

Survey on the Adoption of Peanut Production Technologies following Research and Education Programs with PMIL

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A research and outreach was conducted to improve peanut production, raise awareness on nutrition, and increase food safety in Ghana. Three communities in the northern sector of the Ghana with 12 peanut farmers each were selected. The research trials involved research plots managed by researchers with the improved interventions while farmers' plots were managed by the selected. These farmers (referred to as "PMIL farmers") were interviewed in late 2017 to determine the educational value of the project. PMIL farmers were expected to pass on information and technologies learnt from the collaborative research on peanuts to other farmers in their communities (referred to as "Spill-over farmers".) As control portions of the study, one nearby community of each of the 3 trial-communities was also selected (referred to as "General/Other farmers".)

General conclusions and recommendations from the survey results include the following. The local variety "Chinese" was the only improved variety available for the farmers. It is therefore necessary to introduce new varieties developed by SARI to the farmers. The main sources of peanut seeds came from farmers' saved seeds. Therefore, the introduction of improved seeds to farmers is likely to popularize and spread the use of it. None of the farmers bought seeds from seed dealers. Use of "Alata" soap for the suppression of rosette disease and oyster shells to improve kernel quality were practiced by only a few farmers and the value of these interventions need to be shared with farmers. More attention needs to be provided to female farmers with respect to germination testing, planting in rows, and drying of peanut with new approaches. The majority of the PMIL, Spill-over, and the General farmers dried peanut on bare or cemented floors resulting in greater aflatoxin. New approaches to drying peanut are needed to reduce this problem.