



AGRA

Sustainably Growing
Africa's Food Systems



Improving the
Competitiveness
of Agro-Industries in
Ghana



Ghana Strategic Plan:
2023 – 2027

1. Ghana: Context and the Agriculture Transformation Challenge



For two decades, Ghana recorded impressive economic growth, reducing poverty and achieving middle-income status.



However, the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftereffects have caused cedi depreciation, rising inflation and increased cost of living.



AGRA's strategy aims for a better impact to build strong and resilient agri-food systems for a more resilient economy.



2. AGRA's Strategy in Ghana

AGRA 1.0 - AGRA 2.0: 2007 - 2021

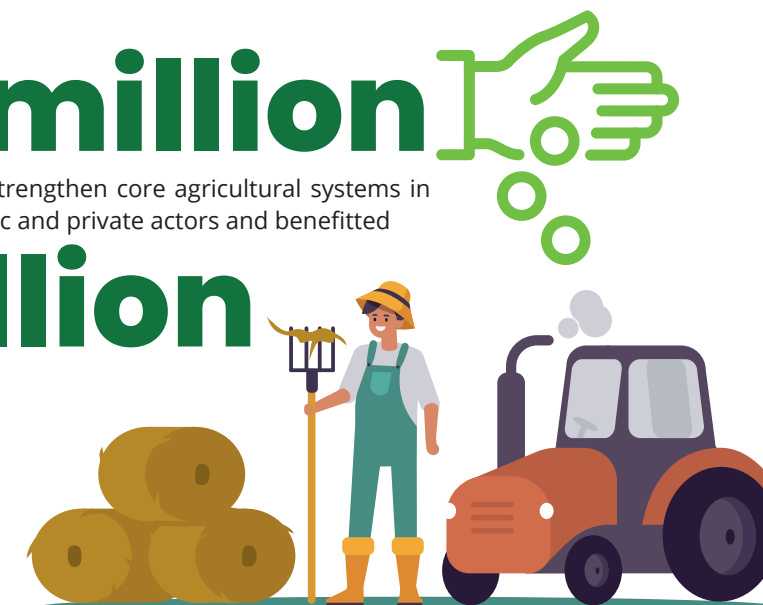
AGRA has invested

\$60 million

since 2007 to build and strengthen core agricultural systems in Ghana, working with public and private actors and benefitted

2 million

small holder farmers.



Positive Impact

Based on a strong government commitment to agriculture-led economic development demonstrated by well-structured policies and investment plans (NIPS), this has translated into a strong sector growth, moving from 2.3% in 2015 to an impressive 7% in 2020.



Gaps

The progress made in Ghana's inclusive agricultural transformation journey has not been optimized.



Reasons

The sector has not adequately linked production to processing and markets, and has not succeeded in driving the integration with other sectors.

Productivity remains low while fragmented high-cost crop production is unable to support a strong processing sub-sector.

AGRA 3.0: 2023 - 2027

Entry Point

Unlock productivity and trade through a competitive agro-processing industry, supporting the maize, rice, cassava soybean, and vegetable value chains and focusing mainly on the five northern regions, Volta, Eastern, as well as the Bono regions while keeping a country-wide view on the value chains of focus.

Overall Goal

Catalyze an inclusive transformation of the Ghanaian agriculture and food system through a competitive agro-processing industry that drives farmer productivity, resilience and jobs.



1,200,000

By 2030, AGRA's support will enable 1,200,000 smallholder farmers to graduate from subsistence to market-oriented and diversified farming systems, contributing to increased incomes and food security.

Strategic Objectives

This will be delivered through **three mutually reinforcing strategic objectives**;



SO1:

Strengthen Institutional capacity for an enabling environment for the transformation of agri-food systems



SO2:

Enhance the competitiveness of SMES in agro-processing value addition to create shared value.



SO3:

Strengthen Resilience of Raw Material Supply Chains for inclusive agro-processing sub-sector.

3 Key policy priorities guiding AGRA's country strategy for Ghana



Modernize and Enhance Production Systems



Strengthen institutional and organizational capacity to modernize Ghana's agriculture



Create an enabling agribusiness environment



Mitigate climate change effects and enhance sustainable land and water resources management



