

**UNIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

**FARMERS' PARTICIPATION AS A CRITICAL COMPONENT TO THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GHANA SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME IN  
THE WEST GONJA DISTRICT OF THE NORTHERN REGION OF GHANA**

**SAMUEL ACHIBONGA**

**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT, FACULTY OF PLANNING AND LAND MANAGEMENT,  
UNIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF  
THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY  
DEGREE IN DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT**



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**(UDS/MDM/0229/12)**

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**NOVEMBER, 2015**



## DECLARATION

### CANDIDATE'S DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis is the result of my own original work and that no part of it has been presented for another degree in this university or elsewhere.

Candidate's Signature:----- Date:-----

Name: Samuel Achibonga

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### SUPERVISOR'S DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the preparation and presentation of this thesis were supervised by me in accordance with the guidelines as laid down by the University for Development Studies, Tamale.

Supervisor's Signature:----- Date:-----

Name: Professor Dr. David Millar



## ABSTRACT

School Feeding Programmes have been popular in developing countries as an instrument for achieving the Millennium Development Goals 1, 2 and 3. With respect to the Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP) the role of the farmer in contributing to its success has received little attention in academic discourse. On that basis, this study therefore focused on investigating farmers' participation as a critical component to the implementation of the GSFP in the West Gonja District. Case study design constituted the study design. The sample size for the study was 129. Questionnaire and interviews aided in the collection of data from farmers, caterers and stakeholders of the GSFP. First, the study found out that the participation of the farmers is vital to the survival of the GSFP. Furthermore, most of the respondents indicated the GSFP is beneficial to the local farmers because they get ready market for their produce, income and loans from the caterers, incur low transportation cost and their children are fed. Finally, the study identified the challenges associated with the purchase of food supplies from the farmers, which include low demand for foodstuffs supplied, lack of credit facilities, late release of funds to purchase foodstuffs, high cost of foodstuff, farmers not willing to sell on credit and limited supply of produce. The study recommends the community contributing to fund the feeding, the provision of credit facilities to farmers, the training of farmers and making it compulsory for caterers to buy foodstuffs from local sources. This would ensure that farmers' output increases to enable them benefit hugely from the GSFP.



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## DEDICATION

This piece of work is dedicated to my lecturers, family and friends whose efforts and encouragement have brought me this far.



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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

ECASARD.....	Ecumenical Association for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
ED.....	Endogenous Development
EMIS.....	Education Management Information Systems
FAO.....	Food and Agriculture Organisation
GSFP.....	Ghana School Feeding Programme
GSGDA.....	Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda
GOG.....	Government of Ghana
GSS.....	Ghana Statistical Service
GSFP AOP.....	Ghana School Feeding Programme Annual Operating Plan
HGSFP.....	Home Grown School Feeding Programme
ISSER.....	Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research and Institute of Statistical
MDGs.....	Millennium Development Goals
MoFA.....	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
NEPAD.....	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO.....	Non-Governmental Organization
SEND.....	Social Enterprise Development
SFP.....	School Feeding Programmes
SNV.....	Netherlands Development Cooperation
THR.....	Take Home Rations
UN.....	United Nations
UNESCO.....	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.
UNHTF.....	United Nations Hunger Task Force
WFP.....	World Food Programme



## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

The acquisition and application of knowledge and skills in solving problems in society have remained essential aspects of national development efforts aimed at achieving growth and social equity. This has become even more important for developing countries such as Ghana where the human development indicators in such areas as education and skills acquisition, health, employment, productivity, social protection, and poverty reduction are comparatively low and where income inequalities are worsening (Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA), 2013:2). Without a well-educated, skilled and informed population, the transformation of the key sectors of the economy, the effort to raise living standards and productivity as the basis for wealth creation and the optimisation of the potentials of the economy will continue to stall (GSGDA, 2013). In addition, none of the civil, political, economic and social rights can be fully exercised in a well-informed manner by individuals unless they have received a certain minimum level of education (United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), 2000). Furthermore, article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December, 1949, considers education as a human right (UNESCO, 2000).

However, the education sector in Ghana faces many challenges. Some of the challenges facing basic education are poor feeding, malnutrition and poor health of school children, high rate of school dropout, low enrolment and low pupils retention in schools, low academic performance and low standard and quality of education (GSGDA, 2013). These problems are endemic in the rural areas than the urban areas. The Food and



Agriculture Organisation (FAO) estimates that, about 923 million people in the world are chronically hungry (FAO, 2008:5). Many of the affected are children, and a vast majority of them are in developing countries (FAO, 2008). This suggests that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) relating to hunger and malnutrition may not be met by the year 2015. The persistence of hunger, malnutrition, and micronutrient deficiencies can have long lasting effects on the health status and productivity of people and their nations. Early malnutrition can adversely affect physical, mental, and social aspects of child health, which in turn leads to underweight, stunted growth, lowered immunity, and mortality (Kazianga, de Walque and Alderman, 2009).

A study conducted by the World Food Programme (WFP) (2007) showed that there is a positive relationship between School Feeding Programmes (SFP) and pupils' enrolment and performance in schools. Improving child nutrition through the provision of school lunches is thought to foster learning, thereby increasing the returns to education. In connection with this, the United Nations Hunger Task Force (UNHTF) has proposed seven recommendations on how to achieve the first MDG (UN Millennium Project, 2005). One of the strategies proposed by the UNHTF is the implementation of SFPs by making good use of locally produced foods rather than imported food or food aid. This aims at contributing to poverty reduction, food security in developing countries, and increased school enrolment, attendance and retention (UN Millennium Project, 2005).

In Africa, the school feeding programme was first implemented in Uganda after the 1979 war, covering all schools in the country (Kibenge, 2005). Recognising that Karamoja had the worst social indicators of any district in Uganda, the government and the WFP started a school feeding Project 2417 in 1983, followed by Project 2642 between 1993 and 1998. In 1977, the adult literacy rate was 12% for males and 6% for females. The 1991 census has 92-93 % of Karamojong children of school going age



never having attended any school. The literacy situation of 1991 changed, as in 1999, about 44% of the 68,468 girls and 68,325 boys of school - going age were enrolled in school (Kibenge, 2005). This shows a positive effect of the SFP on enrolment in schools.

In view of this, as part of efforts to achieve the millennium development goals, the Government of Ghana (GOG) launched the Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP) in September 2005 following the African Union (AU)-New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) recommendation. The GSFP is based on locally- grown food products, which should promote domestic food production and improve market access for resource-poor farmers. Ultimately, the programme is to impact on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 1 and 2, which are eradicating extreme hunger and poverty and ensuring universal basic education respectively (MDG, 2014). The government envisages achieving this objective through an increase in employment and income levels of farmers at both community and national levels. In addition, the greater availability, access and utilisation of food crops and products at the community level are assumed to enhance food security (Government of Ghana (GOG), 2006). By the end of the programme, it is expected that there will be a real increase in income at national and community levels, increased employment at community level and a greater availability, access, utilization and stability of food crops at community level (Aliu and Sakara, 2014). SFPs have two major impacts. The first aims at improvement of the nutritional status of school-going children and the reduction of malnutrition rates. The second entails the improvement of school enrolment, school attendance and cognitive performance at school (Ahmed, 2004; Allen and Gillespie, 2001; Bennett, 2003).

Providing food to school children, either during the school day in the form of a snack or in the form of rations to take home, has several goals (Gelli, Meir and Espejo, 2007). First, the transfer is intended to decrease the net cost of schooling on parents and





thereby shift parental demand for children's educational participation, leading to improvements in enrolment, attendance, and age at school entry. A second goal is to alleviate short-term hunger during the school day, which will improve children's concentration and cognitive functioning, leading to better learning and higher achievement. A third goal is to improve children's long-run macro - and micro - nutritional status through the provision of additional calories and fortified foods, reducing malnutrition and its attendant negative impact on future health and productivity (Adelman, Gilligan and Lehrer, 2008).

## 1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

With the institution of the GSFP, local farmers were supposed to provide foodstuffs to feed the scheme. Nonetheless, the extent to which these local farmers can serve as the main suppliers of foodstuffs for the GSFP seems to be a mirage, as many of the schools do not comply with the directive to that effect (GSFP Action Plan, 2007; SNV, 2008; Sulemana *et al.*, 2013). Global efforts over the past two decades have been geared towards achieving Universal Primary Education (UPE), gender parity at all levels of education, and reducing poverty, hunger and malnutrition, especially among children by 2015 (UNESCO, 2007; United Nations, 2008). Poverty and hunger continue to be factors militating against children's full participation in primary education in developing countries, with gender - based implications (UNESCO, 2005; Guttman, 2009). This situation has resulted in the levels of educational enrolment remaining low worldwide: at least 113 million children are not in school (UNESCO, 2005). Most of these children come from developing countries, where this problem is particularly severe. In Africa alone, more than 46 million children do not attend school (UNESCO, 2005).



Furthermore, to make matters worse, many of them suffer from malnutrition, stunted growth, or experience short-term hunger, which seriously affect their ability to learn.

As many children do not go to school and the few that enrol dropout mid-way, it signals that Ghana might not be in position to meet the MDGs on education and poverty. To ensure enrolment and retention in basic schools in Ghana, policymakers and development organisations have embraced the GSFP as a strategy to work towards the attainment of the MDGs by 2015. The GSFP is a targeted social safety net that provides both educational and health benefits to the most vulnerable children, thereby increasing enrolment rates, reducing absenteeism, and improving food security at the household level (World Bank, 2012).

In response to increasing food and fuel prices in 2008, funds from the World Bank's Global Food Crisis Response Programme (GFCRP) and the subsequent pilot Crisis Response Window (CRW) provided rapid assistance by supporting existing school feeding programmes and essentially linking access to both food and education for poor and vulnerable children living in highly food-insecure areas (World Bank, 2012). A joint analysis developed by the World Bank, WFP and the Partnership for Child Development (PCD) identified that every country (for which data was available) is in some way and at some scale seeking to provide food to its school children (Bundy *et al.*, 2009). In addition, school feeding is evidently a major social programme in most countries, including low, middle and high-income countries that not only helps in the fight against poverty and illiteracy, but also brings about improvement in health and living standards.

In terms of local farmers serving as the major suppliers of foodstuffs for the GSFP, it appears to be an illusion. For instance, the GSFP targeted 80% purchase of some selected locally - produced foodstuffs from the beneficiary communities. However, this is receiving very little attention due to over-dependence on imported food items to the



neglect of the locally produced foodstuffs (SEND-Ghana, 2008). Despite the programme's ambition to use home-grown food produce, there is no evidence of the government taking any initiative to boost domestic food production. Again, only a limited proportion of the food is bought from local communities. A research conducted by a Dutch NGO SNV (Netherlands development Cooperation) in the Eastern Region of Ghana indicates that, from a target of 80%, only 20% food purchases are made locally, with the 60% being foreign food items. In more than 50% of the schools in all the other regions, less than 20% of food was purchased locally (SNV, 2008). This raises the question: how are local farmers involved in the supply of foodstuff to the GSFP in the beneficiary schools? In addition, it raises the issue as to the factors accounting for the poor patronage of local farmers produce. This prevailing condition is negatively ruining the livelihoods of domestic farmers and defeating one of the purposes of the GSFP (GSFP, 2008). In an interview with Head teachers and Matrons, it was evident that not all the schools followed laid-down procurement procedures in the award of contracts because they had to deal with known suppliers who would be willing to supply on credit, due to the irregular release of funds (Sulemana, Ibrahim and Majid, 2013). In the case of the farmers, they reported that none of the schools had ever bought produce from them. Hence, the GSFP did not directly boost local food production or have any positive effect on the local economy per se (Sulemana *et al.*, 2013).

Since the dominant activity in the study area, the West Gonja District, is agriculture, it is important to find out how the farmers in this area are contributing to the implementation of the GSFP. This is critical because the role of farmers in other jurisdictions to the successful implementation of the GSFP seems too negligible, even though they are supposed to be key players. This, therefore, makes it a worthy exercise to



investigate farmers' participation as a critical component to the implementation of the GSFP in the West Gonja District.

### **1.3 RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

#### **1.3.1 Main Research Question**

How is farmers' participation a critical component to the implementation of the GSFP in the West Gonja District?

#### **1.3.2 Sub-Research Questions**

1. To what extent are local farmers involved in the supply of foodstuffs to beneficiary schools of the GSFP in the West Gonja District?
2. What are the effects on farmers supplying foodstuffs to the GSFP in the West Gonja District?
3. What challenges are associated with the patronage of locally - produced foodstuffs from farmers in the West Gonja District for the GSFP?
4. How best can the home - grown component of the GSFP be managed to inure to the benefit of farmers in the West Gonja District?

### **1.4. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

#### **1.4.1 Main Research Objective**

The main objective of the study is to investigate farmers' participation as a critical component to the implementation of the GSFP in the West Gonja District.



### **1.4.2 Specific Objectives**

The specific research objectives are to:

1. Determine the extent to which local farmers are involved in the supply of foodstuffs to beneficiary schools of the GSFP in the West Gonja District;
2. Find out the effects on farmers supplying foodstuffs to the GSFP in the West Gonja District;
3. Document the challenges associated with the patronage of locally- produced foodstuffs from farmers in the West Gonja District for the GSFP; and
4. Find out how the home - grown component of the GSFP can be managed to inure to the benefit of farmers in the West Gonja District?

### **1.5. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE STUDY**

This study would highlight the real fortunes of farmers through the proper implementation of the Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP) in the study area and Ghana at large. It will also unearth factors that account for the low patronage of farmers' produce in the beneficiary communities in the implementation of the school feeding programme in the study area. In addition, it would provide information to assist stakeholders to put in place appropriate measures to salvage the low patronage of farmers' produce in the study area. Furthermore, the study will provide information that will inform decisions of policy makers and stakeholders on how to improve the complementarity of the school feeding programme; that is, how it would promote agricultural productivity, which would propel community development. The findings of this study will also serve as a reference material for future researchers who will be interested in researching further into this area or similar areas.



## **1.6 LIMITATION TO THE STUDY**

The contacting of the farmers to collect data from them was very difficult. This was because the data collection was carried out at the time a majority of the farmers were harvesting their farm produce. Since the majority of the farmers were illiterates, the questionnaire could not be left for them to respond to it themselves. This meant that the researcher and his assistants had to administer it by themselves; but the challenge was getting the farmers. To address this challenge, instead of doing the data collection in the day time, it was rather done at night when farmers had returned from their farms.

## **1.7 ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY**

This study is in five chapters. Chapter One is the introductory chapter comprising the background to the study, problem statement, research questions and objectives, justification of the study, limitation to the study and organization of the study. Chapter Two entails the literature review that focuses on theoretical framework and empirical review of literature on the subject. Chapter three focuses on the methodology of the study. Results and discussions constitute Chapter Four. Finally, Chapter Five consists of the summary, conclusions and recommendations of the study.



## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter focuses on the theoretical framework of the study. It also captures empirical reviews on certain facets of school feeding programmes.

#### 2.2 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Twumasi (2001:10) defines a theory as “a coherent group of general propositions used to explain phenomena”. A theoretical framework, on the other hand, is the foundation and structure or scaffolding of a study (Yin, 1993), and can be considered as a lens (Fuseini, 2014). This means you can take a theory and design a study based on the tenets of the theory. This enables a researcher to get what is needed. Twumasi (2001) adds that a social scientist needs a body of theory to construct a research model to guide the analysis. This study uses Endogenous Development (ED) model to explore the participation of farmers in the successful implementation of the Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP) in the West Gonja District. Modifications to the conception of ED have been done to ensure its applicability in this study.

The Endogenous Development (ED) model is based on local peoples own criteria of development (Millar, 2004). It is based on the principle of complementarity, transdisciplinarity, localisation and partnership. It takes into account the material, social and spiritual well-being of people. It draws from and harnesses local resources to mitigate development. It builds on and excites local action for change to occur from within the existing system (Millar, 2004). It takes local cultures as a critical starting point and posits those cultures as a central framework for social progress and cross-cultural exchanges



(Hountondji, 1997). By its very definition, ED works towards sustainable, functional and people-centred development.

The key tenets of ED are building on locally- felt needs; improving local knowledge and practices; maximising local control and enhancing the dynamics of local knowledge; identifying development niches in the local and regional economy; and selective use of external resources (Millar *et al.*, 2008). Other tenets of ED include retention of benefits in the local area; exchange and learning between cultures; training and capacity building; networking and strategic partnership; and understanding systems of knowing, learning and experimenting (Millar *et al.*, 2008). Some selective use and modification of some of the tenets of ED such as building on locally felt needs; improving local knowledge and practices; identifying development niches in the local and regional economy; selective use of external resources; retention of benefits in the local area; training and capacity building; and networking and strategic partnership have been made and they will be applicable in this study.

Building on locally - felt needs is a critical component of ED. Generally, economic growth, or increased income, is the primary objective in conventional development. For rural people in many cultures of the world, however, income is not always the major parameter in defining well-being. Other aspects, such as social cohesion, health, good children, natural resources, and good relations with the spiritual world are of equal importance in the development decisions. Endogenous Development may therefore vary to include a combination of objectives, such as poverty reduction, diminished ecological exploitation, increased equity and justice, or cultural and spiritual goals (Haverkort, Van 't Hooft and Hiemstra, 2003). In the context of this study, improving on farmers' incomes and food supply in the local communities and the country





at large was viewed as a felt need. This has resulted in the incorporation of farmers as a key component to the implementation of the GSFP.

Furthermore, identifying development niches in the local and regional economy is a key principle in ED. In the conventional development approach, rural families are often considered as potential consumers or producers of a variety of products that serve the needs of outsiders. Local producers are required to supply products that can be processed and commercialised in a uniform way for the national and international market (Van't Hooft, 2006). In the case of ED, the initiatives are based on the specific ecological and cultural characteristics of each locality that can generate additional income. Stimulating the production, processing and marketing of region-specific products open up a reservoir of untapped local opportunities (Van't Hooft, 2007). In connection with this study, it implies that the foodstuffs that would be supplied by the farmers to the caterers of the GSFP must be local and not imported. This means that we eat what we grow to ensure that we do not spend more of our scarce foreign exchange on importation. This will also open up market opportunities for the farmers.

Another key component of ED is improving local knowledge and practices. Endogenous Development aims at enhancing in-situ development of indigenous knowledge and practices. A first activity of the field workers is to acknowledge the value of experience and understand local processes, concepts and values. In this way, they gain insights into local ways of reasoning, methods of experimentation and the systems of learning and communication on which these are based. This implies that field staff participate in local activities with an open mind, in order to understand the concepts used and the values behind them (worldviews) (COMPAS, 2006). Subsequently, a participatory diagnosis can be made about the actual situation, the changes taking place and the risks involved in these. This forms the basis upon which to choose options to



improve the situation and, later on, to test these options in a systematic way. Local leaders, local concepts and local criteria play important roles in these experiments. This implies that the methods and techniques of farming used by the farmers are assessed and, where there is the need to modify them in order to enhance productivity, it is done. This is to ensure that the farmers produce high yields at a low cost.

