



# ENCHANCING CAPACITY TO CONTROL WHITEFLY INFESTATION IN THE GAMBIA

The Government of The Gambia faced many difficulties controlling spiralling whitefly infestation in the country, because of insufficient capacity at both public and private sector levels to control the pest. Whitefly is found in the western part of The Gambia, but if it is not adequately controlled it could spread to the rest of the country. In view of these challenges, the Government requested technical support to build the capacities of public and private sector stakeholders in whitefly management, and to develop and implement a sustainable pest management strategy.



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## WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

Extensive training and practical field work on surveillance, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and biological control was provided for staff of the Plant Protection Services of the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Agricultural Research Institute, as well as for farmers. The project interventions significantly increased the beneficiaries' capacities to control whitefly, and to put in place effective measures to prevent further spread of the pest. Capacity building provided for Plant Protection Services staff on biocontrol of whitefly at the Benin Plant Health Institute, as well as locally through a biocontrol international consultant, enabled them to initiate a biological control programme.

## IMPACT

The IPM strategy implemented during the project greatly reduced the whitefly population in the country, as well as preventing the increase of the natural enemy population. Farmers experienced significant improvement in crop yields and quality, resulting in improved household incomes. Specific categories of vulnerable, rural and urban populations, rural and urban women and undernourished children will benefit from increased availability of quality fruits and vegetables.

## KEY FACTS

### Contribution

USD 459 000

### Duration

September 2016 – September 2018

### Resource Partner

FAO

### Partner

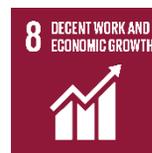
Ministry of Agriculture

### Beneficiaries

Staff from Plant Protection Services and National Agricultural Research Institute; horticulture farmers; and private sector pest control business operators (commercial pesticide applicators)

## ACTIVITIES

- Comprehensive quantitative and qualitative data on the status of whitefly in the country was obtained through field surveys; as well as the identification of hotspots of whitefly infestation, and the establishment of the status of natural enemies in the field.
- Training-of-trainers (ToT) courses on pest surveillance methods, IPM and biological control were organized for 35 technicians and 40 extension staff members of the Department of Agriculture and the National Agricultural Research Institute.
- The trained ToT participants implemented training sessions with 120 farmers, who were members of the IPM Farmers Field Schools (FFS) established by the Plant Protection Services in six vegetable garden schemes to control spiralling whitefly.
- Six FFS were established, each of which comprised 20 members and was facilitated by six facilitators trained in the ToT courses.
- Plant Protection Services conducted on-farm demonstrations and provided plant protection equipment to farmers, who were trained in the use of bioagents to control whitefly.
- Farmers in FFS were taught crop sequencing, associations, and cultural practices that minimized the pressure of whitefly and maximized the biological prevention of pests and diseases.
- Training was provided on sampling procedures and the classification of high-risk commodities for 30 participants, comprising phytosanitary inspectors, agro-exporters and handlers.
- Capacity building on marketing and quality assurance was organized for 80 farmers and orchard owners, as well as for farmers in FFS.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



### Project Code

TCP/GAM/3602

### Project Title

Integrated Pest Management on Whitefly

### Contact

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