

**IN THE FIRST MEETING OF THE SECOND
SESSION OF THE THIRD PARLIAMENT**

OF

THE FOURTH REPUBLIC OF GHANA

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOOD,
AGRICULTURE AND COCOA AFFAIRS**

ON THE

**2002 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE
MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

MARCH, 2002

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AND COCOA AFFAIRS ON THE 2002 ANNUAL BUDGET
ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Following the presentation of the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of Government to this House by the Hon. Minister of Finance on Thursday, 21st February 2002 the estimates of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture was referred to your Committee for consideration and report in accordance with Standing No. 140(4) and 175 and Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana.

The Committee held a number of meetings and granted hearing to:

- a. The Minister of Agriculture, Food and Cocoa Affairs,
Hon. (Maj.) (Rtd.) Courage Quarshigah

b. The Minister of State responsible for Fisheries,
Hon. Ismael Ashietey

c. The Chief Director of the MOFA

and representatives from the following
agencies/institutions:

- Policy Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
Directorate
- Statistics, Research and Information
Directorate
- Agricultural Engineering Services Directorate
- Agricultural Extension Service Directorate
- Women in Agricultural Development
- Animal Production Directorate
- Human Resource Development and Management
- Crop Services Directorate
- Root and Tuber Improvement Project
- Lands and Water Management Project
- Special Programme for Food Security
- Lowland Rice Development Project
- Coconut Project
- Fisheries Directorate

- Fisheries Commission
- Veterinary Services Directorate
- Village Infrastructure Project
- Irrigation Development Authority
- ICOUR
- Grains and Legumes Development Board
- LACOSREP
- UNADEP

The Committee is grateful and acknowledges their support and co-operation.

2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- (i) The 1992 Constitution of Ghana
- (ii) The Standing Orders of Parliament
- (iii) The Draft Annual Estimates of the Ministry ending 31st December 2002

3.0 MISSION STATEMENT

The thrust of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture is to pursue sound policies that would ensure food security and promote sustainable agricultural growth and development.

The Ministry is also to provide efficient technical and extension services to prospective and practicing farmers, fishermen, agricultural related industries and institutions. In doing this, they are to ensure that the gender issue is addressed and the environment is not degraded.

The Ministry is also to monitor and evaluate all programmes and maintain a highly motivated, efficient and dedicated staff.

4.0 OBJECTIVES

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture intends to pursue the following objectives for the year

- i. To formulate sound policies that would promote increased agricultural productivity and reduce poverty in a gender friendly environment.
- ii. To promote and provide efficient technical services, technologies and measures that will diversify and increase food and agricultural production for domestic use and export in an environmentally sustainable manner.

- iii. To ensure the availability of timely reliable and relevant data on agriculture and information flow for efficient management.
- iv. To facilitate farmers/fishermen/processors access to credit, storage, market and other facilities.
- v. To establish strengthen and maintain linkages within the sector and with relevant institutions/individuals.

These objectives, it is hoped, would be accomplished through the combined efforts of the following:

- i. Policy Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate
- ii. Agriculture Engineering Service Directorate
- iii. Agricultural Extension Services Directorate
- iv. Animal Directorate
- v. Plant Protection and Regulatory Service
- vi. Crop Services Directorate
- vii. Irrigation Development Authority
- viii. Veterinary Services Directorate
- ix. Fisheries Directorate

- x. Human Resource Development and Management
- xi. Grains and Legume Development Board
- xii. Women in Agriculture Development
- xiii. ICOUR
- xiv. Village Infrastructure Project
- xv. Low land Rice Development Project

5.0 EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

To achieve the sector's set objectives for the year, an amount of ₦349,986,000,000 has been appropriated. This is made up of G.O.G allocation of ₦102,688,000,000 and Donor Inflow of ₦247,298m representing 71% and 29% respectively.

