

Climate Change and Income Security

Conference Report
30th September – 1st October, 2013
at Sunlodge Hotel, Tesano/Accra



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1. Background, Objective and Methodology

1.1. Background

Impacts of Climate Change are already visible in Ghana. The latest study “Climate Change and its impacts on the Livelihood of Farmers and Agricultural Workers in Ghana” has shown that a significant number of farmers have lost 30-50% of their harvest due to the changing weather conditions over the last years. Income security is not ensured. Farmers and their families are already or are going to face severe poverty. All family members need to have two or more jobs to survive. The survey has highlighted that almost 50 percent of the families with 3 up to 8 children can raise not more than 150 GHC with the agricultural job.

1.2. Conference Objective

The conference looked at the following aspects;

- Informing decision-makers on the situation
- Creating scenarios of what could happen in future if the state does not intervene
- Examples from other countries how the government has helped the agricultural sector/farmers to secure livelihood
- Brainstorming about ways of how to secure the livelihoods of farmers (e.g. alternative livelihoods, modernization of agricultural sector, ideas of economic strategies to increase output of sector, ideas of national programmes)

1.3. Conference Methodology

The two-day conference featured three presentations with a working group and brainstorming session. The first presentation which was delivered by Kingsley Ofei-Nkansah featured on “Income security caused by climate change – Facts and Figures”. The second presentation was “Creating scenarios - Ignoring the problem will widen the poverty trap”- by Daniela Kuzu and the final delivered by Simeon Tounde Dossou touched on “Securing income of farmers in other countries- any best practices?”.

Over twenty (20) participants from Ghana, Gambia, Nigeria, Benin, Tanzania, Togo, Sierra Leone, and Cameroon representing government institutions, trade unions, ministries, civil society, and the media took part in the conference.

2. Opening Session

2.1. Opening Statements

2.1.1. Daniela Kuzu, Resident Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

In her opening remarks the Resident Director of FES welcomed the participants to the second conference in this year on climate change. She said that income security is very important but has not received the needed attention over the years. She was particular glad that there were participants from across West Africa present to share ideas on the subject and best practices. She said that the foundation she represents conducted a study into “Climate Change and its impacts on the Livelihood of Farmers and Agricultural Workers in Ghana” in 2012. The study revealed that farmers in Ghana loses about 50 percent of their output due to bad weather conditions, there is nothing left to trade and this has a negative impact on their income. The study further revealed that 50 percent of families with 8 children per family get a monthly income up to 150 GHC and this makes it more difficult for the families to cater for the children’s education and health needs. The question now is whether to make the famers more entrepreneurial, invest more in the Agricultural sector etc. All these options, according to her, would be discussed at the two-day conference. She believed that participants should go back after the conference and feed their organisations with the outcome of the discussions and continue to talk about the issues raised to find a lasting solution to the issues. She assured all present that the results of the conference will not be left on the selves but pursued to ensure that the outcomes become a reality.

2.1.2. Kingsley Ofei-Nkansah, General Secretary, General Agricultural Workers Union

In his opening statement, the General Secretary of the General Agricultural Workers Union expressed much happiness about the diverse culture and experiences that participants will share at the conference. He said that a study which was undertaken last year on “Climate Change and its impacts on the Livelihood of Farmers and Agricultural Workers in Ghana” has necessitated the conference on climate change and income security. He said that most of African societies are commodity or market driven. Therefore government should regulate the market to insure that it does bring about development. Interventions are needed to ensure that the market do not rule our lives.

He also said that there is a need to have a deeper understanding of how climate change affects our lives as a continent. We must be concerned about how the working groups and civil society get insight into these issues in order to push for policies on income security. The issue is also about social participation; how do we get people to be involved in solving these problems. He emphasized on the fact that the decline in income has affected the standard of living especially in the areas of education for children, food security and healthcare. Trade unions and civil society should team up and start to push for policies to address these issues.

In conclusion, he said that the IPP report released this year shows that the worst case scenario could happened in about fifty (50) years earlier than predicted. And the recommendations are that our governments must act now to mitigate the catastrophe that could befall the world.

3. Presentations and Discussions

3.1. Presentation One (1), presented by Kingley Ofei-Nkansah, GAWU

Income security caused by climate change – Facts and Figures

Keynotes from presentation

This presentation on Climate Change and Income Security is based on the Study Report of *Climate Change and its Impact on Livelihoods of Farmers and Agricultural Workers*, undertaken by FES and GAWU

Undertaken in 2012 the Study sought to investigate the views of farmers and agricultural workers on climate change and its impact on their livelihoods. The study objectives and methodology have already been discussed in the previous FES-GAWU Workshop (April 2013). The survey covered all regions except Greater Accra Region. This Presentation is focussing on the “Climate Change and its Impact on Income Security”.

