Greater Capacity and Enhanced Skills to Support Over 12,000 Farmers in Ghana’s Irrigation Schemes

Adoption of the OASIS Information System   
by the Ghana Irrigation Development Authority

ACCRA, Ghana – (June 7, 2017) – Agronomists, engineers, and other employees from the Ghana Irrigation Development Authority (GIDA) had been trained on the Operation and Agriculture Supply Information System (OASIS Information System) to improve operations and decision-making capacity. During the training program conducted from May 8 to May 12, 2017, GIDA employees gained field experience at the *Weija* Irrigation Scheme to practice mapping agriculture land and collecting soil profile data with an Android mobile smartphone. The computer software application facilitates *in situ* rapid collection of numerous field data for precise and timely analysis of agricultural production. As an example of the breadth of its capabilities, the [OASIS Mobile Edition](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=ag.oasis.mobile.basicservice) captures soil color, soil texture, soil grade, soil pH, and many other soil properties for each and every soil horizon as described in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) *Soil Survey Manual*. Once the data are sent to the Web application, the GIDA Head Office managers and analysts will be able to identify problem areas through the OASIS’ data analytical function that compiles the data and generates customizable indicator reports in real time. Kwasi Mintah, director of the GIDA Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring, and Evaluation Department, who participated in training, said:

“We find this application extremely useful. With nothing more than a smartphone, we are able to collect and analyze data in no time as opposed to the use of traditional methods which require relatively expensive equipment and takes so much time to process and analyze the data collected.”

With the completion of training, GIDA employees have enhanced their skills to collect and analyze data concerning all of GIDA’s 56 public irrigation schemes throughout the country. GIDA employees can use the Web and mobile applications in current and future growing seasons to support over 12,000 farmers who use the irrigation canals.

As an evidence-based system the OASIS Information System will enable the GIDA to make better design decisions, which take into account present and local conditions, in the re-engineering of irrigation canals and water conveyance infrastructure. The system will also enable the Ghanaian government to track farming activities on each individual farm field for farmer performance, agricultural productivity, and regulatory compliance, resulting in accurate measurements of water usage and correlations to harvest yield.

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Operation and Agriculture Supply Information System, LLC (OASIS) is a private company in the state of Maryland, providing its title product (a computer software application) designed specifically for the agriculture industry to a worldwide market. OASIS provides data analysis and business support services to small, medium, and large farms. Visit <http://OASIS.AG> for more information.