

# Summary Report of OTS Course: Practical Maize Production



German-Israel Africa Initiative:  
Trilateral Cooperation for the Improvement  
of the Maize Value Chain in Ghana

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# GENERAL INFORMATION

## **TITLE OF ON-THE-SPOT COURSE:**

Practical Maize Production in the framework of the German-Israeli Africa Initiative:  
Trilateral Cooperation for the Improvement of the Maize Value Chain in Ghana

**DATES:** 15-25 October 2018

**NUMBER OF COURSE PARTICIPANTS:** 29 agriculturists

- **MALE/FEMALE RATIO:**
- **PARTICIPANT PROFILE:** Employees of the MOA, regional extension workers and water management trainers

**COUNTRY AND LOCATION:** Ghana – Adidome Training Farm

## **IMPLEMENTING INSTITUTIONS:**

- MASHAV - Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation through MASHAV Agricultural Training Centre (MATC)
- GIZ - the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- The Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) in Ghana.

**MASHAV TEAM MEMBERS:** Mr. Nissim Sarusi & Mr. Gadi Moses

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

Cooperation between Israel and Germany in Ghana was established in the framework of the *German-Israeli Africa Initiative* announced by Israel and Germany on the occasion of the fifth German-Israeli Intergovernmental Consultations held in February 2014 and captured in the signing of a Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) on trilateral development cooperation in Africa. A *Guiding Principles* document adapted into a second JDI was subsequently signed on the occasion of the 6<sup>th</sup> German-Israeli Intergovernmental Consultations in February 2016. Within the framework of this initiative, it was agreed that development cooperation in Africa would be implemented by MASHAV and BMZ between 2015 and 2019 in 6 African countries, including Ghana.

As a means to advance development cooperation in Ghana, it was agreed that cooperation would be carried out within the framework of GIZ's existing Green Innovation Centre project (GIC) and jointly implemented by MASHAV, GIZ and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) of Ghana. In line with SDG 2 to achieve food security and promote sustainable agriculture and in accordance with the development priorities of the Ghanaian government, the GIC project focuses on fostering innovation along the value chains of maize and rice through training, capacity building, community mobilization and financing measures. The trilateral cooperation concentrates specifically on providing training and capacity building in the areas of modern agricultural techniques and technologies, irrigation, post-harvest handling & food safety, fertigation, agricultural entrepreneurship and crop export along the value chain of maize.

This OTS course took place in the framework of the cooperation and as part of the work plan proposed following the Needs Assessment Mission conducted in September 2017. *See Annex 1 for the Mission Report and Proposal.*

## COURSE OBJECTIVE

To equip course participants with the knowledge and skills in basic maize production.

## TARGET AREA & POPULATION

Adidome, Ghana - Employees of the Ministry of Agriculture and agricultural and water extension workers



# OTS DESCRIPTION & ACTIVITIES

## COURSE TOPICS

- Soil-Water-Plant Relationships
- Fertilizer Characteristics and usage
- Crop Cycles
- Different Irrigation Systems
  - Drip Irrigation
  - Sprinkler Irrigation
  - Furrow Irrigation
  - Center-pivot Irrigation
- Fertigation (Fertilization via Irrigation)
- Water Quality and Filtration
- Soil Preparation for sowing and planting
- Nursery and Seedling Preparation
- Maize Crop (Characteristics and usage worldwide)
- Seed Quality
- Planting and Sowing
- Different Growing Stages
- Irrigation and Fertilization
- Plant Protection
- Harvesting and Storage

During the duration of the Course, three practical activities were conducted:

1. Two family drip irrigation systems were installed for the benefit of the training farm. The Course Team, together with the course participants, installed the two systems and operated them.
2. A visit was made to the Training Farm fields where the Team observed the agricultural tools and machinery located there, such as combines, plows, seeding machines and sprayers.
3. A visit to a private farmer in the area, owning a field of 2.5 dunams, irrigated by drip irrigation from a small local well. He made a great impression on the course participants and the Course Team as well. He proved that it is possible to succeed, using his own initiative and investments, even in advanced technology, irrigation systems, fertigation and infiltration.



# OBSERVATIONS & KEY FINDINGS

During the course, requests for additional topics were presented by the participants, such as:

- Tomatoes
- Peppers
- Organic Crops

There was also a special request for the subject of Okra production, a national food popular and important to Ghana residents. The Course Team responded positively to all these requests.

## GENERAL EVALUATIONS

The level of participation in the Course was quite good and included lively discussion on their part. They expressed their opinions, and it was the Team's impression that there is a need for expanding the growers' knowledge in the field of irrigation and to include additional crop growing subjects in the Course Program.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion of the professional part of the Course, the Team recommends expanding the cooperation in the fields of irrigation and other vegetable crop production beyond just maize.



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