

AUGUST, 2014



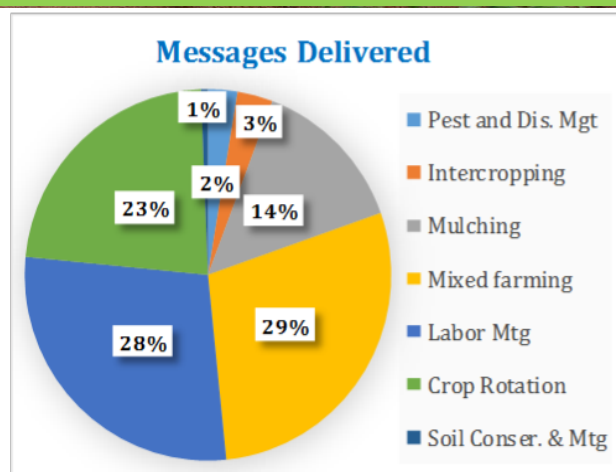
## AFTER FIVE MONTHS OF CEA SERVICE

Under the **DIRTS Community Extension Agents (CEA) Program**, selected farmers have received 12,785 need sensitive extension messages in video and audio format. In the month of August **2,424** messages were delivered.

The seven (7) main messages delivered in August include; messages on **Integrated Pest & Diseases Management**, **Intercropping**, and **Mulching**, **Composting** and **Organic Fertilizer Application**. The rest were **Mixed Farming**, **Labor Management**, **Soil Conservation & Management** and **Crop Rotation**. A greater number of farmers however revealed that these messages were new to them.

## Messages on Mulching & Crop Rotation

For instance, almost **80 percent** of farmers who received the messages on mulching, composting and organic fertilizer application indicated that the content of the messages were new to them. Eighty three (**83 percent**) said, they did not practice the prescribed messages in the last farming season. The message on mulching centered on soil condition improvement through application of organic matter such as cow dung or other domestic animal droppings. The message on crop rotation (growing of crops in succession on the same piece of land) was new to **75 percent** of farmers, and was not practiced by **77 percent** the farmers during the last farming



## Number of Messages by District

District	Frequency	Percentage
Central Gonja	651	5
Karaga	881	7
Gushegu	288	2
Kumbungu	1,329	10
Mion	1,684	13
Saboba	1,120	9
Sanarigu	913	7
Savelugu/	991	8
Tatale	490	4
Tolon	1,301	10
Yendi	1,711	13
Zabzugu	1,426	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,785</b>	<b>100</b>

# Community Extension Agents Update

## On farm activities in August

17 farmers did refilling and thinning out  
282 applied fertilizer on their maize  
108 used agrochemical  
746 weeded their maize farms



## FAQs Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is mulching?
2. How do I prepare compost?
3. What are the benefits of mixed farming?
4. Why is labor management important?
5. What are the importance of crop rotation?
6. How do I rotate my crop on my farmland?
7. Can we use manure in place of fertilizer?

## FEATURED ACTIVITY: DEMO FIELD IN TOHANAAYILI



*Elettra Legovini, DIRTIS Implementation Coordinator, and Kenneth Obodai, MoFA AEA for Central Gonja district, inspect DIRTIS mixed crops Demo field*

The DIRTIS project has been delivering extension messages on maize production to farmers under the CEA component of the project since April 2014. To complement lessons learned by farmers through the maize extension messages and demonstrate new technologies in mixed farming of local staple foods, a demo field was established at Tohanaayili (one of DIRTIS intervention communities) located in Central Gonja district of northern region of

Ghana. The demonstration farm on which improved and best agronomic practices of soya, maize, groundnut and cowpea are applied is currently serving as the source of DIRTIS extension videos footage. These extension videos will be used for farmers' training in the 2015 cropping season. Labor work on the demonstration field was done by farmers in the community under the technical direction of Kenneth Obodai, a Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) Agricultural Extension Agent (AEA) from the Central Gonja district. The demonstration farm received constant monitoring and in the month of August, the DIRTIS implementation Coordinator, Elettra Legovini, together with Kenneth Obodai, MoFA AEAs in Central Gonja district, embarked on monitoring visit to the demo site.