

The FAO/Government of Italy Cooperative Programme

Project profiles

2006



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GCP/GHA/029/ITA

Establishment of a Tomato Processing Promotion Centre in Ghana

Thematic area: Sustainable food and agricultural systems

In the Republic of Ghana 60 percent of the population lives in rural areas and an almost exclusive smallholder system predominates in the agricultural sector. In fact, smallholder farms produce 80 percent of the total agricultural production using mainly labour-intensive technology. Agricultural production consists mainly of cereals, industrial and tree crops, and some non traditional crops such as fruits, vegetables and root crops for export only. General average yields are low and reflect the low intensity of agricultural production in Ghana.

Tomato is probably the most important vegetable grown in the country.

Nevertheless, data collected by the Statistic Researcher and Information Department of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture indicates that the yield of tomato varieties grown in the country is exceptionally low. The source of water such as rainfall, irrigation, wells and riverbeds determine both the season of farming and the number of times farming is undertaken within the year.

Post harvest and processing of agricultural produce is certainly one of the sectors that offer higher potential of development and income generation. In such a context the Government of Ghana and the Government of Italy, with the technical support from FAO, aim at further promoting the development of the agricultural sector as a policy orientation to ameliorate food security and food production and contribute to poverty reduction.

■ Beneficiaries

- > Tomato growers
- > Rural communities
- > Entrepreneurs in the sector

Objectives

1. Poverty reduction and income generation for rural households



- 2. Reduced food losses
- 3. Increased Knowledge of the Tomato Business
- 4. Establishment of a Pilot Plant for Tomato Processing
- 5. Promotion of Tomato Processing

Strategies

- > Establishment of a tomato processing promotion centre (TPPC) and coordinate and undertake several activities including:
 - (i) selection and sourcing of improved tomato varieties and seeds
 - (ii) technical support in the promotion of proper agronomic practices, in tomato processing, in product development, in process development quality control, in marketing and in sale
 - (iii) training activities; building knowledge base through studies, data collection, and production trials (iv) processing of tomato and marketing of tomato products
- Selection and sourcing of improved tomato varieties and seeds

Overall Objective:

Contribute to improve farm income and food security

Donor:

Government of Italy

Contribution: US\$899 597

Participating countries:
Republic of Ghana

Duration:

2 years From 01 Jul 2004 to 30 Jun 2006



- > Promotion of proper agronomic practices, tomato processing, product development, process development, quality control, marketing and sale
- > Training of farmers and technicians in charge of processing and control of the tomato culture techniques, in accordance with the European quality standards
- > Processing of tomato and marketing of tomato products

■ Expected results

- Increased knowledge of the tomato business
- > Promotion of tomato processing
- > Poverty reduction and income generation for rural households
- > Improvement of food security
- Establishment of a tomato processing promotion centre as research resource and to provide needed information, know-how, and database to farmers and potential processors

- Improve the skills and capacity of rural communities in their undertaking and management of commercial crop production
- > Activities to reduce food losses and to promote income generation
- > Strengthen the capacities of national expertise
- > Training activities will include:
 (i) identification of good practices related to the processing, manufacturing and trading of the product
 - (ii) processors on quality standards
 - (ii) Introduction of high-yielding varieties; these activities are critical for the success of this initiative and contribute in reducing post-harvest losses. These activities are also very important for the overall sustainability of tomato processing in the country





GCP/NER/044/1TA

Promotion of Decentralized Cooperation in Niger in the Field of Animal Products and Livestock Industries

Thematic area:

Sustainable food and agricultural systems

Despite the many efforts done by the Government of Niger more than 60 percent of the population lives below the poverty line. Livestock raising remains the principal agricultural activity.

To revitalize the agricultural sector, the Government of Niger is pushing to create employment in animal production, especially targeting women and rural youth.

An opportunity to address these issues is offered by project GCP/NER/044/ITA funded by the Government of Italy.

The project, planned for two years, will contribute to relaunch the animal sector in the country through the implementation of micro projects based on the empowerment of the grassroot communities. This will in turn create job opportunities and stop emigration of the rural youth.

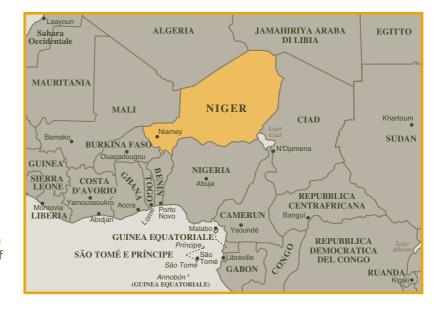
Through the project, Niger will acquire a crucial role in animal production and will collaborate more efficiently at regional level in organizations such as the Economic and monetary West African union (Union économique et monétaire ouest Africaine – UEMOA) or the Economic community of West African states (ECOWAS).

■ Beneficiaries

- > Women
- > Young of rural areas
- > Farmers
- > Pastoralists

Objectives

The overall objective is to create sustainable income generating activities in animal production and animal industry for women and the rural youth and contribute to the fight against poverty. This will stop the emigration of the rural youth and will contribute to the implementation of sub-



regional economic activities, among the UEMOA and ECOWAS member states.

The specific objectives are:

- Elaboration of a framework paper on decentralization in Niger, including a detailed description of the approach to be applied and the activities to be implemented
- 2. Strengthening of livestock industries and the implementation of livestock trade between Ghana, Niger and Italy
- 3. Establishment of 100 small animals development units, dealing with transformation and commercialization of livestock products

Strategies

- > Creation of working opportunities in the livestock sector especially targeting women and rural youth
- > Promotion of the livestock sector in the country through the implementation of micro-projects based on the strengthen of grassroot communities

Overall Objective:

Create sustainable income generating activities in animal production and animal industry

Donor:

Government of Italy

Contribution:

US\$230 000

Participating countries: Republic of Niger

Duration:

2 years From 01 Oct 2005 to 08 Sep 2007



■ Expected results

- > Creation of working opportunities in the livestock sector especially targeting women and rural youth
- > Stop emigration of the rural youth
- > Better organization of trade among Niger and neighbouring countries in the livestock sector
- > Identification, preparation and establishment of 100 micro-projects

- > Creation of working opportunities in the livestock sector especially targeting women and rural youth
- Diversification of agricultural production of the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS), which also develop small animal breeding and job creation in the rural sector
- > Development of small animal breeding and creation of job opportunities in the rural sector
- > Relaunch of the livestock sector in the country through the implementation of micro-projects based on the strengthen of grassroot communities





GTFS/RAF/387/1TA

Acacia Operation - Support to Food Security, Poverty Alleviation and Soil Degradation Control in the Gums and Resins Producer Countries

Thematic area: Sustainable food and agricultural systems

Gum arabic, myrrh and frankincense are abundant in the Sahel region of sub-Saharan Africa. These local resources present the way forward to sustainable management and development of the Sahel regions, which naturally have fewer options due to difficult environmental conditions. However, irregularity of supply accompanied by fluctuating prices and variable quality from some sources results in unfavorable long-term effects on the demand of these commodities. As a result, producing countries are experiencing problems in relation to commercialization and ensuring a value-added product in relation to international markets. A coordinated strategy among producer countries and partners is therefore needed to capitalize on the existing opportunities and address the constraints. In fact a coordinated strategy will enable producing countries to have better control of the international trade and share different experience in the area of production, processing, quality control and marketing.

