

## Forest and tree-based livelihoods in Ghana's High Forest Zone: Reforestation schemes



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Having lost 90% of its tropical rainforest in fewer than 50 years, reforestation schemes are becoming increasingly important in Ghana as a means of restoring tree cover and sources of livelihoods. These schemes may also become important in Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD). This infosheet provides an overview of the various schemes and the actors and livelihood benefits associated with them.



### The Modified Taungya System (MTS)

**What it is:** A legally-binding land lease and benefit sharing agreement in tree-planting schemes where farmers are co-owners of the trees and can plant food crops until the trees mature.

**Benefits:** Farmers receive 100% of the agricultural crop proceeds and 40% of revenues from harvestable timber trees. 40% of the tree revenues are for the Forestry Commission (FC), 15% for the land owner (stools) and 5% for adjacent communities.

**Applies to:** Degraded forest reserves.

**Actors involved:** MTS farmers (local and migrant), FC, stools, adjacent communities.

### HIPC-funded plantations

**What it is:** A plantation development scheme funded by the US\$ 5.5 million Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) fund implemented by the Plantation Unit of the Forestry Services Division (FSD) of the FC.

**Benefits:** Employment (70,000 jobs) and wages for workers who plant and tend the trees, rights to interplant food crops, tree revenues for the FC and landowners, possible future royalties for owners and the Administrator of Stool Lands and the District Assembly.

**Applies to:** Degraded forest reserves.

**Actors involved:** FC (PD-FSD), workers (local and migrants) and stool landowners.



## Commercial plantations

**What it is:** Large-scale plantation development with a land lease agreement between the FC and a private investor signed before plantation establishment.

**Benefits:** Tree revenues shared between the investor (90%), landowner (6%), FC (2%) and adjacent communities (2%).

**Applies to:** Degraded forest reserves.

**Actors involved:** Investors (local and expatriate), FC, adjacent communities and stool land owners.



## On-farm tree planting

**What it is:** Planting timber trees on off-reserve farmland.

**Benefits:** 100% of crops and tree benefits for the tree planter if he is also the landowner; otherwise, 67% for the farmer and 33% for the landowner if they are different actors. The first right to buy the mature timber at prevailing market price goes to the company providing seedlings and other support services (observed in Asankrangwa forest District).

**Applies to:** Off-reserve areas

**Actors involved:** Farmers, landowners and timber company.



## Timber tree nursery establishment

**What it is:** The production of tree seedlings in nurseries to be used in the various reforestation schemes.

**Applies to:** On and off-reserve areas.

**Benefits:** A lucrative job for community members, institutions, commercial plantation owners and other individuals because of massive ongoing reforestation programmes.

**Actors involved:** Producers in communities, private investors, institutional tree planters (e.g. FORIG) and the FC.

## Conclusions

Ghana has innovative reforestation schemes that help restore degraded forest areas, create employment and increase the area accessible for farming by allowing intercropping. This creates cash and non-cash benefits for people living near the degraded forest areas where these schemes are implemented. Unfortunately, such benefits are not available for people living in or near protected areas or forest reserves where such schemes are non-existent. In these areas, efforts need to be made to develop alternative livelihoods. This can only be achieved based on partnerships between the state, traditional authorities, civil society (including community-based organisations) and the private sector.