In addition, selective use of external resources is a critical aspect of ED. It is obvious that in many cases local knowledge and resources may have their limitations. Local practices, leadership and climate or biological resources usually have a better potential if combined with specific external inputs. For example, it might be possible to optimise the local system by using an external input such as cement, a bicycle, a pump, transport systems, electricity, fertilisers, seeds, chemical pesticides or drugs. Loan facilities may be a way of financing the external inputs. External advisors or teachers can be called upon if a local community does not have the required expertise (Haverkort *et al.*, 2003). This means that where there are limitations to the use of local techniques to increase output of farmers, external methods would come in handy.

Also, retention of benefits in the local area is a key component of ED. Development initiatives are often undertaken by outsiders aiming for profits that will subsequently be taken away from the community. Foreigners invest, grab profit and send it back to their countries of origin thereby, depriving the country the full benefits of such investment. In addition, when the management positions are field by expatriates and most employees are foreigners, and when even food and drink items are brought in from outside the community, the benefits for the community may be very limited or even negative (Millar, Apusigah, and Boonzaaijer, 2008). In order to ensure that the benefit of the GSPF remains within the local economy, it requires the utilization of produce from local farmers to ensure that the incomes they get would help reduce their poverty. Such



farmers would again have money to cater for their children's school and other family needs. As they spend in the economy, the local economy would expand.

Training and capacity building forms part of the tenets of ED. Learning is not a neutral transfer of data; it involves conceptual frameworks that are related to worldviews and values. In large areas of the world, western - biased education systems dominate learning, and as a result, western values and concepts are spreading and replacing other indigenous traditions. Despite the fact that many years have elapsed since the passing of the colonial system, western concepts and values still play an important role in many curricula. This is more so in universities and colleges than in primary and secondary education. Also in the latter, Mathematics, Physics, Economics and Religion are often taught in a way that reflects only the western worldview and value system (Millar *et al.*, 2008). This means that the capacity of the local farmers in terms of improved farming practices must be built in order to ensure that they are able to play their role effectively in a collaborative effort.

Finally, networking and strategic partnership is an element of ED. Endogenous Development acknowledges the importance of the links with regional, national and international processes, and the necessity of looking for synergy and partnership rather than dependency, exploitation, homogenisation and external control. The local market niches are often largely determined by international trade relations; national policies influenced by international conventions and agreements; research priorities are often influenced by prevailing western criteria. Endogenous Development can only thrive when a conducive policy environment exists (Haverkort *et al.*, 2003). This means that the farmers must form associations in order to ensure that they are able to push forward their agenda. As a group, they would be a formidable force as they would be able to have an



influence over prices and would also know where their produce are needed for them to harness such opportunities.

## **2.3 SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMMES**

### **2.3.1 School Feeding Programme in other Countries**

School feeding programmes have been implemented by both developed (i.e., United Kingdom and United States of America) and developing countries (i.e., Bangladesh, Indonesia, India, Brasil, Philippines, Peru, El Salvador, Nigeria, Kenyan and Ghana). These SFPs come in different forms and target different groups of people at different educational levels.

According to Baker *et al.* (1980), the United Kingdom in 1934 started a SFP that provided subsidised milk for school children but which was later given free from 1944 onwards. However, in the early 1970s this benefit was withdrawn, except for those children considered particularly needy (an early example of the targeting approach in school feeding). Similarly, in Peru, the SFP consisted of a ready- to-eat breakfast, consisting of cake and an instant milk- like beverage provided to 5-10 years old school children (Jacoby, Cueto and Pollitt, 1998). For the United States of America, its SFP started long ago, but was institutionalised throughout the country in 1946 (Pollitt, Gersovitz and Gargiulo, 1978). Furthermore, in Bangladesh, the SFP provided a free monthly ration of food grains (rice or wheat) to poor families in rural areas and cash assistance to poor families, if they sent their children to primary school (Ahmed, 2004). For India, the SFP provides cooked mid-day meals in primary schools (WFP, 2001). With regard to the Brazilian SFP, it covers all public and community schools in the basic education system – including day care, kindergarten, elementary school, high school and education for young adults – and reaches 47 million students every year (WFP, 2013).



The purpose of the SFP in the United Kingdom and United States of America was to ensure the well-being of school children, particularly in terms of food intake, health, and nutrition status, and provided an outlet for surplus agricultural commodities (Dwyer, Elias and Warren, 1973; Baker *et al.*, 1980). In the cases of Bangladesh, in July 2002 the Government and the World Food Programme, in order to diminish hunger in the classroom, promoted school enrolment and retention rates in chronically food-insecure areas of Bangladesh (Ahmed, 2004), instituted SFP. The Indian, SFP aims at ensuring that all children receive primary education (i.e., increase enrolment and attendance) and at boosting their nutrition (Gopaldas, 2005; WFP, 2001). For the Brazilian and Peruvian SFP, their objectives are to contribute to the growth, development and learning capabilities of students; support the formation of healthy habits through food and nutrition education; and promote local family farming through food purchase (Jacoby *et al.*, 1998; WFP, 2013). In terms of the Kenyan SFP, it gears towards alleviating the health and developmental consequences of childhood malnutrition, increasing primary school enrolment, and combating social pressures that limit educational opportunities for girls (De La Mothe, 2008).

### **2.3.2 Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP)**

The Ghanaian government set up the GSFP in the context of African Union-New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD's) Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme in 2005. Its concept of home-grown SFP addresses one of the UN's three pillars to fight hunger (UN Millennium Project, 2005). The government of Ghana stated that this programme, if properly funded and implemented as designed, has the potential to change the hunger, education and ultimately the food security and poverty landscape in Ghana for good (GoG, 2006). At the start of the programme in September



2005, it was piloted in ten schools, one school selected from each of the ten regions of Ghana. The pilot phase ended in 2006 and it covered 598 schools and 64,775 beneficiary pupils (Ghana School Feeding Programme Annual Operating Plan (GSFP AOP), 2010). The first phase was rolled out in 2007, spanning a period of four (4) years (2007-2010). The number of beneficiary pupils at the inception of the first phase was 413,498. In 2008, the number rose to 441,189 pupils. In 2009, at least two schools were enrolled in the programme in each district covering 1,696 schools across the nation, with 656,624 pupils fed daily (GSFP AOP, 2010). It was further envisaged that by the end of the first phase in 2010, a total of about a million primary school and kindergarten children would have benefited from the programme. Currently, the programme covered about 25% of all primary and kindergarten pupils across the country and this figure is expected to increase to about 34% by the end of 2010 after the projected expansion period (GSFP AOP, 2010). Alongside the government's educational expansion programme, the feeding programme itself had triggered considerable increases in school enrolment of between 10 and 40% across the country of pupils who otherwise would have been out of school (GSFP AOP, 2010). These increases, however, were variable depending upon the region and the district.

The GSFP that is in line with the objectives of MDGs intends to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, achieve universal basic education by the year 2015 and promote gender equality and women empowerment (MDGs, 2005). The Programme is conceived within Ghana government's education policy, which is captured in the educational rights of the citizen of Ghana in Article 25 of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana. It states that:

- I. Basic education shall be free and compulsory and available to all:
- ii. Secondary education in its different forms, including technical and vocational shall be made generally available and accessible to all:



iii. Higher education shall be made equally accessible to all on the basis of capacity:

iv. The development of a system of schools with adequate facilities at all levels shall be actively pursued by the government (Ghana 1992 Constitution Article 25).

Although the GSFP is consistent with many development strategies of government, there is no clear government policy or legislation that guarantees its status and sustainability. Given the national nature of the Programme, as it is operational in most of the district, it is imperative that a policy direction, backed by a legislation, which clearly defines the linkages among the various sectors, especially those of education, health and agriculture be established. This, no doubt, will enhance the operations of the Programme and guarantee its status (GSFP Partnership for Child Development, 2013).

The central aim of the Home Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSFP) is the adequate nutrition of school-going children, which, it is hoped, will be achieved by supplementing their diet with a complete meal that is adequate in energy, protein, vitamins and minerals (NEPAD, 2003). The reason NEPAD gives for focusing on school-going children is to improve nutritional status in their formative years. Since primary education is compulsory in most African countries, children can be more easily reached by going to schools, so schools can be used as efficient distribution centres. NEPAD also argues that school feeding will enhance enrolment and attendance, with attendant improvements in literacy (particularly for girls), an important component of poverty reduction (NEPAD, 2003).

The Home Grown School Feeding Programme was launched in Ghana in September 2005 following NEPAD's recommendation to use home-grown foods, where possible, as one of the "Quick impact initiatives" to achieve the Millennium



Development Goals, especially for rural areas facing the dual challenge of high chronic malnutrition and low agricultural productivity (UN Millennium Project, 2005). Ultimately, the programme is expected to impact on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) two and one, which respectively include the achievement of universal primary education, and the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger (Afoakwa, 2007). In addition, the basic concept of the programme is to provide children in public primary schools and kindergartens in the poorest areas of the country with one hot, nutritious meal per day, using locally - grown foodstuffs.

The strategy to feed school children with locally - prepared food that is nutritionally adequate will result in 80% of the programme spending on local foodstuffs and therefore cutting down on post-harvest losses and providing markets for farm output, and impacting positively on the economy at the rural household and community levels. With improved incomes, poor rural households can afford the additional food intake needed to ensure the full complement of nutritional needs that will address the rampant short-term hunger, poor resource farmers/small scale farmers and the problems of ages under – five and maternal malnutrition (GSFP Annual Operating Plan, 2007).

The long term goal is to contribute to poverty reduction and food security in Ghana. The programme's objective to reduce poverty and food insecurity through the school feeding programme is anchored on the following conceptual framework:

- i. Long - term poor rural household and community food security is the ultimate objective. The strategy to feed school children with locally - prepared food that is nutritionally adequate will focus the spending on local foodstuffs. This will provide ready market for farm output, leading to wealth creation at the rural household and community level.

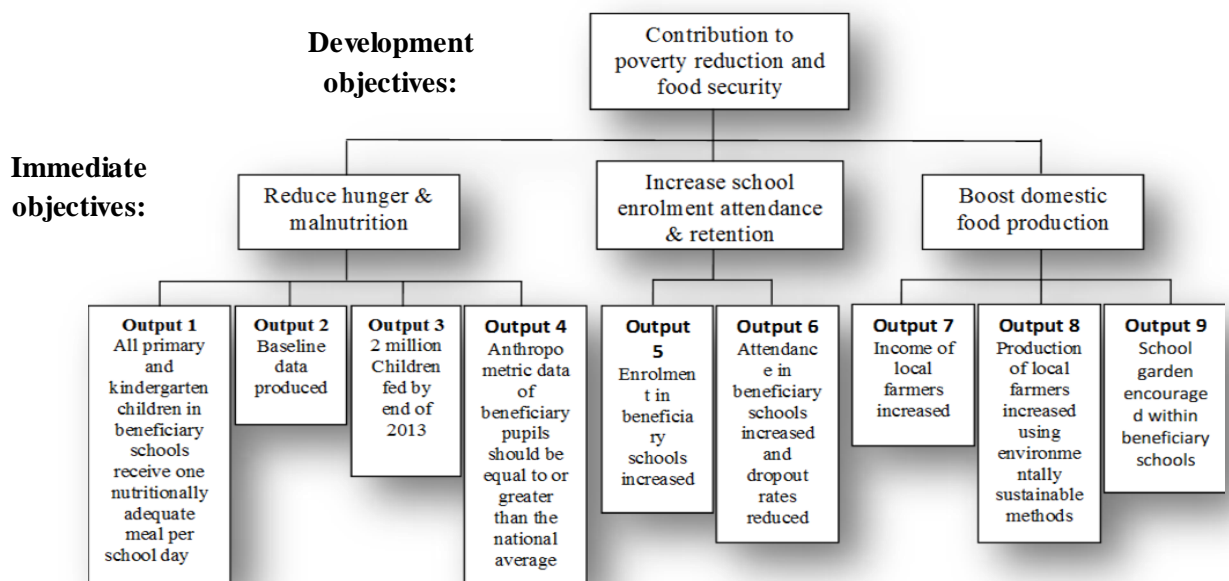




- ii. This will help rural communities to generate wealth through improved incomes from the ready market for their farm output (as provided by the school feeding programme).
- iii. With improved incomes, poor rural households can afford the additional food intake needed to ensure the full complement of nutritional needs that will address the rampant short - term hunger, and the problems of under-five and maternal malnutrition.

The conceptual framework shown in figure 2.1 below.

**Figure 2. 1: Objectives and expected outputs of the GSFP**



**Source: GSFP Annual Operation Plan (2010)**

The three key pillars that underpin the GSFP and translate into three corresponding immediate objectives are:

- (i) Reducing hunger and malnutrition;
- (ii) Increasing school enrolment, attendance and retention; and
- (iii) Boosting domestic food production.



## 2.4 TYPES OF FEEDING PROGRAMMES

The Home-Grown SFP aims at expanding school feeding programme in order to increase enrolment, while at the same time promoting local food production. This is to allow the programme to achieve its ultimate goal of reducing hunger, especially in rural areas and, consequently, improving the rural economy. There are two forms of distribution of food in the Home-Grown SFPs, which are *take-home rations (THR)* and *school feeding programmes (SFP) (on site feeding)*.

The School Feeding Programme (SFP) component involves making available meals or snacks to school children on the site. Under SFP, the food given to school children can be either pre-packaged or cooked on site. The benefit of the food provided under the school feeding programmes is conditional on the attendance of the child on that specific day. Thus, an advantage of the SFP is that it serves as an incentive for children to attend school on a daily basis to receive a meal (Lawson, 2012). For more information on the advantages and disadvantages of this type, see Table 2.1.

With regard to Take Home Rations (THR), meals are provided to school children to be taken home for consumption at home. With THR, students need only to attend school for a specified minimum number of days to be qualified for the ration. Take-Home Rations are usually conditional to meeting a minimum threshold of attendance, and are usually distributed monthly. In Burkina Faso, the WFP - managed programme requires attendance of 90% for that month to receive the monthly ration (Kazianga *et al.*, 2008 as cited in Lawson, 2012). In areas where enrolment and attendance of children is lower for girls, THR programmes may be employed to boost their attendance, and thus promote education for girls. For more details on THR see Table 2.1.



**Table 2. 1: Types of Feeding Programmes and their Advantages and Disadvantages**

<b>Types of Feeding Programmes</b>	<b>Advantages</b>	<b>Disadvantages</b>
School Feeding Programme (SFP) (Cooked Meals)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children who are supposed to benefit are reached with daily attendance</li> <li>• Students motivated to attend regularly</li> <li>• Able to utilise local fresh produce from nearby farmers</li> <li>• Alleviates short- term hunger so students may focus in classroom</li> <li>• Meals often include milk products or other nutritionally dense foods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Costs may be higher (salaries for cooks, loss of economies of scale, etc.)</li> <li>• Targeting is broad</li> <li>• May take away from teaching time</li> </ul>
Take-Home Rations (THR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents &amp; students motivated to attend regularly</li> <li>• Food may be shared with younger siblings, who may be in greater need of nutritional support</li> <li>• Does not take away from teaching time</li> <li>• Able to target specific families and students (i.e. families with girls or younger children)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nutritional benefits may be diluted within household</li> <li>• Rations are often cereals and oils (might not be fortified)</li> </ul>

Source: Author's construct (2014)

## **2.5 IMPACTS OF SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMMES ON THE FARMER**

One fundamental aim of the SFP supported by the Catholic Relieves Services was to contribute to food security in the country as a whole (Hicks, 1996). Similarly, the GSFP-AOP (2007) indicated that the long-term objective of the GSFP is to be achieved through



the purchase of locally grown foodstuffs through the feeding programme as a way of boosting food production at the community level. Specifically, 80% of the feeding cost should be spent in the local economy. (This is to say that the foodstuffs for the feeding must be procured from local farmers (GSFP AOP, 2007).

According to an inventory of the GSFP by the Dutch NGO SNV, it was only in the Eastern Region that more than 20% of food was bought from local farmers. In all the other Regions, less than 20% of food was purchased locally (SNV, 2008). In the related activity of promoting school gardening, the 2007 action plan's target was that 50% of the schools should have a school garden by the end of that year, yet only 16.4% of the schools had a school garden at the end of 2007 (SNV, 2008). To date, linking the GSFP to local agricultural production remains one of the major challenges and a lot more needs to be done to shore up that aspect of the programme.

Traditionally, SFPs have been thought of as social safety net interventions to achieve educational and nutritional goals. But more recently these programmes and others that involve food aid have been thought of as a possible tool for agricultural development (Sumberg and Sabates-Wheeler, 2011). The manner in which these goals link together can be seen in the proposed Home Grown School Feeding (HGSF) programmes, which are designed to supply food for the programmes from purchases and procurement of locally produced food while enhancing the domestic production and demand for food (Ahmed, 2004).

Schools that depend on local communities to implement and provide for SFPs have favourable spinoffs (Del Rosso, 1999). These include increased communication between communities, parents and teachers, which in turn have favourable benefits for the quality of education and nutritional awareness within the wider community. In



addition, local economies may be stimulated through employment opportunities and the purchasing of community grown products (Grantham-McGregor, 2005).

Furthermore, the school feeding programme opens up a new market for farmers. This would be an advantage to the farmers who are not able to get market for their produce. In recent years, small and medium holder farmers have been forced out of business because of limited market. This was found out by the United Nation World Food Programme in collaboration with the Ghana Statistical Service and other partners (Boohene, 2006). In response to this, the Ghana government implemented the GSFP to create economic opportunities for smallholder farmers in the community.

By supplying to local schools according to what the schools need, farmers stand the chance of varying their market. Ohmart's (2002) study focused on farmers' motivation for participating in the farm-to-school project in the state of California. According to Ohmart (2002), farmers in the United States of America, especially in the State of California who are involved in farming to feed the programme have shown that the schools represent a steady reliable demand that helps farmers plan their crop planting, harvesting and marketing more effectively. The implication is that their revenues will increase.

Besides direct revenues, farmers are motivated to participate in these programmes as it provides an opportunity to contribute to the health and education of children. Their interaction with students, parents and the community often results in additional sales through farmers' markets and other avenues (Ohmart, 2002). Ohmart (2002) again observed that as farmers supplied vegetables to the schools, it linked the schools and the markets.

More so, Bright (2009) notes that feeding programmes favour the local farmer as they cut out the intermediary, allowing increase in financial return through direct sales,



price control and a regular cash flow. They also provide the producer with direct customer feedback on produce and prices. Another favourable condition for the local farmer is that transportation and packaging requirement are less as the farmer and the community is very close. This reduces the producers' cost (Bright, 2009).

