In early 1930’s the government of Ghana launched a plantation development programme using the taungya system. This was however on a small scale. Then in 1970’s the government initiated a large-scale plantation development project using the taungya system. However, due to administrative, social and economics problems the programme was abandoned. Due to land scarcity facing forest-fringe communities, they prevailed on the government to re-introduce the taungya system albeit with changes. Following this, the modified taungya system was introduced in 2000. The objectives of this project are:

a) To assess the success and or failure of the projects and assign causes to them
b) To investigate the socio-economic impacts of the project on the livelihood of participating farmers.

Semi-structured questionnaire, group discussions and key informant interviews and field surveys were the mode of primary data collection. Literature review and handouts from institutions relating to the project served as the source of secondary data.

The results show that in some community and individual plots, plantations have been successful but in other plots they have not. The failure has sometimes been due to factors such as poor adaptation of species to climate and soils. However, failure has been frequently occurred because of socio-economic problems. With the 40% share of proceeds from the sale the matured trees after the rotation period, farmers have indicated that this system is one of the best. Economically, the farmers stand to benefit more from this system than from shifting cultivation alone.

There is a high possibility that the modified taungya system will benefit the stakeholders more especially the participating farmers. However, the following constraints must be addressed:

1) Land tenure issues relating to project’s land
2) A breakdown of social structure and community cohesion, arising from the empowerment of only some sections of the community.