Beneficiaries

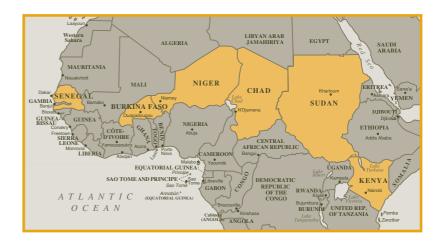
- > Rural population and peasant communities living in pre-desert areas of the region
- > Local authorities
- > Private sector
- > Specific concerned institutions
- > Consumers

Objectives

The overall objective is to strengthen the production methodologies, the processing, and the market of the products.

The specific objectives are:

1. Strengthened analytical and operational capacity of six pilot countries to address food security and desertification



problems through the improvement of the agro-pastoral systems and the sustainable development of the gums and resins sectors

2. Contribute to the fight against desertification

Strategies

- > Develop training materials and technical documents
- > Enhance the production of gums and resins
- > Improve management of the natural resources
- > Support to the rural population to establish appropriate agro-pastoral systems
- Reinforce national capacities at governmental, industrial, and consumer level to develop appropriate policies for the gums and resins sectors
- > Improve exchanges in the cooperation and technological sectors

■ Expected results

> Formulation of a ten-year programme for gums and resins producing countries

Overall Objective:

To contribute to sustainable development, to food security, and to the fight against desertification

Donor:

Government of Italy

Contribution:

US\$4 690 057

Participating countries:

Burkina Faso, Chad, Kenya, Niger, Senegal, Sudan

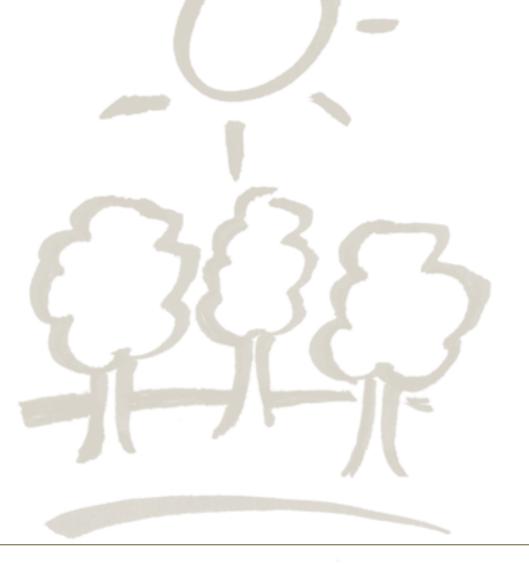
Duration:

3 years and 6 months From 05 Nov 2003 to 04 May 2006



- > Improve the agro-pastoral production system
- Increase of the rural income originated from the growth of the gum and resin market
- Improvement of the gums and resins domestic market through streamlining of the supply chain from producers to exporters
- > Improvement of the food security
- > Elaboration of information and databank on production and commercialization of gums and resins
- > Creation of a data base on the production and commercialization of gums and resins at regional and sub-regional level
- > Identification of indicators of the living conditions of the rural populations with reference to food, water supply, and health and economic development
- > Annual rehabilitation of about 1500 hectares of marginal and degradated land in each participating country

- > Enhanced value to local resources, increasing household incomes in rural area
- > Establishment of agro-silvo-pastoral systems helps farmers and shepards in food and folder production
- Participation of rural women and children in the collection, processing, and marketing of products
- > Establishment of a number of associations for the commercialization and production of gums and resins
- > Direct involvement of about 350 000 of the poorest stakeholders in the rehabilitation of the degradated areas and the establishment of production systems.





GDCP/RWA/014/MUL

Project of Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture in Kigali, Rwanda

Thematic area: Sustainable food and agricultural systems

The project aims at assisting the Government of Rwanda in improving the livelihood of low income households of the Kigali Municipality by improving the capacity of the community associations in developing and implementing agricultural projects. This will help to ensure improved food security and nutrition, guaranty employment and income for the targeted poor and vulnerable population. Activities are implemented through the FAO/Italy Decentralized Cooperation Programme in partnership with the local authorities of the city of Kigali and the Municipality of Rome.

■ Beneficiaries

- > Community associations of low income farmers
- > Women
- > Youth groups

Objectives

The overall objective is to assist the Government of Rwanda in improving the livelihood of low income households of the Kigali Municipality.

The specific objectives are:

- Enhance the capacity of the Government to find solutions to reduce food insecurity.
- 2. Improve the livelihood of urban population by increasing employment opportunities, agricultural production and income
- 3. Increase the acreage of suitable areas for agriculture and agroforestry

Strategies

- > Rehabilitation of technical infrastructure and strengthening of human resource capabilities
- Utilization of participatory approach to increase awareness of farming communities and ownership by local associations



- > Training of selected technicians in participative approach for integrated urban and peri-urban agriculture
- > Participation of community associations in Farmers Field Schools
- > Diversification of agricultural production
- > Protection of the environment

■ Expected results

- Better identification, rehabilitation and reclamation of marshlands for agricultural production
- > Establishment and rehabilitation of antierosion system through countour planning, terrasing of hilly areas and, forestry and agroforestry activities for the improvement of sustainable environmental conditions
- > Rehabilitation of technical infrastructure including small irrigation system and essential field equipment
- > Enhanced capacity of technical and operational staff at the district level and at the level of community associations
- > Increased acreage for agricultural production and enhanced opportunities for commercialisation

Overall Objective:

Assisting the city of Kigali in improving the livelihood of low income households

Donor:

Government of Italy

Contribution: US\$817 940

Participating countries: Rwanda

Duration:

3years From 01 Dec 2003 to 31 Dec 2006



- > Enhanced opportunities for employment and for income generation in the area of crop and animal production and related off-farm activities
- > Increased availability and regular supply of agricultural products for the need of urban population and the market.

