

**NATIONAL FOREST PLANTATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM<sup>1</sup>  
UNDER THE MODIFIED TAUNGYA SYSTEM  
AND  
BY PRIVATE DEVELOPERS  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2003**

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The National Forest Plantation Development Programme (NFPDP) that was launched by His Excellency in September 2001 has been progressing satisfactorily over the past two years. The programme is aimed at encouraging the development of a sustainable forest resource base that will satisfy future demand for industrial timber and enhance environmental quality. Additionally, the programme is to generate jobs and contribute to food production in the country thereby help to create wealth and reduce poverty among the rural communities.

Against an annual planting target of 20,000 ha an estimated total area of 35,000<sup>+</sup> ha has been planted so far using the Modified Taungya System since the introduction of the Special Presidential Initiative in year 2001. This is made up of about 17,460.9 ha (approximately 87% of the target) planted in 2002 and 17,691 ha (about 88% of the annual target) in year 2003. Available records also have it that about 67 active Private Developers have planted an estimated total area of 6,835 ha in degraded forest reserves over the past two years.

The achievements under the MTS in year 2003 as well as the performance by the private developers over the past two years are yet to be assessed to confirm the reported levels of achievements.

A variety of species have been planted which include Teak, Cedrella, Cassia, Eucalyptus (exotics); Wawa, Opronon, Ofram and Emire, Mahogany, Ceiba, Nyankom, Edinam, Utille, and Otie (indigenous). Cassia, and Eucalyptus species are being planted in the northern and coastal savannah zones mainly for fuel wood.

The first part of this report covers progress made towards achieving the project target for year 2003 under the Modified Taungya System (MTS). Some constraints hindering the smooth implementation of the program are also mentioned including the conduct of Fulani herdsmen.

The second part of the report presents a summary of performance by the private entrepreneurs who have been allocated parts of degraded areas within forest reserves in various regions for reforestation.

## **2. THE PLANTATION PROGRAM UNDER THE MODIFIED TAUNGYA SYSTEM**

### **2.1 Objectives of the Program**

The plantation development program under the MTS is in line with the overall objectives of the National Forest Plantation Development Programme aimed at:

- restoration of forest cover of degraded forest reserves.
- addressing the wood deficit situation in the country, especially timber, which has been estimated as 4-5 million-m<sup>3</sup> year<sup>-1</sup> and fuelwood consumption also estimated at 14 million-m<sup>3</sup> year<sup>-1</sup>.
- creation of employment opportunities at the rural community level and generate income for plantation owners, timber processors and the national economy.
- contribute to food production in the country.

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<sup>1</sup> NFPDP end-of-year rep 2003

## 2.2. Expected Outputs

The program is expected to deliver the following key outputs:

- 20,000 ha of degraded forest reserve lands planted annually.
- 80,000 jobs provided annually mainly to rural communities.
- 30,000 tonnes of foodstuff produced annually.

## 2.3. Estimated budget for Year 2003 Target

The summary of the estimated budget for year 2003 is provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Summary of Estimated Project Budget – Year 2003

Description of Activity	Estimated Project cost (¢)
Field Operations/Services	20,076,836,250.00
Administration	1,682,759,250.00
Capital Items	6,453,125,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,212,720,475.00</b>

## 2.4. Activities and Outcomes

### 2.4.1 Survey/Demarcation/Pillaring

#### 2.4.2 Survey and Demarcation

Survey and demarcation of sites for the year 2003 coupes were completed within forest reserves in the districts to cover an estimated area of 19,543 ha (98% of the target). Labour for the activity was organized from the local communities but under the leadership of Forest Services Division (FSD) staff. Regional details of areas demarcated are provided in Table 1 (Appendix I)

The total area demarcated fell short of the expected 20,000 ha by 2%. While some regions appeared to have demarcated a little more than their targets, others had difficulty identifying sufficient degraded areas to meet their assigned targets. In some instances the local communities declined rather lately to participate and failed to prepare their sites (e.g. Chiana community in the Upper East Region).

Regional Managers have submitted their field books to the Resource Management Support Centre (RMSC) to cross check the survey details and prepare digitised maps of the plantation sites.

Meanwhile arrangements are underway to check-survey of all sites to confirm the reported levels of achievements by the regions. The exercise is almost completed in the Eastern Region.