Moreover, the GSFP leads to food sovereignty in the local communities (Campesina, 2003). This is because food is produced for local markets based on peasant and family farmers, thereby affecting the development of local food economies and food outlets (Chopra, 2004; People's Food Sovereignty, 2001). Using local produce for SFPs will stimulate the local economy, supply appropriate food for school children and, if correctly managed, will lay the foundation for the transfer of agricultural skills between generations (People's Food Sovereignty, 2001).

One of the outcomes of the Ghana school feeding programme as stated in the GSFP is to increase the income of farmers as they use the schools as a market (AOP, 2008). According to Theobald (2008), the Ghana—HGSF hopes to create a bigger market for rural farmers, through demand created by purchasing only locally-grown and processed food for school meals. Also, the project will promote local agriculture and benefit rural farmers by using locally-sourced food, providing regular orders and a reliable income for local farmers, the majority of whom are women (Espejo, Burbano and Galliano, 2007).

Adjei (2006) argued that often farmers are entreated to increase production without the reciprocate procurement of their produce. It has been argued and proven that when one creates a demand it will be met; so, the HGSFP is based on the procurement of all its food requirement from the local farmers, thereby providing ready and reliable market to the local farmers who, in turn, will an increase in income to live a better life (Adjei, 2006).



## **2.6 CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PATRONAGE OF LOCAL FARMERS' PRODUCE SUPPLIED TO THE SFP**

The globalisation of the food trade has led to the rise of transnational food companies that are increasingly dictating the extent to which individual countries are able to determine the nature of the crops they plant and the food they produce. In essence, these companies control the entire food chain, from agricultural inputs to production and distribution (Chopra, 2004).

Farmers in the West Gonja District produce crops such as maize, cassava, yam, groundnut, sorghum, cowpea, tomatoes, Alefu, Roselle, Ayoyo, bean leaf, and cassava leaves. Even though, these crops are rich in protein and other vital minerals, which are good for the pupils in the beneficiary schools to boost the HGSFP, unfortunately, farmers produce are not bought. The caterers rather opt for foreign foodstuffs. Precisely because the huge multinational companies are those that control the market.

In addition, poor quality is another factor that may prevent caterers from buying the produce of local farmers. This may be due to the nature of the food item or polluted water used on the crops (Amankwaa, 2000). It is in this regard that SEND-Ghana (2009), after its survey, recommended that policies should be put in place to secure small-producers' access to water for production purposes, including water for irrigation. Also, the survey recommended that potable water is necessary for small producers to produce a clean and good quality product for the market as well as for processing and added value. As the produce are of poor quality, the caterers entertain fear that if they use such foodstuffs to cook for the pupils they will end up eating (chaff) or even fall sick and thus defeat the purpose of the introduction of the meal.

Irregularity in the supply of foodstuffs has also surfaced as a challenge associated with the supply of food to the GSFP. For example, Institute of Statistical Social and



Economic Research (ISSER) and Ernest and Young (2011) have said that the small nature of the farms of the farmers affects the regularity and availability of foodstuffs. This is because it leads to low output; a large portion of this output is even consumed by the farmer's family with very little left for supply to the caterers. ECASARD/SNV (2009) indicated that farmers expressed the fear that if they should produce for the GSFP and the caterers refuse to absorb the produce they will run at a loss because it would be difficult for them to get market for their produce.

Inconsistent release of funds to caterers is another challenge faced by SFPs (ISSER and Ernst and Young, 2011; Alhassan and Alhassan, 2014). In this respect, Alhassan and Alhassan (2014) noted that there is irregularity in the release of funds to caterers under the GSFP and this affects their ability to pay cash for produce they buy from the local farmers. For ISSER and Ernst and Young (2011) pointed out that many caterers operate on a credit arrangement, which is at variance with the ways farmers operate. This makes farmers unwilling to give them their produce because they are not confident that the caterers would be able to honour their commitment when it is due. Furthermore, in a study by SNV (2012), it emerged that the payments to caterers for their services rendered to the GSFP have delayed up to four months. This shows that the funding for the GSFP is not provided regularly to the caterers to operate. This might push them to go for loans to pre-finance the purchases.

On the issue of procurement of produce from farmers, there is no established process that underpins it. This situation does not motivate the farmers to produce more. For instance, ISSER and Institute of Statistical Ernest and Young (2011) reported that there are no established procurement models or procedures for caterers that facilitate the purchase of foodstuffs from farmers. Similarly, Afoakwa (n.d.) pointed out that the GSFP





does not have an established procurement procedure that serves as guiding principles for caterers and suppliers.

*“To date, the only guideline for food procurement under the programme is that, all foods must be procured from locally-grown (Home-Grown) commodities produced by local farmers, with emphasis on procuring from nearby farmers at community level within” (Afoakwa, n.d.:4).*

This situation creates room for the caterers to do whatever they want when it comes to purchase of produce from farmers.

Collaborating Ministries (Health, Food and Agriculture) are unaware of their roles and responsibilities. As a result, they have not linked services such as farmer extension and deworming/ weight check to the feeding programme. Government must clarify roles to be played by the partners. If government is serious about boosting local food production, farmers also need more information about how to participate in the programme (GSFP and Partnership for Child Development Annual Report, 2011).

In addition, the willingness of farmers to sell to particular customers is a factor limiting the demand for their produce. Fafchamps (2004) noted that when businessmen and women operating in poor countries are asked how they prevent opportunistic breaches of contract, they typically respond that they conduct business like transactions only with individuals they can trust. With strangers, they revert to a cash- and -carry form of exchange (Fafchamps, 2004). Per this, goods are inspected on the spot, and delivery takes place against instant payment in cash (Fafchamps, 2004). Also, trust results primarily from history of successful exchanges. A survey by ECASARD/SNV (2009) found out that the farmers did not trust the GSFP to absorb all their produce, especially when there is a glut. Thus, the farmers said this would make them worse off; therefore,



most farmers would like to do business with their old customers who are willing to buy from them always.

Moreover, crop prices are yet another factor, which determines farmers' willingness to sell to a customer, and this could serve as an obstacle in their supply of foodstuffs to the GSFP. For producers, crop prices are a major factor governing income and cropping decisions (Baulch, 2005). Thus, when crop prices are favourable, they produce more. Nevertheless, at the low prices the caterers of the GSFP want to buy the foodstuffs, it serves as a disincentive for the farmers to sell to them. They will rather resort to alternative markets where the prices would be better off.

Furthermore, low output by farmers is a cause of the low patronage of their produce. Poor farmers have hardly any capital of their own and have little access to capital for input or farm implements (Eenhoom, 2005). Hence, they are a big risk for every provider of capital, including micro-finance, because they have no collateral to present as a mortgage. This means that the farmers depend on human labour to do all the farm activities. This means that their outputs are not guaranteed and once the yields are low, they are unable to tap the benefits presented to them by the GSFP.

## **2.7 MANAGING SFP TO THE BENEFIT OF THE FARMERS**

The operational manual did not guide the implementation of GSFP and no clear procedure for obtaining enrolment figures was used for disbursing funds. In the light of these problems, government has initiated a review and restructuring of the programme to achieve the objective of poverty reduction and food security in the country (Dogbe and Kwabena-Adade, 2012). Traditionally, the procurement of food for the programmes has come from foreign food aid. When food aid is distributed, there are distortions to the local markets, which often result in lower prices and provide disincentives to local



producers (Barrett, 2006). This has led to the development of programmes such as the WFP's Purchase for Progress (P4P) initiative to reverse this trend, and helped lead others to look to HGSF as a tool for agricultural development.

According to WFP (2013), in the last few years, a number of low-income countries have started their own programmes, funded and managed by local governments as opposed to external partners. For example, Brazil is exploring ways to purchase foodstuffs from local sources. With this, they intend to provide the farmers with a stable market and to increase their incomes. In addition, caterers are encouraged to buy foodstuffs closer to the schools to enable the community to be involved in decision-making and management of resources. Furthermore, local procurement can be an opportunity to provide more diverse foods that are fresh and unprocessed leading to the provision of indigenous crops that are closer to what children may eat at home (WFP, 2013). This has the potential to increase the quality of the food basket.

More so, Alhassan and Alhassan (2014) have indicated that in order to make the GSFP beneficial to the farmers, then it must be de-politicized. There must be regular budgetary allocation, regular review of prices to reflect the prices of food commodities and timely release of funds. This implies that with the de-politicization of the GSFP caterers would procure foodstuffs from farmers irrespective of the party they belong to. Again, it means that the regular allocation of the budget to the GSFP secretariat would ensure that it has the resources to disburse to the caterers. Caterers would no longer have to buy the foodstuffs on credit. Finally, once the prices offered by the caterers are realistic, the farmers would be willing to sell their produce to them and even want to produce more to supply to them. Under these conditions, the farmer would gain from the GSFP.



## CHAPTER THREE

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter encompasses the methodology used in the study. The specific issues examined include profile of the study area, the study design, sampling design, sources of data, tools for data collection, data analysis, data management and ethical issues.

#### 3.2 PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA

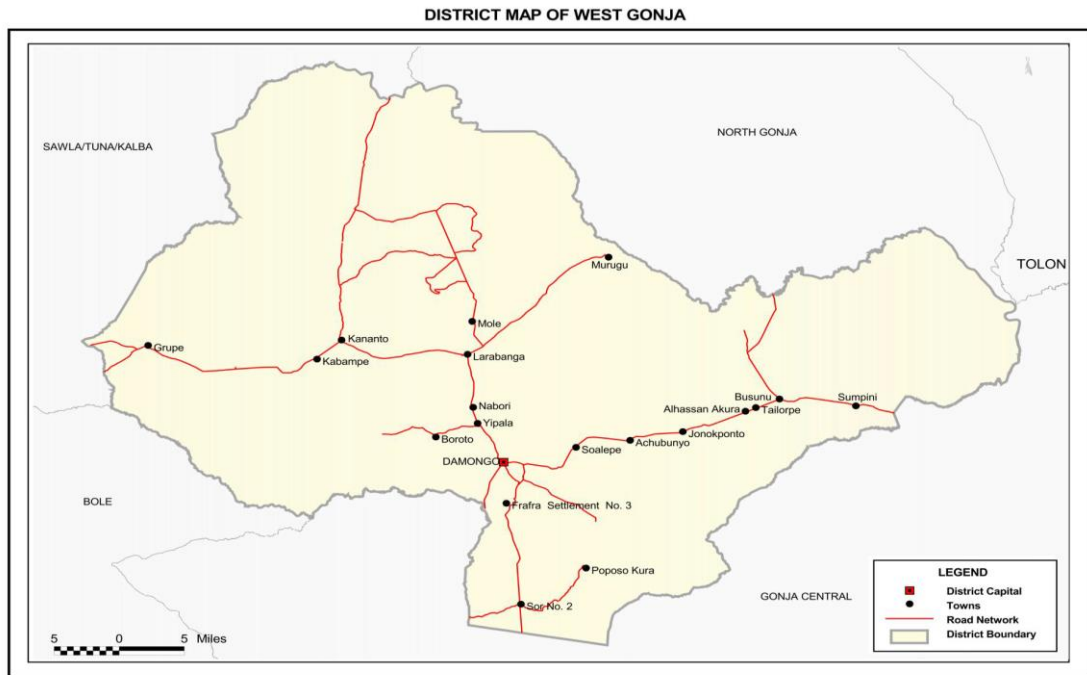
This section deals with the profile of the study area that encapsulates specifically location of the study area, population, transportation system, economic activities and the educational sector.

##### 3.2.1 Location

The West Gonja District Assembly was originally established on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December, 1988 by PNDC Law 207. With the creation of the Central Gonja District in 2004, a new Legislative Instrument (L.I.) 1775 passed created the present West Gonja District Assembly. It has its capital located at Damongo, the Gonja Paramountcy (West Gonja District Composite Budget, 2014). The West Gonja District is located in the Northern Region of Ghana. It lies within longitude  $1^{\circ}51'$  and  $2^{\circ}58'$  west and latitude  $8^{\circ}32'$  and  $10^{\circ}21'$  north. It shares boundaries on the south with Central Gonja District; Bole and Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District on the west; Wa East District in the North- West; and Gonja North District in the north and east (see Figure 3.1). The district has a total land area of 8,352 Km<sup>2</sup>. This represents about 12% of the total land area of the Northern region. The Mole National Park and Kenikeni Forest Reserves occupy 3,800Km, 30% of the land area of the district.



**Figure 3. 1: Map of West Gonja District**



Source: GSS (2014a)

### 3.2.2 Population

In 2000, the population of the West Gonja District was 76,702 which increased to 84,727 in 2010 (Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), 2005; Cudjoe, Azure, Assem and Nortey, 2013). However, with the re-demarcation of the district, resulting in the North Gonja District evolving out of it, the West Gonja District's population now stands at 41,180, comprising 50.2% of males and 49.8% of females (GSS, 2014a). In addition, with respect to the urban-rural divide, the populations are 21,188 persons and 19,992 persons respectively. This shows that there are more people living in the urban than in the rural areas. There are 22 ethnic groups in the district. The major groups in order of magnitude include Gonja, Tampilma, Hanga, Kamara, Dagomba, Mamprusi and Dagaabas. The lack of ethnic homogeneity has culminated in the cosmopolitan nature of Damongo, the district capital. Besides, there are inter-tribal marriages and peaceful co-existence, which provides unity in diversity. There are four major religious groups: Muslims, about 70%;



Catholics, 10%; Pentecostals 8%; and Traditional Worshippers, 12% (West Gonja District Composite Budget, 2014). With the majority of the population being children with many of them not in school and those already in school dropping out, the implementation of the SFP would help to reverse the condition. This would ensure that the district's human resource base has formal education.

### **3.2.3 Transportation System**

Before 2014, apart from the Damongo town roads that were tarred, there was no other tarred road in the district. Most of the roads in the district were feeder roads and largely unmotorable because they were often flooded and impassable during the rainy season (West Gonja District Composite Budget, 2014). However, with the tarring of the road from Fulfulso junction to the Mole National Park, the length of tarred roads in the district increased significantly. The tarring of this road is timely, as it will open up the district to investors and more tourists. Furthermore, it will help farmers to transport their produce to the market centres easily and enable the caterers of the school feeding programmes to travel to the hinterlands of the districts to buy the foodstuffs.

### **3.2.4 Economic Activities**

The topography of the district is generally undulating with altitude ranging between 150 to 200 meters above sea level. The only high land is the Damongo Escarpment, located north of the district capital. The Mole River from the northern boundary joins the White Volta, east of Damongo and joins the Black Volta around Tuluwe in the Central Gonja District. The White Volta River forms the eastern boundary of the district.

Temperatures are generally high, with the maximum occurring in the dry season, between March/April and the lowest between December/January. The mean monthly temperature is 27<sup>0</sup>C. The dry season is characterized by the harmattan winds, which are



dry, dusty, cold in the morning, and very hot at noon. Evaporation is very high causing soil moisture deficiency. Humidity is very low causing dry skin and cracked lips to human beings. The study area has an erratic rainfall pattern beginning in late April to late October with an annual average of around 1,100mm. The peak of rainfall is around June/July with prolonged dry season from November to mid-April. Erosions and floods are common due to the torrential nature of the rains (West Gonja District Composite Budget, 2014)

The natural vegetation is the Guinea Savanna. The soil type is laterite, and human activities, including shifting cultivation, and slash and burn method of land preparation dictate the vegetative cover of the district. The major tree species are shea nut, dawadawa, baobab, acacia, nim and some ebony. The trees are scattered, except in the valleys where isolated woodland or forest are found. Most trees are deciduous, shedding their leaves during the dry season in order to conserve water. Grass grows in tussocks and may reach a height of 2.7m during the rainy season (West Gonja District Composite Budget, 2014). This indicates that the area is suitable for crops such as millet, sorghum, maize and groundnuts. No wonder, agriculture is the major occupation, engaging over 60% of the labour force in the district, while retail trade and services engage the remaining 40% (Ghana Statistical Service, 2003). With a short rainy season, it means farmers are constrained to cultivate in that period only. Similarly, with laterite not suitable for cultivation of many crop types, the introduction of the GSPF in the district therefore, comes in handy. This is because the few crops that grow in the vegetation zone is what is demanded by the SFP. Women in the district are mostly petty traders dealing in agricultural products, provisions and processed agricultural products.



### 3.2.5 Educational Sector

The West Gonja District has three Senior High Schools. Two are public and the one a private school. The two public senior high schools have a total population of 3,316 students with 108 teachers, while the only private senior high school has a total population of 115 students with 12 teachers (Education Management Information Systems (EMIS), 2012).

For the public basic schools, the district has 34 kindergartens, 33 primary schools and 15 junior high schools. The kindergartens have a total population of 3,860 pupils, with 76 teachers consisting of 37 trained and 39 untrained. The number of pupils in the public primary schools is 7,253 with 236 teachers made up of 115 trained and 79 untrained teachers. The public junior high schools have 2479 pupils with 178 teachers consisting of 141 trained and 37 untrained teachers (EMIS, 2012).

For the private schools, the district has 4 kindergartens with a total population of 350 pupils with 7 teachers consisting of 1 trained teacher and 6 untrained teachers. The primary schools have a population of 809 with 19 teachers who are all untrained, while the junior high school is made up of 217 pupils with 15 teachers consisting of 1 trained and 14 untrained teachers (West Gonja District Composite Budget, 2014).

In terms of infrastructure for schools, the District Assembly and some missionaries have built 80% of the classrooms. This is in line with government's policy to improve the living standard of the people.

Education in the West Gonja District is not without problems. There are inadequate teachers resulting in poor performance of pupils at the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE). In addition, there is poor attendance to school and the dropout situation is appalling. This is because pupils have to work to assist their parents provide for their feeding.





In spite of this, most of the pupils see education as another way of improving their living standard (West Gonja District Composite Budget, 2014). The introduction of the GSFP into the district is therefore a welcome move since it would help to address some of the educational challenges such as dropout of pupils, absenteeism, truancy and so on. Children would now come to school regularly and stay until completion as they get a free meal at school.

### 3.3 RESEARCH DESIGN

For the purpose of this study, the *case study* research design was adopted. The case study research method is suitable for this research because it is an empirical inquiry that investigates a contemporary phenomenon within its real-life context, when the boundary lines between phenomenon and context are not clearly evident; and in which multiple sources of evidence are used (Yin, 1984). Case study is a research approach, situated between concrete data taking techniques and methodological paradigms (Lamnek, 2005). For Bromley (1990), a case study is a systematic inquiry into an event or a set of related events, which aims to describe and explain the phenomenon of interest. All sorts of methods and techniques, both qualitative and quantitative can be used and/or combined in a case study (Leeuwis, 2004). This study adopted a case study design approach because it will give the researcher the opportunity to investigate into some detail the study problem, which focuses on farmers' engagement in the supply of foodstuffs to caterers of the GSFP. In addition, it is adopted because it allows the researcher to collect both qualitative and quantitative data.