- Better access to rehabilitated swampy and hilly areas made suitable for agricultural production
- > Acquisition of adequate infrastructure and essential equipment for agricultural production
- Participation in training sessions, field days and demonstrations, and Farmers Field Schools
- > Development of micro projects to access additional





GCPS/ER1/002/1TA

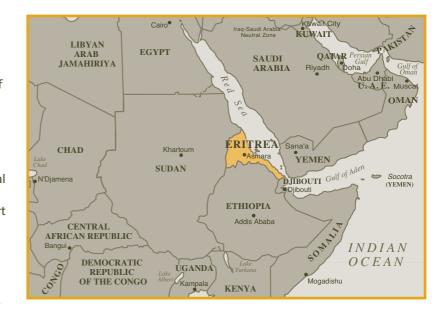
Strengthening and Expansion of the National Food Information System in Eritrea

Thematic area: Knowledge exchange and policy

Recognizing the development of a reliable food information system as a condition sine qua non to effective planning of food security interventions and relief operations, the Government of the State of Eritrea established in 1993 a National early warning and food information unit, which later evolved into the National food information system (NFIS).

As a member of the Inter-Governmental authority on development (IGAD), Eritrea has benefited since 1993 from the support provided by the regional project GCPS/RAF/256/ITA 'IGAD Early Warning and Food Information System' funded by the Government of Italy. The project set up the basis for the implementation of a regional food information system, and for the creation and/or strengthening of information units at the national level. The project's final evaluation report pointed out that, in Eritrea, the food information system and the institutional arrangements for the effective coordination of the system still needed assistance.

Following the completion of this regional project, and upon request of Eritrea, a follow-up was designed, as a national component of the regional programme to support IGAD countries to strengthen their food information systems. In January 1997 the present Italian funded FAO project GCPS/ERI/002/ITA was declared operational. The project encountered some delays due to the border conflict. Following the recommendations of a Tripartite Meeting held in Asmara in October 1999, a second phase of project GCPS/ERI/002/ITA was formulated and approved for funding by the Government of Italy in September 2000. The end of the activities is foreseen in August of 2006.



■ Beneficiaries

- > Food insecure vulnerable people, in particular woman and children
- > Populations living in drought affected areas

Objectives

The overall objective is to assist the Government of Eritrea in realizing an efficient and sustainable food information system which contribute to the reduction of chronic food insecurity and food vulnerability of Eritrean people at national, community and household level.

The specific objectives are:

- 1. Provision of a clear understanding of the degree and nature of food insecurity and vulnerability, as an input for appropriate and timely actions
- 2. Production and dissemination at national and sub-national levels of high quality food security information outputs aimed at planning development intervention
- 3. Improvement in human resources capacity at national and sub-national levels to collect, process, analyse, interpret and disseminate food security information

Overall Objective:

Putting in place an efficient government-owned food information system

Donor:

Government of Italy

Contribution: US\$2 561 237

Participating countries: Eritrea

Duration:

9 years and 7 months From 12 Jan 1997 to 31 Aug 2006



4. Strengthening of institutional structures at national, regional (Zoba) and subregional (sub-Zoba) levels needed for an efficient, effective and sustainable national food information system

■ Strategies

- > Launching of a monthly newsletter ('NFIS Monthly Food Outlook') and a decadal meteorological information newsletter ('Dekadal Agro-meteorology bulletin')
- > Regular distribution of newsletter in electronic or paper version to different users such as the regional information network and media to sensibilize people on the main food security issues of the country
- > Creation of the NFIS-Forum, a discussion platform for groups or individuals to discuss food security issues or raise questions about food security in the country through the Internet
- Introduction of a new methodology which combines information on plants with those of the 'Africover' project database, resulting in a better analysis on the timely alert in agriculture

■ Expected results

- High quality information on food security to identify emergencies, vulnerable groups, to monitor the distribution of food products and other humanitarian interventions, to evaluate the food imports, to formulate food strategies and make programmes for food security at national and sub-national level
- Progress in the agro-meteorological sector replacing, in the field of plant images, the traditional satellite images with high resolution images
- > Use of information on nutritional state, distribution of food resources for vulnerable groups, foodstuffs, prices and donor answers to emergencies

- > Introduction of remote sensing and satellite image interpretation for rainfall and vegetation monitoring, and the crop/livestock annual assessment activities
- > Development of an adequate information systems to be carried out through the creation of workgroups from the member institutions to ensure the sustainability of the activities
- > Comprehensive analysis of the livelihoods system at zoba level, described in the document, 'Baseline Study on Livelihoods System in Eritrea'
- > Creation of the NFIS-Forum, a discussion platform for groups or individuals to discuss food security issues
- > Improvement of the monthly information newsletter with information on vulnerable groups, victims of drought and war, refugees and people affected by AIDS/HIV, and the urban poverty. Moreover the bulleting contains information on nutritional status, distribution of food resources to vulnerable groups, foodstuffs, prices and donors response to emergencies
- > The project has conducted a number of onthe-job and formal training programs for participants from NFIS and its member institutions. To date, three training programmes were organized by the project: (i) basic and intermediate level training in satellite image interpretation for monitoring rainfall and vegetation for early warning
 - (ii) database management and (iii) food balance
- > A workgroup is formed after each training program to follow up development in the specific field and to share experiences. Equipment, such as computers and softwares, has been provided by the project to support workgroup activities. The remote sensing/geographical information system office in the MoA has received special attention and support
- Organization of seminars on food security issues, vulnerability and means of subsistence and on gender approach
- Six workgroups have been formed: agricultural monitoring, agricultural emergency, agro-meteorology, food balance, market information and nutrition surveillance



GCP/ER1/006/1TA

Strengthening the Agricultural Research and Extension Division in Eritrea

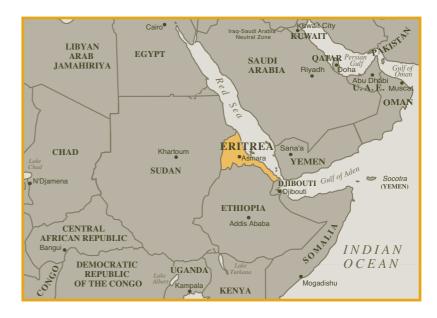
Thematic area: Knowledge exchange and policy

Agriculture is the most important sector of the Eritrean economy, relying primarily on smallholder traditional crop and livestock production. In the past decade, the country's economy in general and the agricultural sector in particular were seriously affected by both the prolonged political unrest and the periodic droughts, which displaced farmers, reduced the availability of agricultural inputs and adversely affected agricultural support services including research and extension.

