

Home Grown School Feeding Program and Small-scale Horticulture Interventions in Ghana

Presented by

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Outline of presentation

- History of the school feeding
- Concepts
- Aims and objectives
- Implementation structure
- Collaborating Ministries & Developing Partners
- Achievements
- Challenges
- The way forward

History of the school feeding

- Low enrolment and high drop-out rate of pupils in some poverty stricken communities
- In response of achieving MDG (reducing hunger and malnutrition)
- Home grown School feeding program was instituted

Concept

- To feed primary school children with one hot **nutritious** meal.
- Menu based on **locally produced foodstuffs** (targeting up to 80% local procurement)
- Targets most **deprived communities**
- **Decentralized** implementation
- **Involve** Community and Civil Society Organization participation

- **Goal** – To reduce poverty and improve food security
- **Objectives**
 - To reduce short term hunger and malnutrition amongst school children
 - To increase school enrolment, attendance and retention
 - To boost domestic food production

Implementation Structure

- National Secretariat



- Regional Coordinating office



- District Implementation committee



- School Implementation Committee

Collaborating Ministries & Development Partners

Collaborating Ministries

1. Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (**Supervising Ministry**)
2. Ministry of Education
3. Ministry of Health
4. Ministry of Agric
5. Ministry of Finance & Economic Planning
6. Women & Children's Affairs

Developing Partners

1. Royal Netherlands Embassy/Dutch Government
2. Partnership for Children Development (PCD)
3. Netherlands Development Organization (SNV)
4. World Food Program (WFP)
5. Social Enterprise Development Organization (SEND)
6. School Feeding Initiative Ghana Netherlands SIGN)
7. Ecumenical Association For Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development (ECASARD)
8. World Bank
9. Joint Aid Management (JAM)

Achievements

1. It increased dietary diversity of beneficiaries
2. It improved their nutritional status. E.g. their energy, protein and vitamin A requirements were met.
3. Over 65% of local foodstuffs were used
4. Increased enrolment in the beneficiary schools
5. Increased school attendance and retention

Changes In Enrollment In Beneficiary Schools

Regional	No of Pupils	No of Pupils	No of Pupils	No of Pupils	No of Pupils	No of Pupils
	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Ashanti	8,972	119,360	120,093	154,598	171,181	181,562
Brong Ahafo	5,701	61,921	63,375	87,632	104,424	114,964
Central	7,796	26,705	33,730	40,198	41,648	44,248
Eastern	10,161	35,154	38,991	47,547	49,760	53,803
Greater Accra	14,817	97,407	103,002	121,301	127,354	130,714
Northern	3,084	14,588	16,191	33,699	40,154	50,597
Upper West	2,457	5,598	6,281	11,687	18,930	21,865
Upper East	3,886	11,366	12,012	19,428	28,331	34,082
Volta	4,531	11,769	14,671	20,483	28,084	29,685
Western	3,370	29,630	32,843	43,452	48,353	52,111
Total	64,775	413,498	441,189	580,025	658,219	713,631

9/26/2011

PROFAV 2011, Arusha, Tanzania



9/26/2011

Feeding School children in Ghana. (Photo Credit: Erica Davies, GCNF)
PROFAV 2011, Arusha, Tanzania

Challenges

1. Intake of iron still remains low, which raises concern.
2. The local supply for staple foods at district level seems limited.
3. Poor targeting of beneficiary schools
4. Absence of a clear government policy guideline on the School Feeding Program

The way forward

- Retargeting the beneficiary schools
- Expand the beneficiaries
- Properly linking the caterers to farmers for constant supply of foodstuffs

Some Typical Ghanaian Dishes



Boiled plantain served with cocoyam leaves stew & avocado



Kenkey served with pepper, tomato, onion sauce & fried fish



Fufu (pound cassava and plantain) with groundnut soup & meat



Tuo Zaafi (TZ) served with green leaf soup & fried fish

Small-scale Horticultural Interventions

Ten years of partnership between
the
Ghana Institute of Horticulturists (GhIH)
and the
Canadian Society for Horticultural Science (CSHS)
In the Upper West Region of Ghana