### **3.4 SAMPLING DESIGN**

#### **3.4.1 Population and Sample**

Population refers to the objects, subjects, phenomena, cases, events or activities specified for the purpose of sampling (Brynard and Hanekom, 2005). The target population for this study consisted of the farmers, stakeholders of GSFP and caterers of the GSFP in the West Gonja District.

#### **3.4.2 Sample Size**

Anderson (2004) argues that there are no clear answers with regard to how large a sample should be. Considering the fact that there is no sample frame for both the farmers that supply foodstuffs to the GSFP and those that do not, it became difficult to use a statistical method to determine the appropriate sample size. Consequently, the sample size of 129 respondents (see Table 3.1 for details) was decided upon based on the judgement of the researcher and Anderson's assertion. All the 28 caterers of beneficiary schools in the West Gonja District were considered as the sample size for the study. However, four of the caterers were not reachable; so at the end, only 24 of them formed part of the sample. The entire population of the caterers was used because it was not large. In the case of the farmers, 102 of them were sampled as part of the sample using quota sampling. According to Neuman (2007), in quota sampling the researcher first identifies the pertinent categories of respondents after which he/she decides the number to include in each group. This sampling method was adopted because there was no sampling frame of farmers that supply food and those that do not supply foodstuffs to the caterers. It was also adopted because the farmers were heterogeneous and this ensured that each category had its views captured. On that basis, the farmers were grouped into those that supplied foodstuffs to the GSFP and those that did not. Guided by the principle that a majority of



the farmers were not supplying foodstuff to the GSFP, the quota of the farmers in this category was bigger, constituting 70 farmers. In the case of those farmers who supplied the caterers' foodstuffs, the quota was small, consisting of 32 farmers. For the three important stakeholders of the GSFP that formed part of the sample size, they were selected purposively. This was because they had adequate knowledge about the operation of the GSFP.

**Table 3. 1: Sample Size Distribution**

<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
Farmers that supply foodstuffs to the GSFP	32
Farmers that do not supply foodstuffs to the GSFP	70
Stakeholders of GSFP	3
Caterers	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>129</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2014

### 3.5 SOURCES OF DATA

The study collected data from both primary and secondary sources. The data that was obtained from the primary sources included data local farmers are involvement in the supply of foodstuff to GSFP beneficiary schools, benefits farmers stand to gain from supplying foodstuffs to the GSFP, challenges of patronage of local foodstuffs from farmers, and managing the Ghana school feeding programme to the benefit of the farmers. These were collected using a semi-questionnaire and interviews. In terms of the secondary data, it was collected on output of farm products and prices for the period 2014. This was obtained from the West Gonja District Agriculture office.



### **3.6 TOOLS FOR DATA COLLECTION EMPLOYED**

For the present study, the investigator collected data using a semi-structured questionnaire and interviews. The subsequent subsections provide details on each of the tools.

#### **3.6.1 Semi Structured Questionnaire**

A semi-structured questionnaire aided in data collection. This questionnaire had open - ended and closed items. This tool is effective for collecting both quantitative and qualitative data; hence, its adoption. The caterers and farmers responded to two of these semi- structured questionnaires (see Appendix 1 and 2). Both questionnaires are divided into five sections. The first section in both categories centres on the background data. The second section, which is 'B', focuses on local farmers' involvement in the supply of foodstuffs to the GSFP. The next section, that is part 'C', comprises of issues surrounding benefits farmers stand to gain from the GSFP. Furthermore, part 'D' consists of challenges associated with the patronage of foodstuffs from the farmers. The last but not the least section is part 'E' which touches on managing the GSFP to the benefit of the local farmers. Though the subsections for caterers and farmers are the same, nonetheless, there are slight variations in the content of the various sections of the questionnaire for both categories of respondents (see Appendix 1 and 2).

#### **3.6.2 Interviews**

An interview is a method of data collection in which one person (the interviewer) asks the respondents questions and the respondents provide the answers. The face-to-face interview was adopted for this study. The interviews helped in the collection of qualitative data. The execution of the interviews was through the aid of an interview



guide (see Appendix III). The stakeholders of the GSFP (i.e., District Director of Agriculture, Desk Officer of the District Assembly and District Director of Education) were the respondents who were interviewed. They were interviewed on issues such as the kinds of foodstuffs farmers are to supply to caterers, benefits farmers derive from supplying foodstuffs to the GSFP schools, causes of low patronage of locally produced foodstuffs for the GSFP and managing the GSFP to the benefit of farmers.

### **3.7 DATA ANALYSIS**

Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) aided in analysing the quantitative data while the qualitative data was analysed manually. The analysis of the quantitative data made use of descriptive statistics (i.e., frequencies, percentages and cross-tabulations), whereas the qualitative data analysis was carried out using grounded theory. The grounded theory technique of analysis involved using open, axial and selective coding (These inductive codes are codes developed by the researcher by directly examining the data).

First, the analysis of the extent to which local farmers are involved in the supply of foodstuffs to beneficiary schools of the GSFP in the West Gonja District was done at two levels. The first level was using quantitative analysis while at the second level qualitative analysis was done. With reference to the quantitative analysis, it was carried out on the level of farmers' awareness about the existence of the GSFP, acreage of farms of local farmers, supply of foodstuffs to the GSFP, patronage of foodstuffs supplied, caterers' views about farmers' supply of their produce to them, the impact of food supply from local farmers on survival of the GSFP and payment mode for farm produce supplied to caterers under the GSFP. These quantitative analysis involved cross-tabulating variables against each other and using frequencies and percentages to determine the



relationships. In the case of the qualitative analysis, it encapsulated foodstuffs used for preparing meals under the GSFP and Food crops produced by farmers. The analysis involved simply listing the foodstuffs used in preparing meals under the GSFP and those cultivated by farmers in the district.

On the issue of the impact of the school feeding programme on the farmer, this was analysed using both quantitative and qualitative methods. With respect to the quantitative analysis, it was applied to farmers and caterers' perceptions of the importance of the GSFP. Here, the respondents rated their perceptions, which were measured using frequencies and percentages. The reasons enumerated for respondents' perceptions on the importance of farmers' participation in the GSFP were analysed using axial and open coding.

With respects to the challenges associated with patronage of local farmers' produce, it was analysed using both quantitative and qualitative techniques. The challenges associated with producing to supply the GSFP, were analysed using frequencies and percentages to determine those that said they encountered challenges. On the issues of the qualitative analysis, the challenges enumerated were used to buttress the farmers' assertion that they met challenges. These challenges were put into distinct categories and the facts were then described under each category of challenge. Similarly, relationships between the categories were identified. For challenges associated with patronage of foodstuffs from farmers, this was analysed by first putting the factors into distinct categories (open coding). Under each distinct category, related facts were then described and synthesized. Then the relationships between the categories were recognized (axial coding).

Finally, managing the GSFP to the benefit of the farmers was analysed solely using qualitative methods. This analysis focused on the role of the farmer to enable him



or her to benefit from the GSFP, the role of Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) to enable local farmers benefit from the GSFP, the role of caterers to enable local farmers benefit from the GSFP and the role of the GSFP secretariat to enable local farmers benefit from the GSFP. The analysis entailed using open coding to put the factors into categories, whereas axial coding aided in the identification of relationships between and among categories identified.

### **3.8 DATA MANAGEMENT**

#### **3.8.1 Validity**

The study made frantic efforts to obtain face and content validity. For face validity, the study achieved it by ensuring that each item on the semi- structured questionnaire and interview guide had a logical link with the objectives of the study. In terms of content validity, the study obtained it by ensuring that items in the semi-structured questionnaire and interview guide covered the full range of issues on each of the objectives of the study. The auditing of the tools for data collection by four different academics in agriculture and school feeding programme was to ensure that all the items were well focused and relevant. Those who audited the tools for data collection were not from the study district.

#### **3.8.2 Reliability**

For reliability, efforts in this light were made to minimize errors by strict adherence to the defined sampling and analytical procedures. The research assistants went through training to help avoid unprofessional practices such as answering questions by themselves on respondents' behalf (Twumasi, 2001). The pretesting of the questionnaire and interview guide was undertaken at the Bole District on a similar study population. The pre- testing



was to help identify weaknesses and ambiguities in the tools for data collection in order to ensure their reliability before administrating them in the study area.

### **3.9 ETHICAL ISSUES**

Neuman (2007: 48) points out that ethical issues “define what is or is not legitimate to do, or what a moral research procedure involves.” Ethical issues gained consideration at each phase in the study. The discussions on ethical issues considered in this study are in the sections beneath.

#### **3.9.1 Ethical Issues Relating to the Researcher**

The researcher used the most appropriate methodology in conducting this study in order to ensure that conclusions drawn were valid. The researcher also made a conscious effort to avoid bias in reporting the findings of the study. The information that was obtained from the respondents on farmers’ contribution to the implementation of the GSFP were not to be used in any way to harm the participants but rather used to improve on farmers’ contribution to the programme and how they can benefit maximally from it.

#### **3.9.2 Ethical Responsibility to Participants**

The researcher sought the informed consent from the respondents (farmers, caterers and staff of the GSFP). A statement relating to informed consent was at the beginning of the questionnaire to reflect voluntary compliance by participation. The purpose of the study and procedure of the research was made known to the participants. The researcher informed the participants that their rights were guaranteed and would be protected if they agreed to be involved in the study and that participation in the study was voluntary: participants could withdraw at any stage during the interview process. The respondents





were informed that this study was not in any way injurious to them. Participation in the research process was therefore risk free. The anonymity of participants was obtained by numerically coding each returned questionnaire and keeping the responses confidential after the completion of the study. Participants have the information that summary data will be disseminated to the professional community, but in no way will it be possible to trace responses to individuals.

### **3.9.3 Ethical Issues Regarding the Sponsoring Organization**

The researcher personally financed this study. The researcher, therefore, informed the respondents that he himself was the financier of the study and not an external body. On this basis, there were no restrictions on the publication of findings of this study.



## CHAPTER FOUR

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

#### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter focuses on the presentation, interpretation and analysis of the data obtained from the field through the administration of a semi-structured questionnaire and interviews. It involves various attempts to answer the research questions by the separation of the research data into constituent parts by following the analytical themes (see section 3.6) derived from the research objectives. The main aspects that are covered here include profile of respondents, farmers' involvement in the Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP), the impact of GSFP on the farmers, the challenges associated with the patronage of local farmers' produce and managing GSFP to the benefit of the farmers. The subsequent sections provide detail discourse of each of the major themes.

#### 4.2 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

The demographic characteristics of the respondents (i.e., caterers, and farmers) concerns their gender and age. The details of the demographic characteristics are in the subsequent subsections.

##### 4.2.1 Demographic characteristics of Caterers

In connection with the gender of caterers, the information is in Table 4.1. From Table 4.1, the results show that 13% of the caterers were males while 87% of them were females. The results revealed that the majority of the caterers in the West Gonja District under the GSFP were females. The preponderance of the caterers being female as per the results of



this survey may be due to the fact that in Ghana and especially the northern parts cooking is considered mainly a feminine job (GSS, 2012).

**Table 4. 1: Gender Profile of Caterers**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Male	3	13
Female	21	87
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey (2014)

### **4.2.3 Demographic Characteristics of Farmers**

With respect to the demographic profile of farmers, it covers their gender and age. The details are in Table 4.2. Concerning the farmers that supply foodstuffs to the caterers, in terms of their gender characteristics, 72% of them are male while the females constitute 28%. The results suggest that the majority of the farmers that supply foodstuffs to the caterers are male. This supports the assertion that agriculture in Ghana is a male - dominated occupation (GSS, 2007). On the issue of age dynamics, 87.5% of the farmers that supply foodstuffs to the caterers are within the age group of 18 to 59 years while the remaining age groups (i.e., below 18years and 60+ years) constitute 12.5%. This shows that most of the farmers that supply foodstuffs to the caterers of the GSFP fall in the productive labour force group (i.e., 18 to 59 years). Impulse is that the farmers have the capacity to produce to feed the GSFP as most of them are within the active work force group.

Concerning the farmers that do not supply their farm produce to the caterers, with respect to their gender, 77% of them are male whereas the females constitute 23%. The results show that most of the farmers that do not supply foodstuffs to the caterers are male which again is in line with the assertion that in Ghana, agriculture is male - dominated (GSS, 2007). On age distribution, 85.7% of the farmers that do not supply



foodstuff to the caterers are within the age group of 18 to 59 years while the remaining age groups constitute 14.3%. This illustrates that most of the farmers that do not supply foodstuffs to the caterers of the GSFP fall within the productive labour force group (i.e., 18 to 59 years).

On the whole, males are dominant in both the farmers that supply foodstuff to the caterers and those that do not. With regard to age, in both respondent categories, the majority of them fall within the age group 18 to 59 years and this group constitutes the active labour force. This means that, all other things being equal, they may have the capacity to expand their farms since they are within the active age group.

**Table 4. 2: Bio Data of Farmers**

		Respondent category			Total
		Farmer that supply foodstuff to the GSFP	Farmer that do not supply foodstuff to the GSFP		
<b>Gender</b>	Male	<i>f</i>	23	54	77
		<i>%</i>	72	77	75
	Female	<i>f</i>	9	16	25
		<i>%</i>	28	23	25
	Total	<i>f</i>	32	70	102
		<i>%</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Age</b>	below 18yrs	<i>f</i>	1	1	2
		<i>%</i>	3.1	1.4	2.0
	18-59	<i>f</i>	28	60	88
		<i>%</i>	87.5	85.7	86.3
	60+	<i>f</i>	3	9	12
		<i>%</i>	9.4	12.9	11.8
	Total	<i>f</i>	32	70	102
		<i>%</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Field Survey (2014)

#### **4.3 FARMERS INVOLVEMENT IN THE GHANA SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME (GSFP)**

The areas of interest in the survey (report) under this major heading are farmers' level of awareness about the existence of GSFP, foodstuffs used for preparing meals under the



GSFP, food crops produced by local farmers, and the acreage of farms of local farmers. Also of interest under this heading are the supply of foodstuffs to the GSFP, patronage of foodstuffs supplied, caterers' views about farmers' supply of their produce to GSFP, impact of foodstuffs supply from local farmers on the survival of GSFP and the payment mode for farm produce supplied to caterers under the GSFP.

#### 4.3.1 Farmers Level of Awareness about the Existence of GSFP

On the issue of awareness of farmers about the GSFP, the details are in Table 4.3. The table shows that, 98.7% of male farmers said *yes*, indicating that they are aware of the existence of GSFP in the district, while 1.3% of them said *no*, depicting that they do not know about the existence of the GSFP. In the case of the female farmers, 100% of them said *yes*, denoting that they are aware of the existence of the GSFP. In all, about 99% of the farmers stated *yes*, showing that they have heard about the GSFP whereas only 1% of them said *no*, illustrating that they are not aware about the presence of the GSFP in the district. This results show clearly that a majority of both male and female farmers have knowledge about the existence of GSFP in the West Gonja District. This suggests that there is a very high level of farmers' awareness of the operation of the GSFP in the West Gonja District. This finding corroborates the discovery of ECASARD/SNV (2009) that farmers' awareness level about the GSFP is high (about 61%).

**Table 4. 3: Gender of Farmers by their Awareness level of GSFP**

			Awareness of the GSFP in the district		Total
			yes	No	
<b>Gender of Farmer</b>	Male	<i>f</i>	76	1	77
		%	98.7	1.3	100.0
	Female	<i>f</i>	25	0	25
		%	100.0	0.0	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<i>f</i>	101	1	102
		%	99.0	1.0	100.0

Source: Field Survey (2014)  
*f*=frequency; %=per cent



#### **4.3.2 Foodstuffs used for Preparing Meals under the GSFP**

It was important to know the key foodstuffs caterers under the GSFP use in preparing meals. This was necessary because it would reveal whether the local farmers are actually benefiting from the programme or not. Caterers listed maize, yam, rice, beans, cassava, and groundnuts as the foodstuffs they use in preparing meals under the GSFP. In addition, from the interviews conducted with some key informants from the GSFP secretariat in the West Gonja Districts it emerged that the caterers are supposed to buy foodstuffs produced within their locality.

#### **4.3.3 Food Crops Produced by Local Farmers**

The farmers indicated they produce crops that are suitable for the savannah vegetation. According to them (i.e., farmers), the food crops they produce include maize, guinea corn, millet, yam, rice, beans, bambara beans, cassava, okro, and groundnuts. This list of foodstuffs produced by the farmers in the district is largely in line with what the caterers say they use in preparing meals for the school children. This implies that the policy that caterers should buy their food supplies from the local farmers would be viable since the farmers can supply them what they need.

#### **4.3.4 Acreage of Farms of Local Farmers**

As farmers are to supply foodstuffs to the caterers of the GSFP, it is important to know their farm sizes as it would give an idea about their ability to meet the demand of the caterers. Table 4.4 shows details of acreage of farms of the farmers. From the Table, 69.6% of the farmers cultivate 1 to 5 acres, 16.7% of them cultivate about 6 to 10 acres while 13.7% of them cultivate above 11+ acres. The results depict that a majority of the farmers cultivate 1-5 acres a year. Since this is small, one wonders whether their yield



would be enough to feed their families let alone to sell. In terms of gender, the results show that a majority (61%) of the males cultivate between 1 to 5 acres annually. Similarly, most (96%) of the females cultivate between 1 to 5 acres per annum. Comparing males and female farm sizes, the results show that they both farm on subsistence basis. This suggests that they may not have enough to supply the caterers of the GSFP.

