

ISFP PROJECT PROPOSAL

Country:	Mauritania
Agency:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Project Title:	Production of traditional seeds for food security and construction of storage facilities
Sector:	Agriculture and Livelihoods
Objective:	Overall objective: improved access by farmers to seeds of improved and adapted crop varieties Specific objectives: improvement of local seed systems through community-based production of sorghum, maize, millet and cowpea seeds
Beneficiaries:	100 farmer associations for seed production and 120 000 small holders belonging to 36 departments (<i>moughataa</i> 's)
Implementing Partner(s):	Farmer Associations, <i>Ministère des Affaires Étrangères</i> (MAE) and National Centre for Agricultural Research (CNARADA)
Project Duration:	July 2008 – December 2009 (18 months)
Total Project Budget:	USD 2 000 000

Needs

Food security in Mauritania is heavily dependent on imports. National agricultural production only partially satisfies the internal demand for food, particularly for cereals (estimated to be about 430 000 tonnes). In the best-case scenario, national production satisfies about 30 percent of the population's needs, while the remaining 70 percent is assured by commercial imports and food aid.

In Mauritania, the food price crisis severely affected the food security of poor farmers and breeders, who resorted to consuming their seed stocks. There is an urgent need to provide seeds to enable vulnerable farmers and breeders to resume their farming activities and rebuild their seed stocks. Support to breeders is also essential to diversify the beneficiaries' diet and reduce their dependence on imported cereals. Training is also essential to promote the use of appropriate agricultural practices and increased productivity.

The Government of Mauritania has developed a Special Plan of Action (PSI) to assist vulnerable farmers in overcoming the current situation. In particular, the PSI aims to reduce the effects of soaring food prices and reinforce food security. For the medium term, the Government of Mauritania aims to achieve cereal self-sufficiency (rice and traditional cereals) by 2012.

As a result of soaring food prices on the international and domestic markets, there is a new additional demand for local production. FAO's Initiative on Soaring Food Prices (ISFP) is designed to assist countries in increasing food supplies. One of the limiting factors to increasing productivity is the lack of access to seeds in Mauritania. This project would aim to increase the productivity of traditional crops.

Activities

The project would assist in the development of seed production through the following activities:

- procurement of basic seeds;
- training to farmers in seed multiplication using quality assurance schemes;
- multiplication of traditional seeds by farmer associations;
- promotion and training on seed stock management systems by farmer associations;
- construction of seed storage facilities; and
- support to farmers in seed conditioning and marketing.

Outcomes

- Quality and availability of seed in the farming communities will be increased
- Seed storage facilities will be created
- Cereal production will be increased and more food will be made available in the communities and local markets
- Dependence on food imports will be reduced

FINANCIAL SUMMARY	
Budget Items	USD
Staff costs	324 000
Inputs and operations costs (inputs, contracts, training, etc.)	1 381 000
Administration costs	295 000
Total	2 000 000