

**AN EVALUATION OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES IN THE BUILSA
NORTH DISTRICT OF GHANA**

KNUST
BY

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DECLARATION

STUDENT'S DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis, with the exception of quotations and references contained in published works which have all been identified and acknowledged, is entirely my own original work towards the MSc. Development Policy and Planning, and it has not been submitted, either in part or whole, for another degree elsewhere.

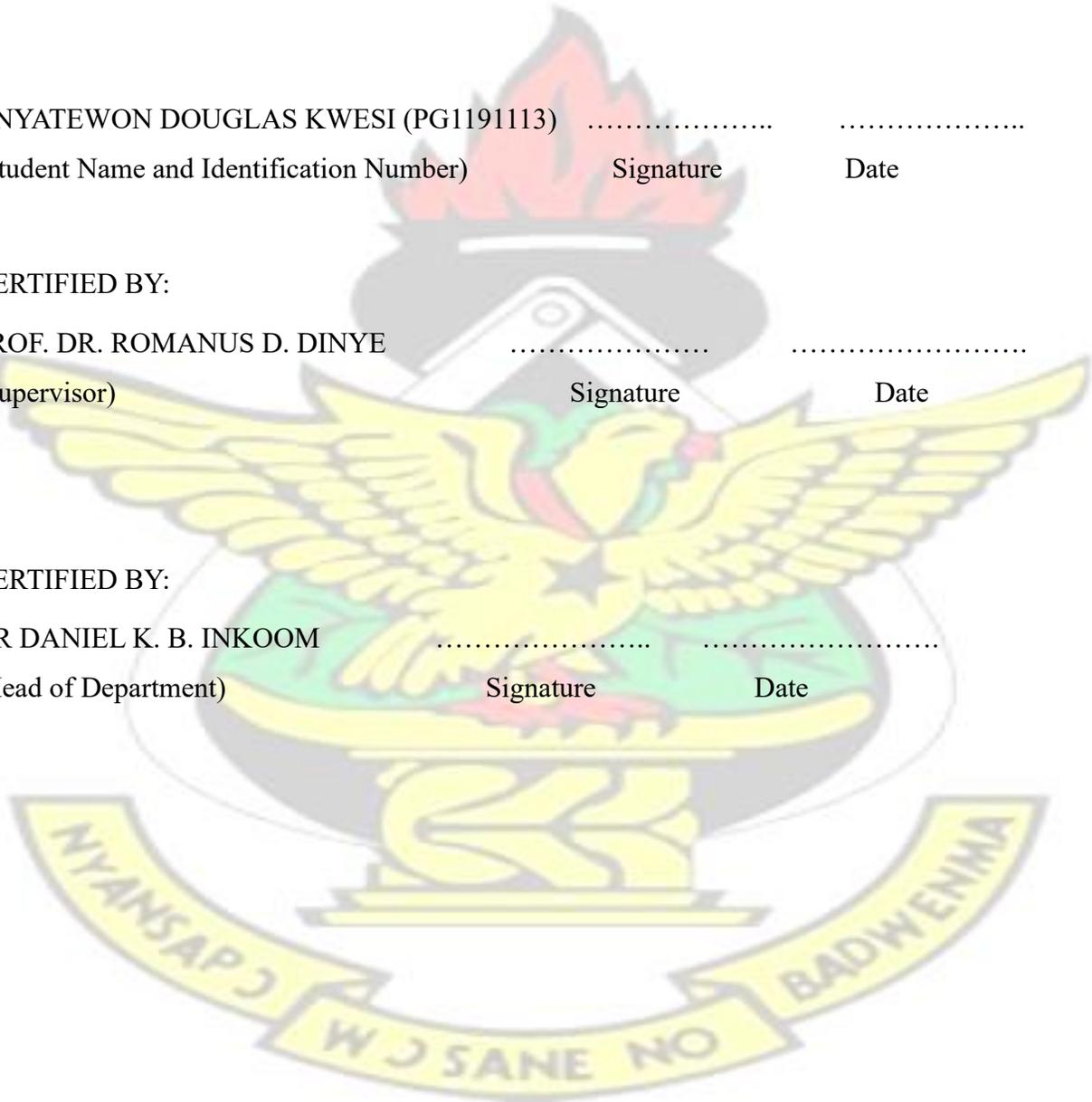
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DEDICATION

This manuscript is dedicated to my dear wife Felicia Abakisi and our beloved son, DecardiNolan and daughters, Odelina and Aretina. For their love, patience, strength, and support during the development of this dissertation.



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ABSTRACT

This research emphasizes the role of public policy in rural development, at the local level. It appraises the rural development strategies in the Builsa North District of Ghana. The study was premised on the claim that despite national and local development efforts, rural areas of the District have not seen significant development. Thus, the central hypothesis underlying this text is that “the rural development strategies in the Builsa North District of Ghana have failed to induce significant positive rural development”. More specifically, the Builsa North District is perceived to be characterized by low agricultural productivity, poor infrastructure, less developed enterprises and inadequate social protection interventions. These issues are of significant implication for development policy and are worth investigating in studies.

Subsequently, this study appraised the Builsa North District’s agricultural, infrastructural and enterprises development strategy as well as social protection interventions implemented.

The evaluation studies research approach and the case study design were used for addressing the research questions. The study employed in-depth interviews and structured questionnaires as data collection methods. A likert scale-type technique was also used to rate rural people’s perception of the effect of development interventions. Data was analyzed using descriptive statistics technique. The study showed that three-quarters (74.7%) of beneficiaries were not satisfied with the REP’s support for enterprise development, 61.2% were not satisfied with the NRGP’s support for agricultural development, 51.7 percent and 78.4 percent were not satisfied the GSOP’s support for social protection and infrastructural development respectively. It was found out that 79.1 percent of respondents perceive lack of infrastructure, lack of jobs and low agricultural output as the main causes of rural underdevelopment in the Builsa North District. The study also revealed that lack of administrative capacity has hindered the efficacy of rural development programmes in the District. It was established that the implementation process of programmes faced inadequate financial commitment on the part of the District Assembly to support implementing project unit in its operation, and the challenge of targeting intervention.

The study recommends that rural development policy must prioritize infrastructural development, enterprises development and social protection interventions (integrated rural development strategy). There is the need for a clear-cut national rural development policy to set out the guiding principles and goals to address the development problems in rural areas.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

BAC	Business Advisory Centre
BNS	Basic Needs Strategy
CGEM	Computable General Equilibrium Models
CHPS	Community Health Planning and Services
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNI	Gross National Income
GPRS I	Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy
GPRS II	Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy
GSFP	Ghana School Feeding Programme
GSOP	Ghana Social Opportunities Project
GSS	Ghana Statistical Service
HDI	Human Development Index
IMF	International Monetary Fund
LEAP	Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty
LIPW	Labor Intensive Public Works
MVP	Millennium Villages Project
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NRGP	Northern Rural Growth Programme

ODI	Oversees Development Institute
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
REP	Rural Enterprises Project
SAP	Structural Adjustment Programme
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
VIP	Village Infrastructural Project



CHAPTER ONE

OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY

1.0 Introduction

The past decade has been a period of remarkable progress in economic growth, human development (health and education) and access to social services. The annual average economic growth rate of 7.8 percent between 2005 and 2013 surpasses that of 1985-1994 (4.7%) and 1995-2004 (4.5%). Indeed, the highest annual growth rate of 15.0 percent recorded in 2011 is the highest since 1973 (15.3%), whilst the rise in per capita income above GH¢1,000.00 in 2007 made Ghana a low-middle income country. Ghana was touted as one of the fastest growing economies in the world. According to the sixth Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS 6) the proportion of people living in poverty declined from 51.7 percent in 1990 to 24.2 percent in 2013 (GSS, 2014).

In terms of access to health care, information from the sixth Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS 6) showed that the period 2006 to 2013 witnessed increased rates of access to a range of health services (GSS, 2014). Nationally, the percentage of ill or injured individuals who did not consult any health personnel has declined from 40.6% in 2006 to 33.8 in 2013. Due to considerable investment in health care in Ghana maternal mortality decreased from 760 to 380 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births from 1990 to 2013 (UNFPA, 2013). Although quality remains a concern, significant progress has also been made in terms of school enrolment. For instance Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) and Net Enrolment Rate (NER) showed improvement in child school attendance or participation in the education system over the last decade (GSS 2007; NDPC, 2009). Indeed, the NER in primary school at national level increased from 45.2 percent in the early 1990s to 89.3 percent in 2013/14 (NDPC, 2015). The national GER reached 107.3 percent in 2013/14 from 72 percent in 1990. In terms of access to services, the GLSS VI shows major improvements in the number of households obtaining their drinking water from an improved source, using adequate toilet facilities and having access to electricity (GSS, 2014). For instance, the overall proportion of households that have access to electricity in Ghana increased from 45.3 percent in 2006 to 70.7 percent in 2013 (GSS, 2014).

Despite these compelling development outcomes, the challenge of development is still pronounced in Ghana, with the rural people being worse-off. The sixth Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS 6) revealed that inequality has risen from 41.9 in 2006 to 42.3 in 2013, an indication that increasingly, income is shared inequitably across the population. Inequality increased from 37.8 percent in 2006 to 40.0 percent in 2013 for rural areas, whilst for urban areas from 38.3 percent to 38.8 percent. The report also revealed that extreme poverty is particularly high in rural Savannah and accounts for nearly three-fifth (27.3%). Thus, the development of rural areas is increasingly recognized in development policy, as the challenge of development is particularly unnerving in rural regions, where the majority of the people earns livelihood from agriculture and lacks the necessary social amenities and infrastructure. Despite the various development interventions by successive governments, and its varying degrees of successes (GSGDA, 2010), rural areas still faces seemingly intractable socio-economic challenges. There are significant disparities in income and standards of living between the rural and urban populations in Ghana (GPRS, 2004). The rural people have inadequate access to basic social amenities, safe water, all-year roads and electricity (IFAD, 2006). Therefore, understanding the role of development strategies in development of rural areas is obviously of utmost importance for development policy.

The effective strategies for overcoming rural underdevelopment in Ghana and ensure that the rural sector is linked to new engines of development remains somewhat elusive. Rural development strategies are the framework for the implementation of pro-rural and pro-poor interventions for the realization of development. Rural development strategies are strategies expected to improve the economic and social life of the rural deprived (World Bank, 1975). The National Economic and Development Authority and the World Bank (2003) consider the development of rural areas as an outcome of improvement in economic, social, and environmental conditions of a community. Rural development strategies are strategic approach defining the priorities for rural development for a period of time. It aims to increase agricultural output, improve infrastructure and deliver welfare services, improve cottage industry and other income/employment generating activities.

In Ghana, the vision and strategies for rural development is guided by the national vision and strategies, which aims at increasing agricultural productivity, provision of infrastructure and

social services, improvement in economic activities, and strengthening the institutional capacity and good local governance. The idea of state-led rural development, in which the role of government is more important than the role of the market in allocating resources, requires considerable interventions to achieve the rural development objective. At the macroeconomic level, the vision for sustained improvement of rural areas involves stimulating macroeconomic growth and redistributing the benefit, as well as providing direct infrastructure and the framework for national development. The poverty reduction strategy framework as an integral part of the nation's strategic focus for development provides the overall development policy and strategy for Ghana's development.

At the micro level, district-specific strategies are required for rural development because some issues can effectively be addressed by local strategies than nationwide measures. The decentralization policy was introduced to hasten development of rural areas, but its effectiveness in eliminating rural underdevelopment is still doubted. Ayee (1996) submits that Ghana's decentralization achieved limited or minimal impact, particularly in developing rural areas, the elementary aim of the programme. The District vision for rural development requires a multi-sectoral and integrated set of rural development strategies. However, the need to pursue rural development at the local level require collaboration between central agencies, local agencies and local people in planning, formulation of development and implementing of development strategies.

The annals of development in Ghana provide evidence of widening socio-economic disparities between rural and urban as well as the north and the south creating tremendous pressure on the social and economic fabric of the country. The north still lags behind the south in terms of development and this gap continues to intensify as is buttressed by Living Standard Surveys of Ghana (GSS, 2007). The north is often portrayed as being underdeveloped, especially when contrasted with southern Ghana (Dietz *et al.*, 2013). The northern savanna people have poorer access to food, water supply, primary health care and education. They are vulnerable and experiences prong-long dry season during which most farmers are idle, and many young folks travel to the cities to secure jobs. The ability of the agricultural sector to solely continue to support the livelihood of the households in parts of the rural areas of northern Ghana is doubted considerable (Bacho, 2004). The three northern

regions are predominantly rural, with the level of urbanization below the national average (GSS, 2012). More specifically, the Builsa North District is wholly rural, with few communities having settlement of 5000 or more inhabitants. Thus, the relative underdevelopment of the rural Builsa North District requires the appraisal of the District development strategies, in the wider national development framework.

1.1 Statement of the Research Problem

Since Ghana attained independence in 1957, many Governments have pursued, with varying degrees of success, programmes to raise the living standards of the people. Indeed, since then, several attempts have been made by governments to engender rural development by way of increasing the standard of living of the people who live in rural Ghana. The existing information shows that the programmes implemented achieved a minimal success or benefits to the rural people, the actual clientele. Briggs and Yeboah (1997) contend that more than fifty years of development strategies, efforts and assistance have seemingly not been successful in improving the living standard of many of the people in Ghana. More essentially, government policies and strategies have not built-up the desirable capacity for sustainable development of rural areas. This explains predominantly the general low level of development in rural areas of Ghana today.

The solution to rural underdevelopment in Ghana remains elusive despite pro-rural strategies to help the poor improve their livelihood. The post-millennium strategies embodied in poverty reduction agenda has not succeeded as far as rural poverty is concerned. Many reasons are responsible for the continuous failure of poverty reduction strategies in Ghana. The AfDB (2002) reports that inadequate stakeholder involvement, and imposition of interventions on beneficiaries are responsible for the failure of poverty reduction strategies. According to the Ghana Statistical Service (2000), the savanna ecological zone has not benefited much from poverty reduction efforts at the national level. Thus, macroeconomic achievements have neither benefited Ghanaians, nor those who reside in rural areas of Ghana. This is exemplified by the failure of the government's agenda of 'shared growth' to largely engender the wellbeing of the citizenry, particularly the rural poor. One central socio-economic feature of rural Ghana is its medieval nature, which makes it challenging for the benefit of growth and development to permeate down. National policies and resource

mobilization effort at both state and global levels have not always recognized the numerous potentials of rural areas (Anriquez and Stamoulis, 2007).

The decentralization programme is perceived to have achieved minimal impact on its basic objective of engendering rural development. The recurring theme in development policy today is the inadequate levels of participation by the poor in setting public policy through participation in decision-making about their own needs. Ayee (1996) submits that Ghana's decentralization achieved limited or minimal impact, particularly in developing rural areas, the elementary aim of the programme. This is buttressed by Owusu (2005), who reported that the limited influence of decentralization on rural people can be measured by the inadequate job opportunities in rural areas and the incessant movement to the towns and cities.

The project approach as a policy towards rural development in Builsa North District has not been given the necessary attention. It reflects a state of considerable inadequacy and a development gap that require extensive public intervention. The World Bank Report (1994) contends that improvement in infrastructure does not only facilitate agriculture production, but likewise creates non-farm income earning opportunities, which are vital for reducing poverty. The agricultural and enterprises development approaches has neither improved agricultural production nor boasted Small and Medium Enterprises. Another main cause of the sluggish pace of rural development is the inadequate capital formation in deprived or rural areas. There is dire need for delivering infrastructure to rural communities in the District.

There is virtually absence of a clear-cut comprehensive multi sectoral integrated rural development (IRD) strategy to address rural development issues in Ghana and in the Builsa Northern District. The impact of development interventions on rural life has remained quite marginal because it has failed to make a significant dent minimize persistent rural underdevelopment. Whether these development strategies really address the structural issues of the rural people is still questionable. It is against this background that this thesis appraises the rural development strategies in the Builsa North District, as a veritable tool for sustainable rural development in Ghana.

1.2 Research Questions

1. What are the current rural development strategies implemented in the Builsa North District?
2. What is the effect of rural development strategies on the rural people of Builsa North District?
3. What are the implementation strategies of the rural development programmes/projects implemented under the development strategies?
4. What lessons from the Builsa North District in rural development strategies are useful for future policy action?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The broad aim of this research is to appraise the rural development strategies in the Builsa North Districts of Ghana.

Specifically the study seeks:

1. To identify the current rural development strategies implemented in the Builsa North District.
2. To evaluate the effect of rural development strategies on the rural people of Builsa North District.
3. To identify the implementation strategies of the rural development programmes/projects implemented under the development strategies?
4. To draw some lessons from the Builsa North District in rural development strategies which may be useful for future policy action in Ghana?

1.4 Propositions

The following propositions are made to guide the study:

- Rural development depends on the implementation of development strategies
- Rural development strategies are implemented through programmes/projects
- Implementation of programmes/projects brings about improvement in the living conditions among clients and beneficiary communities.

1.5 Scope of the Study

This work focused on appraising the rural development strategies in the Builsa North

District.

1.6 Significance of the Study

Analyzing the rural development strategies in Builsa North Districts of Ghana is adequately justified for many reasons. Firstly, the issue of development strategies needs to be researched because not much research has been carried out in that area. Secondly, past empirical studies both cross-country and country specific emphasize the poor state of basic infrastructure for delivery of social services to rural areas relative to urban areas. It is only proper that empirical study of this nature is conducted using primary data to establish the extent of the responsiveness of inadequacy in social services delivery to current rural development strategies.

Again, the formulation of the appropriate rural development strategies is necessary for the fundamental structural transformation and reforms in Builsa North District. Fourth, this policy-oriented research intent to inform the development of pro-poor policy on the rural development. Its purpose is to inform and assist governments and international institutions such as the World Bank in formulating pro-poor policies in Ghana. The research is intended to improve understanding of the rural development.

1.7 Organization of the study

The dissertation unfolds in five chapters. Chapter one gives an overview of the thesis. Chapter two reviews the relevant literature. In third chapter, the research method adopted for this work is discussed. The chapter four highlights the result and discussions. The last chapter deals with the key findings, recommendations, and conclusion. The Figure 1.1 summarizes the organization of the study.

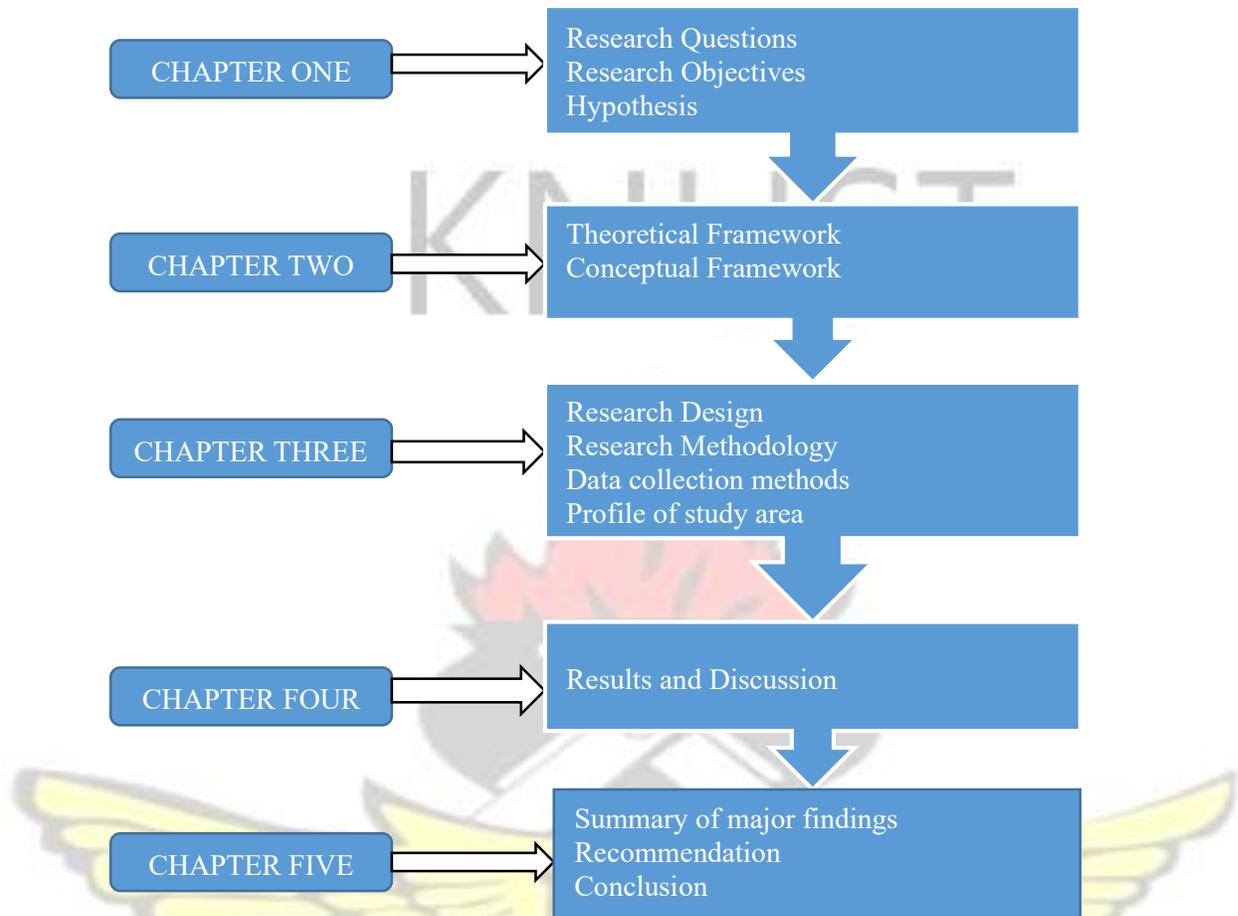


Figure 1.1: Organization of the study

CHAPTER TWO

A THEORETICAL AND CONCEPTUAL REVIEW OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

2.1 The Concept and Dimensions of the Term “Rural”

The term ‘rural’ is ambiguous. It is interpreted differently on the basis of location and demography, but across all developmental system, the term ‘rural’ is conventionally used to signify underdeveloped areas, with high levels of poverty and thin population. On the basis of population, in Ghana, localities with population less than 5,000 persons are classified as rural (GSS, 2012). In 1995, a Republic of Ghana Presidential report asserted that more than two-out of three people lives in settlements of less than five thousand in Ghana, but in recent time the GSS (2012) have estimate that 49.1 percent of people reside in rural areas. Most

obviously, rural areas are heterogeneous places where majority of the populates spend a higher time working on farms and where land is plentiful and inexpensive (ODI, 2002). Specifically, rural areas are the ecological parts that lie outside cities and towns, with most inhabitants engaged largely in primary production activities. Generally, rural zones are not like urban areas, usually characterized by low density of population with agriculture-centric economic activities.

