



GHANA UPDATE NOVEMBER 2023

Ghana is a focus country for PlantwisePlus. A range of activities have been implemented in-country under the programme's three impact pathways: pest preparedness, pesticide risk reduction, and farmer advisory.

PlantwisePlus aims to reach 75 million smallholder farmers in low- and lower-middle-income countries with access to knowledge and skills to enhance their production practices. Our goal is to empower smallholders to manage emerging plant health challenges, boost their incomes, improve food security and safety, and reduce biodiversity loss through **sustainable crop production practices**.

Breaking down barriers to empower Ghana's women farmers

PlantwisePlus is addressing gender disparities in farmer advisory services through targeted efforts:

Community dialogues: We're conducting community dialogues in 20 communities in Ghana's Bono and Ahafo regions. Similar to local durbars, these gatherings involve key stakeholders such as chiefs, officials, and farmers to address socio-cultural barriers affecting women in agriculture. The initiative has gained strong community support, with 20 meetings successfully held. Read press coverage. | [Read PlantwisePlus blog](#)

Gender handbook: In collaboration with the Ministry of Food & Agriculture's Women in Agricultural Development (WIAD) and Agricultural Extension directorates, we have developed a gender handbook for extension delivery.

Behaviour change campaign: Farm Radio International is running a campaign on four partner radio stations in Bono and Ahafo regions. The campaign raises awareness about women's vital role in agriculture and emphasizes

their importance as contributors and beneficiaries of farming services. This information is also relayed through 15 community information centres, expanding its reach to smaller communities. | [Read Farm Radio blog](#)

Multi-stakeholder forum for dialogue and advocacy: With the collaboration of the Women in Agricultural Development (WIAD) and Agricultural Extension Directorate, we have established a multi-stakeholder forum to engage in dialogues and advocacy at the national level. This is to push for improved policy actions and decision-making on gender-sensitive agricultural investments and services. | [Read CABI Study Brief](#)

These combined efforts are helping break down gender barriers and promote equitable access to agricultural advisory services in Ghana.

Further updates:

Pesticide risk reduction communication campaign: A full-length video documentary on pesticide risk reduction targeted at multi-stakeholder/actor education and awareness raising has been completed and can be [viewed on YouTube](#). Shorter versions targeting specific actors in the chain are in production. All versions are planned for dissemination through various pathways, including major television broadcasts, social media platforms, and community and farmer group screenings.

Evidence-gathering for stakeholder engagement: We have undertaken a number of activities to gather ample information and evidence on the misuse of hazardous chemical pesticides in crop production. These initiatives include a consumer survey on perceptions and concerns of pesticide risks and food safety, and laboratory testing of fresh tomato samples to ascertain pesticide residue levels against recommended standards. Reports from these activities have been validated by technical public and private agencies and are due to be presented at a national policy forum on pesticides in late November.

Assessing natural enemies and parasitism of fall armyworm: After the fall armyworm outbreak, studies have shown that several local natural enemies have preyed upon or parasitized this invasive pest in various ecological zones of the country. PlantwisePlus activities are undertaken to understand i) the effect of the environment and agricultural practices on parasitism and populations of fall armyworm and ii) the contribution of parasitoids to the reduction of fall armyworm populations in maize fields. Protocols have been developed, and field visits for data collection have taken place. Data analysis will follow.

Biological control of the invasive tomato leafminer, *Phthorimaea absoluta* (previously known as *Tuta absoluta*): A predatory bug, *Nesidiocoris tenuis*, attacks the *P. absoluta* moth and could function as a naturally occurring biological control agent. However, *N. tenuis* was only found in a few locations, likely due to the excessive use of pesticides in tomato fields. Therefore, tomato fields without pesticide treatment are being set up in different regions for regular collection of these natural enemies of *P. absoluta*. In addition, a rearing facility of storage moths has been set up to use their eggs for the mass rearing of *N. tenuis* to test its potential to control *P. absoluta* under lab/greenhouse conditions.

Pest insight reporting and assessing risks of new pests: PlantwisePlus and Ghana's NPPO established a pest risk working group in early 2023, conducting monthly meetings to create a pest risk register by year-end. This register complements risk assessment with CABI's digital tools: The Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) Tool and Horizon Scanning Tool (HST). Horizon scanning began under the Action on Invasives programme and is now institutionalized through PlantwisePlus. Five national PRAs have been completed this year, with a regional PRA for ECOWAS member states (including Ghana) scheduled for November. Enhancements to these tools, including custom regional features and French translation of the PRA Tool, enhance accessibility in West Africa, fostering self-sufficiency for the NPPO and PPRSD in pest risk management.

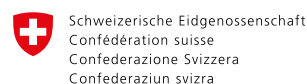
For further information on these activities or others under PlantwisePlus in Ghana, please contact:

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