



(FOREST SERVICES DIVISION)

**NATIONAL FOREST PLANTATION
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

**THE MODIFIED TAUNGYA SYSTEM
AND PRIVATE DEVELOPERS**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2005**

March 2006

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Forest Plantation Development Programme (NFPDP), which was launched by His Excellency President J.A Kuffuor in September 2001, is aimed at encouraging the development of a sustainable forest resource base that will satisfy future demand for industrial timber and enhance environmental quality. Additionally, the programme is expected to generate jobs and significantly increase food production in the country thereby contributing to wealth creation and reduction in rural poverty.

In the year 2005 (programme year 4) the following were the key planned outputs:

- **10,000 ha** of degraded forest reserve lands planted.
- **30,000 jobs** provided mainly to rural communities
- **120,000 metric tonnes** of foodstuff produced.

During the year under review, which is the fourth year of programme implementation, the annual planting target under the Modified Taungya System (MTS) was set at 10,000Ha. This was to relieve Forest Services Division's field staff who were overburdened with the large annual target in addition to supervising the maintenance of the estimated 51,000Ha established between 2002 and 2004, and thus improve efficiency and the quality of field operations.

A total of **9,105 Ha** representing **91%** of the planting target was established within forest reserves nationwide. Species planted included Teak, Cedrela, Eucalyptus, Cassia, Wawa, Ofra, Emire, Mansonia, Nyankom, Mahogany, and Edinam. In order to effectively integrate the planting of indigenous tree species with exotics, two mixed-stand planting designs; MS 3-12 and MS 4-8 were developed and introduced during the year. These planting designs would ensure that after the short-rotation exotics are removed, a stand predominantly of a variety of indigenous tree species are left to grow to maturity, thus mimicking the situation in the natural forest.

Job opportunities created under the MTS can be categorized into two – full time and casual by-day jobs. The full time jobs were in the form of farming opportunities granted to peasant farmers from forest-fringe communities. The casual by-day jobs were offered mainly for activities such as site preparation, peg cutting, pegging, seedling production, and planting. This year the programme recorded an estimated **31,500 full time jobs**, and **600,905 man-days of casual by-day jobs**.

A bumper harvest was achieved during the year especially for plantain and maize. An estimated **19,803 metric tonnes of maize** and **741,216 metric tonnes of plantain** were harvested from the 2003, 2004 and 2005 plantation coupes. These production figures are clearly far in excess of expected output (**634%**), which signifies the important but unheralded role the programme continues to play in promoting food security within the country.

In spite of these enviable gains made under the MTS, the programme is fraught with a number of constraints, which include:

- Inadequate, irregular and delayed release of funds;

- lack of basic logistics especially vehicles (pick-ups, motor-bikes, tractors, trucks);
- Unwillingness of some farmers to tend old coupes partly due to delay in signing Benefit-Sharing Agreements; and
- Invasion of plantation sites by Fulani herdsmen and their cattle especially in parts of the Eastern, Ashanti, Greater Accra, Upper West and Upper East regions.

These herdsmen usually set fire to the vegetation in the reserves which usually destroy newly established plantations while the cattle nibble or trample on young seedlings. Previous efforts to flush them from the forest reserves have so far been unsuccessful.

A total of 34 Private Plantation Developers were allocated 4,350 Ha of degraded forest reserve land mainly in the Ashanti and Brong-Ahafo regions during the year. Thus the total number of private plantation developers within forest reserves now stands at 204. Achievement under this strategy is yet to be assessed due to financial constraints.

During the year under review the Plantations Department (PD) of the Forest Services Division, and the Benefit Sharing Agreements for plantation development were launched in September by the Hon. Minister of Lands, Forestry and Mines, Prof. Dominic Fobih at the Wood Industries Training Center (WITC) at Akyawkrom in the Ashanti Region. The new department has been charged to undertake and coordinate the development and management of forest plantations nationwide. It is expected that with the establishment of the Plantations Department within the Forest Services Division, the development and management of plantations nationwide would be given the desired focus and thus contribute to the success of the NFPDP. This expectation however, will only be realized if the PD is given the requisite logistics and support needed for an effective implementation of set targets.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

THE NATIONAL FOREST PLANTATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (NFPDP) WHICH WAS LAUNCHED BY HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT J.A. KUFFUOR IN SEPTEMBER 2001 HAS BEEN PROGRESSING SATISFACTORILY OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS. THE MAIN STRATEGIES EMPLOYED BY THE FSD ARE THE MODIFIED TAUNGYA SYSTEM (MTS) AND PRIVATE PLANTATION DEVELOPMENT.

