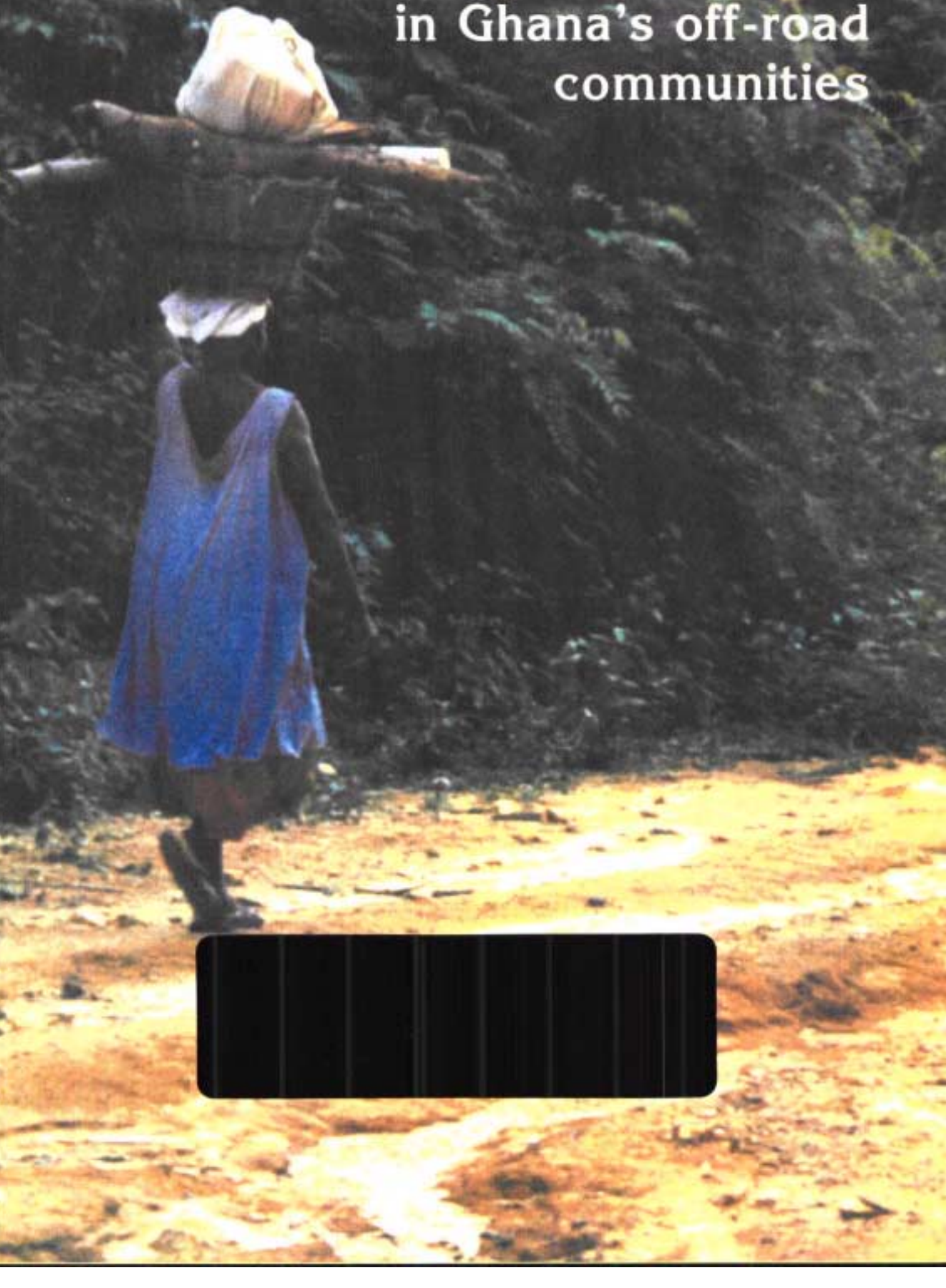


# Access to market opportunities in Ghana's off-road communities



DFID Crop Post-Harvest Programme

*Reports submitted under project R7149*

# **Access to market opportunities in Ghana's off-road communities**

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## **Gazetteer of Markets and Roads in Gomoa District**

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**A GAZETTEER OF MARKETS AND ROADS SERVING  
GOMOA DISTRICT**

compiled by

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## INTRODUCTION

This gazetteer has been produced as an output of the UK DFID-funded project R7149, 'Access to markets in Ghana's off-road communities, Phase 1'. It provides a basic guide to the major markets serving Gomoa district in 1998-9, as provided by local residents and traders, and a very brief non-technical review of road conditions in the district at this time. Detailed analyses of marketing organisation, patterns of commodity trade, access to roads/transport etc. will be published separately.

It is envisaged that the gazetteer will be used principally by officers in the district and regional administrations and central government, by local unit committees and by NGOs who need information in this field. The information will also have relevance for the private sector. It supplements the limited material on markets, trade and communications presented in the Gomoa District Development Plan (1996-2000) commissioned by CEDECOM (Central Region Development Commission).

The information for this gazetteer was collected by Gina Porter and Frank Acheampong Owusu. Market traders, drivers, villagers (and their Chiefs and elders), district and regional administrative staff have all provided information and their contribution is gratefully acknowledged.

# CONTENTS

## I MARKET PROFILES

Afransi

Ankamu (Apam Junction)

