

# Precious Droplets

Stories About  
Value of Water  
In Ghana

By Peace Corps Volunteers  
Who Served in Ghana  
in 1999

## **Value of Water in Ghana**

**By Sasha Bennett, Bongo-Soe, Ghana**

Technological advancements in the construction and installation of bore holes and hand-dug wells have improved people's lives. They are now able to take advantage of clean drinking water. Bore holes have a life span of 50 or more years. In fact, we are now trying to replace a 53-year-old bore hole. As far as agriculture, farmers plant crops according to seasons. Not many farmers practice dry season farming. People do not like to draw water from the bore hole for watering flowers or even crops, as they consider it a waste of good drinking water.

There are dams that were once used for irrigation purposes, but because the dams are so old (some over 50 years) the dammed water dries up during the hot season. But during the rainy season, the dams fill up and farmers use the water from irrigation canals to water their crops before the rain comes. Rice is usually grown around dams.

## **Value of Water in Ghana**

By **Nell Todd**, Mafi-Dove, Ghana

I live near the Volta River and the sea. Fishermen mostly use the Volta River. There are only two bridges that cross the river so there are a lot of wooden canoes at various points along the river to shuttle people back and forth. A launch goes the length of the river every other day carrying goods and passengers.

Lake Volta is used as a means to transport materials and people to the northern part of Ghana. The dam is the source of electricity for much of the country.

About two hours from Mafi-Dove is the Tema Harbor, one of two main harbors in the country. This is where much of the importing and exporting takes place. Ships come from all over the world to pick up and drop off goods.

## **Value of Water in Ghana**

By **Amy Wiedemann**, Gbefi, Volta Region, Ghana

Women and children bear the burden of keeping their households supplied with water, through numerous daily trips to and from the bore hole or river. Rainfall is so plentiful in my area that there really isn't an issue of community management, as there is in communities that face drought. For farmers, in times of plentiful rain they deal with the threat of rot, the need for suitable drainage, etc. During times of little rain, they face the enormous task of hauling bucket after bucket of water to save their parched crops. Regretfully, there are no irrigation systems.

by **Molly Campbell**, Amisano, Ghana

In Amisano the women and children usually get water either at the seminary bore hole, (about a quarter of a mile from the center of the village) one of the three wells, the river, or through the pipes. Villagers, however, have to pay for piped water (forty cedis or about three cents a bucket) so not many use this. Farmers do not irrigate; they depend on the rainy season year after year. If a drought occurs, the crops die and there is no food to eat or sell. In the Peace Corps Project Nursery we hand water during the dry season-each tree (thousands of them) getting a small drink one cup of water at a time.