



GHANA NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FARMERS AND FISHERMEN

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OUR REF: GAF-26-06-22-071

YOUR REF: _____

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONSISTENT RAINS PRESENT OPPORTUNITY FOR WATER HARVESTING AND ALL-YEAR-ROUND FARMING

The Ghana National Association of Farmers and Fishermen (GNAFF) has observed with interest the consistent and widespread rainfall being experienced across many parts of the country in recent weeks. While the rains have brought relief to farmers following recent concerns over prolonged dry spells and erratic weather conditions, they also present an important opportunity that Ghana must not allow to go to waste.

Only a short while ago, farmers across the country were grappling with severe dry spells that threatened crops, reduced yields and placed immense hardship on farming households. The lack of water exposed the vulnerability of Ghana's largely rain-fed agricultural system and highlighted the urgent need for sustainable water management solutions.

Today, as the rain continues to fall, GNAFF is calling on government, local authorities, development partners and individual farmers to take deliberate steps to harvest, store and conserve water for future agricultural use.

The Association is particularly concerned about the current state and functionality of the One District, One Dam initiative. We wish to ask: Are the dams effectively collecting and retaining water to support dry-season farming? Are they being properly maintained and utilized? If not, what measures are being taken to restore their functionality and ensure they serve their intended purpose?

GNAFF believes that an assessment of the One District, One Dam project is necessary to determine its effectiveness in supporting irrigation and climate-resilient agriculture. The nation deserves to know whether these critical investments are helping farmers build resilience against future droughts and dry spells.

We also urge individual farmers to seize the opportunity presented by the current rains by investing in simple and affordable water-harvesting technologies. These include farm ponds, reservoirs, water retention trenches, lined storage pits, small irrigation systems and other water conservation methods that can capture and store excess rainwater for use during the dry season.

The Association further calls on government to develop and implement a comprehensive long-term water management strategy capable of harnessing periods of heavy and consistent rainfall to support year-round agricultural production. Such a strategy should include the expansion of irrigation infrastructure, rehabilitation of existing dams and reservoirs, promotion of water harvesting technologies, and support for climate-smart agricultural practices.

Ghana cannot continue to alternate between floods during the rainy season and water shortages during the dry season. The country must strategically capture and store excess rainfall to ensure continuous agricultural production, improve food security, create jobs and strengthen the resilience of farming communities.

GNAFF remains committed to working with government and all stakeholders to promote sustainable agriculture and ensure that Ghana's farmers and fishermen are equipped to withstand the growing challenges posed by climate change.

The time to prepare for the next dry season is now. Every drop of water conserved today will help secure the future of Ghana's agriculture tomorrow.

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Signed

VINCENT MENSAH

(Greater Accra Regional Chairman)

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