

**REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON
ENHANCING THE FUNCTIONING OF CEREALS MARKET IN
WEST AFRICA. ACCRA, GHANA. 9 – 11 DECEMBER, 2010**

***ADDRESS BY CEO OF NATIONAL FOOD BUFFER STOCK MR.
ERIC OSEIOWUSU, ON BEHALF OF THE HON. MINISTER FOR
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE.***

Mr. Chairman,

His Excellency, Amb.Kwabena Baah-Duodu, Senior Advisor to the
Secretary-General, and Officer-in-Charge of the Special Unit on
Commodities, UNCTAD

H.E. Mr. Ousseini Salifou, Commissioner, Agriculture,
Environment and Water Resources, Ecowas Commission

H.E. Mr. Claude Maerten, Ambassador, Head of Delegation,
European Union, Accra

H.E. Ms. Hanna Tetteh, Minister of Trade and Industry

Mr. Djibo Bagna, President of ROPPA,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

All protocols observed.

The Hon. Minister for Food and Agriculture, Mr. Kwesi Ahwoi, on this

occasion could not be here personally for this very important event due to prior arranged pressing engagements. However he extends his warmest greetings to you all.

I take this opportunity to deliver his message.

Ghana acknowledges the efforts being made by UNCTAD and other developing partners in the pursuit of enhancing the domestic, regional and global markets.

Government believes in a coherent national approach to tackle the long existing problems our farmers have been facing in the provision of fair sustainable markets.

The government set up The National Food Buffer Stock to provide an alternative market, among others. This market serves as the last resort market for the farmer. The creation of The National Food Buffer Stock will help ensure the stability of food grain supply and price which is of continuous concern to the government. The provision of a minimum guarantee price will not only protect the farmer's income but also guarantee a last resort market for the farmer.

Government welcomes the idea of the provision of other alternative markets such as what the Warehouse Receipt System and the Commodities Exchange Market will provide.

MOFA will like to work closely with UNCTAD and other developing partners to ensure the smooth running of the Warehouse Receipt System and the Commodities Exchange Market. This we believe forms a vital part of our efforts in ensuring food security and sustainable income for our farmers.

The Warehouse Receipt System will not only be an alternative market but also help enhance the quality and standardization of our grains. This means we can even expand our market well beyond our borders.

Access to finance has always been a problem for our farmers and we must take note of the benefits that the Warehouse Receipt System will bring forth in helping to access finance for our farmers.

It should be of interest for all operatives in the Sector that Government has proposed an Agric Dev Fund in this year's Budget to facilitate bank financing of the whole agricultural value chain.

All these put together we must see 2011 as the Year of further Hope and Action for Ghana's Agricultural Sector.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MOTI), in partnership with MOFA and Developing Partners will continuously understudy the best case example of market institutions and adopt the most appropriate strategy for the Ghanaian environment.

Mr. Chairman, I take the opportunity to endorse your good work and also express Government total commitment in working to make this successful.

Thank you.