**Table 4. 4: Gender of Farmers by Acreage of Farm**

			Acres cultivated in a year			Total
			1-5 acres	6-10 acres	11+ acres	
<b>Gender of Farmer</b>	<b>Male</b>	<i>f</i>	47	17	13	77
		%	61.0	22.1	16.9	100.0
	<b>Female</b>	<i>f</i>	24	0	1	25
		%	96.0	0.0	4.0	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<i>f</i>	71	17	14	102
		%	69.6	16.7	13.7	100.0

Source: Field Survey (2014)

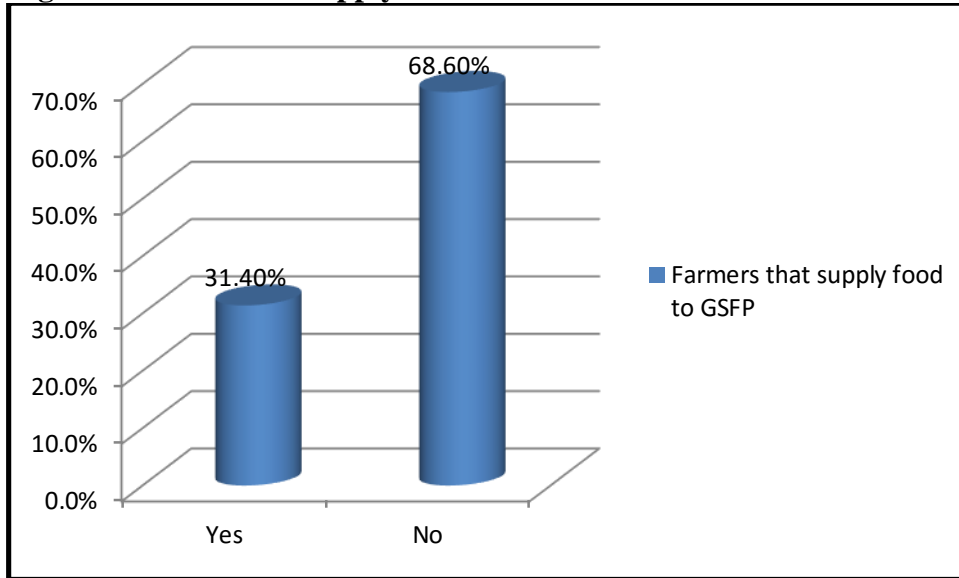
*f*=frequency; %=per cent

#### 4.3.5 Supply of Foodstuff to the GSFP

This subsection centres on the farmers' supply of foodstuffs to the caterers of the GSFP. The details are in Figure 4.1 and Table 4.5. With regard the supply of foodstuff by farmers to the caterers of the GSFP, the details are in Figure 4.1. From the Figure, it is clear that 68.60% of the farmers which represent the longest bar said *no*, indicating they do not supply their farm produce to the caterers under the GSFP. The remaining 31.40% of the farmers said *yes*, illustrating that they supply their foodstuff to the caterers. On the whole, a majority of the farmers do not supply their foodstuffs to the caterers under the GSFP, which is traceable probably to the small nature of their farms (see Table 4.4). The current finding supports that of ECASARD/SNV (2009), that many farmers do not supply their farm produce to the GSFP implying that they benefit less from the programme.



**Figure 4. 1: Farmers Supply of Foodstuff to the GSFP**



Source: Field Survey (2014)

Table 4.5 provides the details of farmers that supply foodstuff to the caterers and the acreage of their farms. The results reveal that of the 32% of the farmers that said *yes*, implying they supply foodstuff to the caterers, 71.9% of them cultivate about 1 to 5 acres per year. Furthermore, 12.5% of the farmers that supply foodstuffs to the caterers cultivate 6 to 10 acres per annum while 15.6% of remaining farmers till 11 acres and more per year. The results illustrate that most (71.9%) of the farmers that supply foodstuffs to the caterers under the GSFP cultivate about 1 to 5 acres per annum. Since most of the farmers that supply enough foodstuffs to the caterers are peasant farmers, this might imply that they may not be able to supply to meet the demands of the caterers. This is because they feed their own families from the same yield that they are supposed to supply to the caterers.





**Table 4. 5: Acreage of Farm by Supply of Foodstuff**

			Supply of foodstuff to the GSFP	Total
			Yes	
<b>Acres cultivated in a year</b>	1-5 acres	<i>f</i>	23	23
		%	71.9	71.9
	6-10 acres	<i>f</i>	4	4
		%	12.5	12.5
	11+ acres	<i>f</i>	5	5
		%	15.6	15.6
	Total	<i>f</i>	32	32
		%	100.0	100.0

Source: Field Survey (2014)

*f*=frequency; %=per cent

#### 4.3.6 Patronage of Foodstuffs Supplied

This subsection looks at the critical issues of the quantities of foodstuffs produced and supplied, that is, whether caterers buy the foodstuffs the local farmers supply them and, if they do, whether they are able to buy all that is supplied them. It also looks at the reasons why caterers do not buy farmers' produce. This is important because it will help in determining whether the farmers are gaining from the GSFP or not.

The details on the quantities of foodstuffs produced and supplied by the farmers as against the quantities demanded by caterers are in Table 4.6. The Table provides specifics of the foodstuffs produced and supplied by the 30 farmers to the caterers of the GSFP. From the Table 4.6, the results shows not all the foodstuffs produced are sold to the caterers. This suggests that the farmers consume part of their farm produce or perhaps sell their produce elsewhere. The results further illustrate that five of the foodstuffs supplied by the farmers, namely, maize, guinea corn, beans, cassava and groundnuts are in excess supply. This means that quantity supplied is in excess of what the caterers need. The excess supply ranges between 331kg of beans to 17, 300kg of maize. However, three of the foodstuffs supplied, that is millet, yam and rice are in deficit supply. This denotes



that demand from the caterers of the GSFP for these three food items outweighs the supply from the 30 farmers from whom they purchase these foodstuffs. The shortage of supply is between 139.5kg of millet to 412,491kg of yam. This scarcity of the foodstuffs may be due to the limited number of farmers that the caterers buy the commodity from. This challenge could be addressed by increasing the number of farmers from whom they buy these specific food items as the farmers in the district have the capacity to meet the demand (see Table 4.7). In the case of rice where the farmers in the district cannot meet the demand, caterers should buy the rice from other adjoining districts.

**Table 4. 6: Details of Quantities of Foodstuff Produced and Supplied for Sale by Farmers to Caterers as of 2014**

Food crops cultivated	Quantity produced (kg)	Quantity supplied (kg)	Quantity demanded By caterers (kg)	Difference (quantity supplied - quantity demanded) kg
Maize	98,700	49,250	31,950	17,300*
Guinea corn	12,144.5	5,144.5	1,144.5	4,000*
Millet	3,816	937.5	1,077	139.5**
Yam	140,125	90,009	502,500	412,491**
Rice	6000	1,480	18,000	16,520**
Beans	19,9045	9,448.5	9,117.5	331*
Cassava	31,224	8,820	7,560	1,260*
Groundnuts	14,429	7,331	3,108	4,223*

Source: Field Survey (2014)

Where: \*excess supply over demand; \*\*excess demand over supply

Table 4.7 gives details of the production of food crops for the entire West Gonja District. From the Table, the results demonstrate that there is excess supply of foodstuffs for each of the food crops (i.e., maize, guinea corn, millet, yam, rice, beans, and cassava) per the quantities demanded by the caterers of the GSFP. There is excess in supply ranging from 4,150,200kg of yam to 59,700kg of rice. This shows that the district has the capacity to supply all the food requirements of the caterers under the GSFP. For the caterers to meet their foodstuff requirement locally, what they have to do is to increase the number of farmers from whom they buy foodstuffs. The shortage in the supply of



some of the foodstuffs (i.e., millet, yam and rice) as shown in Table 4.6 is because of the limited number of farmers (i.e., 30 farmers) that the caterers buy their foodstuffs from, and not because there is not enough in the market.

**Table 4. 7: Details of Quantities of Food Crops Produced and Supplied for the Entire District as of 2014**

Food crops cultivated	Quantity Produced (kg)	Quantity Supplied for Sale (kg)	Quantity demanded by caterers (kg)	Difference (quantity supplied - quantity demanded) kg
Maize	2,312,500	1,210,600	31,950	1,178,650*
Guinea corn	508,100	300,100	1,144.5	298,955.5*
Millet	391,400	120,400	1,077	119,323*
Yam	58,013,500	4,652,700	502,500	4,150,200*
Rice	77,700	77,700	18,000	59,700*
Beans	167,000	130,102	9,117.5	120,984.5*
Cassava	690,916	297,100	7,560	289,540*
Groundnuts	5,441,400	186,233	3,108	183,125*

Source: Modified from MoFA – West Gonja District, (2014)

Where: \*excess supply over demand; \*\*excess demand over supply

Table 4.8 presents the results on whether caterers buy the foodstuffs supplied to them by the farmers. The results in Table 4.8 show that 93.8% of them (i.e., farmers that supply foodstuffs to caterers) said *yes*, illustrating that when they supply their farm produce to the caterers, they buy them (see Table 4.6). On the other hand, 6.2% of the farmers said *no*, depicting that when they supply the caterers their produce they are rejected. The results show that most of the farmers that supplied their farm produce to the caterers under the GSFP have their foodstuff bought. This is a step in the right direction as the GSFP provides ready market for farmers’ produce (see section 4.4.).

**Table 4. 8: Views of Farmers on Caterers of GSFP Purchase of their Farm Produce**

		Caterers Patronising Farm Produce Supplied		Total
		Yes	No	
Farmers	<i>f</i>	30	2	32
	<i>%</i>	93.8	6.2	100.0

Source: Field Survey (2014)

*f*=frequency; *%*=per cent



In terms of the ability of the caterers to buy the entire foodstuffs supplied by farmers, the details are in Table 4.9. The results show that 70% of the farmers said *yes*, showing that when they supply the caterers under the GSFP foodstuffs the entire supplies are bought. On the contrary, 30% of the farmers said *no*, denoting that the caterers are normally unable to buy the entire produce they supply them. The results illustrate that most of the farmers that supply their foodstuffs to the caterers noted that whenever they supply their farm produce to the caterers the entire supply is bought. This is a sign that the farmers are actually benefiting from the GSFP as they would not have to look far for markets for their produce.

**Table 4. 9: Views of Farmers on Caterers Purchase of their Entire Supply of Farmer Produce**

		Caterers Ability to Patronise Entire Farm Produce Supplied		Total
		Yes	No	
<b>Farmers</b>	<i>f</i>	21	9	30
	<i>%</i>	70.0	30.0	100.0

Source: Field Survey (2014)

*f*=frequency; *%*=per cent

The farmers that indicated that they do not supply foodstuffs to caterers (see Figure 4.1) or that the caterers do not buy their foodstuffs even if they supply them gave a litany of reasons why they do not supply the caterers. Some of the reasons for the caterers not buying the farmers' produce include the farmers producing limited yield, no requests placed for farmers to supply, farmers not being aware that caterers are to buy from them and caterers receiving food aid from NGOs.

First, limited yield emerged as a factor accounting for farmers not selling the produce to the caterers. For instance, a farmer said, "I am not able to produce enough to feed my family and to sell to the caterers under the GSFP" (Farmer from West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). Another farmer said, "My yield is always poor so I do not have



farm produce to supply the caterers even if they come requesting for supplies” (Farmer from West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). This is because they cultivate small acreages of land (see Table 4.4) and probably use out-dated farm practices and equipment. This results in their yields being inadequate. The current finding is consistent with the finding of Eenhoom (2005) that farmers hardly have capital to invest in their farms to improve on their yields.

In connection with lack of demand as a factor causing low patronage of their produce, a farmer indicated, “Though I’m willing to sell my farm produce to the caterers, none of them has ever asked me to supply them with foodstuffs” (Farmer from West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). In addition, a farmer noted, “The caterers do not ask for my farm produce; that is why I don’t supply them”. Another stated, “The caterers do not demand for my farm produce that is why I don’t sell my foodstuff to them” (Farmer from West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). These responses show that the caterers do not buy the farm produce of some of the farmers because they do not demand for produce from these local farmers. This means that even if the farmers have plenty food to supply to the caterers they cannot do so since they have not been approached.

Furthermore, not being aware that caterers are to buy their food supplies from the farmers accounts for the reason the caterers are not purchasing foodstuffs of some farmers. For example, a farmer stated, “I am not aware that the GSFP caterers are supposed to buy our farm produce that is why I do not sell my foodstuff to them” (Farmer from West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). Another farmer noted, “I didn’t know that we the local farmers are to sell our foodstuffs to the caterers” (Farmer from West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). This finding implies that ignorance is what has resulted in the farmers not supplying their foodstuffs to the caterers. This is because they do not know that the caterers are a source of ready market for their farm produce. However, considering the



farmers' awareness level of the GSFP being high (see Table 4.3), one did not expect the farmers to say they did not know that they could sell their produce to the caterers. This meant therefore that the farmers only know that the GSFP is operating in their district but do not know exactly what their contributions are to the programme.

Finally, the reason for caterers' not buying farmers produce is that the caterers receive food aid. Some of the farmers have indicated that the caterers do not buy their farm produce because they get food aid from NGOs and so this has resulted in them not buying their produce. This suggests that when the caterers get free foodstuffs supplies from NGOs, they would no longer buy the farm produce of the local farmers.

#### **4.3.7 Caterers view about Farmers' Supply of their Produce to Them (i.e., Caterers)**

With regard to the caterers view about the sources they buy foodstuffs for the GSFP the details are in Table 4.10. From the Table, 79.2% of the caterers responded *yes*, indicating that they buy their entire foodstuffs from the farmers within their locality. On the other hand, 20.8% of the caterers said *no*, depicting that they do not buy their entire foodstuffs from local farmers (See Table 4.6 for evidences supporting the need to buy from other sources). The results show that more than two-thirds of the caterers buy their entire foodstuffs from the local farmers (see Table 4.6). This suggests that the local farmers would benefit maximally from the GSFP since there is demand. This present finding contradicts the finding of SNV's (2008) that less than 20% of the foodstuff was locally purchased by caterers of the GSFP for preparing meals.



**Table 4. 10: Sources Caterers Buy their Foodstuff for the GSFP**

		Caterer		
		Yes	No	Total
Caterers buying of entire foodstuff from local farmers in the community	<i>f</i>	19	5	24
	%	79.2	20.8	100.0

Source: Field Survey (2014)

*f*=frequency; %=per cent

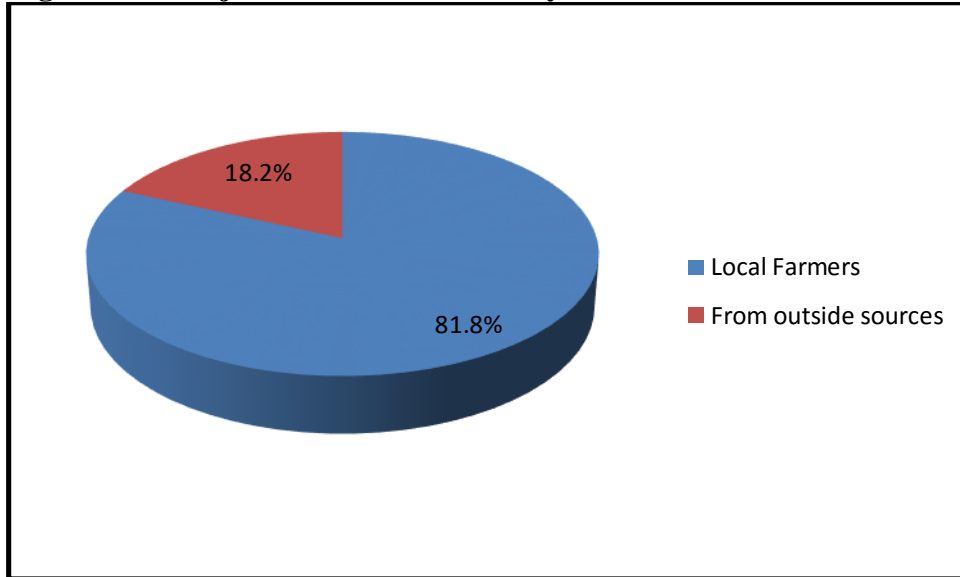
The 20.8% of the caterers (see Table 4.10) who pointed out that they do not buy their entire food supplies from the local farmers gave a list of other sources where they get the remaining foodstuffs. The other sources include buying from intermediaries, open market, and imports. For example, a caterer said, “I buy some of my foodstuffs from middlemen who are not from our district” (Caterer for GSFP West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). Another caterer also said, “I do not buy my entire foodstuffs from the farmers in my district. The remaining quantity of foodstuff are imports from abroad” (Caterer for GSFP West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). Furthermore, a caterer said, “I buy my foodstuff from the open market to top up those I get directly from farmers within my community” (Caterer for GSFP West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). From some of these sources given, the caterers could in fact, unknowingly be buying indirectly some of the foodstuffs from the local farmers (i.e., where some of the farmers send their surplus foodstuffs to sell to intermediaries). This will serve as an additional market for their foodstuff needs apart from the direct purchases they make from the farmers.

On the issue of the major source of foodstuffs, caterers who said they do not buy their entire supplies from the local farmers, the details are in Figure 4.2. The results show that 81.8% of the caterers buy their foodstuffs from the local farmers (see Table 4.6 and 4.7 in support of this position) while 18.2% of them pointed out that they purchase most of their foodstuff from outside sources. This finding is similar to that of ISSER and Ernst and Young (2011) even though the present finding has a higher per cent (i.e., 81.8%) of



the caterers purchasing local foodstuff. This evidence illustrates that a majority of the caterers in the West Gonja District mostly buy their foodstuffs for the GSFP from farmers within their district. This suggests that the farmers are likely to have a ready market for their produce.

**Figure 4. 2: Major Sources Caterers buy Foodstuff for the GSFP**



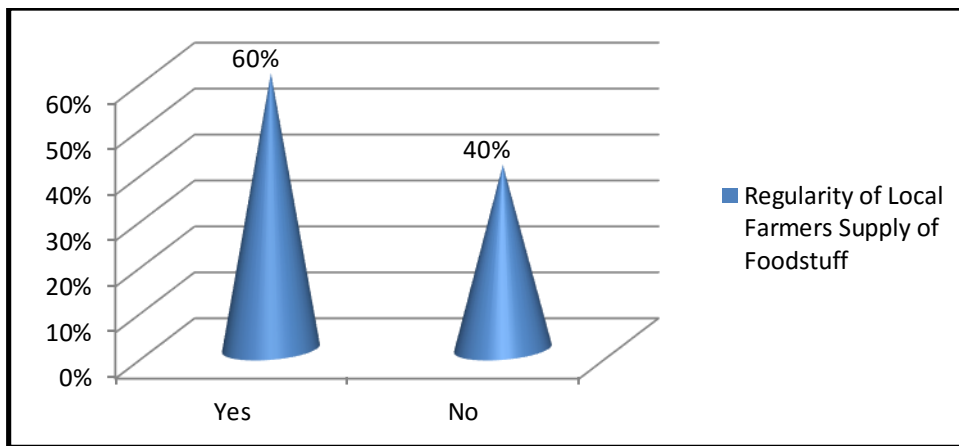
Source: Field Survey (2014)

In terms of ability of the caterers' views on the ability of local farmers to meet their demands for the supply of food items, the results are in Figure 4.3. the Figure shows that, 60% of the caterers said *yes*, showing that local farmers are able to supply them the foodstuffs they need (see Table 4.6 and 4.7 for supply of farm produce in the district and to caterers), whereas 40% of them said *no*, illustrating that the local farmers are unable to produce to meet their demand. This result shows that the majority of the caterers indicate that the farmers within the West Gonja District are able to produce to meet their demand (see Table 4.6 and 4.7).





