

INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET
CONCEPT STAGE

Report No.: 105934

Date ISDS Prepared/Updated: 03-Mar-2016

I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country:	Ghana	Project ID:	P150369
Project Name:	Peri-urban Vegetable Value Chains for Poverty Reduction (P150369)		
Task Team Leader:	Kadir Osman Gyasi		
Estimated Board Date:	June. 25, 2016		
Managing Unit:	AFCW1		
Sector(s):	General agriculture, (100%)		
Theme(s):	Rural markets (60%), Rural services and infrastructure (20%), Other rural development (20%)		
Is this project processed under OP 8.50 (Emergency Recovery) or OP 8.00 (Rapid Response to Crises and Emergencies)?			No
Financing (in USD Million)			
Total Project Cost:	3.655	Total Bank (JSDF) Financing:	2.85
Financing Gap:	0.805		
Financing Source			Amount
BORROWER/RECIPIENT			0.805
Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF)			2.85
Total			3.655
Environmental Category	B - Partial Assessment		
Is this a Repeater project?	No		
Is this a Transferred project?	No		

B. Project Objectives

1. to improve on the productivity and access to market by the beneficiary vegetable farmers in selected peri-urban communities in Ghana

C. Project Description

2. The project results will be achieved through four project components: 1) Farmer Managed Irrigation Systems Development; 2) Farmer Capacity Development and Support to Productivity Improvement; 3) Improving Post-Harvest Handling and Access to Markets; and 4) Project Management,

Monitoring and Evaluation, and Knowledge Dissemination

3. **Component 1: Farmer Managed Irrigation Systems Development (USD 720,456):** The objective of the component is to improve the existing small scale riverine irrigation systems for the resource poor farmers in the selected farming communities which are bounded by perennial water bodies with high potential for irrigation farming. The component will address the characteristic seasonality of vegetable production and thus empower the resource poor farmers to improve their productivity for increased earnings.

4. The component will cover the design and implementation of agriculture irrigation infrastructure, based on the Semi-Californian technology. In particular, it will involve the construction of a closed conduit irrigation systems all the way from the water source (tanks) to the farmers' field. The proposed model, unlike the open canal system which has faced challenges of over irrigation and soil degradation, will enable farmers to have control over the water application and to also shut it off immediately after each irrigation activity. The design will have a network of farms and perimeter roads which will serve for tractor and other transport activities such as for push trucks. Pipes will be laid for pond/tank filling and gravity water distribution from the ponds. This system also known as the Semi-Californian System has been deployed extensively in Burkina Faso with great success. The lessons learnt from the deployment of the system in the Burkina Faso will be taken on-board while also contextualizing the design to suit the local needs.

5. The component will further organized the farmers in each participating community into 2 or more blocks of producer associations/water users (depending on the number of beneficiaries in each community). Selected members of the Groups in each community will serve on the local project management committee who will ensure fair field water distribution and overall responsibility for the management of the irrigation infrastructure. The component will also develop the requisite capacity for irrigation systems management and it will include organizational management, installation, maintenance and repair of irrigation infrastructure etc.

6. The project will, at every participating community, install one Amiran Farmers Kit (AFK) to demonstrate the technology to farmers. The AFK, which is greenhouse technology using drip irrigation, has been proven to have high potential to improve on productivity and quality of produce and thus increase in incomes. Due to the cost per kit vis-à-vis the cost per beneficiary however, the project will not immediately introduce the technology on a mass scale to the farmers. It is expected however that as the farmers profit margins increase, they will in themselves begin to invest in the technology to further improve on their yields and hence incomes.

7. **Project Component 2: Farmer Capacity Development and Support for Productivity Improvement (5453,200):** The aim of this component is to facilitate the adoption of modern and improved production technologies through sustained farmer capacity development and other support systems. The component will design and implement an intensive farmer capacity development program to ensure that farmers have the know-how and adopt modern vegetable production and post-harvest handling techniques to be able to improve their productivity and output. Both workshop based and field based training including FAO's Famer Field School approaches will be adopted for the farmer capacity development. Training areas will include productivity improvement technologies, appropriate use of chemicals and pesticides, agribusiness management, farm management and farm record keeping accounting financial management, post-harvest handling etc. Relevant themes under the Ghana Good Agricultural Practices (GHANA GAP) will be incorporated into the farmer training program.

