



(FOREST SERVICES DIVISION)

NATIONAL FOREST PLANTATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



Cover photo: A five-year old mixed stand of Ofram (*Terminalia superba*) and *Cedrela odorata* – Tano Offin Forest Reserve, Nkawie Plantation Area.

ANNUAL REPORT – 2007

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The National Forest Plantation Development Programme (NFPDP) was launched by His Excellency President J.A. Kuffuor in September 2001 at Ayigbe in the Wenchi district of the Brong-Ahafo region. The Plantations Department (PD) of the Forest Services Division (FSD) of the Forestry Commission (FC) is responsible for the implementation, coordination and management of the NFPDP. The programme is currently being implemented under three main strategies and four components.

The first strategy, the Modified Taungya System (MTS) involves the establishment of plantations by the FSD in partnership with peasant farmers. The FSD provides technical direction, surveys and demarcates degraded forest reserve lands and supplies pegs and seedlings while the farmers provide all the labour inputs in the form of site clearing, pegging, planting, maintenance and fire protection. The farmers are permitted to cultivate their food crops which are inter-planted with the tree crops on the same piece of land. The farmers, in addition to the food crops they harvest, have a 40% share in the returns from the investment. The FC also has a 40% share while the landowner and community will have a 15% and 5% share respectively.

The second strategy utilizes hired labour and contract supervisors to establish industrial plantations. Plantation workers are hired and paid a monthly wage to establish and maintain plantations while plantation supervisors are given one year renewable contract employment to supervise and offer technical direction. The PD exercises general oversight and monitors field activities to ensure compliance with quality standards for plantation establishment. This strategy is employed by the Government Plantation Development Programme which is funded through the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) benefits.

The third strategy involves the release of degraded forest reserve lands by the FC to private entities after vetting and endorsing their reforestation and business plans. The operations of these private developers are then monitored through periodic field visits by the PD to ensure compliance with the approved reforestation plans.

At the end of 2007 an estimated **123,193** ha of forest plantation has been established under the NFPDP. In the year under review, **16,754** ha of degraded forest lands were planted.

Under the programme both indigenous and exotic economic tree species have been planted at the various sites across all ten regions in the country. The indigenous species include mainly *Mansonia altissima* (Opron), *Terminalia superba* (Ofram), *T. ivorensis* (Emire), Mahogany spp, *Ceiba pentandra* (Onyina), *Heritiera utilis* (Nyankom), *Entandrophragma angolense* (Edinam), and *Triplochiton scleroxylon* (Wawa). The exotic species are predominantly *Tectona grandis* (Teak), *Cedrela odorata* (Cedrela) and *Eucalyptus spp.*

Table 1 depicts the summary of performance of each component in the sixth year of programme implementation.

**Table 1 National Forest Plantation Development Programme
Update of On-Reserve Plantation Achievements 2002—2007**

Year	Programme Component				Estimated Total Annual Achievement (ha)
	MTS	CFMP	HIPC	PRIVATE	
2002	17,460				17,460
2003	17,691		5,650		23,341
2004	16,090		5,300		21,390
2005	9,105	1,136	6,575		16,816
2006	9,401	2,298	6,075		17,774
2007	8,711	2,731	5,312		16,754
Total	78,458	6,165	28,912	*9,658	123,193

** Private developers are reported to have established an estimated 9,658 ha of plantations within the forest reserves since 2002.*

2.0 Objectives of the Programme

The National Forest Plantation Development Programme (NFPDP) aims at:

- Restoring the forest cover of degraded forest reserves
- Addressing the wood deficit situation in the country, especially timber which has been estimated as 4-5 million cubic meters per annum and fuelwood consumption also estimated at 14 million cubic meters per annum
- Creating employment opportunities at the rural community level to generate income for forest fringe communities, plantation owners, timber processors and invariably the national economy
- Significantly increasing food production in the country

3.0 Expected Outputs

The program was expected to deliver the following key outputs for year 2007:

