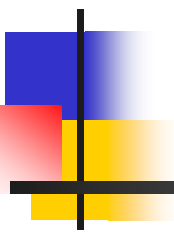


# Samartex Ltd



Agroforestry development and Re-forestation activities, past, present and future.

By:  
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# Summary

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- The Concept of Agroforestry
- Brief History
- Agroforestry/Reforestation development
- OCAP
- DICAP
- Tano Nimire Reforestation
- GTZ/SAX PPP
- The Future
- Conclusion



# The concept of agroforestry



# Brief History

- Samartex was established in 1995 following the GoG divestiture programme.
- At Samartex's birth, securing future resources was part of its business plan.
- Samartex believed proper management of the off-reserve lands with the farmers will provide a solution to land degradation and dwindling timber resources.
- An agroforestry initiative was then established in 1997 in collaboration with the people and elders of Oda Kotoamso (OCAP).
- In 2003 reforestation of nine (9) compartments in one of Samartex concessions (Tano Nimire) were started following the successes of OCAP.
- And in 2005 another community agroforestry project was started in Dikoto.
- GTZ supported the extension of agroforestry to other communities under a PPP arrangement in 2007

# Agro-forestry/Reforestation development



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- For Samartex and the nation at large to have continued supply of timber require tree plantations.
- In managing the Off-reserve which is put into fragmented land use/ownership/occupancy, large scale plantation is not possible, the alternative is agroforestry interventions.
- Therefore involving the farmers to remedy what they have destroyed become imperative.

# Agro-forestry/Reforestation development Cont.



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- To keep farmers on the same parcel of land for longer period requires an increase in productivity.
- This is achieved by non-traditional cropping regimes as well as intercropping various produce and by other income generating activities such as beekeeping, snail rearing, and NTFP gathering/cropping.

# Agroforestry/Re-forestation development Cont.



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- Based on the above concept, OCAP was introduced in 1997 in partnership with the people of Oda-Kotoamso. The project achieved great success and is now nationally known and recognised.
- The project concepts are now being extended to other areas including Dikoto community, and to as many as 23 communities through a public-private partnership arrangement (GTZ/SAX PPP).

# Oda Kotoamso Community Agro-forestry Project (OCAP)



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## **OCAP Project Objectives**

- Reduction of shifting cultivation
- Sustainable natural resources management
- Reforestation and Agro-forestry
- Income generating activities
- Education, technical advise & transfer of know how



# Oda Kotoamso Community Agroforestry Project (OCAP) Contd.

## **Project Components**

1. Several agro-forestry components were practiced (trees + passion fruits, trees + citrus, trees + black pepper, etc)

# Growing of New Crops

- Passion Fruit
- Citrus
- Black Pepper





# Oda Kotoamso Community Agroforestry Project (OCAP) Contd.

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2. Alternative livelihoods such as beekeeping, snail rearing, piggery, etc were promoted to provide additional income.

A beekeeper inspecting his hive



A snail farmer near her snail trench



Grass cutter in its cage

Pigs in a pig's sty



# Oda Kotoamso Community Agroforestry Project (OCAP)

## Contd.

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### **Project Achievements**

- 244.5ha of plantations have been developed
- 80 farmers practicing agroforestry
- Employment of about 50 youth including women working on NTFP
- Reduced shifting cultivation
- 10 women employed in the Gari processing factory set up in the community since 1999
- Research center for students and other researchers
- 77 farmers into beekeeping with average of 5 beehives, 10 farmers into piggery, 25 into snail farming and 12 into grasscutter rearing.



# Oda Kotoamso Community Agroforestry Project (OCAP)

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## Contd.

