

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to jane@rufford.org.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Richard Gyamfi Boakye
Project title	Improving the livelihoods of the rural poor around Bia Conservation Area through beekeeping for honey production
RSG reference	12807-1
Reporting period	April 2015 - March, 2016
Amount of grant	£ 4584.00
Your email address	rgboakye@yahoo.co.uk
Date of this report	26 th April, 2016

1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Select and train 30 local residents around Bia Conservation Area in modern beekeeping				Dr. Michael K. Adjaloo, a beekeeping consultant at Technology Consultancy Centre of Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, was contracted to train the beneficiaries over a 5-day period. He took the participants through baiting techniques, hive management, positioning of beehives, benefits of beekeeping, how to split colonies, and precautionary measures when visiting a beehive. There were practical sessions where participants were taken through equipment handling.
Train the selected 30 beneficiaries in honey harvesting, processing, packaging and marketing; and wax processing				The second phase of the training was conducted in February 2016 to equip beneficiaries with the skills for harvesting and processing of honey and beeswax. This was immediately followed with practical sessions where participants went to the field to harvest and process honey and wax from colonised beehives.
Conduct monthly radio talk to educate local residents on sustainable natural resource management and to promote beekeeping		83 %		Ten out of the twelve expected radio talks were carried out. Vision FM eventually offered 8 hours instead of the originally promised 12 hours. However, the project team had a discussion with another local radio station (i.e. Winners FM) which also willingly offered 2 hours for conservation education without a charge.
Equip each beekeeper with two beehives, one bee suit, one harvesting bucket, a pair of wellington boots, one storage container, one bee brush and honey extractor for the whole group				Items were procured and supplied to beneficiaries. All the items, except the honey extractor were procured locally. It was originally planned that the honey extractor would be procured at Samartex at Samaraboi in Ghana but when enquiries were made, the company had run out of stocks. Arrangement was made and the honey extractor was procured from the USA.
Allot 60% of the prospective jobs to the women.				Generally, the men exhibited far greater interests and many women also preferred their husbands to own and manage the beehives on behalf of the family. In the end 24 men and six women

				benefited from the projects.
Construct a honey processing centre		10 %		The Project Team met with the Chief of Kunkumso who willingly donated land for the construction of the shed (honey processing centre). Unfortunately, the structure could not be constructed due to inadequate funds as a result of price hikes in other items in the budget.

2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

The major challenge encountered during the implementation of the project was fluctuation in prices of budgeted items. While some of the budgeted items were within markets prices, others too far exceeded the originally budgeted prices. In view of this some items needed to be shored up. The resultant effect is that, the construction of the shed (honey processing centre) to house the honey extractor could not be carried out. The Chief of Kunkumso, one of the beneficiaries' communities, has however donated a piece of land to be used to construct the structure to serve as processing centre for any future project. In the absence of the shed, an unused storeroom of the projector coordinator was made available and used as the processing centre where all harvested honeycombs were processed. The advantage this brought about was increased and more direct supervision of the processing of honey by the project coordinator.

3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

The implementation of the project has made a number of impacts in the beneficiary communities. The two training sessions have resulted in the transfer of knowledge of modern beekeeping technology for honey production without the destruction of trees as it occurs during the hunt for honey from the wild. The previously heightened fear of the locals to "work with bees" has been allayed. Presently both women and men are able to bait and manage bees for honey production. By December 2015, 75% of the supplied beehives had been colonised by swarm of bees. The ability of the beneficiaries to successfully bait bees, harvest and process honey for sale has increased the conviction of the local residents that beekeeping is a viable source of income generation and could serve as alternative to poaching and resource extraction the park for income generation. This has raised a lot of excitements and interests among the farmers and residents in beekeeping. The monthly conservation educational programmes on radio and the working relations the park had with the local communities during the implementation of the project have positively enhanced the relationship with the community members. This has contributed positively to the collaboration which the management of the park is always seeking with the local residents around the park. This positive relation is contributing to attitudinal changes as the beneficiaries continue to educate their relatives, dependents and friends to refrain from entering the park.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project (if relevant).

