

## Australia and Ghana sign an Exchange of Letters to support Ghanaian Farmer-Based Organisations



**Agriculture Minister Humado and Australian High Commissioner Adamson signing the exchange flanked by (left) Dr Amezah, Director, Agricultural Extension Services and (right) Ms Zabeta Moutafis, Head of Australia's Agency for International Development, West Africa**

On 11 April, the Australian High Commissioner to Ghana, H.E. Joanna Adamson, and Ghana's Minister for Food and Agriculture, Hon. Clement Humado, signed an Exchange of Letters to build the capacity of farmer-based organisations in Ghana with Australian government support of A\$ 1.4 million over the next two years.

This assistance forms part of the Australian Government's wider support to agriculture and food security in Ghana and in West Africa through the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and the Australia Africa Partnerships Facility (AAPF).

The Australian support will be used to train Ministry Extension staff in all 10 regions to improve on their support to farmer-based organisations. Extension officers will receive training in agribusiness and farm management, agriculture value-chain analysis and management, post-harvest management and contemporary extension delivery methods.

It will also help the Ministry to improve coordination of farmer-based organisations in Ghana, and develop the capacity of selected apex bodies representing farmer-based organisations, so they can improve their services to their members.

Australian support is strongly aligned with partner countries' efforts to implement the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP). Important initiatives supported by Australia include a partnership on agricultural research and development between the Australian research organisation CSIRO and National Agricultural Research Organisations in West African countries (CORAF/WECARD); and the provision of a range of scholarships for long and short term agricultural courses under the Australian Awards for Africa Program.

Since 2010, 46 Ghanaians have received Australian Awards Scholarships to study agriculture and food security in Australia.



**Agriculture Minister Humado and High Commissioner Adamson exchanging the signed letters**