### ***Thaumatococcus daniellii* (TD)**

- The cultivation of *Thaumatococcus daniellii*, a non-timber forest product has been developed and incorporated into the agro-forestry farming systems as one of the component of OCAP project.
- Samartex has established the only processing facility in Africa to processed TD into a high value product (Thaumatocin) in order to ensure that the valued added revenue stays within the area

# Oda Kotoamso Community Agroforestry Project (OCAP) Contd.

TD used as under growth in tree plantation



Experiment on TD best management



# Oda Kotoamso Community Agroforestry Project (OCAP)

## Contd.

### TD Contd.

- The fruit
- The packed product



# Dikoto Community Agro-forestry Project (DICAP)

- This was started in 2005 following the great success of OCAP.
- 38ha plantation was established in 2005
- 9ha plantation established in 2007
- And 80ha developed in 2008
- 18 farmers are into beekeeping, 5 into snail rearing and 3 farmers into grasscutter rearing.

# Tano Nimire Reforestation Project



The company has since in 2003 being actively involved in the re-establishment of plantations of *Cedrela odorata* in Tano Nimire Forest Reserve.

- 2 compartments are being stocked with both indigenous (Ofram, Ceiba, Mahogany, etc) and exotic species (Cedrela) with TD under planted
- This will secure a massive future stand of high value timber (harvestable in around 20-25 years) and TD for the TD factory as a sweetner enhancer

# Tano Nimire Reforestation Project Cont.

2 years pure cedrela stand



2 years Cedrela+Ofram mixed stand



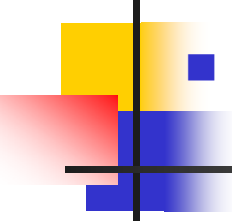


# ENRICHMENT PLANTING

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- It is the policy of Samartex to plant 3 times trees cut after closing a compartment
- Areas normally planted include
  - skid trails
  - hauling roads, etc

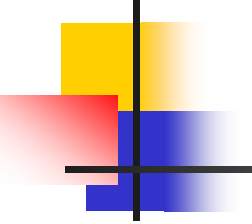
# GTZ/SAX PPP Project

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- The success of OCAP has encouraged GTZ to support the expansion of the project to more communities in the catchment area under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement known as GTZ/SAX PPP project.

## **Project objective**

*Reforestation of Off-reserve areas of Samartex concession taking into consideration land rights and tree ownership, while income opportunities and access to agroforestry services are improved for the forest fringe communities.*

# GTZ/SAX PPP Project Contd.

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- The project commenced in May 2007 and was to expire in June 2009 but has been extended by a year
  - Contextually, the project will improve the living standards of the people through sustainable agroforestry interventions
  - This involves capacity building, sustainable livelihood, good governance, regular supply of timber and environmental enhancement

