



## Project Highlights MADAGASCAR

**“Strengthening food security and livelihoods for vulnerable populations in the drought-affected communities of Beloha and Tsihombe in southern Madagascar”**

**Project code:** OSRO/MAG/904/USA

**Donor:** United States of America

**Contribution:** USD 177 502

**Implementation:** 7/08/2009–30/11/2010

**Target areas:** Southern Madagascar

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- Objective:** To strengthen the resilience of 1 800 vulnerable households (9 000 people) affected by the impact of drought and chronic food insecurity in the communes of Beloha and Tsihombe in Androy region, southern Madagascar.
- Key partners:** Catholic Relief Services (CRS), *Organisme Diocésain de Développement Rural* (ODDER) and Land O’Lakes.
- Beneficiaries reached:** More than 1 380 farmers who participated in farmer field schools (FFS), 23 FFS facilitators and 4 000 drought-affected households.
- Activities implemented:**
- 57 FFS groups formed, with an average of 20 households per group.
  - Each group selected activities on which to focus (vegetable gardening, goat rearing, chicken production, sweet potato production, etc.).
  - Each group received inputs for their activities, e.g. veterinary vaccines and equipment, and vegetable and crop seeds, as well as intensive training.
  - 23 FFS facilitators trained in group mobilization, note-taking, basic animal health and production techniques, crop production and plant protection, etc.
  - Training manual for FFS facilitators developed by CRS and Land O’Lakes in the local language.
  - 20 tonnes of cowpea seeds provided to 4 000 drought-affected households.
- Results:**
- Over 1 380 farmers joined FFS groups and learned to improve their productivity.
  - 1 850 goats and 2 000 chickens vaccinated and treated with vitamin supplements.
  - 440 households planted 352 ha of vegetables.
  - Participating farmers increased their crop yields and prevented animals diseases from decimating their herds.
  - Built capacity of partners to expand the FFS approach in southern Madagascar.