



BIA EAST DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

WESTERN NORTH REGION

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN

PREPARED BY: DPCU

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Profile of the District

1.1.1 Location

The district is located in the North-Eastern part of the Western North Region of Ghana. It shares boundaries with Dormaa West to the North, South to Cote d'Ivoire, Asunafo South to the East and West to the Bia West.

1.1.2 Land Size and Cover

The district covers an area of about 783.6 square kilometers.

1.1.3 Population Size

The Ghana 2021 Population and Housing Census puts Bia East District population at 53,073. This comprises 28,154 (53%) males and 24,919 (47%) females. This means that there are more males than females. The average population growth rate is about 4.3 % as compared to the national figure of 2.1%. The total household population is 53,045. It is made up of 28,137 males and 24,908 females, whilst total non-household population for both sexes is 28 (17 males and 11 females). The 53,073 total population constitute 6.0% share of population of the Western North Region.

1.1.4 Age and Sex Distribution

Bia East District has a youthful population of about 59% being between the ages of 15-39 years. 0-14 age group constitutes 24.7% of the total population of the district. The 40-64 age range constitute 15.9% and the aged population (65+) constitute about 0.4% of the total population respectively. Tracking the growth or decline of existing markets, finding new markets and determining what new or existing products are most likely to be successful among different population groups.

1.2 ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF THE DISTRICT

1.2.1 Structure of Local Economy

The structure of the district economy is skewed towards agriculture. Agriculture constitutes 90% of the economically active population and a major economic activity in the district in terms of employment and income generation. About 79.7% of households in the district are engaged in agriculture and 76.2% households are involved in crop farming. All the agricultural households are in the rural areas. Some of the major crops produced in the district are cocoa, cassava, plantain, cocoyam, maize and palm trees. The district is among the leading producers of cocoa, cassava and plantain in the country. Livestock farming such as rearing of cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, and poultry also takes place.

Agriculture employs about 78% of the district's working population. Next to agriculture is the service sector which accounts for almost 18% of the working population. The industrial sector, which is dominated by small-scale industries, forms approximately 4% of the working population.

A majority (78.7%) of the population 15 years and older are in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry and male (82.7%) dominance is more pronounced than females (74.0%). This is followed by wholesale and

retail, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (7.9%) where the proportion among females (9%) is a little higher than that among the males (7%).

There are limited activities of secondary and tertiary sectors. The district has high potential employment opportunities for women and youth in agro-processing, aquaculture and beekeeping which are yet to be fully tapped.

1.2.2 Economic potentials and challenges

The economic potentials include the following;

- Suitable agriculture land for both cash and grains crops production from small, medium and large.
- Availability of raw materials
- Availability of economic support infrastructure which include domestic and external markets.
- Availability of technology – social media
- Population; marketing products to different segments of the population such as youth, children, elderly
- Existence of technical support to aid farmers and business enterprises.
- Existence of forest reserves
- Mineral resources
- Existence of tourist attraction sites.

The economic challenges include the following;

- High cost of farming inputs
- Inability to add value to farm produce
- Poor road network
- External factors such as price variation of agriculture inputs, climate change.
- Unavailability of processing equipment and storage facilities
- Low interest of youth in agricultural activities.
- Chain saw operation activities

1.2.3 Degree of social development

On education, there has been improvement in net enrolment ratios at Kindergarten, Primary and JHS for the year 2021. Net Enrolment ratios for the kindergarten and primary has increased astronomically due to school feeding programme, improved school infrastructure, recruitment and posting of more teachers into the district, regular school supervision and monitoring among others.

Completion rate at all levels has also witnessed significant improvement from 2018 to 2021. However, completion rate for Kindergarten and Primary in 2017 was better than the subsequent years. The percentage of enrolment at the basic education in the District is 121%. Completion rate at the JHS level has seen consistent improvement over the years although the 100% target has not been met

Despite the challenges with the health infrastructure, there was no maternal death record, zero neonatal mortality & still births for the year 2021. There was also increased deliveries in the district with around 99.3% skilled deliveries. The DHMT liaised with RMS and Zipline to ensure availability of medicines and other logistics. The district also saw an improvement in staff strength to population indicator ratio as compared to the previous three years because of increased in the number of posted staffs. The percentage of access to basic healthcare in the district is 90% and the percentage of rural population with access to health facilities is also 75%.