Apam

Awombrew

Bawjiase

Buduburam

Dawurampong

Gomoa Akropong

Gomoa Ashiem

Gomoa Tarkwa

Kasoa

Kyiren Nkwanta

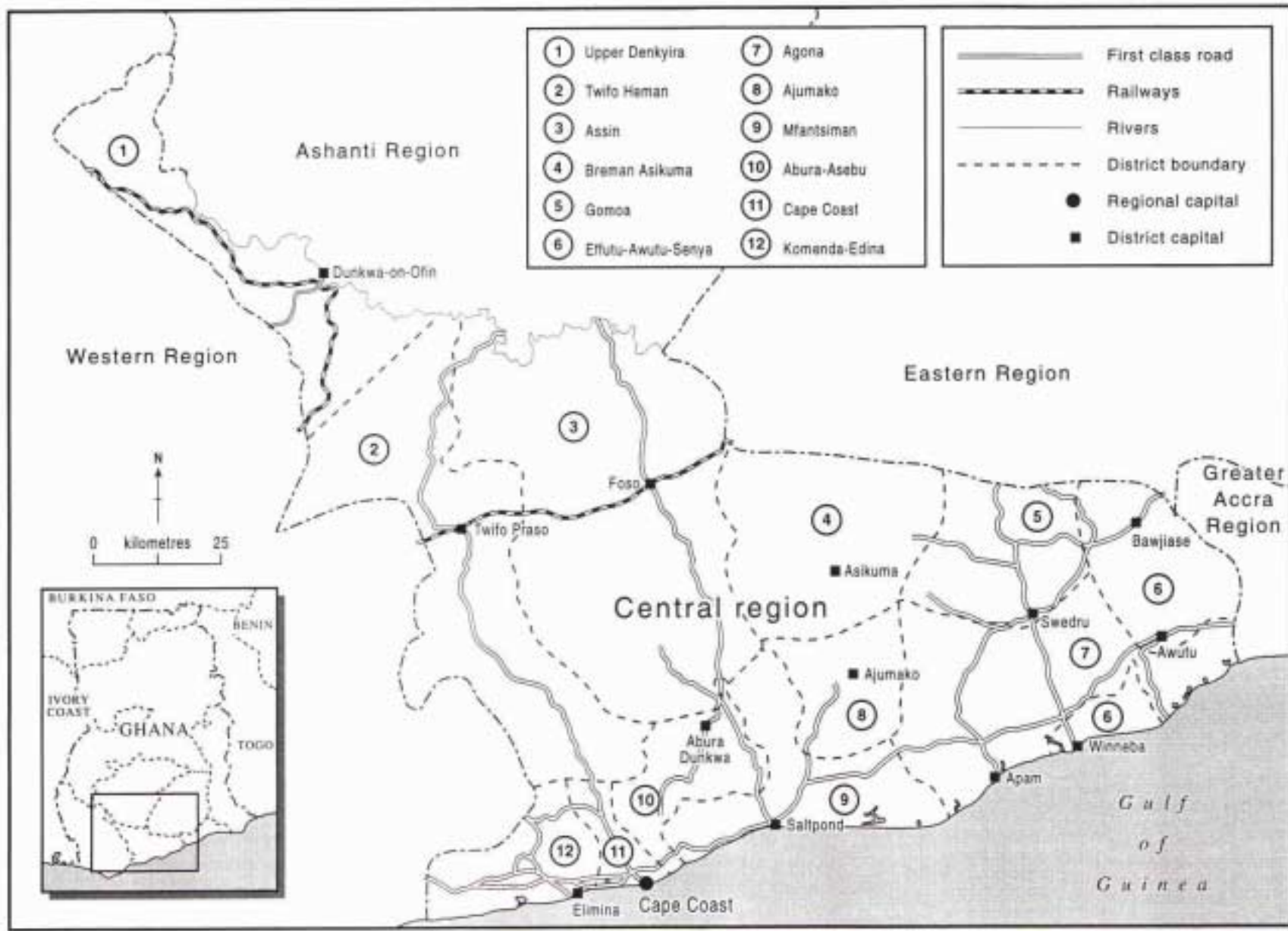
Mankessim

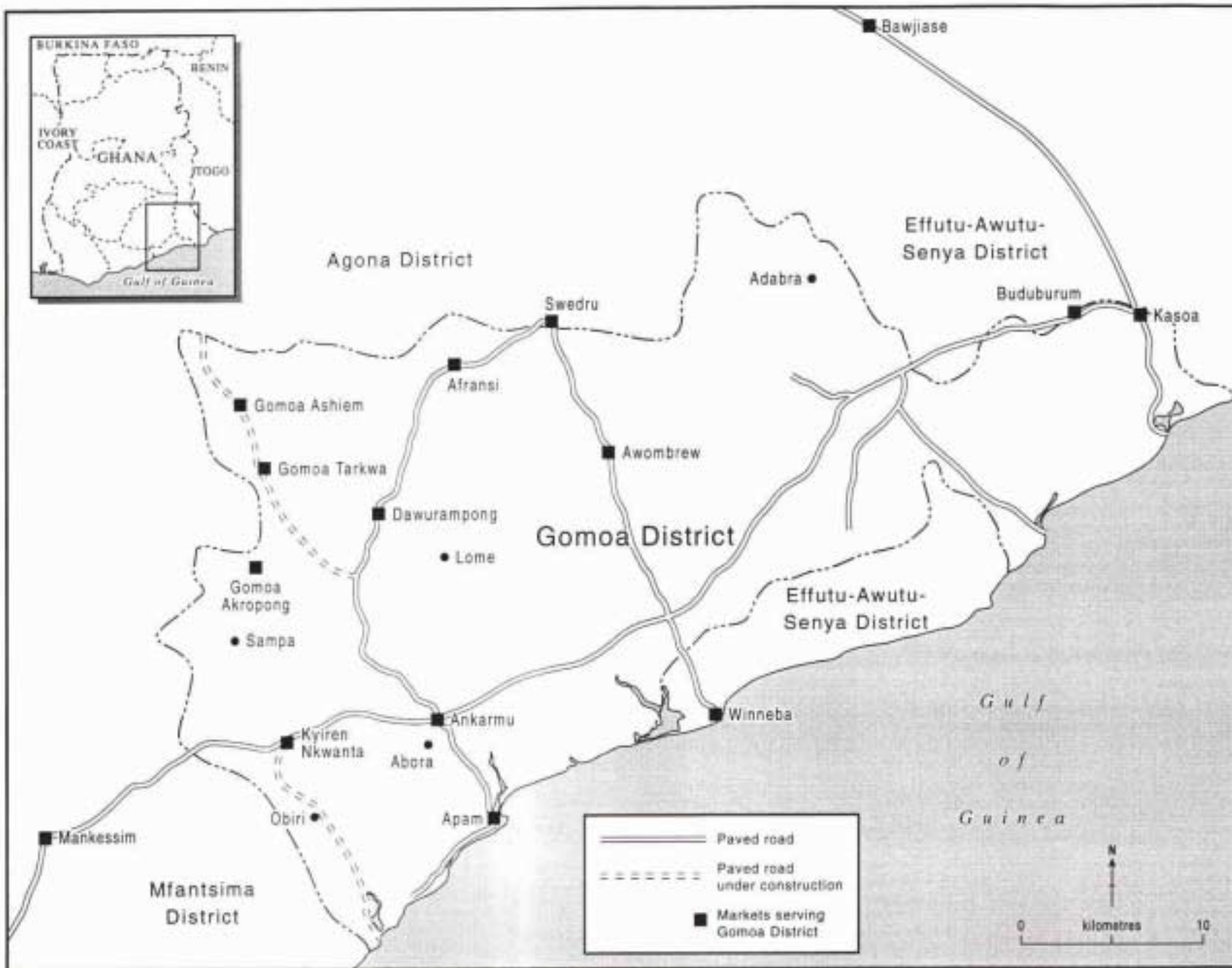
Swedru

## II ROADS

Paved roads

Gravelled and earth roads





## SECTION I : MARKET PROFILES

**Name of market:** AFRANSI

**Location and accessibility:** On a paved road, northern Gomoa

**Principal informants:** Chiefs, elders, market queen maker, Akua Praha (linguist to queen mother), Afua Ataa (queen of fish sellers), other market women.

**Size of market:** Small daily market. Usually under 20 traders, except in late November to January (time of local festival) when neighbouring villagers come to trade and the market may expand to c. 50-100 traders.

**Principal market day:** Daily

**Other market days:** n.a.

**Market hours:** 2 to 6 p.m. People used to come to this market to trade at 6 a.m. They now delay until 2 p.m. because there is no proper shed. In the morning people sell at the junction, then come to the market in the afternoon. The junction market is a second daily market.

**Market history:** Established in pre-colonial times. The market days used to be Thursday and Monday, but another village - Kuku Kurentomian - set up a market in 1967 (now defunct) and that led to the decline of Afransi market in the 1970s so it is now just a daily market. The market has declined in size over the past five years or so, reportedly because the stalls have been spoilt (due to heavy rains about five years ago).

**Market trade:** Retail only. Food items dominate trade: fish, palm nut, pepper, cassava, maize, occasionally fowls and ducks. Also firewood and there are always some second hand clothes on sale. This has been the composition of trade for many years.

**Market site and amenities:** The market site was moved from the junction in 1966, due to restrictions in space at that site. The current site is considered good and drainage is adequate. The site does not have electricity or a water supply. The present stalls were built in 1966 and are made of concrete. They are ample in number but all but one have lost their roofs. There are no lockable stores.

