

**Evaluation of the project
“Action Against Desertification in support of
the implementation of the Great Green Wall
for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative and of
the UNCCD action plans in Fiji and Haiti, and
South-South cooperation in the Africa
Caribbean and Pacific countries”**

Project code: GCP/INT/157/EC

Annex 4. Some ideas from the field

1. Based on evaluation field interviews, beneficiaries at all levels voiced some suggestions for future initiatives: what focus, who should benefit. Even though the level of appropriation of the Action Against Desertification (AAD) project was low to nil, most agreed that there should be further support in terms of FLR as D/LDD should continue to be addressed.
2. For the Niger and Senegal this could be done along the same lines as the AAD project, although both countries would like more emphasis on investments in social infrastructure.
3. In Burkina Faso, input provision (seeds, plants) should be the sole responsibility of beneficiaries.
4. In Fiji, there was a concrete reference to/suggestion to have a more realistic project implementation timeline, with clear phases for data collection, sensitisation, with a lower number of intervention sites and better organised stakeholder forums for regular sharing and exchange of implementation information and lessons learnt. One stakeholder added: 'future projects involving community-based participatory land use planning should have components to support the plans' implementation during the project cycle. It should have a well-defined implementation plan and a clear exit strategy'.
5. The Gambia insisted on having more on-the-job training and capacity building on all introduced technologies, and to continue to specifically target youth and women. Most other suggestions directly derive from things that went wrong under AAD: 'particular attention to capacity building on complete commodity value chains; eco-tourism as a source of income-generation should be one of the supported activities; reliable water supply to support beekeeping and tree nursey activities should be seriously considered in future projects'.
6. Haiti emphasized the need for more awareness training, and the necessity to secure community engagement, and thus buy-in, when it comes to fighting desertification. Here also, it was mentioned that value chain support should include a marketing aspect, whereas there was a firm demand to create some form of solidarity fund from the populations' own resources.
7. Nigeria would like earth dams to complement existing well and borehole infrastructure, development of fruit tree orchards, domestic animal breeding programmes for improved milk and meat production, access road development and small-scale solar electrification (which in effect point to quick fixes for priority-felt problems). Suggestions on improvement from the present project are mainly on a longer-term commitment of funds/longer project/intervention duration, the financial issue of timely payments (at all levels), and respect for contracts, and agreed-upon timelines. Care should also be taken to provide good-quality materials and equipment, as in the past this was not always guaranteed (the Gambia). And at least in Senegal, it was suggested to create a microcredit facility.

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