

## **GAMBIA**

### **Summary of Bankable Investment Project Profile – Volume III of III**

#### **National Programme for Food Security**

**Estimated Cost:** US\$13.65 m

**Project Duration:** 6 years

**Rationale.** As a result of low food production and productivity, The Gambia meets only 50 percent of its food requirements. Most farmers are net purchasers of food and over 40 percent of the population do not have adequate, balanced and quality food. The widening gap between food production and consumption has to be filled by imports which now constitute a huge drain on the limited foreign exchange generated in the economy.

#### **Project Objectives:**

- **Overall Goal/Development Objective:** Improved household and national food security and reduced poverty on an economically and environmentally sustainable basis.
- **Project Development Objectives:**
  - Improve and strengthen support services to smallholder agricultural producers, processors, growers associations and traders;
  - Diversify the agricultural production base into crop, livestock and fisheries products and increase income of smallholders producers;
  - Promote improved post-harvest handling practices for crops, livestock and fisheries products and food reserves; and
  - Promote small-scale community water management through irrigation and water harvesting.

**Project Area and Beneficiaries:** Nationwide implementation. Primary beneficiaries are poor food insecure farmers.

#### **Project Components and Main Activities:**

- **Strengthening of Service Delivery for Smallholder Producers**
  - Develop efficient and adequate extension, input delivery and marketing systems;
  - Strengthen research-extension-farmers linkages; and
  - Strengthen the capacity of agricultural producer organizations and improve access of entrepreneurs to financing.
- **Agricultural Diversification and Income Enhancement**
  - Assess market opportunities of agricultural enterprises and strengthen technical capacity of producers;
  - Establish a seed-fund for the provision of seed and other essential inputs on cost recovery basis; and
  - Support production, storage, marketing and processing infrastructure for small and medium-scale producers.
- **Improvement of Post-harvest Management of Products and Community Food Reserves**
  - Survey and identify post-harvest losses in crop, livestock and fisheries sub-sectors and propose intervention areas;
  - Promote value-addition through processing and preservation; and
  - Promote appropriate storage structures and community managed seed and cereal/food banking.
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  - Establish/rehabilitate community irrigation schemes involving small uplifts from river/water bodies and groundwater exploitation; and
  - Provide boreholes for high-valued crop/livestock schemes and promote water harvesting.
- **Project Coordination and Monitoring and Evaluation**  
Establish effective project management, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

**Main Benefits.** Improved food security through increased and year-round agricultural production by 20,000 smallholder farming households. Increased beneficiary households incomes from the sale of value-added products and reduced post-harvest losses. Reduced drudgery through the use of agro-processing technologies for crops, livestock and fisheries. Enhanced status of soil and water resources through adoption of sustainable land and water management practices. Increased access to services and production inputs.