**Market fees:** No fees are charged at the town site.

**Market organisation:** There is a market committee composed of more than ten women which has a remit to improve the market. The queen mother helps new traders find a place to sell. If there is conflict she will sort out the dispute.



**Settlement trade outside the market place:** There are about eight stores, eight kiosks and a large number of table traders.

**Extra notes:** Information on this market was collected in 1997 during work on a previous DFID-funded study (NRSP project R6777) and is included in the database for Gomoa district compiled for that project.

Transport to the market town is frequent. The main problem of the market is its lack of shelter (the sheds lost their roofs in rains about five years previously). The market women see a need to revive the market. The problem of absence of credit facilities for traders was raised.

**Name of market: ANKAMU (APAM JUNCTION MARKET)**

**Location and accessibility:** On the paved road at the junction of the main Cape Coast road with the (paved) road to Apam town (district headquarters) in Gomoa district.

**Principal informants:** Market queen (Abiba), traders, village chief, Mr Justice Edwin Essiaw (assemblyman/filling station owner).

**Size of market:** Small mostly retail market. There is generally a maximum of c. 15-20 traders.

**Principal market day:** Daily with Monday and Thursday dominant.

**Other market days:** Daily, (but only half its normal size on Sundays).

**Market hours:** 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. but many will have left by c. 1 p.m.

**Market history:** A small daily market established about 25 years ago. It has not changed much in size over the past five years; possibly a little smaller as a result of revival of trade at Dawurampong.

**Market trade:** Maily foodstuffs on sale: vegetables, fish, spices, maize, cassava, plantain, salt etc. Most of the sellers are local women from Ankamu and Apam. Some women also come in from nearby villages such as Abora and Ajumako occasionally to sell (e.g. charcoal and cassava), but more commonly to buy goods for home consumption.

**Market site and amenities:** The site is adequate for current trade, but a new ASIP-funded market (and taxi station) is planned to serve the region at another site at some distance from the present site. The current site has tables within a market shed built in the 1960s. There are no lockable stores. The site was once supplied with electricity but this is no longer working (used for special functions only?). There is no water supply within the market.

**Market fees:** 150 cedis per day toll paid to the district administration, with the exception of Saturdays and Sundays when the collector does not come.

**Market organisation:** There is no market association. The market is managed by the chief, elders and Unit Committee members. The market is cleaned by assembly sweepers on Mondays and Thursdays, and by the market women on other days.

**Settlement trade outside the market place:** There are about 13 stores and 10 kiosks: this is a busy centre and transport hub.

**Extra notes:** The main problem reported by traders is that 'goods stay long': there are insufficient buyers. The ASIP market under construction to serve the district will, it is believed, bring in more traders but it is a long way from completion.

**Name of market: APAM**

**Location and accessibility:** On a paved road in coastal Gomoa. (Apam is the district headquarters)

**Principal informants:** Mr Ayanful (District Chief Executive), J.W. Akorful (retired MOFA agronomist and vice chair of the town council, Ekaw Nana Obosu (treasurer, Youth for Development), James Panstil (youth organiser), market traders, market queens.

**Size of market:** Small almost wholly retail market.

**Principal market day:** Daily, though only small on Sunday. Monday is the busiest day, when people occasionally bring maize and plantain from Brong Ahafo. There are three markets (beach - for fish, Carnation and Mamfam- which was built in 1996).

**Other market days:** n.a. see above.

**Market hours:** to c. 6 p.m., with a peak c. 1 to 4 p.m.(presumably when sales are made for supper preparation).

**Market history:** Apam was a major trading centre for gold, palm oil etc.from the interior when held by the Dutch. At that time there was a weekly market. The markets have reportedly grown over the last five years, presumably linked to the designation of Apam as a district headquarters and associated population increase in the town.

**Market trade:** Mostly retail trade in foodstuffs such as maize, cassava and plantain. Oranges sometimes sold in wholesale quantities. Trade is sluggish. The vast majority of traders are from Apam, with a few additional traders from surrounding villages in Gomoa such as Ajumako, who tend to sell at prices below those of Apam traders and leave fairly early. If they have not sold all their maize at this time they often sell on the maize, on credit, to Apam traders. Some outside traders reportedly come to Apam because prices are better than at Kyiren Nkwanta (more stable), but complain that Apam people often want to take goods on credit. The majority of buyers are Apam residents who purchase for home consumption only. The few outside traders are often found in one area together.

Some of the maize on sale in October, November came from markets in the area, such as Mankessim and Kasoa (and originally came from Brong Ahafo) rather than directly from local farms. Traders store maize in rooms by the market and often display only limited amounts, rather than having all their produce on display.

Some new stalls which have been erected for non-resident traders are mostly unused.

**Market site and amenities:**

Carnation site is muddy in the rains. Most stalls here are simply tables under temporary shade. A few salt, cassava and fish sellers display their goods directly on the ground.

A new site - Mamfam - is now available for traders who bring in oranges, sugar cane, pineapple, bananas and fuelwood (the main goods sold in large amounts). They were previously accommodated in a separate section of Carnation market. There are new block

stalls here.

**Market fees:** 100 cedis per market day. Stall prices depend on location.

**Market organisation:** There is no market association at Carnation, but traders help each other in times of need e.g. sickness and funerals. Mamfam has a committee which allocates space and organises cleaning and general administration.

**Settlement trade outside the market place:** There are four big stores and many smaller ones.

**Extra notes:** Traders complain that the business is slow at Apam and about defaulting creditors and goats which roam the Carnation market. At Mamfam market not all the stalls are roofed and the market women say that they do not have money for roofing.

Some information was collected on these markets in 1997 as part of DFID project R6777.

**Name of market:** AWOMBREW

**Location and accessibility:** on a paved road in north Gomoa.

**Principal informants:** Mr R.K. Adukwowo (market ticket collector), market traders

**Size of market:** Small

**Principal market day:** Tuesday and Friday of equal importance

**Other market days:** just a few local retail traders in the market on other days.

**Market hours:** c.6 a.m. to c. 1.00 p.m. (Much business has been concluded by 10 a.m.)

**Market history:** Established in the pre-colonial period. The market has declined in size over the past five years. This is attributed to the decline in local sugar cane production (due to bush fires), which used to be a major trade commodity.

**Market trade:** Mixed wholesale and retail, but wholesale often predominates (particularly for maize, sugar cane, pepper, cassava, gari and fuelwood). Foodstuffs dominate trade, including grains (maize), vegetables (garden eggs, pepper, tomatoes), cassava, groundnuts, sugar cane, chickens, fuelwood etc. These products are mostly sold by people from this and surrounding villages (e.g. Panfokrom, Nsuaem, Mampong, Adzentam, Abonyi), particularly roadside villages. During the maize harvest farmers bring in their produce from surrounding villages (often on foot) and big wholesale dealers come each market day from Winneba (and, to a lesser extent, Swedru) with lorries to buy maize. The maize is often already earmarked for specific customers! In December 98 and January 99 all maize on sale was the local variety. The Winneba traders who came in January 99 purchased at one agreed price. At times clothes sellers, dealers in beads, general goods etc. come from Swedru and fish sellers from Winneba.

**Market site and amenities:** The market has always been at its current site. The site is adequately drained but considered somewhat dangerous because it is by the busy roadside. The market has no electricity (though poles have been erected). There is a standpipe in the market but water is not always available. Vehicles park on the edge of the road: there is no lorry station and vehicular traffic mostly consists of passing cars. Most of the stalls are open structures: stall shades are constructed of bamboo cane and thatch, with some tables placed underneath: when it rains the market disperses. Much produce is displayed on the ground. There are also four lockable stores (considered inadequate).

