



Supporting broadcasters in developing countries to strengthen small-scale farming and rural communities.

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Partner Profile

WHO: Kwabena Agyei - Producer and Presenter of Agriculture, Environment and African Affairs Programs

STATION: Classic FM in Techiman, Ghana

COUNTRY: Ghana

Classic FM has been a DCFRN partner since 2001. The station is located in Techiman, a large farming area in Brong Ahafo, Ghana. Producer Kwabena Agyei is an active member of DCFRN. He participated in our Linking Agricultural Research and Rural Radio project, and he has written scripts for us on community reforestation and the production of snails as a cash crop. He has been with Classic FM since it began broadcasting in 1999 and now trains new staff how to develop programs that meet the needs of listeners. He has produced many innovative programs, including one encouraging tomato farmers to stagger production in order to stabilize prices. He has also produced programs on health and sanitation, which have inspired communities to clean up the sewers and streets.



Fred Zeini — managing director of Classic FM (left) and Kwabena Agyei (right)

Donor & Volunteer Profile

Nancy Brown-Anderson is both a DCFRN donor and a long-time volunteer. After growing up on a beef cattle farm, she obtained a B.Sc. in Agriculture at the University of Guelph. It was there that she met Ian McDiarmid, Manager of the University of Guelph Radio Station (CFRU). Ian, a former DCFRN Board Member, recognized the fit between Nancy's interests and the work of DCFRN. She has been involved ever since.



A Professional Agrologist, she remains active in her family's Shorthorn beef cattle farm.

Nancy's affinity for DCFRN comes from a belief in radio as a wonderful medium for communication and education, particularly with farmers. DCFRN fits with her desire to provide practical assistance that makes a long term difference, not just short term "aid".

Her memories of farm radio stem back to her childhood. She remembers her father listening to farm radio broadcasts every day at noon to get the market reports and information. Today, Nancy relies on radio as her primary source of news and information.

Looking to the future, Nancy is excited by DCFRN's emerging focus on capacity building. She is helping DCFRN expand to provide more support, training and assistance to African broadcasters so they are able to research and produce their own programs.



network
 news

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Developing Countries Farm Radio Network

Using Radio to Cut Post-Harvest Losses



Growing and harvesting a crop is only half of the battle for farmers. Before consuming or selling the product, farmers must process, transport and store it. Unfortunately, heavy losses can occur at each of these stages due to decay, pest infestation, or inefficient processing or transportation methods. In many countries of sub-Saharan Africa, these problems mean that 25-50% of harvested food never reaches markets or, more importantly, people's stomachs. Imagine the difference it would make if more farmers could adopt practical low-cost methods of harvesting, transporting and storing their products to cut post-harvest losses! It would have the same impact as a major jump in yields. Fortunately, there are many effective and affordable technologies now in use in some parts of Africa. We are capturing and sharing these techniques with millions of African farmers through our far-reaching scripts.

In script package 79, DCFRN provided information about 6 different approaches to reducing post-harvest losses. One of these was presented in a script called Storing Cowpeas for a Season and a Reason. It shares two simple solutions for controlling bruchids, insects that can cost a farmer her entire harvest of cow-

peas. Cowpeas are legumes that grow well in shade and can be grown side-by-side with root and cereal crops. They are an important source of protein, vitamin B and minerals. They also provide important cash income. Bruchids therefore have two negative effects: they deprive families of nutritious food; and they force farmers to sell their cowpeas immediately after harvest, when prices are at their lowest, rather than storing them for sale when prices are higher. Our script describes two affordable and practical techniques for reducing bruchids damage.

The first method is to use old oil drums as airtight storage containers, sealing the edges of the closure with cooking oil. The second method is called "triple bagging" and involves, very simply, packing cowpeas in three clear plastic bags, one inside the other, each tied tightly over the settled cowpeas. Both methods deny bruchids air, without which they cannot survive. This script was written and submitted by Rachel Awuor of the Ugunja Community Resource Centre in Kenya, and reviewed for technical accuracy by Professor Larry Murdock of Purdue University.

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

Another script in this package addresses post-harvest losses in small fisheries. It is estimated that 20-50% of fish catches are damaged or spoiled, reducing the supply of fish proteins and cutting the income of people who fish. Solar dryers offer an affordable and sustainable method of reducing losses and improving quality. Our script, called Three Fishing Ladies Talk About Solar Dryers, allows fishermen

from Sao Tome, Nigeria, and the Republic of Congo, to talk about the benefits of solar dryers. "You see, the main problem with traditional fish drying methods is that the fish are not covered. So they get coated in dust and sand, and they are infested with insects and bacteria. And whenever it rains, we have to bring the fish inside. With the solar dryer, fish are covered, so there's much less chance of that kind of contamination.