#### 2.4.3 Pillaring of demarcated sites

Various Regions have commenced the production of miniature pillars (12 cm x 12 cm x 40 cm) and mounting of the pillars will begin at full scale soon.

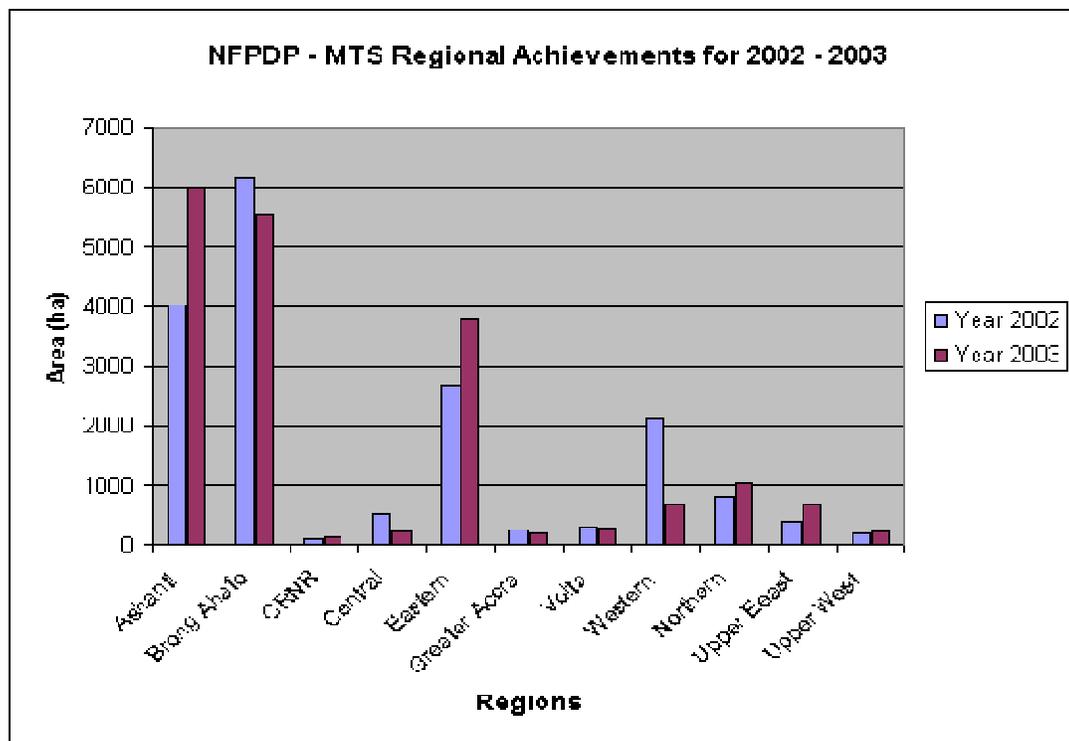
#### 2.4.4 Site preparation

Site preparation was carried out by the Taungya Farmers except for the Northern Regions, Greater Accra, Central (Winneba District) and Brong Ahafo (Sunyani District) where the project provided support for ploughing and lopping. An estimated total area of 19,000 ha (99% of the total demarcated area) was reportedly cleared. Regional details of achievements are in Table 1 (Appendix I). Comparative figures for the two years running are shown in Table 2 and Figure 1.

Table 2 National Forest Plantation Development Program  
 "Modified Taungya System" (MTS)  
 Comparative Regional Achievements (Estimated) for 2002 and 2003

Region	Area (Ha)	
	Year 2002	Year 2003
Ashanti	4033	5,441.8
Brong Ahafo	6165.4	5,182
CRNR	120	150
Central	435.94	212
Eastern	2656	3918
Greater Accra	249.1	200
Volta	307.07	109.5
Western	2109.39	653.2
Northern	800	1087.5
Upper East	385	516
Upper West	200	221
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,460.90</b>	<b>17,691</b>

Figure 1



Series 1 (Year 2002)

Series 2 (Year 2003)

#### 2.4.5 Seed Collection/Procurement

Seed collection gangs, comprising FSD personnel and hired labour from the local communities were formed at the various Regions/Districts for seed collection. About 2500 kg of seeds were obtained from established seed stands (Teak and Cedrella) and other identified indigenous seed trees in forest reserves. Additionally, FSD procured 2000 kg of Teak seeds from FORIG and distributed them to various districts, which in turn supplied the seeds to various nursery

operators in the districts to produce seedlings for the project. The three northern regions also benefited from the supply of 6 kg of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* seeds procured from Burkina Faso.

