



Food Security through Commercialization of Agriculture (FSCA) Project - Gambia

GTFS/GAM/025/ITA



Objective: The project objective of The Gambia Food Security through Commercialization of Agriculture (FSCA) is to increase on a sustainable basis the agricultural productivity, marketed output and incomes of project beneficiary farmer-based organisations and small scale agro-processors, resulting in improved livelihoods and food security.

Donor: FAO Global Trust Fund for Food Security and Food Safety – Italian Contribution.

Duration: 2009 - 2012

Budget: 1,979,272 USD

Areas: The project is implemented in the North Bank and Central River Regions of the Gambia covering 12 districts and forty farmer groups.

Expected results: (i) farmer groups and agro-processors equipped with relevant capacity building skills; (ii) farmer groups engaged in value addition and marketing activities and/or able to enter into improved contractual relationships with market agents. The outcomes will be achieved also by: (iii) efficient and effective project coordination and Monitoring & Evaluation mechanisms, integrated in district structures in place and regional cooperation improved.

Beneficiaries: The project will primarily target smallholder farmers, processors of agricultural products in existing FBOs, while ensuring the representation of women in group leadership and farmer facilitators, and vulnerable and food insecure members in the communities. It is expected that approximately 12,000 persons will be directly benefiting from the project through core facilitators in communities.

Partners: National Institutions: Action Aid the Gambia (AATG), Indigenous Business Advisory Service (IBAS), Food Technology Service (FTS), Management Development Institute (MDI), Farmer Field School Network (FFSN), Independent Evaluation (IEE). Service Providers: Department of Agriculture (DOA), National Women Farmers Association (NaWFA), National Farmers Platform (NFP).





1. Expected outcomes:

The project intends to equip service providers such as Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) regional directorates, Food Technology Service, Agricultural Engineering, National Farmers Platform (NFP), National Women Farmer Association (NaWFA) and other Farmer-based Organizations (FBOs) with management and support service skills in order to be able to effectively work with farmers and community-centred organizations and promote economically and socially viable farming and off-farming enterprises. FBOs work as an effective mechanism to increase production, add value and improve marketing while enhancing the livelihood capacities of members.

Efficient and effective project coordination is boosted within the regional FSCA framework. Communication for Development activities contribute to enhance the project visibility and allow to share knowledge and lessons learned in terms of results and methodologies.

2. Strategies:

Focusing on One Village One Product Concept (OVOP, a community-centred approach based on local knowledge while improving quality and marketing), the FSCA project priority areas in Gambia are the Value Chain Production, Value addition and Commercialization components, building on the achievements and lessons learned from the National Programmes for Food Security.

3. Most Important Results:

- Recruitment of 12 technical staff members and 5 support staff;
- Set up two Field Offices: one in Kerewan, North Bank Region and the other in Kuntaur, Central River North;
- Organized 40 groups (FBOs), 20 in the North Bank Region and 20 in the Central River North region;
- Ten products (groundnuts, maize, early millet, findi, rice, onions, pepper, sorrel, cashew, poultry) have been identified as preferred commodities by the groups;
- Memorandum of Understanding was signed with 4 key partners, e.g. Action Aid The Gambia (AATG), Management Development Institute (MDI), Department of Agricultural (DOA), Indigenous Business Advisory Services (IBAS);
- One Buyer – Producer Linkage meeting was held between ZYGOT Oil Company Ltd (a local company) and FSCA groundnut producing groups;
- Training of Trainers (TOT) and beneficiary training was developed for both quality management and entrepreneurship. Forty-five participants from FSCA have been trained on the concepts and application of quality management and market driven agro-processing;
- Inputs for vegetable gardens like seeds, fertilizer, and fencing materials have been provided for three communities and community gardens have been established;
- M&E Strategy, Baseline survey and Communication Strategy were defined and put in place.

4. Activities:

- Conduct training activities, TOT, workshops, training on resource mobilization and fundraisings, on value production, good agricultural practices and post harvest techniques, business and marketing skills, FBS, field staff of MOA, NFP, NaWFA;
- Set up 40 Farmer Field Schools / Farmer Business Schools;
- Support the creation and strengthening of commodity cooperatives;
- Market appraisals and value chain studies for key regional products;
- Promotion of linkages between existing rural financial institutions and farmer groups;
- Promote agreements between farmers, inputs suppliers and buyers;
- Access and improve storage systems in project sites;
- Establish market-oriented OVOP centres;
- Establish a communication resource centre and conduct village seminars, field days, drama presentations and radio programs.

5. Sustainability:



The sustainability of the project is ensured through several mechanisms:

- 1) Supporting support service providers, farmers and agro-processors in self-financing mechanisms for production, processing and marketing activities at village level;
- 2) Developing marketing and business skills through the implementation of the market-oriented OVOP concept;
- 3) Taking advantage of Farmer Field Schools and Farmer Business Schools as a methodology to build up long-term, sustainable self learning units which focus on business development skills;
- 4) Training farmer groups on managerial and organizational capacities, which will provide long-term benefits to rural communities.

National Level

Food Security