**Market fees:** 200 cedis per trader per market; 9000 cedis per annum for a lockable store.

**Market organisation:** There is no market committee, but the Unit Committee takes care of the market. The market is cleaned by sanitary workers based at the nearby town of Brofiyedur.

**Extra notes:** There is much dissatisfaction with the current site and a demand for weather-proof stalls.

**Name of market: BAWJIASE**

**Location and accessibility:** On a paved road in Winneba district (Awutu-Effutu-Senya district) N.B. Gomoa and this district were once administered together. They became separate administrative units in 1988.

**Principal informants:** Market queens including Auntie Donkor (maize queen), Essi Donkwo (cassava queen), market traders, District Chief Executive (Winneba District), district budget officer, district finance sub-committee chair.

**Size of market:** c. 2000 registered traders

**Principal market day:** Tuesday and Friday

**Other market days:** Small market every other day

**Market hours:** c.5.30 - 6.00 a.m. to c.6.00 p.m., but people start arriving the day before. The market is at its fullest between c. 8.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m.when urban-based traders tend to leave.

**Market history:** Established in the pre-colonial period. The market day has never changed, but attendance on non-market days has been steadily increasing in recent years.

**Market trade:** Substantial wholesale and retail trade. Cassava, maize, vegetables, local soap, cloth and groceries etc. are sold. Sheep and goats are sold in the area round the slaughter house. The sales of local soap are substantial: this is the principal market in the area for this item. The cloth and grocery trade is smaller than at Kasoa and there are fewer northern and Togolese traders present than at Kasoa.

Local agricultural products such as maize, sugar cane, yam, cassava and its products (cassava dough, gari), plus fuelwood are sold in wholesale quantities to urban-based traders. Maize is brought in from surrounding villages - many of the traders are often local farmers - but traders travel to Brong Ahafo to buy maize in the lean season: over the year, Gomoa-Winneba area is the major supplier of maize. Cassava on sale is mostly locally produced. The agricultural produce is sold to traders who resell in markets such as Kasoa, Tema and New Town (Accra). Many traders buy early in the morning and resell at Kasoa the same day. They tend to come to market with their own transport ('customer' drivers).

**Market site and amenities:** The site has never changed and is considered good, being in the centre of town. Drainage is adequate, but the drains need repair: there is gulying around the main drainage channel. The site has electricity but no water supply, though there are private wells in the area round the market. There is just one KVIP serving the community, none in the market. A lorry park adjoins the market. Stalls are made of concrete blocks with tin roofs and are insufficient for demand. They were built in the 1950s or 60s. There are c. 30-40 lockable stores around the periphery of the market. According to district administrative staff the site is better organised than Kasoa because it was fenced many years ago. Foodstuffs in large (wholesale) quantities are sold in an open space outside the main market.

**Market fees:** 200 cedis per ticket per market day; 2,500 per month for a block stall; 3,000 per month for a lockable store.

**Market organisation:** The market committee is no longer functioning.

**Settlement trade outside the market place:** Substantial numbers of producer-sellers outside the market place, plus stores.

**Extra notes:** Many people (particularly farmers) sell just outside the market place rather than inside, reportedly because they can find customers more easily. The district administration would like to fence this area too. According to the district administration the main problems of the market are firstly the erosion of the main drainage channel in the market, secondly the need for infrastructure (more lockable stores) and thirdly the need for a market water supply and KVIPs. Theft is a minor problem in this market compared to the other major markets in the region. The cassava queen observed problems of oversupply in cassava and is trying to regulate supply patterns from the various local villages producing cassava for this market.



**Name of market:** BUDUBURAM

**Location and accessibility:** On the main Cape Coast - Accra road in Gomoa District.

**Principal informants:** Joseph Kwame Ahora, farmer and Unit Committee chairman.

**Size of market:** Generally no more than c. 100 traders and buyers.

**Principal market day:** Daily.

**Other market days:** n.a.

**Market hours:** 6.30 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. The market is at its busiest around 10.00 a.m.

**Market history:** The market was established about 3 years ago. At first trade was scattered around the village, but then the traders gathered at one site. The market is growing, especially as the Liberian refugee population in this village expands.

**Market trade:** Solely a retail market which is mostly patronised by the Liberian refugees: Ghanaians apparently go to Kasoa market. The main goods traded are cassava, maize, tomatoes, charcoal, meat and vegetables.

**Market site and amenities:** The site is considered good: there is plenty of space and it is close to the centre of the village. There is no drainage to the site and no water or electricity supply. There are also no permanent stalls or lockable stores, just temporary shade from palm fronds or pieces of old roofing sheet with tables beneath.

**Market fees:** 100 cedis per trader per market.

**Market organisation:** There is no special committee, but the traders who lead individual sections settle disputes, oversee sanitation and find spaces for new traders.

**Settlement trade outside the market place:** Two stores, three kiosks only. People selling wholesale organise sales from the house or by the roadside.

**Extra notes:** The main problem of the current market site is the lack of good stalls: the community are unable to improve the situation because they have no money.

**Name of market:** DAWURAMPONG

**Location and accessibility:** Close to paved road in Gomoa district.

**Principal informants:** Chief, sub-chief, elders, market women

**Size of market:** At harvest time, there may be up to c. 800 traders in the market, at other times perhaps 500 traders.

**Principal market day:** Tuesday

**Other market days:** Friday. There is also a small daily retail market for townspeople.

**Market hours:** 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. The market is at its busiest c.8-12 a.m.

**Market history:** The market was established about 40 years ago. It has been growing over the past five years. The Chief considers the main reason for growth is population increase and transport improvement (the road was tarred c. 1985 - previously it was only a feeder road).

**Market trade:** Principally a bulking centre for agricultural produce plus retail. The main items traded are locally produced foodstuffs: cassava, maize, smoked fish, plantain from outside. On Tuesday traders come from Apam, Mumford etc. with smoked fish. Many of the local traders are farmers, but there are also bigger traders who bring in foodstuffs for sale. Traders from Apam, Mankessim and other urban centres as far as Accra come to buy maize, cassava, pepper, and palm nuts. In the Christmas period the character of the market changes somewhat from its usual foodstuffs emphasis, since clothing and shoe sellers come in substantial numbers.

**Market site and amenities:** The site is considered good but congested. It is situated on sloping ground, which makes drainage easier in the rains. Erosion has washed away the concrete floor. Stalls are made of concrete and are insufficient for the volume of trade: sometimes there are no places available for traders to sell. Much produce is displayed on the ground. Traders complain about lack of shade and lack of urinals/KVIPs. The inhabitants are now trying to build a new market with ASIP assistance on the outskirts of the town where congestion will be less. The current site has no electricity, no well or standpipe. There is a lorry park in front of the market, but it is congested and dangerous. Maize and cassava are sold in a separate area to the main market.

**Market fees:** 100 cedis per trader per market. Stall owners pay 1,500 cedis per month for a lockable stall.

**Market organisation:** There is a market committee with over ten members. Three of its members are men, the remainder are women. The committee plans how to develop the market, and allocates stalls to traders. There is no price fixing, according to the market traders, all prices are made by negotiation. The market is cleaned by the sanitary workers who are paid by the District Assembly.