# GTZ/SAX PPP Project Contd.

Initial sensitization/awareness creation on tree growing to chiefs and elders





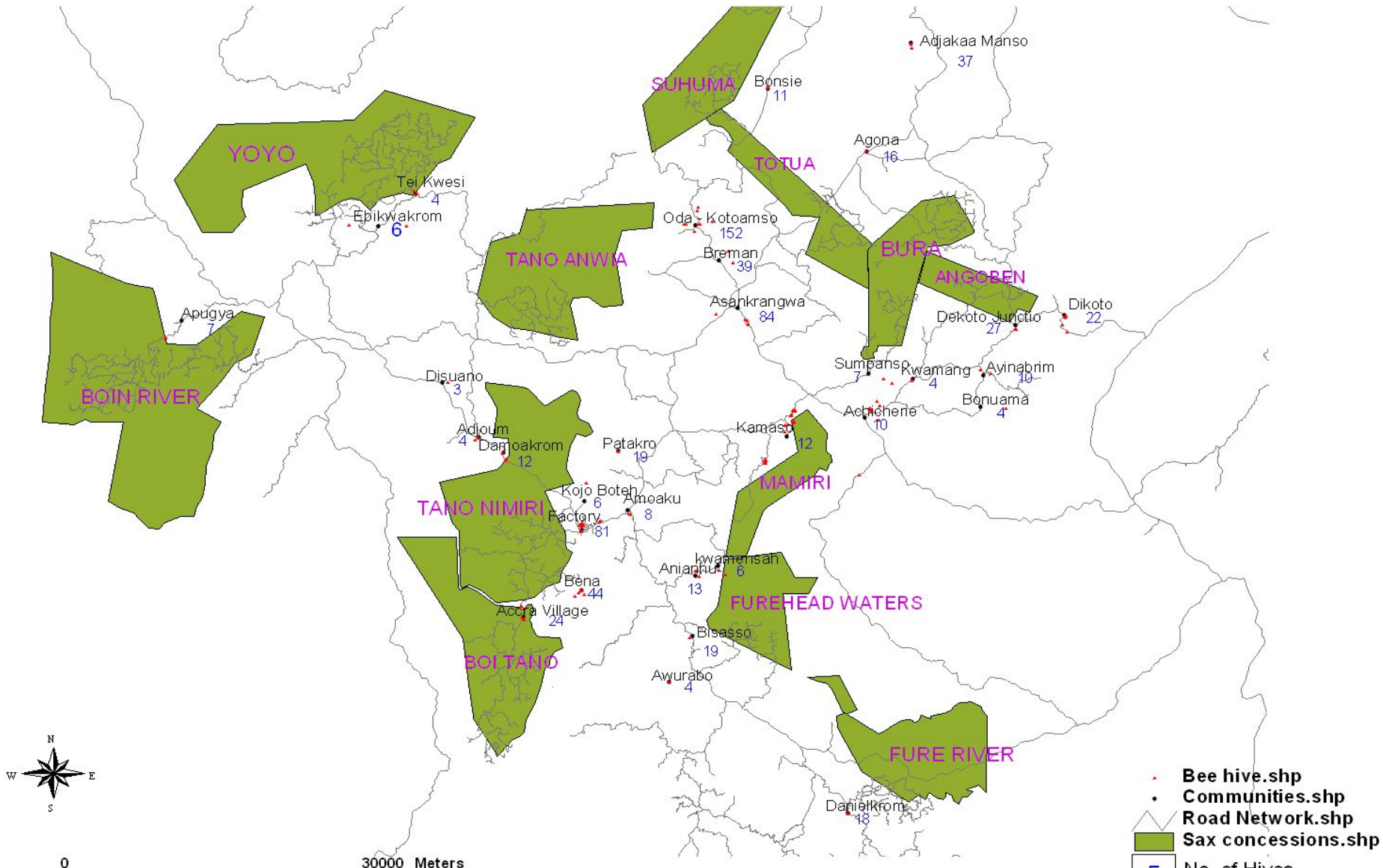
# GTZ/SAX PPP Project Contd.

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- About 23 communities (2-5km away from our forest reserves) so far are brought on board with over 500 farmers practicing agroforestry
- Current status of the project is that about 100 farms have been surveyed, mapped and title registration being pursued
- A total area of 500ha have been planted under the project with an average area of 1ha/farmer