The MTS is a strategy for establishing plantations where farmers are given parcels of degraded forest reserve lands to produce food crops and are required to assist in the establishment and maintenance of trees on the same piece of land. The strategy is practiced where communities bordering degraded forest reserves are experiencing land scarcity for farming while portions of such reserves have been earmarked for reforestation. The contribution of farmers' labour towards the establishment of such plantation is treated as equity and thus they receive a commensurate share of future benefits from the plantation.

The Forest Services Division (FSD) under the Forestry Commission (FC) is implementing the MTS with the active involvement of rural communities.

An estimated total area of 60,000 Ha has been planted using the MTS since the commencement of the program in year 2002. This is made up of 17,460.9 Ha (approximately 87% of the target) in 2002 and 17,691 Ha (88% of the annual target) in year 2003. In 2004 (Program year 3) the annual target was adjusted to 16,250 Ha in response to the difficulty of the FSD field staff to cope with the large annual target in addition to maintaining the 35,091 Ha planted during 2002 and 2003. In 2005 the annual target was further reduced to 10,000 ha.

Both indigenous and exotics tree species have been planted at various sites. The indigenous species include *Mansonia altissima* (Opron), *Terminalia superba* (Ofram), *T. ivorensis* (Emire), Mahogany spp, *Ceiba pentandra* (Onyina), *Heritiera utilis* (Nyankom), *Entandrophragma angolense* (Edinam), *E. utilis* (Efobodedwo), and *Pycnanthus angolensis* (Otie). The exotic species include *Tectona grandis* (Teak), *Cedrela odorata* (Cedrela) and *Eucalyptus spp.*

This report covers achievement chalked by the MTS and Private Plantation Developers within Forest Reserves nationwide for the year 2005. Some constraints hindering the smooth implementation of the program have also been highlighted.

2.0 Objectives of the Programme

The objectives of the plantation development program under the MTS as well as by Private Developers are in line with the overall objectives of the National Forest Plantation Development Program aimed at:

- Restoring the forest cover of degraded forest reserves.
 - Addressing the wood deficit situation in the country, especially timber, this has been estimated as 4-5 million-m³/year and fuel wood consumption also estimated at 14 million-m³/year.
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- Creating employment opportunities at the rural community level to generate income for plantation owners, timber processors and the national economy.
- Contributing to food production in the country.

3.0 Expected Outputs

The program was expected to deliver the following key outputs for year 2005:

- 10,000 Ha of degraded forest reserve lands planted.
- 30,000 jobs provided mainly to rural communities.
- 120,000 tonnes of foodstuff produced.

4.0 Estimated budget And Expenditure for Year 2005

An estimated project cost of about **¢87 billion** for the current year was presented but the FC approved only **¢34 billion** for plantation development in its budget for year 2005. As at 31st December 2005 only a total of **¢ 7.8 billion** (see details below) had been released out of which **¢ 5.9 billion** (approximately 75 %) had been disbursed to pay outstanding claims for activities performed in year 2004. The remaining was disbursed to meet some of the critical activities such as survey & demarcation, peg cutting and seedling procurement. (See Appendix I & II for details)

Table1 Detail Receipts/Transfers – Year 2005

DATE	RECEIVED FROM	AMOUNT (¢)
1/02/2005	Forestry Commission	1,000,000,000.00
6/05/2005	Forestry Commission	2,000,000,000.00
11/05/2005	Plantation Fund Mgt. Board	2,500,000,000.00
09/09/2005	Forestry Commission	300,000,000.00
14/09/2005	Forestry Commission	1,000,000,000.00
19/09/2005	Forestry Commission	1,000,000,000.00
Grand total		7,800,000,000.00

A summary of the estimated project cost for year 2005 and financial analysis as at December, 2005 is provided in Table 2 below.

