

BASIC INFORMATION ON THE TWO FARMS AND SAMARTEX COMPANY

NANA ESSANDOH'S FARM

Nana Essandoh is a farmer with land size of 70 acres. He was the District Best Farmer in the year 2015. 50 acres of the land is cocoa intercropped with different Timber Tree species. 6 acres of the land is Teak Plantation whilst the remaining 14 acres is for other economic trees species. Examples of these Trees species are *Milicia excels* (Odum), *Entandrophragma cylindricum* (Sapele), *Triplochiton scleroxylon* (Wawa), *Cedrela odorata* (Cedrela), *Khaya ivorensis* (Mahogany), *Terminalia superba* (Ofram), *Entandrophragma angolense* (Edinam), among others. He has over 6000 tree species, 3000 of which are registered. He also, has 14 acres of Rubber plantation and substantial livestock.

QUARM FARMS

Mr. Sylvester Quarm is a renowned farmer in the landscape. The J. Y Quarm farms is well known in the country as a model agroforestry farm which has been a huge resource for research and practical demonstrations for students in the country's tertiary institutions. Mr Quarm has won the Regional Best Farmer title for Western Region a number of times and winning the ultimate title of National Best Farmer is one of his ambitions. The farm is about 150 acres with mixed uses- timber tree plantations, cash crop plantations, food crops, livestock, etc. Some of the tree species including; *Milicia excels* (Odum), *Entandrophragma cylindricum* (Sapele), *Triplochiton scleroxylon* (Wawa), *Cedrela odorata* (Cedrela), *Khaya ivorensis* (Mahogany), *Terminalia superba* (Ofram), *Entandrophragma angolense* (Edinam), among others. The farm also has a rubber plantation, cocoa under shade trees, teak plantation, oranges, coconut, and food crops such as plantain, cassava, etc.

SAMARTEX TIMBER AND PLYWOOD COMPANY

Samartex Timber & Plywood Company limited is located in Samreboi western region. The company was known as African Timber & Plywood Company (AT&P) which had been in existence since 1947 under the UAC group of companies. Samartex Timber & Plywood Company Limited took over from AT&P in 1995. The company's **vision** is '*to become the leading sustainable and socially responsible wood processing firm in Africa through the optimum use of our natural resources*'. It has a work force of over 2000 employees, most of whom are resident within the company premises.

The company's operations extend beyond the Wassa Amenfi landscape to other districts and regions. It has offices in Accra and Takoradi. Samartex sources its raw materials from concessionary forests, to provide the best quality of tropical forest wood. Their modern veneer plant produces up to 1,000,000m² veneers per month. The company also has its own plantation from which it sources other logs. Besides wood processing, Samartex is also involved in the regeneration of the natural resources through the establishment of plantation and agro-forestry schemes.

Samartex has evolved into the development of value-added products with non-timber forest products (NTFPs) like Thaumatin sweetener and downstream processing of wood pieces that would otherwise be considered waste into carvings. A very unique feature of Samartex is that the company generates its own electrical power and water. A boiler system is used to produce steam for powering a 1400kW capacity generator to produce power for wood processing and domestic use. The fuel used by this plant is wood waste and sawdust. The company has a health facility, a school and recreational facilities for its workers. Samartex is indeed a community on its own.