- 20,000 Ha of degraded forest reserve lands planted

- 30,000 jobs provided mainly to rural communities
- 120,000 tonnes of foodstuff produced

4.0 Finance

4.1 Modified Taungya System

The Modified Taungya System (MTS) component was designed to be funded mainly through the Plantation Fund Management Board which disburses funds accumulating from air-dried lumber levy. However by 2004 (Programme year 4) it became evident that this source of finance was woefully inadequate and so the MTS had to depend largely on the Forestry Commission's internally generated funds (IGF) for funding its activities. In the 2006 national budget the Ministry of Finance allocated an extra 20% from its original share of 64% from revenue generated from sale of plantation timber to the FC to support plantation development. This was a welcome relief, though still inadequate because of the ambitious planting target and the need to provide key plantation infrastructure and maintain the large areas established since 2002.

During the year under review a total of **GH¢820,200.00** was released by the FC out of a total budget of **GH¢8,794,318.10**. Table 2 below highlights releases received by this component during the year. It is worth mentioning that out of a total of **GH¢820,200.00** released, **GH¢571,733.89** was used to defray arrears of payment (debts from seedlings delivered) outstanding at the end of December, 2006.

Table 2 Detail Receipts/Transfers – Year 2007 MTS

DATE	RECEIVED FROM	AMOUNT (GH¢)
February, 2007	Forestry Commission	200,000.00
March, 2007	Forestry Commission	100,000.00
May, 2007	Forestry Commission	20,200.00
June, 2007	Forestry Commission	200,000.00
October, 2007	Forestry Commission	300,000.00
Grand total		820,200.00

A summary of the estimated project cost for year 2007 and financial analysis as at the end of December, 2007 (MTS) is provided in Table 3 below. Refer to Appendix II for details.

Table 3 Estimated Project Cost, Disbursement and Expenditure (Jan.-Dec. 2007) MTS

Item	Original Estimated Project Cost (GH¢)	Disbursement (GH¢)	Expenditure (GH¢)	Balances (as at Dec. 2007) (GH¢)
Field Operations	8,794,318.10	995,736.36	1,077,021.53	-81,285.17
Administration	774,332.68	100,687.36	107,581.92	-6,894.56
Capital Items	1,551,535.60	–	–	–
Total	11,120,186.38	1,096,423.72	1,184,603.45	-88,179.73

4.2 Community Forest Management Project (CFMP)

This component is funded through a loan contracted by the government of Ghana from the African Development Bank (AfDB). The CFMP, unlike the other components under the NFPDP, has the Ministry of Lands Forestry and Mines (MLFM) as the executing agency with the Forest Plantation Development Centre coordinating and implementing the project through the FSD and Ministry of Food and Agriculture field staff in four districts. Table 4 below summarises disbursement and expenditure during the year.

Table 4 Disbursement and Expenditure (Jan.-Dec. 2007) CFMP

Item	Disbursement (GH¢)	Expenditure (GH¢)	Balances (as at Dec. 2007) (GH¢)
Field Operations	479,936.29	479,936.29	0.00
Administration	131,597.50	131,597.50	0.00
Capital Items	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	6,115,33.79	6,115,33.79	0.00

4.3 Government Plantation Development Programme (GPDP)

This component is funded through the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning from HIPC benefits. By the end of December 2007 a total amount of **GH¢9,883,182.25** representing had been released. Table 5 below summarises disbursement and expenditure during the year.

Table 5 Disbursement and Expenditure (Jan.-Dec. 2007) GPDP

Item	Disbursement (GH¢)	Expenditure (GH¢)	Balances (as at Dec. 2007) (GH¢)
Field Operations	2,475,155.65	2,475,155.65	0.00
Administration	6,421,439.17	6,421,439.17	0.00
Capital Items	986,487.43	986,487.43	0.00
Total	9,883,182.25	9,883,182.25	0.00

5.0 ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS (See Appendix I for Details)

5.1 Survey and Demarcation

Survey and demarcation of sites for the year 2007 coupes was carried out within forest reserves nationwide. A total of 9,549ha of degraded forest lands were demarcated and surveyed for planting. This represents 95.6% of the target (9,990ha) set for the year under review. Regional details of areas demarcated are provided in Table 6.