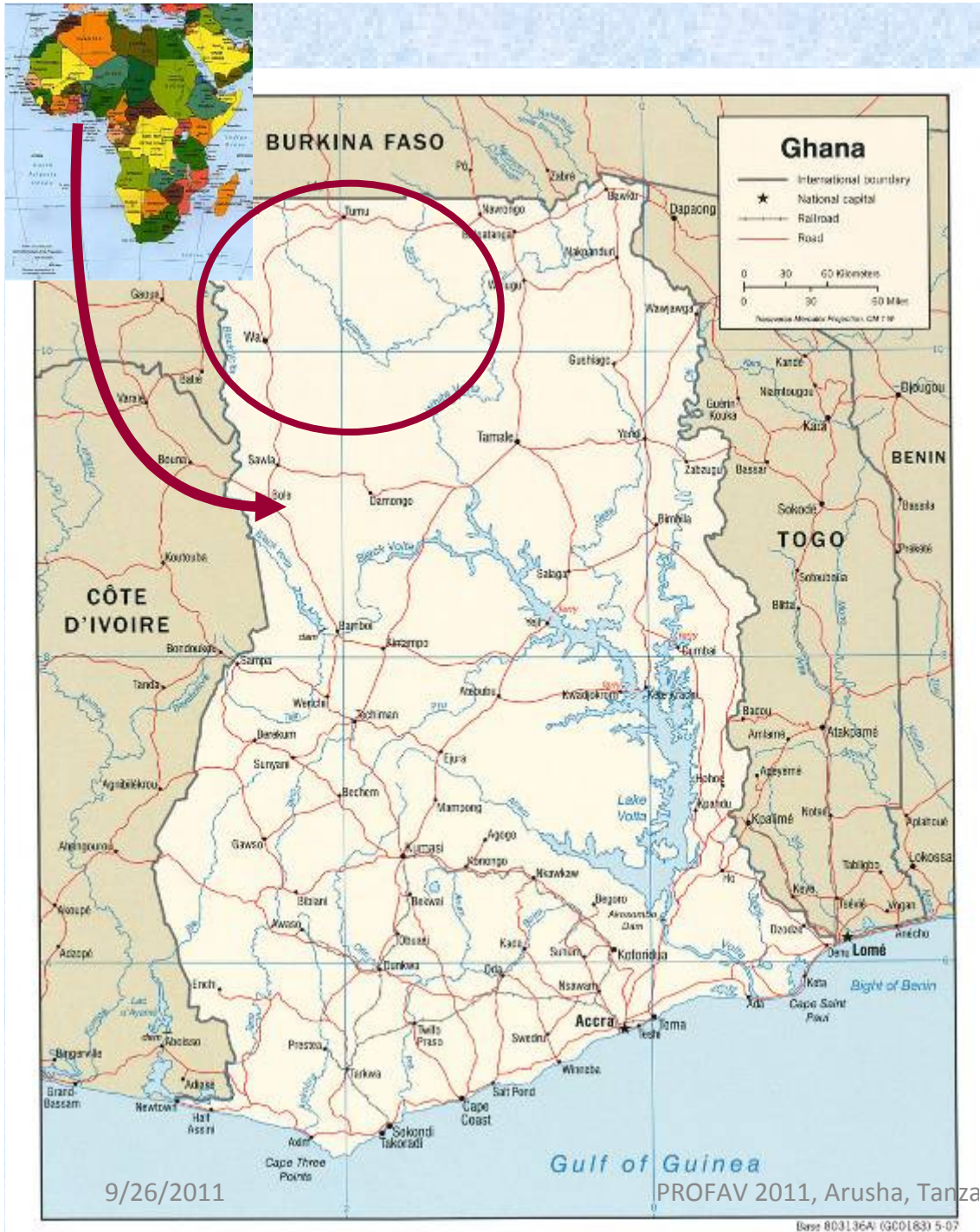
Canadian International
Development Agency

