



Project Highlights SOMALIA

"Improvement and sustainable use of plant genetic resources programme – Phase II"

Project code: OSRO/SOM/005/EC

Donor: European Commission

Contribution: EUR 1.8 million (USD 2 394 000)

Implementation: 01/04/2010 to 31/03/2013

Target areas: north and central Somalia



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Objective: To increase agricultural income by improving farmers' access to quality seeds and planting material.

Key partners: Daresalam Seed Enterprise (DASE); the Sesame Seed Growers' Association (SESIMA); and the Shabelle Farmers' Association (SHEFA).

Beneficiaries reached: Through support provided by FAO, DASE, SESIMA and SHEFA to seed growers, an estimated 137 000 farmers benefited from maize seed during the three *Gu* seasons, and of these about 25 000 farmers with sesame seed during the *Deyr* season. Of these farmers, at least 47 000 were beneficiaries of FAO distribution.

Activities implemented:

- Maize trials were conducted in three locations of Middle and Lower Shabelle: Darussalam, Barire and Janale.
- The first basic seed of *Somtux* maize and sesame were produced, which will enhance production in Somalia.
- Introduced appropriate agricultural technologies for crop production and developed a formal seed system in Somalia to address the shortage of high quality seeds.
- Improved cropping activities for banana, mango and date palm production.
- Conducted several training sessions on good agricultural practices (GAP), management and marketing.

Results:

- Increased seed growers' income by at least 50 percent as a result of the quality premium. Farmers growing maize and applying GAP have increased their yields by 50-70 percent, whereas sesame growers have increased their income by at least 50 percent.
- Lessened the impact of the famine by restoring livelihoods through the increased capacity of seed production (principally maize, but also sorghum and cowpea) in the south-central region.
- Established a link between farmers and traders, resulting in additional trade opportunities and higher crop prices.
- After three years of project implementation, the DASE seed company, Shabelle Fruit Association and SESIMA are completely self-sufficient and operate based solely on market supply and demand forces.