OECD programme of rural development (1998) distinguishes three types of regional classification of rural areas, namely remote rural areas, intermediate rural areas and 'integrated rural areas' Integrated rural areas are usually located near the urban center, and are growing in economic and demographic terms. Intermediate rural areas are spatially relatively far away, but their good infrastructural facilities ensure easy access to urban centers. Remote rural areas with lowest population density located in border regions, away from urban centers, isolated due to topographical features of the terrain and poor transportation links. The study area appears to fall in the remote rural category. However, the state of Ghana's rural economy could simply be described as under-developed and unstructured. This is largely explained by the fact that this sector has not evolved from any mainstream development plan. Hence, the experience of the sector in the country's development process has been defined by the programmes and interventions targeted at other sectors such as agriculture, health, education, water and sewerage.

2.2 Concept of Development

Since the World War II, Western notions of antiquity have been characterized by the word 'development' (Odei-Ajei, 1997). Development, perhaps a commonly cherished desire of all countries, communities, families and individuals is a complex and highly contested concept, in the sense that there are different views about the best way to define and measure it. In the early development literatures, income per capita was conventionally used as a measure of development with the notion that it will directly improve wellbeing (Nayak, 2013). Economic advancement became the key policy target of less developed newly independent countries. However, the economic approach led to growth in economic terms with benefits not impacting on wellbeing of many (World Bank, 2001). It also largely ignored socio-cultural, political and environmental issues. This criticism led to the basic needs approach

development which emphasized human wellbeing (food, shelter, clothing, social services, standard of health etc.) rather than a state of a national economy. Again, in the late 1980s, the UNDP developed the Human Development Index (HDI) which incorporates three dimensions, namely, a healthy and long life, education and knowledge, and a decent living standard (UNDP, 1990). The HDI seeks to widen the choices of people to be knowledgeable; enjoy a descent standard of living; live a healthy and long life; employment; political freedom; rule of law; freedom from discrimination, and freedom of association. More recently, in 2008 the Gross National Income per capita have been used by the World Bank to divide the countries of the world into low income countries (US\$945 or less), lower-middle-income countries (US\$945- US\$3,855), uppermiddle-income nations (US\$3,855-US\$11,906) or more (World Bank, 2010: 377).

In spite the dynamic conceptualization and measurement of development, many scholars have attempted to describe and define the term. In biology, the term development refers to the stages involved in the advanced growth of an organism from birth to maturity. But in cases where the term is used in relative to human beings, it is focused on poverty alleviation throughout the world (Allen and Thomas, 2000). Todaro (2004) described development as diverse processes encompassing modifications in structures, attitudes and institutions coupled with speeding up of economic growth, eliminating of inequality and unconditional poverty. Recent definitional efforts seem to be converging on what is meant by development. Though the 'development' has no one meaning, no matter how it is measured or defined, it must encompass economic component (creation and equitable distribution of wealth); social welfare (quality education, respectable jobs, good health and housing); political aspect (human rights, democracy, political freedom); cultural dimension (respect for cultures and dignity to individuals); complete-life model (understand systems, symbols and beliefs about the importance of life and antiquity); reverence for ecology (sound and sustainable development) (Goulet, 2000). Though there is no unique universal set of rules for development to occur, a diversity of development policies would bring development. Development is an outcome either from deliberate policies and actions of development-oriented organizations or a deliberate effort to reach a higher level in relation to set targets.

2.3 The concept of Rural Development

The concept of “rural development” literally means “development” in a specific geographical area known as “rural” area. Rural development as stated by Chambers (1983) is an approach which seeks to assist the rural poor to have access to their needs. The World Bank (1975) observes that rural development as a scheme aimed to improve the social and economic life of the people residing in rural areas; it encompasses increasing the development interventions to the rural poor. Rural development entails the process whereby those who reside in rural zones have good living standard and improved quality of life (Singh, 1999). Rural development, in this text, connotes provision of infrastructure; increases in agricultural output, provision of social safety nets for the rural deprived and the development of rural enterprises. Indeed, the aim of rural development cannot be realized without agriculture development, infrastructural development, enterprise development and social protection interventions.

2.4 International Approaches to Rural Development

Rural development literature is characterized by a blend of concept and practice, regarding the means by which ‘development’ is likely to or should occur, and real world efforts to bring the different aspects of development into practice. The notion and primacies for rural development thoroughly reflect changing international development trends and power relations. Histories of development thinking normally attempts to periodise different development approaches and basic thoughts by decades.

The main theoretic contributions that directed international development in the 1950 decade were the structural-change theory and the emphasis on modernization. The structural-change approach focused on the channel by which underdeveloped areas could transform their local economic structures from outmoded small scale agriculture to a more contemporary developed, and technologically varied industrial economy (Todaro and Smith, 2010) while the modernization perspective stressed on the vital role of investment in an economy. Arthur Lewis’ two-sector theoretic model and Hollis Chenery and coauthors’ empirical analysis of the “patterns of development” exemplify the structuralchange approach. The theories and concepts of development such as the ‘balanced growth’,

‘big push’, ‘stages of growth’ and ‘critical minimum effort thesis’ largely influenced international development discourse. The principal development strategies of this decade followed logically from these development theories and concepts which emphasised the fundamental role of investment as a prime mover of economic growth.

On the conceptual front, the development doctrine of the 1960s was based on the modernization. Industrialization was regarded as the main instrument of economic growth which engenders economic development. Hence, the 1960’s is linked with the modernization approaches which emphasizes technological transfer (Phuhlisani, 2009). The development policies/strategies which were triumphed followed directly from the conceptual contributions of the seminal painstaking analysis of Rostow with the development objectives of modernization. The impact of the modernization model on the planning and execution of development strategies in Africa continued till the mid-1960s (Odei-Ajei, 1997). By inference, the modernization perspective emphasized the need for underdeveloped rural traditional societies to transform their economies to a modern, urbanized and services economy by passing through a series of stages to development.

The development approach of the 1970s was associated with dependency theory, redistribution with growth and realization of basic human needs approach. During this decade, a momentous discourse on the transformation of rural areas and agricultural reform drew inspiration in Marxist theories (Atchoarena and Gasperini, 2003). The ‘redistribution with growth’ strategy was fundamentally incremental in nature, relying on the prevailing distribution of assets and increasing investment transfers in projects that the poor benefits considerably from (Chenery *et al.*, 1974). A complementary policy within the agricultural sector was that of integrated rural development. By implication, the dependency theory views the rural areas as having been deliberately positioned by the urban areas as beneficiaries of pitiable services and ill-advice. Likewise, the underdevelopment level of rural Ghana is the outcome of the impeding relationship between the rural and the urban localities.

The 1980s were largely the period of IMF-World Bank inspired economic recovery and adjustment strategies in developing countries. Many components of the policy apparatuses

used by the World Bank and IMF reveal a great deal of good sense, including fiscal control, government expenditures management and tax reform (Stamoulis, 2001). Though the accompanied remedies are much more complex, a significant result of this policy combination has been a reduced role for the state in development (Kydd and Dorward, 2001). During this decade, the neoliberal counterrevolution emerged which emphasized the favourable role of free markets and the private sector. Again, the endogenous growth paradigm emerged which recognizes that the prime hindrance to the attainment of development is low human capital. By implication, the endogenous growth paradigm prominently enriches the knowledge of the role of indigenous processes and human capital development as a leading agent of rural development.

In the early 1990s, stabilization programme and structural adjustment programme were still the prevailing aims for the Third World. A key issue explored in this decade was the impact of adjustment programme on the welfare of the people. This led to increased importance of Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) models. General equilibrium models provided a method for comparing the impact of alternative policy scenarios, such as the comparison of the effects of an adjustment programme against a counterfactual nonadjustment programme (Theobcke, 2006). During the mid-1990s the focus of third world development policy shifted to poverty reduction, which was intensified since the beginning of the millennium and subsequently the dominant paradigm today.

In a schematic view, the 1950s was associated with structural change approach; the 1960s are the modernization periods; the 1970s are the period of large-scale state development interventions and integrated rural development programmes; 1980's are linked with structural adjustment, market liberalization and efforts to roll back the state (SAP/ERP/Neoliberal policies); whereas the late 1990s emphasised the approaches and concepts such as sustainable livelihoods and empowerment in a larger framework of poverty reduction strategy (Ellis and Biggs, 2001); and 2000's have focused mainly on poverty reduction, reinvigoration of small holder agriculture, and the location of producers within the value chains (Phuhlisani, 2009). These paradigms have provided a thorough impression of trends in rural development thinking. The historical, socio-economic and political circumstances of rural development lie in multifaceted post war evolution of the West.

Indeed, it is important to recognize that the ideas of the post-1945 development theories and policies did not emerge in an intellectual vacuity, but somewhat deep-rooted in conventional political, economic and sociological theorizing which advanced in Europe from the 18th century onwards (Martinussen, 1997). Thus, the Third World rural development literature derives impetus from a huge number of competing philosophies, ideologies, and strategies (Bradshaw, 1990).

2.4.1 Neoclassical Theory/ Neoliberalism and its Influence on Rural Development

Since the 1980's, a perspective of development have emerged, from the works of neoclassical theorists. This perspective has been considered as a counter-revolution whose objective is to replace previous orthodox conception of Third World development, with an emphasis on a mixed economy approach in which the state and the market co-exist. It is the dominant paradigm today and writers such as Rodrik (2004) write that the notion of a mixed economy, in which the state and the markets accompany each other, is 'probably the greatest valued legacy that the 20th century has bestowed to the 21st century in the domain of economic policy'. Neoliberalism requires promoting free market economy at the expense of public ownership and control of economic activities and statist planning. Thus the fundamental argument of the neoliberal school is that underdevelopment is the outcomes of inefficient resource allocation owing to inappropriate pricing policies and excessive government interference by desperately active Third World governments (Todaro and Smith, 2010). Elaborating on Adam Smith's political economy (augmented by David Ricardo's view), the neoliberals have prescribed that a free market economy, with privatization of national enterprises, free trade, and eliminating the plethora of regulations by government would ensure economic growth will be stimulated.

Critics perceive that neoclassicists' cutbacks in government spending may depress the economy, and may require a reduction in spending on education, nutrition and social services. It has been argued that the neoclassical model for liberalization and adjustment hurt disadvantaged segment of the population without providing safety net for the poor. An economic historian Douglas North (1994) argues in his Nobel lecture that "neoliberal philosophy is just an inappropriate instrument to study and recommend policies that would encourage development; it is concerned with the working of markets not how markets

developed. How can one propose policies when one does not appreciate how economies grow?”

2.4.2 Endogenous Development Theory

The classical idea of an endogenous theory of development evolved in the 1980s, promoted by Romer (1986). He presented models of economic growth in which the rate of economic growth was determined by endogenous variable. At the macro-level, endogenous development models advocate vital role for public policy and national actors in stimulating economic development (Stimson and Roger, 2009:9), an oversimplification that neglects the spatial dimension and cumulative dynamics of growth. However, at the micro-level it implies divergent development and the influence of public policy is somewhat restricted (Marcouiller, *et al.*, 2004).

More significantly, the endogenous growth theory places emphasis on the prominence of indigenous homegrown factors in generating and sustaining development rather than external factors opposed to the region. Endogenous development proponents are of the view that local economic development can be regulated by the capacity of a region to transform its own productive structural rather than the ability to entice multinationals to invest in domestic country (Dinis, 2006). Moreover, according to endogenous growth theory, economic development is a process induced and sustained by economic agents in a bottom-up process; but Stimson *et al.* (2009) state that “strong and proactive is needed to initiate economic advancement strategy. As such economic development of rural areas that is initialized or sustained from external may lead to clashes between “rural standards” and the urban “growth tenet” (Meyer and Burayidi, 1991). Accordingly, under the neoclassical mainstream politic of the last three decades, national policies mainly sought to facilitate situations that build local capacity and competence in areas which relies on approaches of self-help. This signify a clear shift to an emphasis on endogenous processes of economic development (Stimson and Stough, 2009).The endogenous model, unlike modernization, thus places core prominence on involvement of local people and unravelling resources locally. The paradigm also critically enriches our knowledge of the influence of local skills based and human assets as a principal agent of development.

The theory, like other theories has been criticized by many authors. The theory is not grounded in a comprehensive theoretic foundation or on long-established experimental opinions; the idea of endogenous development seems to be a normative response to an externally-driven development (Lowe *et al.*, 1998). Again, the endogenous development theory has no clear and known theoretic origins; it is considered as an ideal imaginative divergence to often observed trends of development” (Slee, 1994).

2.5 Rural Development Strategies

The objective of every nation is to develop by adopting appropriate strategies. A strategy is a blueprint intended to achieve a specific objective (Elton, 2009). It is a plan that incorporates a society’s major aims, policies, choices and series of action into a unified whole (Proctor, 2000). It also refers to a design of policies, programmes, actions, decisions and/or resource allocations that define what an institution is, (Nyathi, 2012). A strategy is considered good according to the results it produces, not by the process that generated it.

Development strategies are “a combination of policies and programmes that affects the form as well as the rate of growth” (Norton, 2010: 122). A development strategy refers essentially to the actions and interventions used to stimulate distinct development goals (Odei-Ajei, 1997). Development strategies are in a broadest sense a blueprints for efficient utilization of a nation’s resources towards short-term and long-term goals for development, often expressed in terms of economic growth, poverty reduction and structural transformation, amongst others. A development strategy and the policies within it aim at obtaining maximum output in the form of development goals from a given input of resources working under various resource constraints (Norton 2010). Development strategies span from National Development Strategies, spanning the entire economy at the broadest level, to sector and subsector strategies, and local/rural development strategies.

These Development strategies include infrastructural related strategies, enterprises development strategies and agricultural related strategies. In Ghana, there is the need to streamline development strategies in a manner that would ensure rural development in the various District Assemblies (Botchie, 2000).

2.5.1 Effects of Macro-Economic Policies and Processes on Rural Development

Considerable efforts ensue at the national level to resolve vital development problems. Apart from governments enunciating policies explicitly intended to influence the rural economy and the provision of social, economic and physical infrastructure, the state operates on three main macroeconomic policy instruments (monetary policy, fiscal policy and trade policy) to influence the national economy, with intended or unintended impacts on individual segments of the economy. This state-centered macroeconomic development policy impacts on rural areas through mechanism of redistribution or ‘shared growth and development’ associated with expanding national economy. McKinley (2001) argues that GDP growth is not important in itself; the most vital question is whether economic growth automatically converts into development and poverty reduction. Thus, development models have been searching for additional strategies that would go beyond accelerated growth to spread the benefits to the rural regions (Akpomuvie, 2010).

Although the approaches to national economic management in the Ghana have distinctly changed from a planned to a free market strategy since the 1980s, the state remains important in setting the framework for development, and the strategic national objectives such ensuring economic growth the distribution of benefits. Thus, the development of rural hinterland obtains stimulus from macro-policies and macroeconomic processes at the state and global level, rather than from indigenous impulses originating from the settlements (Hinderink and Titus, 2002: 382). However, the success of economic growth in poverty reduction depends largely on the sectoral composition of growth, the conversion of growth into rises in individual income, and changes in the sharing of individual income. McKinley (2001) criticises the conventional approach to macroeconomic policies that it focuses inordinately on short-term stabilisation, and ignoring the redistributive effects of growth policies, Whilst GDP growth is may not trickle-down to the underprivileged (UNCTAD, 2002).

2.5.2 Poverty Reduction Strategy

Poverty has lately resurfaced as the centre of development efforts globally. Globally, almost 75 percent of the extreme poor live in rural areas (IFAD, 2001) and spend less than a dollar a day. They are vulnerable and depend on natural resources and agriculture for income and survival, hence rural development becomes central to poverty reduction. This explains why

the World Bank and the IMF strategy for the development of rural areas focus particularly on reaching the poor rural people (World Bank, 2002). It is clear that the objectives developing rural areas will not be met if poverty is not reduced. Rural development is therefore central to poverty reduction subsequently; thus, development agencies agree that the main development objective should be to alleviate poverty.

Poverty Alleviation is a task for economic policy and, to reach the poor effectively, antipoverty programmes are vital. Poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs) are papers defining the strategies to be followed by governments in Third World, as a path to economic development (UNCTAD, 2002). A PRSP is a medium-term strategy for reducing poverty, developed through extensive discussion with stakeholders. PRSPs target to provide a fundamental linkage between donor support, national public actions and the development results desired to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of the United Nations.

2.5.3 Decentralization Policy

In line with global trend of streamlining the role of the state, most governments of developing world have transferred authority to grassroots with a view to enhancing development through decentralization. The rolling back of the state as an outcome of the development strategy of decentralization do not prevent the lively participation of the state in local level development, or offer the framework for the decentralization to achieve its objectives. The term decentralization encompasses a range of alternative institutional and financial arrangement for power sharing and allocating resources (Martinussen, 1997). Indeed decentralization is purported to have enhanced the allocation of resources and the delivery of facilities to reduce spatial differences (World Bank, 2007).

The participatory objective of decentralization enables the local people to influence development policy through empowerment to decide their needs and aspiration, contrary to centralized development strategies. Thus, a central attraction of the 'bottom-up' participatory planning model is its talent of integrating local viewpoints into development strategies (Pinto-Correia *et al.*, 2006). The participatory approach to development emphasizes the participation of the local people in designing, planning, implementing and providing projects

based on local wellbeing. Indeed, the anticipated development goals can hardly be achieved if the recipients' opinions are not consistent with those of the implementers (Kottak, 1991). Unless rural people are enabled to take part in the process of development, development efforts will only have partial positive effects. Despite the potential benefits expected, critics have argued that most developing countries have implemented decentralization as a means of satisfying donor conditionalities in request for support.

2.5.4 Infrastructure Development Strategy

Many empirical studies have revealed that public infrastructural investment plays a vital role in the development process. Loayza *et al.* (2004), in a formal study, realised that public infrastructure has a momentous outcome on growth in the Caribbean and Latin America. Though Glaeser and Kohlhase (2003) concentrated on peri-urban centers; they observed that well-organized road system reduced transport cost for goods by about ninety percent. Fedderke *et al.* (2006) used a more advanced econometric approach to analyze the effect of infrastructure expenditures on long-run economic growth in South Africa. They used a vector error correction model (VECM) and established that the role of infrastructure is to increase the additional output of capital and boosting private sector investments.

The infrastructure delivery approach to rural development is mostly used by most developing nations. The availability of rural infrastructure has often been used as a alternative measure of the level of development in rural areas. Lebo and Schelling (2001) observed that the access to infrastructure is the most suitable indicator for assessing rural development because it indicates the magnitude to which society enjoys social amenities. The prominence of infrastructure lies in its capability to sustain every day activities, quality of life, and economic base in rural areas (Halseth and Ryser, 2006). In their analysis of growth linkages, Hazell and Haggblade (1991) emphasize the importance of rural infrastructure in increasing the income multipliers of agricultural growth to the nonfarm sector.

2.5.5 Agriculture Development Strategy

Agriculture in all societies has conventionally played a helpful role to economic development. In the West, it provided the foundation for industrialization to take off (Todaro and Smith, 2004). More importantly, the role of agricultural in promoting the development

of rural areas cannot be ignored (Barrios, 2007). Historical evidence submits that times of high agriculture growth rates are connected with falling poverty in rural areas (Mellor, 2001). High agriculture growth results in lower prices of food and increased income-generating avenues for farmers. No nation has been capable of sustaining rapid economic growth without resolving issues of macro food security (World Bank, 1996). This is because over eighty percent of the rural people depend on agriculture for survival (World Bank, 2007). Thus, the abandon of agriculture in rural Africa is perhaps the most significant policy blunder (Stewart, 1995). In the context of rural development, agriculture plays a lead in the economic welfare of rural people due to its impact on various sectors; namely, social (quality of life in health, education), economic (income, employment) and environmental (landscape, biodiversity, preservation of natural resources), in addition to its prominence as a source of primary raw materials.

2.5.6 Local Economic Development

In contemporary times the notion and development strategy of Local Economic Development (LED) has gained widespread recognition as area-based reaction to the challenge associated with globalization and local-level prospects (Glasmeier, 2000, as cited in Rogerson, 2003). Although LED strategies have their origins in the advanced countries, in less developed countries LED has progressively evolved as development strategy. Great debates have thus developed over time about the significance of LED as a development policy. Comprehensively, Local Economic Development refers to the process and approach intended to unlock and facilitate dormant economic development prospects for indigenous benefits in a sustainable way. It is a product emanating from local ingenuity and determined by local interest (Fosler, 1991 as cited in Nel and Rogerson, 2005). It is significant to note that LED occurs at diverse scales, namely, global level, neighborhoods level or at town level etc and can be contextualized as rural or urban.