**Settlement trade outside the market place:** A large number of small stores and kiosks.

**Extra notes:** The main problems of the current market site include its water supply, eroded floor and lack of toilets.

Traders say that if they do not sell all their maize here they may take it down to Apam where prices are usually higher, but sales are slower there.

**Name of market: GOMOA AKROPONG**

**Location and accessibility:** On a badly pot-holed road which becomes almost unmotorable after rain.

**Principal informants:** Nana Kwabena Asante, town/Chief's linguist; Mr Kofi Gyasi, town secretary and farmer.

**Size of market:** Usually only about 10 traders in the market.

**Principal market day:** Daily

**Other market days:** n.a.

**Market hours:** 7.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The market is at its busiest c.8-12 a.m.

**Market history:** The market was established in the 1950s. It has remained much the same size over the last five years or so.

**Market trade:** Retail trade dominates, with just a small amount of wholesaling in okra, cassava and citrus. Wholesale activities often take place at the centre of the village rather than in the market.

**Market site and amenities:** The site is considered good because it is centrally located in the village. It has no water or electricity supply. There is a lorry park close by. The market stalls were built in the 1950s and are concrete with corrugated iron roofing sheets. There are sufficient stalls but some roofs leak. There are also two lockable stores, one used as a clinic and one as a bar. Traders organise cleaning the market themselves on a rotational basis.

**Market fees:** 100 cedis per trader per market.

**Market organisation:** No market committee; the Unit Committee oversees the market.

**Settlement trade outside the market place:** A few bars and table traders only.

**Extra notes:** Main problems of the market are considered to be leaking roofs.

**Name of market: GOMOA ASHIEM**

**Location and accessibility:** On an unpaved road c. 1<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> km from Apam Junction. The road was formerly very bad but is being graded.

**Principal informants:** Nana Josiah Kofi Aidoo, farmer and former assemblyman.

**Size of market:** Usually small but busy.

**Principal market day:** Daily (the busiest days are Tuesday, Friday and Sunday.)

**Other market days:** n.a.

**Market hours:** 7.00 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. The market is at its busiest around noon.

**Market history:** The market was re-established in 1958. Up to c. 1964-5 there was a Tuesday/Friday market, but the market then declined due to transport shortages. The village population has increased and transport frequency has improved in recent years so the market is growing again.

**Market trade:** Mostly retail trade, some wholesale. The main goods traded are cassava, maize, plantain, yam, gari, vegetables, fish and salt (as has always been the case).

**Market site and amenities:** The site is considered good because it is centrally located close to the lorry park, but drainage is poor. There is neither water nor electricity at the site. The present stalls were built in 1960 and are made of cement with aluminium roofing sheets. There are sufficient permanent stalls but no lockable stores. Traders share the cleaning and one market cleaner is employed by the council to sweep the market.

**Market fees:** 100 cedis per trader per market.

**Market organisation:** No market committee.

**Settlement trade outside the market place:** 12 stores, c. 10 kiosks and c. 10 table traders.

**Extra notes:** Main problems of the market are considered to be lack of storage at the site, poor drainage and leaking roofs.

**Name of market: GOMOA TARKWA**

**Location and accessibility:** On the Ankamoh-Ashiem road in north-west Gomoa district. The road to the village has recently been graded and tarred, but the road through the village is still under construction.

**Principal informants:** Mr John Sam, Unit Committee member and farmer; Mr Kofi Sakyi, farmer; Unit Committee Chair; Assembly man.

**Size of market:** Small, generally around 30 traders.

**Principal market day:** Daily

**Other market days:** n.a.

**Market hours:** 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. The market is at its busiest c. 1-2 p.m.

**Market history:** The market was established about 50 years ago. It has been in decline over the past five years. The market used to meet on Mondays and Thursdays (until about two years ago), but there is only petty trade on a daily basis now. The disappearance of the weekly wholesale bulking market is blamed on the deterioration of the road through the village. It is hoped that the weekly market can be revived when the road construction currently in progress is complete.

**Market trade:** Just a daily retail market now with the emphasis on foodstuffs such as cassava, dried fish, maize, peppers etc.

**Market site and amenities:** The site is considered good because it is centrally located. Drainage, however, is poor and the site gets flooded after heavy rain. The present stalls were built in the 1940s when the market started and are made of concrete with corrugated iron roofing sheets: most have collapsed, so there is a shortage of stalls. There are about 8 lockable stores. The market has neither electricity nor a water supply.

**Market fees:** Since the sheds collapsed, no fees have been charged for them. Lockable stall holders pay 1000cedis per room per month, but are now being asked to pay 2000 in order to subsidise reconstruction of the sheds.

**Market organisation:** There is no market committee: the town committee oversees the market re cleaning etc.

**Settlement trade outside the market place:** Just three provision stores, two chemist stores and a few kiosks and table traders.

**Extra notes:** The main problems of the current market are the stalls, the poor drainage and lack of water at the site. They are trying to repair the stalls themselves and have talked to their MP to help them find an NGO to assist in sorting out the market. A great deal of

cassavae and maize is produced by the villagers but the traders no longer come here to buy: they see a need for storage and processing improvements.

It may be anticipated that the weekly market will revive when road construction in this area is completed.

**Name of market: KASOA**

**Location and accessibility:** Located at the junction of the Swedo-Bawjiase road with the main Accra - Cape Coast road in Awutu-Effutu-Senya (Winneba) district.

**Principal informants:** Market queens, including Hajia Ibrahim (overall market queen), Janet Abina Adooba (maize queen), traders, Beatrice Kepelu (gari section queen/secretary), Mr Anderson (secretary of the Market Retailer's Association), Haroun Tetteh Mensah (assemblyman/ Market Retailers Association), District Assembly tax/market inspectors, District Chief Executive, district budget officer, district finance and administrative committee sub-chair.

**Size of market:** One of the largest markets in Central Region (probably second only to Mankessim). There are around 3000 *registered* traders currently.

**Principal market day:** Tuesday and Friday.

**Other market days:** Daily, even Sundays.

**Market hours:** Many traders from distant towns start arriving the evening before market day. The market starts c. 6 a.m., is at its busiest between c. 9 and 12 a.m. and closes around 6 p.m.

**Market history:** A very old market, possibly early colonial or precolonial. It continues to grow rapidly, since many people come to buy here from Accra. Many traders have moved here from Bawjiase in recent years.

**Market trade:** Both retail and wholesale trading. The main goods traded in the market include cassava, gari, maize, yam, vegetables and a wide range of other food (including animals) and non-food items. Traders come from Accra, Winneba, Mankessim, Takoradi, and even Niger to buy gari, and from Lome in Togo to buy gari and cassava dough. Winneba and Gomoa are together estimated to provide c. 50% of the supplies of gari in Kasoa market over the year. Traders from major Ghanaian towns such as Kumasi, Tamale and Techiman come to buy and sell. Traders from Kasoa travel to the north for maize, tomatoes, yams etc. Also many villagers in the vicinity including Gomoa bring their maize, gari and other produce in to the market.

Maize is supplied from Gomoa mainly in July-September, when possibly two-thirds of maize on sale here comes from that district. Brong Ahafo is a major maize supplier at other times of the year when local prices are too high for Kasoa traders to make a profit. They then go to Brong Ahafo to buy maize, though local farmers will bring in maize to retail themselves. Many traders buy agricultural produce at Bawjiase early in the morning and resell at Kasoa later the same day.