The district has improved safe water coverage level from about 55% in 2017 to about 71% in 2021. It also means that there is about 29% of the population without access to potable water

The percentage of road network in good condition in the district increased from 45% in 2018 to 65% in 2021.

The electricity coverage increased from 70% in 2017 to 75% in 2021.

The average income of residents in the district is estimated at 1,250.00 and the household poverty level is 7% and the poverty severity is about 2.9%.

78.6% of the population 15 years and older are economically active and those who are economically not active constitute 21.4%. Out of the economically active population, 96.2% are employed and 3.8% are unemployed. Again, a higher proportion of females (23.9%) than males (19.2%) are economically not active.

1.3 LED approaches in the past and the changes foreseen

Agriculture and its related activities are the main source of job creation in the district. The district lies in the forest area where the land is fertile for the cultivation of food and cash crops. Some of the major crops produced in the district are cocoa, cassava, plantain, cocoyam, maize among others. Agriculture policies and LED approaches being implemented and created jobs in the district are Planting for Food and Jobs, Planting for Export and Rural Development and Rearing for Food and Jobs. Others includes the establishment of small agro-processing groups, and expansion of market centers.

The district assembly used part of it share of DACF to construct 2No. 12-unit open market sheds at Adabokrom in 2018. 2No. 32-unit open market sheds and warehouse were also constructed under IPEP at Camp 15 Junction. The district assembly also used part of 2019 DDF-RFG allocation to construct rice mill building and supplied and installed rice milling machines at Camp 15 Junction.

The establishment of the rice processing facility is part of the on-going national industrialization policy of the Government, particularly, the One District One Factory (1D1F) initiative. It also forms part of the concept of the Common User Facility (CUF) as the agro-industrial processing facility that seeks to enhance the ability of farmers and other agricultural value chain actors, with low or no financial strength, to own individual or group processing facilities under the 1D1F scheme.

The three Agric flagship agricultural programmes (Planting for Food and Jobs, Planting for Export and Rural Development and Rearing for Food and Jobs) implemented in the district increased food production and livestock. A total of 1,065 people comprising 916 males and 149 females have been directly or indirectly employed under planting for food and jobs.

Also, the Department of Agriculture with support from the Tree Crop Development Authority (TCDA) distributed 1,050 hybrid coconut seedlings to 18 beneficiary farmers last year. The Department of Agriculture with support from the Ghana Export Promotion Authority also received and distributed 6,000 hybrid coconut seedlings to 194 Bia East Coconut Farmers Association anchor farmers. 54 people have also been employed under rearing for food and jobs.

1.3.1 Enabling environment

- Strong, appropriate institutions and strategies combined governance with culture.
- Presence of technical expertise and FBOs
- Availability of market centers
- Safe and stable political environment. Good economic policies and strong government systems positively affect local economic development.
- High ease of business entry and efficient regulation enforcement.

1.3.2 Other direct support to LED activities

Well-structured MSME development facilitates opportunities for jobs creation and sustenance of businesses and reduction in unemployment. In this regard, support services play a very important role for the growth and development of local economies.

In the past, LED was focused on offering districtwide training activities which included capacity building and skill development for artisans. It was however realized that without support in the form of start-up kits, financing and regular monitoring to see the progress of their businesses, some of them could not achieve the desired result. The LED activities implemented includes organization of district trade show, financial literacy training, social media marketing and digitization training, business counselling and extension services and advisory services to business owners, fraud detection among others. The above programmes implemented generated much enthusiasm from entrepreneurs hence number of businesses registered increased tremendously. Continuous reshaping, re-gravelling of feeder roads and constructions of culverts and other supporting infrastructure by the assembly contributes LED.

1.3.3 Consideration for changes (justification for new approach to LED)

There are local economic development programs and projects that are already happening in the area and contributing significantly to the overall development of the district. It is the best way to help create decent and sustainable jobs and to improve the quality of life for everyone, including the poor and the marginalized. The new approach to LED will build the economic capacity of the local areas to improve its economic future and the quality of life for all. It will lead to increased productivity and competitiveness of local businesses, entrepreneurs and workers.

