

## ISFP PROJECT PROPOSAL

<b>Country:</b>	<b>Mauritania</b>
<b>Agency:</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
<b>Project Title:</b>	Emergency assistance to vulnerable farmers and breeders affected by drought and soaring food prices in Mauritania
<b>Sector:</b>	Agriculture and Livelihoods
<b>Objective:</b>	<p>Overall objective: improve sustainable food security and agricultural production of vulnerable farmers affected by soaring food prices and drought</p> <p>Specific objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• support 15 000 vulnerable farmers and breeders;</li> <li>• boost production and expand the cultivated area; and</li> <li>• train smallholder farmers.</li> </ul>
<b>Beneficiaries:</b>	15 000 farmers and breeders
<b>Implementing Partner(s):</b>	<i>Ministère des Affaires Étrangères</i> (MAE) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
<b>Project Duration:</b>	July 2008 – June 2009 (12 months)
<b>Total Project Budget:</b>	<b>USD 1 524 000</b>

### Needs

Food security in Mauritania is heavily dependent on imports. National agricultural production only partially satisfies the internal demand for food, particularly for cereals (estimated to be about 430 000 tonnes). In the best-case scenario, national production satisfies about 30 percent of the population's needs, while the remaining 70 percent is assured by commercial imports and food aid.

In Mauritania, the food price crisis severely affected the food security of poor farmers and breeders, who resorted to consuming their seed stocks. There is an urgent need to provide seeds to enable vulnerable farmers and breeders to resume their farming activities and rebuild their seed stocks. Support to breeders is also essential to diversify the beneficiaries' diet and reduce their dependence on imported cereals. Training is also essential to promote the use of appropriate agricultural practices and increased productivity.

The Government of Mauritania has developed a Special Plan of Action (PSI) to assist vulnerable farmers in overcoming the current situation. In particular, the PSI aims to reduce the effects of soaring food prices and reinforce food security. For the medium term, the Government of Mauritania aims to achieve cereal self-sufficiency (rice and traditional cereals) by 2012.

The FAO Initiative on Soaring Food Prices (ISFP) is designed to assist countries in increasing food supplies, and is complementary to the PSI of Mauritania. Within this framework, the project is designed to provide emergency assistance to vulnerable farmers and breeders affected by drought and soaring food prices.

### Activities

The project will assist in improving food security and agricultural production through the following activities:

- a. Provision of agricultural inputs:
  - high-quality seeds of rice, maize, sorghum, millet and vegetables; and
  - veterinary medicines (complements, vaccines, etc.).

Inputs will be chosen from among those recommended by the Government and adapted to local farming systems and agro-ecological zones.

- Provision of training to farmers on good practices for agricultural production, conservation, processing and marketing.

These activities would be complementary to the ongoing projects TCP/MAU/3105 and GCP/GLO/216/SPA.

### **Outcomes**

The project will have assisted in the production of cereals, vegetable crops and breeding.

- Selected beneficiaries will have received the inputs needed in a timely manner.
- Animal health will be ensured.
- Selected beneficiaries will have received the training needed to improve their productivity.
- Agricultural production will be increased.
- More food will be available in communities and local markets

<b>FINANCIAL SUMMARY</b>	
<b>Budget Items</b>	<b>USD</b>
Staff costs	230 000
Input costs and operations (inputs, contracts, training, etc.)	1 094 000
Administration costs	200 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 524 000</b>