Agence canadienne de
développement international



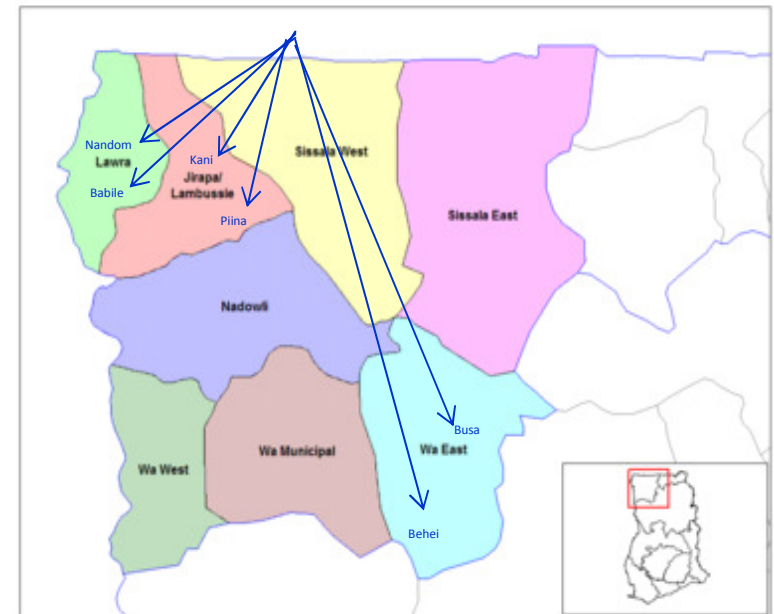
Goal

- Develop dry season vegetable farming in the Upper West Region which would lead to:
 - poverty alleviation,
 - improved household income,
 - improved nutrition,
 - reduce rural-urban(out-)migration, and
 - improve gender equality



Upper West

- Very poor
- Income at villages
 - 1-3\$ per day, per family (3 to 12 members)
- Dry season
 - no precipitation for 7(8) months per year
- Dam sites along the Volta River system



Dams as only source of water during long dry season



Dams as only source of water during long dry season



Training

- Training of Trainer Workshops
- Farmer Field Schools
- Demonstration gardens
- Radio programs in native languages
- Gender Equality awareness

Agric Extension Agents (AEAs) and farmers trained through Training of Trainers workshops and Farmer Field Schools

District	Community	AEAs Trained		Farmer Trainers	
		M	F	M	F
Lawra	Babile	2	1	39	23
Wa Municipality	Busa	2	1	47	46
Karni/Lambusie	Karni	1	1	24	53
Karni/Lambusie	Piina (flooding <i>destruction of dam</i> cut short contact)	1	0	26	7
Lawra	Nandom- Pataal	3	0	35	22
Lawra	Nandom – Brutu (withdrew in 2007)	1	0	10	5
Wa Municipality	Bihii	1	0	23	8
Total 9/26/2011	385 PROFAV 2011, Arusha, Tanzania	11	3	204	165



Beneficiary farmers receive certificate for participation in Farmer Field Schools



Dam wall and vegetable fields



Vegetable fields

Vegetable fields of blind farmers at Kani



Vegetable (cabbage) fields





Good harvest (cabbage) though participation in DSVP



Good harvest (onions) though participation in DSVP

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Live radio talk-show with project management team and Canadian partners on Radio Upper West



Radio broadcasts

- **Languages**
 - Dagari (local) and English
- **Reach**
 - Broadcasts were available to any farmer in the listening area, extending educational benefits of the project beyond the direct beneficiaries
- **Panellists and Topics**
 - Beneficiary farmers, AEAs and Project team members
 - Discussion of mainly topics taught at farmer field schools
- **Interactive**
 - Some live call-in shows
 - Some pre-recorded shows from village and garden sites
 - Some drama on practices learned and benefits

