



December 8, 2011

Economic Growth Office

Feed the Future Initiative Bi-weekly Highlights

Accomplishments

▪ **Agriculture and Financing Information Sharing Workshop in Kaolack.** USAID/Senegal's Economic Growth Project (PCE) and Natural Resource Management Project (Wula Nafaa) held a two-day agriculture and financing information sharing workshop on Nov. 28-29 to give USAID and USDA projects involved in the Feed the Future strategy the opportunity to discuss and share information on practices and challenges for increasing access to credit in agriculture. Participants also included USAID/Yaajeende, Africare, and Counterpart International. Participants shared information on their approaches and instruments for financing agriculture in Senegal. Each project presented its experiences and discussed the DCA instrument, its objectives and how it works as well as its implication in terms of communication to all stakeholders. In addition, participants developed a work plan and agreed on ways of additional collaboration in order to improve efficiency in terms of demand and supply of financial services.

▪ **Savings For Change - Training of Trainers for Agriculture Producer Networks and Facilitators.** USAID/Senegal's Natural Resource Management project (Wula Nafaa) organized a source mobilization training workshop based on the methodology of Savings for Change (SFC) in Kaolack on Nov.28 –Dec. 2 to educate village facilitators, agricultural producers, forestry, and fisheries' stakeholders on good savings mobilization techniques based on the Savings for Change Program. Participants are now better informed about self-managed savings mobilization and cash flow designed for agricultural producers which will reduce their dependency on credit that usually has high interest rates.

▪ **Conservation Farming Training Activities.** On Nov. 15 the USAID/Wula Naafa project (Wula Nafaa) also began the registration and a needs assessment of agricultural producers engaged in conservation farming techniques in its intervention zones, part of the planning ahead of next year's rainy season. The assessment will establish the number of producers who will seek the technical support of the program for conservation farming in 2012. The conservation farming technique is designed to promote best practices for integrated soil improvement for optimal crop yields for farmers.



"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*

- **Peace Corps Master Farmer and Volunteer Training.** From Nov. 20-26, Peace Corps Senegal food security staff held a workshop for Master Farmers involved in the program for at least six months. They assessed the rainy season harvest and provided training on proper data collection and financial management. Participants also took part in gardening, field crop, and grafting trainings. From Nov,27-Dec.1, Peace Corps and USAID staff also jointly trained volunteers assisting Master Farmers in proper Monitoring and Evaluation, data collection, and financial management. Training educated volunteers on US government expectations and will improve interaction and communication between volunteers, counterparts, Dakar staff, and USAID.
- **MSU support mission on satellite imagery utilization for agricultural statistics.** The PCE project hosted a three-person technical team from Michigan State University that undertook a field mission to work with the *Direction de l'Analyse, de la Prévision et des Statistiques* (DAPS) on the refinement of satellite imagery based models for crop area measurement and production forecast. The team gathered geo-referenced data via GPS camera to refine crop signatures for further verification of accuracy. A closing seminar was organized to share the results and discuss prospects with all stakeholders including ministerial agencies, scientists, development partners and international organizations with interest in the agricultural sector.
- **Local conventions in support of fisheries management.** On Nov. 17, USAID/Senegal's Coastal Resources Management project (COMFISH) kicked off the development and implementation process of local conventions for the sustainable management of fisheries in Senegal with seven Local Councils for Artisanal Fisheries (CLPAs) -Joal, Mbour, Yenne, Rufisque, Sindia, Cayar and Foundiougne. These conventions comprise 14 steps and represent a formal agreement on the rules of natural resource management that are in keeping with the legal and regulatory provisions in force. The project began this process by informing administrative and local authorities, CLPA members, village chiefs and other stakeholders on the development and implementation process of local conventions as a management tool for fisheries. This step will also help define the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder in a process that will eventually lead to the development and implementation of fisheries management plans in Senegal.
- **"Pass on the Gift" Animal Grants.** USAID/Senegal's Agriculture and Nutrition project (Yaajeende) conducted training for future beneficiaries of the "Pass on the Gift" animal grants. The training-of-trainers involved 26 community beneficiaries and 10 facilitators from the region of Kédougou and focused on the values of the Pass on the Gift program, improved poultry raising practices and improved construction standards for poultry houses. The beneficiary trainers, under the supervision of the facilitators, have started replicating the trainings for the remaining beneficiary groups. These trainings are a prelude to the animal grants that will take place over the next two months, where 300 animals will be placed with 100 vulnerable families.
- **Delivery of three 30-seat buses to Agricultural Education and Training (AETR) partner institutions.** As part of its plan to facilitate hands-on and practical training of students at its partner institutions, USAID/Senegal's Education and Research in Agriculture (ERA) project delivered three 30-seat buses to the *Institut Supérieur de Formation Agricole et Rurale* in Bambey, Gaston-Berger University in St. Louis and the National Training Center Technicians of Water and Forests, National Parks and Game (CNFTEFCPN - formerly School of Forestry). University administrators noted that the transportation support provided by USAID/ERA is instrumental in the training of their students. "Delivery of the bus has facilitated the implementation of the course and allowed the school to achieve economies of scale" says Dr. Abdoulaye Dramé, Director of ISFAR.

Upcoming Events

- USAID /PCE will provide a Senegalese National Competitiveness Report (SNCR) capacity building program from Dec 8-20. The report aims to provide the Government of Senegal, through the designated state structures, the private sector, and university, an understanding of the issues and the mastery of the methodology and technical tools related to the development of the SNCR.
- USAID/PCE will help organize from a series of four Doing Business workshops with specific objectives revolving around the capacity building of the government in the definition, ownership and monitoring of Doing Business plans, increased mobilization and improvement of the private sector and non-state actors contribution to the action plans, a better understanding and formulation of action plans by stakeholders, and concrete operational measures to improve the 2013 Senegal Doing Business performance on specific targeted indicators such as dealing with construction permits, registering property, and getting credit. Dec. 13-16.
- USAID/PCE will organize a workshop for two students who will present their studies on organic sorghum value chain. Two themes will be developed: Profitability analysis and competitiveness of organic sorghum in Senegal, and organizational diagnostic of producers organizations in organic sorghum value chain in the center of Senegal.
- USAID/Yaajeende will hold the first ceremony to place 300 animals thru the Pass on the Gift animal grants program in Matam on Dec 13.
- Peace Corps Assistant Program Country Director Famara Massaly and tech trainer Arfang Sadio will attend the West Africa food security workshop in Benin next week. Food security staff and volunteers will share best practices and exchange ideas to improve food security project implementation and communication throughout West Africa.
- USAID/ERA will conduct two-day Supply/Demand gap analysis workshops in Saint Louis, Thiès, Ziguinchor, and Dakar during the month of December. The workshops are being held to: 1) inform partner institutions of potential gaps between what is offered by Agricultural Education and Training institutions and what is needed in the private sector and 2) assist the institutions with their goals of improved production, greater nutrition and improved food security in Senegal. The workshops are being organized with the participation of consortium partners including representatives from 12 target institutions, public and private development partners in the regions. Over 100 local, regional and national specialists in the agriculture sector are expected to participate.
- The WADA program, from Washington DC, will be evaluating the 20 wells and water systems, as well as the sanitation training that Wula Nafaa has conducted. Dec. 6-12.