- In all nine regions covered by the survey majority of the respondents agree to the view that incomes decreased as a result of crop or livestock losses resulting from bad weather. 90.9% of all respondents state that their incomes decreased as a result of bad-weather related crop/livestock losses.
- The pattern of agreement is similar from region to region even though respondents from Ashanti and Upper East regions show a slightly higher percentage agreeing to the view that incomes decreased as a result of bad weather related losses
- The Upper East Region is the historically the driest part of the country and is also the region with the highest incidence of poverty.
- The number of children of a respondent is important for livelihoods as the incomes of the breadwinner is used to feed, clothe, house, educate, provide health care and meet other livelihood needs and respondents with children were all quick to agree to the observation that climate change has resulted in decreased incomes. 92.4% respondents with 6-7 children all agree to the observation that their incomes decreased.
- Incomes decreased for all irrespective of occupational status. 89.1% of those employed experienced decreased incomes, 91.3% of self-employed without employees agree and 91.5 percent of self-employed with employees also agree. It is significant to note that the self-employed with employees are largely informal economy workers scrapping for a living; decreased incomes for such respondents would usually translate into depressed wages and other conditions for the employees and or their families.
- If you are an employer (in this case in the informal economy) and you have children then the decrease in incomes resulting from bad weather has more implications for the respondents own children and the children of the employees.
- It is clear that the numbers of respondents who have 3-5 children are about twice as large as those with 1-2, 6-7 and 8 and above children.
- It is also the case that those with the 1-5 employees are about twice as large as those with 6-10 and 11 and above children and it is significant to note that most of the respondents observe decreased income resulting from bad weather have a family size in the 3-5 children category; the average number of children per national household size is 4.
- The survey brings out the fact that a vast majority of respondents have more than one source of income or is looking for another.
- Meeting family livelihood is even challenging for the respondents – given the bad weather.

- It is also a reflection of the low incomes from agriculture that is income levels from agricultural work of the respondents are low. 48.1% earn up to GHS150.00 per month and about 33% are earning over GHS200.00 per month. 44.7% of those with 3-5 children, 49.6% of those with 6-7 children and 42.8% of those with 8 or more children earn just up to GHS150 per month though this may be higher than the earnings based on daily minimum wage of (4.48 at the time of the study) it is certainly not enough to feed the family.
- A look at the incomes by regions shows that income levels in the northern regions especially Upper East and Northern regions is much lower than in the rest of the country.
- For most respondents income from agriculture this is not enough to pay living expenses of the family.
- The number of children that the respondent has does not make much difference to the assessment that incomes from agriculture are insufficient for family expenses.
- The living standard of respondents' household declined in several areas. Education of children suffered the highest tolls as 64%.
- About 31% of all adults never went to school; Current school attendance rate of school going age persons at all level of education in Ghana is 86 %.

In conclusion, the decline in living standards have been more concentrated in certain areas of

- Education for children – 64%,
- Food and clothing – 45.6 %,
- Health care – 32.1% and
- Housing, electricity and water – 21.7%.

This has implications for targeted social protection schemes, labour market policies and social dialogue at all levels. There is a need of exploring the possibilities for linking social protection schemes with productive activity.

3.2. Presentations Two (2), presented by Daniela Kuzu, FES Ghana

Creating scenarios - Ignoring the problem will widen the poverty trap

Keynotes from presentation

The current situation of farmers is characterised by:

- Small Scale Farming,
- little income – under poverty line,
- big family size,
- loss of crops (own source of food),
- Increasing living expenses and
- no alternative employment opportunities.

In addition, states in West Africa have high debts, empty bank accounts, mismanagement of resources and different shades of bad governance.

In creating a **negative scenario** the following assumptions are made:

- That climate change effects will increase,
- Living expenses will increase,
- the population will equally increase,

- The state budget do not allow for support and
- The economy of Ghana leaves no alternative for farmers.

If the above factors remain constant the following results may occur:

- More loss of crops and livestock - poverty and hunger will increase,
- Dependency on state will be disastrous,
- Vulnerability and Marginalization increases – no access to schools and health care system,
- Life expectation goes down,
- Illiteracy will increase,
- GDP may suffer,
- People will feel left alone,
- Disappointment in politicians,
- Hatred against the elite - breeding ground for extremist and criminal groups,
- Social unrest likely due to frustration and
- misconduct will increase.