Applied and Participatory Research

- Multiplication trials generated planting materials for farmers at the community levels
 - High quality seeds of cabbage, sweet pepper, lettuce, tomatoes, chilli pepper and grafted mango seedlings have been introduced to farmers.
- Demonstration plots showed benefits of organic and good agricultural practices (GAP)
- Demonstrated reduction in agrochemical costs and hazards by extracting and using neem to control insects on vegetables
- Demonstrated the use of Bucket Kit Drip Irrigation in supplying water to crops in water-stressed environments
- Conducted trials at different locations in the farming communities
- Invested resources in monitoring and evaluation activities at the organisational and at the community levels

Watering: Bucket kit vrs watering can?



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Technologies learned by farmers from GhIH training workshops and Farmer Field Schools by 2011

Technology	Learned from the Project	Applied in the farm
	%	%
Pricking out	97.3	82.7
Fertilization	94.7	94.0
Composting	96.7	87.3
Mulching	95.3	90.6
Staking	88.0	68.0
Sterilization of nursery beds	84.0	50.0
Seed treatment	81.3	43.3
Simple record keeping	90.7	51.3
Pest and diseases control	95.4	88.7
Harvesting and post harvest management.	85.3	50.7
Grading and quality control	90.0	60.0
Bucket kit irrigation	93.3	<10

Production and consumption

- Two-fold increase in the yield of vegetables at four project locations compared to non project communities
- Increase in the availability of fresh vegetables from 5 months in to the dry season to 9 months into the dry season.
- Diversity of vegetables has increased from 7 vegetables to 12
- Postharvest losses reduced by at least 20 % over the last five years due to improve harvesting and post harvest handling techniques
- Three-fold increase in the consumption of vegetables by farming households
- Diversity of vegetables consumed has increased in the farming households
- New eating habits and tastes are emerging
 - Lettuce has become complimentary to or substitutes for the local bean leafy vegetable.
 - Cabbage now used as a substitute to “Alefu” (*Amaranthus*) and “Bra” (*Hibiscus sabdarifa*).
- More people now visit the communities to buy vegetables

Benefits derived from dry season vegetable production

- As a result of the project, 39.3% of the respondents have said that their income has improved
- 12.7% reported improvement in the quality of life of their families
- 12% said they are able to pay wards school fees, provide food and other family needs
- They have been able to acquire various items that they could not have acquired without the project.
- Many people have not been able to register for the National Health Insurance Scheme in the country
 - A few were able to do so because of the project, a good achievement.

Acknowledgements

- Agricultural Institute of Canada
 - International Twinning Partnership Program
 - Coordination by Tom Beach and Brenda Miller
- Canadian International Development Agency
 - Funding
- Countless hours of hard work by the project team members over the course of the project:
 - in **Ghana**
 - , P. Kumah, A.-H. Abubakari, K.G. Mahunu, I.A. Idun
 - and in **Canada**
 - J. Owen, M.R. McDonald, M. Pritchard, D. Ceplis,