Helmsing (2003) emphatically distinguishes between the 3 core strategies of LED, namely, enterprise development, community economic development and locality development planning. Community Economic Development (CED) refers the process whereby local people build groups and partnerships that interconnect profitable businesses with other tenets and interests (Helmsing, 2001). Locality development is concerned with the physical and

built-environment, infrastructure and territorial organizational (Helmsing and Egziabher, 2005, as cited in Hampwaye, 2008). In the Local Economic Development context, it is vital that certain services, infrastructure, and socio economic capital are available for it to be successful; this is provided through local development planning (Helmsing, 2003). Enterprise development focuses on improving the local economic base and comprises components such as the provision of business development services and the creation of industrial clusters that facilitates group learning among enterprises and the generation of a local innovation environment (Helmsing, 2003). The implementation of Local Economic Development as a strategy for development is not without challenges. The challenges are intertwined and co-dependent policy concerns, and ranges from conceptual abstruseness, challenges of planning to challenges of policy. Other major deficiencies of Local Economic Development implementation is the inadequate capacity of local authorities' human and capital resources.

2.5.7 Integrated Rural Development Strategy

Rural development is multi-dimensional and requires a cohesive approach. This implies that the achievement of the development objectives of rural areas hinges on embracing of an integrated strategy. Integrated rural development (IRD), like other terminologies of development, is subject to multiplicity of definitions. The IFAD (2001) have observed that Integrated Rural Development is the one which increases accessibility to assets (human, infrastructural, environmental, technological and financial capability) and ensure crucial growth. At a general level, Integrated Rural Development is the process of coalescing diverse development services into a comprehensive delivery scheme with the objective of enhancing the wellbeing of the rural people. It integrates a number of related and unrelated (inter-sectoral) components that address different aspects of rural underdevelopment. It is generally agreed that there are four main components, namely agricultural development, infrastructural development, enterprise development, and social protection interventions.

2.6 Key Rural Development Programmes/Projects

2.6.1 Fertilizer Subsidy Programme

The Fertilizer Subsidy Programme was initiated in 2008 by the government to reduce the burden of high cost of fertilizers on the farmer and subsequently increase food production to

ensure food insecurity in the country. The goal of the subsidy programme is to encourage fertilizer use so that food crop output would not be drastically reduced due to the soaring cost of fertilizer. The programme entailed a country-wide subsidy on four specific types of fertilizers: NPK, 15:15:15, NPK 23:10:05, urea, and sulphate of ammonia. Crawford *et al.* (2006) and Abdoulaye and Sanders (2005) have observed that fertilizer subsidy programmes was implemented by governments internationally to increase the level of fertilizer use by small scale farmers. However, in studying Ghana's Fertilizer Subsidy Policy, Yawson (2010) reports a high level of dissatisfaction of respondents with the access to subsidized fertilizer.

2.6.2 Northern Rural Growth Programme

The Northern Rural Growth Programme (NRGP) was initiated by the government of Ghana and financed by African Development Bank. The programme was started in 2009 in some piloted district. It was extended to the Builsa North District in 2010 (DMTDP, 2014). Operated under four distinct but integrated components of product chain development; access to rural finance rural infrastructure development and programme coordination, the NRGP aims to address challenges in the agricultural sector in northern Ghana by focusing on specific activities geared towards attaining sustainable agricultural in the northern Ghana. The objectives of the programme are to facilitate input (fertilizer) access and distribution to Farmer Based Organizations (FBOs); facilitate loan access by FBOs and Offer training for FBOs. With an overall sector goal to ensure sustainable equitable reduction of poverty and food security among rural households, and specific aim to increase northern Ghana area rural households' income on a sustainable basis, the NRGP is a targeted poverty intervention for food crop/peasant farmers in the savannah area of Ghana. A study by Garba (2013) indicated that the Northern Rural Growth Programme boosted beneficiaries' consumption (house-hold food security) and income levels.

2.6.3 Millennium Villages Project

The Millennium Village Project (MVP) is a community based technique for achieving the Millennium Development Goals with cognizant of the recommended priorities of the United Nations Millennium Project. The MVP is concerned with reducing rural poverty and the development of remote rural areas. The project deploys a broad package of interventions including school construction, microfinance, road construction, piped-borne water and

irrigation (Millennium Villages Project Handbook, 2008). MVP allows communities to invest in a set of combined interventions targeting upturn in food production, improvement in infrastructure, health care, access to safe water, and education (Millennium Villages Project Handbook, 2008). In his ex-ante and ex-post analysis of Millennium Village Project in Bonsaaso Cluster in the Amansie West District, Minkah (2013) noted that before the advent of the MVP, residents of Millennium Village Communities lacked basic needs like health centres, and potable drinking water which affected their health, but the project enhanced their access to such infrastructure. An independent evaluation comparing the MV to surrounding areas finds the effects are much more modest (Clemen and Demombynes, 2011). An additional independent evaluation found that while agricultural productivity increased, final household income was not increased by the MVP (Wanjala and Muradian, 2013).

2.6.4 Rural Enterprises Programme (REP)

The Rural Enterprises Programme (REP) was established in 1996 as part of Government of Ghana's efforts to reduce poverty and improve conditions of living in the rural areas. The Rural Enterprises Programme is an upscale of phases I & II of Rural Enterprises Project. The Government of Ghana and its development partners recognize the REP model as an effective instrument for rural Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) development and poverty alleviation. REP is being implemented through four integrated components, namely, institutional capacity building (entrepreneurial skills); access to rural finance; business development services; and technology promotion and dissemination. The programme seeks to support and promote rural small-scale enterprises to stimulate growth and poverty reduction in the rural areas. Therefore, the objective of the project is to increase productivity, employment and income in rural areas. It aims at increasing the number of rural MSMEs that generates profit, growth and employment opportunities. Ayerakwa (2012), in assessing Rural Enterprises Project as a Poverty Reduction Strategy in Asuogyaman District of Ghana reported that REP significantly enhanced the livelihood of about 80 percent of respondents. Ayerakwa (2012) further notes that beneficiaries of REP viewed it as an appropriate strategy for job creation.

2.6.5 Ghana Social Opportunities Project (GSOP)

The Ghana Social Opportunities Project (GSOP) is a five year International Development Assistance (IDA) and Government of Ghana funded project under the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development. It commenced in 2008 with the objective to increased access to employment and cash earning opportunities for the rural poor. Specifically, the project seeks to improve targeting of social protection programmes and provide income support to poor households through support for the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) Grants and the Labor Intensive Public Works (LIPW) infrastructure in targeted districts (World Bank, 2015). The Labour Intensive Public Works (LIPW) component aims to provide short term employment to the very poor in rural areas who find it difficult to meet their household expenditure particularly during the agricultural off-season. The project has many success stories of the project as reported at the Ghana Social Opportunities Project's (2015) web site. For instance, in the Kamachu and Lamina communities within the Nkwanta North District of the Volta Region, GSOP is reported to have engaged a number of women in tree planting and the construction of a Dam to provide water for the rural people.

2.6.6 Sustainable Rural Water and Sanitation Project (SRWSP)

The Ghana Sustainable Rural Water and Sanitation Project commenced in 2010 with the objective of expanding access to, and ensure affordability, reliability and sustainability of water and sanitation services in rural and small town communities. In particular, the project intends to provide quality water supply and an open defecation free environment to rural dwellers. In assessing the effectiveness of the community water and sanitation programme in Ashanti, Brong Ahafo and Central regions of Ghana, Entsua-Mensah *et al.* (2007) conclusively noted that the programme has contributed substantially in extending potable water to remote and marginalized areas with a high degree of reliability, but more work has to be done in the area of good sanitation.

2.6.7 Community Health Planning and Services (CHPS) Programme

The Community-based Health Planning and Services (CHPS) programme which was adopted in 1999 is a national health policy initiative that aims to reduce barriers in geographical access to health care especially with focus on remote and marginalized areas

of rural districts. This initiative exemplifies the scaling-up of the Navrongo model into a national effort for health care reform. In his impact assessment of the CHPS initiative in the Berekum Municipality in the Brong Ahafo Region of Ghana, Tierozie (2011) discovered that the programme largely enabled people in the municipality to have convenient access to health service in their community instead of travelling long distances in order to access healthcare. Indeed, communities that have witnessed the implementation of the CHPS programme have seen a tremendous improvement in terms of access and health outcomes (Send Ghana, 2013).

2.6.8 Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) Programme

The Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty LEAP was introduced in 2008 by the Government of Ghana as a social intervention programme to cater for orphaned and vulnerable children, the extremely poor who are above 65 years and persons with severe disabilities without productive capabilities. The objective of the programme is to empower and help the extremely poor to meet their basic needs, and the stipend provided is to help them out of the malaise of extreme poverty, and ultimately empower them to contribute to the socio-economic development of the country. The Oxford Policy Management (2013) in studying LEAP noted that the programme had improved their living standard. In the both regions, LEAP beneficiaries reported a significant improvement in their diets (better quality and more nutritious food). In both regions, the LEAP transfer also enabled beneficiary household members to maintain their health, paying for ongoing prescription medicines. In a context of seasonal food insecurity in the north, because the cash transfer typically arrived in lump sums, beneficiaries in the Northern Region were better able to buy grains in bulk for storage and draw on these during the hungry season.

2.12 Overview of Ghana's Rural Development Policy Experience

Ghana's effort towards rural development dates back to 1943 when the idea to establish the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development was first considered. With the creation of the Department of Social Welfare and Housing in 1946, most of its effort was concentrated on the construction of community centers, social clubs and youth centers as the basis of welfare work (Boakye, 2010). The community development approach sought to help the rural people nurture civic responsibilities and in use of their potentialities and talents in

achieving desirable economic and socio-cultural goals. The main objective was to stimulate the local populace to undertake self-help projects to improve their living standard (Boakye, 2010).

The 1950s ushered-in new political period in Ghana. It was the time when colonialism resulted gave-way to independence. Ghana deeply believed in the modernization strategy that was generally accepted by most developing countries at that time (Diao, 2010). The Nkrumah's economic model was strongly influenced by the Russian experience of a centralist planning strategy, with industry as the leading sector, and guided by a formal structure of national and sectoral plans. Hess (2000) contends that a combination of both socialism (see African Socialism) and free market tendencies defined Nkrumah's ideology. Nsiah-Gyabaah (1998) points out that sustenance of rural livelihoods through industrialization increased agricultural production and, rural infrastructure development received priority attention by the Nkrumah-led first democratically elected government. Nkrumah's framework also ensured egalitarian development of all areas and the narrowing of the north-south development gap created by the colonial administration (Hess, 2000). Nkrumah's Convention Peoples Party approached rural development and the process of modernization through expansion in health facilities, free and compulsory education and substantial capital spending in the public sector.

The policy framework for "rural development" in the 1960s appears to follow the modernization model. The mainstream developing countries development policy during the 1960s decades attached prominence mostly to economic growth through government initiated industrialization (Takuechi *et al.*, 2000). Ghana's post- independence economic policy was dominated inter alia by the promotion of import substitution industrialization (ISI) which sought to promote local infant industry. One main policy thrust was the large public sector investment commenced in the 1960s for development in infrastructure, health and education for rapid economic take-off (Baah-Boateng, 2004). The economic structures of state ownership and state planning in Ghana remained largely unchanged until the 1980s though the Nkrumah's administration was deposed in 1966 in a coup d' etat.

The 1970s heralded the development of new strategies inclined towards development of rural areas. The Integrated Rural Development (IRD) approach was extensively endorsed by World Bank and other donor agencies in the 1970s (Takuechi *et al.*, 2000). The flagship policies for rural development in the 1970s were mainly the agricultural development approach and the integrated development. The first political regime with a clear focus on agricultural development and rural development is the Busia administration (1972-75), which shifted focus away from cocoa and large farms to investment in rural infrastructure such as electrification, roads and rural water. The second regime, the Acheampong (1975-1978) government focused on national self-sufficiency to solve the rapid economic decline and the escalating poverty levels (Diao, 2010). The “operation feed yourself” was introduced by the Acheampong-led government as a response to the ‘political economy of agrarian change’ in global development paradigm, and this encouraged both large scale (mechanization) agriculture and smallholder farming (such as backyard garden), with the focus on the latter. Hill (1996:58) purport that, during the 1970s and 1980s, the development of agriculture was the principal sole item on the development budget of governments, ahead of industry, education, transport and health. However, Harriss (1984) has observed that the idea of rural development emerged in the 1970s and critiqued harshly the development policy applied hitherto in the Third World.

Though the 1980s did not articulate any development plan, key programmes and policies from the neoliberal counterrevolution such as structural adjustment programme (SAP), economic recovery programme (ERP), and PAMSCAD were prominent. The introduction of the neoliberal economic adjustment policies marked a paradigm shift from the excessive control regime to more liberal policies. The SAP improved the infrastructural base of rural areas and opened up these areas and allowed the population in these centres to enjoy amenities which have long been considered the privileged of those living in the medium sized and large towns (Owusu, 2005). However, the economic adjustment was accompanied by high social cost because most vulnerable groups were adversely affected both directly and indirectly by measures such as the retrenchment of workers, the withdrawal of subsidies on social services and the general rise in prices of goods and services (Sowa, 1993).

Since 1988 a comprehensive decentralization reforms has been implemented as an alternate strategy for development (MLGRD, 2010). A basic goal of the programme is rural development as a means of reducing the exodus of the youth to towns and cities and generally redirecting population movement from areas of over-concentration to deprived areas (GSS, 1995, p. 12-14). Since the inception of decentralization in Ghana, it has also been the policy of central government to provide specific range of facilities such as electricity, hospitals, a model secondary school, portable water supply and accessible road links to district capitals (GSS, 1995). Indeed, the decentralization policy has informed much of the drive to extend electricity and other amenities to many parts of Ghana.

In the 1990s, Ghana embarked on a series of development programmes and strategies geared towards poverty reduction. The Ghana Vision 2020 programme was adopted in 1996 and was to be implemented within the next 25 years (1996-2020). The programme, also known as the National Development Policy Framework was aimed at moving the country from a poor nation into a middle-income country. Since then, the World Bank has tried to revitalize rural development (Takuechi *et al.*, 2000) through its policy prescription to developing countries. Rural development was the six strategically important activities of the Bank inculcated in domestic policy of Ghana Vision 2020 in 1998.

The vision 2020 finally gave way to the IMF-World Bank-supported Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative in March 2001. As a condition for development assistance under the HIPC programme, the Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy (2003-2005) was initiated in 2002 by the Kuffuor government, followed by the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (2006-2009). More recently, in 2010, under the leadership of John Evan Atta Mills, the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda I (2010-2013) was introduced to make growth pro-poor through redistribution and now an inheritor mediumterm development policy framework, the GSGDA II (2014- 2017) have been introduced.

These blueprints contributed meaningfully to guiding the allocation of resources and also provided a platform for dialogue between the Government of Ghana and the development partners, in mainstreaming the Millennium/Sustainable Development Goals (MDGs).

To conclude, generally the methods and strategies of national economic management have distinctly changed from dependence on state control of development policy between the 1950s and 1980s to an increased reliance on market oriented orthodoxy and less direct public involvement by the 1990s onwards. Again since 1950, almost all governments have implemented policies that were either directly or indirectly linked to rural development, though much of the focus of these policies were geared towards the provision of infrastructure, agricultural development and economic growth whose trickle-down effect was expected to reduce poverty.

2.13 Stakeholders in Rural Development

Governments, Non-Governmental agencies, and some Private Sector operatives, contribute significantly to local governance to promote social and economic wellbeing of the rural people. Donor policy over recent years has supported two main strategies, namely: improving governance and investing in pro-poor growth. The former tends to stress decentralization options whereas the latter rests largely on central government-directed intervention. In Ghana, the formulation, implementation and management of development strategies is the responsibility of the state. However, the last two decade has been marked by an increased participation of non-state agencies in the development process.

The rise of non-state agencies as agents for rural development has occurred as a result of the decline in enthusiasm of government and the deconcentration of power to the grassroots. Generally, the neo-liberal revolution encouraged private sector growth and that is how Non-governmental organisations came to fill the gap created by neo-liberal policies and strategies of the Bretton-Woods institutions (Busiinge, 2008). Non-Governmental Organizations provide welfare services that are cost effective for the poor, and are perceived as agents of the vulnerable and the poor and their relationship with the people offers them superior public acceptability than a certain governments (Nancy and Yontchera, 2006). The enhanced role of NGOs in the development process is due to their presumed efficiency in terms of programme delivery the needs of the poor (Busiinge, 2008). However, it has been argued that Civil Society Organisations and NGOs have become executors of donor policies and their association with donors compromises their work (Nancy and Yontchera, 2006).

2.15 Conceptual Framework

The framework in figure 2.1 indicates that development theories are the starting point for the conceptualization of development policies and strategies at the international level. Subsequently, the adoption Poverty Reduction Papers; Millennium Development Goals; and the Sustainable Development Goals have their root in (or draw inspiration from) development theories. International development agencies (notably, IMF and World Bank) as part of their policy package for developing countries tend to encourage National governments to adopt these international development agenda. National governments adopt the policy agenda of the donors and include it in domestic Development Policy Framework, which are also operationalized at the District level to promote rural development. The framework indicates that there are four main rural development strategies, namely, agricultural development strategy, infrastructural development strategy, Enterprises development strategy and social interventions strategy. These broad strategies are operationalized by formulating and implementing development programmes and projects. The results are agricultural development, infrastructural development, Enterprises development and social protection. All these together engender integrated rural development.



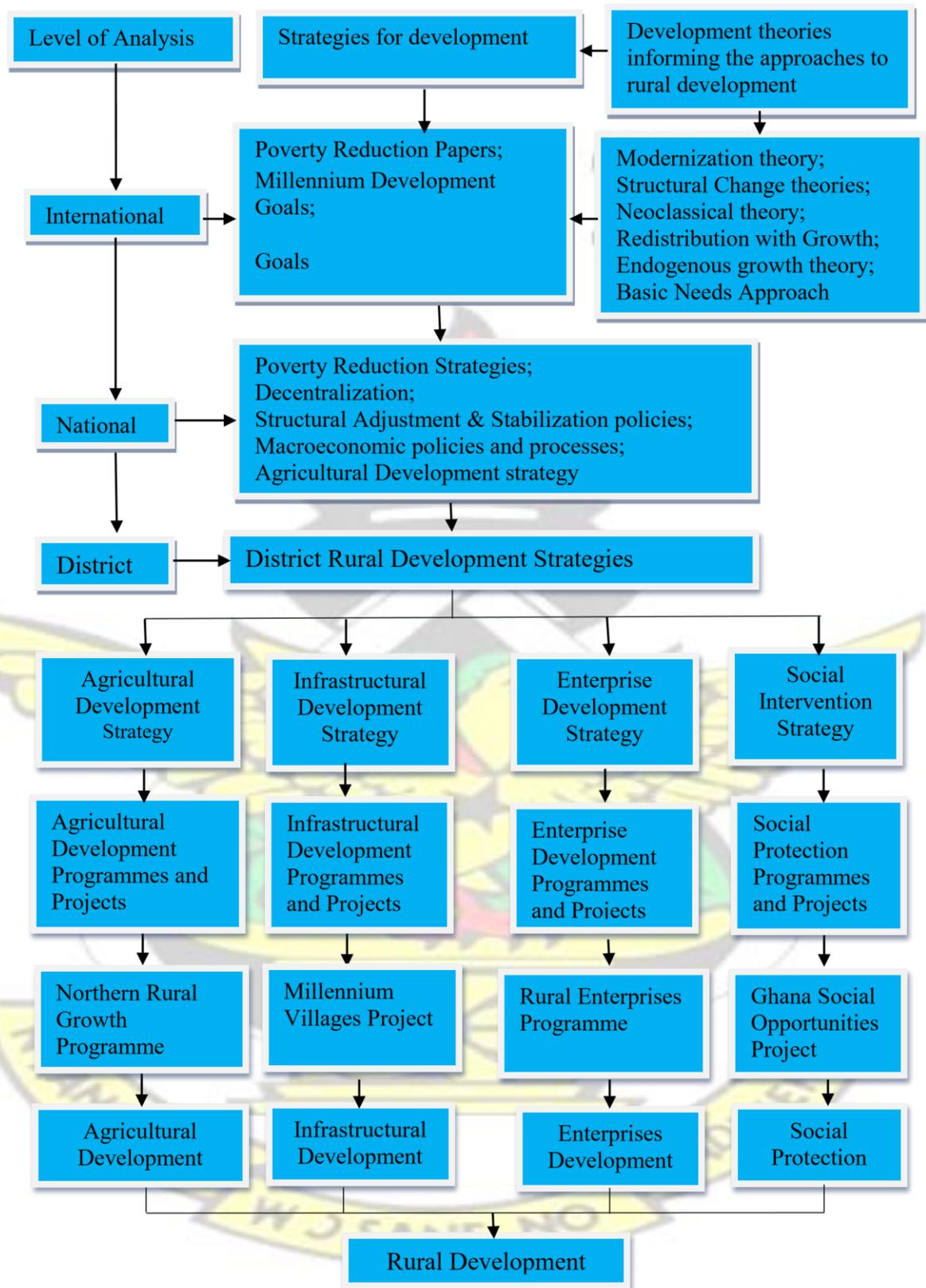


Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH DESIGN, METHODOLOGY AND PROFILE OF STUDY AREAS

This chapter presents the key methodological issues that was be followed to conduct the research. Research methodology refers to a scheme of rules and methods on which research is founded, against which claim of information is assessed (Creswell, 2003). The task of this study was to identify procedural approaches that guide the answering of the research questions. In particular, this chapter covers the research design, data requirements and sources, data collection tools and methods, sampling techniques, study variables, unit of analysis, and the profile of the study District.

