



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT  
INITIATIVE

# Project RISE

*Rural Irrigation System for Ekumdipe*

February 2012 Report





## Challenges and Results

By December 2011 Kano Egge Man (KEM) was able to sell all of the onions from the demonstration farm with a revenue of two hundred and fifty Ghana Cedis (GHC250.00). The amount was lower than estimated (~800.00GHC) because:

- 1) Most of the onions rotted from lack of proper storage
- 2) All onions were sold in Ekumdipe individually, rather than being sold elsewhere for higher prices and in bulk
- 3) The farmers could not wait to sell the onions at the height of the dry season, when scarcity of onions would have demanded the highest prices

This time around in order to guarantee better returns, once the onions are harvested Dr. Bawa will transport them to Tamale, the regional capital. Tamale is a much larger market than Ekumdipe. Therefore, the onions should sell quickly, with less loss through rotting for lack of proper storage than occurred last year.



At the beginning of this year, the KEM farmers started preparing the land for the next round of planting. They hoped to use a tractor to plow five (5) acres of land but were unsuccessful despite several attempts to rent one. KEM eventually hired and used manual labor to clear the land, which took longer than expected and also cost more.

Despite these initial setbacks, **our team was finally able to prepare four (4) acres by mid January.** Since then, KEM has planted three (3) acres of onions and one (1) acre of other vegetables typically farmed in the area (pepper, tomatoes and okra). **Crop diversification was a key goal for the project this year.**



**KEM planted late (estimated target date was late November / early December), as the rainy season ended later than usual.** From mid-December, KEM members have been working on these communal, dry-season farms. Work on dry-season farming does not commence immediately after the end of the rainy season because local farmers must plant for the typical harvest at this time.

**Last year our team witnessed the first ever dry-season harvest in the history of the village.** Now, KEM must tackle the challenge of translating this success into solid revenues. If KEM achieves success, it should be a motivating factor for other members of the village to want to do the same for themselves.



## Where We Are Headed

Bashiru, the farming expert from Bawku (a region to the North of Ekumdiye that specializes in dry-season farming), and an assistant have returned to Ekumdiye to train KEM in dry-season farming techniques.

**Bashiru and his assistant brought onion seedlings from Bawku, which have been successfully planted.** Bashiru has since returned to his Bawku home, as agreed, and his assistant has remained in Ekumdiye to tend to the farm and help with the eventual harvest, which is expected to occur in April. This **collaboration** is contrary to the previous dry-season, where the Bawku farmers worked on solely their one separate demonstration farm.

We are hopeful that this augmented level of cooperation will increase the level of learning that our farmers experience and will help them eventually become experts themselves! **We are excited and looking forward to the upcoming April harvest from Phase III of Project RISE. Stay tuned.**



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