

European Union and Germany boost agricultural resilience in Northern Ghana as REACH Project concludes

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 11, 2026 , Wa, Upper West Region – The European Union and the German Government, through the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), have successfully concluded the “Resilience against Climate Change – REACH” project in Northern Ghana. Since its inception, the project has significantly boosted the adaptive capacity of smallholder farmers and 200 vulnerable communities against the impacts of climate change.

Representatives of the EU Delegation to Ghana, together with the Regional Minister for the Upper West Region, and officials from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA), met some beneficiary communities in Buka, Babile, Duori, and Duang before joining government officials and project partners for the official closing ceremony in Wa.

Head of Infrastructure and Sustainable Development, Ms. Paulina ROZYCKA remarked: “Climate change does not respect borders. Its effects are felt most acutely by those who depend directly on the land. The European Union is proud to have supported farming communities across the Upper West Region since 2020 as part of our broader efforts to encourage climate resilient agriculture in Northern Ghana.”

Turning Dry Seasons into Productive Months

In Duori, the change is visible. A 200-meter irrigation canal now draws water from the local dam, enabling farmers to cultivate 100 acres of land throughout the dry season. Before this infrastructure was in place, farming stopped when the rains ended. Today, around 100 households grow vegetables such as cabbage year-round, securing a more reliable income and food supply even in the harshest months.

This was not a solution handed down from outside. Through Community Action Planning, developed by the REACH project, residents of Duori identified irrigation as their most critical need and helped shape how the investment was designed and managed. The result is infrastructure that communities have a stake in, and a local Water Users Association continues to maintain.

Protecting the Harvest

Further east, the Duang community faced a different but equally pressing problem: post-harvest losses. Farmers often had to choose between selling produce at low prices immediately after harvest or watching it spoil. To address this, the REACH project installed a solar-powered cold storage facility capable of preserving up to 10 tons of vegetables annually – including tomatoes, okra, green pepper, and onions – allowing farmers to wait for better market conditions before selling.

Here too, Community Action Planning was central to the project's success. By anchoring the initiative in a locally driven process, the community took ownership from the outset. The facility is managed by a unit committee and funded through user fees, ensuring it remains operational without external support.

Investing in the Future: The Babile Training Hub

At the heart of the project's long-term strategy is the Babile Agriculture Station in Lawra District, which has been developed into a premier training hub for extension agents, practitioners, and partner organizations. The project constructed a 12-bed hostel and established an extensive demonstration area for Conservation Agriculture and tree crops seedlings.

A 15-acre Conservation Agriculture demonstration area, backed by three solar-mechanized boreholes, a rehabilitated dam, and soil erosion equipment, gives trainees practical exposure to sustainable farming techniques. The station is equipped with tractors and specialized conservation tools including rippers and planters. To date, more than 1,000 farmers and extension officers have been trained here.

Beyond the infrastructure, the station is designed to anchor Conservation Agriculture knowledge within the region. By building the capacity of MoFA extension agents and local practitioners, the project ensures that sustainable farming methods continue to spread through peer learning and local expertise – without depending on continued external inputs.

A Shared Success

The closing ceremony in Wa brought together community members, farmers, and government officials to mark the end of the project and reflect on its results. Farmers, Assembly Members and MMDA officers shared firsthand accounts of how their lives and livelihoods have changed and their organizations' impact has improved. The event concluded with an award ceremony recognizing the many partner organizations whose collaboration made the project's achievements possible.

While the REACH project has officially ended, the infrastructure – from irrigation canals to cold storage units – remains under the care of local communities, MoFA and the 14 District Assemblies serving as lasting proof of what the collaboration between the European Union, the German Government, and the Government of Ghana can deliver for the people of Northern Ghana.

REACH is funded by the European Union (EU) and Germany. It is implemented in Northern Ghana by GIZ under the EU-Ghana Agriculture Programme.