CHAPTER 1 (INTRODUCTION)

1.1 Background to the study area:

Churches all over the world are basically known for the propagation of the word of God to the people in the country but this essay will bring to light the various socio-economic practices that the Presbyterian Church has been involved in in Ghana.

"Agriculture is the mother and nourisher of all other arts, when agriculture is well conducted all other arts prosper; when agriculture is neglected, all other arts decay on the land and on sea". (Economico Xeron IV) (The state of food and Agric. 1994 pg V)

Development should involve broader quality of life, as well as expectancy, infant mortality, and educational attainment, access to basic freedom, nutritional status and spiritual welfare. (Pearce et al. 1990). According to these writers development should not be restricted to gross national product infrastructure improvement, but it should reflect in the total lifestyle of a people living in a given geographical area. It is from this ideology that development began with the missionaries in the early 20th century in Ghana.

The mission to preach the word of God was fused together with the provision of social amenities for the converted people and their community. It is documented the PGC took over from the good agriculture policy of the Danish Moravian Missionaries, who fought partly to abolish the slave trade. "Let the missionaries and the school masters, the plough and spade go together"(Sir T.F. Buxton). They made this call after the abolishment of the slave trade. It is the bible and the plough that must regenerate Africa.

By "plough" and "spade" did Buxton mean the word of God and secular knowledge? If so, this seems to comment clearly to the abolition of the slave trade.
The Agriculture sector found within the Ga East District came about as a result of the Presbyterians. They first set up the agricultural station, which is known as Presbyterian Agricultural station. It was established in 1975, after three years of consultation and discussions between the chiefs, the people of Abokobi and the Presbyterian church on one hand and also the people of Zaltikon, Switzerland on the other hand (source Ga Presbytery 25th Anniversary Book). The agricultural station was legally owned by the Presbyterian Church of Ghana and contractually by a partnership agreement between the Presbyterian Church, the Abokobi community of Ghana and the Abokobi society of Switzerland. Now it is owned by the Presbyterian Church of Ghana.

The aim of the station is to help farmers within the catchment area (areas 3km radius of Abokobi village) to improve upon their standard of living. The people mostly Gas. The population of the Abokobi community is about 4000. The station has a core function to educate and train the local farmers in the station’s for the development of better farming techniques. Also, the station organizes extension services to farmers on their own farms by demonstrating relevant farming techniques and practices on the station’s demonstration farm.

The farmers are basically involved in crop and animal production. This is the raising of pulets for sale to the farmers, breeding of piglets for sale to farmers, animal loan schemes, support services to farmers interested in the domestication of grasscutters, raising of snails and mushroom cultivation and also the production of maize, beans and cassava. The farm station has its main source of funding from the Abokobi society of Switzerland which covers about 50% of the annual budget cost (source Ga Presbytery...
library). There is also income generated from internal activities of the station which contributes to about 40% of the annual budgetary cost. The station has collaboration with all agents involved with agricultural and rural development work and related issues such as MOFA Danfo health centre, University of Ghana Extension Department and the CSIR research station at Katamanso.

The station’s staff

Within the station majority of them are basically men, which doesn’t bare to reflect on the activities of the role of women in agriculture. The 2000 census put the population of Ghana at 18.9 million out of which women make up about 50.52%, with an economically active population of 8.2 million (15 years+), women account for approximately 50% of the labour force and are found in all kinds of economic activities such as Agriculture, industry and Services. The majority however are found in farming, agriculture, fish processing, animal husbandry and forestry and the other informal sector activities such as wholesale and retail trading, with the least of women found in the administrative and managerial jobs. The distribution of economically active women in terms of industry shows that only 1% of the economically active women in Ghana are found in public administrative positions, a much higher concentration of them are found at the lower echelons of economic activity and are therefore less likely to influence the policy and decision in their favour. The participation of women in the lower level of economic activity is explained partially by their low access to education and other economic resources that could enhance their economic performance. This may be explained by their low self-esteem, which is attributed to the way females are socialized in the society.

This is a digression, but you could integrate it by adding a sentence emphasizing that the mostly male composition of station staff is repeating this pattern, unfortunately.
Human resource is an essential ingredient in the growth rate of a country. Therefore an investment in the human capital is therefore a key instrument in economic development and this starts with quality education both formal and informal. The literacy rate among the adults in Ghana is 45.9% (source: retrieved from www.glanaweb.com) which is less than the half the adult population. It is also important to note that illiteracy is higher in females than males in all regions of the country. In Ghana most of the information is transmitted in print media, this state of illiteracy especially among women does not augur well for economic development. It is in this direction that this paper seeks to identify the role of women in the Agricultural sector of Ghana. The study will also identify some of the challenges women face in Agriculture and to find solutions to them in order to enhance the participation of women in productive activities in Ghana.

1.2 Problem Statement:

In the history of Ghana Agriculture is the backbone to the nation’s economic development. It contributes 60% to the nation’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Women have also been the backbone of the agricultural workforce but worldwide her hard work has mostly been unpaid. She does the tedious and back-breaking task in agriculture, animal husbandry and the home. Despite progress made by the government of Ghana to bring to light the rewarding of one loyal woman in Agriculture since the introduction of the farmers day scheme, it is still not enough and that much more women are out there who need to be rewarded. Women are faced with the problems of transport that is both

This needs some explanation. The reader may not know what you are talking about.
Women's participation in the formal sector is improving with access to education and therefore as more women get educated and acquire the requisite skills, they will increasingly be engaged in a wider developmental growth of the nation. However considering that women make up the majority of the people in Ghana, it is disheartening to note that their impact in decision making process is limited. In fact women are found at the receiving end of the decision making process and therefore have little or no influence on the decisions that affect them and their facilities. International experiences however indicate that support for a stronger role for women in Agriculture contributes to economic growth through improved child survival rates, better family health and reduced fertility rates. Women still face many barriers in contributing to and benefiting from development due to low investment in education and health and also restricted access to services and assets.
It is therefore important to note that as Ghana searches for programs and policies that will aid its development programs, it is pertinent to make room for gender policies that enhance gender equality and full integration of women into the economy central to the growth process.

