



Story from the Field

CSLP PROMOTES BEEKEEPING IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

The USAID-funded and US Forest Service-managed Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP), in collaboration with some of the project's enlisted farmers, prioritized beekeeping management as a livelihood activity of interest compatible with existing practices. It is also one that will provide the added benefit of conserving forest patches and tree cover on farms. The use of these secondary forest patches for beekeeping is an important climate change mitigation activity as farmers see the need for conserving these patches to promote pollination and development of the apiary rather than clearing them and converting them to agricultural land. The apiaries will hopefully provide valuable honey and associated by-products that can be sold locally to meet high demand throughout the country. Thanks to project efforts with farmers, these areas are being conserved and will help maintain important stocks of sequestered carbon.

Through this intervention, 83 farmers (including 73 men and 10 women) in the Nzema East, Ellembelle, and Jomoro districts of Ghana's Western Region who are setting aside secondary forest lands for beekeeping, have gone through two trainings on beekeeping concepts. The first component focused on the basics of beekeeping while the second involved practical training on the establishment of apiaries and initial management practices. As part of the trainings, the farmers were taken through the uses of key beekeeping equipment and tools such as the smoker, protective clothing and the hive itself. Trainees learned how to site an apiary within secondary forests through a demonstration in a nearby site.

As part of the initial efforts, one beehive has been given to one promising farmer in each of the four communities across the three districts. The enthusiastic farmers will start practicing beekeeping at the next swarming season (which is typically late July to early November).



Left: Beekeeping training, Right: Beehive construction training

Additionally, beehive construction training was conducted for six carpenters/artisans; three of whom were CSLP enlisted farmers. At the end of the training, the carpenters constructed six beehives to the very specific standards required for successful hive production. These carpenters have now gained a new skill and will hopefully be engaged by additional farmers to use their knowledge and skills to build additional hives and thereby gain additional income. Initial reports are that farmers have already contacted one carpenter to engage his services on such construction. CSLP intends to engage these newly-trained carpenters on further beehive construction needs as well.