

AIC International Recognition Award 2011

The Canadian Society for Horticultural Science and the Ghana Institute of Horticulturists are recipients of the Agricultural Institute of Canada's International Recognition Award for 2011.

The CSHS/GhIH International Twinning Partnership project, "Strengthening the Impact of Horticulture on Social Development in Ghana," initiated in 2001, brings together Canadian and Ghanaian project management team members in using a relatively small budget to achieve very impressive gains in two areas. First, the project has strengthened the capacity of the Ghana Institute of Horticulturists, helping it to grow into a professional organization run to high management standards, with a strong professional and student membership that is active and influential in the development and promotion of the horticultural industry in Ghana.

Second, the project has supported GhIH's professional members in carrying out activities in Ghana's impoverished Upper West Region. Activities which, through education, training and logistical support, directly empower women and men in growing dry season vegetables using sustainable production methods.

The results are manifold, including empowerment of women in decision making, improved nutrition, and poverty reduction. The projects professional exchanges have been rich learning opportunities for team members, when they share experiences and expertise. Formal and informal presentations further share these experiences with other agriculturists in both countries. The project has made an outstanding contribution to the improvement of agriculture in the developing world.

The award presentation in Canada took place in Halifax on July 17, 2011 during the AIC Annual General Meeting. On hand to receive the award were Dr. Samir Debnath, CSHS Vice-President and the project's Canada Coordinators Josée Owen (lead) and Dr. Mary Ruth McDonald. The Canadian team also includes Dr. Merv Pritchard and Dinah Ceplis.

The presentation to the Ghana Institute of Horticulturists will take place when a representative of AIC's international program next visits Ghana.