



## Newsletter May 2017

**May has involved lots of new faces in the Trax office, staff travelling around the country, lots of fieldwork and project development. As we move into the farming season here in northern Ghana, we continue to support rural farming communities daily. Read on to find out more about what we have been busy with this month.**

### Field Visits in Bunkpurugu-Yunyoo District

Two of Trax's staff based in Bolgatanga visited Bunkpurugu-Yunyoo District in the Northern Region, where some of our project communities are. As part of the fundraising and project-development team, their visit was to assess the communities needs for future projects, and to establish the effectiveness of our past projects by finding out whether our farmers are still practicing some of the methods thought them.



Our staff were very pleased to observe that farmers are still practicing the methods we thought them on their farms, up to 28 years ago. The farmers were very welcoming and Trax staff had a nice time visiting their farms.

While in Bunkpurugu, Trax staff also visited Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) groups and they were being very successful. In fact, most of the women could not hide their excitement about how it had brought transformation to their lives and that of their families. When Trax started facilitating VSLAs in Yunyoo community there was just one group, but because it has been so beneficial more groups have formed and we now have six groups in Yunyoo. It is always the priority of Trax to transform the lives of our farmers and support their self-reliance.



Women in Bisting celebrate the first share-out from their VSLA

### **Celebrating the Dedication of Disiwani Laar**

At Trax we recognise the critical value of our staff and their dedication to the farming communities they support.



This year, Disiwani Laar, our Senior Field Officer in Northern Region, is celebrating 20 years of service with Trax. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Disiwani for her work and dedication to improving the lives of poor communities.

### **Farming season starts with variable rainfall**

Due to the geographical distance between Trax's two project areas they experience different rainfall. In Northern Region farmers were able to plant their seeds at the start of May.



However, due to poor rainfall, many farmers in Upper East Region have still not planted four weeks later. We hope the rainfall will improve in both regions soon to ensure a promising farming season and good yield.

### **Partner with Trax**

If you are interested in partnering with Trax or you want to make a donation, please contact us via email at: [info@traxghana.com](mailto:info@traxghana.com)

### **Trax welcomes six students for research placements**

We recognise the value and necessity of investing education, youth, and the next generation of people working for organisations like Trax. Over the years Trax has hosted many students who are studying international development or related subjects. Students have come from around the world to complete research placements with Trax. Notably, we have an ongoing agreement to host two undergraduate students from the University for Development Studies (UDS) in Ghana every year.

This month we have welcomed six students joining us under two separate placements. Two students joined us from UDS for three months. They are working on a research project on community advocacy in Bongo District.

Another four students joined us as part of a partnership with World University Service of Canada (WUSC) and Uniterra. One student has come to Ghana representing #studentswithoutborders, coming from the University of Waterloo in Canada. Her three colleagues are joining Trax from UDS. The four of them are collaborating on research into the guinea fowl subsector and during their 3-month placement with Trax they will be spending time doing fieldwork in three locations around Upper East Region.

We'll be sharing updates on the two research projects and student's work during the coming months. We are very pleased to be able to welcome all six students to Trax!