

GYG (Ghana Youth-Guide) is a local organisation working in northern Ghana, focusing on sustainable development through climate action (climate-smart agriculture, community led advocacy), education, and community empowerment, particularly in vulnerable communities in Tolon and Savelugu districts.

This input aims to share GYG's perspectives and recommendations on CISU's strategy for 2026-2030, highlighting our priorities and experiences in:

GYG have been Promoting climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices like drought-tolerant crops and agroforestry in Tolon and Savelugu, enhancing community resilience to climate change.

GYG in supporting livelihood diversification (School Gardens, youth led community action on climate change and sustainable agriculture) for women and youth in these districts, improving food security and incomes.

In Tolon and Savelugu, GYG's Resilient Roots of Change project has led to increased adoption of CSA practices by 300 farmers, improved crop yields, and formed 10 community-led climate action groups including pwd's, visible minority group and youth.

### **GYG Recommendations for CISU's Strategy 2026-2030**

#### **1. Strengthen Community-Led Climate Adaptation:**

- CISU can support scaling proven community-led climate adaptation projects like GYG's R2C in Tolon and Savelugu.
- Enhance local capacity for climate resilience planning.

#### **2. Focus on Inclusive Livelihoods:**

- Prioritize support for women and youth-led enterprises in climate-smart agriculture and green value chains.

#### **3. Partnerships for Scale:**

- Encourage partnerships between local organisations (like GYG) and international actors for resource mobilization and tech transfer.

#### **4. Adaptive Funding Approaches:**

- Flexibility in funding to adapt to local climate contexts and community needs in northern Ghana.
- Enhance local capacity: Build capacity of local communities and organisations to lead climate resilience planning and implementation.
- Focus on local solutions: Prioritize climate adaptation approaches that build on local knowledge and contexts in northern Ghana.

Example: GYG's R2C project in Tolon and Savelugu has shown how community-led climate-smart agriculture improves resilience. CISU could support scaling such models.

Partnerships for Scale, focusing on GYG's organizational capacity: This can boost GYG's capacity via partnerships: CISU can support partnerships between GYG and similar local organizations and international actors for:

- Resource mobilization (funding, tech).
- Capacity strengthening (training, mentorship).

As an organization operating in Northern Ghana, GYG brings local knowledge, community networks, and contextual expertise in northern Ghana. Through partnerships, GYG scale climate-smart initiatives in Tolon, Savelugu, and beyond. A partnership with an international NGO could help GYG access climate funds and tech for expanding CSA in vulnerable communities in the region and beyond.

In northern region Tolon and Savelugu, the community members are well aware of GYG's work and reputation, the local leaders are supporting and endorsing the GYG's project on sustainable agriculture, as well as communities sees the value in climate action initiatives championed by GYG.

