

Community Extension Agents Update

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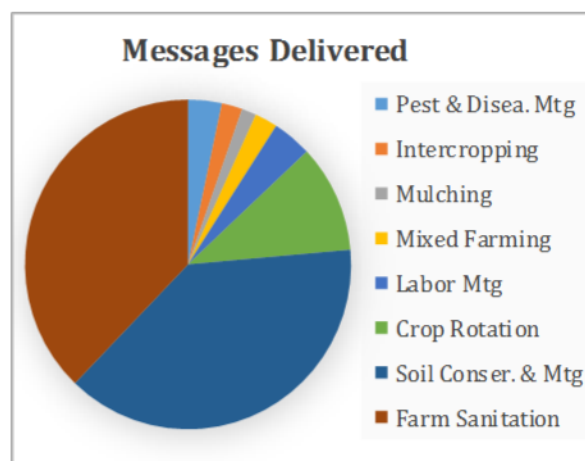
AFTER SIX MONTHS CEA SERVICE

Selected farmers under the DIRTS CEA intervention have received **14,767** need-sensitive extension messages in video and audio, with **1,982** messages delivered in September.

Eighty one (81) communities located in 12 districts in the Northern Region have CEAs who interact with **10 pre-selected farmers** every week either at their homes or farm to deliver audio and video format extension messages. These messages are delivered to the farmers using Android phones after a real time needs assessment was conducted. The target farmers are gradually adopting the recommended extension messages.



CEA (right) delivers Android based agricultural extension message to a farmer at Manguli kukuo



Messages by District

District	Frequency	Percentage
Central Gonja	719	5
Karaga	927	6
Gushegu	399	3
Kumbungu	1,504	10
Mion	2,017	14
Saboba	1,275	9
Sanarigu	1,038	7
Savelugu/Nanton	1,122	8
Tatale	568	4
Tolon	1,490	10
Yendi	2,049	14
Zabzugu	1,659	11
Total	14,767	100

FAQs

Common questions farmers asked the CEA

1. How do I conserve/manage the soil on my farmland?
2. Why is farm sanitation important?
3. Why should I practice crop rotation?
4. How can pest and disease be controlled in our farms?
5. How many types of crops should I used for crop rotation?
6. What are the differences between intercropping and mixed cropping

Breakdown of messages

Message	% New to farmers	% Not practice by farmers
Pest & Disease Mtg	85	75
Intercropping	95	90
Mulching	93	86
Mixed farming	84	80
Crop Rotation	82	82
Soil Conser. & Mtg	80	83

Activities undertaken by farmers in September

8 refilled and thinned their maize
 140 applied fertilizer
 46 used agro chemicals
 462 weeded their maize

FEATURED ACTIVITY: DISTRICT DIRECTORS FIELD VISIT



CEA target farmers in Focus Group Discussion with MoFA District Directors

MoFA play very important roles as far as DIRTS CEA program implementation is concerned. The Agricultural Extension Agents (AEAs) of MoFA aid in providing assistance to CEAs when they are technically challenged in addressing questions of farmers during their interactions with target farmers. In the month of September, the DIRTS CEA Team embarked on separate field visits with various MoFA District Directors for them to observe how the CEA extension messages were delivered to the farmers in their respective districts. Among the activities that characterized most of the visits by the

MoFA Directors include, meetings per CEA interaction with farmers, focus group discussions and farm visits. The Directors interviewed some of the farmers to assess progress of the CEA program aside the farm visits. and also advising farmers to take the messages they have been receiving very serious by implementing the lessons contained in the agricultural extension messages delivered by the CEAs. Among the team that embarked on the field visits were Mr. Ambruce Ansaayiri, Mr. Ali Dasana, and Mr. Mathew Adua MoFA District Directors for Yendi, Zabzugu and Tatale districts respectively.