



Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP)

One tiny patch: a woman's quest for food security

In Ghana, as many as 1.2 million people are considered food insecure including farmers and landless laborers. For attaining food security, access to adequate and nutritious food is required.

In 2016, the USAID-funded and US Forest Service-managed CSLP helped the project-supported D/A Junior High School climate change club to establish a climate smart agriculture (CSA) organic vegetable farm. These are part of the goals to increase the number of youth interested in agriculture, to add insurance for long-term food security goals, and also encourage students to share knowledge gained on CSA with their parents. Not only has the goal been achieved, it has created a role model out of one teacher for the community.

Miss Christiana Agyeiwaa, a teacher at Asonti D/A Junior High School has become a model for farmers in Asonti to adopt climate smart agriculture. "I grow my own cabbage now. I can now eat healthily and stay strong," said the teacher turned gardener Christiana Agyeiwaa. "Thanks to the knowledge I acquired on climate smart agriculture from the CSLP." This was not always the case for her.



Christiana Agyeiwaa tending her climate smart agriculture organic cabbage patch. Photo Credit: CSLP

"When I first moved here I wanted to do a little farming but it was difficult to get land. Most of the land had been used to cultivate rubber and cocoa. And because I did not come from here, I did not get anybody to give me land," said Miss Agyeiwaa. For many people like her, living in the Western Region where land for food crop production competes heavily with cash crops like rubber, cocoa and oil palm leaves food crop farmers at a disadvantage.



“I paid close attention to what was taught when we were setting up our school garden. Not long after, our school garden began to take shape,” she noted. Although, the land was brown and not fertile, we did not apply any chemical fertilizers or pesticides.” It was impressive, she said, “It also made me realize that I can grow my own food too. And I could do it anywhere. I only had to care for the land”

“People still can’t believe I did not apply chemical fertilizers and pesticides. They saw the land I used. It was brown and did not have nutrients,” she explained. Armed knowledge she has acquired on composting, mulching, integrated pest management and the dangers posed by pesticides to her health, Miss Agyeiwaa carefully prepared small patch of land in front of her house and planted cabbage.

At the time of our visit the patch had 20 heads of cabbage that were almost due for harvesting. This move has been a positive example for her neighbors and farmers in the community. Miss Agyeiwaa says “my small garden has motivated other people to do same. So far 20 people have asked me how they can start. I am sure that if everybody cultivates something small in their homes, we can all feed ourselves and families will not go hungry. Farmers can also do this to improve their finances,” she added. Miss Agyeiwaa is ready to share her knowledge and experiences with others in the community to enable them become food secure.

Since 2016, the USAID funded and US Forest Service managed CSLP have worked with local NGOs, government and private institutions, farmers and schools to improve on peoples economic wellbeing. CSLP has proudly contributed to improving rural livelihoods, encouraging entrepreneurship and raising students ambassadors for sustainable agriculture by promoting sustainable climate smart agricultural practices among 18 CSA enterprise groups with a population of over 400 farmers along with 8 school climate change clubs in the Western Region who are learning and are applying their new knowledge on both their group demonstration farms and on their individual farms.

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