Since attaining independence from Ethiopia in 1991, the Government of the State of Eritrea has focused on developing its agricultural research and extension service capacity both through human resources and infrastructure development. In this context, following a specific request of Eritrea, FAO implemented project GCP/ERI/001/ITA funded by the Government of Italy, which came into effect in 1996. It lasted five years up to August 2001. The project aimed at rehabilitating the Research and Extension Division within the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), supporting the setting up of a research station and providing extensive staff training both within and outside

Considerable economic development occurred between 1993 and 1998, and agricultural output steadily increased, which resulted in a sharp decline in the need for food aid. However, conflict with Ethiopia erupted again in 1998, causing new displacement of people and disruption of production in all sectors.

The final evaluation mission of GCP/ERI/001/ITA, concluded that the project had successfully built research and management capacity in the MoA, and that its impact on production systems was high. It also proposed to formulate a new phase of project GCP/ERI/001/ITA, also to be funded by the Government of Italy, in



order to continue to strengthen agricultural research as a way to increase and sustain farm-level productivity.

Beneficiaries

- > Farmers
- > Researchers

Objectives

The overall goal of the project is to assist MoA in building-up its institutional capacity for the generation and dissemination of relevant improved agricultural technology and modern cultural practices.

The specific objectives are:

- 1. Strengthen the human resources capacity of the National Agriculture Research Institute (NARI) within MoA and improving its ability to manage and carry out effective agricultural research programmes. Secondly it will improve the quality of research services
- Improving the productivity and sustainability of horticultural crops and animal production, developing integrated land and water management systems,

Overall Objective:

Improve the quality of Research services provided to farmers

Donor:

Government of Italy

Contribution: US\$2 987 992

Participating countries: Eritrea

Duration:

5 years and 7 months From 26 Sep 2001 to 30 Apr 2007



- and exploring moisture conservation and utilization techniques
- 3. Dissemination of findings amongst farmers is expected to increase food security and the standard of living in rural areas

■ Strategies

- > Short-term training courses in different topics: project management and rural development, pearl millet breeding techniques, advanced citrus propagation, management of agricultural research, and soil and plant analysis
- > Seven members of NARI were funded by the project to attend a two-year Master of Science Programme at the University of Asmara in Agriculture and Business Economics
- > Advisory Services were constituted within the MoA, to improve research/extension/farmer linkage and coordination at national and subnational level
- > On-station and on-farm research trials were implemented with the local farmers on priority vegetable, fruit crops varieties and management practices, including fertilization and irrigation
- > Completion of a study on the goat milk production system to improve small ruminants pastoralist systems in cooperation with Halhale Research Centre
- Review and assess information on soil and water conservation technologies.
 Researches have been carried out on moisture retention and infiltration, and reduce erosion
- > The Soils Research Laboratory based at the Halhale Research Centre performed physical and chemical analysis of soil samples from different sources, providing the results to beneficiaries with comments and recommendations
- Soil and fertility types, as well as threshold levels of plant nutrients in cereals and horticultural crops were identified.

■ Expected results

- > Improvement of the quality of Research services provided to farmers
- > Improvement of small ruminant pastoralist systems
- Agricultural engineering methodologies development to reduce post-harvest losses also decreasing problems arising from humidity contents
- > Improvement of the dairy sector

- Improvement of technical capabilities of national staff in the various research activities and programmes development
- > Improvement of Human Resource Capacity in Research
- > Training carried out contributed significantly to improving the technical skills of national staff in implementing various research activities and programmes. In addition to that, seven members of NARI were funded by the project to attend a two-year Master of Science Programme at the University of Asmara in Agriculture and Business Economics
- > Creation of consulting services within the ministries to improve the links between research and agricultural extension and farmers at national and sub-national level. The programme of the Ministry of Agriculture is in the experimenting phase in three sub-regions ('subzoba')
- > Development of technology to minimize post harvest storage losses on cereals

GCPS/ANG/005/1TA

Rehabilitation of Food Security in the Province of Bengo, Angola

- a Joint FAO-IFAD-WFP Initiative

Thematic area: Food security

The economy of Angola is potentially reach, with high oil, mineral, fisheries, livestock, forest, and agricultural under exploited resources. However, the political instability in the last decades generated a very deep economic crisis, with serious side effects in the agricultural sector.

The Italian Government is promoting an interagency project in Angola, to be implemented jointly by the three Romebased agencies: FAO, the International fund for agricultural development (IFAD) and the World food programme (WFP), through Italian multilateral funding.

All three agencies have ongoing activities in the country. IFAD is supporting the 'Northern Region Food Crops Development' project, while WFP is currently assisting demobilized and displaced people. FAO also supports many projects on agricultural recovery and crop protection.

■ Beneficiaries

- > Farmers
- > Rural households
- > Local institutions

Objectives

The overall objective is to strengthen institutional capacities for rural development of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER), in order to implement similar programmes on a larger scale.

The specific objectives are:

- Increase food security through the improvement of the production technology
- 2. Contribute to the long term objectives of the national agricultural growth
- 3. Promote collaboration amongst the partners on food security issues

■ Strategies

> Intensification and diversification activities implemented through the introduction of improved varieties of crops and livestock



- Several training courses and workshops organized, including participatory approach and gender analysis and a course on project cycle management
- > Adoption of a participatory approach
- Utilization of national consultant and establishment of a Project Steering Committee

■ Expected results

- Improved food security through the application of existing advanced productive technology
- > Rehabilitation of infrastructures
- > Improved agricultural production and introduction of small animal breeding
- > Effective technical assistance to farmers

Ongoing results

- > In relation to infrastructures, a bridge, various rural roads, four water pits, two schools and three primary health centres were rehabilitated or constructed
- > Beneficiaries trained on project cycle management and on participatory and gender approach
- > Technical assistance was provided and resulted in the introduction of a rural extension system, the training of six local

Overall Objective:

Strengthen the Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) institutional capacities for rural development, in order to implement similar programmes on a larger scale

Donor:

Government of Italy

Contribution: US\$1 771 450

Participating countries: Republic of Angola

Duration:

8 years and 4 months From 01 Jan 1998 to 31 May 2006



- extension experts, support to 862 local families in different communities and the constitution of seven local management committees.
- > 25 water user group associations and 25 small-scale irrigation schemes established, covering an irrigated area of 125 ha
- > The diversification component benefited from the distribution of 1500 agricultural kits and 11300 kg of leguminous seeds, which contributed to an increase in the cultivated area by 43 percent
- > 20 communities engaged in Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) pilot project activities relating to crop intensification and diversification, water management and the establishment of community revolving funds
- > Living conditions of targeted households benefiting from the project in the area of Musseque improved





GCSP/ETH/057/1TA

Special Programme for Food Security in Ethiopia – Irrigation Component

Thematic area: Food security

The economy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is based on agriculture, which accounts for 85 percent of exports, and 80 percent of total employment. However, the agricultural sector suffers from frequent drought and poor cultivation practices, which result in a severe food insecurity. The goal of the government has been making efforts to rehabilitate the agricultural sector through the provision of production inputs and improved extension services.