# GTZ/SAX PPP Project Contd.

## GTZ / SAX PPP PROJECT COMMUNITIES

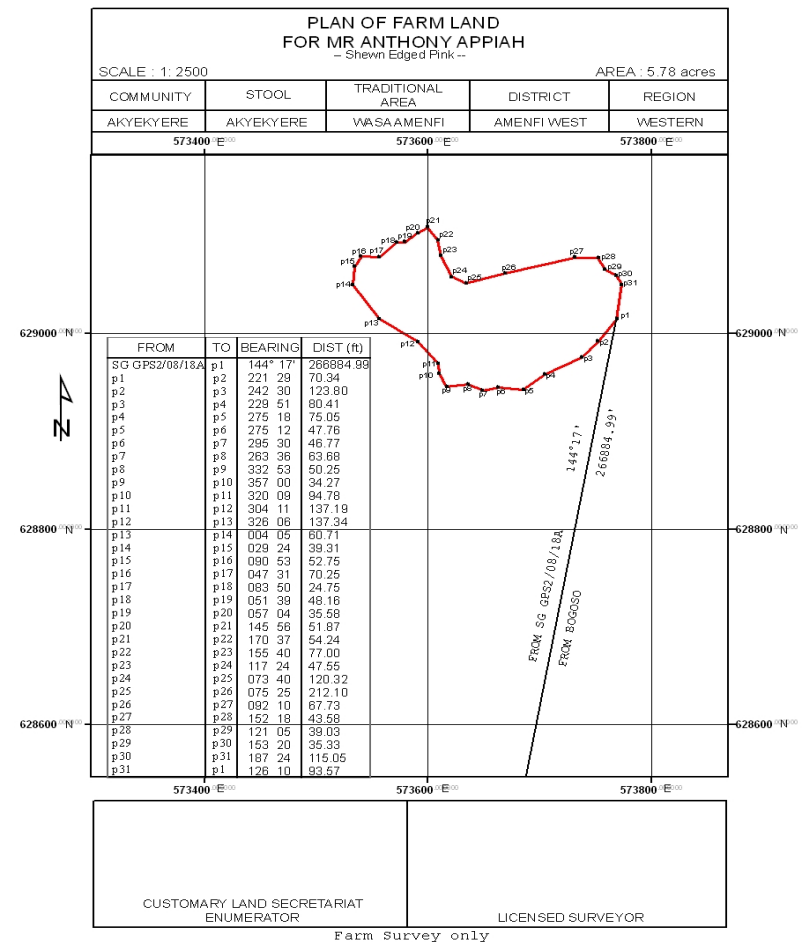


# GTZ/SAX PPP Project Contd.

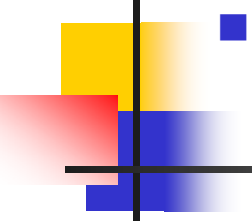
CLS team surveying farmers plots



A surveyed and mapped plot



# The Future

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- The OCAP concept has the capacity to rehabilitate all degraded lands in the Wassa Amenfi and Aowin Suaman districts and even beyond
  - Samartex' aim is to establish at least 1,000ha of tree plantations in Tano Nimire Forest Reserve
  - A project document has been designed waiting for any investment with a target of 3,000ha plantation to access the carbon credit
  - There are offers of land areas from other communities (Anyinabrim, Dikoto) for plantations



# The Future Contd.

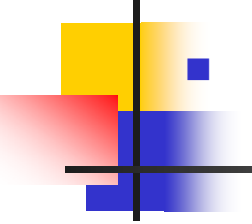
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- The GTZ/SAX PPP project is aimed at achieving a well-organised integrated land management system, which ensures good governance, enhances the environment and improve the living conditions of the forest owning communities.
- Timber is an asset, a renewable resource with constant product demand, it takes green house gases out of the atmosphere as they grow and replenish it with oxygen, hence investors need to explore the opportunities for forest restoration using Samartex experience as an example

# Conclusion

- It is estimated that if the 14 Samartex Forest Reserves (158,000 ha approx) were plantations (yielding 30m<sup>3</sup>/ha/yr) they would produce 4,740,000 m<sup>3</sup> - Even our GSBAs would produce almost one million Cubic meters/yr.
- This is beyond the capacity of Ghana's annual allowable cut of 2 million m<sup>3</sup> and explains why Samartex is converting some natural forests (eg Tano Nimire) into plantation.
- It is therefore crucial for Samartex staff to realise the importance of agro-forestry and advocate for its sustainability through awareness creation and sensitization at the work place, in churches, the hospitals, and elsewhere.

# Conclusion Contd.

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- It is our fervent hope that the campaign for tree growing shall be extended to all parts of the country through your hard work
  - Samartex' central nursery has the capacity to produce over 500,000 seedlings/yr and with the new policy about the law on tree growing, tree ownership and land rights, agro-forestry option is financially attractive and it is our belief that all present will seek to practice agro-forestry come the next planting season

Thank you



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God Bless Us All