3.1 Research Approach and Design

There appears to be no distinct suitable method of doing research because there are several research designs that researchers could adopt in their research. Bryman (2008) identifies five different types of research designs which are cross-sectional design or survey design, case study design, experimental design, longitudinal design and comparative design. This research uses the case study research approach, combined with the evaluation studies research approach for addressing the research questions.

3.1.1 Case Study Approach

A case study is a research method which allows for an in-depth examination of events, phenomena, or an observation within a real-life context. According to Gossaye (2001), case study research involves the collection, recording and analysis of a single case or a number of cases which may be either qualitative or quantitative, or both. The use of the case study approach was deemed appropriate because it has several advantages. Case study allows for the use of multiple sources of evidence, and this improves the quality of data for the study as it allows for authentication of one data source by another source. When the researcher has very little control over the phenomenon under enquiry, the case study approach became appropriate technique to be used for the study. It enables the researcher to gain a cavernous understanding of the subject being studied regardless of how complex the issue is. The case study approach helps gain an in-depth knowledge about the multifaceted relationship

between the implementation of rural development strategies and rural development in the Builsa North District.

3.1.2 Evaluations Studies Approach

Evaluation research approach enables a researcher to examine the effectiveness of development policies, programmes and projects. The Greek Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 (2007) contends that "Evaluation studies examine the outcomes and impacts of the programme, evaluating the effectiveness, efficiency and appropriateness of the measures, in order to contribute to shaping and redirecting of policies. Evaluation involve appraising, judging, or determining the worth or quality of on-going, or completed intervention, generally in terms of its relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and impact. In other words, evaluation is commonly used to label the process of assessing performance against objectives (Riddell *et.al*, 1995).

The evaluation research approach was adopted for this study as this seemed very appropriate. This approach allows for assessing the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and impact of programmes and projects. Evaluation studies provide valuable information to decision makers about the consequences of their policies and programmes. It guarantees the repetition of successful programmes and the avoidance of failed ones. However, Baslé (2006) and Midmore *et al.* (2008) argue that methods of policy evaluation have in-built weakness in tracing the sequence of causality between actions and impacts. Thus, traditional evaluation techniques are only able to explore the extent to which the objectives of the policy are satisfied.

3.2 Key Variables of the Research and Unit of Analysis

3.2.1 Key Variables

Using variables as vital component of a research problem helps move the research from conceptual level to empirical level. In this study, the key variables are rural development strategies and rural development (infrastructural development, agricultural development, enterprise development and improvement in social protection).

3.2.2 Unit of Analysis

The unit of analysis is a critical factor in the case study methodology. According to Babbie (2007), a unit of analysis is what is being studied or the unit of observation. It is the basic unit from which information/data is collected or the basic unit of investigation or the most fundamental part of a phenomenon to be studied.

The units of analysis for this study were the rural households, Farmer Based Organizations, registered clients, the District Assembly and Project Staff. Questionnaires were designed and used to collect data from these key actors in rural development. The information sought among others comprised the roles of institutionalized stakeholders (notably, the Builsa North district) in administering development strategies, and the rural people's assessment of development programmes/projects in delivering development.

3.3 Sampling Technique

Sampling emerges as an obvious choice for researchers because it is usually impossible or unfeasible to study the entire population. Sampling is a process of selecting units (that is, communities, people and organizations and so forth) from a population of interest so that by studying the sample it may be possible to fairly generalize the results back to the population from which they were chosen (Trochim, 2006).

3.3.1 Criteria for Selecting the Study District

Northern Ghana was chosen because it is predominantly rural, poor and continues to present Ghana with the most formidable development challenge compared to the South. The Builsa North of the Upper East Region was selected because; it is relatively underdeveloped rural economy, with low agricultural productivity, poor social amenities, and less developed enterprise (MTDP, 2014), and 75.4 percent of houses built of mud brick/earth (GSS, 2012). The District is one of the most rural in the Upper East Region, with almost ninety percent (89.5%, GSS, 2012) of population residing in rural areas. The purposive approach was used to select the key departments of the District for the study. The District Assembly has different departments that promote and implement Agricultural, Enterprise, Infrastructural and Social Protection intervention development strategies. These departments are the Agriculture Development Unit, the National Board for Small Scale Industries-Business Advisory Centre

and central administration. The use of purposive sampling here is necessary because rural development have been institutionalized under Ghana’s decentralization.

3.3.2 Sample Size Determination

To determine the sample size, Slovincs’ sampling method by Taro Yamane (1970; 881-87) was adopted. The mathematical formula is stated as: $n = N \div [1 + N (\alpha)^2]$

Where: **n** = the sample size (?)

N = the sample frame

α = Margin of error (5%) at 95% confidence level

3.3.2.1 Determination of Sample size for the Rural Enterprises Programme

The Business Advisory Centre (BAC) which happens to be the Implementing Unit (IU) of REP in the Builsa North District. The sampling unit is the registered beneficiaries/clients of REP. The most recent client database as at July, 2015 indicates that a total of 149 active clients are currently registered with the BAC. Five (5) stakeholders were also identified bringing the total sampling unit to 241.

A multi-stage sampling procedure was adopted for selecting REP beneficiaries. The first-stage sampling involved the selection of communities while second stage-sampling was used in the selection of the respondents. Since not all the communities in the District had benefitted from REP, only REP beneficiaries in three (3) rural communities that has benefitted from REP were purposively selected. The three (3) selected communities purposively selected are

$$n = \frac{149}{[1 + 149 (0.05)^2]} = \frac{149}{[1 + 149 (0.0025)]} = \frac{149}{1.3725} = 109$$

Table 3.1: Total number of clients registered with the BAC

Selected Beneficiary Communities	No. of registered beneficiaries	Proportion of registered beneficiaries Selected
Sinyansa Moteesa	62	62/149× 109 = 45
Wiaga Tandem-Zuedem	54	54/149× 109 =40
Awulansa-Yipala	33	33/149× 109 =24
Total	149	109

Source: NBSSI-BAC, 2015

3.3.2.2 Determination of Sample size for the Northern Rural Growth Programme

The District department of agriculture is responsible for the agricultural development of the District. The unit facilitates and manages agricultural-related programmes such as the Northern Rural Growth Programme (NRGP) which aims at empowering Farmer Based Organization to increase their output. The objectives of NRGP are to facilitate input (fertilizer) access and distribution to FBOs; facilitate loan access by FBOs; and to offer training for FBOs.

The study purposively selected the leaders of beneficiary Farmer Based Organizations (FBOs) registered with the programme (as shown in Table 3.2). Therefore, the sample size for NRGP is eighteen (18). The head of department of the agricultural development unit of the District and one project staff were interviewed, totaling 20 respondents.

Table 3.2: List of Farmer Based Organizations registered with NRGP

NO.	NAME OF FBO/GROUP	MEMBERSHIP		TOTAL	ACRES	LOCATION
		M	F			
1	Amanchaab Group 2	12	3	15	23	Bilimonsa High
2	Azulichaab Group	11	4	15	25	Bilimonsa
3	Nyeboka Group	15	1	16	16	Nyaansa
4	Anuriyeri Group	13	4	17	18	Kalijiisa
5	Aduak-yeri Group	15	2	17	4	Kalijiisa I
6	Fiisa Group	0	17	17	9	Fiisa
7	Anayimbisa Group	13	4	17	30	Tiedema
8	Happy Family Farmers	2	14	16	16	Namonsa
9	Anawaba Farmers	0	16	16	17	Namonsa
10	Anyenya Farmers Group	10	5	15	24	Tiedema
11	Awonsianyan Farmers	13	4	17	16	Balansa
12	Noaying Group	13	11	24	31	Achangyeri
13	Aniachaab Farmers	21	7	28	27	Bubolizugu No. 2
14	Apiilimnya Farmers	13	4	17	4	Achangyeri
15	Anoipakaka Farmers	14	3	17	40	Nanjungung
16	Asiatuka Farmers	13	2	15	34	Nawasa
17	Kparimasa Farmers	10	6	16	13	Nawasa
18	Suwarinsa Youth Assoc.	14	1	15	79	Suwarinsa
	TOTAL	202	108	310	426	

Source: Builsa North District, 2015

3.3.2.3 Determination of Sample size for the Ghana Social Opportunities Project

On the other hand, the department of Social Welfare and Community Development is the Implementing agency of the Ghana Social Opportunities Project (GSOP) in the Builsa North District. The objective of the GSOP is to increase access to employment and provide income support to rural poor households during agricultural off-season through a Labour Intensive Public Works (LIPW).

The sample size was determined on the basis of the list of registered employees for the LIPW project (in obtained from the GSOP office with location details) for two (2) selected communities out of four (4) beneficiary communities that has benefitted from the project. The respondents were selected using systematic sampling technique at intervals of every second worker in the register of the LIPW project and on list of beneficiaries of the LEAP grant respectively. The study selected 191 GSOPs' LIPW registered participants.

$$n = \frac{367}{[1+ 367 (0.05)^2]} = \frac{367}{[1+367 (0.0025)]} = \frac{367}{1.9175} = 191$$

Table 3.3: Distribution of beneficiaries of GSOP for two (2) communities

Selected Beneficiary Communities	No. of registered beneficiaries	Proportion of registered beneficiaries Selected
Siniensi-Kaasa	216	$216/367 \times 191 = 112$
Wiaga Tandem-Zuedem	151	$151/367 \times 191 = 79$
Total	367	191

Table 3.4: Summary of selected sample size

	Key Rural Development Programmes implemented	Sample selected
1	Rural Enterprises Programme	109 Registered clients
2	Northern Rural Growth Programme	18 FBOs leaders
4	Ghana Social Opportunities Project	191 LIPWs Beneficiaries
	TOTAL	318

3.3.3 Instruments and Techniques for Collecting Data

To ascertain the effectiveness of the current rural development strategies, primary data was collected through a questionnaire survey from households and the institutionalized local authorities. The data collection process employed direct administration of structured and

unstructured questionnaire to sample of households and District to solicit information through interviews.

3.3.4 Data Analysis

The raw data obtained from a research is useless unless it is transmuted into information for the purpose of decision-making (Emery and Couper, 2003). The data was analyzed by developing summaries and through statistical inferences and the use of tables and charts to make meaning out of the raw data. During the process of analysis, the data was edited and coded; to allow for the respondents to be assembled into limited categories. The software used for the analysis is the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

3.4 Profile of Study District and Communities

The District was created in 1988 from the then Navrongo District by Legislative Instrument 1441. However, the new LI for the District as created in 2012 is LI 2148. The vision of the District is to become a place where all resources are managed sustainably to ensure household food security, fair access to quality healthcare and education as well as gainful employment. In fulfillment its vision, the mission of the District is to enhance quality of life of its people in collaboration with the Private Sector and other Stakeholders by mobilizing all available resources for the Development of Social and Economic infrastructure and services. According to the District Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP, 2010-2013), the broad priority areas for intervention in the Builsa North District in the period 2010-2013 would thus include:

1. Infrastructure development (roads, electricity, post & telecommunication and markets) as basis for increased production and Private Sector Investment.
2. Revitalization and modernization of the District's Agriculture as its economic base.
3. Enhanced social service delivery with emphasis on Health, Environmental Sanitation, Water, Education and Control of HIV/AIDS
4. Enhanced Good Governance through Decentralization, Public Safety / Security, Promoting Civic Responsibility and Enhanced Fiscal Resource Management.

The overall goal of the Assembly, as contained in the Medium Term Development Plan is to "Accelerate Economic Growth in the Builsa North District by transforming the

predominantly subsistent rural economy to achieve increased production and productivity, private sector investment, high income levels, public safety and security and the protection of the excluded and the vulnerable within a decentralized development decision making process”.

3.4.1 Location and Size

The Builsa North District lies between longitudes 1⁰ 05’ West and 1⁰ 35’ West and latitudes 10⁰ 20’ North and 10⁰ 50’ North (MTDP, 2014). The Builsa North District covers an estimated land area of 816.44030 km² and constitutes about 12.1% of the total land area of the Upper East Region. It is bounded to the North and East by the Kassena-Nankana West District Assembly and Kassena-Nankana Municipal Assembly respectively. The West and South on the other hand are bounded by the Builsa South District Assembly.

3.4.2 Physical Features

The topography of the District is undulating and ranges from 200 to 300 metres above sea level. The dominant soil group is the granite origin which covers over 70 percent of the land area. Granite constitutes the dominant geological formation in the District and covers over 70% (approx. 153, 300 ha) of the land area occurring mostly in the northern parts of the District stretching from Chuchuliga to Sandema. Generally, a greater part of the soil cover of the District is poorly drained and are suitable for rice farming. The soils are degraded, low in organic matter content and nutrients due to continuous cropping and other land degradation activities such as bush burning, hunting and mining. These adversely affect agriculture and results in low output. The vegetation of the Builsa District is characterized by the guinea savanna which is widely spaced and consists of Shea tree fire and drought resistant trees of varying sizes and density. These trees satisfy domestic requirements for fuel wood and timber for local housing construction, cattle kraals, vegetable garden fences and materials for handicraft.

The District has a single uni-modal maximum rainfall regime expanding over a period of 5 months with annual totals ranging between 700-1,000mm. The dry season extends for 7 months with a mean monthly temperature of 25-30oC. The highest temperatures are recorded in March, whereas the lowest temperatures are recorded in December and January. Most crop

production is rain-fed. Farmers plant their crops based on the weather conditions prevailing. During the rainy season, farmers plant and remain mostly idle during the dry season. Since agriculture is the mainstay of the local economy, farmers are vulnerable to the weather. Drought and the encroachment of desert conditions into arable lands of the district worsen the plight of farmers.

3.4.3 Demographic Characteristics

The demographic characteristics of Builsa District have common features with other rural Districts in Ghana in terms of age and sex composition, and density. The Builsa North District Assembly has an estimated population of 56,477 (Population and Housing Census report, 2012) with communities bunched into five (5) Town/ Area Councils, namely, Sandema and Wiaga Town Councils, the Chuchuliga Area Council, Siniensi Area Council and Kadema Area Council . The ratio of Male-Female stands at 20:21; the Dependency Ratio is 11:1; and Rural-Urban Split is 3:1. The Figure 3.1 shows the study District.

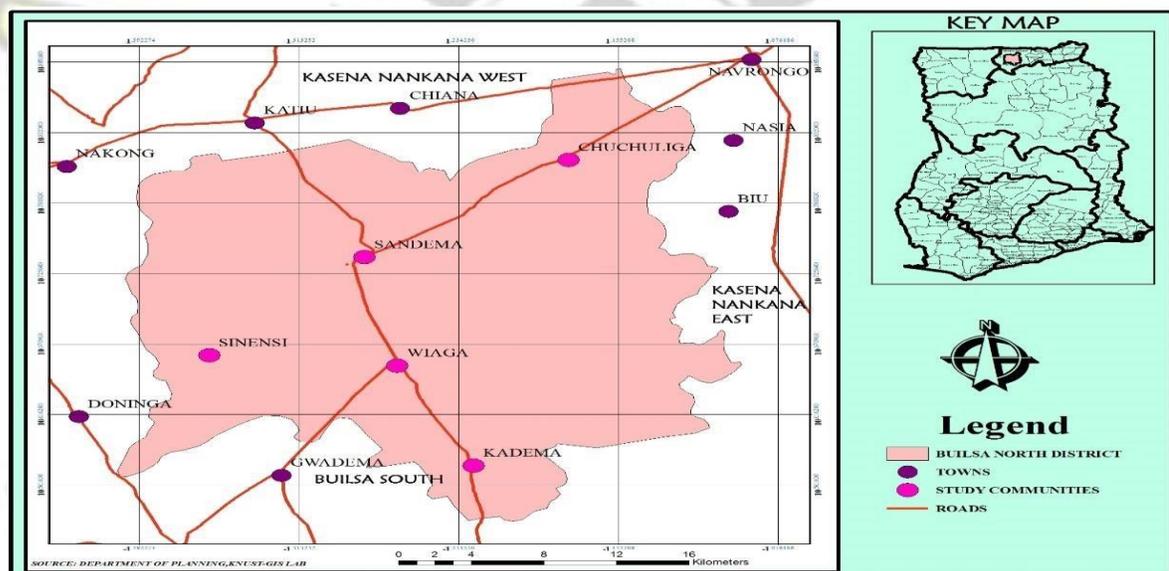


Figure 3.1: Map of the Builsa North District

Source: Department of Planning KNUST, GIS Lab 2015

3.4.4 Social characteristics

The average household size of the District is 5.2 persons and this compares favorably with the National figure of 5.1 persons for rural savanna areas. The Household sizes in the relatively larger communities are smaller e.g. Sandema 4.3, and Wiaga 4.1 persons per

household. The District has one hospital, six functional CHPS compounds, three Health Centres/Clinics, and a few private clinic centres are emerging in the District. This reflects a state of inadequacy for a population of 56,477.

The ethnic composition of the District is heterogeneous. The dominant tribe is the Builsas, who constitute about 83% of the entire population. The remaining 17% is made up of minority groups comprising the Kantosi, Mamprusi, Sissala, Nankani and Mossi. The largest mode of worship is the Traditional African Religion (TAR), which makes up 46% of the population followed by the Christian Religion, 28%, Moslems 23%, with the rest constituting a small minority of about 3% of the total population (GSS, 2012).

The people of Buluk (Builsas) celebrates the Feok Festival annually in commemoration of the defeat of Babatu the notorious slave raider and his cohorts by the ancestors of Builsa. In view of its historic importance, a number of tourists often participate in the celebration of the festival. The rich culture of the area is often displayed when the people wear local war dance regalia and dance to a war relic. Other tourist spot include the Akuncham (The Defeat of Babatu and the Weeping Shea Tree) and the Fiisa Shrine. The major challenges facing the tourism are the underdevelopment of sites and the lack of adequate infrastructure and facilities to attract tourists to the area. These sites need to be developed, promoted and marketed very well to attract tourists.

3.4.5 Economic Characteristics

The Builsa North District has been endowed with very rich natural resources. Preliminary exploratory work carried out in the District indicates that the District abounds in large quantities of several mineral deposits ranging from Gold, Chromites, Rutile Jasper Talc, Lime, Feldspars, Nepheline Syenite and varied types of clay. However, the several mineral deposits have not translated into poverty reduction and development because of inability to extract the minerals. The exploitation of these minerals can help boost the local economy by creating jobs and improving incomes of the people. Presently Sandema, Chuchuliga and Wiaga, Kadema, and some parts of Siniensi are served with electricity from the National Grid. There is however an on-going rural electrification programmes to extend electricity to most other key settlements in the District. Presently electricity constitutes only a fraction

(37.2%) of energy source for lighting, cooking and industrial processing in the District. The main source of Household lighting is form kerosene lamp (60.1%).

The local economy exemplifies a typical rural economy, with agriculture dominating, followed by industry and services. The contribution of the various sectors therefore has an influence on the income levels of the entire municipality and its populace. The people of Builsa North District are mainly small-holder farmers, growing a range of food crops grown on an estimated total cultivable area of 19,000ha. The leading food crops are mostly cereals (rice, sorghum, millet, maize) and pulses (cowpea, groundnuts, and soybean). Farmers along river bodies and dams also engage in vegetable and maize production during the dry season.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter deals with the presentation and analysis of data that was collected from the field. Data was collected from project clients and beneficiaries, as well as project staff and the Builsa North District Assembly. The data collected was analyzed using the SPSS statistical analysis package for Windows. The analysis and discussion of results was done on the basis of selected key programmes/projects implemented.

4.1 Rural Enterprises Programme (REP)

The Rural Enterprises Programme, as discussed in chapter two, is an enterprise development programme that seeks to boost rural SMEs development. This study evaluates the programmes' impact and effectiveness and assesses its relevance and sustainability.

4.1.1 Background of REP clients

The demographic characteristics of the respondents analyzed were age, gender, marital status and educational level. Table 4.1 indicates that more women (62.3%), generally the vulnerable, were targeted and supported to have a means of livelihood than men (33.3%). Most clients (44.0) of REP were aged 30-39 years and had low educational qualification.

Table 4.1: Background of REP clients

	REP Clients		Total
Gender	Male	Fem le	

Frequency	38		71			109
Percentage (%)	34.9		65.1			100
Age						
	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	
Frequency	25	48	33	3	0	109
Percentage (%)	22.9	44.0	30.3	2.8	0	100
Marital status						
	Married	Single	Divorced	Separated	Others	
Frequency	81	21	2	4	1	109
Percentage (%)	74.3	19.3	1.8	3.7	0.9	100
Educational level						
	No formal education	Primary	JHS/JSS	Secondary/Technical	Tertiary	
Frequency	17	31	49	12	0	109
Percentage (%)	15.6	28.4	45.0	11.0	0	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

4.1.2 Relevance of the Rural Enterprises Programme (REP)

Almost all the beneficiaries of the Rural Enterprises Programme perceive it as relevant.

This was attributed to the programmes' creation of employment for the clients which has enhanced their livelihoods considerably. In terms of relevance of objectives, according to the project staff and District Assembly staff interviewed, the goal and objectives of REP are consistent with the Government's development objective of developing a competitive private sector as the engine of growth as outlined in GSGDA II. With regards to relevance of design, the overall design in terms of the structure and components was highly relevant to the context at this time. Indeed, the data analyzed showed that nearly seventy-seven (77.3%) percent had enhanced livelihoods as a result of the Rural Enterprises Programme. This empirical result largely coalesces with results obtained by Ayerakwa (2012) who in assessing Rural Enterprises Project as a Poverty Reduction Strategy in Asuogyaman District of Ghana reported that REP significantly enhanced the livelihood of about 80 percent of respondents. However, more than three-fourth (74.7%) of respondents were not satisfied with the

programme's support for enterprise development because of low start-up capital, inadequate training on businesses development and high lending rate.