**Table 6 National Forest Plantation Development Programme
Demarcation of Sites by Regions MTS**

Region	Zone	Target (ha)	Achievement (ha)	% Achievement
Ashanti	1 & 2	5,500	5,197	94.5
Brong-Ahafo	3	1,900	2,003	105.4
Eastern	4	500	347	96.6
Greater Accra	4	100	77	77
Volta	4	190	117	61.6
Western	5	600	315	52.5
Central	5	200	100	50.0
Northern		600	1,173	195.5
Upper East		200	171.5	85.8
Upper West		200	210	105.0
Total		9,990	9,549.5	95.6

5.2 Site Preparation

This has been the responsibility of Taungya Farmers except for the three Northern Regions and Greater Accra, where the project provided support for ploughing and lopping. An estimated total area of 9,409.5 ha (94.2%) of the total demarcated area was cleared as detailed in Table 7.

**Table 7 National Forest Plantation Development Programme
Preparation of Planting Sites by Regions MTS**

Region	Zone	Target (ha)	Achievements (ha)	% Achievement
Ashanti	1 & 2	5,500	5,046	91.7
Brong-Ahafo	3	1,900	1,779	93.6
Eastern	4	500	487	97.4
Greater Accra	4	100	77	77
Volta	4	190	75	39.4
Western	5	600	315	52.5
Central	5	200	100	50.0
Northern		600	1,173	195.5
Upper East		200	171.5	85.8
Upper West		200	186	93.0
Total		9,990	9,409.5	94.2

5.3 Seed Collection/Procurement

FSD personnel and hired labour from the local communities were grouped to collect seeds from selected seed stands in Ashanti, Brong-Ahafo, Eastern, Volta, Upper West and Upper East Regions to ensure a broad genetic base. A total of 6,454.5 kg of seeds of various species were collected from selected seed stands and other identified indigenous seed trees in forest reserves. The seeds were distributed to various FSD, private and community nurseries nationwide to raise seedlings for the project.

5.4 Seedling Procurement

Supply of seedling for planting was contracted to communities, associations and some individuals. A total of 11,497,777 seedlings were purchased for planting. Supervision of production and supply remains the responsibility of FSD. This activity provides the largest number of jobs to the rural people. Both exotic and indigenous tree species were procured for planting.

**Table 8: National Forest Plantation Development Programme
Regional Breakdown of Seedlings Delivered MTS**

Region	Zone	Target (ha)	Achievement (ha)	% Achievement
Ashanti	1 & 2	6,868,646	6,600,006	96.1
Brong-Ahafo	3	2,533,080	2,129,120	84.1
Eastern	4	666,600	362,273	54.3
Greater Accra	4	133,320	37,617	5.6
Volta	4	253,308	37,617	14.9
Western	5	465,640	230,500	49.5
Central	5	266,640	103,682	38.9
Northern		799,920	1,563,843	195.5
Upper East		266,640	228,643	85.7
Upper West		266,640	234,643	88.0
Total		12,520,434	11,497,777	91.8

5.5.1 Peg Cutting

**Table 9 National Forest Plantation Development Programme
Regional Breakdown of Pegs Delivered MTS**

Region	Zone	Target (ha)	Achievement (ha)	% Achievement
Ashanti	1 & 2	6,110,500	5,490,562	89.9
Brong-Ahafo	3	2,099,790	1,825,373	86.9
Eastern	4	644,380	479,952	74.5
Greater Accra	4	111,100	18,338	16.5
Volta	4	211,090	61,105	28.9
Western	5	427,735	306,230	71.6
Central	5	222,200	105,545	47.5
Northern		666,600	1,303,203	195.5
Upper East		222,200	190,536	85.7
Upper West		222,200	195,536	88.0
Total		10,937,795	9,976,380	91.2

This activity was contracted out to local communities who produced and supplied a total of 9,976,380 pegs to the various planting sites.

