

FINAL WORKSHOP REPORT

DATE: 7TH TO 8TH JANUARY, 2021 VENUE: GHANAPERMACULTURE INSTITUTE (PAOLO HALL)

INTRODUCTION

This workshop focused on peasant farmers in the Brong Ahafo Region of Ghana. Peasant farmers in this region face issues such as, land litigation, how to acquire funding, Application of chemicals. Ghana permaculture Institute invited resource persons from various universities and Agricultural Departments in this region. These resource Persons educated participants on how to acquire a litigation free land, acquire loans or funding to expand their farming business and how to produce organic farm produce. This workshop invited 60 peasant farmers within the Brong Ahafo region and took them through lectures for two (2) days. Participants and resource persons were given lunch and snacks and transportation fees to cover their travel expenses.

Learning goals of the workshop

1. To help peasant farmers to understand the land litigation process and how to acquire land without any disputes
2. To help farmers to understand the processes of acquiring loans or funding to expand their farming businesses
3. To gradually convince farmers to move from inorganic farming into organic farming

Day 1 (7th January,2021)

60 peasant farmers who were invited by Ghana Permaculture institute, reported and were taking through a lecture by Mr. Emmanuel Yaw Opoku (PhD) from the Valley View University (VVU) on the topic; Acquisition of funding to invest in farming business. The entire lecture lasted for about 2 hours. The peasant farmers were taken through processes of acquiring flexible loans from banks and financial institutions and the requirement involved.

They were also advised to form an association that will give them a better standing in search of loans for their members. An Alternative way of getting funding could be than by the members by contributing an amount each to help the members in turns, thus, all members will contribute to help a member and this will go on until the members are covered.

The farmers asked questions and were content with the new ideas shared by the resource person. There was an hour break for participants and experts to have lunch and refresh themselves for the next lecture.

The next lecture on the topic; Process of acquiring land for farming was delivered by Mr. Asomani, the director for Ministry of food and Agriculture in the Techiman municipal. He

explained the types of land types and the uses and the ways of acquiring and litigation free land. Most of the farmers didn't have any proper documents on their lands and may face some litigations in the future. These farmers asked for assistance and the processes they could go through to register their lands were given assistance from the resource persons.

Day 2 (8th January, 2021)

On the second day, the farmers were taken through lecture by Mr. Paul DK Toulong on the topic Effects of agrochemicals. He advised on the effects of these agrochemicals on the land, water plants, animals and humans. Farmers were advised to find alternative ways such as application of organic fertilizers and chemicals for their farming to reduce the negative effect on nature. Mr. Paul Yeboah also took the farmers on the indigenous ways of farming without the use of these agrochemicals. The farmers were taken through the practical ways of preparing organic fertilizer and pesticides from local plants to avoid the use of agrochemicals. The Lecture lasted for two hours each.

Evaluation of the workshop

The participants were asked what they think about the workshop and what they have learnt from the workshop. Almost all the participant said they have learnt a lot and would wish that such workshops are organized for them regularly to help them gain more knowledge about the work. They also promised to practice all that has been taught them during the lecture.

The evaluation was done verbally(orally) because most of the farmers are illiterates and could not read or write.

Ghana permaculture Institute can confidently say, 95% of our goal for the workshop has been achieved because almost all the farmers invited didn't have any proper documentations for their farm lands, but through this workshop, they will be able to register their lands and be free from litigations. Those who have proper documentation to acquire loans were given advice about how to start the process, most of the farmers too have promised to switch from agrochemicals to organic fertilizers and pesticides.

Conclusion

Ghana permaculture Institute has been able to achieve almost all the goals set for this workshop. The peasant farmers were also happy and ready for more of such workshops to build their capacity in their work. Ghana Permaculture Institute is pleased that the workshop has been a success.