4.1.3 Implementation Mechanism of the Rural Enterprises Programme

The study revealed that the Ministry of Trade and Industry has the overall responsibility for the implementation of the REP and chairs the Programme Steering Committee. The key project implementing agencies for REP are the District Assemblies, the NBSSI, GRATIS Foundation, and PFIs - mostly rural and community banks whose activities are monitored and supervised by the ARB Apex Bank. At the regional level, the RCCs monitor and coordinate the implementation of MSE development in the Districts. At the Districts level, the District Assembly plays a central role in coordinating the services, resources and programmes of the various stakeholders in the implementation of REP. The MSE subcommittees has been created to facilitate the establishment of small businesses in the districts and thus enhance the revenue generation potential of the District Assemblies, promote local economic development and job creation and reduce poverty. The National Board for Small Scale Industries (NBSSI) is responsible for providing support in the delivery of business development services, facilitated by the Business Advisory Centres (BACs). Ghana Regional Appropriate Technology Industrial Service (GRATIS) provides support to the Rural Technology Facility (RTF) in delivering agricultural commodity processing and infrastructure development services. The Bank of Ghana and the ARB Apex Bank support delivery of access of MSEs to rural financial services

The study found out that few beneficiaries (11.2%) are involved in the planning of REP interventions through client fora and meetings, orientation seminars and personal request. Fifty-one percent indicated that REP staff planned the interventions, while 18.3 percent said Assembly Members planned the interventions which they receive. However, most clients indicated that interventions were never imposed on them. It was established that the implementation of REP was through a collaborative effort by REP staff (37.3%), the District Assembly (48.9%) and other Collaborative Institutions (13.8%) such as the Department of Social Welfare. These stakeholders are involved mostly in needs assessment (44.8%), Planning and Budgeting (31.7%), monitoring and evaluation (23.5%) of the project. The data showed that, in terms of length of time with REP, majority of clients (37.4%) enrolled with

the programme two years ago. Almost twenty-nine percent (28.8%) of the clients have been with the programme for three years while 22.7 percent have been with REP for four years. Nearly, eleven percent (11.1%) has been with REP for a year. When clients were asked how they got to know of the programme, most of them (37.1%) indicated it was through local business association, 26.4 percent said it was through announcement from the District information vans, while 17.2% said it was through their own effort. Others got to hear about REP through their Assembly Member (13.7%) and through REP staff (5.6%).

It was identified these stakeholders faces some key implementation challenges. These are lack of financial commitment on the part of the District Assembly to support the BAC (62.3%) in its operation, lack of motivation of staff (21.5%) and poor working conditions of REP staff (11.1%), inadequate effective monitoring and evaluation (5.1%).

4.1.4 Types of REP intervention

Data collected indicate that most REP clients (41%) received business management training while 20.3 percent received advocacy training. Others received Business Counseling (16.0%), community based training (10.7%), technology promotion (8.7%) and financial support (3.3%). It was realized that at least every client received one intervention, though more than half of the respondents had received more than one intervention. The specific interventions received included training tours, tools and equipment, financial management and marketing strategies.

Under the business management training, most respondents indicated that they receive training in Shea butter processing, soap-making, hair dressing, artisanship, customer care, marketing seminars and dressmaking as well as records keeping were very popular. In terms of technology promotion, it was revealed most respondents had benefited from the Rural Technology facility and other technology promotion services such as technology transfer training, business improvement equipment, field demonstration. Under the Rural Financial Services component, respondents were mostly provided with finance from the Rural Enterprises Development Fund, and other financial services such as credit management and banking culture.

4.1.5 REP objective of Job Creation

The data gathered shows that before enrolling with the REP, 37.6 percent of clients (41 Clients) were neither employed nor undergoing apprentice training whilst 62.4 percent of clients (68 clients) indicated they had some form of employment. Though those clients who had some form of employment prior to the REP were relatively better-off than those who were not employed, they submitted that their form of employment did not yield the expected income and was not lucrative. On the other hand, those who were not employed prior to the REP reported that they did not have any better source of livelihood as most of them depended on their relatives for survival. However, since the inception of the programme, most clients have secured jobs in Shea butter processing (37.6%), dressmaking (26.2%), hair dressing (19.8%), soap-making (9.1%) and other many menial jobs (7.3%) such as beer (pito) brewing, pottery, artisanship bead manufacturing and leather works. Clients admit that they now have a better source of livelihood that yields adequate income levels than when they had not enrolled with the REP. Figure 4.1 indicates that majority of REP clients (71.7%) employed one person as a result of the REP intervention.

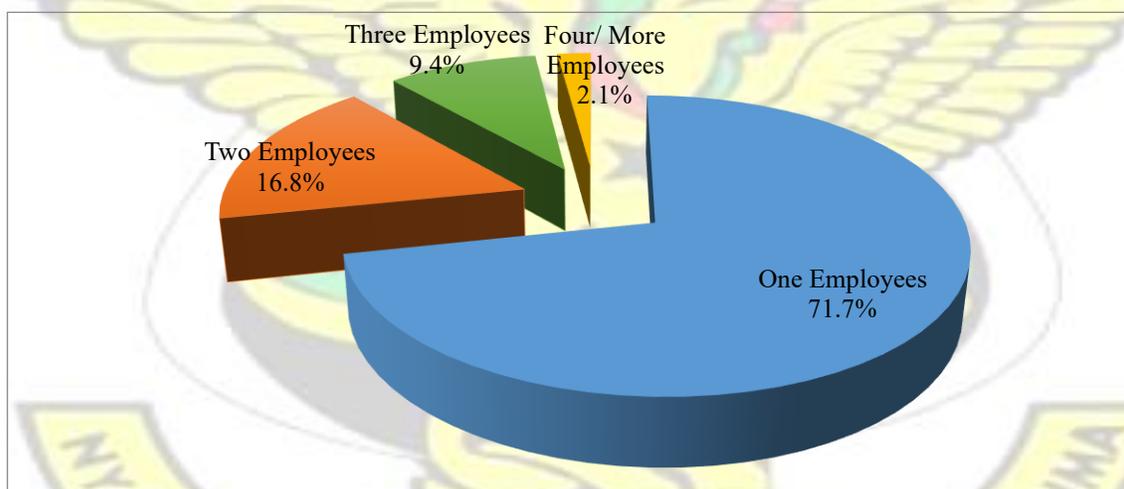


Figure 4.1: Distribution of Number of people employed as a result of the REP

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Figure 4.1 further revealed that 16.8 percent of clients employed two people whilst 9.4 percent and 2.1 percent of clients employed three workers and four or more workers respectively. Thus, the clients reported that the programme has had multiplier effect on job

creation since their businesses have been able to employ additional people, mostly as assistants while others also engaged apprentices. Indeed, it was realized that after the REP intervention, a total of 127 new jobs were created, with (57.2%) unpaid workers while the remaining 42.8% were paid workers with monthly salaries ranging between GHc 70 and GHc 300. With regards to the REP being an appropriate strategy for job creation for rural development, a higher proportion of the respondents (71.8%) responded positively. However, 28.2 percent did not agree that the REP was an appropriate strategy for job creation for rural development. This empirical finding corroborates the view of Ayerakwa (2012) that beneficiaries of REP viewed it as an appropriate strategy for job creation.

4.1.6 REP objective of Technology Promotion and Skills transfer

With reference to Figure 4.2, the study revealed that 71.3 percent of REP beneficiaries used traditional/manual skills and process to carry out business before/prior to the REP intervention compared with 21.7 percent for mechanical and automation (5.2%). According to clients, used traditional/manual skills process led to low output. However, after the REP intervention most REP clients (65.7%) used automation whilst 20.3 percent and fourteen percent used mechanical traditional/manual skills and process respectively. Most of those who had benefitted from technology promotion received business improvement equipment that enhanced productivity, whilst others benefitted from technology transfer training for master craft persons and apprentices. The clients claimed that the reliance on used of automation has boosted output significantly.

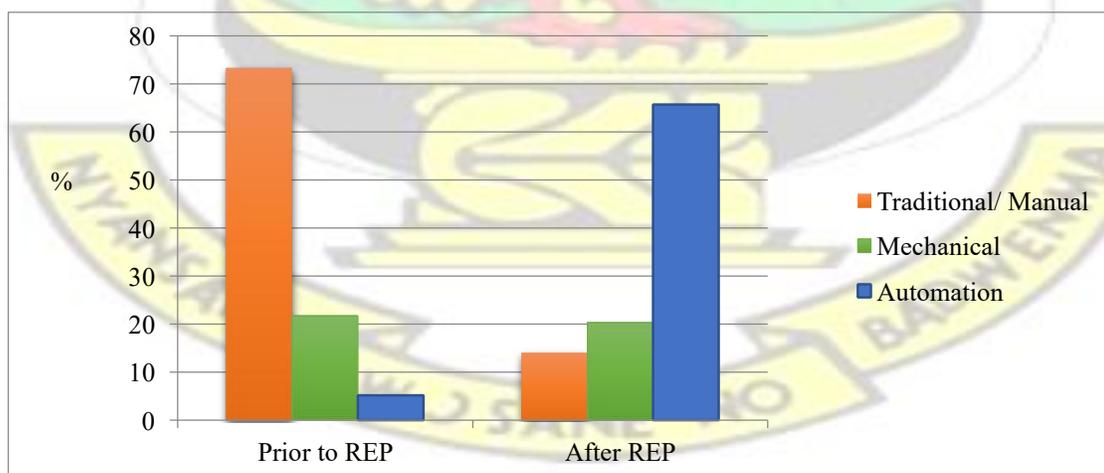


Figure 4.2: Distribution of respondents

Source: Field Survey, 2015

4.1.7 REP objective of promoting Business Growth and Entrepreneurial Skill Development

The data gathered showed that before clients enrolled with REP, most (89.4%) clients had inadequate entrepreneurial skills because they had not acquired any formal training to enable them increase output. However, many of the active clients now use other processes and skills, learnt from REP which has enabled them increase their output. Data collected indicated that nearly eighty-seven percent (86.6%) of the active clients now keep proper records. Sixty-seven percent (67.0%) indicated they now get a lot of customers as a result of what they learnt about customer care from REP. Most of the clients (82.9%) indicated that their punctuality, personal neatness and the neatness of their business premises has changed considerably. They indicated that the interventions have impacted positively on their businesses. To find out how the REP had boosted clients Business Growth, Figure 4.3 revealed that majority of the active clients (36.4%) were able to increase their sales as a result of REP activities whilst nearly twenty-nine percent (28.5%) reported increased in production. 23 percent and 12.1 percent of the active clients increased their business assets and had improved packaging respectively. The client reported that the increase in productivity and sales has enhanced their livelihoods because

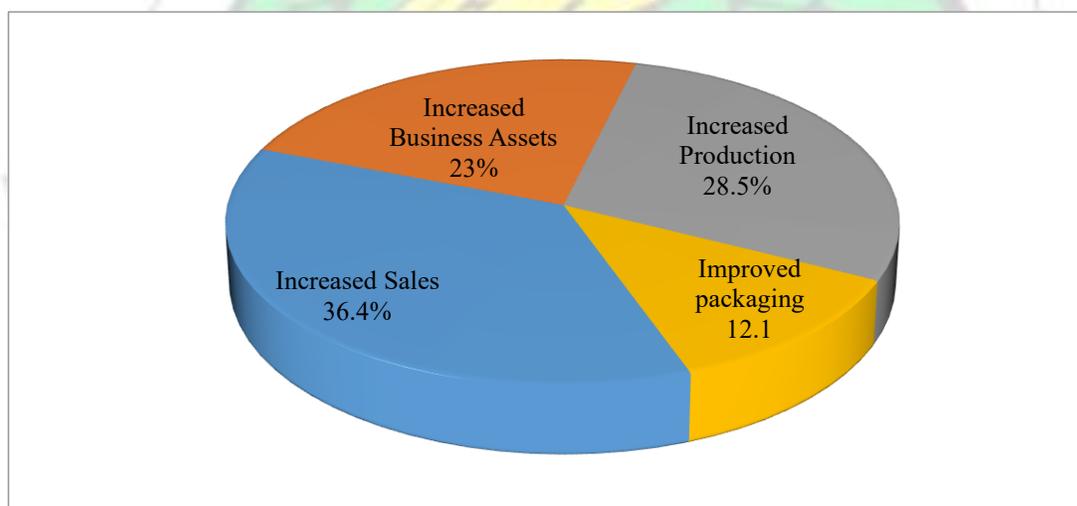


Figure 4.3: Percentage distribution of the benefits of REP

Source: Field Survey, 2015

4.4.8 Sustainability of the Rural Enterprises Programme (REP)

As shown in Figure 4.4, a higher proportion of the clients (85.2%) indicated that the effects of the REP would be sustained even after the programme has elapsed. This is because according to respondents, the programme has integrated them into training and capacity building programmes to equip them with the necessary capability to take charge of the management of their businesses to ensure that the effects of the REP sustains. According to the project staff, the Assembly has been involved to take-up and ensures the continuity of the REP, after the programme has ended. The Builsa North District contends that the sustainability of the business services rendered by the REP is highly likely. This is because the ownership of the BACs by the District Assemblies is high and the benefits in terms of potential and actual increase of revenue to the District Assembly is enormous. It came to light that the recurrent costs of the BACs are cost effective and shared between the Ministry of Trade And Industry through NBSSI and the District Assemblies. It was also revealed that the project's support for BAC operational costs was on a declining basis, gradually transferring responsibility to the District Assembly, with District Assembly providing in-kind support for the first year, 25 per cent in the second year, 50 per cent in the third, and 75 per cent in the fourth year of the annual recurrent expenditures of the BACs, and thereafter "weaning-off" from the project. Again, the programme's MSE subcommittees are now formal institutions and will continue to support MSE development. Few (3.4%) of the clients perceive that after the programme has ended the effects not would be sustained since the services provided by the REP would not still be present. whilst 11.4 percent were indifferent.

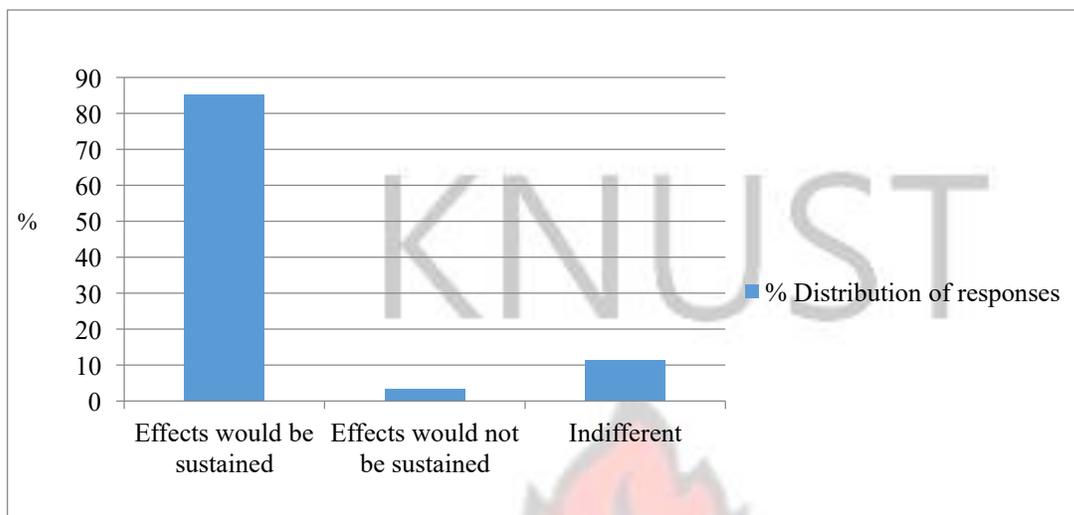


Figure 4.4: Responses to sustainability of REP effects

Source: Field Survey, 2015

4.2 Northern Rural Growth Programme

The Northern Rural Growth Programme is an agricultural development programme which aims at providing essential inputs for Farmer Based Organizations to increase their productivity levels (check literature for details on the programme). The main variables that were analyzed included the background of respondents, impact of NRGP, effectiveness of the programme in achieving its objectives, relevance and sustainability of the programme.

4.2.1 Background of Farmer Based Organization Heads

It can be observed from Table 4.2 that more male (85.0%) than female (15.0%) were interviewed. Majority of the respondents (50.0%) were aged 40-49 years. This age was particularly reflective of working age group; those with more pushing factors to work than those in other age brackets because of family responsibilities.

Table 4.2: Distribution of Farmer Based Organizations

	Group leaders, FBOs		Total
	Male	Female	
Frequency	16	2	20
Percentage (%)	80	10	100

Age	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	
Frequency	1	2	9	6	0	18
Percentage (%)	5.6	11.1	50	33.3	0	100
KNUST						
Marital status	Married	Single	Divorced	Separated	Others	
Frequency	13	1	2	2	0	18
Percentage (%)	72.2	5.6	11.1	11.1	0	100
KNUST						
Educational level	No formal education	Primary	JHS/JSS	Secondary/Technical	Tertiary	
Frequency	11	4	2	1	0	18
Percentage (%)	61.1	22.2	11.1	5.6	0	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 4.2 further shows that, bulk of the respondents (72.2%) were married, whilst 61.1 percent had no formal education. This is explained by the fact that the area is predominantly rural with many inhabitants being illiterate and living a rural peasant life, with agriculture as their main source of livelihood.

4.4.2 Relevance of the Northern Rural Growth Programme

The study revealed that an overwhelming (85.7%) proportion of respondents perceive the programme has very relevant, whilst 14.3 percent perceives the NRGP as relevant. However, none (0%) of the beneficiaries of the programme consider it as irrelevant. According to the project staff and District Assembly staff interviewed, the goal and objectives of NRGP are in line with the Government's development objective of agricultural modernization as outlined in GSGDA II. With regards to relevance of design, the overall design is highly relevant to current conditions. The relevance of the programme arises from the beneficiaries' assertion that the programme enhanced the livelihoods of the members of their Farmer Based Organizations through the provision of irrigation facilities, input, loans and training which has increased their output considerably. However, majority of respondents (61.2%) were not satisfied with the NRGP support for agricultural development because of the delay in release

of NRGP farmers support packages when it is needed by FBOs during a particular period of time during the rainy season.

4.2.3 Implementation Mechanism of NRGP

The study revealed that NRGP packages to communities were based on their assessed needs and the demand for intervention packages by the rural people. Again, assessing the level of participation of stakeholders in the implementation of NRGP, it was found out that the District Assembly engaged in all the processes for implementation, namely, Needs Assessment, Planning and Budgeting, Monitoring and Evaluation activities and the provision of office accommodation and utilities. It was revealed that other stakeholders were involved mostly in Needs Assessment (51.2%), Monitoring and evaluation activities (36.7%) and organizing of training programmes (12.1%). Other Collaborating Institutions such as input dealers, marketers and Bank (Bucobank) were identified to have contributed in the implementation of REP. The input dealers supplied all the FBOs with the fertilizer, whilst the marketers purchased the produce from farmers at normal market price. The Bucobank provided credit (loan) at reasonable terms of conditions. It is clear that the implementation was through a collaborative effort by the NRGP secretariat, DA and others. The collaborative participation of stakeholders could lead to attainment of the programme objectives, because as posited by Stiglitz (2002), participation accounts much to successes of poverty interventions.

The NRGP suffers a typical challenge of a project-based scheme that has just one cohort registered beneficiaries. While the knowledge gained regarding agricultural development may be sustainable, the scheme can only have a broader impact if the positive evidence collected is taken up by the BND to develop a similar scheme with broad-based beneficiaries.

4.2.4 Type of interventions in Northern Rural Growth Programme

Figure 4.5 revealed that, 38.9 percent of respondents perceive that the programme facilitated their access to fertilizer, while 27.8 percent admitted that the NRGP offered training for FBOs. 22.2 percent also opined that they had been provided with irrigational facilities, whilst 11.1 percent perceive that the programme had linked FBO members to the BUCOBANK for loan.