**Figure 4. 3: Caterers' View about Adequacy of local Farmers Supply of Foodstuff**



Source: Field Survey (2014)

#### 4.3.8 Impact of Foodstuff Supply from Local Farmers on Survival of GSFP

On the issue of the role of the farmers in the survival of the GSFP, both the farmers who supply the foodstuffs and caterers provided their opinions. Concerning the caterers' views of farmers' contribution to the sustainability of the GSFP, the results are in Table 4.11. In terms of the caterers, 95.8% of the 24 caterers *strongly agreed* that farmers contribute to the survival of the GSFP (see Table 4.6 and 4.7 for facts in support of this standpoint) whereas 4.2% of them *agreed* on the same issue. This result demonstrates that most of the respondents perceived farmers' contribution as being critical to the sustainability of the GSFP. Since the caterers perceive the farmers' contribution as critical to the sustainability of the GSFP one would have thought that they would buy their entire food supply from the local farmers.

**Table 4. 11: Farmers Contribution to Survival of the GSFP**

Item		Caterers' Views		
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Total
Buying foodstuff from local farmers is important for the survival of the GSFP.	<i>f</i>	23	1	24
	<i>%</i>	95.8	4.2	100.0

Source: Field Survey (2014)

*f*=frequency; *%*=per cent



In connection with those farmers who said they supply foodstuffs to the caterers the results are in Table 4.12. The results show that 78.1% of the farmers that supply foodstuff to the caterers rated their contribution to the survival of the GSFP as *very significant*, while about 6.2% of them rated their contribution as *very insignificant or insignificant*. This result illustrate that the majority of the farmers view their contribution to the survival of the GSFP as important (see Table 4.6). This perception held by majority of the farmers supports that of the caterers.

The caterers that *strongly agreed or agreed* that the local farmer’s contribution is important to the survival of the GSFP gave a list of factors to buttress their stand. Some of the reasons include the local farmers providing cheap source of food for the programme, farmers supplying local foodstuffs cut down the transportation cost of the caterers to further places to buy foodstuffs, and some caterers are able to get the foodstuffs on credit.

**Table 4. 12: Farmers Supply of Foodstuff to the GSFP by Farmers Contribution to Survival of the GSFP**

		Farmers contribution to the survival of the GSFP				Total
		VI	I	S	VS	
<b>Farmers who supply foodstuff to the GSFP</b>	<i>f</i>	1	1	5	25	32
	<i>%</i>	3.1	3.1	15.6	78.1	100.0

Source: Field Survey (2014)

*f*=frequency; *%*=per cent

Very Insignificant=VI; Insignificant=I; Very significant=VS; Significant=S

#### 4.3.9 Payment Mode for Farm Produce Supplied to Caterers under the GSFP

This part of the work focuses on mode of payment for the foodstuffs supplied by the farmers to the caterers, and the duration it takes for payment to be made when in arrears.

This section is critical as it gives the idea as to how soon the farmer can get revenue from the sale of his/her farm produce.



Table 4.13 provides the information about the farmers (i.e., 30 farmers) that said the caterers of the GSFP buy their farm produce. The results depict that 80% of the caterers who buy the foodstuffs from the local farmers pay cash for the farm produce, while the remaining 20% of the farmers indicated that the caterers purchase their farm produce on credit. Since the caterers complain that there is always a delay in the release of funds by the GSFP secretariat to them, one would have expected that most of the purchases of the foodstuff to be on credit, but that is not the case. This is beneficial to the farmers as they get cash immediately they sell their produce to the caterers.

**Table 4. 13: Mode of Payment for Farmers Foodstuff**

		Mode of payment for your farm produce Purchased by Caterers		Total
		Cash	Credit	
Farmer	<i>f</i>	24	6	30
	%	80.0	20.0	100.0

Source: Field Survey (2014)

*f*=frequency; %=per cent

With respect to the duration of payment for the foodstuff purchased on credit, out of the 20% (i.e., 6 farmers see Table 4.13) of the farmers that said the caterers buy their farm produce on credit, all of them stated that it takes 1 to 3 months for the caterers to pay them. This means that within a reasonable time the caterers pay the farmers what they owe them. This payment in bulk will enable the farmers to use some of the money to improve on their living conditions and plough-back in their farms to increase their yields than if payment is piecemeal.

#### **4.4 IMPACT OF SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME ON THE FARMER**

This section deals with the benefits local farmers derive from the GSFP. The study sought to find out the views of both the caterers and the farmers who supplied foodstuffs to the caterers on whether the GSFP was beneficial to the farmers concerned. The details of the results about the benefit of the GSFP from the caterers' perspective are in Table



4.14. The results show that all of them (i.e., 100%) said *yes*, in answer to the question whether they think that the GSFP is beneficial to the farmers within the district (see also Table 4.16).

**Table 4. 14: Caterers View about Beneficial Nature of the GSFP to Farmers**

Item		Caterer		
		Yes	No	Total
Is the GSFP beneficial to the farmer?	<i>f</i>	24	-	24
	<i>%</i>	100.0	-	100.0

Source: Field Survey (2014)  
*f*=frequency; *%*=per cent

In the case of the farmers, those of them that said they supply foodstuffs to the caterers provided their views about how beneficial their supply of the foods is to them. These details are in Table 4.15. The results from Table 4.15 show that 100% of the farmers noted that their supply of the foodstuffs to the caterers of the GSFP is beneficial to them (see also Table 4.16). For those farmers that said *no*, meaning they do not supply foodstuffs to the GSFP, 98.6% of them said *yes*, to the question whether they thought they would have gained if they had been supplying foodstuffs to the GSFP. On the other hand, only 1.4% of them said *no*, signifying that they will not gain if they are to supply their farm produce to the caterers. Overall, the results show that majority of both the farmers that supply and those that do not supply their foodstuff to the caterers of the GSFP hold the opinion that it is beneficial or would have been beneficial supplying their farm produce to the caterers. This supports the perception of the caterers as contained in Table 4.14 above. This finding is in line with those discovered by ECASARD/SNV (2009) that the GSFP is beneficial to farmers.



**Table 4. 15: Farmers Supply of Foodstuff to the GSFP by Benefit Derived as a Farmer**

			Benefit you derive or would have derived as a farmer supplying foodstuff to the GSFP		Total
			Yes	No	
<b>Supply of foodstuff to the GSFP</b>	yes	<i>f</i>	32	0	30
		%	100.0	0.0	100.0
	No	<i>f</i>	69	1	70
		%	98.6	1.4	100.0
Total		<i>f</i>	101	1	102
		%	99.0	1.0	100.0

Source: Field Survey (2014)

*f*=frequency; %=per cent

Table 4.16 gives particulars about the revenue that accrue to farmers that supply their foodstuffs to the caterers of the GSFP. The revenue streams for the farmers range from a low total revenue of GH¢1,144.50 for guinea corn to a high of GH¢45,004.50 for yam. The grand revenue that accrue to the farmers in all the foodstuffs varieties they sell to the caterers is GH¢109,833. On the average, each farmer (each of the 30 farmers) that sold foodstuffs to the caterers would earn GH¢3,661.10. This shows that the farmers indeed stand to gain financially by selling their produce to the caterers. In addition, with an average annual revenue of GH¢3,661.10 that is higher than the upper poverty line of Ghana of GH¢1,314 (GSS, 2014b), it gives the indication that such beneficiary farmers cannot be considered to be the poor. Hence, if the caterers are to buy their entire foodstuffs from the local farmers from the district, this could be a window of opportunity for many of the farmers to leapfrog from poverty to relative prosperity.



**Table 4. 16: Revenue Accruing to Farmers that Supply their Foodstuffs to the Caterers of the GSFP**

<b>Food crops cultivated</b>	<b>Quantity bought by caterers from famers (kg)</b>	<b>Price (GH¢) per kg</b>	<b>Total revenue (GH¢)</b>
<b>Maize</b>	31,950	0.5	15,975
<b>Guinea corn</b>	1,144.5	1	1,144.50
<b>Millet</b>	937.5	3	2,812.50
<b>Yam</b>	90,009	0.5	45,004.50
<b>Rice</b>	1,480	3	4,440
<b>Beans</b>	9,117.5	3	27,352.50
<b>Cassava</b>	7,560	0.5	3,780
<b>Groundnuts</b>	3,108	3	9,324
<b>Grand Total Revenue</b>			<b>109,833</b>
<b>Average Revenue</b>			<b>3,661.10</b>

Source: Field Survey (2014)

The caterers that said yes, showing that the GSFP is beneficial to the farmers in the West Gonja District; both farmers that supplied foodstuffs and those that did not; and the key informants enumerated a number of factors to back their stand that the GSFP is beneficial to the farmers. It was assessed by the incomes the farmers get from supply of their produce (see Table 4.16) and from what the respondents pointed out verbally. According to the respondents, the benefits farmers derive from the GSFP include the availability of a ready market for their produce, low transportation cost in marketing their produce, availability of ready and easily accessible income, getting a reasonably fair price for their foodstuffs, the supply nutritional food to their wards at school, and the possibility of caterers extending loans services to them. The details of on these benefits as explained by the respondents are as follows;

First of all, the respondents indicated that the farmers benefit from the GSFP as they get ready market for their farm produce. For instance, one of the caterers noted, “The GSFP serves as a ready market for the produce of the farmers. This makes the farmers concentrate on improving on their yields” (Caterer for GSFP West Gonja



District, 20/10/2014). Another caterer pointed out, “The GSFP is beneficial to the farmers because they get cash from the sale of their produce to us (caterers). This income helps to improve the farmers’ living standards” (Caterer for GSFP West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). Also, a farmer pointed out, “The benefit I derive from the GSFP is that it provides me with ready market for my farm produce” (Farmer from West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). In a similar way, the Desk Officer of the West Gonja District Assembly (21/10/2014) stated, “Farmers get ready market for their farm produce as they supply their produce to the caterers under the GSFP.” According to the District Director of Education for West Gonja District (21/10/2014), “A benefit of the GSFP to the farmers is that the farmers are sure of ready market for their farm produce.” What is deduced here is that the farmers gain from the GSFP as they are easily able to sell their farm produce. This means that their produce will not go wasted because they cannot get buyers. The present finding supports that of Bright (2009) that the SFP provides ready market for farmers’ farm produce. The money obtained would be much more useful if the household heads do not abuse it.

Associated with the availability of a ready market for farm produces is the low transportation cost which is a gain to the farmers as they supply their farm produce to the GSFP caterers who are very near them. Concerning this, a caterer said,

*“We live in the communities where the farmers are and so as we buy the foodstuff from them at their homes or farm gates it reduces the farmers transportation cost of carting the produce to the market centre”* (Caterer for GSFP West Gonja District, 20/10/2014).

Again, another caterer said,

*“Farmers that supply foodstuffs to us do not incur much transportation cost as we buy it at their home. Their only worry would be bringing it to*



*their homes for us to come and purchase” (Caterer for GSFP West Gonja District, 20/10/2014).*

In the same vein, the Desk Officer of the West Gonja District Assembly (21/10/2014) added,

*“Local farmers save money by cutting down cost that would have been incurred transporting their foodstuffs to major cities and towns for sale as they sell the produce at the farm gate or at their houses to the caterers who live in the same or nearby communities with them”.*

Moreover, the District Director of Education for West Gonja District (21/10/2014) stated, “A benefit of the GSFP to the local farmers is that they sell their farm produce at the farm gate and so, save extra cost of transporting farm produce to market centres.” These responses show that the farmers gain by selling their produce to the caterers, as they would not have to transport their goods at a high cost to far places to sell. The income that the farmers save due to the cut in transportation cost can now be invested in other things.

Besides the above, farmers who supply their farm produce to the GSFP caterers get income in return. With respect to the issue of obtaining revenue, a caterer stated, “The GSFP enables the farmers to get money as they sell their foodstuffs to us. The money they get from the sale is used by some of the farmers to increase the size of their farms so that they can increase their output, while others invest in their children’s education” (Caterer for GSFP West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). In the same vein, a farmer reported, “I get revenue from the sale of my produce to the caterers which I use to invest in my children’s education” (Farmer from West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). Similarly, a key informant at the GSFP said, “The benefit of the GSFP to farmers is that they get income





from selling their foodstuff to the caterers under GSFP” (Director of Agriculture- West Gonja District, 20/10/2014).

This means that farmers get money from the sale of their produce supplied to the GSFP and this income can aid in improving their living standards. The finding of ECASARD/SNV (2009) that farmers gain income from supplying their farm produce to the caterers of the GSFP supports the present finding.

Furthermore, the farmers benefit from the GSFP as they get fair prices for the produce they supply to the caterers. In this regard, the Desk Officer of the West Gonja District Assembly (21/10/2014) pointed out,

*“Local farmers are not cheated by market queens since they do not have to transport foodstuff to market centres for sale as they get good prices for selling their foodstuffs to the caterers under the GSFP”.*

In a like way, a caterer said, “We usually buy the produce from the farmers at fairly good prices. This is supported by the fact that they prefer to sell their produce to us instead of going to sell it at the open market” (Caterer for GSFP West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). This sends the signal that in spite of the late release of funds to the caterers to buy foodstuffs, the farmers are still prepared to do business with them.

Then also, farmers gain from the GSFP as their children are fed nutritious meals. Some of the farmers have indicated that they now spend less in cooking food at home as their children who are in school are fed free. This they say help to free some resources to invest in their farms. For example, a farmer stated,

*“Through the GSFP my wards are fed free and so when I am at the farm I am not worried because when my children return from school they will not be hungry”* (Farmer from West Gonja District, 20/10/2014).



Another said, “Because of the GSFP I no longer give my children chop money to go to school. The money that is saved as a result of this is used in buying learning materials for the children” (Farmer from West Gonja District, 20/10/2014).

This means that the provision of meals to children at school helps the farmers to save some income. This present finding corroborates that of ECASARD/SNV (2009) that farmers benefit from the GSFP as their children are fed with nutritious food at school.

The last but not least benefit is the fact that farmers are able to get loans from some of the caterers under the GSFP. In connection with this, a caterer pointed out, “Some of the farmers take loans from us to do their farming and pay us back using their farm produce. This means that they do not have to go to financial institutions to take loans with high interest rates” (Caterer for GSFP West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). Another caterer stated, “The farmers that I regularly buy my food supplies from at times come to me to advance them some money for them to invest on their farms. The agreement is that at the end of the harvesting season they will pay back the loan using their farm produce” (Caterer for GSFP West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). This saves them from contracting loans from formal financial institutions with high interest rates on the loans.

#### **4.5 CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH PATRONAGE OF LOCAL FARMERS’ PRODUCE**

This section examines the challenges associated with producing to supply the GSFP and issues to do with patronage of foodstuffs from farmers.



#### 4.5.1 Challenges Associated with Producing to Supply the GSFP

As farmers are those that produce to feed the GSFP, their opinions were sought as to whether they meet certain challenges in their effort to produce to supply to the GSFP. These opinions of the farmers are in Table 4.17. The results show that all the farmers (100%) said *yes*, affirming that they meet challenges in producing to supply the caterers (see Table 4.4). This often affects their supply of foodstuffs as well as the income they generate from this venture.

**Table 4. 17: Farmers Supply of Foodstuff to the GSFP by Challenges they face**

		Challenges faced in producing to feed the GSFP		Total
		Yes	No	
<b>Farmer that supply foodstuff to the GSFP</b>	<i>f</i>	32	0	30
	%	100.0	0.0	100.0

Source: Field Survey (2014)

*f*=frequency; %=per cent

Some of the challenges farmers meet in producing foodstuffs (see section 4.3.3) to supply to the caterers of the GSFP that came to light in the study include lack of machinery, lack of credit facilities and bad weather. The details of these challenges as given by the respondents are in the proceeding paragraphs:

First, the respondents identified inadequate farming machinery as a challenge affecting farmers' ability to produce to supply the caterers of the school feeding programme. Supporting this claim, a farmer stated,

*“I do not own a tractor and so have to hire it to plough for me. This has resulted in my inability to till large acreages of land. Hence, my inability to produce enough to feed my family and to sell to the caterers”* (Farmer from West Gonja District, 20/10/2014).

Another also stated;



*“The lack of tractors and harvesters in our community have made it difficult for me to increase the size of my farm. When I struggle to expand the farm, harvesting becomes a challenge as it must be manually (i.e., maize and rice) done since there are no combine harvesters to do the job”* (Farmer from West Gonja District, 20/10/2014).

The implication of this is that farmers are not able to plough large parcels of land, which affects output levels. The present finding corroborates that of ECASARD/SNV (2009) that lack of machinery is a challenge the farmers meet in their attempt to produce to supply to the caterers of the GSFP.

Lack of credit facilities emerged as a challenge farmers meet in their quest to produce foodstuffs to supply the GSFP. Many of the farmers have indicated that when they go to the financial institutions (i.e., banks, micro finance companies and susu groups) to take loans to invest into their farms, the institutions feel reluctant to grant them the loans. This situation has resulted in farmers under - producing. In connection with this, a farmer recounted his experience,

*“When I applied for a loan to expand my farming activities, the bank rejected my loan application. I was, therefore, unable to expand my farm to the level that I wanted”* (Farmer from West Gonja District, 20/10/2014).

Others have noted that they go to “susu” collectors to take loans, but this is at a high interest rate, which discourages them from taking huge loans to invest on their farms.

The responses on this challenge show that the lacks of credit facilities for the farmers limit their ability to produce more to feed the GSFP. This could have accounted for the small acreages of farms owned by farmers in the district. The finding of ECASARD/SNV (2009) that lack of credit facilities is a challenge to farmers producing to supply the GSFP agrees with this study’s finding.



Finally, bad weather appeared as one of the challenges farmers have to battle with in producing foodstuffs to supply to the caterers of the school feeding programme. For example, a farmer pointed out, “My ability to produce to feed the GSFP has been limited due to the poor rainfall pattern. This has resulted in me having a poor harvest” (Farmer from West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). Other farmers have indicated that due to the erratic nature of the weather lately, their yields have been poor and so they are barely able to feed themselves, let alone leave some for sale to the caterers. This signals that bad weather results in poor yields for the farmers, thereby triggering their inability to supply to the caterers.

#### **4.5.2 Challenges Associated with Patronage of Foodstuffs from Farmers**

Certain challenges inhibit the acquisition of foodstuffs from farmers by caterers of the GSFP and these surfaced during this study. Some of the challenges include produce being of poor quality, late release of funds to purchase foodstuffs, high cost of foodstuffs, farmers not willing to sell on credit, farmers harassing caterers to pay for produce bought on credit, taking loans to pre-finance purchase of farm produce, inadequate farm implements and limited supply of farm produce.

In the first place, a challenge the caterers meet in their quest to buy foodstuffs from the local farmers is that some of the produce is normally of poor quality. In connection with poor quality of foodstuffs, a caterer noted,

*“The produce of farmers are usually of poor quality. This is because they usually have a lot of bad ones mixed with them. This is normally not good for consumption of the children as the bad ones spoil the taste and nutritional value of the food”* (Caterer for GSFP West Gonja District, 20/10/2014).