The market used to be principally for foodstuffs, but now the goods on sale are very varied, with many textiles etc, especially around the Christmas period: 'we are becoming a suburb of Accra'.



**Market site and amenities:** The site is extremely congested so a new market is being built on a 70 acre site along the Bowjiase road (only one-quarter of the site is being developed currently because of the cost of the project). The new market construction is jointly funded by ASIP and the District Assembly (the District Assembly paying c.25%+) and traders. Around 6000 traders have already expressed an interest in taking stalls at the new site.

The current site has no proper slaughter house, though goats and sheep are sold in the market. It has inadequate drainage, though there are standpipes and electricity. There is only one KVIP and a number of urinals; individuals living in the surrounding locality charge for use of their private KVIPs. There is a lorry park close to the market. The market stalls - made of blocks with tin roofs - are old, having been built in the 1960s; none were constructed as lockable stores (though a few have been made secure by their owners). Some traders rent lockable stores in surrounding houses: lack of storage is a problem for some traders - maize traders, for instance, have to give unsold maize on credit at the end of the day. Most traders display foodstuffs on the ground: access to space if you do not have a stall is on a first-come-first-served basis. Cassava dough is displayed on wooden platforms to prevent it getting dirty. Maize sales take place at three different locations: 1. wholesalers (who go to the villages to buy) have store rooms; 2. there are retailers elsewhere supplied by the wholesalers and without store rooms; 3. farmers and traders from the villages who have brought in their maize sell in a separate area.

The new site stalls being built are of various types including open sheds, stalls and lockable stores. There will be around 200-300 lockable stores at the new site. There will also be 40 KVIPs (4X10 seater) and a slaughter house.

Local authority staff clean the market on Tuesdays and Fridays and a sanitation vehicle clears refuse. However, it is clearly difficult to control rubbish on market days, given the volume of trade and the congested nature of the site. Traders pay 500c per month towards cleaning the market.

**Market fees:** Old site: 200 cedis per daily ticket for hawkers, 2,500 cedis per month for a stall. New site fees still under review.

**Market organisation:** Each commodity section has a queen mother (37 in all) and there is an overall queen mother for the market (currently Hajia Kuma Ibrahim; there is a second overall queen, a Fante woman, but she lives in Accra).

There are various trade associations and one umbrella group. This Market Retailer's Association (which includes wholesalers among its members) is concerned with traders' welfare and fought for a new market. It has an office in the market. Members (most of whom are women) pay 500 cedis per month. The few men who belong to the association are store owners selling sugar-cane, second-hand clothing (including shoes) and cement/general goods dealers. If there is a major dispute which the market leaders cannot settle, it is brought here. The retailers association at Kasoa is unique in Central Region - Mankessim, Bawjiase and Swedro do not have retail associations of this type (though there is one in Accra). According to its leading members it has done much to put Kasoa on the map, through the media and is an important institution for supporting women traders and traders in general. It also acts as a bridge for government policy (e.g. VAT). The officials are not paid but get a monthly allowance from the dues.

There is a sub-group of the Market Retailers Association, the Food Crop Producers and Processors of Ghana, Kasoa. This currently just works with cassava dough processors and retailers. Producing areas are each given a day when they can come to sell at the market (either Tuesday or Friday) and each day has a different coloured membership card. There are branches in individual villages and village leaders ensure people obey the rules. The system has been operating for c. 2 ½ years and the aim is to extend the system to other products. They have 1500 members in the Bawjiase area and 1200 members in the Obum area. Registration costs 1000 cedis and 200cedis market dues are paid per person. If non members come to the market they are told about the system and asked to join: if they do not wish to join they are not expelled but are taken to see Mr Haruna at the Retailers Association office.

There is also a maize sellers association which, according to one trader, all sellers must join or they are stopped from selling in the market: some (small) maize traders interviewed, however, do not belong to this and, according to the maize queen it is not compulsory. New entrants (wholesalers) who want to go to the producing areas and bring large quantities to market pay 'ammantem nsa' of 300,000 cedis; retailers pay an 'ammantem nsa' of 80,000 cedis. Outsiders from other places do not pay: it would be difficult to enforce. The entry fees apparently go to the District Assembly office to contribute towards building new market structures.

**Settlement trade outside the market place:** This is a large centre with much extra-market trade.

**Extra notes:** The main problems at the present market site are congestion, sanitation problems and - from a district revenue viewpoint and market regulation viewpoint- the fact that the site is unfenced so many traders are able to avoid paying fees. There is some suspicion in the market that contractors are delaying work at the new site. Theft is not considered a major problem by the retail association secretary, but the market queen, Hajia Ibrahim, has had to deal with a lot of minor thefts. The major problem for traders is lack of capital (n.b. they once tried to run a susu group from the Retail Association office but people reportedly could not afford to contribute so it stopped).

There are plans among the women traders to establish a 31st December Women's Movement group which it is thought will help the market women to get a loan for building facilities. This might bring links to other market queen mothers (there was a 31st group once before but it collapsed).

Kasoa market was, apparently a point of contention when Gomoa district was split from Awutu-Effutu-Senya, since it provides much revenue for the district administration.

**Name of market: KYIREN NKWANTA**

**Location and accessibility:** At the junction of the main Cape Coast - Accra road with a minor road (now being paved) to the coast.

**Principal informants:** Market traders

**Size of market:** Relatively small

**Principal market day:** Tuesdays and Fridays, but Friday is less busy usually.

**Other market days:** See above.

**Market hours:** c. 6.00 a.m., peak around 10-11 a.m., after which urban traders may leave; sometimes there is hardly anyone in the market by 2 p.m.

**Market history:** The market was established c. 1947. There was an earlier (pre-colonial market) at a place c. 1 km away 'Famaye'. Traders say the market is declining: this is attributed to limited attendance by urban traders, the enclosed market not now being visible to passers-by on the main Cape Coast -Accra road (it used to be open and visible), poor produce yields in villages in the immediate vicinity, and a shortage of capital among local traders which restricts their purchasing power and ability to attract buyers since they cannot buy large quantities of produce.

**Market trade:** Mainly retail with some maize bulking. Foodstuffs sold include maize, cassava and vegetables. Many of the foodstuffs on sale come from the local area (Gomoa and Agona district). Buyers for maize and cassava sometimes come from as far as Accra, Winneba, Cape Coast and Elmina, who bring in their own trucks, but on other occasions maize is principally purchased retail by local householders and food processors. In the Christmas period the character of the market changed and clothing sellers and sales dominated.

Some traders prefer to trade at Kyiren Nkwanta than at Mankessim further along the Cape Coast road because, although Mankessim is a bigger market, they say oversupply is a more common problem than at Kyiren Nkwanta.

**Market site and amenities:** The site is considered good, despite the problem of lack of visibility from the road. Some new stalls were built by the District Assembly in 1996, earlier stalls date from about the late 1960s. There is sufficient stall space. Maize sellers can put any unsold maize at the end of the market day in the store organised by the revenue collectors within the market (this is free). The site has no electricity. There is a standpipe, but water does not often flow. Rubbish is cleared at the end of every market by (DA?) sweepers.

**Market fees:** 100 cedi levy on market days.

**Market organisation:** There is no market committee. Traders are reportedly not interested in having one because of lack of time.

**Settlement trade outside the market place:** this market has no associated settlement close by, The nearest villages are perhaps 1 km away.

**Extra notes:** It is sometimes difficult to get transport from the market to surrounding villages. Enclosure of the market is perceived to be a major problem; one trader suggested that passers sometimes mistake it for a school building. Problems of broken roofing sheets have been resolved through some recent renovation of stalls by the District Assembly.