#### 2.4.6 Seedling Production/Procurement

The project was expected to consume a little over 25 million seedlings of various species to plant up the 20,000 ha. Most FSD districts therefore expanded their model nurseries in addition to new ones that were established to cope with the increased levels of seedlings required for planting up their respective planting targets.

A total of 210 communities, a few institutions and private nursery operators throughout the country were contracted to produce and supply about 80% of the estimated seedling stocks required for planting during the year which fetched the communities almost 8 Billion Cedis. Details of regional production of seedlings are provided in Table (Appendix I).

The Ghana Chamber of Mines (GCM) donated 27,500 seedlings of various species (mostly indigenous) in support of the on-going Special Presidential Initiative (SPI) on reforestation. For convenience, the Regional Forestry Manager (Western) was directed to take delivery of the seedlings for use in the region. The stocks and donors were as follows:

Table 3. Seedlings donated to Forestry Commission by the Ghana Chamber of Mines

Donor Company	Species (Quantities)
Abosso Goldfields	<i>Cedrella odorata</i> (300), <i>Azadiracta indica</i> (200)
Bogoso Gold Limited	<i>Acacia mangium</i> (2000), <i>Acacia auriculiformis</i> (2000), <i>Cassia siamea</i> (1000)
Chirano Gold Limited	Asanfena (4000), Ofram (4000), Opronon (4000), Esa spp. (2000), Brebretum (2000), Akye (2000), Watapuo (2000)
Gold Fields (Gh) Limited	<i>Cedrella odorata</i> (800), Baku (200), Nyankom (500), Teak (500)

#### 2.4.7 Peg Cutting and Pegging

##### 2.4.8 Peg Cutting

The activity was given out on contract to local communities who supplied over 19 million pegs for the project.

##### 2.4.9 Pegging

Pegging covered an estimated total area of 18,413 ha (95% of the cleared area). It must be mentioned here that not all sites, particularly in the northern regions, are pegged before planting. Achievements by the various regions are indicated in Table 1 (Appendix I).

##### 2.4.10 Planting Out

Planting commenced at most of the sites from the middle of May with the onset of the rains and was to be intensified in June. Unfortunately there was an unexpected break in rainfall before the end of June, which impeded work at almost all the districts; further planting had to be suspended during the latter part of June and resumed about the middle of October.

Notwithstanding the unfavourable weather situation an estimated area of 17,691 ha was reported as having been planted as at the end of October 2003, the most remarkable performances coming from Greater Accra, Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Central, Western and Upper West Regions (See Table 1).

##### 2.4.11 Survival Surveys/Assessments

##### 2.4.12 Assessment (Year 2002 Coupes)

A nation-wide assessment (technical audit) of areas planted in year 2002 under the MTS was completed during the year. Resource Management Support Centre (RMSC) has submitted a report on the analyses of the data to FSD headquarters. From the analysis the overall

performance was generally quite good, about 70% survival, though a few sites registered poor survival rates which were attributed to various reasons notably neglect of sites by some Taungya Farmers, damage/destruction of seedlings during tending by hired labour, damage by pests and diseases, among others.

Plans are underway to hold a workshop by the end of January 2004 to discuss the results and also plan for assessments of year 2003 coupes; this time to cover areas established by private entrepreneurs.

#### **2.4.13 Survival Survey (Current Year Coupes)**

Survival survey of the initial planting revealed that pests (termites and squirrels) attacked and destroyed many of the young seedlings, particularly the stumps, following the unexpected break in rainfall, which also placed the young plants under water stress. The situation was quite extensive at several sites particularly Ashanti, Brong Ahafo and Eastern Regions and would require replanting of the affected sites when the rains returned.

Other Regions also encountered heavy losses from the initial plantings and attributed that to erratic rainfall experienced during the year.

There were also reported cases of outbreak of die-back disease and other deformity among *Ceiba pentandra* seedlings and saplings in the 2002 and 2003 coupes all over (even from areas being developed by private entrepreneurs) but notably in the Upper West region where an estimated 45 ha of the 2002 coupe in the Kamba Tributaries FR was damaged by the disease and had to be replanted. The observation has been referred to FORIG to investigate and Regional/District Managers also advised to refrain from further planting the species until a solution has been found to the problem.