5.5.2 Pegging

Pegging commenced earnestly in March 2007. A total of 8,918.7 ha was pegged nationwide. Pegging was generally undertaken at 3 meters by 3 meters intervals; however in the Western Region a spacing of 4 meters by 4 meters was employed. Achievements by the various regions are indicated in Table 10.

**Table 10 National Forest Plantation Development Programme
Regional performance on Pegging (MTS)**

Region	Zone	Target (ha)	Achievement (ha)	% Achievement
Ashanti	1 & 2	5,500	4,942	89.9
Brong-Ahafo	3	1,900	1,643	86.5
Eastern	4	500	346.2	69.2
Greater Accra	4	100	5.0	5.0
Volta	4	190	55.0	28.9
Western	5	600	312.0	52.0
Central	5	200	95.0	47.5
Northern		600	1,173.0	195.5
Upper East		200	171.5	85.5
Upper West		200	176	88.0
Total		9,990	8,918	89.3

5.6 Planting Out

With the onset of the major rains in April 2007, planting commenced at various sites except in the three (3) Northern Regions. Unfortunately, the short dry period which usually occurs between June and August extended up to September. This impeded planting at almost all the Plantation Areas. The minor rainy season was far heavier and intense than the major rainy season and the programme took the advantage to plant to catch up with the loss period. However, flooding occurred in the three Northern Regions resulting in the destruction of 84.00ha of plantation stands developed in year 2002 and 2003. Planting ended in November with a total area planted reaching **8,711.0ha**.

Since the commencement of the program, the total area of degraded forest that has been put under plantations through the MTS stands at **78,458 ha**. Achievements of the various Regions

during the year under review are presented in Table 11(a, b & c).

**Table 11 (a) National Forest Plantation Development Programme
Regional Performance on Planting of Sites MTS**

Region	Zone	Target (ha)	Achievement (ha)	% Achievement
Ashanti	1 & 2	5,500	4,903.0	89.1
Brong-Ahafo	3	1,900	1,640.0	86.3
Eastern	4	500	346.2	69.2
Greater Accra	4	100	5.0	5.0
Volta	4	190	32.5	17.1
Western	5	600	312	52.0
Central	5	200	95	47.5
Northern		600	1,080	180.0
Upper East		200	127	63.5
Upper West		200	170	85.0
Total		9,990	8,711	87.2

Table 11 (b) Regional Performance on Planting of Sites GPDP

Region	Zone	Target (ha)	Achievement (ha)	% Achievement
Ashanti	1 & 2	1,800	1,700	94.4
Brong-Ahafo	3	1,600	1,400	87.5
Eastern	4	1,100	1,052	95.6
Greater Accra	4	250	177	70.8
Volta	4	300	210	70.0
Western	5	175	175	100.0
Central	5	150	140	93.3
Northern		300	280	93.3
Upper East		100	58	58.0
Upper West		150	120	80.0
Total		5925	5,312	89.7

Table 11 (b) Regional Performance on Planting of Sites CFMP

Region	Zone	Target (ha)	Achievement (ha)	% Achievement
Ashanti	1 & 2	1,250	1,681	134.5
Brong-Ahafo	3	600	650	108.3
Eastern	4	400	400	100.0
Total		2,250	2,731	121.4

Table 11 (c) Regional Performance on Planting of Sites Model Plantation

Region	Zone	Target (ha)	Achievement (ha)	% Achievement
Ashanti	1 & 2	20	11	55.0
Brong-Ahafo	3	20	22.5	112.5
Eastern	4	10	10	100.0
Greater Accra	4	10	15.1	151.0
Volta	4	10	10	100.0
Total		70	68.6	98.0

Picture A: Model Plantation site in Anhwiaso North Forest Reserve

Picture B: Model Plantation site in South Formangsu Forest Reserve.