Because the quality of fish from solar dryers is better, we can sell it for a higher price. And solar-dried fish can be stored for up to four weeks . . . when we use the traditional way, the fish only last for between 3 to 8 days." The script includes tips about how to build solar dryers from local materials and where to get small loans to support the cost.



Scripts about Avian Flu

Avian influenza is an infection caused by viruses that occur naturally among birds. Wild birds carry the viruses worldwide, but usually do not get sick from them. However, avian influenza can make domesticated birds like chickens, ducks, and turkeys, very sick and kill them. The cost of avian flu has been high, causing the death of over 150 million domesticated birds in Asia, and \$10 billion in losses to the agriculture sector. While the main damage has been done in Asia, the World Health Organization has noted that poultry production systems in Africa are similar in many respects to those that are prevalent in Asia, raising the spectre of a major outbreak. Poultry farmers

throughout the world, therefore, are deeply concerned about the spread of avian flu to their farming areas. And many health specialists are worried that the deadly avian flu virus may become increasingly infectious to humans, creating a new global flu pandemic.

Preventing avian flu is a big challenge, even in countries like Canada, with our sophisticated, world-class veterinary services and state-of-the-art equipment. Imagine how much more difficult it is for the African chicken farmer, where veterinary services are as scarce as - well . . . hen's teeth. Very few African farmers have access to the services they need to protect their chickens and themselves from avian flu. That is, unless we can get prevention information to them through the only extension service available

to most Africans - radio programs.

Recently we produced two important radio scripts on avian flu. The first contains important public service announcements about what avian flu is, the impact it's having, how to reduce its spread, and how to prevent human infection. The second script features an interview with a farmer describing how to recognize, prevent and control avian flu. For many listeners, these radio programs will offer them the first accurate information they've ever received about this costly and dangerous disease.

By getting these scripts broadcast by more radio stations in Africa, we are helping millions of African farmers learn how to reduce the threat of avian flu.

DCFRN supporters are Finding New Ways to Give

DCFRN is fortunate to have thousands of individual supporters who contribute donations throughout the year. It is no exaggeration to say these donors are the bedrock of DCFRN. Some donors, however, are looking for new ways to give. Two of these methods are described here.



If these options are of interest to you, we strongly recommend that you consult with your financial and legal advisors to ensure that you make fully informed decisions.

New Ways to Give

BEQUESTS and STOCK DONATIONS

Canadians can support DCFRN's future work by bequeathing a donation in their will. A donation made through your will - whether a fixed amount or a percent of the total inheritance - can generate tax credits to offset taxes payable by your estate. Your beneficiaries will receive more of your legacy and it will not affect your current standard of living. Bequests are a key source of funds in the fight against hunger and poverty through educational radio.

Donating publicly traded stock and securities is a tax-smart way to support DCFRN. You will receive a tax receipt for the full appreciated value of a donation of publicly traded stock or securities, and since May 2, 2006, you will not be subject to any capital gains tax on the donated stock.

DCFRN is now set up to accept such donations. The transfer of stocks is easy and fast. Call us in advance and we can make the transfer as smooth as possible for you.

Example of Stock donation

Let's say Jeff decided to support DCFRN with a gift of \$10,000. When reviewing whether he should sell his shares in a publicly-listed corporation and then donate the cash proceeds, or donate the shares directly, Jeff learned that he would have a greater net tax benefit by donating the shares directly to DCFRN. The chart below assumes a tax rate of 50 per cent.

	Sell shares & Donate Cash	Donate Shares Directly
Fair market value of shares	\$10,000	\$10,000
Original cost of shares	\$2,000	\$2,000
Capital gain	\$8,000	\$8,000
Tax paid on capital gains (at 25%)	\$2,000	\$0
Tax credit received by donor (50% of fair market value)	\$5,000	\$5,000
Net tax benefit	\$3,000	\$5,000

For more information about how to make a bequest to DCFRN, please don't hesitate to contact us. If you decide to arrange for a gift in your will, please let us know. We would like to be able to express our appreciation to you personally for your commitment and support. Your gift intention will be held in strictest confidence.