

In Focus

Gladys Atsu

Facts about Gladys

- A farmer and petty trader who didn't receive formal education as a child
- Mother of 6 females aged 9-31 years and 3 other dependants
- Comes from Ghana's Volta Region
- Moved from the Volta Region to Navrongo in Jomoro District 28 years ago
- CSLP enlisted farmer
- Chairperson of *Dzibodi* Village Savings and Loan Association (formed by CSLP)
- Trained by CSLP as a beekeeper and has reserved secondary forest for her apiary
- Integrated over 180 trees on her farm in 2015
- Practicing farmer managed natural regeneration of valuable tree species.
- Promoting climate smart agricultural practices



Pictured is Gladys Atsu (left) and CSLP's Director, Dr. Steve Dennison. Gladys is an active farmer at Navrongo in the Jomoro District of Ghana's Western Region, who has excelled in sustainable landscape management practices. Having participated fully in CSLPs' trainings in agroforestry, enrichment planting, farmer managed natural regeneration, beekeeping, and ecosystem services and livelihoods, among others, she has not relented in her efforts to put lessons learned into practice. Thus far, Mrs. Atsu has integrated more than 180 trees on her farm which includes both cash and food crops. Based on her understanding of climate change and the need for diversified livelihood, she has reserved a secondary forest patch for beekeeping. In addition, she is the Chairperson of the CSLP facilitated *Dzibodi* Village Savings and Loan Association in her community. Mrs. Atsu believes that everyone must help to address the impact of climate change. As she put it,

"... things are changing and most of them are due to human activities. When I moved from my hometown to Navrongo, farming was good but now the weather pattern has changed and it is affecting us. We must all come together and reverse the situation. We have to plant more trees, avoid indiscriminate cutting of trees, fish without chemicals, use/apply organic pesticides and organic manure; these will help us not to die young".

Asked what she feels about CSLP, she said, *"In fact, you (CSLP) have really helped me; you have empowered me, now, I am a beekeeper, adopted best farming practices and developed greater leadership qualities as a VSLA chairperson. Through the VSLA, I now comfortably pay the school fees of my children and other dependents, have expanded my petty trading and can hire more labour for my farm work".* As a beekeeper, she wants her VSLA, which recently had a share out, to start beekeeping in the next few months. CSLP is proud of Mrs. Gladys Atsu and recently awarded her the best female farmer engaged in improved natural resources management/sustainable landscapes management for 2015 at the Farmers' Day Celebration in Jomoro District.



Gladys (left) and Whitney Dubinsky of USAID/Ghana

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