



SUCCESS STORY

USAID FtF Ghana Agriculture Technology Transfer Project Builds Women's Resilience



Susan Bangmuribu roguing her UDP rice irrigated field

"I got more on half an acre field under UDP and rice transplanting than the previously farming method (broadcasting etc) which improved household food supply"



Adolf Christiana holding tillers of UDP rice on her half acre field

"I am happy to have adopted UDP technology. I had enough food now than before to feed my children-Christiana said."

Telling Our Story

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Bangmuribu Susan, Bongebie Grace and Adolf Christiana are three single mothers in Daffiama-Dakyie community in the Sisala East District of the Upper West Region of Ghana who built their resilience through the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Feed the Future (FtF) Ghana Agriculture Technology Transfer (ATT) Project. Prior to adopting USAID FtF ATT Project's technology-Urea Deep Placement (UDP) rice technology, the three widows got one bag or less per an acre each. Aside poor land preparation, they used to broadcast rice and fertilizer which often resulted in poor yields. "Until we adopted UDP, we hardly got enough from our fields", Susan said.

With larger family sizes, the three widows could barely feed their families throughout the year. Stricken by poverty, their families suffered from insufficiency of household food. "We could not afford to send our children to school, life before now was bad", Susan disclosed. She added "We could not get enough food to feed our families or sell to meet the health, education and financial needs of our children". Susan and her two friends, Bongebie Grace and Adolf Christiana became bread winners of their families after the death of their spouses which happened at different stages and time.

Climate change, soil infertility, poor seeds and inappropriate farming practices and poor yields worsened these women's vulnerabilities. "After receiving training from the project and applying the skills particularly the UDP rice, rice transplanting, and Good Agronomic Practices significantly changed the fortunes of these women for good. Things turned for good for the poor widows when ATT Project introduced farming technologies and innovation to Daffiama-Dakyi community. "I realized that we needed new skills and information in farming and through ATT Project we had enough farming skills and knowledge especially, rice and maize farming", Susan said. Things took a different turn in early 2014 when Susan and her friends took part in the ATT trainings which subsequently introduced them to the UDP rice technology. "We started to witness changes in crop yields in fields under the UDP technology and that is how come we have adopted the technology. We have not regretted adopting UDP", she said.

Farmers in Daffiama-Dakyi community used to broadcast rice and fertilizer on their fields. Mostly prill Urea which often is washed away by running water resulting in poor yields. Aside this, losses associated to rice farming was too much to bear. "It felt bad to harvest nothing after investing so much in your field. Farming before ATT was not encouraging at all. But after participating in the USAID FtF ATT trainings and adopting these skills and practices particularly UDP and line planting, household food situation turned around for good", she pointed out. Beamed with smiles, the poor widow said, "We've learned new effective methods of farming (land preparation, timely application of NKP and UDP (often buried) which has improved yields".

She often harvested between four and ten bags instead of the usual one bag or half. She said that, though the processes of rice transplanting and UDP application seem to slower and tedious than broadcasting, the yields under these technologies are very good. "I got more on half an acre field under UDP technology than the traditional method (broadcasting etc). Susan, in 2017 for example, harvested four (4) 50kg bags of rice on her 4X10 irrigated rice fields under the UDP technology. Through the USAID FtF ATT project, Susan and other women farmers in Daffiama-Dakyi community have built their resilience to cope with the effects of climate change.