and legumes (maize, sorghum, cowpea, groundnut and sobean). It is being pursued with vigour throughout the eight project areas.

The Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS)

The pilot phase of this programme which was designed to increase smallholder productivity through small scale irrigation, agricultural diversification, and improved

market access is due to end in 2005. As a result of the success achieved an expansion phase is being considered beginning 2006.

Upper East Land Conservation and Smallholder Rehabilitation Project (LACOSREP).

This project began in 1992 with the objective of increasing food production and incomes of smallholders through environmental protection and improvement, strengthening of formal and informal groups and empowering women through credit for income generating activities. The project is currently in its second phase.

Land and Water Resource Management

With the support of NADIDA, MOFA implemented a Land and Water Management Project from 1994 to 2003. The project sought to address land degradation due to activities of smallscale farmers through improving the use of land and water resources a sustainable manner. To the MOFA continuous to support the implementation of technologies introduced during project period for sustainability.

The Agricultural Services Sub-sector Investment Project

This project, which began in 2001, with a funding of \$67 million is designed to increase agricultural productivity through effective service delivery. Its key components are research and extension, agricultural education, institutional reforms and development of Farmer Based Organizations.

Livestock Development Project

Designed to increase incomes of smallholder livestock and dairy farmers, processors and traders. It is to be implemented from 2002 to 2006

Cashew Development Project

A project to increase cashew production and processing in five targeted regions between 2001-2005

Small Scale Irrigation Development

This project which began in 1998 aims at improving small farmer access to irrigation water. The schemes are to community owned and managed.

Rural Financial Services Project

The aim of the project is to improve small farmer access to credit. The main formal institutions targeted in this project are the rural banks whose management structure, deposit mobilization and lending portfolios are being managed by the newly created Apex Bank.

Community Driven Initiatives for Food Security (CIFS)

This project is to help communities discern their best entry points for support and to allow for a rationalization of service delivery among government, NGOs, the private sector in ways that are sustainable in the long term. It being implemented between 2003-2007.

Food Security and Environmental Facility (FSEF)

The project is designed to support governmental and non-governmental organizations in addressing environmental issues associated with agricultural investment. The project period is 2004-2009

Farmer Responsive Mechanism to Extension and Research (Project)

It was designed to increase access to and use of demand-driven agricultural information and technology. It is also to improve food utilization through appropriate selection and combination of nutrient sources at the household level. Implementation period is between 2003-2009

Sericulture Development Programme

Through the support of FAO, a sericulture development programme has just began in Ghana. It is pilot programmed aimed at training small farmers to produce cocoon for silk production. The attractiveness of this project lies in the fact that it is a low capital input venture suited to resource poor farmers. The attractiv

3.2 Combating environmental threats to food security

During the past three years, the Government has ratified a number of important multilateral environmental agreements. These include:

- The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals in International Trade;
- The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;
- The Basel Convention on Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste;
- The Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climatic Change;
- International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation;
- The Montreal and Beijing Amendments to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer; and
- The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

Actions taken regarding these agreements are as follows:

Ozone Depleting Substances

Training of refrigeration technicians/engineers to sensitize them on code of good refrigeration practices and the use of hydrocarbon refrigerants as alternative to Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in the domestic refrigeration and air-conditioning sectors.

Sensitisation programmes for Customs officers at border posts to control the importation of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODSs).

Poverty Reduction

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS) to assess the environmental risks and opportunities presented by the implementation of policies described in the GPRS, identify appropriate mechanisms to ensure that sound environmental management contributes towards sustainable economic growth and lasting poverty reduction in Ghana and, to mainstream environment in subsequent revisions of the GPRS and other development planning processes.

Oil Spill Preparedness

In order to enhance the country's preparedness to respond to any incidence of oil spill the existing draft national contingency plan was revised and updated. In addition, an oil spill response strategy document was prepared.

