



*a t s e b o s o l u t i o n*



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES NEWSLETTER

(Q1) Edition Jan - March 2017



# DELIVERING THE BEST RESULTS THROUGH CEA FOR ALL OUR STAKEHOLDERS

Central to the ATS Brand is our country specific Community Engagement Activity (CEA) programs. These programs use a participative approach to harness community potential by partnering with local communities and integrating them in the ATS value chain. This method achieves the interests of all stakeholders, including shareholders, clients, employees, the community and the environment.

At ATS we believe that by creating the best investment opportunities, we will deliver the best results for all our stakeholders.

## **The Vision**

To provide sustainable production support for local economies by providing jobs for the members of the local community as well as purchasing supplies from local businesses.

## **How do we achieve these?**

By setting up a development action plan for CEA projects that has measurable results with timely and consistent execution. ATS has also taken responsibility for ensuring that all our partner and associates are familiar with product application and production knowledge. ATS maintains this through formalized training and development programs.

The CEA Program has become a point of differentiation in ATS, as it builds relationships in communities and leads to dedicated client support for sustainable development of rural economies. In conclusion, let us set high expectations for excellent community service and hold the management team accountable to the measurable results associated.

I would like to thank everyone for their continued support for CEA Program and we look forward to doing more in the future through this initiative.

**Colin Hodgson**  
**Director: Community Relations Department**

## in this ISSUE

- Delivering the best results through CEA for our stakeholders
- CEA Executive Summary – quick facts
- FLAGSHIP PROJECTS:
  - **Ghana** New abirem community project
  - **Mali** Morila community project
  - **Sierra Leone** Sierra Rutile green house project
  - **Sierra Leone** Confidence building workshop at Pepel
  - **Burkina Faso** - Nantou mining community, Perkoa water pump project
  - **Tanzania** BG International Mtwara community project
- Understanding the communities, we live and work in





Q1  
JAN - MARCH  
2017

# CEA QUICK FACTS

## TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAININGS

**266** local-local vendors benefited from the training programs.

Trainings centered on Quality Product Production and Environmental Cleanliness

## TOTAL COMMUNITY SPEND

March 2017 Spend

**USD 828,651.**

This represents 29% of set target for the month of March. It also reveals 88% of set target for the period under review.

## TOTAL NUMBER OF LOCAL SUPPLIERS

At the end of Quarter 1 , a total

**271** community suppliers were certified by ATS

## PROCUREMENT SPEND ACROSS THE GROUP

Total Domestic Spend (Local-local + Local Spend) **USD 8, 299,202** constituting 98% of total spend for the month of March.

*Note: These data are applicable only in sites or countries where CEA operates.*

## NUMBER OF LOCALS EMPLOYED

Out of a total of **2,617 staff**, **1,888** constitute local-local employees (72%), **646** locals (25%), and 82 Expats (2%).

*Note: These data are applicable in only in sites or countries where CEA operates*

## CEA THEME 2017

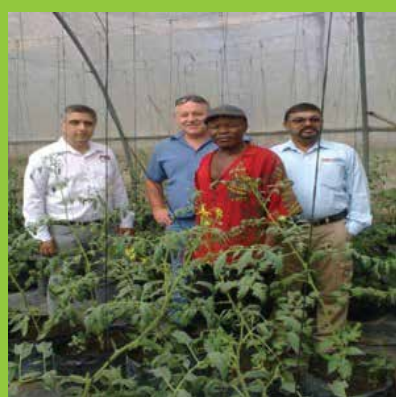
"Getting the CEA Program standardized and permeated through the businesses in Africa through a concerted effort, at all times"

## NEW VENTURE

The Greenhouse project is Sierra Leone. The initiation of targets in the CEA Program has seen very positive results.

## SIERRA LEONE GREEN HOUSE PROJECT

*Enhancing our farming projects through modern technology and partnerships*



Images: ATS CEO Sanjay Narain with Colin Hodgson (Head of Risk and Procurement) and Biju Bhasi (Sierra Leone Country Manager) on a visit at Gbotima Farmers Federation Green House

**Muhammed Daramy**, Community Relations Manager - Sierra Leone

To uplift the communities around them Allterrain Services Sierra Leone in partnership with its client Sierra Rutile Ltd embarked on a Farming project that will deliver value to the local communities. The "Greenhouse Project" was spearheaded by ATS when it was noticed that local farmers and individuals were not getting the best results from their farming projects, mainly due to a lack of resources. This in turn led to these farmers being unable to supply ATS or other businesses with any of their produce.

The Greenhouse Project was introduced as a way of responding to the needs of small-scale vegetable producers (farmer co-operatives) within the Rutile communities.

The five vegetable co-operatives from surrounding communities, formed an umbrella association called Gbotima Farmers Federation and have been supplying ATS with fresh produce such as cabbage, tomato, cucumber, watermelon, okra, pineapple, pawpaw and banana, amongst others items.

Greenhouses 8m x15m in size were built which could house 300 plants. These greenhouses were completely covered to avoid rain damage and pests and were equipped with Drip Irrigation Systems, a Water Tank and a 16lt Knapsack Sprayer. Farmers were also provided with additional seed, fertilizers, agrochemicals and the necessary PPE.