FAO has been implementing, since 1995, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) in different drought prone areas. The objective of the SPFS in Ethiopia is to assist the government to achieve its goal of closing the food gap between domestic food production and consumption requirements in the medium-term, and to improve food security at household, regional, and national levels. The SPFS focuses on demonstration activities in improved agronomic technologies and practices relating to cereals for nonirrigated agriculture. The programme is implemented in the Wolfa district (Tigray region) and in the Habrun and Gonder Zuria district (Amhara region).

■ Beneficiaries

- a) Farmers
- b) Rural communities

Objectives

The overall objective is the increased sustainable production and income.

The specific objectives are:

- Introduce improved irrigation techniques, which would be replicated on a wide scale as more small-scale irrigation schemes are developed
- 2. Strenghtening group capacity for feasibility studies



- 3. Provision of adequate training to farmers
- 4. Implementation of infrastructure works for irrigation

■ Strategies

- > Provide assistance to farmers in establishing or consolidating Water Users' Association or Cooperatives on a voluntary basis
- > Diffuse improved practices through at least one Farmers' Field Day on each scheme
- > Formulate a medium and long-term regional strategy to address meso and macro level constraints to the wider scale development of irrigated crops in each Region
- > Carry-out a Participatory Constraint Analysis in a limited sample of rehabilitated, newly built and traditional small scale irrigation schemes
- > Implement demonstration programmes on fields of interested farmers
- > Carry-out a marketing analysis on actual/potential outlets for irrigated crops in the selected sample of small scale irrigation schemes

Overall Objective:

Improve food security at household, regional, and national levels

Donor:

Government of Italy

Contribution:

US\$1 866 110

Participating countries:

Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Duration:

8 years and 6 months From 01 Jul 1998 to 31 Dec 2006



■ Expected results

- > Rehabilitation of irrigation schemes in the Amhara and Tigray regions
- > Improved agricultural production
- > Improved food security and diversification of the horticultural production in the dry season

- > Building of a new irrigation scheme in the Tigray region
- > Rehabilitation of of two irrigation schemes in the Amhara and Tigray regions
- > One document translated into Amharic and one in Tigray language underway
- > Improved access to credit and inputs for farmers in the project selected schemes





Thematic area: Food security

Crop Diversification and Marketing Development Project, in Ethiopia

Ethiopia is an agrarian society and one of the poorest countries in the world.

The Government of Ethiopia, by supporting the Crop Diversification and Marketing Development Project, which is part of the Special Programme for Food Security, aims to increase economic growth, enhance food security and alleviate poverty through the empowerment of smallholder farmers, intensification and diversification of production and commercialization of small farms in areas with recognized market potential. The project, financed by the Government of Italy, ensures the long-term sustainability of past and ongoing investments in the Arsi zone, and promotes broader partnership between FAO and other specialized agencies, academic and research institutions and the private sector.

■ Beneficiaries

- > Farm families
- > Farm households
- > Rural women
- > Consumers
- > Private entrepreneurs

Objectives

The overall objective is to improve food security of vulnerable groups.

The specific objectives are:

- Intensify and diversify crop production to improve food security and the diet of villagers as well as increasing food production and cash income
- 2. Improve value and marketability of agricultural products
- Identify socio-economic constraints as part of the process of transforming smallholder subsistence agriculture into smallholder commercial agriculture.



Strategies

- > Introducing and promoting new farming technologies and practices in small-scale irrigation schemes
- > Diversifying production and commercialization in highland
- > Promoting productivity, better quality and commercialization
- > Strengthening existing cooperative societies to make them more responsive to farmers' needs
- > Strengthening communication and cooperative promotion services to assist small farmers
- > Utilizing microfinance institutions (MFIs)
- > Ensuring participation of women, particularly household-heads, in decision-making

■ Expected results

> Mobilized trained farmers, both men and women, to effectively undertake and maintain improved water control and watershed management activities

Overall Objective:

Improving food security of vulnerable groups

Donor:

Government of Italy

Contribution: US\$3 000 000

Participating countries: Federal

Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Duration:

4 years From 22 Aug 2005 to 21 Aug 2009



- > Crop production systems developed, intensified and diversified
- > Farmer-based seed production and marketing system established
- > Production and commercialization of higher value cereals, pulses and oilseeds
- > Increased production and marketing of milk and milk products
- > Empowerment of women by increasing their participation in agricultural production and income generation

- Intensive training and in-service training sessions are scheduled to improve technical skills of farmers' organizations in such areas as: production of various crops, irrigation techniques, water management and drainage
- > Training of women members of farmers' organizations on processing of vegetables such as tomatoes, onion, and pepper to add value for both local and external market is carried out





GCSP/GAM/021/ITA

Special Programme for Food Security in The Gambia

Thematic area: Food security

In the Republic of the Gambia, access to food supplies is uneven, especially in the period from July to September. During this season about 75 percent of the people, mainly living in rural areas, cannot meet the minimum calorie requirements. Overall, 37 percent of households and 54 percent of the rural population are food poor. Due to the food insecurity situation, the government has established a National Food Security Committee and, in 1997, joined the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) launched by FAO. Project formulation activities were carried out during 1997 and 1998 by a national team with support from FAO. Within the overall SPFS objective to provide food security and improve the welfare of the Gambian people.

The Government of Italy agreed to participate in the SPFS, in Gambia. In March 2001 a joint FAO/Italy mission was fielded to formulate a project proposal for Gambia and project GCSP/GAM/021/ITA was approved and declared operational in April 2002.

■ Beneficiaries

- > Rural households
- > Farming communities
- > Women
- > Agricultural extensionists

Objectives

The overall objective is to contribute to food security and the improvement of the welfare of the Gambian people, particularly the most vulnerable ones, women and children.