5.7 Assessments (Survival Survey - Current Year Coupes)

The assessment survey could only be done in Begoro Plantation Area due to unavailability of funds. The report revealed that 67% survival success was achieved in stands established in 2007. Generally, plantation areas in Ashanti, Brong-Ahafo, Volta and the three (3) Northern Regions conduct this activity after the dry season following the planting season.

5.8 Beating-up

Beating-up covering an area of 1,001.00ha of year 2005, 2006 and 2007 coupes was done. This activity is expected to be intensified across the country in the coming year (2008) to improve the quality of the stands established and also to refill the gaps created as a result of destruction caused by forest fires and Fulani Herdsmen. Allocation of new sites for planting shall not be entertained and this is expected to free more resources for beating-up.

5.9 Tending

Reports indicated that minimal success is being achieved due to either uncooperative attitude of the farmers participating in the MTS or the farmers not having the capacity to meet their current obligations. After six (6) years into the programme most of the farmers are managing large areas beyond their capabilities and need to be supported to perform this activity. This has resulted in large areas being unattended to or abandoned. The project is likely to incur high expenses to maintain areas reportedly abandoned/neglected by farmers.

A total of 12,746 ha (14.3%) of plantation forest were tended. This is not encouraging and the earlier a compromise solution is found, the better.

6.0 Roads/Ride Construction

6.1 Ride Construction

The rides which are part of the layout plan of the plantations are yet to be developed to serve their functions. This is affecting movement and fire management within the plantations. Apart from road construction this infrastructure is the second most important but require huge capital investment. The assistance of the Central Government is essential to achieve this goal. A total of 216.2 ha of ride was constructed to provide access and fire protection.

6.2 Road Construction

None of the forest roads within the plantations were developed nor maintained during the year under review. This important infrastructure needs to be given the attention it requires to facilitate plantation development and maintenance. Inter Ministerial approach to help in providing this infrastructure had already been suggested.

6.3 Maintenance of Rides

Maintenance of rides covering 95 km was achieved through contract arrangements with local communities.

6.4 Fire Management in Plantations

Activities performed include bushfire awareness campaign, fire ride construction, ground patrol, fire suppression and enforcement of legislation relating to wildfires. FSD is collaborating with Ministries Department & Agencies such as the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defence, Traditional Authorities, NADMO and the Regional Coordinating Council in the various regions and districts to prevent and reduce the incident of bushfires. Fire volunteer groups from local communities have been organised to patrol the planted areas between November 2007 and March 2008. 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.

6.5 Food Production

One major achievement chalked through the implementation of these projects/programmes is the improved food security of the country. Clearing of large tracks of degraded forest towards the development of forest plantations provided fertile lands that were also cropped with maize, plantain, cocoyam, vegetables, etc. This method of establishment 'Taungya,' continue to sustain the high food production in the country. Market indicators revealed a bumper harvest of foodstuffs in 2007. On the average, 40,000 metric tones of maize and 120,000 metric tonnes of plantain were produced.



MTS site in Juaso Plantation Area



Plantain harvested from Jimira Forest Reserve

6.6 Job Opportunities

Full-time and casual/temporary by-day jobs were created. The full time jobs were in the form of farming opportunities granted to peasant farmers from forest fringe communities, engagement of field Assistants and plantation supervisors. As many as twenty nine thousand, eight hundred and fifty (29,850) farmers participated in the programme and a total of **547,853** Mandays of jobs were recorded for daily-paid jobs. Seedling production, site preparation, Pegging and planting activities created the highest jobs .

The figure recorded includes farmers (direct labour) and their dependants (indirect labour) as well as other hired labour. Refer to Appendix III for details.

7.0 Monitoring of Field Operations

Routine monitoring of field operations was undertaken by the Area and Zonal Plantation Managers throughout the year. This activity is being pursued on daily basis across the country to ensure that targets were met. Field staff faces a lot of challenges in the face of limited resources and time bound activities. Regularly, staffs at the Plantation Department at the Headquarters were sent to the fields for verification assessment of reports received from the field.