Another caterer indicated, “Farmers are usually unable to store their produce properly and so they easily get bad. This means that we have to contend with buying poor quality foodstuffs” (Caterer for GSFP West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). Similarly, the District Director of Education for West Gonja District (21/10/2014) stated, “Most often, the produce of the local farmers are not refined and this makes the caterers offer them low prices or even refuse to buy the produce.” This implies that the poor quality of the farm produce usually results in the caterers offering lower prices for the produce or even refusing to buy them.

Furthermore, the late release of funds to caterers emerged as a cause of the low patronage of foodstuffs from the local farmers. Concerning late release of funding, one of the caterers lamented, “The GSFP secretariat does not release funds regularly and timely enough for us to buy the foodstuffs. This normally results in our buying the foodstuffs on credit at a higher price” (Caterer for GSFP West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). Another caterer complained, “The money that is released to us is woefully inadequate to ensure that we purchase the foodstuffs that we actually demand. This results in us cooking below the right quantity of food required per day for the school children” (Caterer for GSFP West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). Furthermore, a caterer indicated,

*“The amount of money per child given by the GSFP is too small to ensure that we buy a good quantity of foodstuffs. This results in our buying foodstuffs that are of poor quality because our money is not enough to buy the good quality produce”* (Caterer for GSFP West Gonja District, 20/10/2014).



In addition, the Desk Officer of the West Gonja District Assembly (21/10/2014) said, “The late release of funds by the GSFP secretariat to caterers is a limitation to patronage of local farmers’ foodstuffs.”

This current finding supports some earlier studies that found that there is late release of funds to the caterers by the GSFP secretariat which affects the ability of caterers to buy foodstuffs (Alhassan and Alhassan, 2014). The implication of the late release of funds to the caterers is that they usually are unable to buy the quantities of foodstuffs supplied to them by the farmers. This means that the farmers’ produce get spoilt if they do not look for alternative markets for their produce.

Besides the above, the high cost of local farm produce was identified as a cause of their low patronage. In this respect, the District Director of Education for West Gonja District (21/10/2014) reported, “The high cost of locally - produced foodstuffs is a cause of their low patronage.” Again, “The high cost of farm produce from local farmers is what has resulted in the low patronage of their foodstuffs. This has resulted in some of the caterers buying their foodstuffs outside the district where it is cheaper” (Director of Agriculture- West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). As the prices of the foodstuffs offered by the farmers are high, it is a disincentive for the caterers to buy from them since it will add up to increasing the cost of preparation of the food. This makes them look for alternative sources outside the district where they can get the foodstuffs at cheaper prices. The effect is that the local farmers produce are usually not bought. In this regard, ECASARD/SNV (2009) pointed out that farmers produce at a high cost and so sell their produce at high prices and this may serve as disincentive for the caterers to buy from them.

In addition, the caterers do not easily get the opportunity to buy the farm produce on credit, which is a critical problem they face as there is always a delay in the release of funds by the GSFP. Some of the caterers indicated that most of the farmers do not want to



sell their produce to them on credit when they do not have cash to pay. In the light of this, a caterer stated, “Some of the farmers are unwilling to sell their foodstuffs to us on credit. They refuse to give me the foodstuffs on credit because I am not usually able to pay back when the agreed date is due. The unwillingness of the farmers to give me the foodstuffs on credit makes my work very difficult” (Caterer for GSFP West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). Another caterer indicated, “The farmers are not prepared to sell their produce to me on credit because they say I will not pay them on schedule” (Caterer for GSFP West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). Here, it means that the caterers are willing to buy the foodstuffs only that they are constrained by the fact that the farmers are not prepared to give their produce to them on credit. This contributes to the low patronage of the local farmers’ produce. This present discovery supports the finding of ECASARD/SNV (2009) and Alhassan and Alhassan (2014) that farmers are usually not willing to sell their produce on credit to the caterers because they are not sure they would be paid on schedule time.

Moreover, a challenge associated with patronage of the produce of local farmers is that the caterers have to go for loans to pre-finance the purchase of the foodstuffs due to the untimely release of funds by the GSFP secretariat. In terms of taking of loans, a caterer noted, “I have to borrow money from friends and relatives to pre-finance the purchases of the foodstuff from the farmers. Due to this I am usually unable to buy enough foodstuffs” (Caterer for GSFP West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). Another caterer said, “On two different occasions I had to go for a loan from a financial institution to pre-finance the purchase of the foodstuffs at higher interest. Because of this I am not able to buy the required quantity of foodstuffs that I need” (Caterer for GSFP West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). As caterers take loans to buy the foodstuffs, they would usually cut





down the quantity they buy because if they take bigger loans the interest rates would be too high for them to pay back. The result is that the farmers would be the losers.

Finally, limited supply of some category of foodstuffs is a challenge related with purchasing of foodstuffs from local farmers. In this regard, a caterer said, “I do not get enough beans from the local farmers when I want to buy and so I have to buy them from other sources” (Caterer for GSFP West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). More so, “I usually do not get rice to buy from the local farmers. This means that I have to buy it in the open market” (Caterer for GSFP West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). Another caterer noted, “I am not able to get the required quantity of foodstuffs from the local farmers as their yields are usually poor” (Caterer for GSFP West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). In the same way, the Desk Officer of the West Gonja District Assembly (21/10/2014) noted, “Some local farmers do not produce enough to meet the caterers demand due to the subsistence method of farming practised by most farmers in the district.” This signifies that where the caterers are prepared to buy the foodstuffs from the local farmers, at times they are not able to get the quantities they request.

#### **4.6 MANAGING GSFP TO THE BENEFIT OF THE FARMERS**

This particular portion of the study concentrates on possible measures identified by respondents that is the farmers themselves, Ministry of food and Agriculture (MoFA) work concentrates on the role of the farmers to enable them benefit from the GSFP, role of Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA), the caterers, and the GSFP secretariat could take to ensure that the local farmers benefit maximally from the operations of GSFP. The details are in the proceeding subsections.



#### 4.6.1 Role of Farmers

This section presents what the farmers must do to ensure they derive maximum gains from the GSFP. Some of the suggested steps towards this end include the formation of farmer groups, the sensitisation of the farmers on their role in the GSFP and the need for them to work hard.

In the first place, the formation of farmer-based groups will ensure that farmers obtain benefits from the GSFP. For instance, the District Director of Education for West Gonja District (21/10/ 2014) suggested, “Farmers should form farmer - based groups so that they can easily be identified and for the GSFP to buy from them. Farmers should not abuse the ready market created by the GSFP. Instead, they should maintain moderate prices to ensure that the caterers continue to buy their produce.” With the formation of farmer-based groups, it will give them the visibility in their communities and they will have the power to negotiate prices to their benefit.

Secondly, orienting farmers and sensitising them on the critical role they play in the GSFP will make them able to benefit from the programme. A caterer for example, said, “Farmers should be oriented to know the importance of the programme so that they would always sell their produce to the caterers of the GSFP” (Caterer for GSFP West Gonja District, 20/10/2014).

*“Farmers should be encouraged to produce more to feed the GSFP and this could be done by assuring them that they would have ready market for their produce”* (Caterer for GSFP West Gonja District, 20/10/2014).

This suggestion implies that if farmers are aware of their role in the successful implementation of the GSFP they would work hard to increase their output to ensure that they are able to feed their families and still sell some of the produce to the caterers to earn income.



Last but not least, the importance of working hard surfaced as a way the farmer could adopt to ensure that he or she benefits greatly from supplying foodstuffs to the caterers. In connection with this, a farmer reported, “For me to take full advantage of this GSFP I would have to work hard on my farm to produce more to sell to the caterers” (Farmer from West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). Another farmer suggested, “I will put up my best to produce more to feed my family and sell the rest to the caterers” (Farmer from West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). Many of the farmers perceived working hard on their farms as the surest means to ensuring that they produce more in order to benefit from the GSFP. As farmers are not lazy but hard working, it will lead to an increase in their output as they increase their farm sizes.

#### **4.6.2 Role of Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA)**

The respondents also gave their views about the role the MoFA could play to ensure that the farmers gain from the GSFP. The provision of farming machinery, training of farmers, provision of credit facilities, and the provision of irrigation facilities, provision of improved seeds and other inputs for farmers emerged as steps the Ministry of Food and Agriculture of Ghana could carry out to ensure that the local farmers are able to take full advantage of the GSFP operating in their various localities.

To begin with, provision of farm machinery to farmers is a way to ensuring that they are able to increase their farm sizes in order to have enough yields to supply the caterers. In the light of this a farmer noted,

*“The provision of tractors for us to hire to till our lands by the agriculture ministry would help us to cultivate larger farmlands. When this is possible we will be able to produce enough for our families and still have some to sell to the caterers”* (Farmer from West Gonja District, 20/10/2014).



Again, a farmer suggested, “Since getting tractors to plough our farms is difficult, then the agriculture ministry should help us acquire tractors to aid in our farming” (Farmer from GSFP West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). Since most of the farmers said that accessing tractor services when it is needed is difficult, its provision by the MoFA would ensure that they are able to till their farms at the appropriate time in order to improve on their output. This is because the private sector provision has not been adequate to meet farmers’ needs.

In addition, to ensure that farmers gain from the GSFP, they should be provided with inputs to aid them increase their yields. For example a caterer said, “NGOs should provide inputs to farmers to ensure that they are able to increase their outputs” (Caterer for GSFP West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). Similarly, a farmer suggested, “The provision of fertilizer at subsidized prices by the Food and Agricultural Ministry would help us to increase our yield to feed our families and have excess to supply to the caterers” (Farmer from West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). The provision of inputs in the form of fertilizers and other chemicals will ensure that farmers have improved yields. This will help the farmers to make more money as they will have plenty foodstuffs to supply to the caterers.

Furthermore, the provision of training programmes for the farmers would ensure that they improve on their yields. In this regard, a farmer stated, “The Ministry should help train us on improved farming methods such as using improved seeds, planting in rows, number of seeds per hole, using fertilizer, ploughing with a tractor, spraying crops with insecticides and weedicides to enable us increase our yields” (Farmer from West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). Others have indicated that the ministry should train them as to when to plough, how to plant, when to apply fertilizer, when to spray and how to



prepare their crops for storage. This will help the farmers increase their output and store their produce for sale in the future when there is glut and the prices are not encouraging.

In addition, the provision of credit facilities to farmers is a way to make sure that they benefit optimally from the GSFP operating in the district. In this respect, a caterer stated, “Government and NGOs should provide farmers with credit facilities to enable them invest in their farms to improve on their yield” (Caterer for GSFP West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). Another caterer noted, “Farmers should be assisted with credit facilities to enable them buy farm inputs to help them produce more to feed the GSFP” (Caterer for GSFP West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). With the availability of credit facilities, the farmers would be able to expand their farms and buy all the necessary agro-chemicals for their crops. The results would be increased output to enable them supply to the caterers.

Besides the above, the provision of improved seeds would ensure that farmers gain from supplying foodstuffs to the GSFP. Some of the farmers said that the provision of improved seeds to them either free or at moderate prices would ensure that they are able to improve on their yield. A farmer has pointed out, “With improved seeds, my yield will go up and I will also spend less on buying chemicals to spray them since they may be disease resistant” (Farmer from West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). This means that the provision of improved seeds would ensure that farmers get higher yields to meet the demands of the caterers. It also means that with a glut in output, the prices of the produce might be low making it affordable for the caterers.

Finally, the provision of irrigation facilities in the districts will ensure that farmers are able to farm all year round to increase their output to supply to the GSFP. Other caterers indicated that government should provide irrigation facilities for the farmers to ensure that they farm all year round to increase their output to supply to the caterers



under the GSFP. For instance, a farmer said, “What I need most is irrigation facilities to enable me farm throughout the year. This will ensure that I never have crop failure due to inadequate rainfall. The outcome of this is that it will help me to improve on my output to supply to the caterers” (Farmer from West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). With the rainfall being erratic in the district, the provision of irrigation facilities would ensure that the farmers have constant supply of water for their plants. It equally means that their output would be guaranteed.

#### **4.6.3 Role of Caterers**

This sub theme focuses on the role of caterers in ensuring that farmers benefit from the GSFP. Some of the things the respondents noted the caterers could do to ensure that the local farmers gain from the GSFP include giving loans to farmers and buying farmers’ produce at good prices.

First, giving loans to farmers could help them improve on their farming activities. Some of the farmers suggested that caterers could help them benefit maximally by giving them loans. In connection with the above, a farmer noted, “The caterers should give us soft loans to help us invest in our farms to increase our yields” (Farmer from West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). Other farmers suggested that when they are given the loans it should be at a low interest rate or, better still, the repayment for the loans could be done using their farm produce. The implication of this is that they will not have to go to the financial institutions where their loan applications may not be honoured or when they are given the loans, it is at a high interest rate making it difficult for them to pay back. According to Alhassan and Alhassan (2014), the timely release of funds to the caterers is right, as it would enable them advance loans to the farmers.



Lastly, caterers buying produce supplied by farmers at fair prices would enable them gain fully from the GSFP. For instance, a farmer has pointed out, “Caterers should buy the foodstuffs we supply them at good prices so that we can get better revenue from it to ensure that we are able to meet our needs” (Farmer from West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). Some other farmers noted that when the caterers offer reasonable prices for the produce they supply them, they would benefit from the programme. This implies that when the prices they offer to the farmers are low they will earn less revenue. In addition, it will make some of the farmers look for alternative markets for their produce instead of supplying to the caterers. The assertion of Alhassan and Alhassan (2014) that there should be regular review of prices to reflect the prices of food commodities to ensure that farmers continue to supply to the caterers is appropriate.

#### **4.6.4 Role of GSFP Secretariat**

The respondents pointed out what they think the GSFP secretariat could do to ensure that the farmers benefit from the school feeding programme. They suggested that the release of funds on schedule, de-politicizing the recruitment of caterers and enforcing the policy that makes it obligatory for caterers to purchase local farmers produce are some of the ways the GSFP secretariat could adopt to ensure that farmers profit from the GSFP.

First, it emerged that the early release of funds for caterers of the GSFP will lay the basis for the local farmers to gain. On this issue, a caterer suggested, “The GSFP should normally release funds to ensure that we are able to buy the produce from the farmers in the form of cash and not on credit. This will ensure that the farmers get money to take care of their needs” (Caterer for GSFP West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). “The GSFP secretariat should always release the money on time to enable us (i.e. the caterers) lend money to the local farmers to invest in their farms to enable them increase their



yield” (Caterer for GSFP West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). Similarly, a caterer said, “If funds were released on time we could lend to the farmers and for them to pay back in the form of foodstuffs when they harvest their crops” (Caterer for GSFP West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). The Director of Agriculture- West Gonja District (20/10/2014), also said,

*There should be timely release of funds to caterers so that they can buy local farmers’ produce any time they have some for sale and for caterers to store for future use. In addition, funds released by the programme to caterers should be sufficient so that they can buy reasonable quantities from the farmers.*

With reference to the Desk Officer of the West Gonja District Assembly (21/10/2014), he pointed out that, “Creating ready market for local farmers by the GSFP secretariat by releasing funds on time to caterers is a way of ensuring that the farmers benefit optimally.”

The importance of the release of funds regularly to the caterers is that the caterers will always pay cash when they order for food supplies. This puts money into the hands of the farmers, which they can use to invest into their children’s education. This current discovery supports that of Alhassan and Alhassan (2014) that timely release of funds to the caterers would help to ensure that caterers pay farmers for the foodstuffs they buy.

Furthermore, the de-politicization of the recruitment of caterers for the GSFP by the secretariat is a step in the right direction to ensure that there is no discrimination in buying farm produce from farmers. In this respect, the Desk Officer of the West Gonja District Assembly (21/10/2014) noted, “The de-politicization of the selection or recruitment of caterers is right to ensure that qualified and competent caterers are recruited. This will result in caterers not selecting to buy produce from only their party members, but from all farmers within their localities irrespective of their party colour.”





The outcome of the de-politicization of the appointment of the caterers is that they will not discriminate against some farmers when they want to make orders for the supply of foodstuffs. This means that the farmers will have an equal chance of being approached to supply foodstuffs to the caterers. This present finding corroborates that of Alhassan and Alhassan (2014) that de-politicization of the GSFP would help to avoid unhealthy interference in its operation.

Finally, making it obligatory for caterers to purchase farm produce from local farmers is a way the GSFP secretariat could adopt to make sure farmers gain from the GSFP. Concerning this, a farmer stated, “If the GSFP secretariat could make it compulsory for the caterers to buy foodstuffs from us the farmers, it would lay the foundation for us to benefit greatly from the programme” (Farmer from West Gonja District, 20/10/2014). Many of the farmers noted that for them to benefit fully from the programme, the GSFP secretariat should appeal to, or make it a must for the caterers to buy from the local farmer. However, the caterers should only be allowed to buy from outside the district when the farmers within the districts are unable to supply to meet the demand. When this occurs, it will ensure that the local farmers have ready market for their produce.



## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter attempts to summarise the major findings, present the conclusions drawn from the study and makes recommendations based on the results of the study.

#### 5.2 SUMMARY

This study looked at farmers' participation as a critical component of the implementation of the Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP). It focused on assessing the extent to which local farmers are involved in the supply of foodstuffs to beneficiary schools of the GSFP and ascertaining what farmers stand to gain from supplying foodstuffs to the GSFP. It further centred on ascertaining the challenges associated with the patronage of locally - produced foodstuffs from farmers in the West Gonja District for the GSFP and exploring how this home – grown supply component of the GSFP can be managed to the benefit of farmers in the West Gonja District. A summary of the major findings on these issues is given below:

##### 5.2.1 Farmers Involvement in the Supply of Foodstuff to the GSFP

On the issue of awareness of farmers about the GSFP, it was found out that about 98.7% of male farmers and 100% of the female farmers were aware about the existence of the GSFP in the West Gonja District. Overall, it means that there is a high level of awareness about the existence of the GSFP.



Concerning the type of foodstuffs caterers used in preparing meals for the school children, they are same as those supplied to them by the farmers. The foodstuffs include maize, yam, rice, beans and groundnuts.

In terms of the number of acres farmers till, it was found out that about 69.6% of them cultivate between 1 to 5 acres per annum. With respect to gender, it emerged that there is no difference in the acreage by both male and female farmers. This is because they (more than 60% in each case) largely cultivate between 1 to 5 acres annually.

Furthermore, the studies found out that a majority (68.6%) of the farmers in the West Gonja District do not supply their farm produce to the caterers under the GSFP. This implies that only few (31.4%) farmers are beneficiaries of the programme. In the case of those that supply their foodstuffs to the caterers, most (71.9%) of them cultivate about 1 to 5 acres per annum.