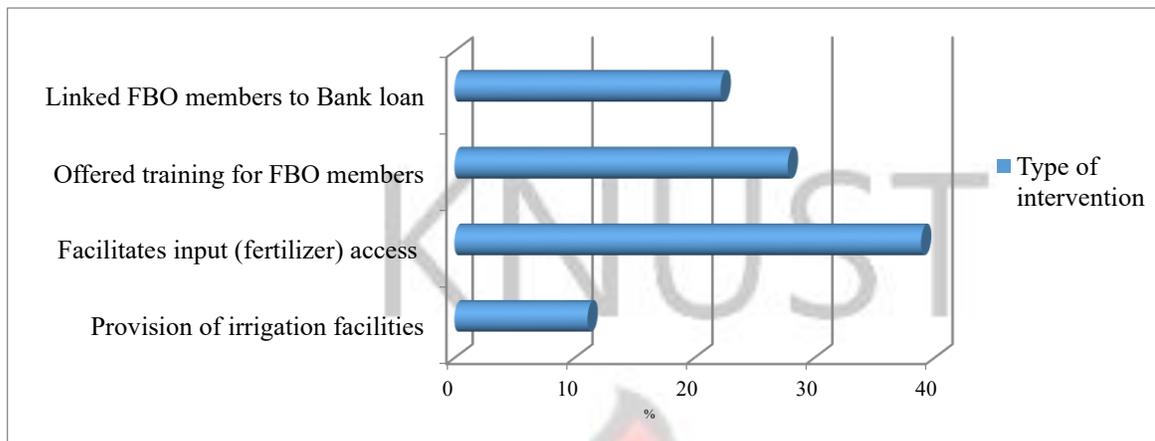


Figure 4.5: Type of NRGP intervention

Source: Field Survey, 2015

4.2.5 Effectiveness of the programme in achieving its objectives

From Table 4.3, majority of respondents were satisfied with the effectiveness (responded effective/very effective) of the programme to facilitate input (fertilizer) access for FBOs (83.3%), facilitate access to loan by FBOs (72.2%), and offer training for FBOs (55.6%). The respondents explained that access to these inputs had increased their output considerably. In particular, when the level of productivity of FBO members was assessed to ascertain whether they have experienced increase in output as a result of the NRGP, a higher proportion of respondents (59.2%) indicated that level of productivity was low prior to the NRGP. The low productivity the programme was attributed to lack of necessary resources to help increase productivity by FBO members. Farmer Based Organization members could not afford fertilizers, did not have adequate start-up capital, had low extension services and inadequate training on agricultural development. However, almost sixty-seven (67.1%) percent of respondents noted that there has been improvement in their productivity as a result of the NRGP. This was attributed to the facilitation to input (fertilizer) access, start-up capital (loan) and the training for FBOs members on improved methods of production. The data also revealed that most respondents (71.2%) receive extension services from NRGP which has increased yield significantly. Despite these positive outcomes, 5.6 percent reported that the programme has not been effective in facilitating access to loan by FBOs whilst 11.1 percent submitted that the programme did not offer FBO members training. The respondents

attributed these to their inability to obtain loan from the bank as a result of the NRGP whilst others claimed that they had not received training on improved methods of production.

Table 4.3: Effectiveness of the programme in achieving its objectives

Programme Objective		Level of effectiveness				Total
		Not Effective	Somehow Effective	Effective	Very Effective	
Facilitate access loan for FBOs	Frequency	1	2	7	6	18
	%	5.6	11.1	38.9	33.3	100
Facilitate input (fertilizer) access for FBOs	Frequency	0	3	8	7	18
	%	0	16.7	44.4	38.9	100
Offer training for FBOs	Frequency	2	6	9	1	18
	%	11.1	33.3	50	5.6	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

4.2.6 Sustainability of the Northern Rural Growth Programme

A higher proportion of respondents (55.3%) observed that the effects of the programme would not sustain after the programme has ended. They noted that they will not be able to access facilities that the programme provides for them easily to increase their agricultural output.

4.3 Ghana Social Opportunities Project (GSOP)

The Ghana Social Opportunities Project (GSOP) is socio-infrastructure intervention which seeks to engage rural people in labour intensive public works to provide or rehabilitate roads and dams/dugout as well as afforestation (chapter two gives details of the project). The main variables that were analyzed included the background of respondents, impact of GSOP, effectiveness of the GSOP in achieving its objectives, relevance and sustainability of the project.

4.3.1 Background of GSOP beneficiaries

Table 4.4 indicates that the majority of the GSOP beneficiaries (56.5%) were females. A higher proportion of GSOP beneficiaries (33.0%) were aged 40-49 years. This age was particularly reflective of working age group; the owners of means of production and those with more pushing factors to work than those in other age brackets because of family responsibilities. It can therefore be argued that the laborious nature of the LIPW project

explain why the chunk of the participants fall within the youthful population with relatively low participation of the elderly population. Most respondents (62.3%) were married, and had no formal education (51.8%).

Table 4.4: Background of the of GSOP beneficiaries Interviewed

	Beneficiaries of GSOP						Total
Gender	Male			Female			
Frequency	82			109			191
Percentage (%)	42.9			57.1			100
Age	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+		
Frequency	27	58	63	37	6		191
Percentage (%)	14.1	30.4	33.0	19.4	3.1		100
Marital status	Married	Single	Divorced	Separated	Others		
Frequency	119	4	28	17	23		191
Percentage (%)	62.3	2.1	14.7	8.9	12.0		100
Educational level	No formal education	Primary	JHS/JSS	Secondary/Technical	Tertiary	Others	
Frequency	99	48	31	13	0	0	191
Percentage (%)	51.8	25.1	16.2	6.8	0	0	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

4.3.2 Relevance of the Ghana Social Opportunities Project (GSOP)

The data collected indicate that most respondents (77.6%) perceive the GSOP has relevant because it had enhanced the livelihood of beneficiaries households through increased access to jobs and cash earning opportunities. The project staff and District Assembly staff submitted that the goal and objectives of GSOP are consistent with the Government's development objective of providing social safety net and infrastructure for the deprived. They also regarded the overall design of the GSOP as relevance, in terms of the structure and

components under the prevailing conditions. Indeed, nearly three-fourth (75.3%) of beneficiaries considers the GSOP to have improved their livelihood. This is affirmed by the success stories of the project as reported at the Ghana Social Opportunities Project's (2015) web site. For instance, in the Kamachu and Lamina communities within the Nkwanta North District of the Volta Region, GSOP is reported to have engaged a number of women in tree planting and the construction of a Dam to provide water for the rural people. In the Wa West District the project is reported to have engaged beneficiaries in the rehabilitation a dug-out each at Boro and Pole. In the Upper west region, the project has rehabilitated the feeder road from the Oli junction to Oli and rehabilitated a dug out each at Nako, Dorimon and Ladayiri, all of which employed the local people.

Despite its relevance, most (51.7%) respondents were not satisfied with the project's support for social protection though beneficiaries perceive that the project has greatly enhanced their livelihood through its creation of jobs and hence income. Though majority of respondent (61.2%) consider the GSOP as very beneficial social safety net for the agricultural off-season, it came to light that the short-term nature of the employment and the temporary nature of income (usually low wage) did not translate into appreciable investment, whilst the delay in the payment of wages also affected beneficiaries. When respondents were asked whether they were satisfied with the project's support for infrastructural development, a little more than fifty percent (78.4%) submitted that they were not satisfied. The respondents opined that the project's packages did not include essential infrastructure such as the building of schools and warehouses for the storage of produce which they are yearning for. They acknowledged that the provision of storage facilities would safeguard their output against post-harvest losses which is rampant in their communities.

4.3.3 Implementation Mechanism of the Ghana Social Opportunities Project

The study revealed that the Ghana Social Opportunities Project is managed at policy and technical co-ordination level by a National Project Steering Committee. At the implementation level, the GSOP Regional Coordinating Office at Bolgatanga spearheads the implementation and co-ordination with technical backstopping from the National Office. Sub-project implementation, however, is the responsibility of the Builsa North District with timely and efficient back-stopping provided by the project staff at the regional level. The

department of Feeder roads has been providing technical support to the project to help provide good roads within the beneficiary villages. The department of Social Welfare and Community Development has also been providing technical support to the project to help provide good roads within the beneficiary villages. The implementation of GSOP is therefore through a collaborative effort of project staff and the District Assembly.

The study revealed that the level of participation of GSOP beneficiaries and other stakeholders in the implementation of the project was high. These stakeholders are involved mostly in needs assessment, Planning and Budgeting, monitoring and evaluation of the project. The project secretariat also develops capacity building programmes for national and local actors to implement the GSOP. The main aim of the capacity building component is to create capacity at the national and local level to implement LIPW projects in the selected districts and thereby to strengthen the Government's decentralization programme and enable the related strategy to be introduced nationwide.

The beneficiary community also play's key role in the implementation of the GSOP. The study also revealed that the participation of the beneficiaries had risen considerably as a result of the incorporation of the beneficiaries in the decision making processes. This is exemplified by the frequent meetings organized with community members to solicit their views and concerns on the project which are taken on board. Indeed, the project officials interviewed pointed out that, they assists the beneficiary communities to draw a development plan; known as "Community Action Plan" which embodies the projects they wish and this is an effective way of ensuring that communities participate in the project. The community action plans assists the beneficiary to select priority subprojects for implementation, selecting and implementing small subprojects. Other responsibilities of the community members in the project implementation process include mobilizing the community to participate in the programme; assisting in the selection of participants/beneficiaries; monitoring progress and providing feedback on progress to the district authorities.

The greatest challenge in implementing the GSOP is targeting of the intervention to the very poor; it is flawed in design and implementation because it often fails to reach the very poor.

The study also uncovered that lack of financial commitment by the District to support the project implementation also hindered the implementation of the project considerably.

4.3.4 Impact of Ghana Social Opportunities Project on employment

The study showed that three main type of employment was provided by GSOP through Labour Intensive Public Works (LIPWs) for beneficiaries. The beneficiaries were mostly engaged in the afforestation or tree plantation (43.4%), rehabilitation and maintenance of feeder road (35.2%), dams and dugouts (21.4%). Though the tree planting (Afforestation) component of the project seeks to mitigate climate change, beneficiary employees were paid on rotational basis for a period of time.

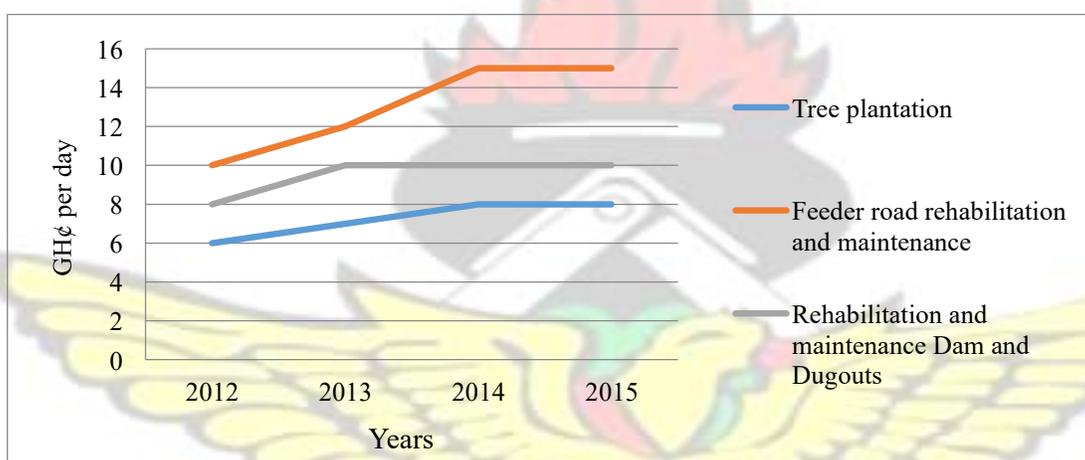


Figure 4.6: Distribution of amount paid to LIPWs workers

Source: Field Survey, 2015

The Figure 4.6 shows that beneficiaries of tree plantation component were paid GH¢6 per day in 2012, GH¢7 per day in 2013 and GH¢8 per day in 2014 and 2015. On the other hand, the employees of the feeder road rehabilitation and maintenance component of the LIPWs were paid GH¢10 per day in 2012, GH¢12 per day in 2013 and GH¢15 per day in 2014 and 2015, whilst workers engaged in the Dam and Dugouts rehabilitation and maintenance earned GH¢8 per day in 2012 and GH¢10 per day in 2013, 2014 and 2015. With regards to the number of rotational days that an employee is engaged to work before another person is engaged to continue, it came to light that a worker was engaged for three (3) month during the agricultural off-season (mainly from January to March) before another person is replaced.

The data showed that an overwhelming proportion (93.4%) of beneficiaries perceives that the GSOP have increased their access to jobs during agricultural off-season because they would have been idle. However, few (6.6%) of the beneficiaries thought otherwise due to their assertion that the three (3) months period of employment was not significant to improve their livelihoods during the prolonged dry season, coupled with delay in the payment of wages. The main effects of the LIPW on livelihood of beneficiaries are increased in their purchasing power and consumption as a result of the income earned.

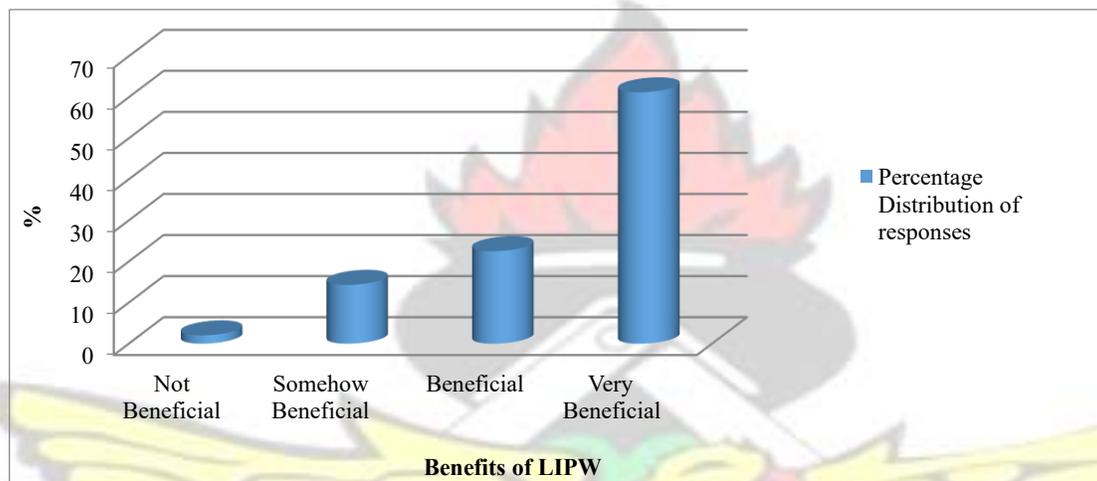


Figure 4.7: Distribution of LIPW benefits

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Figure 4.7 show that most (61.2%) beneficiaries of the LIPWs' rotational short-term employment which is usually undertaken during the agricultural off-season perceive the project as very beneficial. According to respondents, the project greatly enhanced their livelihood through its creation of jobs and hence income. Whilst 22.5 percent and 14.3 percent consider the LIPW as beneficial and somehow beneficial, 2 percent did not think it was beneficial to them because of the short-term nature of the employment and also the temporary nature of income (usually low wage) did not translate into appreciable investment.

4.3.5 Impact of the GSOP on construction/rehabilitation of infrastructure

The project's impact on infrastructure was assessed based on a comparative prior GSOP and post GSOP analysis to find out the extent of improvement in the beneficiaries access to irrigational facilities, dugout and roads.

4.3.2.1 Road Condition Prior GSOP/ Post GSOP

The improvement in roads condition increases the vehicular fleet by facilitating the transportation of goods and people at a reasonable cost. It also reduces the incidence of food spoilage in the process of transporting them to the market centres and thus increases income level and encourages farmers to increase their output as they know that their foodstuffs could be transported to the market with ease.

Table 4.5: Road Condition Prior GSOP/Post GSOP

Road condition	Prior to MVP		Post MVP	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Footpath-like	43	22.5	7	3.7
Untarred but deplorable	132	69.1	43	22.5
Untarred but accessible	16	8.4	141	73.8
Total	191	100	191	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 4.5 indicates that most respondents (69.1%) within the selected GSOP communities were plying untarred and deplorable roads. According to the respondents, the poor nature of roads affected them adversely as commercial drivers were unwilling to operate in those communities and the few drivers who operated in the area demanded outrageous fares. The poor condition of roads also affected income level of farmers they were faced with the difficulty of transporting their produce to the market. This often led to the spoilage of surplus produce by farmers which affect their income levels as well as level of productivity as they do not get enough income to reinvest in their farms Communities. Table 4.3 further shows that since the inception of GSOP, majority of respondent (73.8%) have access to untarred but passable roads as against untarred but deplorable roads that existed before the advent of the GSOP. According to respondents, this has reduced post-harvest losses considerably. This is consistent with the observation by Andreas (1997) that road infrastructure brings increase in productivity which helps reduce incidence of poverty in the long run.

4.3.2.2 Access to dam/dug-out prior GSOP/post GSOP

Figure 4.8 indicates that prior to the implementation of the GSOP, majority of respondents depended solely on non-functional dams/dug-out (72.1%), whilst 11.3% percent relied on functional dams/dug-out as source of water for farming, livestock and household. However,

16.6 percent did not have dams/dug-out at all. Thus, most of the communities did not have functional dams/dug-out and therefore this adversely affected farming, livestock rearing and households' source of quality water. However, since the inception of the project, majority of respondents and their households depend on functional dams/dugout (83.8%), whilst 12.8 percent still rely on non-functional dams/dug-out as a result of the project. Few and (3.4%) did not have dams/dug-out at all. The respondents explained that the provision of irrigational dams reduce their vulnerability to the single maxima rainfall regime which is a bottleneck to their output expansion, since local economy is dependent on rain-fed agriculture. It had reduced their plight of planting only during the rainy season, and remaining mostly idle during the dry season. The improvement in access to functional dams/dug-out is exemplified the situation of farmers of Sinyangsa who used to farm yearlong with water supply from the Sinyangsa dam. Unfortunately the dam which used to be the source of water for farming, livestock and household purposes dried up years ago due to its silted nature. However, luck has shined on them as government through the Ghana Social Opportunities Project (GSOP) awarded a contract for desilting of the dam. Canals linking the dam to the farms were also rehabilitated and some additional ones created to pave way for easy flow of water to the farming sites.

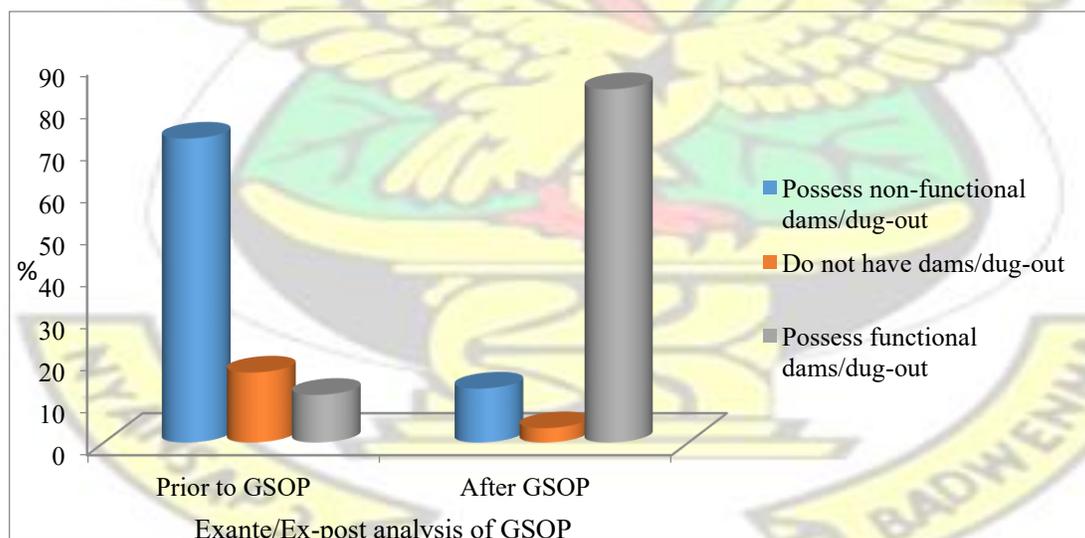


Figure 4.8: Access to dam/dug-out prior GSOP/post GSOP

Source: Field Survey, 2015

A higher percentage of the respondents (58.7%) indicated that the major impact of the dam rehabilitation component of Ghana Social Opportunities Project is that it is a source of irrigation while 31.1 percent and 10.2 percent perceive that the project had provided water for their livestock and served as source of household water respectively. A higher proportion (52.4%) reported an increased access to job as the major impact of the tree planting component of the project, while 47.6 percent reported that the afforestation has mitigated the micro-climatic change. A higher proportion of respondents (74.2%) observed that the major impact of the feeder road rehabilitation component of the project is increased accessibility, while 25.8 percent reported that it had created employment for their household members.

4.3.6 Sustainability of the Ghana Social Opportunities Project (GSOP)

Most (53.8%) of the beneficiaries were of the view that the effects of the project would be sustained because of adequate project sustainability mechanism in place. The study revealed that beneficiaries were deeply involved in the implementation process. In particular, the project has adopted the participatory approach to allow the communities constitute local executives for the management of the project. These executives are in charge of selecting the rotational participants of the LIPWs and under the tree (mangoes) plantation to mitigate climate change sell the produce to continue to run the project. Again, the beneficiaries have always been given capacity building to enable them have the required capacities to enable them maintain and run the programme after it has elapsed.

4.4 Differences and similarities between the analyzed rural development interventions

In terms of differences, while the Rural Enterprises Programme (REP) has been implemented as an enterprise development strategy with the objective of boosting rural SMEs development, the Northern Rural Growth Programme (NRGP) has been implemented as an agricultural development strategy that seeks to provide essential inputs for Farmer Based Organizations to increase their productivity levels. Contrary, the Ghana Social Opportunities Project (GSOP) is socio-infrastructure intervention which seeks to engage rural people in labour intensive public works to provide or rehabilitate roads and dams/dugout. The implementation mechanisms of the programmes considered is different from one another, though all the interventions has three key stakeholders, namely, the District Assembly,

project staff and beneficiaries. The implementation process of the programmes is bedeviled by key challenges such as lack of financial commitment on the part of the District Assembly to support implementing project unit in its operation, challenge of programme-based scheme with one cohort registered beneficiaries and challenge of targeting intervention to intended beneficiaries.

The study found out that adequate mechanism has been put in place to ensure the sustainability of the programmes, after the end. Despite the differences, these programmes seek to engender rural development.

With regards to impact, all the programme have made considerable impact on beneficiaries and are therefore considered relevant. Though these programmes have made significant impact, the beneficiaries were not satisfied with the REP support for enterprise development; the NRGP support for agricultural development; and the GSOP support for infrastructural development and social protection.

