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Global Shea Alliance launches Shea Tree Mapping Project to Strengthen Women's Land and Tree Tenure in West Africa under the FCDO funded Land Facility programme

Accra, 4 September 2025: The Global Shea Alliance (GSA), in partnership with **Farmerline** and **New Markets Lab**, has launched the *Shea Mapping Project*, a groundbreaking initiative to secure women's land and tree tenure across West Africa. The project is funded by the **UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)** as part of its flagship [Land Facility](#) programme, delivered by **Tetra Tech International Development Europe, Level4International** and partners. The project will run from September 2025 to March 2026 in Ghana, Togo and Benin.

Strategic Goals

- **Digital Mapping:** Map shea trees across shea parklands in the three target countries, linking tenure data to women collectors
- **Policy & Legal Reform:** Conduct legal and regulatory gap analysis to propose frameworks recognising women's rights to land and trees
- **Regional Engagement:** Convene national workshops and an ECOWAS roundtable to align strategies and promote scale up

A central feature will be the creation of an open access *Shea Tree Tenure Dashboard*, a digital tool to support evidence based policymaking, land use planning, supply chain management and advocacy.

"The global shea trade supports the livelihoods of 16 million women in 21 countries across West Africa. Securing women's tenure rights is vital to safeguard livelihoods, ensure climate resilience and sustain this critical industry," said Aaron Adu, Managing Director of the Global Shea Alliance.

"We are proud to support this project through the Land Facility. Securing women's land and tree rights is not only essential for livelihoods but also for climate resilience and sustainable trade across West Africa," said Jeremy Swainson, Project Director for the Land Facility and Principal at Tetra Tech.

The project will deliver practical outcomes, including a *Regional Scale Up Roadmap* for securing women's tenure and promoting climate smart trade in West Africa.

About the GSA

The Global Shea Alliance is a non profit industry association with 849 members from 36 countries, including women's co-operative groups, brands and retailers, suppliers and NGOs. Through PPPs,



the GSA promotes industry sustainability, quality practices and standards and demand for shea in food and cosmetics. For more information, please visit <http://www.globalshea.com>.⁴

FCDO

The UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) promotes the United Kingdom's interests overseas and works to support sustainable development, reduce poverty and respond to global challenges. The FCDO partners with governments, civil society and the private sector to build resilience, foster inclusive economic growth and advance progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (<https://www.gov.uk>).

About New Markets Lab

The New Markets Lab (NML) is a law and development innovation lab dedicated to generating and disseminating research, legal tools and data driven approaches focused on equitable and inclusive design and implementation of economic law and regulation (<http://www.newmarketslab.org>).

About Tetra Tech Land Tenure and Property Rights Division

Tetra Tech is a global company that provides consulting, engineering and technology services for environmental, water, energy, infrastructure and natural resource projects. Tetra Tech's international development team focuses on finding clear solutions to some of the most complex challenges in global development. They collaborate with both global and local partners to design, implement and assess programs that enhance lives, strengthen economies and foster resilient communities (<https://intdev.tetratecheurope.com>).

About Level4International

Level4International is a boutique strategic advisory consulting firm that provides bespoke solutions in investment mobilisation, supply chain enhancements, digital solutions, organisational growth, change management, building partnerships and scaling platforms for sustainability (<https://level4international.com>).

About Farmerline

Farmerline is a leading African AgriTech company that combines technology, partnerships, and local expertise to transform smallholder agriculture. Founded in Ghana, the company develops digital infrastructure, powered by its Mergdata Intelligence platform, that enables farmers, agribusinesses, governments and development partners to build more sustainable food systems (<https://farmerline.co>).