



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

6th African Soil Partnership plenary meeting

26-27 April 2022
VIRTUAL MEETING



About “The Soil Solution”

- “The Soil Solution” is a not for profit, non government organization (NGO) in the Gambia. We are registered with the ministry of justice in 2018.

- Our objective is;

“to protect and make available suitable soils that physically and structurally support plants with adequate nutrients and water”

We work with both government and private institutions within and outside the Gambia to placate the food security challenges, growing poverty and malnutrition, climate change and many other challenges affecting agriculture production in the Gambia and outside.

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Goals

Our goals include:

- To restore and sustainably manage soils.
- To build the capacity of farmers and school going childrens on sound agronomy skills.
- To provide land friendly mechanical operation guide at field level.
- To natural resource management and
- To create platform for farm-to-table awareness.

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Other ongoing projects

- We are currently working with the Medical Research Council of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (MRC Unit -The Gambia) on a pilot “solar energy project” in the Gambia in order to minimise dependency on fuelwood, which serves as a protection to our soil and our ecosystem as a whole.
- We are also working with “The Salt Doctors” a Netherlands private institution on a proposal on “saline agriculture” in the Gambia as there is a wide spread/expansion of salt water in our agricultural fields.

Work with SDP-team/GSP of (FAO)

(Implementation of the “Soil Doctors Program” (SDP) in the Gambia).

The GSP has identified and confirmed two local “Promoters” of the program in the Gambia.

1. The Soil Solution (NGO)
2. FAO county office in the Gambia

1). The Soil Solution: we are an (independent promoter) of the program with (10 Promoters) who are supposed to select/identify, train and certify fifty (50) champion farmers as Soil Doctors and this fifty (50) Soil Doctors each of them will receive a bag-pack of soil testing kits, trainings and training materials to also further step-down train at least thirty (30) farmers in their communities or villages.

*One thousand five hundred (1500) plus number of beneficiary farmers in the pilot.

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2.) The FAO country office: is the face of GSP at the local level here and they have (5 Promoters) who are supposed to identify, train and certify a hundred (100) champion farmers through their Farmer-Field School (FFS) project as Soil Doctors, who will also further step-down train at least thirty (30) other farmers in their communities in the pilot.

*Three thousand (3000) plus beneficiary farmers.

Targetted Outcome

- A total estimate of about five thousand (5000) beneficiaries are expected to be reach in the pilot. Their capacities will be built on principles of soil science, the practice of sustainable soil management and soil testing methods.
- We expect this will improve their soils productivity, optimise their productions and ultimately increases their income.

Roles of the GSP

- The GSP is providing financial support to facilitate the trainings of the Soil Doctors for “The Soil Solution”.
- The GSP is also taking care of the cost of the Soil Testing Kits and Visual Identity items for both “The Soil Solution” and the “FAO county office”.
- The GSP/SDP team overall serves as technical back-stopping to us the “Promoters” and responsible of training and certifying all the (15 promoters) in the Gambia.

What has been done?

- We have successfully completed defining the terms-of-reference of each partner.
- GSP has provided a translation guide for translation of the training posters and
- “The Soil Solution” has translated all the training posters into two most widely spoken local languages in the Gambia (wolof and mandinka). And
- FAO Gambia office has reviewed, validate and publicate the translated posters through the FAO system.

POSTER 4 - What is Soil?

English	Translation (Wolof)
What is Soil?	<u>Lann Mooi Suuf?</u>
Hi, my name is <u>Soily</u> and I am the Soil Doctor's assistant. I'm here to tell you a little bit about soil.	<u>Yeen, suma turr mooi suuf teh maai dimbalehkati faj kati suuf bi. Dama nyuw purr wahlen lu ndaaw ci mbiri suuf.</u>
Usually, Soil Organic Matter (SOM) is much more abundant in surface soil (TOPSOIL) than further below ground (SUBSOIL). This makes topsoil more fertile	<u>Silugëna barri, Suuf buui dunda (toss) ci suuf budea farae kaw lam dea gëna barri (Suufi Kaw) ni suuf budea farae suuf (Suufi Suuf). Li motah suufi kawgi mo gëna harange.</u>
the 5 factors of soil formation are: Climate, Organisms, Topography, Parent Material and Time!	<u>Jurom mi ponku yuuy tahawal suuf bokana ci: Weecheku Weecheku Jaw Bu Yaga Bi, Mindaaf Yek, Lalinni Suuf Bek, Suufbi Fuum Fakeeko ak Wahtu.</u>
BIOLOGY	MINDAAFYI
TOPOGRAPHY	LALINNI SUUF BI
ROCK	HEER
CLIMATE	WEECHEKU WEECHEKU JAW BU YAGA
TIME	WAHTU

Benefits of joining the Program

- It is more much costs effective and efficient.
- We (Promoters) have the chance of been provided with high quality educational material to use for training on the practice of sustainable soil management.
- We hope to strengthen our relations more with farmers and rural communities.
- The program has strengthened our relations with the GSP and its regional Secretariats and FAO country office.
- It has provided us opportunity to collaborate with other partners within and outside the Gambia (cross-regional technical and scientific collaboration).

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- The programme has also contributed to strengthening our relations with the GSP and its partners, including national government (The GSP Focal Point).
- The programme will contribute to increasing the awareness of farmers and rural communities on the work of the GSP and potentially commit them to join other GSP-promoted activities.

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Conclusion

- Sixty percent (60%) of the world's arable land is in Africa yet 226.7 million people are starving in Africa. In 2016 DW live TV reports that; about 28 percent of the land in Africa is being degraded and this costs the continent an estimated 56 billion euros annually loses.
- Initiatives like this (the SDP) is here to help us attenuate this problem.

THE END

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

by

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