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.

8.0 Training/Capacity Building Workshops

A workshop was organised at Akyawkrom to introduce PLANSYS (a data based system for recording and storing information on plantations) in December,2007. Currently, the system is being updated following inputs made by participants at the workshop.

A one-day training workshop was organised on 17th December for Zonal Plantation Managers and Area Plantation Managers to assist them in facilitating the Benefit Sharing Agreement with participating groups in the MTS.

9.0 Benefit Sharing Agreement

Preparations were advance for the symbolic signing of the Benefit Sharing Agreement with Koradaso Taungya Group I and II. The first signing has been slated for February, 2008.

10.0 Greening Ghana Project

As part of Ghana's fiftieth independence anniversary, an innovative project was launched to help inculcate in the people the culture of tree planting as a way of life. One million seedlings were distributed for planting in school/church compounds, market places, farms, etc to improve the quality of the environment.

The response was very encouraging and preparation are advanced towards 2008 activities. A five (5) year period has been plan for the project implementation.

11.0 PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED/ CONSTRAINTS AND THE WAY FORWARD

The programme is confronted by a number of constraints that need to be addressed in order to ensure the successful delivery of the project outputs. Most of the issues are being addressed though a few of them need urgent attention to ensure the smooth implementation of the project activities.

11.1 Inadequate Funds and Delay in Releases

Timely release of adequate funds to meet the various financial obligations towards achieving the programme objectives is preventing the department from operating effectively and efficiently. Plantation development is time-bound activity expected to progress on a rigid sequential frame with little room for modification and therefore once one activity is delayed, both the marginal cost and risk of failure increases. It is expected that once the annual project budget had been approved by the Fund Board, periodic requests would be transferred promptly into the Plantation Operations Accounts. This expectation has often not been met and has been contributing in most cases to the delay in disbursement of funds to the Regions/Districts.

During the year under review, a budget of GH¢8,794,318.10 was approved by the Fund Board but as at 31/12/2007 only GH¢820,200.00 had been released. Once this initial process is delayed all subsequent processes are seriously affected.

11.2 Number of vehicles/trucks Received to Support Field Activities

The department received four (4) new Toyota double cabin pick-ups and one Toyota Fortuna vehicle through the joint efforts of Forestry Commission and the Ministry of Lands Forestry and Mines (MLFM) to enhance its operations. In addition, three (3) new Toyota double cabin pick-ups and two (2) Nissan Patrols were also provided by the Commission. Eight (8) new tractors with trailers were also received to augment transport of materials to the field. Five (5) tractors in the system already were reassigned and seven (7) old Toyota double cabin pick-ups were distributed to the Area Plantation Managers.

11.3 Lack of Maintenance of Previous Years' Coupes by Farmers.

Many Taungya farmers seem to have divided attention over other field activities while some withdrew after site preparation. In other instances, farmers demonstrated lukewarm attitude towards work stemming from uncertainties about the anticipated benefit sharing arrangements.

Some planted sites have apparently been abandoned by some Taungya Farmers after harvesting their maize crop. This is contributing to high mortality and slowing growth among young seedlings and this is likely to increase expenditure on tending to the project if hired labour is to be organised to maintain such sites.

11.4 Activities of Cattle Herdsmen

The activities of Fulani herdsmen are hindering plantation development in Begoro, Mpraeso, Kumawu and Juaso Plantation Areas. These herdsmen usually set fire to the dry vegetation during the dry seasons and they the cause of reported bushfires in these areas. The periodic bushfires are suppressing the developing young plantation.

Fulani herdsmen have been found browsing herds in young plantation stands resulting in damage to some of the growing trees.

