Abstract

The paper evaluates the extent to which *Sinapi Aba Trust* has contributed to poverty reduction among rural and urban   poor especially women by supporting them with small loans to expand their businesses to generate income to build up their asset base. Using a cross-sectional data from 547 respondents, the study found that participation in the programme has enabled established clients to own savings deposits and subscribe to a client welfare scheme which serves as insurance to pay off debts in times of illness or death. Established clients were also found to be in a better position to contribute towards the education of their children and payment of healthcare for members of their households as well as contribution towards the purchase of household durables. The study noted that programmes that are financially sustainable have greater effects on participants, and that there is the need for clients' graduation to benefit most from participation in such programmes.

Joseph Kimos Adjei is the Managing Director of Boafo Microfinance Services Limited, a joint venture between HFC Bank Limited, Ghana and CHF International, United States of America. He is a banker by profession and recently completed his PhD programme in Development and Policy Management at the University of Manchester.

Thankom Arun is Reader in International Finance, Lancashire Business School, The University of Central Lancashire and Honorary Senior Fellow, School of Environment and Development, The University of Manchester.

Farhad Hossain is Lecturer at the Institute for Development and Policy Management, School of Environment and Development, The University of Manchester.

Acknowledgements