1.4 Vision of the district and implications for LED

The local economy that is known for creating jobs, wealth and reduced poverty through cassava processing, honey and tilapia production.

Mission

To improve the district's economy through the exploitation and innovation of endogenous resources leading to secure and sustained job and wealth creation.

2.0 MAPPING OF DISTRICT ECONOMIC RESOURCES, INSTITUTIONS AND ACTORS FOR LED PRODUCTS

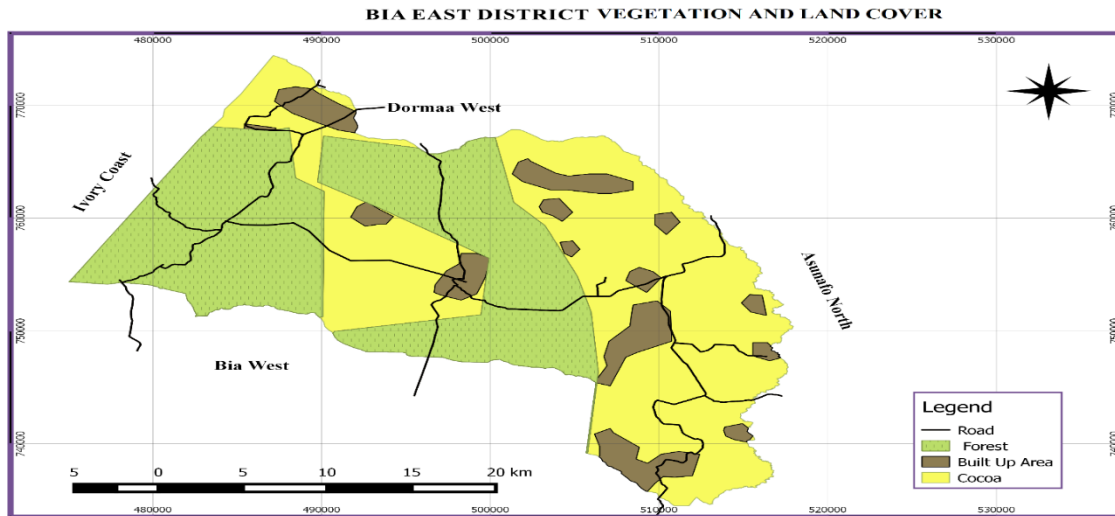
2.1 Physical resources

The Bia East District is endowed with large tracts of forest and economic trees, mineral resources, arable lands, and water resources and tourism sites. The forest and economic trees are utilized for logging and hunting. However, the high exploitation of timber for logs and lumber by both registered timber firms and illegal chainsaw operators has contributed significantly to deforestation in the district. This situation has serious implications on livelihood, soil degradation, adverse climatic conditions and endangered species in the district.

2.1.1 Natural resource endowment (Vegetation Cover)

The district's vegetation is of the moist semi-deciduous (equatorial rain forest) type. The forest vegetation is made up of many different tree species including Wawa, Mahogany, Esa, Ofram, Edinam, Onyina, Kyenkyen and Odum etc. which is a productive reserve where timber harvesting is done.

The arable lands, largely farm lands and valleys, are utilized for the farming of cash crops, food crops and fish farming. The available technologies to enhance the utilization of these resource are conservation and mechanized farming. The development of valleys for all year-round agriculture is the strategy that could get the best out of the arable lands.



2.1.2 Mineral Deposits

The geology of the district is a combination of granitoid undifferentiated and phyllite, schist, tuff and greywacke, which contains the mineral bearing rocks. There are also granite rocks of minerals such as gold which has been discovered but is yet to be mined. The presence of mineral deposits in the district has the potential to generate royalties as revenue to the District Assembly as well as create employment for the inhabitants.