The Agency through the support of the Danish Government, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNOPS has commenced the review and digitisation of an existing version of Environmental Sensitivity Map for the coast of Ghana.

Natural resources conservation

Digitised maps covering Ghana's land resources have been completed based on 2002 satellite images. A project document to reduce waterweed infestation in the Volta and Tano rivers was developed and presented to the African Development Bank to seek financial assistance for its implementation. Other activities on natural resource conservation include:

- Promotion of silviculture.
- Promotion of agro-forestry and woodlots.
- Campaign on bushfire prevention and control.

Agro-forestry and land conservation

In its effort to conserve the forestry resource the country, the Ministry of Lands and Forestry has formulated policies approved by cabinet for implementation. Some of these policies include

- Transparent and efficient allocation of timber resources and control of over cutting of timber.
- Review of the Annual Allowance Cut (AAC) as a transitional measure in order to salvage valuable timber being destroyed in off-revenue timber utilization Contract Areas (Agricultural farmlands)

To promote forest plantation by the private sector a Forest Development Fund has been established by parliament (Act 583). The objective of the fund is to ensure aggressive forestry development, creation of employment and improvement of environmental quality.

3.3 Promoting sound policies and programmes on transfer and use of technologies, skills development and training for food security needs

Ghana has intensified its efforts in the area technology transfer skill development. For instance the Biotechnology and Nuclear Agriculture Research Institute (BNARI) has been developing planting material for yam, selected vegetables and other food crops. The upgrading of skills for all sectors of the economy is being pursued.

3.4 Strengthen and broaden research and scientific cooperation in agriculture with collaboration between public and private sector

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has adopted a new policy whereby a 25% of its annual budget is to be generated internally. A commercial unit has therefore been established to promote commercialization research findings. Main areas of progress so far include agro-processing machinery and food commodity drying equipment. Further, the MOFA is collaborating with private engineering firms to manufacture for the market agricultural machinery such as rice threshers, wind powered pumps for underground water etc. In addition to other benefits this strategy is to promote technology transfer and skill development between the public and private sectors.

3.5 Formulation and implementation of strategies that promote rural development, skill formation, infrastructure, institutions and services that promote food security.

Rural Development

Ghana is implementing a decentralized public administrative system aimed at ensuring real participation of the people in the process of socioeconomic development. Although some progress has been made in this direction the process needs to be intensified in areas including:

- Improving efficiency and effectiveness in development planning and implementation at all levels and departments of government;
- Clearly defining functional roles and demarcating jurisdiction between central and local political authorities;
- Achieving effective partnership among political authorities, traditional authorities, community organizations, private and professional agencies in the formulation and implementation of development policies and programmes.

Rural development objectives have also been pursued through rural electrification. Currently all the district capitals have electricity. Efforts are being made to promote cottage industry.

COMMITMENT FOUR

We will strive to ensure that food, agricultural trade and overall trade policies are conducive to fostering food security for all through a fair and market oriented world trade system.

For this commitment the objectives are:

- to meet the challenges of and utilize the opportunities arising from the international trade framework
- to meet essential food import needs in all countries considering world price and supply fluctuations
- to support the continuation of the reform process in conformity with the Uruguay Agreement, particularly Article 20 of the Agreement on Agriculture

4.1 Meeting challenges and utilizing opportunities of WTO

Under the World Trade Organization's rule, developing countries are required to reduce tariff bindings from 124% to 99% by 2005. Ghana's tariff rates for agriculture do not exceed 40%, implying that Ghana has not taken advantage of these ceiling bindings. The main reason is the desire to keep in line with ECOWAS tariff targets of about 25%

Regarding market access, Ghana is suffering from the WTO principle of tariff escalation by developed countries thus limiting access of Ghana's value added products to external markets. This is undermining Ghana's agro-processing objectives. Ghana also has problems with meeting sanitary and phytosanitary requirements under the EUROGAP due to limited skills and logistics.