A three-member Project Management Team (PMT) was constituted for the effective management of the project. Mr. Richard G. Boakye of Bia Conservation Area, the project Coordinator, Mr. Emmanuel Fiebor, the Bia West District Planning Officer and Yaw Yeboah, Chairman of the CREMA Executive Committee served as the management team. The PMT met with the entire leadership of the CREMA

Executive Committee of River Asuopiri CREMA and directed them to facilitate the selection of trainees from the four communities. The CEC members met with the traditional leaders of the four beneficiary communities to select the participants. The participation of the traditional leaders ensured fair selection and enhanced ownership drive. Due to the process adopted for the selection of the beneficiaries, the beneficiaries now feel accountable to the traditional leaders and the leadership of River Asuopiri CREMA. The beneficiaries were taken through two training sessions and one monitoring session in order to equip them with knowledge and skills in modern beekeeping practices. Participants can now bait bee colonies, safely manage them in constructed beehives, successfully harvest and process honey without any difficulty. The Community Collaborative Unit of Bia Conservation Area also played key roles in monitoring activities.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

A number of observations were made during the implementation of the project. There has been a general embrace of the beekeeping enterprise with an increased understanding of this farm-based technology as a viable source of income generation. This has set off a positive change in the attitude of the locals. Subsequently, there has been an increased interest in beekeeping for honey production both within beneficiaries' communities and neighbouring communities as well. However, beneficiaries do not have adequate enterprise/business development skills (e.g. record keeping, financial management, etc.). Beneficiaries would therefore require training in enterprise development if they are to successfully nurture their newly acquired livelihood enterprise skills (beekeeping for honey production). Furthermore, getting a central processing centre will enhance communal working and strengthen the group as they seek to work as an association. At the moment the beneficiaries have clearly understood that bees depend on trees for nectar for honey production and have expressed the willingness to undertake tree planting on degraded lands and pockets of lands within their farms. The implementation of this project is playing positive role in reducing the pressure of forestry and wildlife resource extraction from Bia Conservation Area. This will help safeguard the integrity of the park as a habitat for a number of animals (e.g. elephants) within. A continuation of the project will build on the positive's gains made and help address challenges identified during the implementation of the project in order to ensure the long term sustainability and growth of the enterprise.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

Copies of the final reports will be circulated among key stakeholders, notably the traditional leaders, the CREMA Executive Committee, the Management of Bia Conservation Area and the Bia West District. An arrangement has been made with Winners' FM for a one-off radio presentation and discussion on air for greater and wider listening of the residents around Bia Conservation Area. Finally, a short meeting will be organised with the representatives of stakeholders to briefly present outcomes of the project. During all these presentations Rufford Foundation will be given prominence as the funding agency.

7. Timescale: Over what period was the RSG used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

The project was carried out within a period of 1 year. With the timely release of funds to undertake the project, it became possible to start the project on scheduled. Every effort was made to adhere to the timeframe outlined for planned activities. The project started in April 2015 where a three-

member management team was put in place for effective management and supervision of the project. Over the period from May 2015 to December 2015, various activities including training sessions, constructions of beehives, baiting for bees, monitoring of colonised beehives, purchase and supply of inputs, among others, were all carried out. By March 2016 the successfully colonised beehives were harvested and processed for the market. Prior to that, the beneficiaries were given training on the harvesting and processing of honey and wax in February 2016. The time used for the implementation fell within the projected time anticipated time for project implementation. Marketing of the processed honey is however ongoing with about 70% all processed honey already taken up. It's expected that by May 2016 all the processed honey would have been sold.

8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.

Item	Budgeted Amount £	Actual Amount £	Difference £	Comments
Construction of 60 beehives @ 13.5 per one for 30 project beneficiaries	780	810	-30	Labour cost was much higher than had been anticipated
Construction of 60 beehive stands @ £ 3 per stand for 30 project beneficiaries	180	180	0	
Construction of 60 beehives covers @ £ 1 per cover for 30 project beneficiaries	60	60	0	
Provision of 30 harvesting buckets @ 2. per one for 30 project beneficiaries	60	60	0	
Supply of 30 pairs of Wellington boots for beneficiaries@ £ 4.5 per one	90	135	-45	General price hikes across the country caused market price to exceed the original budget but it was shored up
Procurements of 30 bee suits @ £ 14 per one for 30 project beneficiaries	420	420	0	
Procurement of 30 pairs @ £ 2 per one pair of hand gloves	60	60	0	
Procurements of 3 metal pots for wax processing @ £ 8 per pot	24	24	0	
Procurement 12 bee smokers @ £ 13 per one for honey harvesting	120	156	-36	Production cost was higher than what had been budgeted
Procurements of 30 bee brushes @ £ 2 per bee brush	60	60	0	
Procurements of 30 hive tool (knife-like metal tool for harvesting) @ £ 2 per hive tool	60	60	0	

