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CRAN NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2017 “FAITH WITH DEEDS”

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The West African Civil Society Institute (WACSI) has organized training workshops for civil society organizations (CSOs) in which two of CRAN staff took part. This forms part of their efforts to strengthen civil society organizations in the country. WACSI has a broad aim of building the capacity of CSOs through training of their human resource to enable them perform their roles more efficiently. The training workshops were organized separately for the Managers and project officers of the CSOs. The first training workshop which was a two-day programme was organized for the Managers of the CSOs on leadership and governance. This came off from the 27th-28th of February 2017 at the WACSI office in at East Legon, Accra. The second training which took place at the same venue for the project officers was on result-based monitoring and evaluation from the 1st-3rd of March 2017. CRAN’s Head of Administration attended the workshop on governance and leadership, while the Project Officer attended the one on monitoring and evaluation. These form the first batch of series of training set for all the CSOs which have receive approval by WACSI to undergo series of training to enable them build their capacity. CRAN is hopeful that the skills and lessons learned from these workshops will go a long way to strengthen the organization.



Participants at the workshop. Extreme left on the first table is CRAN’s participant—Teye Kodzi, the project officer. The picture on right shows the facilitator explaining an issue to the participants



CARI EXTENDS CONTRACT WITH CRAN

The Competitive African Rice Initiative (CARI) contract with CRAN has been extended until March 2018. The initial contract which came to a close at the end of November 2016 has been renewed by the funders - GIZ. CRAN is very grateful for the gesture.

Earlier, CARI and its stakeholders met in an end of project briefing where the issues bordering the first contracts were discussed.

The first contracted ended with a good success. CRAN was able to support four thousand and sixty-one (4,061) farmers in the rice sector in the target communities. The project exceeded its target by sixty-one farmers. Out of this number 69% of them were women. The yield per hectre improved from 2.5 metric tons to 3.5 metric tons. The farmers are very happy for the intervention of CRAN as this business which has been their main occupation has been difficult to carry through over the years. CRAN among other things, prepared the ground for them with the bulldozer, clearing the stamps and removing obstacles, and leveling the ground for easy cultivation. CRAN also gave them adequate training on how to cultivate the rice. The farmers were also well monitored by the CRAN technical staff to ensure that they were following the guidelines given them. The combination of all these efforts led to the success we have chalked. It is therefore not surprising that CARI has decided to extend the contract. The extension will benefit the farmers greatly as they look forward to the continual support from the technical team of CRAN.



A female farmer being assisted to operate a tiller machine as part of the training.

9TH ANNUAL MICROFINANCE CONFERENCE

The two-day microfinance annual conference which drew microfinance practitioners from all over the country took place at the Sasakawa Conference Room, UCC from the 9th-10th of February 2017. The conference was on the theme; “the future of microfinance: sustainability of microfinance institutions and financial inclusion”. CRAN’s Executive Director, Prof Patrick Agbesinyale served as a panelist in one of the sessions. Drawing from his vast experience through the practice of microfinance over the years, Prof Agbesinyale said regulation can help a great deal to make microfinance institutions sustainable. He with the other facilitators were able to answer the issues that were raised during the conference by the participants.



Prof Patrick Agbesinyale (second from left) sitting with the panel members at the Microfinance conference

ESTHER MAN-ANKRAH WEDS

Esther Mann-Ankrah, the Unit Manager of the Elmina Branch of CRAN MF has been wedded. The wedding ceremony took place at the House of Prayer for All Nations Church in Cape Coast, Ghana on the 12th of February 2017. She is now known as Mrs. Esther Kuntu Blankson. The colourful event attracted large crowd including, family members, members of the church and well wishers. This is the second marriage of Esther who lost her first husband a decade ago. She was a staff of CRAN when she lost her husband. In order to support her meet the heavy financial burden to educate her two children who were then in the primary school, the children were enrolled onto the CRAN CESS programme. Samuel Yarquah and her sister Rosamond are doing very well in school. Samuel has since completed secondary school while Rosamond is in form two doing very well. She is among the top five in form two. We thank God that after the long wait, God has given Esther another wonderful husband. We wish them happy marriage.



Esther and her husband at the wedding ceremony.

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