Using modern technology ATS could increase the farmers output and profitability.

The Tegloma Farmers Association in Yangatoke initially planted cucumber and water melon. In a single harvest in one greenhouse bed they could produce 40kg of cucumber. Previously farmers had to farm a large portion of land with little or no yield. Due to huge harvest and to avoid wastage farmers supplied some of their stock on the open market. From the sales, the group could pay 25% of its profit as a contribution towards the maintenance of the greenhouse project and net profit shared among group members



# CONFIDENCE BUILDING WORKSHOP AT PEPEL

Sierra Leone



On the 16th February 2017, ATS held a confidence building workshop with the local people in the Pepel community in Sierra Leone. It was held to initiate vegetable farming projects in the area. The meeting was attended by key stakeholders, community-based groups, religious leaders and SD Steel community department.

ATS will assist farmers in the area through production support. ATS will provide seeds and training and help set up an association to serve as an executive body to manage the affairs of all the feeder groups involved.



# EMPOWERING OUR VALUED COMMUNITY SUPPLIERS

Ghana



Akyem local suppliers in a group photograph after the training

**Evans Gyimah**, CRO Newmont Akyem Project

Many people enjoy and purchase street food in Akyem since it's are tasty, affordable, easily accessible and serves as an important source of income. However, most of these street food vendors do not meet proper hygiene standards. This can serious implications due to a lack of knowledge around food hygiene and safety. With the booming street food industry, there is the need to ensure food vendors adhere to hygienic practices to protect clients and public health.

ATS Akyem in our quest to maintain and promote proper standards extended its training program to the community who in various ways partner with ATS. Local suppliers including those in the production chain are taken through training on a quarterly basis to equip and refresh them on food safety and entrepreneurial skills.

In 2016, a training program was organized and attended by Akyem local suppliers and ATS Management in New Abirem community.

Facilitated by ATS HSE Advisor and the CRO, suppliers were educated on:

- Hygiene and sanitation in a catering establishment
- Managing a small business
- Customer service

These training exercises also provide a platform to communicate and interact with suppliers to understand the challenges facing operations and the way forward. The suppliers upon receiving the training expressed their gratitude to ATS for training them on these issues. It is through feedback like this that we continue to reach out to communities to grow and empower them through our CEA Programs.



# THE AGED REVIVING THEIR LIVELIHOOD THROUGH CEA PROGRAM

*Mali*

**Boubacar H. Cissie**, CRO for Mali

In most communities as people age the living standards often decline, reduced economic opportunities and deteriorating health status frequently increase their vulnerability to poverty. The CEA Program has always been the symbol of pride in Morila communities.

The ATS Community Relations Department in Mali, in partnership with the Sanso Commune Mayor, Sanbou Mariko, has mobilized the aged women in the Morila project communities to support them in the production of vegetables

such as tomatoes, lettuce, green pepper and onions.

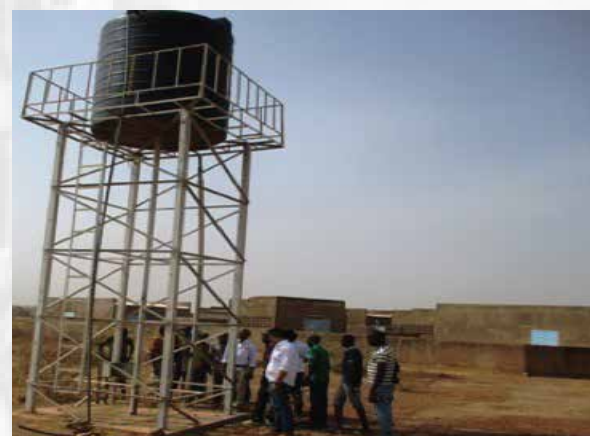
These women have been organized into five different co-operatives. They are Sanso Women Co-operative, Domba Women Co-operative, Fenkola Women Co-operative, Nerina Women Co-operative, and Morila Women Co-operative. The membership of each co-operative is between 50 and 70. ATS has organized a series of training and development programs to upgrade the skills and knowledge of these farmers.

ATS has supported these farmers with inputs such as seeds, and seedlings to facilitate their production. The Mayor has helped to provide the members with water to irrigate their crops during the dry season to sustain production. The Group Community Relations Manager, Kontunathey O.K Peter, and CRO for Mali, Boubacar H. Cissie paid a visit to the Sanso Women Co-operative members at Sanso and were pleased to see what is being done in the communities.



*Image: Kontunathey Peter and Boubacar Cissé with Sanso Women Co-operative at their vegetable project at Sanso*

# WATER PUMP PROJECT- PERKOA, NANTOU MINING COMMUNITY *Burkina Faso*



*Images of the Solar water pump as well as local community leaders, ATS staff and the Municipal Councilor of Perkoa.*

**Issiaka Nanema and Oumarou Zoubga (CRO)**

Water is the source of all life. Human beings can go on for days, even weeks, without food but can die in a matter of days without water. Many uses of water include agricultural, industrial, household, recreational and environmental activities. Virtually all of these human uses require fresh water. Many communities in the world just don't have enough of this natural resource.