**Name of market: MANKESSIM**

**Location and accessibility:** On the main Accra-Cape Coast road in Mfantseman district.

**Principal informants:** Mr P.H. Etruo, (former District Assembly member), market revenue office staff, market traders, Nana Bedzigua (plantain queen mother).

**Size of market:** One of the largest markets in the region and the largest in Mfantseman district. Since many traders avoid paying market fees, it is difficult to estimate numbers. The market is busiest in August-December.

**Principal market day:** Wednesday

**Other market days:** Saturday and, to a lesser extent, daily.

**Market hours:** Traders from distant places arrive the night before market day. The market starts c. 6 a.m. and continues to about 6.30 or 7 p.m. The busiest time is in the morning between c. 6 a.m. and noon.

**Market history:** The market was established in 1910 (i.e. early colonial period) by Nana Edu, but the establishment of market structures mainly dates from the 1950s when stalls were built by the Nkrumah government. Further stalls were constructed subsequently. The market has grown substantially over the last 5 years: the expansion in trade is attributed to unemployment (which encourages informal employment in petty trade).

**Market trade:** Trade is mixed wholesale and retail; retail traders probably dominate numerically. The principal trade items in the market are all foodstuffs: fish, maize (quantities fluctuate substantially over the year) and gari/cassava (generally in large quantities). Animals, principally goats and sheep, grass cutter and poultry are sold daily to provide meat for chop bars in the town. Gari is identified as the item in which there has been greatest trade expansion in recent years: the increase is attributed to the diffusion of gari processing machines in the region.

The traders come from local villages, Central Region districts such as Assin Foso and as far as Brong Ahafo (Sunyani, Techiman), but rarely from Tamale and the north. Many (c. 50%) of the maize traders also deal in cassava/gari. A majority of dealers in the market are often Mankessim residents. Some male middlemen bring in salted dried fish from the Gambia and sell it to traders here. Buyers for fish come from as far as Kumasi, Sunyani and Obuasi. At Christmas, in this as in other markets, there is a large increase in clothes and shoe sellers.

**Market site and amenities:** The market site has never changed but has expanded over an old cemetery. The current site is considered good but congested: at times it is difficult to pass through the market since routeways are blocked by goods on display. Some buildings have apparently encroached on the market site and reportedly need demolition. Drainage is good (drains and concrete floors) except during heavy rains when the site floods. There is an electricity supply to the market but there are few bulbs and it does not always work (has not worked for the past three years according to traders). There is no water supply in the market,

though iced water is sold in the market. There are no KVIPs so traders have to go to a nearby suburb along the main road and pay 30c. There are two lorry parks located nearby.

The market stalls are constructed of concrete posts and tin roofs. They appear well constructed. They are insufficient in number, however, and new ASIP stalls are being constructed because of the demand. Many traders display foodstuffs on sacks on the ground: different foodstuffs are sold together, rather than in separate sections. The market site is split into two by the road: perishable foodstuffs are concentrated on one side, less perishable foodstuffs and clothing on the other. Some lockable stores exist, but these are insufficient. Maize traders say that because there is nowhere to store unsold maize, they have to give it out on credit. There is a slaughter house but it is in poor condition.

**Market fees:** 200 cedis per main market day for hawkers, 1,000 per month for a stall, 3000 per month for a lockable stall. (There are 30 revenue collectors for the markets in this district who circulate round the markets.)

**Market organisation:** There used to be a market committee linked to the District Assembly, but it was dissolved about a year or so ago by the new District Chief Executive. They are thinking about establishing a new one. The Ministry of Health organises market cleaning, and the market is cleaned every day except Wednesday and Saturday when the market site is too busy for the cleaners to work.

The sections of the market are organised with 32 queen mothers for individual trade goods. Nana Bedzigua (the plantain queen mother), an elderly trader, acts as a general queen mother. Also, the town has a queen mother who resides in Cape Coast but visits Mankessim each Friday and includes the market among her responsibilities. She formed a volunteer squad to stop people stealing goods. The queen mothers do not fix prices generally; each trader fixes her own price, according to Nana Bedzigua (who contrasts the situation in Mankessim with the situation in Kumasi, where the queen mother's say is final. 'Here on the coast they don't take your instructions'). There is a maize sellers association but it is not compulsory to join: members pay regular contributions to help members with funerals and other major occasions. The queen settles disputes and collects the contributions. The association does not regulate maize selling in any way, apart from giving traders a place to sell.

**Settlement trade outside the market place:** A busy centre with many shops and kiosks outside the market.

**Extra notes:** The main problems identified in the market are theft and sanitation. Theft is a long-standing problem and involves both pick-pockets and theft of goods from stalls. For a time (c. 3 months) a task force of 30 men paid for by the traders (500 cedis per week per trader) policed the market (see above). It was provided with caps, T-shirts and torches. Traders stopped contributing, however, so now they simply report theft to the police station.

Loudspeakers for making announcements was considered one improvement traders would like to see in the market.

Major problems for traders are lack of capital (for purchase of trade goods and for transport). There is frequent conflict between traders and loading boys in the market over the costs of loading goods.

**Name of market:** SWEDRU

**Location and accessibility:** On a paved road in Agona district, just north of Gomoa district boundary.

**Principal informants:** Mr Agbesi Essale (District Administration), market traders, maize queen and other major maize traders, market tax officer.

**Size of market:** Large market, 1500+ traders generally, and over 2000 at the busiest time of year (November-February and July-August).

**Principal market day:** Monday and Thursday (equally important, though possibly slightly busier on Mondays when more local people come to market.)

**Other market days:** Every day (including Sunday, though this is smaller than on other days).

**Market hours:** c. 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., and busiest between 7 a.m. and 2 p.m. (Villagers tend to come early and leave as soon as they have sold their produce.)

**Market history:** The market was established in 1935 at the main lorry park but moved to a new site about a year ago to allow reconstruction of the market stalls etc. at the old site (using funds from the District Assembly, drawing on money from the Urban III project, and the traders). According to some the market has grown over the past five years, particularly in the past year with movement to the new temporary site where there is room for many more stallholders.

**Market trade:** Retail and wholesale sections are both large. Foodstuffs trade dominates: cassava, maize, plantain, beans, groundnuts, palm oil, vegetables, fish, gari, yam, poultry etc. Many foodstuffs are sold in retail quantities to householders or to cooked food sellers. Also clothing, textiles etc. No animals apart from poultry are sold in the market.

Plantain has reportedly declined due to a decline in production. Maize traders travel to the north of Ghana in the lean season to buy maize, but purchase locally in the villages around when sufficient is available. Most maize traders also deal in gari/dried cassava (kokonte). Swedro resident traders go to Accra to buy onions etc. for sale here. A large proportion of traders are Swedro residents: there are not many itinerant traders from other urban centres.

**Market site and amenities:** The old site had a good drainage system, an electricity supply, pipe-borne water and a lorry park. Its stalls were constructed in 1935 of cement with iron sheet roofing. The new site has very poor drainage, no electricity and no water supply. However, it has a lorry park and plenty of room for traders. Individuals here build their stalls themselves (generally a wooden pole structure with roofing sheets): most goods (perhaps 90%) are displayed on tables under shade. There are very few lockable stalls - those existing mostly belong to maize or vegetable traders. The location of the new site is considered better

than the old site and it has been proposed that the new site is kept for foodstuffs trading, while the old site, when renovated, is used for clothing and other manufactured goods etc. However, many traders are keen to move back to the old site where they consider business was better. Foodstuff types are mixed, not segregated, in the market.