On the other hand, if the following **positive assumptions** are made there could be a better picture for the future:

- Climate Change effects cannot be mitigated generally, but state plays active role for efficient National Climate Change Programme,
- living expenses will be monitored and limited by government,
- State transforms economy and establishes an efficient and transparent management of state budget,
- Vision is developed and
- Agricultural sector will be modernized and works effectively
- Farmers (or family members) find alternative livelihood in manufacturing industry or elsewhere (decent work, appropriate salary) and
- Creation of formal employment.

If these **positive factors** are met the following could be the resultant outcomes:

- Innovative methods have been found to mitigate Climate Change,
- Prices for food, rent, schooling and health care will become affordable,
- Transformation of economy and modernization of agriculture created jobs, opened new sales markets and increased output, competitiveness and exports,
- Output increase through modernized agricultural sector = more income (in combination with sales markets)
- Job creation in the formal sector (expansion) increases base for social security system. State can increase standards of education and health care system through tax revenue and social contributions.
- Alternative and secure job opportunities means more income (if all adults of a family work) – income base will be secured.

3.3. Questions and Discussions on first two presentations

Concerning the first presentation, all participants agreed to the fact that the income levels are very low regardless of the number of children a family had. This is a worrying trend and it was therefore suggested that further studies must be conducted to find root cause of the problem. Some discussants also wanted to know the time frame in which the study was conducted, if the respondents understood what climate change is and the respondents own view on ways of mitigating its effect. Also some wanted to know whether there were other factors that impacted on the low output by farmers and its percentage.

Other questions included the geographical area in which the research was conducted; where the decline in incomes were much present; in which other economic sectors the impact of climate change was visible; which actions have been taken after the research findings; and how close the negative scenario is to reality?

In response, Kingsley said that the study centred on incomes and the respondents perception on climate change. It did not capture other factors that impact on low output by farmers. And also the issue of other factors that impact on the low output by farmers were not captured and thus serve as the limitation to the study. He also said that the research targeted all types of farmers (small and large scale famers). The decline in incomes were observed in all nine regions where the research was conducted more especially the Upper East and Ashanti Region.

On the issue of the cost of mitigating the impact of climate change, Daniela responded that this is only a matter of political will. However, it will be more costly in the future to mitigate the impact of climate change if no actions will be taken now. The negative scenario is closer to reality than the positive scenario. This is because our governments have failing to act. The world is currently experiencing impacts of climate change, namely the so-called "Climate Refugees" - a situation where people migrate in search of land to cultivate to feed their families or find other sources of income.

Countries should allow multinational companies to invest and operate in their countries but they should be regulated in a way that they do not become abusive.

Participants from Ghana and Nigeria observed the impact of climate change on other sectors are being realised now. In both countries, nomadic herdsmen are travelling to the south in search of grazing fields for their animals. This situation has sparked conflicts amongst the nomads and the farmers in the south. In Ghana the northern regions period for Shea nut picking has reduced drastically due to the effect of climate change.

Some were of the view that the effect of climate change has affected farmers more than any other group in society therefore the study was worth it. Others argued that the most polluting countries are the emerging economies or the Newly Industrialised Countries (NIC) and since there are no borders in the atmosphere it affects the entire world. Therefore such countries should be pushed to help developing countries to implement policies to mitigate the problem.

Governments were also encouraged to formulate and implement policies that will help mitigate the problem.

3.4. Presentation Three (3), presented by Siméon Toundé Dossou, Secretary General of FESYNDERE, Benin

Securing Income of Farmers in Other Countries: Best Practices – the Benin Case

Key notes from Presentation

Benin shares borders with Niger, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Togo and Atlantic Ocean in the South. It is divided into three agro-climatic zones characterized by high rainfall variation from one year to another. Its size is 114,763km square with only 23,000km square being cultivated for Agric purposes. Of a population of ten million (10 million); seventy (70%) percent are farmers of which seventy-five (75%) percent are small scale farmers. Agriculture contributes twenty-three-point-six (23.6%) to Gross Domestic product while contributing ninety (90%) to export earnings. The share of agriculture in state revenue is fifteen (15%) percent with an average income of farmers of \$243.2.