The Perkoa Community, which is within the Nantou Mining community catchment zone, encountered similar challenges. The only water source for the people of Perkoa was a generator

water pump, which was constructed many years ago. Due to poor maintenance, the pump broke down and this affected the lives of the community people who had to travel miles to other communities to get water.

When ATS learnt of this we took up the challenge to provide a permanent water source for people of this community. The project was initiated by ATS following meetings with the local client from Perkoa and the traditional authorities. ATS committed to the rehabilitation of the water project as part of our Social Development initiatives for the community.

In February 2017, the solar water pump project was complete and the people of Nantou now have a sustainable proper water source. ATS invested 3, 366, 500 FCFA (USD 6, 733.00) towards the rehabilitation of the Nantou water pump project.

An inauguration ceremony was held on 15 February 2017 to hand over of the project to the people. At the ceremony were Bado Alexander and his team (client representatives), BAYALA Dominique (The Community Chief), BAYALA Bessolé (Municipal Councilor of PERKOA), BAOUAR Michel (Water and Sanitation Department), Youth Leaders, and members of the community. Representative of ATS present at the ceremony were Mouloud Tounsi (Perkoa PM), OUEDRAOGO Louise (Project HR), Issiaka NANEMA and ZOUBGA Oumarou (CROs for Burkina Faso)

The client commended ATS on the completion of the project and for the fulfillment of its promise. He ended by saying they would like to see more service providers on site follow the example set by ATS. The Chief and people of the community expressed their gratitude to ATS and assured ATS of their continuous support in Community Engagement Activities.



# ATS A BEACON OF HOPE FOR LOCAL VENDORS

## Tanzania

Recently one of our clients, BG International Tanzania, published an article in their newsletter highlighting some of the key community activities Allterrain Services Tanzania has done, and is doing, in the community catchment areas around its operation. BG International Tanzania is owned by Shell a global energy and petrochemical group.

Within the community catchment areas ATS Tanzania has focused on agricultural supplier development and skills development on local farmers and small business owners. Prior to ATS's CEA involvement it was observed that small scale farmers within the client's catchment zones were not transitioning from subsistence to commercial farming, and this had affected the farmers means of support. The CEA Program adopted a practical methodology which used sustainable strategies designed to integrate better ideas and services needed to increase productivity and improve resilience of the low-resource farmer in Mtwara and its surrounding communities within Tanzania.



Images: Agro-Business Projects in Mtwara



Images: ATS donating items to the EAGT orphanage at Mtwara

## KNOWING THE COMMUNITIES WE LIVE AND WORK IN



Kontunathey Ofiri K Peter Group Community Relations Manager

In every part of the world cultural practices play an integral part in the communities we live in. ATS operates in the most remote areas on the continent. Therefore, we are called to respect the cultures of those environments we operate in.

The Community Relations Department would just like to outline a few cultural practices, so that as a company we are aware of them. Some examples include -Tribal Marks, Trokosi System, Widowhood Rites and Mouth or Ear perforation. Apart from those practices there are other

cultural practices that everyone is expected to comply with when you live or work in that community.

Below is an illustration of such a cultural practice:

There was a misunderstanding once between an ATS senior staff and a kitchen staff member in one of our project sites. The kitchen staff put on a cap and this was taken off by the senior staff, thus a disagreement arose between them. Putting on the cap was a condition for every member who belongs to a group in the community and therefore a non-member is not supposed to remove it. The staff member was a member of a group within the community and the removal of the cap by a non-member was a sign of disrespect and was not taken lightly and reported to the community leaders. Tensions arose and the Community Relations Officer was called and a meeting was set up with the paramount chief and other traditional authorities to apologize and rectify the situation. Tempers were calmed and we were able to settle the situation. It is for this reason we want to bring to your attention the importance of complying with the cultures of the communities you operate in.

Below are examples of these cultural practices in some communities;

- Nobody is allowed to say something in public pertaining to what happens in the community. Any revelation by a member or non-member could lead to severe punishment.
- Some communities do not work on some specific days, especially on their farms. In this case, members and non-members are expected to comply with the order from the community.
- Members of some communities should not be shouted at or have their food taken away from him/her while they are eating.
- In other cases you do not shake the hand of a woman who has lost her partner(husband).

The primary purposes of some of these cultural practices in communities is to regulate social conduct and to mediate relations with the spirit world. They play an integral part in maintaining law and order in the rural areas or local communities. Since the pre-colonial era, some of these cultural practices have played a dominant role in the politics of many communities, and countries. While in some cases, forceful initiation and levying of heavy fines on the defaulter could be an ultimatum. The blunt reality is that community cultural practices are powerful forces to reckon with in the politics of most countries. They represent the highest stratum of decision-making in rural societies and could therefore be an effective instrument for mobilizing support.

It is in the light of these stringent cultural practices that the CEA Program team deems it vital to highlight some for us to understand. When the ATS CEA team is entering a community the culture of the community and its people is considered essential.