The functional breakdown of the Ministry's allocation is as follows:

	G.O.G.	Donor
Personnel Emolument	₦69,646,000,000	₦13,626,000,000
Administration	₦14,502,000,000	₦30,142,000,000
Service	₦16,418,000,000	₦85,395,000,000
Investment	<u>₦ 2,122,000,000</u>	<u>₦118,135,000,000</u>
Total	<u>₦102,688,000,000</u>	<u>₦247,298,000,000</u>

Grand Total: ¢349,986,000,000

6.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee noted that even though the agriculture sector has made great strides in its quest to make the country self-sufficient in food production, it is constrained by a number of problems:

1. Late disbursement of budgetary allocation causes delays in project and programme implementation thereby making the achievement of set goals unattainable.

Further the Committee observed that some divisions did not receive their budgeted allocations in the year 2001 particularly in respect of service and investment.

The Committee therefore urges the MOF to ensure that budgetary allocations to MOFA are released regularly, timely and in full.

2. The Committee was not happy with the G.O.G. commitment on the release of counterpart funding. Most donor related

projects like the Village Infrastructure Project stand on the brink of termination mainly because of Government's inability to match donor inflows with its share of counterpart funding.

The Committee therefore urges the MOF to live up to its responsibilities in meeting its obligations since the country stands to gain on such projects.

3. The Committee noted that the staffing levels at various divisions of the Ministry is poor and realized that not only is the sector ministry losing its cream of specialized/technical staff to the NGO's and other institutions but permission to replace staff who have left the Ministry is not granted by the Ministry of Finance on time.

The Committee is of the view that if really the Ministry intends to maintain a highly motivated, dedicated and efficient staff, morale should be improved and replacements should not be unduly delayed.

4. The Committee took note of concerns expressed by the Irrigation Development Authority to the fact that its

activities are Capital Intensive in nature yet their budgetary allocations are not adequate, since they are tied to that of the Ministry.

The Committee therefore recommends a separate and enhanced budgetary allocations to I.D.A. if our vision of moving Ghana away from Rain-fed Agriculture is to be realized.

5. The Committee noted the positive strides made by MOFA in Rabies Control and the local production of vaccines for the Protection the local poultry against the Newcastle disease.

The Committee lauded the efforts of the Veterinary Service Directorate and urges them to ensure that the vaccine is made available to all poultry farmers throughout the country.

6. The Committee also noted the danger posed to the Health of the public by the consumption of infested meat. However, there appears to be a conflict in the inspection of

meat between Health Inspectors from the Ministry of Health and the Veterinary Services Directorate.

The Committee therefore urges the two sector ministries to co-ordinate and resolve this conflict as a matter of urgency. Furthermore the Committee urges the Ministry to expedite action on the Draft Meat Inspection Law which is yet to receive Parliamentary scrutiny in order to avert any major catastrophe by way of disease.

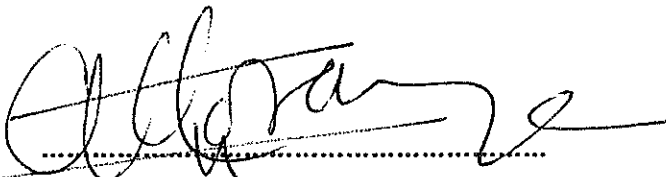
7. The Committee observed that very little attention is paid to our Marine environment. The Fisheries Research and Development Unit, the Committee noted, is ill-equipped to carry out any research work on our Marine environment.

The Committee aware of the importance of marine research, therefore urges the Government to equip the Unit with the necessary tools to enable it play its functions efficiently.

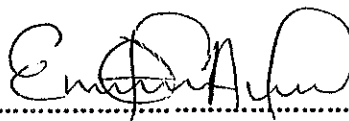
7.0 CONCLUSION

The Committee after thorough examination of the 2002 Draft Estimates of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture recommends that the House approves the sum of **¢349,986,000,000** allocated to the Ministry for the year ending 31st December 2002.

Respectfully submitted.



HON. ALEX K. KORANKYE
CHAIRMAN OF THE
COMMITTEE



E. OPOKU-ACHEAMPONG
CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE



ASANTE AMOAKO-ATTA
SUPERVISING CLERK