4.5 General Perception on Rural Development

The perception of the selected rural communities on rural development was assessed to ascertain the causes of underdevelopment in the Builsa North District. In particular, the effectiveness/efficiency of rural development strategies; the main cause of rural underdevelopment in the District; the capacity of the District to implement rural development and the major development issue that the District should consider were considered.

Table 4.6: Effectiveness of rural development strategies of the District

Category of response	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	38	19.9
Disagree	64	33.5
Neutral or undecided	9	4.7
Agree	47	24.6
Strongly Agree	33	17.3
Total	191	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2015

From Table 4.6, almost fifty-three (53.4%) percent of respondents strongly disagreed or disagreed that the rural development strategies of the District are effective and efficient. 4.7 percent could not decide on the effectiveness of the District's rural development strategies. About 42 percent agreed that the District rural development strategies are effective and efficient.

Table 4.7: The main cause of rural underdevelopment in the Builsa North District

Category of response	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	8	4.2
Disagree	29	15.2
Neutral or undecided	3	1.6
Agree	89	46.6
Strongly Agree	62	32.5
Total	191	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2015

To solicit the opinion what constitute development, Table 4.7 showed that bulk of the respondents (79.1%) agreed/strongly agreed that lacks of infrastructure, lack of jobs and low agricultural output are the main cause of rural underdevelopment in the Builsa North District. 1.6 percent were neutral whiles 19.4 percent disagreed/strongly disagreed.

Table 4.8: Lack of administrative capacity to implement rural development programmes hinders the efficacy of rural development strategies of the District.

Category of response	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	28	14.7
Disagree	39	20.4
Neutral or undecided	3	1.6
Agree	69	36.1
Strongly Agree	52	27.2
Total	191	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2015

With reference to Table 4.8, nearly 63 percent of the respondents agreed/strongly agreed that lack of administrative capacity to implement rural development programmes have hindered the efficacy of rural development programmes in the District. 35.4 percent disagreed/strongly disagreed with the statement.

4.5.1 Major development issue that would ensure the rural development

It can be reported from Figure 4.8 that a third of respondents (33.9%) chose infrastructural development as the major development issue that the District Assembly consider in order to ensure the development of their locality. This was followed by agricultural development (29.8%), enterprises development (25.8%) and social intervention (10.5%) respectively. As noted by Mwabu and Thorbecke (2001) rural-centered interventions have the potential to alleviate poverty and to stimulate overall growth.

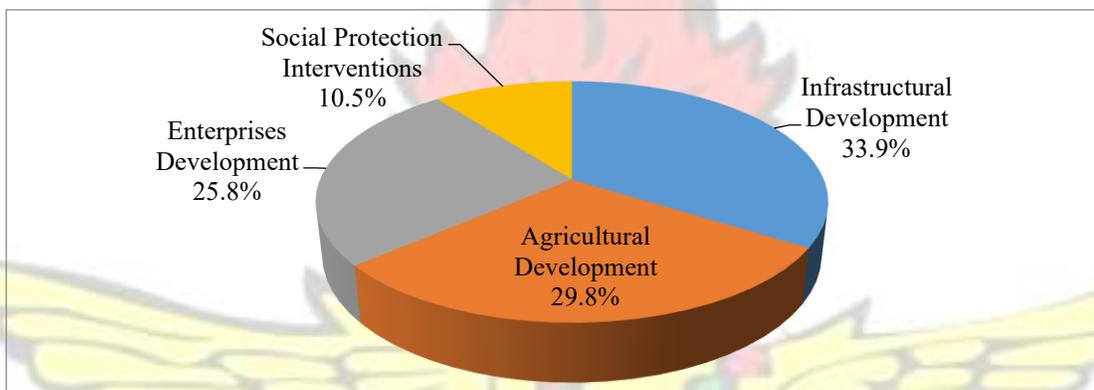


Figure 4.9: Distribution of specific development issue that ensures development

Source: Field Survey, 2015

4.6 Interview with the officers of the Builsa North District Assembly

The study purposively sampled core District Officers to solicit information regarding their role in formulating and implementing rural development strategies, the key rural development strategies that they have, and the challenges and constraints. These officers are the Planning Officer, the Director of social welfare and community development, the Director of Agriculture and the BAC Officer. Only the Director of Agriculture was a woman. With regards to the main responsibilities of Officers, the Director coordination oversee the day-to-day administration of the District Assembly; the Planning Officer is responsible for planning for development project, the Director of social welfare and community development is responsible for social protection and community development; the Director of Agriculture oversee the implementation and management of agricultural development

programmes; while the Head of the National Board for Small Scale Industries is responsible for promoting the development of Small scale businesses. It was revealed that four major rural development strategies were undertaken by the District, namely, infrastructural development strategies, agricultural development strategies, enterprises development strategies and social protection intervention and these were implemented through programmes/projects.

When the respondents were asked whether the strategies are working, almost all of them responded positively. The respondents were however sharply divided on the basis of major impact of rural development strategies, with 2 officers each opting for improvement in rural Infrastructure and improvement in agricultural production. The remaining 1 officer observed that rural development strategies had enhanced rural enterprises development. More than half (3) of respondents observed that inadequate infrastructure was the key development problems/needs facing the rural areas of the District. The rest of the District Heads were sharply divided, with 1 each reporting that low Agriculture productivity and less developed Small and Medium Enterprises were major development issue facing the District. To solicit information on the extent to which rural development inform the basis of District development planning most observe that it is a high priority. Thus, there was significance difference between the number who observed that rural development was high priority (4) and those who observed that it was a moderate priority (1). Meanwhile no District head perceive rural development as a low Priority (0) in District planning.

The data solicited from District Assembly revealed that the major challenges facing the District Assembly in formulating and implementing rural development programmes and projects under rural development strategies is weak institutional capacity (inadequate funds, logistics and inadequate human capacity building programmes). In particular, the District heads enumerated challenges of poor revenue mobilization as a result of lack of motivation for revenue collectors and outdated revenue database which has not been updated for the past two years. To solve this, the respondents opined that there should be a regular flow of the intergovernmental transfers; efforts should gear towards increasing internally generated funds; staff development should be a priority. With regards to what can be done to enhance rural development, the respondent recommended increased political commitment; provision

of more social amenities; improved business support services; and enhanced agricultural development.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

5.0 Introduction

This chapter presents a summary of the major issues that were revealed from the previous chapter. Recommendations and conclusion are made based on these findings. This chapter has significant implication for development policy because it highlights the contribution of this research

5.1 Major Findings

The study revealed a number of key development issues. These issues merit special policy considerations in order to bring about rural development.

5.1.1 Enterprise development strategy

The key implementation challenges of the REP are lack of financial commitment on the part of the District Assembly to support the Business Advisory Centre (62.3%) in its operation, lack of motivation of staff (21.5%) and poor working conditions of REP staff (11.1%), inadequate effective monitoring and evaluation (5.1%).

Majority of clients (71.8%) viewed the REP as an appropriate strategy for job creation for rural development. Majority of REP clients employed one person as a result of the intervention. In term of innovation, 71.3 percent of REP beneficiaries used traditional/manual skills and process to carry out business prior to the REP intervention compared. However, after the REP intervention most REP clients (65.7%) used automation whilst fourteen percent used traditional/manual skills and process. More than threequarters (74.7%) of respondents were not satisfied with the REP's support for enterprise development. This was attributed to low start-up capital, inadequate training on businesses development and high lending rate.

5.1.2 Agricultural development strategy

Generally, a higher proportion of respondents (61.2%) were not satisfied with the NRGPs support for agricultural development. The respondents observed that the delay in release of NRGPs farmers support packages affected output.

The key implementation challenges which needed to be overcome is that The NRGPs suffers a typical challenge of a programme-based scheme that has just one cohort registered beneficiaries. While the knowledge gained regarding agricultural development may be sustainable, the scheme can only have a broader impact if the positive evidence collected is taken up by the BND to develop a similar scheme with broad-based beneficiaries.

5.1.3 Social /Infrastructural development strategy

Most respondents (51.7%) were not satisfied with the project's support for social protection though beneficiaries perceive that the project has greatly enhanced their livelihood through its creation of jobs and hence income. Though majority of respondent (61.2%) consider the GSOP as very beneficial social safety net for the agricultural offseason, it came to light that the short-term nature of the employment and the temporary nature of income (usually low wage) did not translate into appreciable investment, whilst the delay in the payment of wages also affected beneficiaries.

When respondents were asked whether they were satisfied with the project's support for infrastructural development, a little more than fifty percent (78.4%) submitted that they were not satisfied. The respondents opined that the project's packages did not include essential infrastructure such as the building of schools and warehouses for the storage of produce which they are yearning for. They acknowledged that the provision of storage facilities would safeguard their output against post-harvest losses which is rampant in their communities.

The greatest challenge in implementing the GSOP is targeting of the intervention to the very poor; it is flawed in design and implementation because it often fails to reach the very poor.

5.1.4 Status of rural development

An overwhelming majority of the respondents (79.1%) agreed/strongly agreed that lack of infrastructure, lack of jobs and low agricultural output are the main cause of rural

underdevelopment in the Builsa North District. Indeed, a third of respondents (33.9%) chose infrastructural development as the major development issue that the District Assembly consider in order to ensure the development of their locality, followed by agricultural development (29.8%), enterprises development (25.8%) and social intervention (10.5%) respectively.

5.1.5 District's Administrative capacity to administer rural development

Nearly 63 percent of the respondents agreed/strongly agreed that lack of administrative capacity to implement rural development programmes have hindered the efficacy of rural development programmes in the District. The major challenges facing the District Assembly in formulating and implementing rural development programmes and projects is weak institutional capacity (inadequate funds, logistics and inadequate human capacity building programmes).

5.2 Recommendations

Based on the main findings of this study, the following recommendations are made to enhance the effectiveness of rural development policies and strategies in Ghana. The recommendations herein are critical for enhancing development policy efficiency and optimal application of rural development interventions. The recommendation are structured into case specific and general recommendation, and are directed to stakeholders in development policy such as the national and local government, the academia, donors or development partners, Civil Society Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations.

5.2.1 Case specific recommendation

Enterprise development strategy

The study showed that most clients of REP were not satisfied with the programme's support for enterprise development due to low start-up capital, inadequate training on businesses development and high lending rate. It is recommended that many local enterprise development programmes should be formulated and implemented by the Builsa North District to supplement the efforts of REP to provide start-up capital and adequate training on businesses development and to increase the economic based and encourage many of the rural dwellers to take-up enterprise development ventures to reduce unemployment, poverty and

over-dependence on agriculture. This could be done by way of public-private partnership where the District Assembly creates the enabling environment for the private sector to lead the way to local industrialization and job creation. This could absorb the surplus labour in the agriculture sector and reduce seasonally redundant labour in rural areas of the District.

Again, efforts should gear towards solving the various implementation challenges identified. It is also suggested that trained beneficiaries should be supported by the programme to access credit to start their business as most beneficiaries attributed their inability to start a business after training to lack of start-up funds. The Builsa North District Assembly should increase its financial commitment support to the Business Advisory Centre in its operation. The REP secretariat and implementing Builsa North District Assembly should ensure that project staffs are well motivated; recognizing that human capital is the most valuable asset to the attainment of programme objectives for which funds are voted for their implementation. Also, implementing units should embark on regular monitoring and evaluation of project activities to ensure success.

Agricultural development strategy

The study revealed that generally majority of respondents were not satisfied with the NRGPs support for agricultural development because of delay in the release of farmers support packages for farmers. Against this background, it is recommended that the District Department of agriculture should ensure that farmer support packages are released early. This could be done by resourcing the Department of agriculture to enable staff routinely visit project site for inspection of progress towards achieving project objectives.

The NRGPs' typical challenge of a programme-based scheme that has just one cohort registered beneficiaries and therefore the knowledge gained regarding agricultural development is limited to few beneficiaries (Farmer Based Organization) could be solve when the positive evidence collected is taken up by Builsa North District to develop a similar scheme with broad-based beneficiaries for it to have a broader impact. Generally, the Builsa North Districts' agricultural development programmes such as NRGPs could also be re-designed to refocus its objectives on rural development.

Socio-Infrastructural development strategy

Another finding from this study suggests that respondents were not satisfied with the GSOP's support for infrastructure because of the respondents' perception that the project's packages did not include essential infrastructure such as building of schools and warehouses for the storage of produce which they are yearning for, to help reduce their vulnerability to the single maxima rain-fed agriculture and safeguard against the rampant post-harvest losses which is rampant in their communities. It is therefore recommended that essential infrastructure such building of schools and storage facilities which is so much desire should be provided to Builsa North District by future projects and programmes. Indeed, the empirical findings from this research suggested that most respondents consider infrastructural development as the major development issue that the District Assembly should consider in order to ensure the development of their locality. Therefore, to optimize rural development in the Builsa North District, policy must target the provision of infrastructure and social services in rural communities. The Builsa North District should allocate special funds from its budget for vigorous rural infrastructural development. Civil Society Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations in infrastructural development policy should come in to help improve all forms of infrastructure in rural areas of the Builsa North District.

The funding agencies, notably the World Bank and the Ministry of local government and rural development should modify the GSOP to medium-to-long-term employment venture and if possible peg the wage to the national minimum wage for beneficiaries to be able to translate earnings into appreciable investment, whilst project officer in-charge of payment, pay wages promptly and devoid of any cumbersome procedures.

Status of rural development

The study revealed that lack of infrastructure, lack of jobs and low agricultural output are the main cause of rural underdevelopment in the Builsa North District. It is recommended that the rural development strategies of the Builsa North District should be enhanced to be more effective and efficient in delivering rural development. This can be done by enhancing the administrative capacity of the District Assembly to enable the formulation and implementation of the appropriate rural development programmes. Again, central government should institute a rural development policy framework that prioritizes

infrastructure, agriculture, enterprise and social protection interventions for the Builsa North District.

Considering the fact that the GSOP is targeted at the poor, it is recommended that the targeting strategy should be improved to ensure that more poor individuals/households are recruited to benefit directly from the projects.

District's Administrative capacity to administer rural development

The study also revealed that the lack of administrative capacity (inadequate funds, logistics and inadequate human capacity building programmes) to implement rural development programmes have hindered the efficacy of rural development programmes in the District. It is recommended that the challenges of poor revenue mobilization by Builsa North District Assembly could be reversed through motivation for revenue collectors; update of revenue database which has not been updated for the past two years; and gazetting the Fee Fixing Resolution to make give legal backing to rate charges and to make it possible for rate defaulters to be prosecuted. These would increase the revenue based of the District Assembly for the formulation and implementation of rural development programmes.

5.2.2 General Recommendation

The major recommendation for general rural development policy is the need to emphasis the development of infrastructure, agriculture, enterprise and social protection interventions to promote rural development in Ghana. Thus, rural development policy must prioritize infrastructural development, agricultural development, enterprise development, and the implementation of social intervention in rural areas.

In particular, government should refocus her attention on agriculture development to enhance the livelihood of rural households most of who engage in farming. Since the majority of the people are engaged in farming, it is recommended that government of Ghana urgently step in to institute agricultural support packages such as agricultural extension services, microcredit for agriculture, which helps boost agricultural productivity. This would strengthen the comparative advantage in the area of agriculture and make it more competitive to enhance livelihood. Indeed, pragmatic steps need to be taken to improve upon the performance of agriculture sector productivity and subsequently income. Government

agricultural investment drive and the determination of government to cutdown importation should be the driving force for agricultural development. The most appropriate agricultural policy instrument(s) that policy makers can use to engender agricultural development include more emphasis on incentive policies (input subsidies, commodity pricing policies, tax on imports, export subsidy, infrastructure support, production support such as capital, machinery, leveling and irrigation; regulating policies (land zoning and land reforms); and liberalization policies (reduction of unnecessary government interference, removal of controlling instruments).

Though agricultural consideration in rural areas surpasses the derive for enterprise development, there is an increasing recognition that the development of the rural economy is not confined to the agricultural sector alone, as far as structural transformation of the rural economy is concerned. It is recommended that both national and local government should be committed to enhancing the local economic base to boost local economic development through the promotion of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises growth, and the associated allied services such as transport and finance. Efforts should gear towards the provision of business development services (training on microenterprise development) and the creation of rural industrial clusters that facilitates group learning among enterprises and the generation of a local innovation environment. Industries should be deconcentrated spatially from the cities to rural hinterlands. The government policy framework available for enterprises development of creating enabling environment for businesses should be strengthened. Government of Ghana should help the private sector to overcome challenges and constraints such as low start-up capital, high lending rate; inadequate training on businesses development by not only setting-up capital for entrepreneurial development but also provide the appropriate macroeconomic framework for businesses to flourish.

Further, development policy must emphasis the provision of infrastructure to rural areas given the fact that infrastructure provides the bedrock for agricultural and enterprise development and in most cases used as a proxy measure of rural development. Both national and local government should intensify public infrastructure investment in rural areas to enhance livelihood activities. Specifically, rural infrastructural development fund could be instituted by government to provide impetus for rural development in Ghana. Donors should

focus their policy conditionality attached to aid on ensuring rural development. All development policy actors should focus their attention on embarking on vigorous infrastructure investment.

Government of Ghana should develop and implement more social interventions for rural areas to provide safety nets for the vulnerable and the poor, most of whom reside in rural areas. This could be done through a stakeholder forum where rural dwellers identify their pressing social protection needs to aide rural social protection policy formulation.

There is a great need for central government to intensify the promotion of innovation through science and technology with focus on marginalized areas such as the rural deprived. This could be done through increased investment in research and development in the country's research and educational institutions. This is important because various reports have shown "that low investment in research and development and low international transfers of technology have resulted in stagnant yields in Sub-Saharan Africa" (World Bank, 2007:15).

Central government should reinvigorate interventions geared toward rural development. In particular, central government should strengthen the decentralization process by fully decentralizing revenue and expenditure assignment as well as funds to make District Assemblies work effectively and ensure that decentralization's basic objective of engendering rural development is realized.

Though the presence of district development funds (e.g. District Development Facility; Urban Development Grant) is an opportunity for rural development in general and infrastructural development in particular, central government could increase the flow of funds to District Assemblies to carry out development projects. To ensure high internally Generated Fund central government could institute reward (for example 5% increases in inter-governmental transfers) for high revenue mobilization annually. Though the presence of district development funds (e.g. District Development Facility and Urban Development Grant) is an opportunity to embark on rural development, central government could also increase the flow of funds to District Assemblies to carry out rural development projects. Specifically, central government should institute a rural development fund. Much of donor focus, policy and funds should be directed towards rural development.

Above all, there is the need for a clear-cut national rural development policy or framework to prioritize the needs of the rural areas. The framework should set out the guiding principles and goals to address the socio-economic and infrastructural needs of the rural areas. This framework can be effectively used to guide, coordinate and direct the implementation of policies for rural development. Such framework should be an embodiment of the perspective, medium and short-term development goals of the rural areas of the country. The national poverty reduction framework should emphasize on rural development. Policy makers at the national level should streamline policies that would enhance growth of output and income at the household level, through redistribution of macroeconomic achievements to especially the rural areas.

5.2.3 Recommendations for Future Research

This research study provides the foundation for further enquiry. A broad based research involving larger sample sizes could be conducted to check the validity of this study in a broader perspective. At the macro level, similar studies could be carried out to ascertain the effect of national strategies for rural development. Specifically, the economy-wide impact of a rural development policy could be assessed using a dynamic model such as Computable General Equilibrium Models (CGEM). Many local government institutions in other distinct geographic locations may perhaps be selected for an eclectic test. Findings of this study suggest infrastructural development is the major development issue that should be considered in order to ensure the development of their locality, followed by agricultural development, enterprises development and social intervention. Further studies are necessary to endorse this finding. A further research could be conducted to explore the impact of rural development planning on rural people. This study could not assess citizen participation in decision-making at local level as a rural development strategy. This may perhaps form the research problem for further studies. This research did not try to assess the effectiveness of land reforms as a rural development strategy.

5.3 Conclusion

The study appraised the rural development strategies in the Builsa North District of Ghana. In particular, to situate the District's strategies for rural development in the national context, a time series qualitative analysis was done to understand the rural development policies in

Ghana since the 1950s. This revealed that generally the methods and strategies of national economic management distinctly changed from dependence on state control of development policy between the 1950s and 1980s to an increased reliance on market oriented orthodoxy and less direct public involvement (the neoliberal approach) by the 1990s onwards. This historical time series analysis of rural development policies in Ghana have shown that most often, rural development policies or programmes were discontinued whenever there is a change in government leadership; most times, new government abandons the projects and programmes of its predecessor even when such programmes are appropriate. Rural development was not also given the integrated and comprehensive approach it requires.

The study identified four major rural development strategies undertaken by the District (objective one), and its associated programmes and projects; namely, agricultural development strategies (Northern Rural Growth Programme), enterprises development strategies (Rural Enterprises Programme) and socio-infrastructural development strategies, (Ghana Social Opportunities Project). The study also primarily evaluated the effects of rural development strategies on the rural people of Builsa North District (objective two). The study showed that three-quarters (74.7%) of respondents were not satisfied with the REP's support for enterprise development, 61.2 percent were not satisfied with the NRGPs support for agricultural development, most respondents were not satisfied the GSOP support for social protection (51.7%) and infrastructural development (78.4). It was found out that seventy-nine percent of household heads perceives lack of infrastructure, lack of jobs and low agricultural output as the main causes of rural underdevelopment in the Builsa North District. The study also revealed that lack of administrative capacity to implement rural development programmes has hindered the efficacy of rural development programmes in the District. The study showed that the implementation of the programmes and projects was through a collaborative effort by the programmes/projects secretariat, the District Assembly and other Collaborative Institutions. It was established that the implementation process of the programmes and projects was bedeviled by key challenges. Such as lack of financial commitment on the part of the District Assembly to support implementing project unit in its operation, challenge of programme-based scheme with one cohort registered beneficiaries and challenge of targeting intervention to intended beneficiaries.

