

# Gender

## Empowering women in Sorugu: Shea butter production thrives

From Abukari Alhassan Baba,  
TAMALE

**A** LOT of women have found economic empowerment through shea butter production in Sorugu, a farming community located in the Sagnarigu Municipal District of the Northern Region.

This thriving local occupation is the mainstay of the community, with two shea butter processing factories operating in the area.

The women of Sorugu skilfully transform shea nuts into high-quality shea butter, which is then sold to factory buyers. This enterprise has not only provided a source of income but also fostered a sense of community and cooperation among the women.

Sorugu, with less than 250 houses, stands out as the only community in the municipality with two shea butter processing factories, making it a hub of shea butter production. The success of this industry has positively impacted the local economy and improved the livelihoods of the women involved.

Through their hard work and dedication, the women of Sorugu are setting an example for entrepreneurship and self-sufficiency, demonstrating the potential for rural communities to drive economic growth and development.

The most popular place for production is the processing factory. However, a few women do the processing in their various homes and sell to the factory and individuals.

The women usually pick the shea nuts from their husbands' farms during the rainy season and resort to market places that are close to them like Tamale, Kumbungu, Savelugu, and Tolon to buy the shea nuts during the dry season and sometimes the factory owners provide the women with the nuts.

### Source of income

Shea butter production serves as an income generation venture for both genders, especially women in the Northern Region where a lot of shea trees can be found.

According to Sanatu Iddrisu, she has been in this business for the past 10 years and has benefited a lot which she uses to support her husband in taking care of their children.

"After the death of my husband, I have been using the money I get from producing shea butter to feed my five children and take care of their basic needs," Meli Issahaku also stated.

Alhassan Zakia, another processor, also

added that through the production she can afford some income to pay for her tertiary education.

"Without this factory, I wouldn't have been able to afford education. Now I am even the secretary of this factory, so I have benefitted a lot," she said.

### Health

Speaking to the Technical Officer of Nutrition at the Gbullung Health Centre, Nurudeen Hudu, he said shea butter protected the skin from free radicals leading to dull skin, and vital for brain functioning and good vision, and is also good for improving eyesight.

"It reduces bad cholesterol and the risk of heart disease and stroke; high intake of fat can lead to weight gain which is detrimental to human health, she stated," he said.

He added that it had anti-inflammatory properties to slow the production of inflammatory cells and it helps to reduce skin irritation caused by dry weather and other inflammatory skin conditions such as eczema and dermatitis. It helps in wound healing.

Mr Hudu indicated that it was anti-bacterial which helps the hair follicle epithelium to fight against bacteria when applied to the hair. It also helps to moisturise and decrease breakage, dandruff and dry scalp. Shea butter, he added, contained a lot of nutrients that could improve human health.

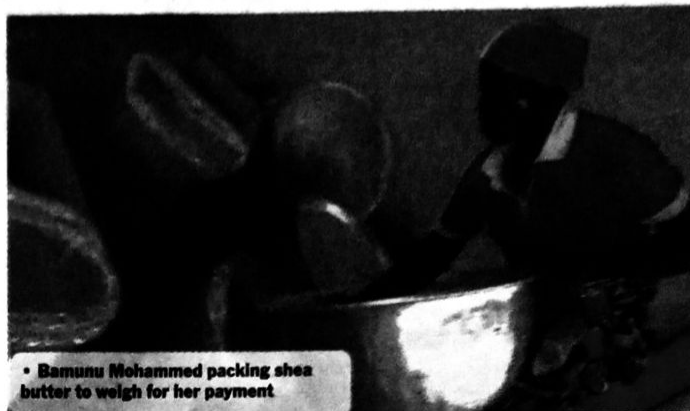
### Challenges

The major products of Shea butter, according to the Chief Executive Officer of Asheba Shea Butter Processing Factory, Fuseini Ayisha, are body cream, hair pomade, baby cream, soap, black soap among others. She sells to local buyers and at times foreigners.

She, however, said shea butter processing factory owners faced a lot of challenges after processing the nut into shea butter, adding that getting the right prices for the goods was difficult, making some of them run into loss due to the increment in the price of shea nut and other raw materials.

Also, she said exporting the finished products has been a major issue affecting producers as they find it difficult to export it outside the country.

"Large quantities of shea butter are produced and some



• Bamunu Mohammed packing shea butter to weigh for her payment

are used to manufacture local products while the rest are left because there is low patronage of the products in the local market," she added.

Ms Ayisha also lamented the lack of

capital to expand the processing factories.

She also bemoaned the loss of economic trees to bushfire and called on foreign buyers to patronise the finished shea butter.

## LAWRA AREA RURAL BANK PLC

### NOTICE OF THE 17TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 17th Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of Lawra Area Rural Bank Plc will be held at the Municipal Assembly Hall on Saturday, 19th October, 2024 at 10.00 a.m.

#### AGENDA

1. To read the notice convening the meeting
2. To adopt the minutes of the 16th Annual General Meeting.
3. Matters Arising out of the minutes.
4. To receive the Report of the Chairman of the Board of Directors.
5. To receive and consider the Financial Statements of the Bank for the year ended 31st December 2023 and Auditors report thereon.
6. To fix the Remuneration for the Directors
7. To re-appoint the Auditors
8. To authorize the Directors to fix the fees of the Auditors
9. Any Other Business

#### BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Signed

FREDRICK ATTAH DIEGOL  
(CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER)

#### NOTE

- **Vacancy For Three Directors Exists.** Qualified applicants are encouraged to apply not later than 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2024. Qualification is based on Sec. 173 of the Companies ACT, 2019 (ACT 992) and the Bank of Ghana Corporate Governance Directive for Rural and Community Banks (RCBs) May 2021
- A shareholder is entitled to attend and vote at the meeting or appoint a proxy to attend and vote instead of him or herself. Persons interested in proxy vote should contact the CEO. Shareholders may contact the Head Office of the Bank at Lawra for copies of the Audited Financial Statements.