



Drought-Resolved Maize Varieties and Smallholder Women Farmers in Northern Ghana: A Policy Analysis

Yaw Yirenkyi-Poku¹, Abena Owusu-Brown^{1,2}

¹ University for Development Studies (UDS)

² Accra Technical University

Published: 08 August 2005 | **Received:** 09 May 2005 | **Accepted:** 03 July 2005

Correspondence: yyirenkyipoku@gmail.com

DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18819662](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18819662)

Author notes

Yaw Yirenkyi-Poku is affiliated with University for Development Studies (UDS) and focuses on Business research in Africa.

Abena Owusu-Brown is affiliated with University for Development Studies (UDS) and focuses on Business research in Africa.

Abstract

Drought-affected regions in northern Ghana face significant challenges to agricultural productivity, particularly for smallholder women farmers who rely on maize as a staple crop. A mixed-methods approach involving surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions was employed to gather data from 120 smallholder women farmers in northern Ghana. Findings indicate that the adoption of drought-resolved maize varieties led to a 35% increase in yield among participating women farmers over three years, with significant improvements in water management practices observed. The policy analysis highlights the need for sustained agricultural extension support and improved access to seeds as key enablers for further success. Recommendations include enhancing seed supply chains, providing training on sustainable farming techniques, and integrating drought-resistant varieties into national crop improvement programmes.

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, African, Smallholder, Farmers, Ghanaian, Gender, Policy, Ethno-methodology, Empowerment, Inclusive Agriculture, Climate Resilience*

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