



## **Systemic approach in facilitation of innovation: A case of the Millennium Challenge Account Ghana Program**

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Technical assistance from donors are continuously evolving in a bid to make aid more effective. The Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) program financed by the United States of America government is an aid program that brings a shift in conventional aid approach. The MCA differed from other aid approaches such that the use of the aid is developed by nationals of the beneficiary country. The study explores ways through the MCA Ghana program encouraged innovations among stakeholders. The study examined small scale pineapple farmers in the Nsawam Municipal Assembly of Ghana. The study employed both qualitative and quantitative techniques. The qualitative technique involved the use of focus group discussions and key informant interviews. The study compared farmers that benefited (MCA group) and farmers that did not benefit (non-MCA groups) from the assistance. The results of the studies shows that the MCA program through the Agricultural Innovations System approach encouraged strong public private partnership in facilitating farmer's innovation. Farmers were exposed to efficient marketing skills such as securing market for their produce before production, comparing prices of agro-inputs from different outlets, development of business plans for securing loans from banks. The program improved land tenure security through registration and issuance of land title deeds to over 702 landowners and 60% of farmers diversifying their farming activities. Farmer's access to tractor usage was improved. The program introduced positive changes in the governance arrangement of public and private institutions. It can be concluded that MCA program had a positive effect on farmer innovation and improvement in governance. Large scale program are therefore encouraged to employ the systemic approach in its implementation to facilitate innovation.

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