More information of Beninese agriculture at a glance:

- Main food crops are maize, sorghum, cassava, yam, groundnut and cowpea etc,
- Main cash crops are cotton, pineapple, cashew etc,
- Benin agriculture depends mainly on the rainfall - two raining seasons in the south and one in the north,
- Benin agricultural production is facing majors challenges such as:
 - High pest pressure (crops and stocks)
 - Poor access to lucrative market, to fertilizers and relevant and qualitative information by producers.

Farmers' Income and Food Security

- It is shown that in the southern and central Benin, climate change caused a decline in crop yields and caused food insecurity,
- Erosion is accentuated, loss of humus or organic part of the agricultural land due to the violence of the rainfall,
- Climate change has an indirect effect on the availability of farm labor and the prices of agricultural commodities,
- Rural youth, discouraged by lower crop yield and climate disturbances migrate to town in search of better life, and
- Rural exodus with climate change increased and influenced national agricultural production. If major technological improvements are not made to the agricultural production process, labor will become a limiting factor for Beninese agriculture.

What was done to improve the farmers' incomes by different stakeholders?

- The government of Benin in its overall policy is trying to improve the performance of Beninese agriculture and farmers incomes by implemented several types of programs:
 - Through projects
 - Through facilitating access to agricultural fertilizers for producers such as for cotton production and food and gardens produces

Program for Agricultural Development Sectors Support (PADFA)

The overall objectives is to promote technical innovations to develop an efficient and sustainable agriculture in the long run by acting on the production and farmers incomes, the reduction of their physical and economic risk and diversification of activities such as:

- Increase outreach and research of improved varieties,
- Updating the agricultural calendar per production zones,
- Facilitation of access to adequate farm inputs,
- Development and dissemination of technical itineraries adapted to new climatic constraints,
- Improved storage of crops,
- Development of lowland and irrigated areas, and
- Construction and protection of water retention structures for agro-pastoral purposes.

The Agency of Agriculture Motorization (PPMA-BENIN)

The programme equipped the farmers with cheap motorized equipments to reduce stressfulness of farm work and increased area planted and production. The impact of the programme can not be evaluated at the moment.

Organic Production Diversified Systems (SYPROBIO)

is a participatory project to improve the income and food security of farmers. It is funded by Europe Aid/EU and covers three countries in Western Africa namely Benin, Burkina Faso and Mali. The duration of the project is five years and it started in January 2011 and will end 2015. The priority of the project is to provide to farmers innovative, simple, economical production techniques protecting the environment to fight poverty and make a recommendation to sectorial policies in relation to food security, adaptation to climate change and strengthening of agricultural research institutions in West Africa.

3.5. Question and Discussion on last presentation

After the presentation participants were curious to find out whether the system works in Benin since similar programs are being run in almost the whole Sub-Saharan Africa. Some also wanted to know the peculiar challenges and success stories from Benin.

In response, Siméon said that these programs started in 2008 when the government imported mechanized farming equipments from India and distributed them across the country. The program is successful because the government controls the programs unlike before when they were in private hands. Farming inputs are owned by farmer groups and they are rented out to farmer.

In Nigeria, through the use of mobile phones, farmers are registered and farm inputs are centered to the mat special collection centre. These registrations are done through their Chiefs. But about forty (40%) percent of farm produce is wasted.

To increase yields, participants suggested that farmers should plant in rows and also cultivate new farm land to ensure that old farmlands are left to fallow. They were also advised to practice shifting cultivation.

Farmers are also to be educated on the advantages and disadvantages of both organic and inorganic fertilizers. This will help them to know which fertilizer to use at what stage of planting. Participants were of the view that government should organize a constant market available to buy from the farmers.

Storage facilities and processing factories are established to add value to the farm produce and to prevent losses.

In Gambia, it was observed that it seemed difficult for farmers to quote their own price for their produce. This reduces the amount of profit compared to their investments. On the issue of marketing for the farmers, it was suggested that a market research must be done before entreating farmers to cultivate certain crops. This research would give indication of the type of product and the quantity that a particular market needs before farmers cultivate it.

In Ghana, a portal, www.esoko.com was created to help connect farmers and buyers.

In Cameroon, the government imported tractors to be used in mechanizing the agriculture sector but they were left to deteriorate after their exhibition. This was because there were no trained drivers to man the tractors.

Participants also agreed that civil society should advocate for an improvement of the sector. This is to ensure that government devotes much attention to the sector. Civil society should monitor policies and programmes designed to improve on the sector. They should also push government to adopt other policies that have not been implemented.