8. Capacity development for selected Agriculture Extension Agents (AEAs) in the beneficiary

communities who will be directly involved in field activity implementation will also be undertaken. This is to ensure the technical know-how of the selected AEAs is upgraded to effectively provide extension and other support services to the beneficiary farmers and communities. Depending on the number of communities and/or farmers, between 2 to 5 AEAs from each of the District Agriculture Development Directorate of MOFA will be assigned to the project to provide extension support services to the farmers and communities.

9. The grant will provide subsidized starter kits (improved seeds, fertilizers, weedicides, etc.) to the farmer groups to help accelerate technology adoption and increase productivity. Each beneficiary will receive start kit worth approximately US\$70. Input Suppliers will be invited through a competitive tendering based on criteria to be detailed in the bidding document. Supplier's Profile, Legal Status, Experience in execution of similar assignments and financial standing would be critically assessed to assure prompt delivery. At the end of the growing season, the farmers will be required to repay the cost of items supplied to them. The repayment amount will be agreed upon by the participating farmer groups and the information relayed to the Vegetable Warehousing Centre (The end buyer of farmers produce) who will make deductions at source before payment to the individual farmers is effected.

10. **Component 3: Improving Post-Harvest Handling and Market Access:(US\$2,020,080):** The project grant will support farmers to enter into productive partnership arrangements with agriculture entrepreneurs to establish and operate a Farmer Cooperative Vegetable Warehousing Systems with cold storage, cleaning, packaging and labeling facilities. The Warehousing System which will be equipped with refrigerated and cold chain transport system will be an essential off-take facility that guarantees ready high value markets for the farmers' produce. Multi-year supply-purchase agreements between the farmer groups and the Warehousing Center will be facilitated and this will be supported with capacity development for better understanding and adherence to the basic tenants and guiding principles of such systems.

11. The inclusion of the productive partnership entrepreneurs (B-Bovid Limited and Eden Tree Limited) are for strategic reasons. These private enterprises are already well established in the market and have market linkages with supermarkets and restaurants as well as the farmers. They will in addition bring on board their managerial experience to enhance efficiency in the management of the Warehousing System.

12. The farmer groups becoming shareholders in the Warehousing Systems is expected to contribute to reducing and/or mitigating the risk of produce side-selling. It is also to enable the farmers earn additional income to cater for the repair and maintenances of the irrigation infrastructure to be established by project grant. As the profit margins of the Warehousing System improves and farmers earn more income, they can use the additional incomes towards GLOBALGAP Certification to ensure they have the competitive advantage on local vegetables market.

13. The ownership arrangement will be such that the farmer groups will have 37% shareholding while the B-Bovid Ltd and Eden Tree Limited will together hold 63% equity shares. Profits accruing to the farmers groups from their shareholdings will be paid into a dedicated account managed by the executive of the farmer groups, of which withdrawals will be made as to when required to maintain the irrigation infrastructure and to support such activities as the procurement of inputs for the farmers.

14. The component will specifically co-finance i) the procurement of Vegetable Warehousing Systems Equipment; and ii) training of technician operators.

Component 4: Monitoring and Evaluation, and Knowledge Dissemination and Project Management and Administration (147,580):

15. This component would support all activities necessary to ensure that the project is implemented in accordance with the project implementation manual. This component will: (i) finance the incremental expenses incurred by the Government in implementing the project and finance various monitoring and evaluation roles.

Sub-Component A. Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Dissemination

16. The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system will be in line with the implementation structure and results measuring framework for the MESTASIP. A dedicated M&E team will put together to ensure effective and timely monitoring of progress towards achieving the development objective as set out in the Results Framework. The grant proposal will conduct a baseline survey on key parameters within three to six months of project inception. This will form basis for monitoring of progress and achievement of results. An independent evaluation will be conducted at the end of the project to capture project achievements, experiences and lessons learnt for future guidance. Project Implementation Progress reports will be generated quarterly which will be consolidated into annual reports to be shared with all project stakeholders. The project will document the methodologies and processes, achievements, experiences and lessons learnt and circulated it widely including the websites of MOFA, the World Bank, JSDF and other project partners.

Sub-Component B. Project Management and Administration

17. The ministry of Food and Agriculture will establish a project office at the Crops Services Directorate. A Senior Officer of the Directorate will be assigned to coordinate the day-to-day administrative activities of the project. There will be a Project Steering Committee (PSC) comprising the Directors of Crops Services Directorate, Directorate of Agriculture Extension Services, Women in Agriculture Development Directorate, Ghana Irrigation Development Authority, Agriculture Engineering Services Directorate of the Ministry as well as collaborating agencies i.e. Food and Drugs Authority and Crops Research Institute. The PSC will meet semi-annually and will serve to provide the overall policy direction to the project.