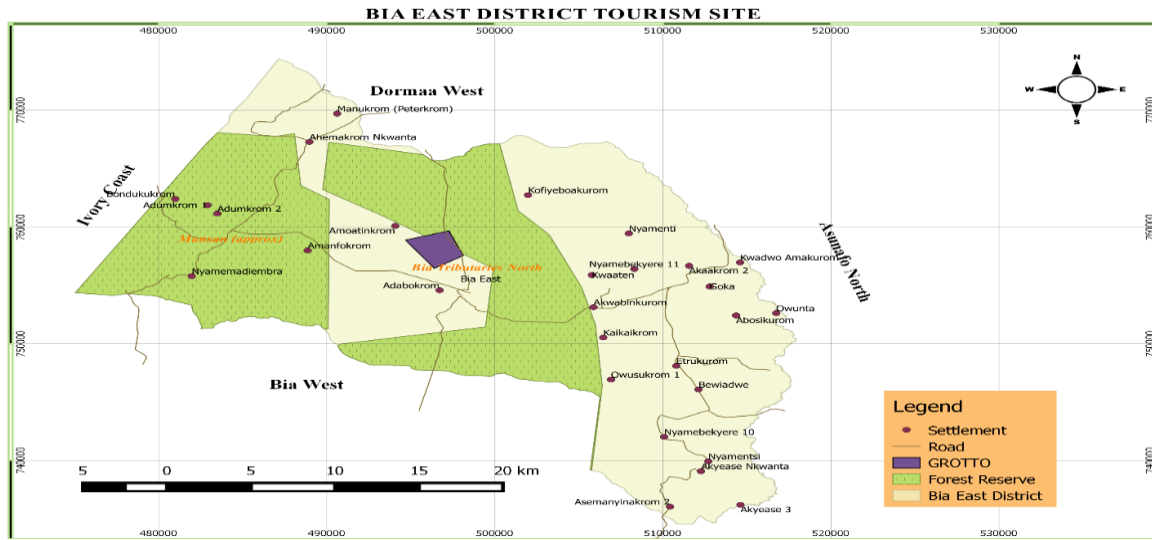
2.1.3 Tourism

The district can boast of some tourist sites. Grotto, Ntwewura and Gyaametan Rivers located at Adabokrom, Bia Tributaries located at Sebibia, Toya Forest Reserve covers the entire district. In Adabokrom Grotto, one can find big rocks of different kinds having attractive shapes.

Adabokrom Grotto was discovered and developed by the Catholic Church. It is being owned and managed by the Adabokrom Catholic Church. Ntwewura and Gyaametan rivers are forbidden water bodies for fishing. The two river bodies are owned and managed by the traditional authorities but yet to be developed to a tourist site.

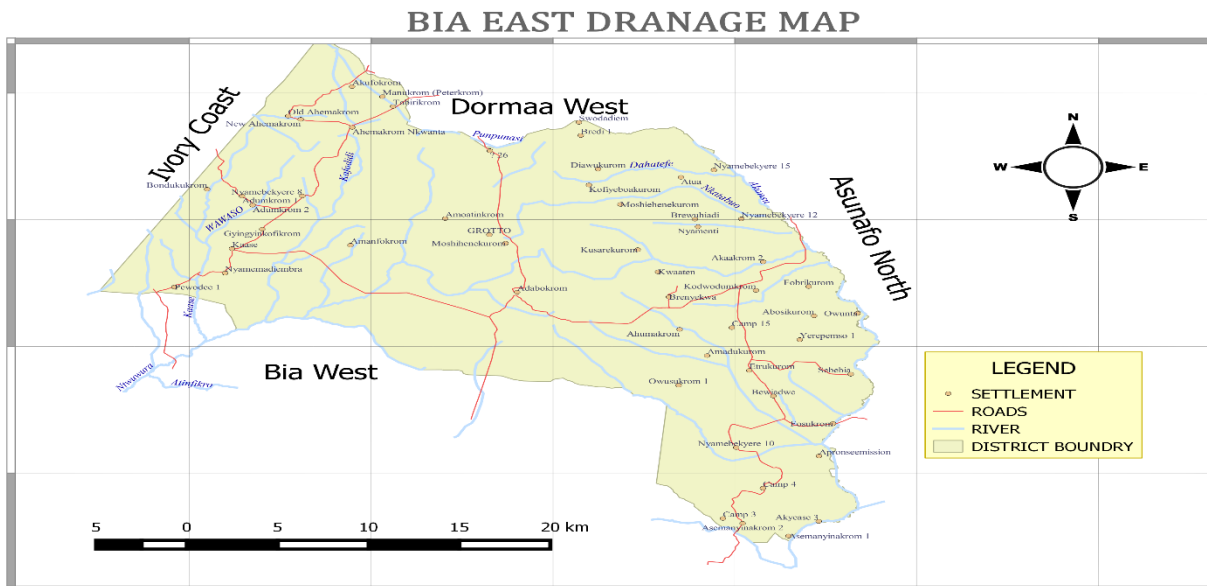
The forest reserve is managed by the forestry services division but not developed to tourist site albeit rich diversity of fauna and flora that have the potential of turning the district into a major tourist destination in the country.