#### **2.4.14 Beating-up**

Many of the sites reported high incidence of seedling mortality as a result of the long break in rainfall during the main season. There would therefore be the need for extensive beating up at most sites. It is anticipated that the planned technical audit of work done at the various sites would better inform on the extent of beating up required.

#### **2.4.15 Tending**

This is the responsibility of the Taungya Farmers but the project incurred heavy expenses to maintain areas reportedly abandoned by farmers. Available records put the estimated total area apparently abandoned by farmers at almost 8,520 ha within the 2002 and 2003 coupes. Regional/District Managers have been advised to initiate processes to claim and document all such areas as part of FC's assets.

#### **2.4.16 Roads/Ride Construction**

##### **2.4.16.1 Ride Construction**

The layouts of many of the rides were created during the initial site preparation and remain to be conditioned to make them suitable for use by small vehicles (4-Wheel Drive) and other machinery within the plantations.

##### **2.4.16.2 Road Construction**

The activity will be organised under a comprehensive infrastructure program and awarded on contract. Meanwhile we await completion of maps covering areas that have been planted so far in order to plan and design the road layout and network within the plantations. The intention is to submit proposals to the Sector Minister to consult with the Ministry of Roads and Transport to handle the construction works as part of the national programme on roads.

#### **2.4.17 Maintenance of Rides**

Routine maintenance of rides has been contracted out to local communities and has been on-going.

#### 2.4.18 Fire Patrols

Fire volunteer groups from local communities were organised to patrol the year 2002 coupes between January and March 2003. The activity was particularly intensive in the northern savannah and transitional zones, the northern parts of Eastern as well as Greater Accra and Volta Regions. The exercise yielded good results with fire occurrence during the season speculated to have been about 20 percent.

#### 2.4.19 Food Production

From all indications the on-going national plantation development programme under the modified taungya system has been making very substantial contributions to food production in the country. Current statistics on food production for year 2003 has it that Taungya Farmers produced over 120,00 tonnes of variety of foodstuff mainly maize (20,000), cocoyam (8,000) and plantain (100,000).

However, the Ministry of Lands & Forestry acting through the Forest Services Division of the Forestry Commission, provided tractor services at very moderate fees to enable Taungya Farmers cart their foodstuffs from the year 2002 taungya farms in various reserves. The exercise, which took place in Ashanti, Brong Ahafo and Eastern Regions between October 2002 and February 2003, became necessary following the bumper harvest of foodstuffs, much of which had been locked up in taungya farms that were not easily accessible by ordinary means of transport because of the poor nature of feeder roads in the localities. Though before the start of the exercise, a greater proportion of foodstuffs had been evacuated from many taungya farms, additional 359 tonnes of a variety of foodstuffs were evacuated during the special exercise.

#### 2.4.20 Job Opportunities

The program recorded a total of over 80,884 job opportunities as summarised in Table 4 below. [Additional details provided in Table 8 (Appendix III). Job opportunities were less by 2,184 (3%) compared with the previous years' figure of 83,068 (See Table 4).

Table 4 – NFPDP Records on job opportunities to local communities  
2002 and 2003

Activity	No. of Jobs	
	2003	2002
Survey/Demarcation	3660	971
Pillaring	131	-
Site preparation	10327	12961
Seed collection	313	576
Seedling production	25723	17576
Peg cutting	21502	16609
Pegging	5296	17015
Planting	11057	17007
Survival survey	8	44
Beating-up	723	179
Tending	1122	53
Ride construction	371	8
Ride maintenance	85	-
Fire patrols	296	-
Fire prevention campaigns	146	-
Firebreak construction	60	81
Monitoring and supervision	64	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>80,884</b>	<b>83068</b>

Site preparation, seedling production, peg cutting, pegging and planting have been the main job areas for the program. The figure recorded for site preparation included farmers (direct labour) and their dependants (indirect labour) as well as other hired labour.

### **3. MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **3.1 Field Visits by Sector Minister/Deputy Minister**

The Honourable former Deputy Minister for Lands and Forestry, Mr. Thomas Broni, undertook a 3-day fact-finding tour of plantation sites in the Central Region from the 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2003 to assess the impact of the on-going national forest plantation development program. Messrs. F. S. Amoah (FSD; HQ) and Anim Mantey (PRO; MLF) as well as the Regional Manager and the District Managers for Cape Coast, Dunkwa and Winneba accompanied the Minister on the tour.

