

QUIP IN ACTION



COUNTRY: GHANA

COMMISSIONER: AGDEVCO

INVESTMENT/PROJECT: BABATOR IRRIGATED FARMING HUB

SAMPLE SIZE: 24 II + 4 FGD + 4 KII

YEAR OF STUDY: 2021/2022

AgDevCo is an **impact investor** with the mission of supporting the growth of sustainable and impactful agribusinesses in sub-Saharan Africa. The company provides more than just capital; they are long-term partners with a focus on capacity building and technical support. AgDevCo's primary aim is building successful African agribusinesses that support climate resilience and deliver impact at scale.

This QuIP study formed part of a larger midline evaluation of the **Babator Irrigated Farming Hub (BIFH)** project. The vision of the BIFH project once it is fully developed is to be the largest irrigated agricultural production and processing hub in Ghana. Since 2011, AgDevCo has committed over \$6m into the development of the BIFH project and has completed all technical and feasibility studies. The ultimate goal of the BIFH project is to contribute to the poverty reduction efforts in Northern Ghana by improving the livelihoods and incomes of rural smallholder farmers.

The QuIP was designed to build on the findings from the quantitative survey, with the aim to better understand which factors the Babator farmers believed had the strongest influence on changes in their income and livelihoods.

APPROACH

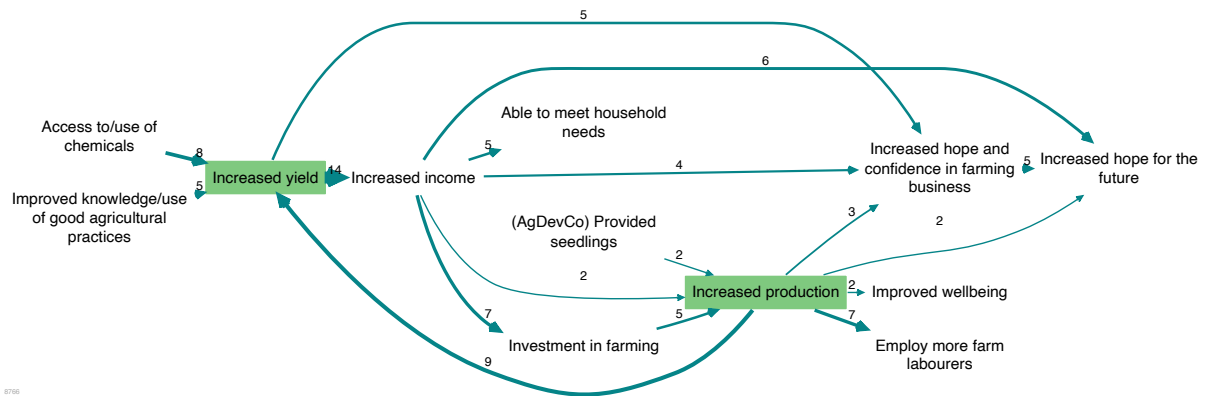
The interview data was collected by a team of local researchers fluent in the local language. The researchers worked completely independently of the commissioning project team and were not informed that the research was linked to the AgDevCo project. This was to mitigate confirmation bias amongst respondents and ensure that we captured a broad range of influences on change.

The sample was split between two communities near BIFH and divided by beneficiary type to capture any potential differences across groups. The smallholder farmers were asked about changes in their farming practices, yields, income, living conditions, household relationships, and overall wellbeing.

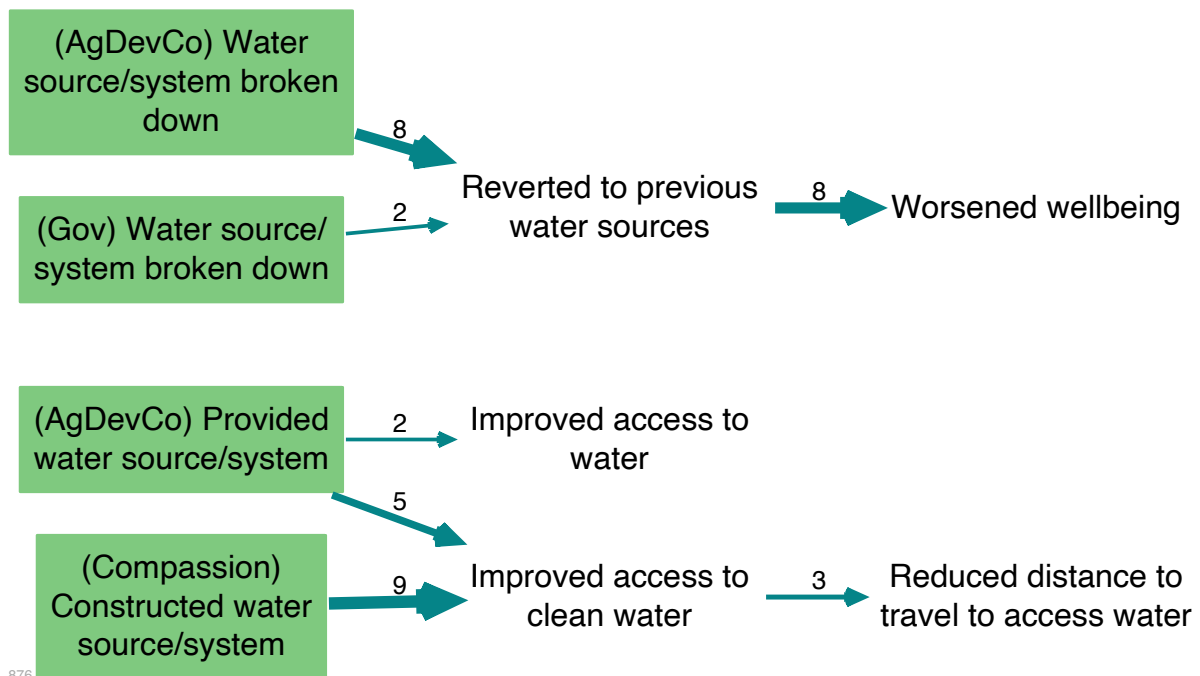
The QuIP findings were incorporated into the full midline evaluation report alongside the quantitative survey results. The report was structured by the key evaluation questions (and key performance indicators) and presented the quant and qual together.

FINDINGS

The testimonies collected in the interviews were coded to capture reasons given for change, linking influences and consequences. The causal map below gives an overview of the positive stories of change reported by the QuIP respondents in relation to farming, illustrating how GAP training and access to chemicals led to increased yields and income from agriculture. Numbers indicate the number of people who made this link in their responses, out of the 24 interviews with individuals.



In relation to access to water – a key intended outcome of the BIFH – there was reference to the AgDevoCo project but there were several other organisations also influencing positive changes so contribution to this outcome is attributable to more than one driver. Also shown in this map, some other respondents highlighted that many of the water systems provided had in fact broken down leading communities to resort to previous water sources.



One particularly interesting area of results related to an additional agroforestry programme run by AgDevCo which provided some farmers with seedlings, such as cashew and moringa, to grow on their

land. The QuIP respondents' narratives highlighted their motivation for participating in the initiative including the expected financial returns and anticipation that these crops would be easy/easier to farm, especially in old age. The quantitative survey had already established that unfortunately most of the seedlings had died, but that many of the respondents would still recommend the agroforestry initiative. The testimonies collected in this study helped to add more information to this; respondents believed that the seedlings had died because they were delivered during a period of drought as well as suffering during transportation, however they believed that if these issues could be resolved, the hoped-for gains could still be realised.