

**REPORT OF ADVOCACY CAPACITY STRENGTHENING WORKSHOP
13- 16 NOVEMBER 2011 ACCRA GHANA**

The food for all advocacy capacity strengthening workshop jointly organised by EAA and FECCIWA with the participation of ACT Alliance was held at the African Royal Beach Hotel in Teshie Nungua, Greater Accra from 13th to the 16th of November, 2011 to reflect on the issue of food justice in the region of West Africa, the workshop drew participants from different denominations from the West African region.

The workshop was started with a church service at the Presbyterian Church Ashaiman Central Congregation, after which a field visit was done to an irrigation farmers' cooperative project. This is an important example of how a church is helping people in organised farming activities.

The meetings started every morning with prayers and bible studies around food themes. The second day commenced with sharing and appreciation of experiences with advocacy for food security and food justice, this was followed with documenting our stories and experiences for ourselves and others, participants were divided into groups, and the report was presented at the plenary. This involved group work.

The third day started with paper presentations, the keynote speaker was Rev. Dr. Bridget Ben-Naimah who discussed the topic, theology of food justice which was followed by a panel discussion, and this was followed by case studies from different regions. The sessions were interactive with questions and comments coming from participants. The meeting resumed after the lunch break with participants who were formed into groups again asked to develop a common dream for Africa by drawing a picture of the dream; this was done and presented at the plenary. Participants were also asked to share their experiences on innovative practices in food security, advocacy and justice and these were recorded.

More papers were presented on the third fourth day and participants were asked to develop actionable work plans, the meeting ended with the closing formalities and prayers, with participants urged to leave Accra with concrete action plans.

The Anglican group could not hold any formal meeting because the workshop was well structured and very little time was available to allow for this, however Anglican participants from Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia and Gambia agreed that the workshop was very timely and useful and there is a need for us to follow up on this both nationally and regionally, we discovered that the different provinces were doing something in the area of food security and food justice and there is need for experience sharing and learning.

A communiqué was issued at the end of the workshop (the final version is not available at the time of writing this report)

Key points coming out of the workshop among others include the fact that hunger is a human rights issue and there is need to apply political pressure both nationally and internationally by the church to ensure food justice.

The church has enormous opportunity, strength and capacity to use food to advance human dignity and reduce hunger and poverty, during the morning devotion one of the speakers said "if our people are not well fed, they will not respond to the gospel"



Some participants during the field visit.



Anglicans at the workshop



A cross section of participants at the workshop



Peter Prove and staff of EAA addressing participants

We sincerely wish to thank the Anglican Alliance for exposing us to this important activity. This will add value to what we are already doing and stimulate greater exchange of ideas and experiences across the communion.

Ven. Noel Peter Bewarang.