1.3 Objective of the study:

The main concern of this essay therefore is to assess the role of the Presbyterian church in Agricultural development with specific reference to Abokobi, more particularly.

The aim of the study is to investigate the role of women in agriculture and to identify factors that hinder their development. The study will also investigate how women are affected by policies, programs and projects that are instituted by the government, domestic and otherwise, how best to take advantage of these programs and policies and how best to take advantage of some of these programs and policies and how best to minimize their negative impact on women. It will also address the problem of land ownership, credit, extension service and agricultural training.
1.4 Methodology.

In view of the objectives of this research paper, the details of the research design methods and the problems that are likely to be encountered during data collection and analysis will be described and discussed most appropriately. The method of data collection to be adopted will concentrate on both primary and secondary sources. Also, the strategy to be used will be the triangulation technique that is the combination of both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods. The combination of these two strategies is to correct the weaknesses usually encountered when using only one method and also to help concretize the results of the research.

The secondary data will include information concerning the population of women in terms of their contribution to agriculture, their living standard and health standard from the District Assembly and the internet, census data sources, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ministry of Women and Children.

The primary data will be obtained directly from the sampled population size. Some of the tools in the qualitative and quantitative strategies will be employed to achieve this purpose. The primary sources of data will also consist of Questionnaire surveys, interviews and focus group discussion. Focus group discussion forms the major part of my techniques of data collection since the majority of the farmers and citizens in the area either know how to handle the questionnaire properly or even have poor
1.4.1 The Study Site:

The main area of consideration is going to be at Abokobi that is the Presbyterian Agricultural Station. The area will be looked at in relation to the immediate surrounding areas where basically the farmers (women) reside. The Agricultural station is located in the Ga East District. It is linked with neighbouring towns with well constructed and good road networks. It was founded by the Basel missionaries now the PCG in 1854, as resting place for missionaries travelling from Akropong. Its is a flat plain that stretches for about 4km from the fringes of the Akwapim ranges. It is surrounded by small villages such as Oyarifa, Boi, Davaash, Tie-man, Ashongman, Pantang, etc. is the only village among the surrounding villages whose customs and traditions were curbed by the PCG. Majority of the people are Gas and the rest are Ewe's, Ashanti’s, Fanti’s and a few Northerners. The village is basically a Christian village with no other church than PCG. The people in the Abokobi community are believed to be indigenes from Lu, Osu, Teslie and Hangua who fled from the coast due to punishment inflicted upon them by the missionaries for their refusal to pay tax in 1854.
1.4.2 The sample population:

Since this area is composed of mostly farming communities, it is deemed appropriate to employ simple random selection of the farmers for the study. Making use of this technique a sample of 60 households were selected. Households were initially used to avoid the possibility of selecting more than one farmer from the same family, invariably couples living in the same house are likely to give the same response.

The farmers selected were personally interviewed, making use of questionnaires. Most of the farmers also relied on their memory, and as such information has to be interpreted cautiously. However most of them were confident about the information they gave. A few of them could write, and therefore have records of necessary information.

These farmers were mostly visited during non working days of the area. They were sometimes visited in the evenings, when they are back from their farms. Fortunately, the farmers were very cooperative during the field survey in the area.

1.4.3 Method of data analysis
The analytical model that will be used after the data is successfully collected and gathered will involve both the non-statistical technique and the use of percentages and diagrams such as pie chart and bar graph. The non-statistical technique will be used to organize the qualitative data in the nominal sense and interpret it accordingly to suit the stated objectives. The percentage and the pie chart on the other hand will be used for the quantitative data gathered. This will help easy comparison to be made between the variables. The ratio technique can be applied effectively in this instance for analysis and interpretation. The ratio technique can be applied effectively in this instance for analysis and interpretation. The result of the interpretation based on the sample can then be generalized to cover the entire population of the farmers.

1.4.3.1 Quantitative Methods

In view of the method of collecting data for effective and easy analysis, the quantitative method or approach will be adopted. The research will adopt the probability sampling approach. Under this method each member of the sample population stands an equal chance of being selected from the total population. This is done to ensure that everyone among the population has an equal chance to be present and to express their views and opinions relevant to the research and also to ensure a gender balance to avoid any sort of bias which is very crucial in consideration of this research. The best place to fulfill this selection is when the farmers are out on their farms.
in the morning and also when they come back from the farm. This was done to ensure that the farmers have time to respond to the researchers' demand.

The questionnaire will be an essential tool for this project. It will contain a series of well-structured and arranged questions that will be delivered to each of the selected farmers, who will be given enough time to read and understand the various concepts and questions with the help of the researcher. This method is rigid and extremely rigorous since it limits the farmer’s chances of expressing their own views and also to reveal pertinent issues relevant to the research which might have eluded or not been mentioned by the researcher, by limiting the respondents to a set of strict rules and options. Despite this advantage, it provides an easy and efficient way for analyzing and interpreting the obtained raw data.

1.4.3.2 Qualitative Method

This approach will be adopted to help correct some of the drawbacks to be encountered in using the quantitative method since this research is more of qualitative than quantitative. It will also be used to obtain information from the respondents who will be at liberty to fully express their opinion on the matter at hand. For the purpose of this research, the method of interviewing will be used.