Table 2 Estimated Project Cost, Releases and Expenditure (Jan.-Dec. 2005)

Item	Original Estimated Project Cost (¢)	Disbursement (¢)	Expenditure (¢)	Balances (as at Dec. 2005)
Field Operations	70,355,738,000.00	1,286,494,757.25	8,763,610,131.00	-7,477,115,373.75
Administration	6,189,814,500.00	582,411,641.14	678,583,113.14	-93,921,472.00
Capital Items	11,229,600,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	87,775,152,500.00	1,868,906,398.39	9,442,193,244.14	-7,571,036,845.75

Note: *Field Operations - PDA 1-13*

Administration - PDA 14, 15, 16 & 18

Capital Items – PDA 17,

(See Appendix I & II for details)

5.0 ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS (See Appendix III)

5.1 Survey and Demarcation

Survey/demarcation of sites for the year 2005 coupes were carried out within forest reserves nationwide to cover an estimated distance of 885.06 km (equivalent to **10,853.73** Ha and representing **107%** of target). Labour for the activity was organized from the local communities but under the leadership of Forest Services Division (FSD) staff. Regional details of areas demarcated are provided in Table 3.

**Table 3 National Forest Plantation Development Project
Demarcation of sites by Regions**

Region	Target		Achievement		Remarks
	Ha	Km	Ha	Km	
Ashanti	4000	325.00	5147.20	418.21	128% of target
Brong Ahafo	4000	325.00	3500	284.36	87% of target
Central	100	8.13	105	12.70	105% of target
Eastern	500	40.70	420.67	34.18	84% of target
Greater Accra	150	12.19	157.53	12.80	105% of target
Volta	100	8.13	0	0.00	0% of target
Western	500	40.64	480	37.91	96% of target
Northern	350	33.65	530	43.09	151% of target
Upper East	200	19.23	292	23.81	146% of target
Upper West	100	10.40	222	18.00	222% of target
Total	10,000	823.07	10853.73	885.06	107 % of target

5.2 Site preparation

This has been the responsibility of Taungya Farmers except for the three Northern Regions and Greater Accra, where the project provided support for ploughing and lopping. An estimated total area of **10,314.5 Ha (95%)** of the total demarcated area was cleared as detailed in Table 4.

**Table 4: National Forest Plantation Development Project
Extent of site preparation by Regions**

Region	Work done (Ha)	Remarks
Ashanti	4769.5	Work done entirely by taungya farmers; 92% of demarcated area
Brong Ahafo	3500	Work done entirely by taungya farmers; 100% of demarcated area
Central	105	Work done entirely by taungya farmers; 100% of demarcated area
Eastern	413	Work done entirely by taungya farmers; appx. 83% of demarcated area
Greater Accra	117	Work done entirely by hired labour; local farmers declined to participate. 74% of demarcated area.
Volta	0	No work done; Lack of interest by Communities because they are far removed from the sites.
Western	473	Work done entirely by taungya farmers; appx. 99% of demarcated area
Northern	515	The project provided limited support for ploughing; appx. 97% of demarcated area
Upper East	200	The project provided limited support for ploughing; 68%of demarcated area
Upper West	222	Work done entirely by taungya farmers; about 100% of demarcated area
Total	10314.5	Approximately 95% of the total demarcated area

5.3 Seed Collection/Procurement

Seed collection gangs, comprising FSD personnel and hired labour from the local communities were formed at the various stations for seed collection. An estimated **6,934.4 Kg** of seeds of various species were obtained from selected seed stands and other identified indigenous seed trees in forest reserves. The seeds were distributed to various FSD, private and community nurseries nationwide to raise seedlings for the project.

5.4 Seedling Production/Procurement

About **300** communities, a few institutions and private nursery operators throughout the country on contract supplied a total of **11,200,000** seedlings/stumps of both exotic and indigenous tree species for the programme to augment supplies from FSD nurseries. About **5%** of planted seedlings were indigenous species. However in the Western Region about **20%** of the planted seedlings were indigenous species.