Participants concluded that it takes political will to ensure that all these policies are implemented. Therefore it was suggested that public education should be taken seriously to ensure that the citizenry are aware of these policies and demand their implementation.

4. Open Discussion

How to mitigate threats which are caused by bad weather conditions - What can a State do to react?

To mitigate threats caused by bad weather conditions, participants suggested that there should be intense education on afforestation. When trees are cut down they should be replaced immediately. Also existing laws protecting the environment should be strictly implemented. Best farming practices should be used by farmers during cultivation. Farmers should be encouraged to use farming methods that ensure environmental sustainability. There should also be proper water management.

Policy makers are also to be educated on research finding and changes in climatic conditions. A national policy on climate change should be formulated and implemented across the African continent. Wetlands and secret grooves should be protected by traditional leaders. Forest and other natural resources should be used for tourism purposes instead of destroying them for other purposes.

Civil society was also encouraged to monitor policies that are set out to protect the environment and embark on public education. The issuing of licenses to logging companies should be much under control. The community should be educated on best logging practices. There should be much engagement between civil society and farmers. Farmers must be educated constantly to upgrade their knowledge on newly improved farming methods.

Households should be encouraged to plant at least two economic trees per house. This will increase food production. Also there should be policies to encourage more people to farm as it is done in Gambia.

The developed countries should be made to embark on mitigation measures that ensure environmental sustainability. And they must reduce their carbon emission levels.

Behavioral change is also needed to change the mindset and attitudes of people towards the environment. Monitoring and evaluation should be intensified by regulating bodies and civil society groups. Alternative sources of energy must be found which do not pose threats to the environment.

Festivals and other platforms should be used for advocacy and education on environmental sustainability.

In conclusion, it was suggested that there should be a transformation of agriculture to ensure food security and environmental sustainability and also states in Africa should embark on industrialization. More industries must be established to absorb the output from farmers and value added to it before it goes unto the market.

5. Working Groups

5.1. Modernisation of the agriculture sector and economic strategies to increase out of the sector

Current situation

The agricultural sector in Africa is characterised by primitive and crude farming methods. Majority of farmers continue to use hoes and cutlasses. There are small farm land and poor access to markets. Most farmers are peasant farmers and thus farm only to feed their families and only sell when there are surpluses. Most farmers are not educated and therefore lack knowledge on new and improved farming methods. Most of them have no knowledge on pest and weed control. There are no linkages between farmers, researchers and the financing agencies. There are bad road networks to the farming communities, no potable water and electricity. There is also a lack of irrigation facilities, poor yielding seeds and poor soil fertility. Furthermore, farmers put no value in addition to their outputs.

Solutions

The best known solution is Agricultural transformation. The entire agricultural sector must be transformed. The State must lead in research, extension services, marketing and helping farmers to form cooperatives. There should be mechanisation of the sector through the use of tractor, combined harvesters, ploughs and other equipments that will increase output and reduce human efforts. Fabrication of simple tools should also be encouraged. The use of animal drawn ploughs and other local mechanised methods should be embarked upon.

The group also suggested that there should be reforms made on the land tenure system. In some countries in Africa, women cannot own land for any purpose including farming. Some farmers also do not get access to arable land suitable for farming. The modernisation process should be owned by the farmers. They should part of the efforts by government to modernise the sector. Framers should be part of committees' setup to draw plans for the sector.

Information on modern technology and improved farming methods should be introduced to the sector. New methods of planting, weed control, application of fertilizers and improved seeds should be made available to farmers. This will aid in the increase of output by farmers. Farmers should also be educated on ways of adapting to the change in the environment especially in the climatic conditions.

Furthermore, extension officers should be re-organised and their capacity must increase. The job of extension officers is key to the transformation of the agricultural sector. Extension officers should be trained to sensitise and educate farmers on new farming methods, fertiliser and weed control. There should be more funds made available for research into agriculture. Research should be an ongoing process.

Value addition should be an integral part of the transformation process. Farms output should not only be sold as raw materials on the market. Agricultural processing companies must be established to add value to the outputs of agriculture. Financing of agriculture should be mainstreamed into the national financial system. Farmers should have constant access to credit facilities to enable them mechanizing their farms.

In conclusion, the group mentioned that civil societies in West Africa should coordinate efforts to support agriculture. They should serve as an advocacy group to push for the formulations and implementation of policies to support the sector. They ought to also monitor government programs on agriculture.