The specific objectives are:

- Water management and control through the rehabilitation of watering points, water harvesting/water reservoirs and through the development of low-cost technologies
- 2. Horticulture intensification, poultry and small ruminants production



- 3. Diversification into aquaculture and findi (a traditional West African grain also known as hungry rice) production
- 3. Enhancement of income generation activites

Strategies

- > Selection of 20 ha of lowlands suitable for irrigated rice production to develop four pilot sites
- > Adoption of participatory methods for farmers in the field of evaluation of needs
- > A number of improved production technology practices have been introduced. The use of botanical pesticides (e.g. neem leaves, papaya leaves and tobacco leaves) which are biodegradable and harmless to humans and livestock have been demonstrated to farmer in a number of training sessions. Other improved practices include high density in-situ method of raising cashew trees, the dwarfing method in banana production and a rapid multiplication procedure for cassava

Overall Objective:

Raise the income of rural families and contribute to the improvement of food security at household and national levels

Donor:

Government of Italy

Contribution: US\$604 999

Participating countries:

Republic of the Gambia

Duration:

4 years and 6 months From 23 Apr 2002 to 31 Oct 2006



- > Selection of 10 vegetable gardens for the development of a participatory programme of horticulture
- Organization of explorative missions and of sensibilization campaigns in the selectioned areas
- > Organization of training courses which targeted 820 people: farmers, animators, members of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and students
- > Implementation of rice production during the dry season using for the first time underground waters

■ Expected results

- Land leveling, layout design; fencing; well digging; and distribution of plot/beds among farmers
- Institution of a national and local communication programme and of a gathering information system
- > Development of rural horticulture through irrigation infrastructures
- > Introduction of new horticultural varieties
- > Training of farmer groups for the vegetable garden management

- > Four borehole sites were selected in Bakalarr and Njabakunda in the North Bank Division (NBD), in Missira in the Upper River Division (URD), and in Bwiam in the Western Division (WD), to ensure the supply of water for livestock and horticultural production
- > Installation of one new borehole at the District Extension Centre in Njabakunda
- Manually operated hand auger was introduced to facilitate the digging of earthen holes, of about one-meter of more for fixing fence poles, electrical poles and water-lifting devices
- Chain wheel pumps were installed for irrigation and community gardens in Pirang, Kuloro, and some other gardens
- Provision of seeds and technical assistance to farmers engaged in rainy season
- > Training in useful agricultural practices such as the production of seeds and the fight against pest diseases
- > Creation of manuals for farmer extensionists
- > A horticulture centre model was established in Wellingara, covering an area of four hectares. The initiative has been carried out through the technical assistance of the horticultural expert together with his Gambian counterparts. As of the end of February 2005, the centre sold 37 200 seedlings of various type
- Six poultry units were established in six villages in NBD in 2003, each supplied with 150 broilers and 150 layers
- > Construction of poultry houses in Daru in NBD and Kaimu in WD was completed in March 2005 together with the construction of small ruminant breeding and fattening pens
- > Fish ponds have also been introduces, the majority near already existing rice schemes





GCSP/GUI/015/ITA

Special Programme for Food Security in Guinea

Thematic area: Food security

The fight against poverty and food insecurity is a priority issue for the Government of Guinea, a country where about 30 percent of the population lives under the minimal nutrition standards. Guinea is included among the countries benefiting from the FAO Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS), a Programme which follows a phased strategy and focuses on: water control, intensification and diversification of agricultural production and constraint analysis.

Phase I implementation of the SPFS in Guinea started in August 1995. It mostly focused on intensification and water control and resulted in an increase in yields, rentability and labour productivity in demonstration sites.

Within this context and following interest by the Government of Italy to contribute to supporting SPFS in Guinea, a joint FAO/Italy mission was fielded in March-April 2001, in order to formulate a project proposal document. Negotiations for the formulation of the project were completed and project GCSP/GUI/015/ITA was declared operational. The project is complementary to the SPFS Pilot Project in the province of Kindia, which strengthens local peasants associations through the support of national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and is financially supported by the African Development Bank.

Beneficiaries

- > Farmers
- > Rural communities

Objectives

The overall objective is to extend to the province of Forecariah activities developed in the province of Kindia in relation to rice-culture and sea-food production.



The specific objectives are:

- 1. Strengthening local peasant organizations
- 2. Promoting the intensification and diversification of agricultural production
- 3. Improving natural resources management

Strategies

- > A participatory rural appraisal and constraint analysis was conducted in line with the SPFS philosophy in 25 villages in the Moriah and Benty areas
- > The local population has been involved in identifying the available resources, analyzing the production systems, hierarchizing the constraints and, finally, proposing technical solutions to the identified problems
- > Demonstrations on the use of fertilizers for different agricultural practices on rice, maize, banana and horticultural crops involving farmers (50 per cent women farmers) of the selected project area
- > The project is implemented with the support of two local NGOs specialized in farmers' group empowerment: the

Overall Objective:

Extend to the province of Forecariah activities developed in the province of Kindia in relation to rice-culture and sea-food production

Donor:

Government of ltaly

Contribution: US\$999 965

Participating countries:
Republic of Guinea

Duration:

4 years and 5 months From 23 Apr 2002 to 30 Sep 2006



association for the economic development of Kindia (APEK), in the zone of Benna and the support structure to farmers' network (SARA), in the zones of Benty and Moriah

■ Expected results

- > Reduction of poverty and food security
- > Improvement of agricultural and horticultural production
- > Strengthening local peasant skills in riceculture and fisheries production
- > Achieve significant progress in the reforestation programme

- Distribution of tool sets for the management of inland valley swamps (land clearing, levelling, etc.)
- > 11 inland valley swamps are managed, for a total area of 144 hectares. In addition, over 1 000 tonnes of food crop seeds and eight tonnes of fertilizer are distributed with the use of rotation funds
- > Distribution of 1 000 tons of seeds and eight tons of fertilizers

- > Establishment of forestry nursery for 14 villages with thousands of plants of mangium (*Acacia mangium*) and gumhar (*Gmelina arborea*)
- > 24 farmers have been trained in nursery management for mango, avocado and orange trees. Other technical training sessions organized by the project include agroforestry, animal traction and construction of laying nests; further courses have been set up to strengthen farmers' organizations, introduce gender issues and teach accounting management and bookkeeping, while
- > Literacy courses provided to over 2000 people, of which 50 percent women
- Population involved in identifying the available resources, analyzing the production systems, hierarchizing the constraints and, finally, proposing technical solutions to the identified problems
- > Four multifunctional warehouses for sale of agricultural products and storage completed
- > 11 seed banks constructed; each seed bank has a storage facility and a veranda for meetings and training courses





GTFS/MAR/003/1TA

Preparation of a Feasibility Study for Cross-border Investments by Mauritian Operators to Foster Agribusiness in the SADC Region

Thematic area: Food security

The project intention is to produce a fesibility study in the Southern African development community (SADC) region for cross-border investments in the agrifood sector. More specifically, the project intends to support investments by potential Mauritian investors in some nearby SADC countries (such as: Madagascar and Mozambique) by assisting them in the preparation of specific feasibility studies.