**Table 5: National Forest Plantation Development Project
Regional Breakdown of Seedlings Delivered**

Region	Quantities Delivered	Remarks
Ashanti	5347859	Delivered in Good Condition
Brong Ahafo	4162654	“
Central	84549	“
Eastern	418862	“
Greater Accra	147660	“
Volta	85810	These were produced from FSD nurseries at Hohoe and Nkwanta
Western	321532	“
Northern	420255	“
Upper East	409907	“
Upper West	295970	FSD Nurseries
Total	11,695,058	“

5.5 Peg Cutting and Pegging

5.5.1 Peg Cutting

This activity was contracted out to local communities who produced and supplied a total of 11,025,940 pegs.

Table 6 Regional Breakdown of Pegs Delivered

Region	Quantities Delivered	Remarks
Ashanti	5346821	Delivered at planting sites
Brong Ahafo	3661222	“
Central	117100	“
Eastern	519367	“
Greater Accra	112200	“
Volta	0	“
Western	295625	“
Northern	443023	“
Upper East	283940	“
Upper West	246642	“
Total	11,025,940	“

5.5.2 Pegging

Pegging commenced in May and was completed in October. A total of 9,969 Ha was pegged nationwide. Pegging was generally undertaken at 3 meters by 3 meters intervals; however in the Western Region a spacing of 4 meters by 4 meters was employed. Achievements by the various regions are indicated in Table 7

**Table 7 National Forest Plantation Development Project
Progress made on Pegging by Regions**

Region	Target (Ha)	Achievement (Ha)	Remarks
Ashanti	4000	4213.20	105% of target
Brong-Ahafo	4000	3450.30	86% of target
Central	100	104.50	104% of target
Eastern	500	408.70	82% of target
Greater Accra	150	115	77% of target
Volta	100	0	0% of target
Western	500	472	94% of target
Northern	350	343	98% of target
Upper East	200	200	100% of target
Upper West	100	222	222 % of target
Total	10,000	9,528.70	95% of National target

5.6 Planting Out

Planting commenced at most of the sites from the beginning of June with the onset of the major rains. Unfortunately there was an unexpected break in rainfall by the middle of June. This impeded work at almost all the Plantation Areas, thus further planting was suspended during the latter part of June and only resumed in late August. Planting ended in November with a total area of **9,105.2 Ha** achieved. Achievements of the various Regions are presented in Table 8.

Two model planting designs aimed at mixing indigenous trees species with exotics were introduced during the year. These were MS 3 – 12 and MS 4 – 8 was implemented mainly in the Western region where exotics were spaced at 4m by 4m and indigenous species at 8m by 8m on the same plot of land. In the other regions exotics were spaced at 3meters by 3 meters and the indigenous species at 12 meters by 12 meters. These designs will ensure that a good stocking of indigenous trees species will take over the plots after the harvesting of the fast growing exotics thereby reversing the land to a stand of mainly indigenous trees species after 25 years.

**Table 8 Reported Area (ha) planted by Regions
Modified Taungya System**

Region	Expected (Ha)	Work Done (Ha)	Remarks
Ashanti	4000	4132.60	103% of target
Brong Ahafo	4000	3222.60	80% of target
Central	100	87	87% of target
Eastern	500	363	73% of target
Greater Accra	150	115	77% of target
Volta	100	0	0% of target
Western	500	420	84% of target
Northern	350	343	98% of target
Upper East	200	200	100% of target
Upper West	100	222	222% of target
Total	10,000	9,105.20	91% of National Target

5.7 Assessments (Survival Survey -Current Year Coupes)

This activity was carried out by Plantation Supervisors within the various Plantation Areas from September for the various sites in order to determine the level of survival of the seedlings planted in June/July 2005. The outcome informed the level of beating-up. A total area of 2,294 Ha was surveyed nationwide.

5.8 Beating-up

Beating-up covering an area of 710.60 Ha of the current coupe, and 204.20 Ha within the 2004 coupe was undertaken throughout the country.

