



## CONCEPT NOTE

### **LEVERAGING COLLECTIVE POWER FOR INCLUSIVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (Action for Voice, Influence and Inclusive Development Project - AVID 2)**

#### *Learning and Exchange Café for Project Beneficiaries*

#### **Introduction**

Women's access to economic resources continues to be constrained by systemic and structural barriers, particularly for rural women farmers who play a central role in agricultural production, processing and trade. Despite their contributions, women face challenges in accessing land, finance, extension services and markets, which limits their ability to grow and sustain their livelihoods.

Recognising these challenges, the Network for Women's Rights in Ghana (NETRIGHT), with support from STAR-Ghana Foundation under the 'Action for Voice, Influence and Inclusive Development (AVID 2) initiative, implemented the 'Leveraging Collective Power for Inclusive Sustainable Development Project'. The project sought to strengthen women's access to and control over economic resources through capacity building, collective action, and advocacy for more gender-responsive policies and systems.

#### **Background**

Women in Ghana's agricultural sector continue to face persistent inequalities in accessing productive resources. Structural constraints such as insecure land tenure, limited access to formal credit and extension services, and poor positioning within value chains limit their productivity and economic advancement. These challenges are further compounded by gaps in access to clear, timely and practical information on available opportunities, services and processes, which limits women's ability to make informed decisions and fully benefit from existing interventions.

In response, NETRIGHT through the "Leveraging Collective Power for Inclusive Sustainable Development Project" has engaged rural women farmers and women in agribusiness through targeted capacity strengthening, knowledge-sharing sessions, and multi-stakeholder dialogue processes aimed at improving access to economic resources and enhancing women's agency.

As a result of these interventions, women are increasingly applying new knowledge and skills in practical and context-specific ways. This includes the adoption of agroecological practices such as intercropping, composting, and crop diversification; improved record-keeping and financial management; more proactive engagement with duty bearers and service providers; and strengthened efforts in value addition, marketing, and business planning. These shifts demonstrate a transition from subsistence-oriented practices toward more resilient, market-oriented, and sustainable livelihood strategies.

The Learning and Exchange Café is designed as a participatory platform to consolidate these experiences and deepen learning across stakeholders. It will bring together women farmers, civil society actors, policymakers, and other relevant actors to share practical experiences, reflect on emerging lessons, and explore pathways for strengthening women's economic empowerment.

### **Rationale**

Advancing women's economic empowerment in Ghana, particularly within the agricultural sector, requires more than access to resources. It demands spaces that intentionally connect knowledge, practice, and policy. While ongoing interventions have contributed to strengthening the capacities of rural women farmers and women in agribusiness, there remains a critical need to consolidate emerging lessons, facilitate peer learning, and translate knowledge into practical actions that can be sustained and scaled.

The learning and exchange café will create a space for women farmers and other stakeholders to come together to share experiences, interrogate what is working, and co-create practical solutions to common challenges.

### **Objectives**

This learning and exchange café aims to:

- Provide a platform for women farmers and other actors to share practical experiences, challenges, and successes in accessing and utilizing economic resources.
- Facilitate peer learning and exchange of ideas on improved agricultural practices, agribusiness development, and livelihood strategies.
- Strengthen linkages between women farmers, and key institutions to improve access to relevant opportunities and support systems.
- Generate insights and lessons from participants' experiences that can inform ongoing advocacy and policy engagement for more inclusive and responsive systems.

### **Expected Outcomes**

It is expected that, at the end of the engagement, there will be:

- Increased knowledge sharing and peer learning among rural women farmers, women in agribusiness and other stakeholders.
- Stronger relationships and collaboration between women farmers and key institutions, resulting in better awareness of and access to available services and opportunities.
- Clear, documented insights and lessons from participants' experiences to inform advocacy efforts and contribute to more inclusive and responsive policies and systems.

### **Methodology**

The Learning and Exchange Café will adopt a participatory and interactive approach that encourages open dialogue, peer learning, and practical reflection. The session will combine small group discussions, plenary sharing, and guided conversations to allow participants to share experiences, challenges, and lessons in a structured but flexible setting.

**Participants**

The Learning and Exchange Café will bring together primary beneficiaries of the project, particularly rural women farmers and women engaged in agribusiness from selected communities in the Northern and Southern Zones of Ghana. In addition, key stakeholders such as relevant government institutions, civil society organizations working on agriculture and women's economic empowerment, and the media will participate in the event.