On issues of domestic support, WTO rules require that subsidies be reduced and finally removed. Ghana completed the removal of all subsidies on agriculture in 1990. Note is

however taken of the exception to the rules on domestic support where investment and input subsidies are permitted especially to help farmers give up narcotic crops. Due to lack of resources it has been difficult to exploit this opportunity although government is planning to support entrepreneurs with the transportation of goods from the production area to the ports.

4.2 Meeting essential food imports in all Countries

The basic principle underlying the WTO agreement is that goods and services when exported from one country to another should generally have free entry into the importing country; customs duties should not constitute barrier to entry. Ghana is non-discriminatory and under the Most Favoured Nations classification, offers every member the same treatment. Ghana's trade policy is also predictable and gives assurance to foreign companies and investors that trade barriers will not be raised arbitrarily.

Currently, Ghana's tariff structure for food imports is consistent with WTO requirements, which allows for essential food imports such as rice and maize to supplement domestic needs when necessary.

With regard to monitoring developments in world food prices and stocks, the MOFA collaborates with F AO by providing the requisite country statistics.

4.3 Supporting the continuation of the Reform Process

Some of the activities being under taken in support of the reform process include:

- consistent review of tariffs by the Ministry of Trade to ensure that there is no discrimination against local industry
- enhancement of producer incentive scheme in the economy through a tariff /tax structure that is trade neutral as much as possible.
- ensuring that the exchange rate remains part of the incentive structure of the economy so that producers of tradable goods can receive remunerative returns for their products.

The Ministries of Trade and Industry, Food and Agriculture and other agencies responsible for promoting the WTO system continue to study and review the implications of the agreements and explore ways Ghana can take advantage of any opportunities that arise.

COMMITMENT FIVE

We will endeavour to prevent and be prepared for both natural and human induced disasters and man-made emergencies and to meet transitory and emergency food requirements in ways that encourage recovery, rehabilitation, development and capacity to satisfy future needs.

Objectives are:

- to reduce demand for emergency food assistance through enhancing efforts to prevent and resolve man-made emergencies
- to establish as quickly as possible prevention and preparedness strategies of Low Income Food Deficiency Countries
- to improve and if necessary develop efficient and effective emergency response mechanisms at all levels
- to strengthen linkages between relief operations and development programmes so that they are mutually supportive and facilitate the transition from relief to development

5.1 Reducing demand for emergency food assistance (Addressed under Commitment One)

Government in collaboration with the World Food Programme is developing a programme where by communities with surplus production can be stored within the community and make available for distribution to deficit areas in time of emergencies.

5.2 Establishing disaster prevention and preparedness strategies

Ghana established the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) in 1996 with the following objectives:

- preventing the occurrence of disasters as well as bringing relief to victims, rehabilitating and restoring damaged facilities,
- mobilizing and coordinating human, material and financial resources of government and Non-Governmental Organizations and Agencies for disaster management.

The institution has offices at the National, Regional and District levels.

For the reporting year NADMO carried out the following key activities:

- Educational campaigns to communities on how to prevent fires, which are most frequent forms of disaster in Ghana.
- Raising to agricultural field officers, security agencies and other community workers on disaster management.
- Motivation of societies seemed to be risk to natural and man made disasters to become conscious of possible disaster and provide them with the capacity to respond to disasters beyond the traditional response mechanisms.
- Existence of rapid response team in various communities
- Operation of ambulance units
- Establishment of community disaster volunteer groups
- Establishment of disaster information website

The organization is not adequately resourced and so development agencies, individuals and civil society groups like the United Nations Agencies, Bilateral donors, NGOs and private organizations and Churches help with the provision of logistics and relief items in cases of disaster.

There is a technical committee on Pest and Insect Infestation disasters. This committee exists at the National, Regional and District levels and it is to monitor, report and respond to any infestation disaster to mitigate its effect. The technical committee identifies all man made causes of disaster for redress and also identifies and maps out disaster at the district and local community level.