5.2. Possible programmes initiated by the State to support Farmers in case of Income Losses

Possible causes of income losses

The group identified that possible causes of income losses could include low yield as a result of inadequate and erratic rainfall, lack of access to ready markets and poor transportation facilities. Inadequate storage facilities, bush fires and poor knowledge of farmers on post harvest management were also identified.

Government Programmes

- **Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty**

This was a government of Ghana intervention to reduce poverty. The programme was challenged by irregular and inadequate funding. There was also the problem of poor identification mechanism for target beneficiaries.

- **Private-Public Partnership Programmes, Crop Insurance**

This programme was to serve as insurance against crop failure, but for lack of reliable data on rainfall pattern and other information challenged its success. And because of the unpredictability of the sector, the premiums were high.

- **Ghana Social Opportunity Project (GSOP)**

Due to inadequate and irregular funding the programme could not be sustained.

- **Buffet Stock Programme**

This programme was initiated by the government of Ghana to serve as a means of storing excess food for the off season. Though it is a good initiative, it suffered as a result of low prices for the farmers produce and inadequate storage facilities.

- **Rice Sector Support Project**

This programme was aimed at increasing the production of rice production. The project has been faced with problems of inadequate equipments for the sector and low capacity of contractors to develop land for rice cultivation.

Proposed programmes

- Seed banking programme
- Selective fertilizer subsidy programme
- Food distribution programme, Public Private Partnership
- Public-Private Partnership distribution of aid to farmers e.g. Trade unions, MOFA, NADMO
- Public-Private Partnership in food transportation.

5.3. Offering alternative livelihoods- is there any way of alternative opportunity?

In offering alternative livelihood, participants suggested the following:

Processing Industries

These industries can be established by community based local groups or by Public-Private Partnership agreement. This will ensure that farmers in a locality can work at these factories when the peak season is over. It will also help to add up financially to the farmers' income. Through a properly conducted market research, industries can be established based on the output of farmers in a given community. There should be skills training for local groups who intend to establish factories within their locality. These processing industries can be established with finance from micro-credit firms or "susu" which has been contributed by the farmers. Entrepreneurial drive should be encouraged amongst farmers.

Handicraft

Handicraft was suggested as another alternative for farmers. Farmers should be trained on how to make artefacts for local consumption. Tools and crafts that are used in everyday life could be manufactured by these farmers aside their traditional framing activity. Production of these artefact can be self financed or through the support of government, non-governmental agencies, or savings and loan companies.

Other Alternatives

Other alternatives included animal rearing, tailoring and textile making (tie and dye). The women farmers may sell food, make dresses for sale or go into hair dressing to gain extra income. These and also the production of non-traditional commodities were suggested as alternative livelihood for farmers.

6. Discussion on Group Presentation by Working Groups

Participants were of the view that government should formulate, implement and monitor policies that will increase the yields from agriculture and the incomes of farmers. It was agreed also that the sector must be mechanised and factories established to add value to the outputs from farms before they are sent to the markets. Public-Private Partnership should be devoid of partisanship in order that they become effective.

Participants also observed that states do not run businesses well therefore it should always partner a firm whenever there are business dimension to a project. Also policies need political will in order to see the day of light therefore politicians were urged to be committed to sector such as the agriculture. There also must be a cultural and attitudinal change amongst farmers. There should be constant education market research should be intensified before encouraging farmers to cultivate certain types of crops. This will ensure that post harvest losses are reduced.

Interestingly, some participants were of the view that trade unions advocate for Public-Private Partnership is counterproductive. This is because private businesses only enter into such partnerships only to make profits at the detriment of the ordinary farmer. Therefore the government should have the capacity to handle issues in the sector and be responsible for it.

Corporate Organisations were also entreated to invest in the agriculture sector, most especially firms who purchase their raw materials from farmers or the sector. Farmers were also encouraged to look for markets in the Sub-region instead of the highly competitive European market. Above all monitoring and evaluation was to be done consistently by civil society groups on policy implementation in the sector.

7. Conclusion

Closing remarks by Daniela Kuzu, FES Ghana

The Resident Director of FES said that her foundation has a way of entreating policy makers to take up recommendations from the conference. She assured all participants that the foundation with its partners work hard on informing the politicians on the outcome of this conference. It has been the aim of FES to support Trade Unions in West Africa since 2005 to champion the cause of minority groups and to help push for sustainable policies.

Also for the success of all trade unions in West Africa, much effort depends on Ghana and Nigeria. In 50 years the worst case scenario may happen and therefore we must encourage our governments to act now.