



December 23, 2011

Economic Growth Office

Feed the Future Initiative Bi-weekly Highlights

Accomplishments

- **US Ambassador to Senegal, Hon. Lewis Lukens, visits USAID project sites:** USAID/Senegal's Natural Resource Management program (Wula Nafaa) hosted Ambassador Lukens at worksites in Tambacounda for briefings on activities and discussions about USAID interventions in the region. The trip included visits to: a dike structure to improve water management for agriculture production in Wassadou; the rural community of Sitaoule Issac (Missirah Rural Community), where USAID has funded the organization of a community forest; and offices of a micro-enterprise focused on charcoal production. The Ambassador also conducted a meet-and-greet with women-led sanitation committees.
- **USAID Wula Nafaa hosts a mission of the Water and Development Alliance (WADA) Program:** From Dec. 7-9, USAID/ Wula Nafaa hosted a WADA evaluation mission from Washington, DC. The goal of the mission was to assess the achievements of water systems and sanitation trainings provided by the program. The mission visited nine villages with water wells and met with beneficiaries, local authorities, and technical services in the program's intervention zones. The mission team members learned firsthand the real impact of access to clean and safe drinking water, as well as sustainable hygiene behavior change realized in the field.
- **Support to upland rice development strategy in the Southern Forest Zone:** From Dec. 15-16, USAID/Senegal's Economic Growth Project (PCE) supported a gathering of agencies, NGOs and farmer groups engaged in increasing the output and productivity of upland rice in the lower Casamance, specifically in the Ziguinchor and Sedhiou regions. The gathering was prompted by the National Agency for Rural and Agriculture Advice, the Government of Senegal entity tasked with helping to increase the contribution of rain-fed rice towards national goals for rice self-sufficiency by 2015. This meeting is part of a broader process to bring together stakeholders across all of the Southern Forest Zone around a common food security strategy and to exchange information on current practices and results. It also sets the stage for a 2011 production season review, which will be a platform for USAID to bring its current upland rice value chain partners together to assess the results of the past year and establish goals for the 2012 production season.



"We know that countries are more likely to prosper when they encourage entrepreneurship; when they invest in their infrastructure; and when they expand trade and welcome investment."

*- President Barack Obama,
Announcement of the new US Development
Policy at the UN General Assembly,
September 2010*

- **Organic sorghum value chain analysis by students:** On Dec. 8, two graduate students (from *Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Agriculture* and *Ecole Nationale d'Economie Appliquée*) presented their reports following a training session with USAID/PCE's organic sorghum value chain partners. The session was attended by producers, professors, BDS service providers, and the Norwegian buyer of organic sorghum. The graduates presented two themes: (i) profitability analysis and competitiveness of organic sorghum in Senegal; and (ii) organizational diagnostic of producers' organizations in organic sorghum value chain in the center of Senegal. Their studies indicate that organic sorghum is financially viable. However, producers have very limited organizational capabilities to meet the strict requirements to participate in the international market. The students determined that future efforts of industry stakeholders need to continue building capacity and to involve other entities working with farmers on sorghum.
- **USAID/COMFISH opens offices in Joal:** USAID/Senegal's Coastal Resources Management program (COMFISH), has opened an office in Joal, hub of one of the country's biggest fish export and processing centers, to increase collaborative opportunities with key fishing industry officials and workers. The project will support, through local councils of artisanal fishing, plans to manage the prioritization of fish stocks, and help the council improve oversight of the industry. About 1,300 traditional pirogues are based in Joal, which serves as the regional inspection center for the Thiès region, and which includes much of the country's commercial coastline.
- **"Pass on the Gift" livestock grants given to beneficiaries:** USAID/Senegal's Agriculture and Nutrition program (Yaajeende) held the first "Pass on the Gift" grants ceremony at Sinthiou Fissa in the department of Bakel, chaired by the Sub-Prefect of Bele. In total, 300 Touabir sheep were placed with 100 vulnerable families in five producer groups across four *Communautes Rurales*. These families received training in animal nutrition and health from livestock experts and they have worked with the project to ensure adequate shelter was constructed for the animals prior to placement. Families agreed to provide the same number of offspring as they received to another vulnerable family in the future. In this way, the Pass on the Gift animal grants will have an exponential impact across zones of intervention over the five years of the project. In the upcoming months, beneficiaries will use their livestock to generate revenue through siring services and milk and egg production in the case of poultry grants.
- **Citizens Working Groups established:** USAID/Senegal's agriculture and nutrition project, Yaajeende, established provisional Citizens' Working Groups (CWG) in all areas of project intervention and the planning phase has been initiated, including community information meetings about the group's roles. The CWGs will provide a mechanism for the citizenry to become engaged in governance around food security and it will help build public demand for quality public services and transparent leadership.
- **Supply/Demand gap analysis workshops:** USAID/Senegal's Education and Research in Agriculture (ERA) program conducted two-day Supply/Demand gap analysis workshops in St. Louis and Ziguinchor. The workshops provided an avenue for exchange for 75 key actors in the agriculture sector of the focus regions, including faculty members, researchers, entrepreneurs, ministry representatives (higher education, agriculture, and industry and mines) and other stakeholders of the USAID/ERA project. The workshops allowed fruitful discussions concerning potential gaps between what is offered by Agriculture Education and Training institutions and what is needed in the private sector. At the conclusion of the workshops action plans were developed with the full input and participation of our partners. USAID/ERA will review the plan and focus on project requests that are more likely to re-orient Senegal's agriculture sector towards improved food security and economic development.

Upcoming Events

- USAID/Wula Nafaa is preparing an evaluation of the training in conservation farming (CF) which was done in January 2011. This evaluation, to be conducted by a consultant, is aiming to ascertain the worthiness of path that is taken to promote CF as a mean to restore the soils and increase the yields. It also will help to identify the 2010 trainees who can be trainers in coming producers training sessions.