MOFA has in place a five variable early warning mechanism which will be put to test in the 2005 agricultural season. The system will help MOFA to know at least four months time what the food supply situation is likely to be by the time of the harvest so as to put in contingency measures.

5.3 Improving or developing efficient and effective emergency response systems at all levels

In addition to NADMOs activities, the rapid deployment unit of the Ghana armed forces and other security agencies also has responsibility for disaster management. The Ghana Military has been recently equipped with an aircraft, vehicles and other logistics to enable it cope with emergencies requiring medical attention.

5.4 Strengthening linkages between relief operations and development programmes

The National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) works closely with UN bodies like F AO, WFP, UNICEF, UNCHR, WHO which are involved in disaster prevention. There is also cooperation with neighbouring countries regarding outbreak of epidemics to contain their spread. For example the locust menace reported in mid 2004 across West Africa resulted in the establishment of a rapid response team comprising the FAO, NADMO and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture to develop contingency measures to contain any outbreak in Ghana

COMMITMENT SIX

We will promote optimal allocation and use of public and private investments to foster human resources, sustainable food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry systems, and rural development, in high and low potential areas

Objectives under this commitment are:

- to create the policy framework and conditions for optimal public and private investments
- to endeavour to mobilize and optimize the use of technical and financial resources from all sources including debt relief, in order to raise investment in sustainable agriculture

6.1 Creating conducive policy environment for optimal public/private investment

In the last few years, efforts have been made towards creating an enabling policy environment that promotes private/public investment in the country. Some of these initiatives were:

- A review of the investment code to make it more investor friendly;
- The promulgation of the Ghana Investment Act, which among other things guarantees all enterprises free transferability of dividends or net profit attributable to a foreign investment. Guarantees against expropriation of private investments under the Act are buttressed by the constitution.
- A review of the rules and regulations on imports and exports;
- The strengthening of institutions that deal with the investor such as the Customs Exercise and Preventive Services, the Ghana Immigration Service and Ghana Investment Centre;
- The strengthening of the banking sector through a financial Sector Restructuring Programme.

A number of institutions have also been established to promote private investment. They include:

- The Private Enterprise Foundation;
- The Free Zones Board; and
- The National Board for Small-scale Industries

The investment code makes provisions for attracting investment into agriculture. It includes tax exemption for agricultural machinery and inputs and tax holidays for various categories of businesses.

Other measures government is taking to enhance investment include rural electrification for promoting rural industry, improved water supply for domestic use and processing, improved telecommunication and improved roads and water transport systems for promotion of agri-business.

In the area of alternative dispute resolution mechanism the Arbitration Act 1961 (Act 38) provides the legal basis for regulating the settlement of differences by arbitration and the enforcement of arbitration awards in Ghana. In this connection, Act 478 also makes provision for the enforcement of foreign awards in accordance with the United Nations Conventions on the recognition and enforcement of foreign arbitral awards.

Alternative dispute settlement mechanisms such as arbitration, mediation and conciliation are increasingly encouraged by Government within the judicial system and also by non-government Private Sector Organizations as a contribution to the dispute settlement process. The objective is to provide more expeditious and cost-effective procedures for dispute settlement as viable alternatives to the normal process of litigation in the courts.

Private Sector Development

To promote private sector roles in economic development a Private Sector Ministry has been created. Government objectives for the development of the private sector has been

to continue to provide policy support at levels that will enable the private sector contribute incrementally to national development and be the engine of growth.

To ensure full participation of the private sector in economic activity, Government has improved the regulatory framework and environment to get the sector participate in key services like road infrastructure, social utility and health facility development.

