



MASHAV

Center for International Cooperation
Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs



REPUBLIC OF GHANA

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ORGANIC DEMONSTRATION VILLAGE IN ASIKUMA DISTRICT

SUBMITTED BY

Gideon Kormes

Soil and Water Consultant

STATE OF ISRAEL

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION (MASHAV)

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION (CINADCO)

2007

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The Mission to the Republic of Ghana took place between December 17-25, 2006. The team included a soil, water and infrastructure expert from Israel and an expert in bio-organic production from the African Hebrew Israelite community in Dimona. The Mission team visited the Asikuma district in central Ghana to collect, examine and process information for the establishment of a farm for bio-organic produce, and establishment of a demonstration village for operation of the farm, with residential quarters, classrooms, laboratories and display grounds.

The Mission was facilitated by the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Center for International Cooperation, MASHAV, and its main professional agricultural aegis the Centre for International Agricultural Development Cooperation, CINADCO, in cooperation with the Hebrew Israelite community, to examine the feasibility of a joint project in the Asikuma district.

Main Findings

The one-week visit included the proposed project area, regional offices and an agricultural institute with the facilities to analyze the information required. The Mission team examined the conditions for establishing the project and collected information required for planning the demonstration village and farm.

The area designated for the project is in a tropical region covered mainly with dense forest. There are also orchards and low un-drained marshland.

The visit took place at the beginning of the dry season, when temperatures were high and there was little rainfall. This season gives an indication of the need for an irrigation system on the farm and for available water sources in the dry season.

Recommendations

The project integrates establishment of a built-up rural area with an agricultural farm. It is recommended to expand cooperation with MASHAV/CINADCO for planning of the entire complex, including the built-up area.

Recommended stages:

- Data collection from the detailed questionnaires.
- Collection of information related to bio-organic production, such as market conditions and economic data.
- Mapping of the area and its borders.
- Meeting at CINADCO with representatives of the Hebrew Israelite community to consolidate planning, financing, fields of responsibility and schedules.
- Planning of the initial position of the village and farm, problem-solving with local officials, as detailed below.
- Planning of the main infrastructure: such as roads, electricity, water and sewage system.

It is also recommended to cooperate in the planning of similar projects in other African countries, as discussed in meetings with members of the community.

INTRODUCTION

The Mission to the Republic of Ghana was conducted from December 17-25, 2006. The team included a soil, water and infrastructure expert from Israel and an expert in bio-organic production from the African Hebrew Israelite community in Dimona.

The Mission for the proposed project was defined as the establishment of a bio-organic agricultural farm and is part of a joint venture facilitated by the Center for International Development Cooperation, MASHAV, of the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its agricultural aegis the Centre for International Agricultural Development Cooperation, CINADCO, of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in cooperation with the Hebrew Israelites in Dimona and the Ministry of Health in Ghana.

The venture was initiated by Ghana's Minister of Health and by Prince Immanuel from the Hebrew Israelite community in Israel. Parallel to the Mission's visit in Ghana, a delegation from the Hebrew Israelite community held nation-wide seminars in Ghana for seven months. The seminars focused on a healthy lifestyle based on a vegan diet. As part of the venture, it was agreed to develop a unique project to establish a demonstration village and farm for production of bio-organic products, to be managed by Minister Yadiel from the Hebrew Israelite community in Dimona. The project is supported in Ghana by Mr. Immanuel Domson, District Chief Executive of Asikuma-OdomenBrakwa district, who allocated the project area and provided support in the form of transport and personnel to advance the project.

Mission objective

The objective of the proposed project is to raise awareness in Ghana of the benefits of a healthier lifestyle.

The Mission objective was to collect information and define details for the establishment of a bio-organic agricultural farm in Ghana. The Mission team included Mr. Gideon Kormes, an infrastructure, soil and water engineer, and Minister Yadiel, a specialist in bio-organic crops and a member of the Hebrew Israelite community in Dimona.