The Sector Minister, Professor Dominic Fobi, also undertook a similar mission to the Ashanti Region (Offinso District) in June. Mr. Samson Adjei (Chief Director at the Ministry of Lands & Forestry) Mr. A. S. K. Boachie-Dapaah (Chief Executive of the Forestry Commission), Mr. J. E. Otoo (Executive Director of the Forest Services Division) among others, accompanied the Minister during the tour.

During the visits the Ministers interacted with the Taungya Farmers and assured them of Government's commitment to implement processes outlined in the ***Benefit Sharing Agreement*** that will guarantee their share in the plantations they are assisting to establish.

At the end of the visits the two Ministers were highly impressed with the performance of the local communities as well as staff of the Forestry Commission in the two regions for their efforts and active roles at ensuring the success of the Special Presidential Initiative on reforestation. In response the communities expressed their appreciation for their involvement in the programme in view of the expected benefits and promised to support the program.

The Hon. Ministers distributed logistics (Wellington boots and cutlasses) as part of an incentive package to boost the moral of the farmers.

The Parliamentary Select Committee on Lands & Forestry and the Forestry Commission Board undertook separate visits to various plantation sites in the Ashanti and Brong Ahafo Regions during the last quarter of the year. Members of the separate missions inspected on-going activities and interacted with participating communities to gain first hand knowledge about the program.

#### **3.2 Monitoring of Field Operations**

The Horizontal Teams monitoring the disbursement and application of funds for plantation establishment continued to be active during the year. The teams visited all the regions within the high forest zone, including the Volta Region, to inspect and assess seedling production situations at various locations in the regions and also supervised payments to communities. During their rounds the teams also interacted with communities to appraise their involvement and gains from the on-going plantation program.

### **4. CONSTRAINTS/EMMERGING ISSUES AND THE WAY FORWARD**

The project has been facing a number of constraints that need to be addressed in order to ensure the successful delivery of the project outputs. Following is a catalogue of emerging issues and attempts made so far to address some of them. It is hoped that those not resolved yet would be given the needed urgent attention to ensure the smooth implementation of the project activities.

#### **4.1. Lack of clarity on annual targets for the Modified Taungya System (MTS)**

At the inception of the program the initial understanding was that the annual planting target of 20,000 ha included contributions by the private developers and that in subsequent years FC would be concerned with annual targets for the MTS in declining order. Continued attempts to do the 20,000 ha annually under the MTS seems to be putting extra burden, not

only on the staff of FSD but also the Taungya Farmers whose attention now seems to be divided over previous year's allotments. Should this continue for long it is likely going to affect efficiency in performance and impact negatively on the level of success each year.

**Action:**

**Annual targets should be demand-driven rather than target-driven in order to ensure effective organisation of resources to be able to deliver the expected outputs.**

#### **4.2 Inadequate staffing levels to cope with expanded Plantation Development Program**

It is becoming evident that the expanded plantation development program has resulted in increased workload on the current available field staff. This is affecting efficiency in delivery of the program's output.

**Action:**

**It is about time the proposal for a Plantation Unit is implemented to be fully in charge of plantation matters henceforth. Meanwhile a total of sixty-two (62) persons with forestry background have been recruited as Plantation Supervisors on short term contracts to support the regular FSD Range Supervisors in the various regions.**

**The Plantation Supervisors together with the regular FSD Range Supervisors will soon be given another session of orientation to enable them improve their skills and capacity to ensure effective service delivery.**

#### **4.3 Agitations for adjustment of cost of local labour and planting materials (seedlings)**

Following the upward adjustment of the national minimum wage and consequent price increases local communities demanded for commensurate adjustments of the working rates being paid for activities under the plantation development program. Hitherto a daily rate of ₦10,000.00 was being paid.

Regional and District Managers complained about the difficulties faced in completing negotiations for jobs at the rate of ₦10,000.00 per man-day, particularly in situations where farmers were unavailable to undertake the field activities and extra labour had to be recruited for the jobs.

In a similar development there were demands by the community/private nursery operators for the adjustment of the unit price of seedlings in view of the increase in production cost. Seedling contractors were demanding **₦500.00** and **₦600.00** per seedling for exotics and indigenous species respectively.