6.2 Revenue Mobilization

On domestic revenue mobilization, a number of measures have been put in place to enhance the collection of both tax and non-tax revenue. For instance the Value Added Tax Service has been introduced to improve tax revenue. To a bid to further expand the tax net to cover small businesses currently operating out it, government will soon introduce tax clearance stamps which will be required for small scale operations in any part of the country. For effective monitoring, a Non-Tax Revenue Unit has been established within the Ministry of Finance. This Unit among other objectives is to help improve the collection, accounting and reporting mechanisms for non-tax revenue. As part of the reform Programme under the Public Financial Management Reform Programme, the Financial Administration Decree (FAD) SMCD 221 1979 and the Financial Administration Regulations (FAR) LI 1234 have been revised.

COMMITMENT SEVEN

We will implement, monitor and follow up this plan of action at all levels in cooperation with the international community.

Objectives pursued under this commitment are:

- to adopt actions within each country's national framework to enhance food security and enable the implementation of the commitment of the World Food Summit Plan of Action

- to improve sub-regional, regional and international cooperation and to mobilize and optimize the use of available resources to support national efforts for the earliest possible achievement of sustainable world food security
- to monitor actively the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action;
- to clarify the content of the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, as stated in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and
- to share responsibilities in achieving food security for all so that implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action takes place at the lowest possible level at which its purpose could be best achieved.

7.1 Adopting actions within each country's national framework to enhance food security

Ensuring food security and the reduction of poverty are fundamental to Ghana's socio-economic development and so these objectives are reflected in all national plans, programmes and strategies.

7.2 Improving sub-regional, regional and international cooperation and mobilization and optimal use of resources for achieving sustainable world food security

In this respect, government continuous to collaborate with bilateral and multilateral development partners for resources for investment in food security and poverty eradication. Poverty eradication has come high on the development agenda and Ghana is implementing its poverty reduction strategy. The GPRS was developed in 2002 for an initial implementation phase covering 2003-2005.

Ghana is also strengthening its regional and international cooperation to take advantage of trade and social opportunities. Greater collaboration is expected under the New Partnership for Development (NEPAD), which is Africa's own initiative for promoting democracy and development.

7.3 Monitoring the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action

As part of the international effort to implement and follow-up on the World Food Summit Plan of Action, Ghana reviewed and prepared a revised strategy for agricultural development 'Horizon 2010' in the year 2000. Participation at all levels was sought in this review.

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the main agency for promoting food security, biannually reviews its strategies, and plans and programmes with the view to achieving food security.

Government has also established National Monitoring and Review Systems to inform itself of efforts made towards reducing poverty. The Ghana Living Standards Survey, the Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire and the Ghana Demographic and Health Survey provide information for poverty monitoring at the National level. Efforts are also made, to establish district based poverty monitoring systems to make interventions for poverty reduction more focussed. In September 2004, the National Development Planning Commission in collaboration with MOFA initiated a process to establish baseline information for evaluating the effectiveness of the poverty reduction strategy.

Government cooperates with the Committee on Food Security (CFS) in providing information and reports for monitoring the implementation of WFS Plan of Action.

7.4 Clarifying the content of the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of every one to be free from hunger

The right to adequate food and the fundamental right of every one to be free from hunger is provided in the Ghanaian constitution which guarantees every person the right to work under satisfactory, safe, and healthy conditions and to receive equal pay for equal work without distinction of any kind. All efforts made towards enhancing food security and reducing poverty has been in the overall context of ensuring the right of everyone to adequate food.

Ghana's efforts in the implementation of provisions of Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights are consistent with the implementation of treaties under Economic and Cultural Organization of West African States (ECOWAS).

7.5 Sharing responsibilities in achieving food security for all, ensuring participation at the lowest possible level

In pursuance of this objective, development planning adopts participatory approaches at the community where broad participation is encouraged. As already indicated in this document, participation in decision making by all has been enhanced by prevailing press freedom and the active involvement of civil society in governance.

The need for strong linkages between sectors and organizations pursuing food security objectives need to be emphasized. There is a multiplicity of government, civil society groups and donors all promoting food security but their efforts are not harmonized and coordinated to yield maximum results.