Beneficiaries

- > Rural and food insecure population
- > Mauritian and Malagasy private entrepreneurs
- > Governments of the beneficiary countries

Objectives

The overall objective is to is to promote cross-border investments in the agrifood sector, thus developing a viable model for regional agricultural development.

The specific objectives are:

- Provide the Governments of Mauritius and Madagascar with tools to identify sound policies for the development of private entrepreneurship in the agricultural and agribusiness sectors
- Prepare business plans to be implemented by selected investors to promote intra-regional trade

Strategies

Organization of a forum for qualified Mauritian private investors in Madagascar in collaboration with the Malagasy private and public sector

Conducting a detailed analysis of two or three mutually agreed investment proposals.



■ Expected results

- > Development of a national investor roadmap covering all aspects related to trade regulatory procedures and relevant to local and foreign investors
- > Development of a viable model for regional agricultural investment based on the roadmap and on feasibility studies

Ongoing results

- > Organization of an international forum
- > Feasibility studies analysis
- > Devising of an investment model

Overall Objective:

Increased investment in agriculture and rural development

Donor:

Government of Italy

Contribution:

US\$217 900

Participating countries:

Madagascar, Mauritius and Mozambique

Duration:

8 months From 01 Oct 2005 to 30 Jun 2006



GTFS/MOZ/076/1TA

Thematic area: Food security

National Special Programme for Food Security in Mozambique



Overall Objective:

Improve food security and reduce poverty of vulnerable groups

Donor:

Government of Italy

Contribution: US\$3 396 700

Participating countries:
Mozambique

Duration:

5 years From 27 Nov 2003 to 26 Nov 2008 About 70 percent of Mozambique, through the National Action Programme for Food Security II (PAN II), aims to improve food security and reduce poverty through the implementation of participatory capacity building (farmer field schools – FFS) to improve production systems and promote livelihood diversification.

The project is built on the lessons learnt during the implementation from 1997–2002 of the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) in the context of the Italian funded project GCSP/MOZ/062/ITA, implemented in the provinces of Maputo, Manica and Sofala

Beneficiaries

- > Women and youth
- > Groups attending the FFS
- > Local traders and marketing specialists

Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the the national effort to halve the number of under-nurished people by 2015.

The specific objectives are:

- 1. Improved food security in 12 districts
- 2. Expansion and diffusion of aquired experiences on food security at national and provincial level

Strategies

- > Promotion of training for trainers on FFS methodology, on educational techniques for adults, and on computer literacy
- > Curricula development in the sectors of integrated production, market and livestock
- > Increase family production with positive impact on food security
- > Improve the skills of concerned governmental staff on the elaboration of strategies in the sector of food security
- > Sustain the established networks in support to food security

■ Expected results

- > Formulation of FFS curricula
- > Focus the curricula on issues related to integrated production, marketing, and livestock
- > Building of FFS at district level, with regular monitoring
- > Strengthening the information network for food security

- > Establishment of 88 Farmer Field Schools (FFS)
- > Establishment of 12 'Junior Farmer and Life Schools
- > Promotion of the initiative 'Home Grown School Feeding', in collaboration with the World Food Programme'
- > Organization of a workshop on access to natural resources and food security organized in Maputo



GTFS/RAF/391/ITA

Improvement of Food Security in Cross-border Districts of Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda in Support of the Modernization of Agriculture under NEPAD Framework

Thematic area: Food security

In 2003, the Governments of Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda framework, agreed to cooperate with FAO under its Global Food Security and Food Safety Trust Fund through a project targeting food security improvement and poverty reduction, in support of their agricultural modernization programmes. The aim of the project is to increase incomes and living standards of the small rural householders in the cross-border districts of Burundi (Ngozi and Kayanza), Rwanda (Nyagarare and Bugesera; Gisagara and Nyaruguru; Byumba and Burera), and Uganda (Kabale, Kisoro), through more profitable agricultural production systems, increased market access and value-added activities and within the wider strategy agreed in 2001 by the New partnership for Africa's development (NEPAD) countries.

Beneficiaries

- > Field schools, extension-staff
- > Farmers, small householders

Objectives

The overall objective is to improve food security in Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda and to reduce poverty by addressing common development issues, most relevant to the modernization of the agricultural production systems.

The specific objectives are:

- Facilitation of capture of gains from activities promoted by development cooperation
- 2. Promotion of capacity building

Strategies

> A modern approach to introduce realistic levels of inputs, which will ensure a concrete sustainability to farmers after the end of project activities



- > An approach which respects the agroecological features
- > Promotion of sustainable agricultural development
- > Promotion of strategic alliances, partnerships and of a participative approach of the agricultural sector associations

■ Expected results

- > Expanding markets and strengthening market access opportunities for rural communities
- Intensifying production and improving quality of selected staple and cash products (mainly crops)
- > Improving water resource management

Ongoing results

- > Improvement of food security and reduction of poverty
- > Strengthening of farmers organizations and human resources
- > Enhancement of capacity building for local staff through training courses

Overall Objective:

Offering poor, marginal, undercapitalized farmers an opportunity to make a better living from the activities associated with agriculture and rural development.

Donor:

Government of Italy

Contribution: US\$3 000 000

Participating countries: Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda

Duration:

3 years From 01 May 2006 to 30 Apr 2009



GTFS/RAF/394/1TA

Thematic area: Food security

Enhancing Food Security in Cassava-based Farming Systems in Malawi and Zambia



Overall Objective: Support agricultural development for food security

Donor: Government of Italy

Contribution: US\$1 500 000

Participating countries:
Malawi and Zambia

Duration:

2 years From 17 July 2006 to 16 July 2008 Poverty widespreads in Malawi and Zambia, especially in rural areas. Ways need to be fund to diversify the range of livelihood opportunities for small holder farmers to increase productivity, income and profitability in a rapidly changing competitive market. The present project has been designed within the framework of the Pan-African Cassava Initiative and aims to demonstrate approaches to increase incomes and living standards of small rural householders through more profitable agricultural production systems and increased market access.