Provision of 30 storage containers for 30 project beneficiaries @ £ 4. per container	120	120	0	
Procurement of one-hand operated honey extractor	400	450	-50	Extra costs incurred by buying and importing the honey extractor from the US and transporting it from Accra to project location
Construction of a shed to house honey extractor	200	0	+200	Shed could not be constructed as funds available for this item was used to shore up price hikes in other items
5-day consultation fees @ £ 80 per day for training of 30 beneficiaries in beekeeping practices	400	400	0	
5-day consultation fee@ £ 80 per day for training in honey harvesting, honey processing and wax processing	400	400	0	
Consultation fee for 3-day @ £ 80 per day for follow-up monitoring by beekeeping consultant	250	240	+10	
Lunch (refreshment) @ £ 2 for 30 participants during two training sessions	600	600	0	
Snack @ £ 1 for 30 participants for 10 days over two sessions of training	300	300	0	
TOTAL	4584	4535	+49	Balance

The interbank rate used was GBP 1.00 = Gh c 5.70. This figure is an average interbank exchange rate from January 2015 to February 2016. (Source: Bank of Ghana)

9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

Looking forward:

- Training of beneficiaries in business skill development will equip them sound knowledge in the area of financial management and record keeping, etc., for effective enterprise management. This is very essential and will provide the platform for the beneficiaries to nurture the beekeeping enterprise.
- Honey processing centres should be constructed within beneficiary communities to ensure standardised honey processing procedures thereby adding to or enhancing the quality of honey being processed.

- The increased understanding of the locals about the interdependence between bees and trees provides the platform for encouraging the beneficiaries to undertake tree planting within their farms, communal lands and degraded areas. In view of this, the capacity of beneficiaries should be built in seedling raising and tree planting. The added advantage is that the trees that will be planted will serve as future stock for beehive construction.
- Conservation education on radio, within local communities, and schools must be intensified and sustained to increase the understanding of the local residents about the need for sustainable management of forestry and wildlife resources within the Bia Conservation Area and on their local farms.
- A scaling up of the beekeeping enterprise, through the training and setting up of more local residents both within the beneficiary communities will contribute to the sustenance and growth of the enterprise.
- Beneficiaries should be given training in how to process primary bee products turning them to secondary ones which can rake in higher incomes.

10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Rufford Small Grant (RSG) was given prominence during the implementation of the project. The beneficiaries and the local communities were duly informed that the project was funded by RSGF. This served as great source of excitement to the locals that donors from outside Ghana had offered to support them improve their livelihoods. The traditional authorities (the chiefs) impressed upon the beneficiaries to work very hard in order to attract more supports. Also, during the radio programmes, RSGF was highlighted as the funding agency of the project. Finally, the RSGF logo was affixed to the beehives and the honey extractor. This was very prominent during the handing over ceremony. The final detailed report which shall be shared with traditional leaders, CEMA Executives and Bia Conservation Area will have the RSGF Logo.

11. Any other comments?

Tons of appreciations are extended to the Rufford Foundation for funding this Project. The project succeeded in fostering close cordial relationships between Bia Conservation Area and the local communities. This has added to the community-wildlife collaboration management which the Management of Bia Conservation Area always seeks to achieve with the fringe communities around the park. There has been increased understanding that alternative income-generation activities such as beekeeping, are more sustainable than direct resource extraction from the park. This has become a trump card to build on for a more positive change in attitudes of the local residents. The benefits of these projects are already felt and will continue to win the resource-dependents and poachers living closely to the Park for collaborative resource management initiatives.