

## Final Project Evaluation Report

---

Your Details	
<b>Full Name</b>	Vilbert Vabi Vamuloh
<b>Project Title</b>	Understanding farmer motivations to participate in contract farming: the case of oil palm in Ghana
<b>Application ID</b>	24115-1
<b>Grant Amount</b>	£4857
<b>Email Address</b>	vabilbert@gmail.com
<b>Date of this Report</b>	July 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2018

**1. 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
Understand farmer motivations for participating in contract farming				The results suggest that financial motivation is associated with farmers adopting new, more sustainable technology, whereas the lack of information on and lack of technical support for these technologies are significant barriers.
How does procedural justice influence farmer decisions to commit to contract farming				Procedural and distributive justice are shown to influence farmer decisions to participate in contract farming. Ex-contract farmers alluded to procedural and distributive injustices as a reason to quit from contract farming.

**2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.**

In Ghana, I realised that it was almost impossible for me to collect data because of the bad state of roads in the Kwabebirem District. The only option I had was to hire a 4x4 car which I did. This was important because the Kwabebirem District host the largest oil palm plantation in Ghana and also hosts oil palm producers of different scales.

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

The study provides an in-depth understanding of the factors that influence smallholder decisions to participate in contract farming.

- a) First, the study finds that farmers recognise the importance of adopting sustainable farming methods. However, farmers face significant financial huddles that need to be addressed.
- b) Second, the study finds that contract design attributes deter smallholder participation from contract farming. Land tenure requirements, debt payment plans were significant barriers to smallholder participation in contract farming programmes.

- c) Third, procedural and distributive injustice influenced smallholder participation in contract farming. Farmers were not happy with the buying price offered by contract firms and generally adopted less sustainable practices in order to sell at the local market at higher prices.

These results have important implications for land governance, particularly forest governance. Appropriate forest governance is constrained by unclear boundaries, limited capacity to monitor, and customary land claims. The provision of land titles can enhance farmer participation in contract farming, contribute to agricultural and reduced deforestation, even though this potential is not fully realised in this particular setting.

**4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefited from the project.**

The primary beneficiaries of this project are smallholder farmers. Smallholders were actively involved in framing and explaining the nature of the challenges they face in adopting sustainable methods of producing oil palm. By so doing, it provides a means for channelling smallholder challenges to both governments and non-governmental organizations interested in promoting the sustainability agenda.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes, while farmer participation in contract farming is often encouraged, it is not clear whether or not smallholders actually benefit from contract farming. Moreover, I noticed that majority of the medium to large scale producers do not participate in contract farming. This warrants further research. From the perspective of smallholder farmers, these large-scale producers are considered to be opinion leaders. Thus, these large-scale producers consist a vital group in promoting the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices. Large agribusiness companies also contribute to deforestation in a significant way, and the incentive structures in the company sector are likely different. It is important to understand from the perspective of agribusinesses, how and why they choose to expand land while simultaneously claiming to be pursuing certification programmes.

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

The results of this work is part of my PhD thesis. I am currently working on a manuscript to publish in peer reviewed journals where the Rufford Foundation will be acknowledged as a main funding organization of this research.

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

The grant was used over 4 months. From May 2018 to August 2018. This is consistent with the initial project proposal.

**8. Budget: 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. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.**

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Miscellaneous (flash lights, batteries, taxi)	100	250	+150	Most of the expenses categorized as 'miscellaneous'
40 Nights in Kwaebibirem for 2 standard rooms	420	605	+185	
40 Nights in Ahanta West for 2 standard rooms	420	605	+185	
10 Nights in Accra	125	250	+125	
10 Nights in Kumasi	125	250	+125	
First aid kit	60	75	+15	
Communication/ Internet	200	75	-125	
Printing of questionnaires and other stationary supplies	50	40	-10	I printed questionnaires and bought all the necessary staples from Accra.
Stipend for data collection, 70 days, 2 persons	1620	1050	-570	
Food & Upkeep	100		-100	
Visa	201	450	+249	As a foreign researcher, Ghana issues only 30 day visas at a 150 USD. I had to renew my visa 3 times for my entire 4 months in Ghana.
Ahanta - Accra	100	10	-90	I took public bus to Kumasi to reduce cost
Accra - Ahanta	100	10	-90	I took public bus to Kumasi to reduce cost
Kwaebibirem – Accra	150	9	-141	
Accra – Kwaebibirem	150	9	-141	I decided to take public transport given that Ghana was already more expensive that I had thought.
Round trip economy class (Vancouver –	936	1260	+324	From the day I made the reservation and booked the

Accra)				ticket, the price had dropped.
Car rental		800	+800	I had to rent a 4X4 car and a driver for 35 days because many of the farmers where in inaccessible areas. Data collection was mostly done around the Kwae area while the closest hotel was in Kade. Between Kwae and Kade, it is an unpaved road which only 4X4 car could access when it remained.
Medical Health		125	+125	I decided to take vaccines since the university offered insurance for students going on research in different countries.
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4857</b>	<b>5873</b>	<b>+1016</b>	

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

Looking ahead, I think the capacities of farmers need to be developed. This will consist of organising training programmes, developing credit schemes and organising farmers into cooperatives. It will also consist of employing a complementary combination of qualitative and quantitative methods to assess the sustainability of contract farming arrangements.

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

No material from this work has been published yet. However, the University of British Columbia is aware that Rufford Foundation is the main sponsor for my fieldwork. It is stated on my ethics applications.

**11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.**

**Mr. Patric Kuffor:** While he served as a translator throughout the research, he ensured that all activities were carried out in a culturally appropriate manner.

**Mr. Emmanuel Sarbeng:** He served as a second translator and an extension agent for contract farmers in Kwaebibrem.

**Mr. Jude Asampong:** Served as a second local translator in the Ahanta West Region.

**Mr. Kwame Augustine:** He served as an initial contact person for the farmers.

## 12. Any other comments?

Agricultural expansion has transformed forest habitats at alarming rates across the globe, but especially so in tropical landscapes due to increasing global demands for food, fibre and biofuels. Managing and negotiating trade-offs between conservation and agricultural production involves maximizing food security benefits while minimising damage to the wider environment. In the oil palm sector, this has been promoted through certification programmes. Two contrasting approaches exist to achieving certification programs in Ghana: 'land sparing' and 'land sharing' have been proposed to minimize the negative consequences of agriculture on biodiversity; they aim to consider land-use change in such a way that competing demands for food, commodities and forest services can be reconciled. Recent studies suggest that efforts to emulate land sparing through the application of incentives, regulations and land-use planning could lead to the best outcomes for food production, climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation.

However, this study criticizes this approach as this strategy rarely occurs 'naturally,' because increased productivity can also increase incentives to further clear forests. I sincerely thank the Rufford foundation for providing me to opportunity to realise this study and also contribute to understanding how poverty reduction goals can be achieved in a sustainable manner.