Background
Students from UB’s School of Management went on a study abroad trip to Ghana, Africa during the winter of 2018. While there, we visited a food management facility to observe how Ghana is addressing their food systems planning issues.

Innovations Village’s Services
The Innovations Village is committed to scaling up innovative technologies and undertaking research in agricultural and facilitating the dissemination of these innovations and research findings to small holder farmers. They engage several partners to provide the following services:

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B. Research
C. Venue for Hosting Agricultural Events

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UB Food Systems Planning’s Services
The Food Lab team partners with different organizations to strengthen food-systems through a multitude of projects. Some of these community-led initiatives include:

A. Planning for Active Living
B. Planning for Food and Health Equity

Innovations Village’s Community Involvement
The Innovations Village is committed to supporting its surrounding communities as much as possible. They provide local farmers - particularly women and students - with agricultural training so that they can learn how to properly grow and harvest their crops. The Innovations Village is also constructing a guest house in which they plan to host students studying agriculture so that they can gain hands on experience. Students will be able to develop and explore more effective means to operate in the agricultural industry.

Recommendations
Through our experiences at the Innovations Village, we have come to realize that Food Management systems have many cross-cultural similarities. However, we still believe that the Innovations Village can learn from UB’s Food Lab in the following ways:

A. Work to improve their relationship with the Ghanaian government
B. Provide educational programs for people of all ages
C. Utilize social media to promote themselves and the job opportunities available in the agricultural industry

Conclusion
Not many people realize that the agricultural industry contributes $992 billion to the U.S GDP. Cultivation, production, and waste management are all part of Food Systems Planning that no country has perfected. However, countries like Ghana and the U.S. are creating initiatives to sustain a reliable food source for future generations. We hope that these cultures can work together to identify ways that we can combat food disparities across the world.

References