**Action:**

**The provisional budget estimates for 2004 have been prepared to reflect prevailing rates being charged for labour.**

#### **4.4. Number of available official vehicles/trucks inadequate to cope with workload**

In particular, districts that have been assigned very high targets have difficulties moving labour and materials for fieldwork. This has therefore necessitated the hiring of vehicles, usually at very high cost to the project, to move materials (seedlings, pegs, hired labour etc.). Daily rates for vehicle hiring were quoted between ₦300,000 and ₦400,000.00.

**Action:**

**Three trucks were released from RMSC to support the project in Ashanti, Brong Ahafo and Eastern Regions.**

**Even for the three regions the problem was partly resolved to manage the situation considering the fact that the taungya farms are scattered over several locations within any particular district.**

**Provision/proposal has made in the budget estimates for 2004 to cover vehicles and tractors to support the fieldwork. It would be greatly appreciated if steps could be taken to address this request soonest.**

**4.5. Many Taungya Farmers did not respond promptly to undertake jobs at hand.**

Many Taungya farmers seemed to have divided attention over other field activities and this made it difficult for them to turn up regularly to undertake some of the jobs available. In some instances there was total withdrawal of some farmers after site preparation. In other instances farmers demonstrated lukewarm attitude towards work stemming from uncertainties about the anticipated benefit sharing arrangements.

**Action:**

**District/community level meetings with the various Taungya Groups were organised to disseminate the contents of the proposed *Benefit Sharing Agreement* and to assure the farmers of Government's commitment to the proposals in the document. There is however the urgent need to pursue the completion of the legal refinement of the document currently lodged with the Attorney General's Office.**

**4.6 Some farmers shirked their responsibility for maintaining their areas.**

Abandonment of planted sites and lack of maintenance by some Taungya Farmers after harvesting short rotation food crops, particularly maize, contributed to high mortality and increased expenditure on tending to the project. Available records have it that an estimated 8,500 ha of the 2002 and 2003 coupes have been abandoned and would require hired labour to tend.

**Action:**

**There is the need for extension services that will encourage Taungya Farmers to incorporate other food crops in their farming practices, particularly where plantain and cocoyam are not suitable crops for the site. This will guarantee the farmers additional incomes and encourage them to stay longer on their plots and ensure compliance with their expected roles.**

**Regional/District Managers have been requested to liase with their local Agric Extension Officers for assistance to the local farmers.**

**Regional Managers have been requested also to draw up programs for regular community level meetings with the Taungya Farmers to educate them on the benefit sharing arrangement in order to encourage active farmer participation in the MTS.**

**Meanwhile Regional Managers have been advised to initiate processes to take over all abandoned sites to be considered as part of FC's assets.**

#### **4.7 Activities of cattle herdsmen affecting the plantation project**

Fire outbreaks were experienced over quite extensive areas of the young established plantations in Ashanti (Boumfum and Bandai FRs under Kumawu District), northern parts of Eastern (Dede FR) and Greater Accra (Dechidaw FR) resulting from fire set by Fulani herdsmen. Huge financial losses would result from such incidents, if not curtailed.

**Action:**

**The conduct of the Fulani herdsmen will negatively affect the success of the plantation program in the Regions mentioned if not dealt with at the appropriate level. It is suggested that the Ministry of Lands & Forestry could take up the matter with the National Security Council to find a lasting solution to the problem.**

#### **4.8 Documentation and data handling**

(1) It has been the intention to produce digitised maps of all plantation sites as part of the documentation of the on-going plantation program. Though site plans have been prepared at RMSC coordinates of the sites would be required in order to produce the digitised maps. There is currently a lack of capacity on the part of Range Supervisors to be able to use the Global Positioning System (GPS) for field surveys. Efforts to secure funding for the training of the field staff have not yielded results yet.

(2) The workload on the District/Regional staff is increasing with time thus creating some difficulties in organising the increasing volume of field data on plantation. Though almost all the regional and district offices are equipped with computers there is a serious deficiency in basic computing skills on the part of schedule officers (Regional Plantation Officers and others at the districts) and even for some of the data entry clerks. This, in some instances, seriously affected efficiency in handling data on plantations and reporting to meet deadlines.