11.5 Fire Outbreaks

Fire outbreaks were reported in Aboma, Chirimfa, Prusheterbelt in Manpong Planation Area; Kwamisa in Offinso Plantation Area; Yaya, Nsemere and Bosomkese Forest Reserves in Wenchi Plantation Area; Chipa Forest Reserve in Tema /Somanya Plantion Area and Essen-Apam Forest Reserve in Akim Oda Plantation Area.

12.0 ACHIEVEMENTS OF PRIVATE PLANTATION DEVELOPERS

12.1 On Reserve Plantation

During the year under review, 28 developers were granted access to degraded land for plantation development. However the overall performance of the private developers in 2007 was not encouraging. As a corrective measure, 21 of them have their permit withdrawn. A tabular representation is as shown in Table 12

The total area planted had been estimated at **9,658** ha since the commencement of the programme.

Table 12 Summary of Data on Private Plantation Developers on Forest Reserves (2007)

Region	No. of Developers	Active	*Inactive	Withdrawn
Ashanti	210	116	94	21
Brong-Ahafo	52	25	27	Nil
Eastern	28	23	5	Nil
Western	4	3	1	Nil
Northern	2	2	2	Nil
Total	296	169	127	21

**These are clients who have planted part of their allocated area but have stopped further development.*

Many of the private developers have been found to be inactive. The inactive ones have been cautioned. Even with the active developers their annual performances are below expectation. It has been realised that most of the private developers are expecting financial support, especially from the Forest Plantation Development Fund, to be able to make any meaningful progress.

12.2 Off Reserve Plantation

Plantation development and management of the plantation stands outside the forest reserves are being pursued as part of the overall objective of the Department. To date, 2,838 individuals/groups/organisations have been registered. The total area reported being developed and or managed in collaboration with FSD has reached 9,747.12 ha. The species being planted are skewed towards the exotics far more than the indigenous species. The objective for choosing the species is governed more by economic consideration than ecological. Table 13 shows the regional breakdown.

**Table 13 Regional Distribution of Registered Private Plantation Developers
Off-Forest Reserve as at 2007**

REGION	NO. OF FARMERS REGISTERED	ESTIMATED TOTAL AREA (HA)
Ashanti	576	2,457.88
Brong Ahafo	639	2,810.65
Central	158	602.56
Eastern	396	981.41
Greater Accra	104	322.39
Volta	347	583.87
Western	485	1,661.37
Northern	20	32.30
Upper East	15	97.43
Upper West	98	197.26
Total	2,838	9,747.12

13. CONCLUSION

The sixth year of implementation of the NFPD had been very challenging. The successes chalked by the programme have come in the face of many difficulties.

Two of the three key targets set for the year were exceeded and over 16,700 hectares of degraded forest was planted with various tree species through the MTS, CFMP and the GPDP alone. This is very encouraging since resources (both human and material) were stretched to their limits during the year.

The allocation of eight (8) new vehicles and eight (8) new tractors has improved monitoring of fields operations and delivery of materials to planting sites. However, there is still an urgent need to procure more pickups and motor bikes to further improve mobility of field staff.

Notwithstanding these successes, the challenges associated with bad or non existent roads in plantations is hindering the smooth execution of planned field activities.

The issue of inadequate funding and timely availability of funds to pay clients for jobs done is gradually eroding the confidence of the participants in the MTS programme. Tending was poor and may require FC assistance to enable the farmers meet our expectations. The threat of fire, Fulani Herdsmen and their cattle to the growing plantations require immediate attention and the FSD recommends that the Ministry takes up the issue with the National Security Coordinator for redress.

Appendix III NFPDP Records on By-Day Jobs Undertaken by Local Communities

Activity	No. of Jobs
Survey & Demarcation	5,110
Site Preparation	156,321
Seed Collection	2,505
Seedling Production	206,120
Peg Cutting	32,425
Pegging	60,212
Planting	78,256
Survival Survey	528
Beating – up	554
Tending	563
Ride Construction	2,900
Ride Maintenance	1,326
Fire Patrol	513
Green fire belt Construction	520
Total	547,853