



CONCEPT NOTE

SCHOOL FARMS Launch & Stakeholders Forum 2022

Working towards Food & Nutrition Security, and ATVET
Skills Development through the Education System



BACKGROUND

In 2011, Reach Out to Future Leaders Movement (ROFLM), a nonprofit community-development-focused organisation, was launched to educate, empower, and engage young people in developing practical solutions to the challenges in their community. It was necessary to pursue that mission because before, not many young people were regarded as partners for development at the community level in the Ghanaian context. Much progress has been made in recent years.

Owing to this progress, and the desire to pay particular attention to ROFLM's flagship project, as part of the growth strategy, ROFLM has folded up and been replaced by School Farms. It has become necessary to elevate ROFLM's flagship project, School Farms as a full-fledged organisation to meet the organisation's strategic focus.

School Farms was founded on 8th March 2013 as a community-based project to help address the growing burden of supplying highly nutritious, farm-produced crops, fruits and vegetables, to schools in Ghana. By deploying an innovative community-supported model, schools are supported in growing their produce, while using the farms as experiential learning spaces to improve teaching and learning experience.

School Farms explores the interconnection between education, nutrition, and skills development by working to improve access to all. We work toward food and nutrition security, and ATVET skills development through the education system in order to enrich the future of agriculture in Ghana. By providing hands-on agricultural skills training to students at rural schools in Ghana, School Farms is not only able to enrich the educational experience of students but allow them to contribute to their school's meal programme. In this way, the produce harvested from the school farm is then consumed by the students to improve the quantity and quality of foods provided.

Food and nutrition insecurity remains a broad global topic that involves issues relating to access, availability, and utilisation of food and nutrition in sufficient quantities, healthy diets and healthy food practices, and sustainable food production. However, this challenge cannot be addressed in isolation from a deliberate effort in developing skills and requisite knowledge to safeguard food and nutrition security. We believe this will contribute towards the achievement of the SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture by 2030.

For school children, food and nutrition security remain important because it has impact on the physical, mental, and social health of children and adolescents as well as their academic performance. School attendance and retention are being impacted as schools struggle to provide meals and students who remain in the classroom are less engaged. It has become more urgent to promote sustainable, innovative, and multi-pronged solutions to combat this problem.

OBJECTIVES OF THE LAUNCH

The objectives of this launch are:

- + To introduce School Farms concept and innovations and how it is helping to address food & nutrition insecurity and agriculture technical, vocational and business skills development.
- + To engage the interest of stakeholders and commitment in promoting the School Farms model.
- + To have a conversation about school feeding value chain and skill development, and propose new ideas to forge a more resilient school farms model.

PARTICIPANTS

This event is intended to bring together various government, private and international actors and as well as interested individuals in the field of education, agriculture, nutrition, and development

EVENT DETAILS

Date: Tuesday, 20th September 2022

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Venue: Online via ZOOM

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

9:00AM

Login

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Opening Ceremony

Remarks by the *MC/Moderator*

Welcome Address: Alfred Godwin Adjabeng, Founder and Programme Manager-School Farms

Keynote Address: Hon. John Ntim Fordjour (MP), Deputy Minister of Education

Special Remarks by Ms. Laneice Brooker, Chief of Cultural Affairs at the US Embassy in Ghana

Special Remarks by Mrs Doris Gaba, Director of Operations-Ghana School Feeding Programme

Dialogue with Hon. John Ntim Fordjour (MP), Deputy Minister of Education on Policy & Strategic Directives

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Scene-Setting Presentation by Mr Bance Y. Salifu, Technical Advisor-School Farms

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

School Feeding Value Chain & Skills Development Panel

+ Mr Bright Dey, Head of Planning Department- Volta Regional Education Directorate

+ Mrs Doris Gaba, Director of Operations-Ghana School Feeding Programme

+ Dr Kofi Boa, Executive Director-Centre for No-Till Agriculture

+ Mr Victus Sabutey, Executive Director-SackRevolution

+ Mrs Anne Sarfo, CEO-Anne's Perfection

+ Ms Gretchen Mohr, Technical Advisor-School Farms

11:30 AM - 11:50 AM

Moderated Open Forum Dr Anna Asem-Technical Advisor, School Farms

12:00 PM

Closing remarks & Vote of thanks by Ms Doreen Appiah-Num

CONTACT INFORMATION

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