

Farmer innovators in northern Ghana receive awards at National Farmers Day 2023

National Farmers' Day 2023 in Ghana is the 39th since the inception of this event in 1985. The theme in 2023 was: "Delivering Smart Solutions for Sustainable Food Security and Resilience". Prolinnova-Ghana, coordinated by the Association of Church-based Development Projects (ACDEP) and in partnership with the local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) involved in the Misereor-funded project "Expanding the Promotion of Local Innovation for Food Security and Healthy Nutrition to Strengthen Resilience with a Focus on Women" (ELI-FaNS), supported mainly women farmer innovators to take part in the district-level event in their respective action-learning sites.

The local partner NGOs – Navrongo-Bolgatanga Catholic Diocesan Development Organisation (NABOCADO), Presbyterian Agricultural Services (PAS) Mile 7 and Centre for Ecological Agriculture and Livelihoods (CEAL) – facilitated the identification and selection of these innovators by the local multistakeholder platforms at each of the three project sites. Four innovators per site – altogether 11 women and one man – were selected to participate in the event. The selected innovators were supported with ELI-FaNS funds to prepare,



Award to Rahinatu Sulemana at Walewale Learning Site.

Credit: Atarah Scholastica Samuel



PAS staff, Mr Nasir Isaiah Haruna, explaining innovators' exhibits to the District Chief Executive in white smock.

Credit: Mohammed Awal

transport and showcase their innovations during the National Farmers' Day celebration. Innovations that were exhibited addressed a range of challenges such as postharvest grain losses, declining soil fertility and striga infestation. A number of value-addition and food-processing innovations were also showcased, such as new ways of processing beans into cold drinks and finding new ways of processing dawadawa (a local seasoning made from seeds of *Parkia biglobosa*, also known as the African locustbean tree).

The innovators had the opportunity to explain to various governmental stakeholders how they came up with these innovations to solve the problems they encountered. It is a key strategy of Prolinnova–Ghana to encourage agricultural research and development actors, political authorities and decision-makers to recognise the immense contribution of farmer innovation and farmer-led joint research to improve household food security and incomes of rural small-scale farming families. All twelve innovators received awards in various categories from the Department of Agriculture of the Local Government

and also from the local partner NGOs for their outstanding contribution to sustainable farming, food and nutrition security. A full description of the innovations exhibited is available in an article on the Prolinnova website (<https://prolinnova.net/>).

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Award items for Farmers at the North East Gonja District.

Credit: Mr Nasir Isaiah Haruna