

Proposal 12: Strengthening Capacity of a Training Center for Sustainable Agriculture in Diogo, Senegal

Submitting MGs / CSOs	NGO: Farmers' Center of Initiatives and Research for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CIRPED)
Country of Implementation	Senegal, West Africa
Agro-ecological context	Sahel
Duration and Total Budget	2 years, US \$ 60,000

Major groups (MGs) concerned:

- NGOs
- Indigenous Peoples
- Farmers
- Scientific and Technological Community
- Women
- Media Interest Group

Success indicators:

- No. of farmers adopting sustainable practices
- No. of technicians trained on agro-ecological methods and practices
- Improvement in the natural resource base and access to resources (credit, technical assistance, seeds, etc.)

Partners to be engaged:

Local farmers, women, NGOs, community trainees and technicians; major groups S&T, NGO and Media; FAO.

Expected Outcomes and Contribution to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Increased capacities of small farmers (especially women), local NGO representatives, community trainees and technicians to adopt sustainable agriculture methods, manage natural resources in a sustainable way, and benefit from improved market access and fairer prices. Impact on MDGs 1,7 and 8.

Proposed Objectives and Approaches

- Support its partner organizations through research and training on: environmental action and natural resource protection and management; rehabilitation and protection of flora and fauna; restoration, protection and conservation of soil and water; control of erosion and crop diseases by natural means; integration of agriculture, animal husbandry and forestry.
- Provide information and communication on sustainable agriculture and improved rural livelihoods, including marketing opportunities, access to fair prices for small farmers, and development of policy linkages.
- Support the creation and the management of rural community banks from local savings, micro-credit and investment and promote autonomous finance for local sustainable development.

Building upon Experience

CIRPED is a Senegalese non-profit organization created in 1993 to support farmers' organizations, rural communities and small artisans. CIRPED has worked many years to assist farmers to attain agricultural production systems which are socially just, culturally diverse, economically viable and environmentally sustainable. These systems are designed to allow farmers to use entirely renewable energy sources available locally while limiting external inputs and promoting sound natural resources management. CIRPED has succeeded in initial efforts to build capacity to train disadvantaged groups in good practices for SARD.

Major Group Inputs

CIRPED is the West Africa NGO Focal Point for the SARD Initiative. It will work to train, mentor, monitor and evaluate good practices for distillation and dissemination. Links to other major groups of SARD will permit wider sharing of experiences and linking of local learners, documentation of success stories, and development of policy recommendations for extension to other parts of West Africa through CIRPED and MG networks.