5.9 Tending

This is the responsibility of the Taungya Farmers but reports indicate that many farmers were unable to maintain their sites regularly thereby leaving the young seedlings to compete with weeds. The project is likely to incur high expenses to maintain areas reportedly abandoned/neglected by farmers. A total of 6,916.22 Ha was reported tended nationwide. This is very worrying and a serious cause for concern since only eleven percent (11%) of planted areas was reported tended. Find details in Table 9.

Table 9 Reported Area Tended Nationwide (2002-2005)

Year	Area Planted (Ha)	Area Tended (Ha)	Remarks
2002	17,460	670	3.8% of area planted
2003	17,691	1008	13.1% of area planted
2004	16,090	2653	16.5% of area planted
2005	9,105	2585	28.4% of area planted
Total	60,346	6,916	11.5% of area planted

5.10 Roads/Ride Construction

5.10.1 Ride Construction

The layout of many of the rides were demarcated during the initial survey and demarcation, but are yet to be conditioned to make them suitable for use by Pick-Ups, trucks and other machinery within the plantations. A total of 33.34 km of ride (10 meter wide) was reported constructed manually nationwide, but their conditions are yet to be assessed. This activity may have to be contracted out.

5.10.2 Road Construction

This activity will be organised under a comprehensive infrastructure program and awarded on contract. The intention is to submit proposals to the Sector Minister to consult with the Ministry of Roads and Transport to handle the construction works as part of the national program on roads.

5.11 Maintenance of Rides

Local communities undertook routine maintenance of rides covering 47.66 km on contract during the year.

5.12 Fire Patrols

Fire volunteer groups from local communities were organised to patrol the previous years' coupes between January and March 2005. The activity was particularly intensive in the northern savannah and transitional zones, the northern parts of Eastern as well as Greater Accra and Volta Regions. The exercise yielded good results with only eight reported cases of wildfire incidence in some plantation areas at Tain I & II as well as some Forest Reserves in the three Northern regions.

5.13 FOOD PRODUCTION

From all indications the on-going national plantation development program under the MTS has been making very substantial contributions to food production in the country. Current statistics on food production for year 2005 indicated a bumper harvest, particularly of plantain and maize. An estimated 19,803 metric tonnes of maize and 741,216 metric tonnes of plantain was produced during the year from the 10,314.50 Ha of land prepared during the year. This is approximately 634% of expected output.

5.14 Job Opportunities

Jobs offered under the program can be categorized into two; full-time and casual/temporary by-day jobs. The full time jobs were in the form of farming opportunities granted to peasant farmers from forest fringe communities and engagement of plantation supervisors. Thirty-one thousand, five hundred (31,500) farmers were fully engaged on the program and a total of 600,905 Mandays of jobs were recorded for daily-paid jobs as outlined in Table 10.

The main job areas have been site preparations, seedling production, peg cutting, pegging and planting. The figure recorded for site preparation includes farmers (direct labour) and their dependants (indirect labour) as well as other hired labour.

Table 10 – NFPDP Records on By-Day jobs undertaken by local communities

Activity	No. of Jobs
Survey & Demarcation	5,310
Site Preparation	154,717
Seed Collection	6,505
Seedling Production	148,764
Peg Cutting	27,564
Pegging	57,172
Planting	54,631
Survival Survey	4,588
Beating – up	852
Tending	138,324
Ride Construction	1,000
Ride Maintenance	476
Fire Patrol	282
Green fire belt Construction	720
Total	600,905

6.0 Institutional Re-organization

In **October 2004** the Forestry Commission (FC) established a Plantation Department (PD) in accordance with the Commission's core business requiring the need for the separation of plantation management from natural forest management and place that responsibility under the control of a new PD within the FSD. The PD will undertake and co-ordinate the development and management of forest plantations nationwide.

A Director and an Operations Manager were appointed in September 2004 and by the end of the second **quarter of 2005, 16 Area Managers, 2 Zonal Managers, and 58 Plantation Supervisors** had been recruited. During the last quarter of the year, a Development Manager **and 2 Zonal Managers were also appointed. However, 2 more Zonal Managers, 24 Plantation Supervisors, and 141 Field Assistants** are yet to be recruited.