Concerning patronage of farm produce supplied to the caterers, it emerged that the farmers consume part of their produce before selling the rest to the caterers. Out of the eight foodstuffs sold to the caterers by the 30 farmers, five of the foodstuffs (i.e., maize, guinea corn, beans, cassava and groundnuts) were supplied in excess while the remaining three (i.e., millet, yam and rice) were in deficit supply, ranging from 139.5kg of millet to 412,491kg of yam. This shortage of these particular foodstuffs is due to the limited number of farmers from whom the caterers buy commodity, which could be tackled by increasing the number of farmers from whom they buy. This is because the farmers in the entire West Gonja District have the capacity to meet the foodstuff needs of the caterers.

The majority of the farmers (93.8%) indicated that when they supply their farm produce to the caterers, it is bought. However, they added that the caterers do not buy the entire produce supplied. This is because only 30% of the farmers said their entire



foodstuffs supplied to the caterers under the GSFP are bought. It was found out that the reasons why farmers do not supply, or the produce of farmers who do supply their produce to the caterers are not bought include farmers producing limited yield, no request placed for farmers to supply, farmers not being aware that caterers are to buy from them and caterers receiving food aid from NGOs.

In addition, the study discovered that about two-thirds (79.2%) of the caterers buy their entire foodstuffs from the local farmers. Furthermore, the study found out that 81.8% of the caterers indicated that the major source of their foodstuffs is from the local farmers. This suggests that the local farmers would have something to gain from the GSFP. The other sources where they purchase the remaining supplies include buying from intermediaries, the open market and imports.

On the issue of regularity of supply of local farmers' produce to the caterers, most (60%) of the caterers noted that the supply is regular. Since the supply of foodstuffs to the caterers is regular, one would have thought that there would not have been the need for the caterers to look elsewhere for same supplies. Nonetheless, they still obtain some of their food supplies from outside the district.

In addition, the study found out that the farmers' contribution to the sustainability of the GSFP is great. This is because many of the caterers, 95.8% of them *strongly agreed* that farmers could contribute to the survival of the GSFP whereas 4.2% of them *agreed* on the same issue. In the case of the farmers, 78.1% of those that supply foodstuffs to the caterers rated their contribution to the survival of the GSFP as *very significant*. Some of the reasons offered by the caterers to support their point include the local farmers providing cheap source of food for the programme, their suppliers being local foodstuffs, cut down in the transportation cost of caterers carting foodstuffs and some caterers being able to get the foodstuff on credit.



In connection with the mode of payment for foodstuffs purchased from local farmers by the caterers, the study found out that a majority (80%) of the caterers who buy the foodstuffs pay cash while the remaining few (20%) purchase the farm produce on credit. The farmers noted that the few caterers that buy their produce on credit basis pay them within 1 to 3 months period.

### **5.2.2 Impact of School Feeding Programmes on the Farmer**

In terms of the GSFP being beneficial to the local farmers in the West Gonja District, all the 24 caterers noted that the programme was beneficial to the farmers. Similarly, 100% of the farmers who supplied foodstuffs to caterers of the GSFP indicated it was beneficial to them, whereas 98.6% of farmers who do not supply the farm produce to the caterers noted that they would have gained from the GSFP. On the average, each of the 30 farmers that sells his or her produce to the caterers earns about GH¢3,661.10. In all, most of the respondents considered the GSFP beneficial to the farmers.

Concerning the benefits farmers derive from supplying their produce to the caterers of the GSFP, the following benefits were noted: getting ready market for their produce, obtaining income, getting loans from the caterers, incurring low transportation costs, farmers' children being fed at school, and farmers' getting good prices for their produce.

### **5.3 Challenges Associated with Patronage of Local Farmers' Produce**

On the issue of challenges associated with farmers producing to supply to the caterers of the GSFP, it was found out that 100% of the farmers pointed out that they encounter certain challenges in their efforts to produce to feed the GSFP. Some of the challenges



the farmers meet are low patronage of their produce, lack of machinery, lack of credit facilities and bad weather.

The challenges caterers meet in their quest to buy the foodstuffs from the farmers include produce being of poor quality, late release of funds to purchase foodstuff, high cost of foodstuffs, and farmers not willing to sell on credit emerged as some of the challenges. Furthermore, farmers harassing caterers to pay for produce bought on credit, taking loans to pre-finance purchase of farm produce and limited supply of farm produce surfaced as some of the challenges caterers encounter.

#### **5.4 Managing GSFP to the Benefit of the Farmers**

The study found out that to manage the GSFP to the benefit of the farmers, the farmers must institute certain measures. Some of the measures include formation of farmer groups, sensitisation of farmers on their role in the GSFP and more harwork on the part of the farmers.

Furthermore, the respondents listed the provision of farming machinery, training of farmers, provision of credit facilities, improved seeds and inputs for farmers as some steps the MoFA of Ghana could carry out to ensure that the local farmers are able to take full advantage of the GSFP operating in their various localities.

Moreover, the study discovered that caterers giving loans to farmers and buying produce at fair prices would enable the local farmers in the West Gonja District to derive the maximum gains from the GSFP.

The last but not least, the release of funds on schedule, de-politicizing the recruitment of caterers and making it obligatory for caterers to purchase local farmers' produce are some of the measures the GSFP secretariat can institute to make sure that farmers profit from the GSFP operating in their district.



### 5.3 CONCLUSIONS

The study concludes that though a majority of the farmers in the West Gonja District do not supply their farm produce to the caterers, the few farmers that do supply them are able to do so regularly from their farm sizes ranging between 1 to 5 acres per annum. Albeit caterers do not buy the entire foodstuffs supplied by the farmers, but for what they purchase they pay cash. The farmers' contributions emerged as very important to the survival of the GSFP. This implies that leaving the local farmers out of the implementation process of the GSFP would result in its failure. The evidence illustrates that farmers in the West Gonja District have the capacity to meet the foodstuffs needs of the caterers. All the respondents indicated that the GSFP is beneficial to the local farmers because they get ready market and fair prices for their produce as well as loans from the caterers. They also incur low transportation cost, children are fed with nutritional food at school. Again, observations from the sale of foodstuffs by the farmers to caterers showed that the farmers have a rise in income as they get an average of GH¢3,661.10, trading with the caterers of the GSFP. The challenges the farmers meet in trying to produce to supply to the caterers include low patronage, lack of machinery, lack of credit facilities and bad weather. Finally, the challenges caterers encounter in their effort to buy the produce from the farmers are late release of funds to purchase foodstuffs, high cost of foodstuffs, and farmers not willing to sell on credit and limited supply of produce. These challenges tend to reduce the full benefits that the local farmers would have derived from the GSFP.

### 5.4 RECOMMENDATIONS

The study makes the following recommendations based on the findings made.



First, the issue of funding could be solved by making the community members contribute money on a weekly basis to finance the cooking of meals for their wards/children instead of making it government - funded which is undependable. This means that the SFP becomes a community initiative. The SFP becoming community- led is appropriate, as it will be a reliable source. This is because the people see it as a felt need and so are committed to supporting it. When this is done, caterers would have money regularly to finance purchases of foodstuffs. Where some parents do not have cash to pay, they should be allowed to provide foodstuffs of the same monetary value in place of the cash payment. This arrangement would make the programme operate with minimal or no challenges making it sustainable.

Furthermore, provision of credit facilities to the farmers is a step towards making them gain from the GSFP. The GSFP secretariat or the MoFA could collaborate with financial institutions to provide loans to the farmers at reasonable interest rates. Better still, the GSFP could create provision in their budget to provide loans to farmers. When the farmers have access to this credit facility, it would enable them to invest in their farms. They would now be in a position to buy farm machinery, fertilizers, weedicides, and hire labour, among others to expand and improve their farm yield. With increased yields, the caterers would have cheap and regular supplies of foodstuffs from the farmers. The farmers would also have increased revenues since they now supply larger quantities of foodstuffs for sale.

Furthermore, training of the farmers in improved methods of farming would help them profit from the GSFP. This training of the farmers should be the responsibility of the MoFA. Under this, the field staff of the Ministry must be made to train the farmers in the district on improved farming practices such as use of fertilizers, use of chemicals, planting, varieties of crops to plant, use of farming implements, preparation of land and





keeping farm records. When this is done, it will result in farmers improving on their output as their efficiency increases in the activities they do on the farm. With increase in output, the farmers would have enough to feed their families and large quantities of surplus foodstuffs to supply to the caterers at affordable prices. With the supplies to the caterers, the farmers would end up getting revenues to provide for the needs of their families.

Moreover, enforcing the policy making it compulsory for the caterers to buy their food supplies from the local farmers would aid the farmers benefit greatly from the GSFP. This has become necessary because the caterers do not buy their entire food supplies from the local farmers. This means that part of the revenue that the local farmers in the district would have got is given to some other people in other districts or to some farmers outside of Ghana. In order to prevent this situation, there should be a policy to compel all the caterers under the GSFP to first purchase their entire food supplies from the local farmers. The caterers, nonetheless, should be allowed to buy foodstuffs from elsewhere when it is proven that such foodstuffs are not produced or are produced but their supply from the local farmer is insufficient to meet their demand. When this happens, the incomes of the farmers would rise significantly.

In addition, the provision of inputs and machinery to farmers would help them derive maximum benefit from the GSFP. Inputs and machinery could be arranged for the farmers by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. Inputs such as fertilizers and other chemicals could be subsidised for the farmers to enable them increase their output and produce at a lower cost. In the case of the machinery (i.e., tractor, harvesters, planters), it could be arranged for the farmers to purchase on hire purchase. The alternative way is that the machinery could be provided for the farmers to hire at moderate rates to cultivate their land when needed. The machinery would aid in the expansion of the farms and



harvesting of produce. This will ensure that less labour would be used. In all, the machinery would lead to increase in the yield of the farmers. This will ensure that they supply enough foodstuffs to ensure the smooth running of the feeding programme.

Besides the above, de-politicizing the recruitment of caterers would help in ensuring that a majority of farmers in the country benefit from the GSFP. In the selection of the caterers, the process should not be based on their political affiliation. This is because when caterers are chosen based on their political links they would end up buying the produce from farmers from their political party. This implies that farmers from other political parties would not have their produce bought. However, when the selection is de-politicised, all farmers would have the opportunity of selling their produce to the caterers.

Last but not the least, the provision of irrigation facilities is critical to ensure that farmers gain more from the GSFP. With the rainfall being erratic lately, it has resulted in crop failure. This situation has led to the inability of farmers to feed their families, let alone supply to the caterers of the GSFP. To prevent this situation, the MoFA could facilitate the construction of irrigation facilities in the drier parts of Ghana where the GSFP is in operation to ensure that the farmers in those areas have adequate and regular supply of water for their crops. With adequate water supply, the farmers would be able to cultivate all year round and there would no longer be crop failure because of poor rains. This means that the yield of the farmers would be guaranteed and that supply to the caterers would also be assured.



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## APPENDIX 1: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CATERERS

**University for Development Studies, Wa  
Faculty of Planning and Land Management  
Department of Planning and Management**

My name is Samuel Achibonga, an MPhil candidate from the University for Development Studies. I am currently undertaking a study on the topic: “Farmers’ Participation as a Critical Component to the Implementation of the Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP) in the West Gonja District”. This research is fully endorsed by the Faculty of Planning and Land Management, Wa Campus and my supervisor, Professor, Dr. David Millar. I am conducting this study as part of the requirements for the award of a degree in Master of Philosophy. Your participation in this interview will enable me provide accurate and fair views about the situation on the ground. You may choose not to take part in this interview, but if you do, I guarantee that all information you provide will be treated as confidential and that no statement made by you in this interview will be identified with you personally.

**Kindly note the following:**

Where options are provided, please indicate your preferred options by a tick [✓] in the bracket space provided.

Where blank spaces (dotted lines) are provided, please write your response in the blank space or the dotted lines.

**Which category do you belong?**

**Farmers that supply foodstuff to caterers [ ]**

**Farmers that do not supply foodstuff to the caterers [ ]**

**SECTION A: Background Information**

1. Sex: Male [ ] Female [ ]



**SECTION B: Extent to which Local Farmers are involved in the Supply of Foodstuff to Beneficiary Schools**

2. Please, list major foodstuffs you use to prepare meals for the pupils in schools.

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

3. Do you buy your entire foodstuff from local farmers in the community?

- i. Yes..... (1) [ ]
- ii. No.....(2) [ ]

3. a. If no, what are the sources of supply of foodstuff?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

3.b. If you buy the foodstuff from both local farmers and outside the district, from which source do you buy most of the foodstuff?

From local farmers 1 [ ] From outside sources 2 [ ]

3.c. If yes, do you get regular supply of foodstuff from the local farmers in the community?

- i. Yes.....(1) [ ]
- iii. No.....(2) [ ]

3.d. What quantity of the local foodstuff do you buy and at what price

Foodstuff

No.	Foodstuff name	Quantity	Unit price
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			



6			
7			
8			
9			

4a. Buying foodstuff from local farmers is important for the survival of the GSFP?

- i. strongly agree.....(1) [ ]
- ii. agree.....(2) [ ]
- iii. disagree.....(3) [ ]
- iv. strongly disagree.....(4) [ ]

4b. If strongly agree or agree, how is it important for the survival of the GSFP?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

4c. If strongly disagree or disagree, which of the following explain why?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**SECTION C: Benefits Farmers Stand to gain from Supplying Foodstuffs to the GSFP**

5. Is your buying of foodstuff from the local farmers beneficial to the farmers?

Yes.....(1) [ ] No.....(2) [ ]

If no, why?





.....  
.....  
.....

If yes why?

.....  
.....  
.....

**SECTION D: Challenges of Patronage of Local foodstuffs from Farmers**

6. What challenges do you face in buying foodstuff from the farmers in the West Gonja District?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**SECTION E: Managing the Ghana School Feeding Programme to the Benefit of the Farmers**

7. What do you think should be done to ensure that farmers in your district benefit more from the school feeding programme in your district?.....

.....  
.....

**Thank you for your time.**



## APPENDIX 2: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR FARMERS

University for Development Studies, Wa

Faculty of Planning and Land Management

Department of Planning and Management

My name is Samuel Achibonga, an MPhil candidate from the University for Development Studies. I am currently undertaking a study on “Farmers’ participation as a Critical Component to the implementation of the Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP) in the West Gonja District”. This research is fully endorsed by the Faculty of Planning and Land Management, Wa Campus and my supervisor, Professor, Dr. David Millar. I am conducting this study as part of the requirements for the award of a degree in Master of Philosophy. Your participation in this interview will enable me provide accurate and fair view about the situation on the ground. You may choose not to take part in this interview, but if you do, I guarantee that all information you provide will be treated as confidential and that no statement made by you in this interview will be identified with you personally.

### Kindly note the following:

Where options are provided, please indicate your preferred options by a tick [] in the bracket space provided.

Where blank spaces (dotted lines) are provided, please write your response in the blank space or the dotted lines.

### SECTION A: Background Information

1. Sex: Male [] Female []

2. Age of Respondent:

Below 18.....(1) []

18-30.....(2) []

31-59.....(3) []

60+.....(4) []



**SECTION B: Extent to which Local Farmers are involved in the Supply of Foodstuff to Beneficiary Schools**

3a. Have you heard of the Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP)?

i. Yes .....(1)

ii. No .....(2)

3b. If yes, what is the purpose of the GSFP?

i. To feed pupils in schools.....(1) [ ]

ii. To buy local farm produce from farmers.....(2) [ ]

iii. To increase school enrolment.....(3) [ ]

iv. To reduce poverty among farmers.....(4) [ ]

v. To reduce food insecurity.....(5)[ ]

vi. To improve the nutritional status of pupils....(6)[ ]

vii. If others, specify.....(7)  
[ ]

4. How many acres do you cultivate in a year?

i. 1-5 acres.....(1) [ ]

ii. 6-10 acres.....(2) [ ]

iii. 11+ acres.....(3) [ ]

5. What foodstuff do you produce?

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6a. Do you supply foodstuff to the GSFP?

i. Yes.....(1) [ ]

ii. No.....(2) [ ]



6b. If yes, does the GSFP patronise your farm produce?

i. Yes.....(1) [ ]

ii. No.....(2) [ ]

6c. if yes to 6b provide the following information in the table below.

No.	Name of foodstuff	Quantity produced	Quantity supplied for sale	Price per unit (GHC)

6d. If yes 6b, is the programme able to buy the entire produce you offer for sale in 6c?

i. Yes..... (1) [ ]

ii. No..... (2) [ ]

6d. If no, which of the following do you think are reasons why your farm produce are not patronised by the programme?

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7a. Which of the following is the mode of payment for your farm produce by GSFP?

- i. Cash.....(1) [ ]
- ii. Credit.....(2) [ ]
- iii. Cheque .....(3) [ ]

7b. If on credit, how long does it take for you to be paid the money?

- i. 1 – 3 months.....(1) [ ]
- ii. 4 – 6 months .....(2) [ ]
- iii. 7 – 9 months .....(3) [ ]
- iv. 10 months plus .....(4) [ ]

8. How would you rate your contribution to the survival of the Ghana school feeding programme.

- i. Very insignificant.....(1) [ ]
- ii. Insignificant.....(2) [ ]
- iii. Significant.....(3) [ ]
- iv. Very significant.....(4) [ ]

**SECTION C: Benefits Farmers Stand to gain from Supplying Foodstuffs to the GSFP**

9a. Do you think there is any benefit you derive or would have derived as a farmer supplying foodstuff to the GSFP?

- i. Yes.....(1) [ ]
- ii. No.....(2) [ ]

9b. If yes, what are some of the benefits you derive from the GSFP?

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**SECTION D: Challenges Associated with Patronage of Local Foodstuffs from Farmers**

10a. Do you face any challenges in producing to feed the Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP)?

i. Yes.....(1) [ ]

ii. No.....(2) [ ]

10b. If yes, what challenges do you face?

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**SECTION E: Managing the Ghana School Feeding Programme to the Benefit of the Farmers**

11. What do you think the ministry of agriculture should do to enable you benefit fully from the GSFP?

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12. What should caterers do to ensure that you benefit fully from the GSFP?

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13. What should the GSFP secretariat do to ensure that you benefit fully from the GSFP?

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14. What can you do yourself to ensure that you benefit fully from the GSFP?

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**Thank you for your time.**



**APPENDIX 3: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR STAKEHOLDERS OF THE  
SECRETARIAT OF THE GSFP**

1. What foodstuff are farmers to supply to beneficiary schools of the GSFP?
2. What are the benefits associated with farmers supplying foodstuffs to the GSFP?
3. What are the causes of low patronage of locally produced foodstuffs for the GSFP?
4. How best can the GSFP be managed to the benefit of farmers in the West Gonja District?