Map 1.1: Tourism map of the district



2.1.5 Drainage

The district is endowed with a number of rivers and streams. Notable among these rivers and streams are the Ntwewura and Gyaametam rivers. The streams and rivers show a dendritic pattern, which forms the Bia Basin. The relief and drainage systems favour the development of fish farming, cultivation of rice, sugarcane and dry season vegetables.



2.2 Enterprises/businesses working in the economic sector of the district

The Bia East District has about two-hundred and fifty (250) formally registered businesses and about five hundred (500) small business which have not been formally registered. Sixty percent (60%) of all business is male owned while forty (40%) is female owned. About ninety-five percent (95%) of all these businesses are run as sole proprietorships. Agric accounts for about seventy percent (70%) of the businesses in the district with the rest being artisans, food vendors etc.

2.3 Institutions

The relevant institutions in the district/region as far as the resources/ LED product is concerned include;

Public Institutions

- Department of agriculture
- GEA/Business advisory
- District planning coordinating unit (DPCU)
- Local economic development committee (LED platform)

Traditional institutions and community groups

- Traditional authorities and land owners
- Farmers
- FBOs and cooperatives
- Market men and women groups

Non-Governmental Organizations and Civil Society Organization (NGOs/CSOs)

- World vision Ghana
- Child Right International
- Mondelez International, main sponsor of cocoa life project
- Yonkopa/Barry Com. Ltd

Financial & Banking institutions

- Nkrankwanta rural bank at Adabokrom
- Kaseman rural bank at Kaase
- Suma rural bank at Camp 15 Junction
- Dorma area teachers credit union at Adabokrom
- Mobile money transfer operators district-wide

Services/utilities providers

- GPRTU, PROTUA

- Telecos; MTN, VODA and TIGOAIRTEL
- ECG, VRA/NETCO
- GRATIS Foundation

2.5 Human resources availability and skills for LED products

Availability of workforce for LED product includes; officers from the department of agric, business advisory center, farmer base organizations, small scale business enterprises, traditional authorities and farmers. 80% of farmers have been on trained on farmer Database collection and financial management and record keeping, post-harvest technology, use of organic fertilizer and planting, Soil, vegetation and water conservation through the use of mulch, zero tillage and importance/benefit of farmer group formation. The rest include agricultural value Chain, pegging of coconut field, preparation/promotion of local foods, post-harvest of plantain and preparation of plantain flour, dressing of plantain suckers before planting, branding and packaging, communication and use of social media, financial literacy, records keeping and management, etc.

Four cassava processing women groups exist and operate in the district for the past 8 years. The groups are found in Mosihene (25 members), Amafokrom (45 members), Harunakrom (35 member), Koonisakrom (20 members) and Adabokrom CAC (35 members). All the women groups were trained in post-harvest of plantain and preparation of plantain flour, fortification of cassava and soya beans to produce gari, financial management and record keeping, branding and packaging. Further training or refresher training on modern production techniques to enhance output and financial literacy are required.

There are currently diligent 25 existing beekeepers who are abiding to recommended best apiary management practices and therefore have successfully harvested and sold honey in the district. However, new beekeepers will need training in basic knowledge on life cycle of honey bees, their living environment, and skills for effective management of honey bee colonies. protective equipment such as bee suits, bee veil, hand gloves, closed shoes needs and skills built on the effective use of them. Also, education tour to successful beekeeping enterprises will motivate and ensure commitment of inexperienced beekeepers to expand their apiaries, adopt best practices, so as to help increase honey and wax production.