7.0 Monitoring of Field Operations

Routine monitoring of field operations was undertaken by the Area and Zonal Plantation Managers throughout the year.

The Horizontal Teams monitoring the disbursement and application of funds for plantation establishment continued to be active during the year. The teams visited all the regions within the high forest zone, including the Volta Region, to inspect and assess seedling production situations at various locations in the regions and also supervised payments to communities. During their rounds the teams also interacted with communities to appraise their involvement and gains from the on-going plantation program.

Innovations to streamline seedlings procurement contracts and deliveries (Bill of Claims) were introduced during the year

8.0 Launching of Plantation Department

The Plantations Department and the Benefit sharing Agreement for Plantation development were launched by the Hon. Minister of Lands, Forestry and Mines, Prof. Dominic Fobih in September 2005 at Akyawkrom-Kumasi.

9.0 Training/Capacity Building Workshops

Orientation workshops were organised for the Zonal and Area Managers in April 2005 at Institute of Local Government studies – Madina, Accra.

Workshop on report writing and developing plantation strategy was also organised for regional and District Managers of the Northern Savannah Zone at Tamale in October.

These workshops were organised to equip the Managers with the requisite skills to implement the Nations Forest Plantation development programme. Areas covered include Human resource policies and procedures, Forest Laws, Target setting, Monitoring and evaluation of plantation activities, Technical report writing and the use of Bill of Claim (BOC).

10.0 PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED/ CONSTRAINTS AND THE WAY FORWARD

The programme is confronted by a number of constraints that need to be addressed in order to ensure the successful delivery of the project outputs. Most of the issues are being addressed though a few of them need urgent attention to ensure the smooth implementation of the project activities.

10.1 Inadequate funds and delay in releases

Once the annual project budget has been presented and approved by the Fund Board it is expected that periodic requests would be transferred promptly into the Plantation Operations Accounts. This expectation has often not been met and has been contributing in most cases to the delay in disbursement of funds to the Regions/Districts. Once this initial process is delayed all subsequent processes are seriously affected. Since 2002 the Forest Plantation Development Fund Board has released a total of ₦36,259,380,000.00, representing 20% of a total budget of ₦176,189,435,404.04.

Inadequate funds and their untimely release also create uncertainties and diminish efforts at delivery of field operations to meet targets.

10.2 Number of available official vehicles/trucks inadequate to cope with Workload

Some Plantation Areas, particularly those that have been assigned very high targets have difficulties moving planting materials to planting sites. This has therefore necessitated the hiring of vehicles, usually at very high cost to the project, to move materials (seedlings, pegs, hired labour etc.). Daily rates for vehicle hiring currently range between ₦450,000 and ₦600,000.00/vehicle. None of the Area Plantation Managers has been allotted with an official vehicle making field supervision very difficult for them.

Recommended Action:

16 Tractors, 6 trucks and 23 pick-ups would have to be acquired to improve mobility and transportation of planting materials.

10.3 Lack of maintenance of previous years' coupes by farmers.

Many Taungya farmers seem to have divided attention over other field activities while some withdrew after site preparation. In other instances farmers demonstrated lukewarm attitude towards work stemming from uncertainties about the anticipated benefit sharing arrangements.

Some planted sites have apparently been abandoned by some Taungya Farmers after harvesting maize. This is contributing to high mortality and retarded growth among the young seedlings and this will increase expenditure on tending to the project if hired labour is to be organised to maintain such sites.

Recommended Action:

Further District/community level meetings with the various Taungya Groups should be organised to disseminate the contents of the Benefit Sharing Agreement and to assure the farmers of Government's commitment to the proposals in the document. There is however the urgent need to undertake extensive stakeholder sensitization. Meanwhile, the registration of Taungya farmers for Benefit Sharing Agreement is on going

10.4 Activities of cattle herdsmen affecting the plantation project

The presence of Fulani herdsmen at plantation areas especially Begoro, Mpraeso, Juaso etc still pose a serious threat to the young plantation. These herdsmen usually set fire to the vegetation to encourage re-sprouting of fresh grass for their cattle.

