

Obodan women learn poultry farming

Story: Elvina Mensah-King, Nsawam

A non-governmental organisation (NGO) based in the United States of America, in collaboration with the Ghana Poultry Network, a local NGO, is constructing a poultry house in Obodan, near Nsawam in the Akwapim South District.

The poultry house which is expected to house 1,000 birds will be used to train small scale farmers in rural poultry production.

The project is expected to cost \$35,000 and the NGO, the Rose-Hulman Institute of Engineers Without Borders, raised the money through funds solicited by the school's alumni.

The spokesperson of the NGO, Mr Kyle McCarthy, told the *Daily Graphic* that the NGO was made up of eight engineering students, a medical student and an engineering professor.

According to him, the project was expected to create employment for some youths in the community and also train farmers in poultry production to enable them to earn additional income, as the people of Obodan are mainly into pineapple growing.

He said it was also to help supplement the protein intake of the people.

The poultry house has two rooms and a storeroom. Each room is expected to take about 500 chicks.

The Executive Director of Ghana Poultry Network

(GPN), Mr Anthony Akunzule, told the *Daily Graphic* that the Columbia University Students Chapter of Engineers Without Borders had provided two water pumps and a KVIP to the Obodan community.

Mr Akunzule said the project aimed at assisting women to improve their economic conditions and also create a suitable business enterprise for rural development and poverty alleviation.

He said the rural poultry project started in July 2003 and provided ten cockerels each to twelve women and assisted them financially to grow corn to feed the poultry they had acquired.

According to him, the project was established on the basis of a revolving fund account wherein women who received assistance would pay for the inputs given them after selling their eggs and poultry so that it could support other women from the proceeds of the repaid funds.

Nana Aboa Foriwa I, Mankradohema of Obodan, and a beneficiary of the project, said she started with 20 layers and had been able to sell the eggs and some of the birds for profit and now had 10 layers and 15 local birds.

She said the project had been of immense help to the people of the community and appealed to benevolent organisations to come to their aid with financial assistance.

Article about RH-EWB
Student chapter trip to Ghana
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