The level of workforce skills for the LED products in the district are average and therefore need further capacity building trainings so as to add value to the LED products.

2.6 Prioritization: Choosing economic priority for LED product

Based on the technical and financial availability resources and viability of the resource available and other local advantages, Cassava processing (Gari), Bee keeping (honey), Tilapia farming (tilapia) have been chosen and prioritized as the LED products. It is also established that the district has clear competitive advantage (particularly the resources) potential to easily develop such resources.

The top most priority product/project is Cassava processing (Gari). It is abundantly clear that it has the potential of achieving quick and visible impacts which are jobs and income growth. The product is affordable and consumed within and without the district.

Table 1.7: 2022 Annual Action Plan

Programme (PBB)	Sub-Programme (PBB)	Broad Activities	Location	Timeframe (2022)				Cost			Programme Status		Implementing Institution/Department	
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	GoG	IGF/ABF A	Others	New	Ongoing	Lead	Collaborating
DEVELOPMENT DIMENSION: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT														
Focus area: Private Sector Development														
Economic Development	Trade, tourism and industrial development	Organize social media marketing training for 10 women and 20 men	Sebebia					7,000	2,000	3,000	New	-	BAC	BEDA, GEA, MOTI
Economic Development	Trade, tourism and industrial development	Facilitate Access to funding for 30 small scale industries from financial institutions	Kaase					4,000	-	4,000	New	-	BAC	BEDA, GEA, MOTI
Economic Development	Trade, tourism and industrial development	Provide business advisory, Counselling and Extension Services	District-wide					5,000	-	-	7,000	-	BAC	BEDA, GEA, MOTI
Economic Development	Trade, tourism and industrial development	Organize LED platform meetings	Adabokrom					10,000	-	-	-	-	BAC	BEDA, GEA, MOTI
Economic Development	Trade, tourism and industrial development	Facilitate apprenticeship training on tiling, snail farming for 24 women and 16 men	Adabokrom					3,000	-	3,000	New	-	BAC	BEDA, GEA, MOTI
Economic Development	Trade, tourism and industrial development	Organize data collection exercise to know the number	District wide					4,000	-	2,000	New	-	BAC	BEDA, GEA, MOTI

		of businesses in the district												
Economic Development	Trade, tourism and industrial development	Facilitate the formalization of businesses in the district by helping them register with the various regulatory authorities	District wide					4,000	-	-	New		BAC	BEDA, GEA, MOTI
Focus area: Tourism and Creative Arts Development														
Economic Development	Trade, tourism and industrial development	Organize radio sensitization and seminars on domestic tourism and its potential	District wide					12,000	2,000	-	New	-	BAC	BEDA, CFNC
Economic Development	Trade, tourism and industrial development	Reshape access road to tourism site	Sebebia					110,000	-	-	-	On-going	DWE, BAC	BEDA
Focus area: Agriculture and Rural Development														
Economic Development	Agricultural Development	Organize 4 radio sensitizations for farmers on PFJ improved rice/maize/vegetable seeds others	District-Wide					-	-	10,000	New	-	DDA	MoFA, Central Admi
Economic Development	Agricultural Development	4 DAOs to conduct monthly supervisory visits and provide backstopping to AEAs on the field	AEAs operational area					24,000	-	-	New	-	DDA	MoFA
Economic Development	Agricultural Development	8 AEAs to conduct farm and home visits to train 2,125 farmers on good	AEAs Operational area					-	-	43,000	New	-	DDA	MoFA

		agronomic practices on rice, maize, cassava, plantain and vegetables												
Economic Development	Agricultural Development	AEAs to establish four (4) demonstration farms in maize, vegetables, cassava and rice	AEAs Operational area					4,800	-	10,000	New	-	DDA	MoFA
Economic Development	Agricultural Development	Organize one study tour for 15 farmers and (13) staff members	To be determined					-	-	7,000	New	-	DDA	MoFA
Economic Development	Agricultural Development	Educate farmers on good management practices on animal husbandry	District wide					-	-	3,000	-	On-going	DDA	MoFA
Economic Development	Agricultural Development	Train operators and operationalize rice processing mill	Camp 15 Junction					17,000	-	-	New	-	DDA	BEDA