Fire outbreaks were experienced over quite extensive areas of the young established plantations in Ashanti (Boumfum and Bandai FRs under Kumawu District), northern parts of Eastern (Dede FR) and Greater Accra (Dechidaw FR) resulting from fire set by Fulani herdsmen. Huge financial losses would result from such incidents, if not curtailed.

Recommended Action:

The conduct of the Fulani herdsmen will negatively impact the plantation program in the Regions mentioned if not dealt with at the appropriate level. It is suggested that the Ministry of Lands & Forestry could take up the matter with the National Security Council to find a lasting solution to the problem.

11.0 ACHIEVEMENTS OF PRIVATE PLANTATION DEVELOPERS

11.1 On reserve Plantation

As many as 34 new private developers were granted permits to access 4,350 Ha of degraded forest reserves to undertake reforestation projects. Majority (47%) of them are located within various forest reserves in the Ashanti Region. Table 11 shows the Regional distribution of the allocated areas for the year under reviewed.

Table 11 Regional distribution of allocated areas for Private Plantation Developers Within Forest Reserves (2005)

REGION	NO. OF APPLICANTS	TOTAL AREA ALLOCATED (Ha)
Ashanti	15	2077
Brong Ahafo	5	613
Eastern	4	640
Gt. Accra	2	120
Northern	4	200
Western	4	700
Total	34	4,350

Many of the private developers have been found to be inactive. Even with the active developers their annual performances are below expectation. It has been realised that most of the private developers are expecting financial support, especially from the Forest Plantation Development Fund, to be able to make any meaningful progress.

11.2 Off Reserve Plantation

The Plantation Department registered 2,558 farmers involved in plantation establishment covering 7,394.49 ha in off reserve areas nationwide. Most of the species planted were Teak and Cedrela. The exotic species forms approximately 95%. The indigenous tree species planted include Ofram, Mahogany, Emire and Onyina (Ceiba). They also forms 5%. Table 12 shows the regional breakdown. The exercise is ongoing.

Table 12 Regional distributions of Registered Private Plantation Developers – Off Forest Reserve

REGION	NO. OF FARMERS REGISTERED	TOTAL AREA (HA)	REMARKS
Ashanti	228	1,250.34	50% above ten years
Brong Ahafo	357	2,139.96	40% above ten years
Central	155	595.06	40% above ten years
Eastern	663	694.66	30% above ten years
Greater Accra	45	191.92	30% above ten years
Volta	600	902.66	40% above ten years
Western	410	1,422.63	20% above ten years
Northern	0	0	Records not available
Upper East	0	0	Records not available
Upper West	100	197.26	70% above ten years
Total	2,558	7,394.49	

12. CONCLUSION

THE FSD OF THE FORESTRY COMMISSION (FC) HAS MADE TREMENDOUS EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT THE PROJECT OBJECTIVES ARE MET EVEN IN THE FACE OF A MULTIPLICITY OF CONSTRAINTS BEING FACED SINCE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE PROGRAMME.

Results achieved so far are very close to fulfilling the key objectives of the program. The contribution made by the programme towards increased food production in the country and job opportunities for rural communities are quite remarkable. A major threat to the success of the programme, particularly fire, has been well managed so far at most sites except for areas where the conduct of Fulani herdsmen is upsetting efforts and gains made.

In view of the annual expansion of the plantation sites it is becoming increasingly obvious that Taungya Farmers are finding it difficult to manage their annual allotments effectively to the extent that maintenance has not been very satisfactory.

Notwithstanding the problems and difficulties encountered most of the local communities have shown remarkable interest and demonstrated their preparedness to embrace the program. There will however, be the need to increase awareness and educate the local communities so that they would better understand and appreciate their role in the programme to ensure that the objectives are fully met.

The need for the supply of adequate logistics, particularly vehicles including tractors, has been emphasised and would have to be given the needed attention. This is likely to save cost incurred on vehicle hiring, not to mention the inconveniences associated with dependence on private transport facilities for this kind of project.