**Market fees:** 200 cedis per day; 8-10,000 cedis per lockable stall per month.

**Market organisation:** There is a market committee with 7 members: 4 female, 3 male. They see to the welfare of the market, resolve disputes and carry on day-to-day management.

There is also a maize sellers association set up about five years ago which deals with members welfare (funerals etc.) only; members pay dues of 1000c per month. New entrants pay a fee of 20,000c. The queen helps allocate selling spaces to new entrants but anyone can sell in the market. Although membership is reportedly not compulsory people who come and do not wish to join may be sent to the market elders. According to one trader, if they continue selling their goods may be siezed (though this has not happened recently). Other traders described the association as 'very loose'. There is also a cassava sellers association, also reportedly, very loose. Market cleaning is undertaken by local council labourers.

**Settlement trade outside the market place:** A busy centre with many shops, kiosks etc. Sheep and goats are sold currently sold in the Zongo.

**Extra notes:** Plans are under way to create a place for animal sales (sheep and goats) at the new market site, because people have difficulty finding the current place for animal sales in the Zongo and the district environmental health staff find it difficult to monitor activities of the dealers there.

The main problems in the market are lack of drainage, water and electricity at the new site. Because this site is seen to be temporary, little has been done to provide adequate facilities there. There are occasional thefts (not so many as at Mankessim according to the tax officer) and other disputes among traders.

Traders here identify their main problems as traders to be shortage of capital to purchase trade goods, people defaulting on credit, and high transport costs which reduce their profit margin.

Sanitation within the market is better here than at other markets and there is a clearer organisation of the market by produce types.



## SECTION II: ROADS IN GOMOA DISTRICT

Figure 1 shows the road network in Gomoa district. By comparison with many areas of Ghana it has a relatively dense network, but most roads are in poor condition. Roads considered below come under the jurisdiction of two separate agencies, the Ghana Highway Authority and the Department of Feeder Roads. Urban roads are excluded from consideration. A brief non-technical summary of road conditions based on visual observation is provided below. The Highways Authority's regional office in Cape Coast was unable to provide information on (paved) road specifications. Roads with the heaviest traffic in rank order are as follows: Accra-Cape Coast, Winneba Junction -Winneba, Apam Junction-Apam and Winneba Junction-Swedro (all being paved roads).

### A PAVED ROADS

#### *Accra - Cape Coast*

This asphalt road dissects the district and is the major route through it. It is mostly of reasonable condition, though with some patching. It was originally constructed in the mid 1950s.

#### *Ankamu - Apam*

This road links the Cape Coast road with the district capital. It has some potholes (which are being filled in intermittently) but is otherwise in fair condition.

#### *Ankamu - Dewurampong - Swedro*

Mostly in fair condition.

#### *Winneba Junction - Swedro*

Mostly in fair condition.

#### *Winneba Junction - Winneba*

This passes through part of Gomoa district before entering Awutu-Effutu-Senya district. Major road works are taking place at the Winneba Junction end, with construction of open concrete drains.

#### *Dabayin - Buduatta*

A short length (c. 4 kms) of fairly new (c. 2 years old) paved road in good condition. According to the Department of Feeder Roads, Cape Coast, this was built as part of a programme of providing 'sectional surfaces' (the only road constructed in Gomoa so far under this programme).

#### *Kyiren Nkwanta - Gomoa Ngyiresi*

A short stretch of road (2 kms) in very bad condition, much of the (1/2 inch pavement) surface has been lost, though some potholes have been filled. There are plans to pave this road from Kyiren Nkwanta through Gomoa Ngyiresi onwards to Gomoa Brofo, Asepanyin and into Ajumako district. This will be a second phase of the Dago Kyirin-Nkwanta project (see below).

#### *Kyiren Nkwanta - Dago*

Still under construction, with a very thin bitumen surface (bitumen spray and chippings) unlikely to last more than about 3 years. Gullying is already evident on the sides of the newly constructed road. By February 1999 the road had reached within 100 yards of the Cape Coast - Accra road junction. According to villagers along the route, the road has been under construction for the past three years (the contractor is from outside Gomoa).

#### *Enyeme - Oguaa - Eshiem - Mozano*

Under construction

#### *Ekotsi- Fete*

In very poor condition.

## **B GRAVELLED AND EARTH ROADS**

According to the draft road map held by the Department of Feeder Roads, Accra, (currently being revised) most Gomoa roads are gravelled and many have a bituminous surface treatment. However, this is misleading since gravel surfaces are rapidly washed away, particularly on rolling terrain and almost all so-called gravelled roads (with the exception of roads graded during the current year) were indistinguishable in Gomoa from basic earth roads/tracks. Some roads are erroneously marked as having a bituminous surface treatment, such as the Gomoa Assin- Brofoyedur- Mumford road and the Kyiren Nkwanta - Brofoyedur road. In fact, these are narrow tracks, hilly in places with some vegetation encroachment; they are difficult to negotiate by car. Many roads north of the Cape-Coast - Accra road, where rainfall is heavier, have bad corrugations, e.g. the Buduatta - Amuanda - Adabra road. Earth roads in Gomoa generally need remaking after two years, because of deterioration in the rains. Seasonal access problems are common on Gomoa's so-called gravelled roads and on its earth roads, whenever heavy rains occur.

Gomoa district does not have its own roads department; work is supervised by the highway and feeder roads departments in Winneba, though Gomoa's Works Superintendent makes periodic inspections of Gomoa roads and reports on conditions to Winneba. Gomoa shares a grader with Mfantseman district.

The Feeder Roads Department Medium Term Plan Phase 1 for Central Region includes periodic maintenance work (1998-2001) on roads rehabilitated/regavelled before 1991. However, recurrent breakdowns with grading equipment and late commencement of work by contractors has substantially delayed the programme. Feeder Roads Department decentralisation is now under way and this may change the pattern of work in future years.

but current policy is to do little direct work: c. 90 % of work is contracted out to private firms.

In 1997 Feeder Roads Department planned work on 9 maintainable roads (roads which have to be maintained) in Gomoa district and four non-maintainable roads (i.e. roads in poor or very poor condition).

#### Maintainable roads

1. Pinanko-Okwahu-Abodom 14.3 km
2. Awomberew-Potsin-Potsin Jn 10.4 km
3. Awomberew-Nsuaem 4.0 km
4. Simbrofo Jn-Simbrofo-Denkyira 11.4 km
5. Akotsi-Kwanyarko 16.8 km
6. Buduatta-Fawomanye 14.7 km
7. Potsin-Buduatta-Akraman Jn 10.0 km
8. Manso Jn-Manso 3.9 km
9. Gomoa Sampa-Akropong 4.34 km

#### Non-maintainable roads

1. Gomoa Assin-Brofoyedru 4.6 km
2. Abotsia-Ankamu 2.5 km
3. Ajumako-Denkyira 15.6 km
4. Dasum-Jekrodua 18.3 km

Over the three years 1998-2001 rehabilitation/improvement work is planned on the following 6 feeder roads in Gomoa district.

1. Ankamu - Gomoa Abura
2. Dewurampong - Debiso
3. Ngyiresi- Dewurampong
4. Ekwankrom - Gomoa Manso
5. Potsin - Dominase
6. Dominase Jn - Dominase