



“Consolidate and strengthen agriculture and disaster risk management responses to food security and nutrition through resilience building”

Project code: OSRO/MAU/401/USA

Donor: United States of America

Contribution: USD 800 000

Implementation: 01/01/2014–31/03/2015

Target areas: Southern Mauritania



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Objective: To improve the food security and nutrition by strengthening the livelihoods of vulnerable populations in southern Mauritania and by enabling them to mitigate threats.

Key partners: The Agriculture Directorate, the delegations of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Seed Centre of Kaédi, the Livestock and National Veterinary Research Centre, the Rural Training Centre of Boghé and Non-governmental Organizations.

Beneficiaries reached: 11 800 households, 70 women’s cooperatives, 16 Agropastoral Field Schools (APFS), 20 forage cooperatives, two multinutrient block cooperatives and 11 pastoral cooperatives.

Activities implemented:

- Participated in the UN-coordinated preparation and response mechanisms (Humanitarian Needs Overview, Strategic Response Plan, etc.) and in key evaluation exercises (Food Security Monitoring System [FSMS], Household Economy Approach and *Cadre harmonisé*).
- Provided technical expertise to FSMS to improve data quality to better identify needs, as well as for post-crisis assessments and joint projects with relevant stakeholders.
- Ensured information sharing among all actors involved.
- Sensitized stakeholders in the implementation, operation, monitoring and sustainability of APFS.
- Developed training material (mainly in Arabic) for trainers on the APFS approach.
- Enhanced 16 APFS by organizing trainings on management and early warning systems for 79 facilitators, supervisors and representatives of pastoralists and agropastoralists.
- Organized a national conference in collaboration with 45 associations affiliated to the National Cooperative of Pastoral Associations (GNAP) that was attended by 60 participants and resulted in: (i) a proposal for an information system on pastoralism in Mauritania; and (ii) recommendations including the establishment of a revolving fund for the purchase of livestock feed.
- Trained 18 participants on the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS).
- Enhanced the 20 forage cooperatives previously established through the training of 38 members on forage crops.
- Distributed 30 kg of cowpea, 7.5 kg of pigeon pea, 50 kg urea, 50 kg of NPK and 50 kg of triple superphosphate.
- Supported two cooperatives for the production of multinutrient blocks through the training of 40 beneficiaries.
- Built storage facilities for all cooperatives.
- Trained representatives from 11 pastoral cooperatives on how to make compost, different types of soil preparation, use of organic and mineral fertilizer, different types of sowing techniques, irrigation systems, maintenance of plants, how to harvest forage, etc.
- Established four pastoral reserves of 50 ha each to promote sustainable rangeland management.

Results:

- Identified three agricultural zones in each wilaya (Assaba, Brakna, Gorgol and Hodh Gharbi).
- Provided guidance to and close monitoring of seed multipliers and stock management committees.
- Trained 50 sorghum seed multipliers on basic seed multiplication techniques.
- Developed training manuals on seed multiplication and seed stock management in both French and Arabic.
- Organized two-day refresher trainings for the seven management committees on the organization and management of seed stocks.
- Established three village committees for stock management.
- Distributed quality cowpea, maize and sorghum seeds to 11 800 beneficiary households; 7 500 households each received 8 kg of sorghum and 2 kg cowpea seeds; 1 300 households each received 8 kg of maize and 2 kg of cowpea seeds; and 3 000 households each received 8 kg of sorghum and 2 kg of cowpea seeds.
- Provided 70 women's cooperatives with vegetable kits including seeds and tools.
- Trained 78 focal points from 39 cooperatives on vegetable production techniques, crop protection and compost and land preparation, and organized culinary demonstrations on various cooking techniques of orange-fleshed sweet potato.
- Provided the 39 women's cooperatives with orange-fleshed sweet potato cuttings and training on the production of this type of sweet potato.
- Boosted emergency coordination mechanisms through information sharing, improved data collection (FSMS) and Food Security Cluster coordination.
- Strengthened the APFS approach.
- Reinforced the operational and technical capacities of beneficiaries.
- Strengthened the capacities of seed multipliers and seed stock management committees.
- Increased the quality and availability of seeds, food and animal feed during the lean season, and in turn contributed to improving the condition of animals and nutrition status of beneficiaries.
- Increased access to income.
- Improved the management of livestock.
- Produced 490 tonnes of vegetables.
- Produced about 1 000 multinutrient blocks (5 kg each and sold at about MRO 1 400 [USD 4] per block).
- Planted 11 800 ha of land (1 ha per household) and produced 14 700 tonnes of sorghum, maize and cowpea.