

CRAN NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2015 ISSUE - *F A I T H W I T H D E E D S*

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CRAN DONATES BOOKS TO ABEKA NKWANTA COMMUNITY LIBRARY



MR. Kodzi (with orange arrow) with pupils and some members of the community displaying the books

CRAN donated story books and text books to Abeka Nkwanta Community Library on the 29th of September 2015 during one of Microsfere's Project field monitoring trips. The books are meant to help stock Abeka Nkwanta community library which was built by Microsfere to help children in the community to improve their reading skills and develop the habit of reading.

According to Mr. Kodzi, CRAN'S Project Coordinator, the books would go a long way to help the children to improve their ability to express themselves in English.

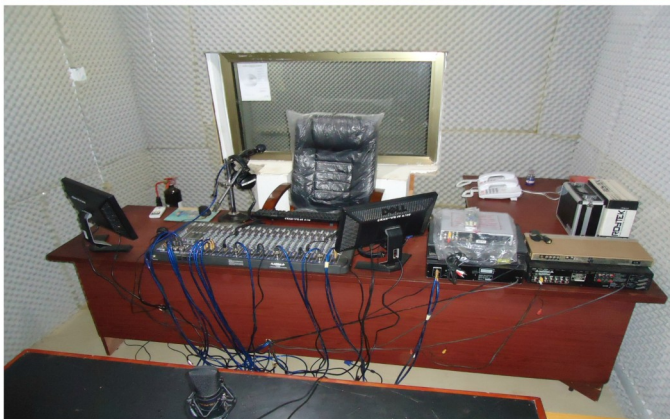
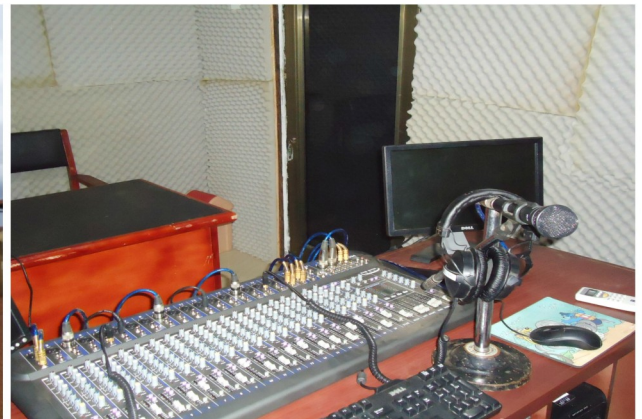




HERITAGE FM; PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Radio Heritage was set up by joint partnership of CRAN (with 60% shares), Adom Business Ventures and Amelima Ventures in 2010. CRAN's goal was to use the radio as a tool to inform and educate people in Hohoe and its environs to promote development.

CRAN partnered with Hohoe Bla community leaders to acquire a building for the radio station. The building acquired was an old post office of the community no longer in use which was refurbished and used as office space for the radio station. Continued on page 5.....



Outside and inside view of Heritage FM



COMPETITIVE AFRICAN RICE INITIATIVE (CARI) PROJECT COMMENCES

The main objective of CARI is to improve the lot of women in rice production, processing and marketing. The project implementation has started in earnest in the Volta Region, specifically in the Hohoe, Kpando, Afadjato South and North Dayi Districts.

CRAN has undertaken baseline survey of 400 rice value chain actors in the targeted districts. CRAN has visited partner institutions like the Department of Agriculture of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the District Assemblies as well as rice farmers, processors and informed them about the project and solicited their support.

CRAN has also identified some lowlands and earmarked them to be used for demonstrations. Furthermore, CRAN in partnership with Technoserve, CARI implementing partners/ Agency organized Trainer of Trainers (ToT) capacity building in Business Skills for Rice Millers, Extension Agents and Service Providers on the CARI project at Sogakofe from 20-23rd Sept 2015.



Some facilitators and participants at work during the CARI business skills training.

UPDATE ON RICE SECTOR SUPPORT PROJECT (RSSP)

Farmers are planting their rice on the developed valleys; MoFA and CRAN are facilitating the establishment of demonstration plots and learning plots for farmers to learn the Good Agronomic Practices (GAPs) and Systems of Rice intensification (SRI). Farmers have also received rice seeds, herbicides and fertilizers from the Export Development and Agricultural Investment Fund (EDAIF) through MoFA to support their rice production at an interest rate of 10%. Farmers are excited because, their lowlands have been developed and the rains though did not start early, is coming in quantities that is desirable for rice optimum growth and they envisage good harvest this 2015 season .



Pic1) A woman rice farmer transplanting, a technology that ensures higher yields.

Pic2) Demonstration and learning activity on the demo plot.

Pic 3) CRAN staff visited some rice farmers on their field to provide technical support in planting rice.



Continued from page 2....

Radio Heritage began with volunteer staff and latter professionals were recruited in order to improve on output and operations.

Radio Heritage is licensed as a community radio station hence its broadcasting reach is low, for this reason, there is a challenge in getting market for its operations. The Board of Heritage FM has decided to explore the possibility of upgrading the radio station by getting it licensed for commercial operation. This however is yet to be approved by the National Communication Authority (NCA) of Ghana.

The radio station is operating effectively and many listeners in the Hohoe and its environs enjoy their programs. The challenge of Heritage FM however is that the high electricity and fuel cost for running the station due to frequent power outages making the station unprofitable. As a result some of their experienced staff are resigning because of salaries delays as the station barely breaks even. Management is adopting strategies that would enable it to run efficiently through pruning down the staff numbers and selling airtime to staff. The station is also running Radio and TV training school to raise funds to meet its expenses and also barter with cooperate organizations for services to survive.