Enhance sector coordination and collaboration



Seed Systems

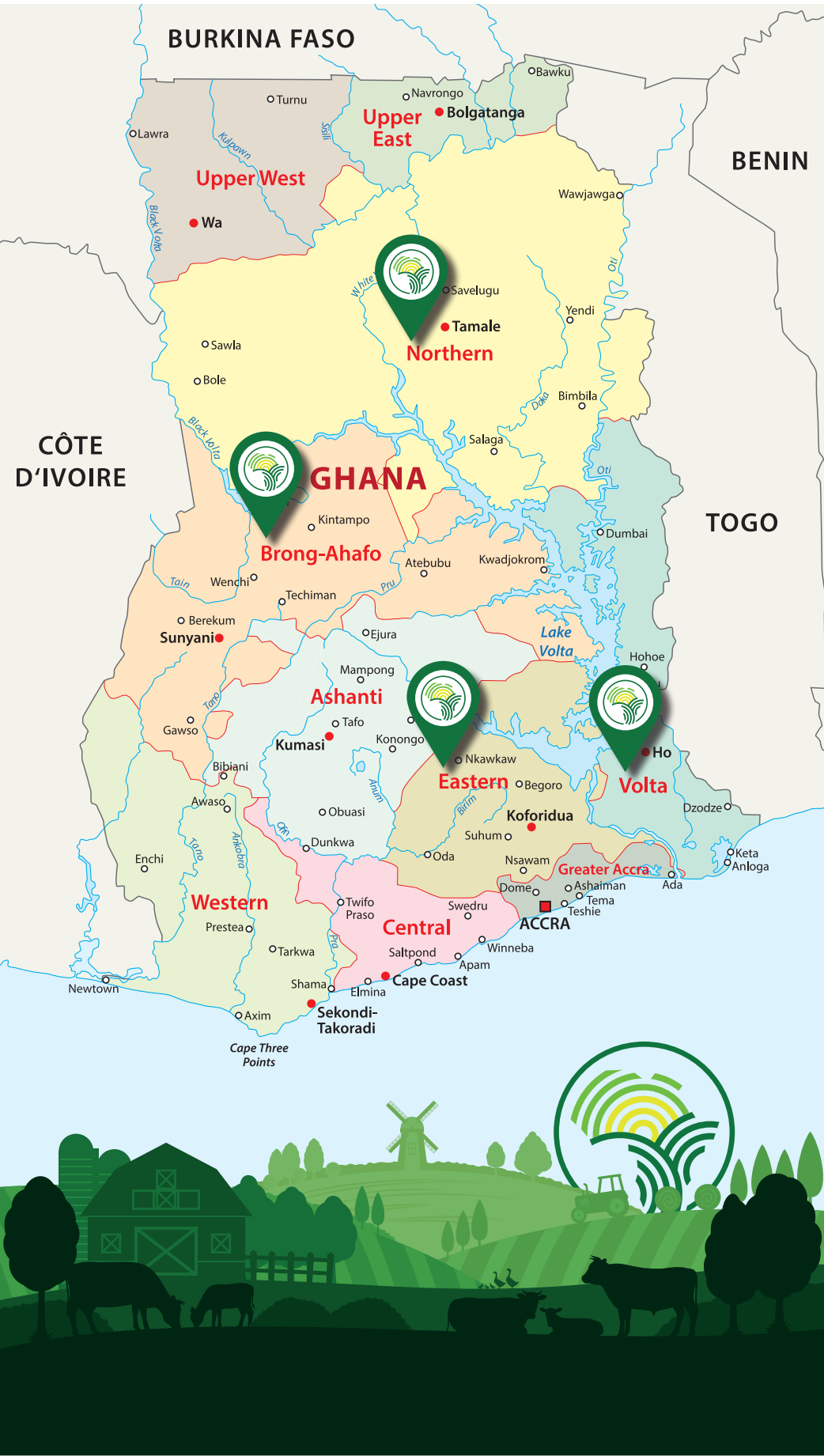
To promote the adoption of certified seeds by farmers, we should strengthen the institutional infrastructure for planning and coordinating the seed industry, facilitate the production and supply of early generation and certified seed, increase the business capacity of seed companies, and provide technical assistance to strengthen capacity for research, development, and innovations.

4. Summary of proposed activities from AGRA Ghana’s 2023 - 2027 strategy

AGRA’s interventions will work to address the gap between production and post-harvest management (agro-processing, value addition, and marketing); caused by inadequate policy coordination that discourages the use of technology and prevents smallholder farmers from taking part in agri-food markets. This focus is in line with Ghana’s progress in agricultural transformation and what is necessary to maintain the momentum. This will be done through four interrelated thematic areas as shown below:

Business Line	Proposed Activities
Inclusive Markets & Trade 	To help SMEs become more viable for investments, a sustainable BDS ecosystem and technical support framework should be created. This should include scale-up support for domestic rice value chains, better coordination among market actors, and the application of creative trade finance techniques. Additionally, trade facilitation should be improved through post-harvest management systems, traceability systems, food safety regulations, and price discovery mechanisms.
Seed Systems 	To promote the adoption of certified seeds by farmers, we should strengthen the institutional infrastructure for planning and coordinating the seed industry, facilitate the production and supply of early generation and certified seed, increase the business capacity of seed companies, and provide technical assistance to strengthen capacity for research, development, and innovations.
Policy & State Capability 	To facilitate the operationalization of the Ghana Grains Development Authority, the government must coordinate and collaborate between ministries and strengthen the capacity of states to be mutually accountable, develop and disseminate strategies and regulations to support agro-processing, value additions and agricultural marketing policy, and support the delivery of Ghana’s five-year Institutional Capacity Development Plan.
Sustainable Farming 	Create a pluralistic extension system that includes the C/VBA model to provide farmers with access to high-quality inputs such as climate-smart, nutrient-rich varieties, sustainable farming techniques, and delivery services. Additionally, enhance digital extension content to meet the requirements of climate change adaptation and resilient food systems through Tech4Ag platforms. Additionally, support collaboration between public and private organizations to broaden access to quality organic and inorganic fertilizers, while incorporating various soil health and water management technologies.
Jobs & Inclusivity 	By leveraging the green-house village initiative, we can create high-value, high-impact horticulture value chains, providing employment opportunities to the youth. Additionally, Value4Her and other platforms should facilitate linkages between women farmers, SMEs, off takers, buyers, preprocessors, etc. to further foster the creation of an enabling environment and an improved entrepreneurship ecosystem for youth-led Agri-food enterprises. Finally, we should strengthen formal and informal youth support institutions, and increase inclusion and voice for young people.
Nutrition 	Offer technical support for investments in Pillar 1 of the proposed food systems, which is devoted to creating robust and secure local production of nutritious foods.

5. Farmer Mobilization and Phasing for the Strategy 3.0



6. Conclusion

This Ghana country strategy is in line with AGRA's corporate strategy that works to help African nations put an end to hunger, better nutrition, eradicate poverty and prepare for climate change.

Additionally, it supports the Food and Agriculture Sector Development Policy (FASDEP III, 2021) of Ghana which concentrates on modernized farming, leading to an economy that has been restructured, improved food security, job opportunities and lower poverty, with a special attention to agro-processing and value addition, and a rise in the supply of raw materials for agro-industries.

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