18. At the decentralized level, the District Agriculture Development Unit of the participating communities will be responsible for field level implementation of activities and will provide agriculture extension services, training and other support services to the beneficiary farmers. 2-5 AEAs and Agriculture Officers in each of the District, depending on the number of farmers in a particular district, will be assigned to provide required support services to the farmers. Staff (including the Regional Crops Officer, Regional Extension Officer, Regional Engineering Officer etc.) from the Regional Directorates of Agriculture in the Greater Accra, Eastern, Volta, Central and Western Regions will from time to undertake backstopping and supervisory visits to farmers and communities under their respective jurisdictions.

D. Project location and salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)

The proposed project will be implemented in The Greater Accra, Western and Volta regions of Ghana. The planned irrigation infrastructure (in Volta region and Greater Accra) are all located in areas downstream the dam although they would not be drawing water from the Volta river/dam. Water sources for the pump irrigation systems are smaller streams within lower levels of the basin. The other two in the Western region are going to be dugouts in lowlands. The interventions are taking place in communal

lands already being cropped by the beneficiary farmers using traditional farmer managed irrigation systems including shallow wells and small motorized pumps. No lands will be acquired for the irrigation infrastructure but the existing informal irrigation systems would be remodeled into the semi-Californian type being practiced in Burkina Faso. Water would be pumped into tanks and released by gravity onto the irrigation perimeter through pressurized pipes, instead of open canals.

E. Borrowers Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) has a formal set up that focusses on environmental and social (including gender) issues (Land and Water Management Department, and the Women and Agriculture Department (WIAD). The Land and Water Management Department usually collaborates with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to implement environmental and social issues of the Ministry's programs and projects. Moreover, the coordination Unit of the Ghana component of the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP) which is going to coordination of the proposed grant support as well as the Ghana Commercial Agriculture Project (housed in the same building as WAAPP) have environmental and social safeguards teams who are expected to oversee the implementation of the ESMP. The institutional capacity for implementation of the safeguards is substantial but further support in environmental and social safeguards monitoring will be provided by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Isabel Abreu (GEN01)
Demba Balde (GSU01)

II. SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	The project will support existing agricultural production, and new marketing activities. The possible use of production inputs as well as construction of one or two warehouses may generated adverse impacts which however are expected to local and can be mitigated. An ESMF will be prepared by appraisal.
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	No	The project is not expected to impact on natural habitats.
Forests OP/BP 4.36	No	The project is not related to forestry not expected to impact on forests.
Pest Management OP 4.09	Yes	The project will support agricultural production and marketing activities and the possible use of production inputs (including pesticides) triggers OP 4.09; a pest management framework will be prepared by appraisal.
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP	No	The project is not expected to impact on

4.11		physical cultural resources.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	No	There are no indigenous peoples in the project area.
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	The project will support the development of riverine irrigation systems (using pumps) on existing agricultural land. The construction of one or two warehouses (the location of which is not yet known) may require some land acquisition, but is unlikely that the project will lead to physical displacement. The GoG has been consistently committed to addressing social and environmental safeguards issues in previous operations in agriculture and infrastructure. A resettlement policy framework (RPF) will be prepared
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	Dams will not be constructed, nor will the project rely on dams. Semi-Californian irrigation systems (taking sources from streams downstream existing dams) and dugouts, using pumps will be promoted.
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	The project intervention areas exclude areas with water bodies that are international waterways
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	The project is not located in a disputed area.

III. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN

A. Tentative target date for preparing the PAD Stage ISDS:

27-Feb-2015

B. Time frame for launching and completing the safeguard-related studies that may be needed. The specific studies and their timing should be specified in the PAD-stage ISDS.

January - March 2015

IV. APPROVALS

Task Team Leader:	Name: Kadir Osman Gyasi	
<i>Approved By:</i>		
Regional Safeguards Coordinator:	Name: Maman-Sani Issa	Date: 05/15/2016
Practice Manager/Manager:	Name: Simeon Ehui	Date: 05/15/2016

¹ Reminder: The Bank's Disclosure Policy requires that safeguard-related documents be disclosed before appraisal (i) at the InfoShop and (ii) in country, at publicly accessible locations and in a form and language that are accessible to potentially affected persons.