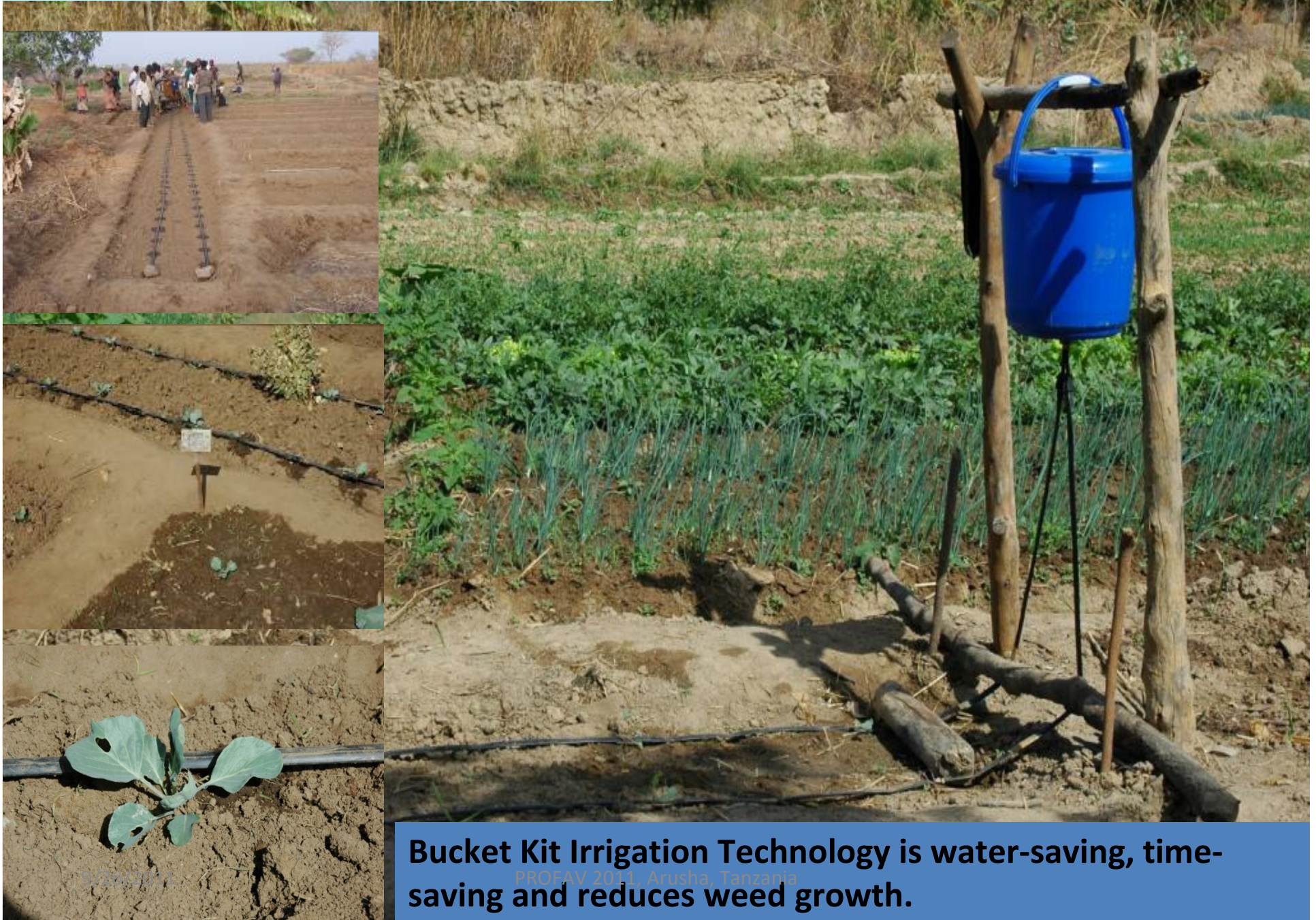
Compost making technology



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Compost improves the condition of the soil

Water Management Technology



Bucket Kit Irrigation Technology is water-saving, time-saving and reduces weed growth.

9/24/2012

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Provision of shelter though participation in DSVP



Farmer proudly shows off the result of hard work in DSVP at Babile.

Onion Seed production at Babile



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Training farmers on seed production
reduces the seed budget

South-South collaboration plays key role in successes



TSAEE has been there!



Radio-man interviews Blind farmer for airing.



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GSAP helps introduce small ruminants to DSVP farmers.



Interacting with farmers in Burkina Faso.



9/26/2011

PROFAY 2011, Arusha, Tanzania

Thank you