**Actions:**

**(1) A request has already been submitted to the Forestry Commission to fund training in the use of the GPS, under the FSDP II capacity building program. Ag. Director of RMSC would have to pursue the request for funds to run the training for the field staff without further delay.**

**(2) ACCESS Database program has been designed and is being further developed to capture technical and financial records on the on-going plantations program. Regional/District staff would soon be trained to apply the program in order to facilitate data capturing and reporting.**

**Meanwhile Excel Templates have been developed for the Technical and Financial Reporting Formats and this would facilitate data compilation at all levels. Schedule officers and District Managers have been given an initial orientation on this program. Their outputs are being monitored to determine areas of weakness in order to plan and provide support where necessary.**

### **5. ACHIEVEMENTS BY PRIVATE DEVELOPERS**

Available records show that between 2000 and 2003 a total of 167 companies (**Appendix IV**) have so far benefited from allocations made to private entrepreneurs to undertake reforestation in degraded forest reserves. Of this figure only 102 (61%) can be considered actively involved in reforestation activities and reported to have planted about 9,318.25 ha out of 35,244 ha allocated to date. A summary of the distribution of the beneficiaries and achievements within regions is provided in Tables 5a and 5b.

In year 2003 as many as 117 companies were allocated a total area of 7,030.04 ha out of which 4,596.29 ha (66%) was planted by 67 of the beneficiaries developing degraded areas

mainly in Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Eastern and Western regions. A summary of the distribution of the beneficiaries and achievements within regions is provided in Tables 5a, 5b and 5c.

Table 5a Summary (compressed) Information on Private Developers undertaking Plantation Development within Forest Reserves (2000 – 2003)

Region	No. of Registered Companies	No. of Active Companies	Total area Allocated (Ha)	Total Area Planted (Ha)
Ashanti	125	65	28,214	4,466
Brong Ahafo	30	26	6,097	4,059
<b>Eastern</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>358</b>
Western	3	2	443	435.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>35,244</b>	<b>9,318.25</b>

Table 5b Summary Information on Private Developers undertaking Plantation Development within Forest Reserves – Year 2003

Region	No. of Companies Applying	No. of Active Companies	Total area Allocated (Ha)	Total Area Planted (Ha)
Ashanti	72	41	4,214	1778
Brong Ahafo	30	19	2498	2634
Eastern	8	5	220	88
Western	2	2	98.04	96.29
<b>Total</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>7030.04</b>	<b>4,596.29</b>

Table 5c Summary Information on Annual Performance Private Developers undertaking Plantation Development within Forest Reserves Year 2000 - 2003

REGION	AREA ALLOCATED (HA)				AREA PLANTED (HA)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
ASHANTI	3,854	5,033	15,048	4214	727	977	984	1,778
B/AHAFO	430	1240	1929	2498	50	555	820	2634
EASTERN	-	-	270	220	-	-	270	88
WESTERN	62	115	168	98.04	61.6	112.3	165.03	96.29
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,346.0</b>	<b>6,388.0</b>	<b>17,415.0</b>	<b>7030.04</b>	<b>838.6</b>	<b>1,644.3</b>	<b>2,239.03</b>	<b>4,596.29</b>

Many of the private developers have been found to be very inactive. Even with the active developers their annual performances are below expectation. It has been realised that most of the private developers are looking up to financial support, especially from the Forest Plantation Development Fund, to be able to make any meaningful progress. Currently the Forest Plantation Development Fund Board has approved loans totalling ₵1,360,000.000.00 to be disbursed to 27 beneficiaries.

Presently, only speculative levels of achievements by the private developers have been presented. A program has therefore been drawn up to conduct an intensive assessment of the performances of the various companies to confirm the reported achievements.

## **8. CONCLUSIONS**

Results achieved so far are very close to fulfilling the key objectives of the program. The contribution made by the project towards increased food production in the country and job opportunities for rural communities are quite remarkable. A major threat to the success of the project, particularly fire, has been well managed so far at most sites except for areas where the conduct of Fulani herdsmen is upsetting efforts and gains made.

In view of the expanding program it is becoming increasingly obvious that Taungya Farmers have had difficulties managing their annual allotments effectively to the extent that maintenance has not been very satisfactorily done by many of them.

Notwithstanding the problems and difficulties encountered most of the local communities have shown remarkable interest and demonstrated their preparedness to embrace the program. There will however, be the need to strengthen awareness and educate the local communities so that they would better understand and appreciate their role in the program to ensure that the objectives are fully met.

The need for adequate logistical supply, particularly vehicles including tractors, has been emphasised and would have to be given the needed attention. This is likely to save cost incurred for vehicle hiring, let alone the inconveniences associated with dependence on private transport facilities for this kind of project.

It is also hoped that the recommended actions enumerated above will be enforced to ensure effective and efficient implementation of the program.