Beneficiaries

- > Farmers and woman
- > Rural families
- > Farming communities
- > Agribusiness companies

Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to improve livelihoods of rural communities
The specific objectives are:

- Design of technical/economic interventions needed to address problems of food security
- > Strengthen the capacity of farmers and agriculture cooperatives to improve market access

Increase of cassava production and other agricultural products for the rural and urban markets

Strategies

- > Enhancing agricultural productivity
- > Promotion of capacity building through the organization of training courses
- > Better market integration to improve agricultural productivity
- Creation and strengthening of agricultural groups and associations able to support food security programmes
- > Development of networks to facilitate the information sharing
- > Identification of commercial opportunities

■ Expected results

- > Improvement of farmer skills in the agricultural management and in the market
- > Strengthened communication channels between rural stakeholders including farmer organizations, private sector bodies, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), etc.
- > Heightened awareness of the role of women in rural enterprise development
- > Consolidated and replicated successful field-tested farmer activities useful for the improvement of rural livingconditions and for poverty reduction
- > Strengthned capacities to support agribusiness service providers
- > Increase farmer and rural community income

- > Enhanced production of cassava in new rural areas
- > Improvement of farmer skills through training courses and a better access to information
- > Collaboration between farmer groups agribusiness service providers
- Increase of agricultural products diversification to satisfy the most urgent needs of rural people



GDCP/SEN/001/ITA

Support to Decentralized Management for Food Security and the Fight against Poverty in the District of Sedhiou, Senegal

Thematic area: Food security

The Department of Sedhiou, one of the poorest areas of the country, is considered by the Government of Senegal as a priority intervention area.

The project aims at improving the living conditions in the Department. It is focused on the creation of employment, the implementation and diversification of the services of Municipalities, the Regional Agency of the Development of Kolda and handicrafts enterprises and smallenterprises of three Municipalities of Sedhiou.

Activities are implemented through the FAO/Italy Decentralized Cooperation Programme in partnership with the local authorities, the 'Regione Toscana' and the 'Regione Piemonte'.

Beneficiaries

- a) Handicrafts enterprises of three Municipalies in the Depatment of Sedhiou
- b) Urban and rural population of the three Municipalities
- c) Local technical units
- d) The 'Regional Agency of the Developpment of Kolda'.

Objectives

The overall objective is to support the decentralization process in the three Municipalities and improve the living conditions of the Department of Sedhiou through the creation of employment and the improvement of the diversification of services.

Within this goal the project pursues the following specific objectives:

 Creation of employment and improvement of the capacities of small enterprises and young artisans



- Reinforcement, extension et diversification of the services of the Municipalities
- Improvement of planning and managerial capacities of the three Municipalities to facilitate the participation of the local population in the decision making process

■ Strategies

- > Active participation of the civil society including producers and artisans associations
- Partnership between the Italian regional institutions participating in the project and the local institutions in the Department of Sedhiou
- > Establishment of an operational communication system among the local participating communities

■ Expected results

> Improvement of the youth working conditions

Overall Objective:

Support to services decentralization and strenghtening of local communities capabilities to improve the standard of living of the Region of Sedhiou

Donor:

Government of Italy

Contribution: US\$450 000

Participating countries: Senegal

Duration:

2 years and 7 months From 01 May 2004 to 31 Dec 2006



- > Development of the artisanal activities and small enterprises
- > Increased input and food security for the poorest households in the Department

- > Implementation of the decentralization process
- > Reinforcement of local communities especially in terms of improvement of family income and food security
- > Improvement of the planning and management skills of the local people





GDCP/SEN/002/1TA

Consolidation of Micro-gardens for the Improvement of Food Security in Dakar, Senegal

Thematic area: Food security

The micro-garden technology was introduced in Dakar by FAO in 1999 on the basis of the experience gained in Latin America. The micro-gardens were subsequently integrated in the Special Programme for Food Security and established in other urban areas of Senegal with the support of the Government of Senegal between 2001 and 2003.

The good climate conditions of Dakar enable the householders to the cultivation of gardens, terraces and small areas both for the domestic market and the selling. A micro-garden ensures an average of 6 crop cycles per year with a production that reaches up to 30Kg of vegetables in one month. The farmers can use part of the production to feed their families and to sell the surplus through stallholders as additional source of income.

The project, in the framework of the FAO/Italy Decentralized Cooperation Programme, comes from the twinning between the cities of Milan and Dakar.

Beneficiaries

- a) Disadvantaged families
- b) Local technical support services

Objectives

The overall objective is to promote the development of micro-gardens in order to improve the nutrition and food quality of families in Dakar.

The specific objectives are:

- Sthrenghten farmer groups to allow the sustainability of the domestic vegetable gardens system, including access to microcredit and markets
- 2. Increase the number of vegetable garden farmers in two years
- Sthrenghten the cooperation at institutional level between Rome and Dakar in order to facilitate the decision making process



- 4. Improve the association, organizational and managerial capacity of the local beneficiaries
- 5. Explore local markets and propose a methodology for the domestic vegetable garden products marketing in Senegal

Strategies

- > Create the training and demonstration centres organizational structure for the urban garden farmers to facilitate their access to input and training and to test surplus marketing mechanisms
- Include urban domestic gardens in the strategy of the Dakar Municipality for urban and pre-urban agriculture to ensure sustainability of this sector
- Sthrenghten cooperation between the two cities with the active participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), universities and private and public institutions
- > Guarantee the participative method and sensibilization to increase awareness and ownership of the local communities and their associations

Overall Objective:

Development of the micro-gardens activities to improve the nutrition quality of the families in Dakar and to increase the family income

Donor:

Government of ltaly

Contribution: US\$450 000

Participating countries: Senegal

Duration:

2 year From 01 Jan 2006 to 31 Dec 2007



■ Expected results

- > 7 500 families will be included in a functional, productive and trading network of micro-garden products
- > Production of video-tape to increase awareness of civil society in order to explain the benefits of micro-gardens in the field of urban and pre-urban agriculture
- > Establishment of 6 training centres in the area of micro-garden technologies
- > Analysis of benefits and disadvantages for the urban domestic garden system
- > Proposal of an organizational structure for products marketing
- Improvement of capacity building of the cities of Milan and Dakar in the area of the urban and pre-urban agriculture

- > Awareness campaigns for people living in Dakar and Milan to the opportunities offered by an urban and pre-urban agriculture
- Inputting of data collected on the domestic gardens in the database 'Hortivar'
- > Creation in Milan of a solidarity fund to promote results sustainability and allow the creation of a micro-credit system for the poor people of Dakar

- > Improve the cooperation at institutional level between the cities of Dakar and Milan
- > Sthrenghten cooperation between the two cities with the active participation of NGOs, universities and private and public institutions