The finding of this study contributes both empirically and theoretically. Theoretically, it enriches the contemporary discourse and body of literature on development, development strategies and rural development; however, empirically the findings are useful for future policy action. This research has brought to the fore lessons useful for policy action in Ghana (objective four). This research therefore largely achieved the research objectives and the key research questions were answered. Conclusively, rural development constitutes the plank that underlies all other efforts towards economic development and therefore government policies and strategies must emphasize the rural segment of the economy. The multi-dimensional nature of development requires multiple strategies both at local and national levels to ensure rural development. Indeed, rural development requires considerable inter-sectoral interventions at both micro (local) and macro (national) levels that prioritizes infrastructure, agriculture, enterprise and social protection interventions.



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APPENDIX

KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AN APPRAISAL OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES IN THE BUILSA NORTH DISTRICT

NOTE: Please provide the correct information by ticking (✓) in the appropriate box and also fill in the blank where necessary.

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR KEY DISTRICT ASSEMBLY OFFICERS

Questionnaire for Key District Staff - Planning Officer, Director of Agriculture, Head of Business Advisory Council and the Head of Community Development and Social Welfare

1. What is your position/rank.....
2. What are your responsibilities.....
3. What are the key development problems/needs facing the rural areas of the District?
4. Are there rural development strategies in your District? Yes () No ()
5. What type of rural development strategies has been undertaken?.....
6. Which departments are responsible for the implementation of these strategies?

7. To what extent does rural development inform the basis of District development planning and the implementation of development programmes/projects? a. High priority () b. moderate priority () c. low priority () d. Others () (Please specify).
8. Lack of administrative capacity to implement rural development programmes could be said to be the setbacks that have hindered the efficacy of rural development programme of the District. a. Strongly disagree () b. Disagree () c. Neutral/undecided () d. Agree () e. Strongly agree ()
9. The various rural development strategies of the District have not made any significant impact on the people a. Strongly disagree () b. Disagree () c. Neutral/undecided () d. Agree () e. Strongly agree ()

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THE BUILSA NORTH DISTRICT**

NOTE: Please provide the correct information by ticking (✓) in the appropriate box and also fill in the blank where necessary.

**Questionnaire for *stakeholders* of the Rural Enterprises Programme (REP) in the
Bulsa North District**

1. Gender: Male () Female ()
2. Reporting Stakeholder: District head, BAC () Project Staff ()
3. Number of years worked in current position
4. State the specific types of intervention that have been provided to beneficiaries under each component of REP
5. Why did the BND apply to be enrolled unto the Rural Enterprises Project?
Low standards of living () high rate of unemployment () lack of competitive MSEs ()
other
6. How was BND selected to benefit from the Rural Enterprises Project?
7. What role do you as a stakeholder play in the implementation of REP? Needs

Assessment () Planning and Budgeting of Programmes () Monitoring and Evaluation Activities () Training Programmes () Others.....

8. What role does the Assembly play in the implementation of REP? Needs Assessment () Planning and Budgeting of Programmes () Monitoring and Evaluation Activities () Recruitment of Supporting Staff () Financial Commitment of Recurrent Budgets of the BAC () Provision of Office Accommodation and utilities () Others.....

9. Are there other stakeholder organization involved in the implementation of REP? Yes () No ()

10. If yes, indicate the organizations and their role.

11. How are people made aware of activities of the REP? Own Efforts () REP Staff () Local Business Association () Assemblyman via Kongon'Beater () District Information Van ()

12. What do you think are the challenges in the implementation of the Rural Enterprises Programme?

13. Do you think that all the beneficiaries who were trained in employable skills have been able to established businesses out of it? Yes () No ()

14. If no, what factors could account for the failure of project beneficiaries to start the own businesses? Lack of Start-up Capital () Unavailability of Raw Materials () Inadequate Monitoring and follow up () Sheer Laziness () other.....

15. In your opinion do you think REP is a good means of creating employment in Builsa North District? Yes () No ()

16. Does REP promote Technology and skills transfer? Yes () No ()

17. In what way(s) would you say beneficiaries' entrepreneurial and business management skills have improved since REP intervention?

Record/Book Keeping () Customer care () personal neatness () neat business premises
() Punctuality () Others specify.....

18. We can say that REP is the appropriate strategy for job creation and poverty reduction
Strongly Agree () Agree () Undecided () Disagree () Strongly Disagree ()



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NORTH DISTRICT

NOTE: Please provide the correct information by ticking (✓) in the appropriate box and also fill in the blank where necessary.

Questionnaire for beneficiaries of the Rural Enterprises Programme (REP *Clients*) in the Builsa North District

1. Age of Respondent: a. 20-29 () b. 30-39 () c. 40-49 () d. 50-59 () e. 60+ ()
2. Gender: Male () Female ()
3. Marital status: Married () Single () Divorced () Separated () Others- widow/widower ()
4. Educational Level: No Formal Education () Primary () JHS/JSS/Middle Sch. ()
Secondary/Technical () Tertiary () Others () (Please specify)
5. What is the name of your business?
6. Are you a client/beneficiary of the rural enterprises programme? Yes () No ()
7. What intervention(s) have you received from the Rural Enterprises Programme?
Community Based Trainings () Business Counseling () Advocacy Training ()
Technology Promotion () Financial Support () Business Management Trainings ()

Job Creation

8. Were you employed before you first got into contact with REP? Yes () No ()
10. How many people have your establishment employed as a result of the REP? One ()
Two () Three () Four () Others (Specify).....
11. Has the REP contributed to improved standard of living? Yes () No ()
12. Is REP the appropriate strategy for job creation for rural development? Yes () No ()

Technology Promotion and Skills transfer

13. What process and skills did you use to carry out your business before REP intervention?

Traditional/ Manual () Mechanical () Automation ()

14. What types of technology do you current employ in your Business?

Traditional/ Manual () Mechanical () Automation ()

Business Growth and Entrepreneurial Skills

15. In what major way has your business been improved as a result of REP activities?

Increased Sales () Increased Business Assets () Increased Production () improved packaging ()

16. In what way(s) would you say your entrepreneurial and business management skills has improved as a result of REP?

17. Has the REP contributed to improved standard of living? Yes () No ()

18. Explain your answer.....

19. Are you satisfied with the REP support for enterprise development? Yes () No ()

20. If no, why.....

Implementation Mechanism

21. How long have you been in contact with the Rural Enterprises Programme? One () Two () Three () Four () Above Four ()

22. How did you get to know of the Rural Enterprises Programme? Own Efforts () Local Business Association () Assemblyman () District Information Van () REP Staff ()

23. Are you involved in the planning of intervention(s) you receive from REP? Yes () No()

24. How were you involved? Client Fora () Personal Request () Round table meeting () Business Orientation Seminars ()

25. Who then planned the interventions you received? Don't Know () REP Staff () Assembly member ()

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING**

26. In your view, will you say that project interventions are imposed on you? Yes () No ()
**AN APPRAISAL OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES IN THE BUILSA
NORTH DISTRICT**

**NOTE: Please provide the correct information by ticking (✓) in the appropriate box
and also fill in the blank where necessary.**

**Questionnaire for stakeholders of the Northern Rural Growth Programme (for
Director of Agricultural Development)**

A. Background Information

1. What is your position/rank.....
2. Experience:
.....
3. Sex: male () female ()
4. What is your highest educational level?
SSS/O-Level () A- Level () HND () 1st Degree () 2nd Degree ()
5. What are your responsibilities.....
6. What are the key development problems/needs facing the rural areas of the District?
7. Which key programmes/projects does your unit implement on behalf of the District Assembly to ensure rural development?
8. Who are the beneficiaries of that Northern Rural Growth Programme?
a. Farmers () b. Petty traders () c. Rural people () d. Others (Please specify) ...
9. What is the impact of the NRGP on the development of the rural areas of the District?
10. Does your unit face any challenges in its operations to ensure the implementation and execution of the NRGP? Yes () No ()
11. If yes, what are the key challenges facing your department?
12. How can the capacity of your unit be improved the formulation and execution of rural development programme?

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THE BUILSA NORTH DISTRICT**

NOTE: Please provide the correct information by ticking (✓) in the appropriate box and also fill in the blank where necessary.

Questionnaire for stakeholders of the Northern Rural Growth Programme (*For NRGP Project Officials*)

Name of official..... Position.....

1. What makes NRGP distinctive from other programmes?
.....
2. What major role does the NRGP play in rural development?
3. What are some of the challenges the NRGP faces in the execution of its objective?
.....
4. What used to be the living condition of the communities under the NRGP?
5. Would you say their living conditions have been improved? Yes () No ()
6. Would you say communities under the NRGP are better off than those outside the project? Yes () No ()
7. Do you think the effects of the project would sustain after the project has elapsed?
Yes () No ()
8. If yes, what measures are being put in place to ensure the sustainability of those effects
.....
9. If no, what are your reasons.....
10. How involved is the national and local government in the project?

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AN APPRAISAL OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES IN THE BUILSA
NORTH DISTRICT

NOTE: Please provide the correct information by ticking (✓) in the appropriate box and also fill in the blank where necessary.

Questionnaire for Farmer Based Organization of the Northern Rural Growth Programme (NRGP)
Farmer Based Organization

A. Background Information of Group

1. What is the name of your Farmer Based Organization/group?
2. How long was the group formed?
3. How many members do you have?
4. Why was the group formed?
5. Does your members benefit from the Northern Rural Growth Programme? Yes () No ()
6. Is the Northern Rural Growth Programme relevant? Yes () No ()
7. Has the programme helped group members to achieve sustainable agricultural livelihood?
Yes () No ()
8. If yes, how?
9. What has been the main contribution of the Northern Rural Growth Programme to enhance your livelihood?
 - a. Provided irrigation facilities for farming ()
 - b. Facilitated input (fertilizer) access and distribution to the group ()
 - c. Offered training for group members ()
 - d. linked group members to the Builsa Community Bank for loans ()

10. How effective has been the programme been in achieving its objectives? (Please tick the appropriate)

Programme objective	Not effective	Somehow effective	Effective	Very Effective
1. Facilitate of input (fertilizer) access and distribution to your group				
2. Facilitated loan access for your group				
3. Offered training for your group				

12. Have any member of your FBO received assistance from the NRGP to boost productivity/income? Yes () No ()

13. What was your level of productivity/income prior to the NRGP?
 a. Low level productivity (below 300 cedis annually) b. Normal level productivity (300 – 600 cedis annually) c. High level productivity (above 600)

14. How is your level of productivity since the inception of the NRGP?
 a. Increased productivity b. Decreased productivity c. Same level productivity

15. Would you attribute your level of productivity and income to the NRGP? Yes () No ()

16. What is your reason for question above?

17. Do you receive any extension services from NRGP? Yes () No ()

18. Do you think the effects of the programme will sustain after it has ended? Yes () No ()

19. What are your reasons for your answer to question 27 above?

20. Are you satisfied with the NRGP support for agricultural development? Yes () No ()

21. If no, why?.....

Implementation Mechanism

15. How did you get to know of the programme?

16. Are you involved in the planning of intervention(s) you receive from NRGP? Yes No

17. Who planned the interventions you received? Don't Know () NRGP Staff () Assembly member ()

18. In your view, will you say that the NRGP interventions are imposed on you? Yes () No ()

**KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING**

**AN APPRAISAL OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES IN THE BUILSA
NORTH DISTRICT**

NOTE: Please provide the correct information by ticking (✓) in the appropriate box and also fill in the blank where necessary.

**Questionnaire for stakeholders (*Project Staff and District Officers*) of the Ghana
Social Opportunities Project (GSOP) in the Builsa North District**

Name of official..... Position.....

2. Reporting Stakeholder: Project Staff () District Officer () Others

3. Number of years worked in current position

1. What makes the Ghana Social Opportunities Project (GSOP) distinctive from other projects?

4. State the specific types of intervention that have been provided to beneficiaries of GSOP?

5. How was BND selected to benefit from the Ghana Social Opportunities Project?

6. What role do you as a stakeholder play in the implementation of GSOP? Needs Assessment () Planning and Budgeting of Programmes () Monitoring and Evaluation Activities () Training Programmes () Others.....

7. What role does the Assembly play in the implementation of GSOP? Needs Assessment () Planning and Budgeting of Programmes () Monitoring and Evaluation Activities () Recruitment of Supporting Staff () Provision of Office Accommodation and utilities () Others.....

8. What is the impact of GSOP on the development of the rural areas of the District?

9. What do you think are the challenges in the implementation of the GSOP?

10. In your view, will you say that beneficiary communities are better-off? Yes () No ()

11. What used to be the living condition of the communities under the GSOP?

.....

12. Would you say their living conditions have been improved? Yes () No ()

13. Would you say communities under the GSOP are better off than those outside the project? Yes () No ()

14. What is the role of the national and local government in the GSOP?

15. What are some of the challenges the project faces in the execution of its objective?

.....

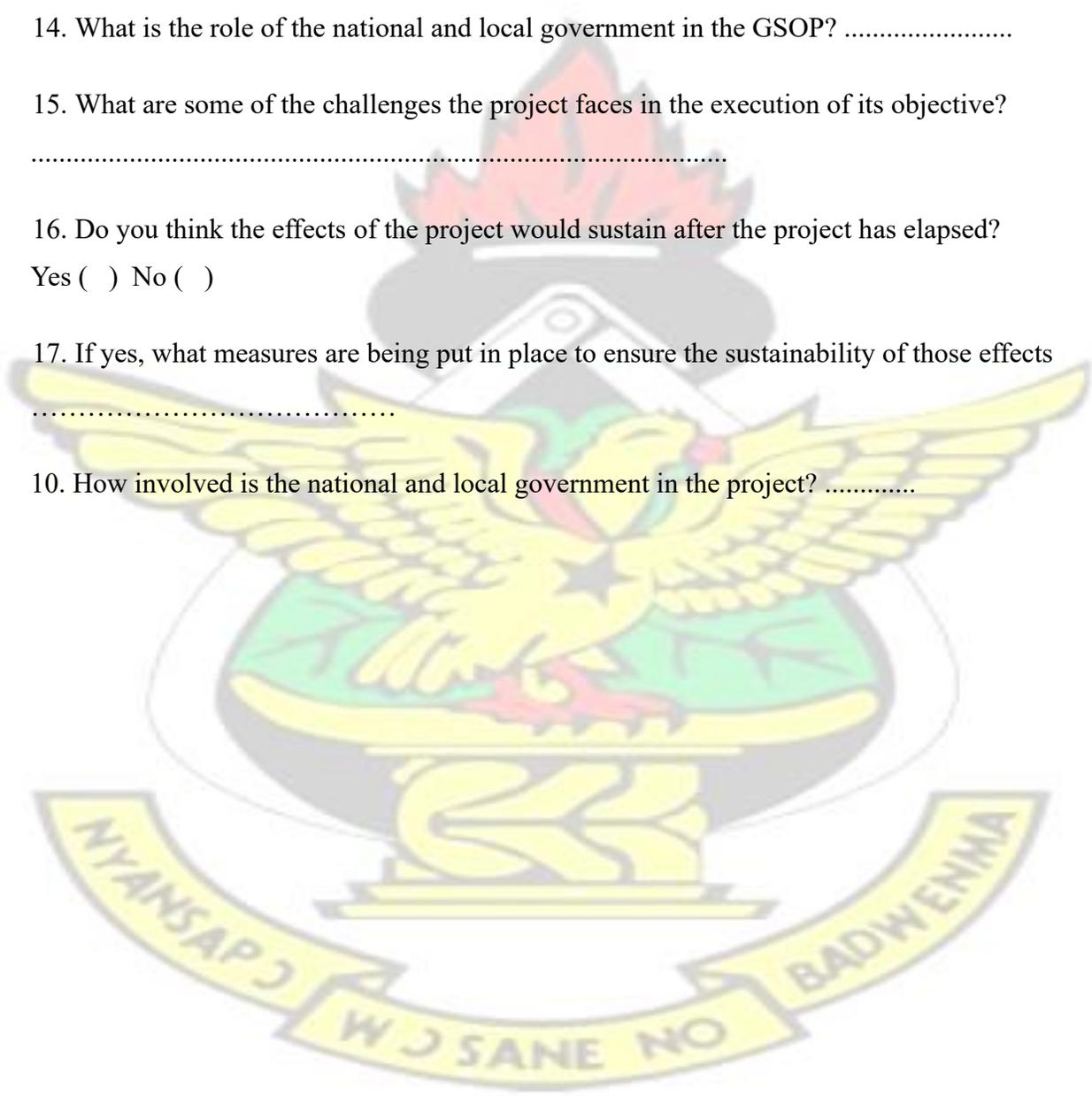
16. Do you think the effects of the project would sustain after the project has elapsed?

Yes () No ()

17. If yes, what measures are being put in place to ensure the sustainability of those effects

.....

10. How involved is the national and local government in the project?



KWAME NKURUMAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING Questionnaire for Beneficiaries of
the Ghana Social Opportunities Project (GSOP)**

This research is being conducted to appraise Rural Development Strategies in the Builsa North District. The main purpose of the study is academic and respondents and participants are assured of anonymity and confidentiality. It would therefore be appreciated if the following questions could be responded to as accurately as possible and to the best of the respondent(s) knowledge.

NOTE: Please provide the correct information by ticking (√) in the appropriate box and also fill in the blank where necessary.

1. Age of Respondent: a. 20-29 () b. 30-39 () c. 40-49 () d. 50-59 () e. 60+ ()
2. Gender: Male () Female ()
3. Educational Level: No Formal Education () Primary () JHS/JSS/Middle Sch. () Secondary/Technical () Vocational () Training College () Tertiary ()
4. Is the Ghana Social Opportunities Project relevant? Yes () No ()
5. Has the project helped your household/community in anyway? Yes () No ()
6. If yes, how?
7. Which component (s) of the project have your household/community benefitted from?
a. Tree plantation () b. Feeder road rehabilitation ()
c. Dam rehabilitation () d. Direct cash transfer ()
8. What has been the major impact of the Dam rehabilitation component of the project?
a. Provision of water for livestock () b. Irrigation () c. Increased access to jobs for cash earning opportunities () d. Others () (Please specify)
9. What has been the major impact of the tree plantation component of the project?
a. Increased access to jobs for cash earning opportunities () c. Afforestation has mitigated climate change ()
d. Others () (Please specify)

10. What has been the major impact of the feeder road rehabilitation component of the project? a. Increased accessibility () b. Creation of employment () c. Increased access to jobs for cash earning opportunities () d. Others () (Please specify)

11. What has been the main impact of the Ghana Social Opportunities Project?
a. Tree plantation () b. Created cash earning opportunities ()
c. Increased access to jobs () d. Afforestation has mitigated climate change ()

12. Do you think the effects of the programme will sustain after it has ended? Yes () No ()

13. Are you satisfied with the GSOP support for rural development? Yes () No ()

14. What type employment has the Labour Intensive Public Works provided for you?
a. Tree plantation () b. Feeder road rehabilitation ()
c. Rehabilitation and maintenance Dam and Dugouts ()

Project Objective of creating employment through Labour Intensive Public Works 15.

How much do you receive as unskilled worker per day in LIPWs?

16. How many rotational days are you supposed to work before another person is engaged to continue?

17. Would you say the LIPWs have increased your access to job in the agricultural off-season which otherwise you would have been idle? a. Yes b. No

18. How beneficial is the LIPWs' rotational short-term employment to you during the agricultural off-season?
a. Not Beneficial b. Somehow Beneficial c. Beneficial d. Very Beneficial

19. What have been the effects of the LIPWs on your livelihood?.....

Project Objective of providing/rehabilitating roads

20. What used to be the nature of road prior to the GSOP?
a. Footpath-like () b. Untarred but deplorable () c. Untarred but accessible ()

21. How did this nature of road affect your livelihood?.....

22. What is the nature of road since the inception of the GSOP?
a. Footpath-like () b. Untarred but deplorable () c. Untarred but accessible ()

23. What has been the effects of the road on your livelihood?.....

Project Objective of providing/rehabilitating dams/dug-out

24. What was the condition of dams/dug-out prior to the GSOP? a. non-Functional () b. Functional () c. Did not have dams/dug-out

25. Has there been a change in condition of dams/dug-out as a result of the GSOP? Yes () No ()

26. If yes, what is the condition of dams/dug-out since the inception of the GSOP? a. non-Functional () b. Functional () c. Did not have dams/dug-out

27. The following may concern the opinion you hold about rural development programmes of the Builsa North District Assembly. Please read each statement and choose a response.

Questions	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral or undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree
The rural development strategies of the District are effective and efficient					
Lacks of infrastructure, lack of jobs and low agricultural output are the main cause of rural underdevelopment in the Builsa North District.					
Lack of administrative capacity to implement rural development programmes could be said to be some of the setbacks that have hindered the efficacy of rural development programme of the District.					

29. Which specific development issue would you like the District Assembly to assist in order to ensure the development of the locality? (Tick only one)

a. Infrastructural Development () b. Agricultural Development () c. Enterprises Development () d. Social intervention () e. Others () (Please specify).....

Implementation Mechanism

30. How did you get to know of the programme?

31. Are you involved in the planning of intervention(s) you receive from GSOP? Yes No

32. Who planned the interventions you received? Don't Know () GSOP Staff () Assembly member ()

33. In your view, will you say that the GSOP interventions are imposed on you? Yes() No()