The University of Ghana, McGill University, and World Vision are working with the local District Assembly, the Department of Food and Agriculture (DoFA), Ghana Health Service, Ghana Education Service, Heifer International, and the Upper Manya Krobo rural bank in the Upper Manya Krobo District (UMKD) of Ghana to strengthen local resources and services that will help improve health, nutrition, economic well-being, gender and diversity, and food security in rural communities.

**NUTRITION INTEGRATION**

- **Integration** refers to the coordination of services across different sectors and through different institutional levels. An example of nutrition integration in the agriculture sector is home gardening. 1,2
- Home gardens, together with other interventions, can contribute to address household food insecurity and enrich diets of women and children. 1
- Challenges of nutrition integration include institutional factors such as lack of communication among relevant stakeholders, and vertical funding, planning, and evaluation mechanisms. 2
- Household members, community institutions, and higher-level socioeconomic and political bodies need to work together to reinforce and ensure that positive outcomes of nutrition interventions are maintained. 4

References:

**News From the Field**

- Nutrition integration is important within both governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Local institutions contribute to the diet of the residents of UMKD. This provides various windows of opportunities for nutrition actions.
Project Activities

- District staff from the Department of Food and Agriculture (DoFA), Ghana Health Service (GHS), Ghana Education Service (GES), District Assembly, and Upper Manya Kro Rural Bank) participate in the project as partners and as participants.

1. Project partners work in identifying local challenges, discussing community training curriculum, engaging the community, and collaborating in community training.

In 2016, the DoFA and the GHS interacted with the project on multiple occasions (45 and 35 times, respectively). There were also interactions with the Upper Manya Kro Rural Bank, District Assembly, and the GES.

2. As participants, staff and volunteers from the different public and private institutions within UKMD receive different types of training.

Pre- and post-test knowledge score differences were significant for all training sessions (p<0.0001).

Number of Project-partner Interactions per Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Interactions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*To date

The Project is funded by the Government of Canada, through Global Affairs Canada.

For more information, please contact: Dr. Esi Colecraft, Local Project Leader Department of Nutrition and Food Science, University of Ghana P.O. Box LG 134, Legon, Ghana

Additional funding is provided by: McGill University, World Vision Canada, Population Council

Website: http://www.mcgill.ca/cine/research/building-capacity-sustainable-livelihoods-and-health-ghana