



March 8, 2012

Economic Growth Office

Feed the Future Initiative Bi-weekly Highlights

Accomplishments

- **Finding solutions for timely maize inputs:** In early February, USAID/PCE brought together maize producer network leaders, maize buyers and financial institutions to formulate an action plan to ensure the timely availability and financing of fertilizer and seed for the 2012 season. The fertilizer requirements alone require mobilizing roughly \$4 million in pre-financing, in addition to the challenges of organizing the purchase and delivery of the inputs no later than June. The participants set up two working groups, one charged with calculating input requirements, negotiating a financing scheme, and initiating a grouped procurement. The second group was tasked with defining mechanisms for setting the costs for maize production, agreeing to international benchmark prices, and negotiating contract prices for the 2012 season.
- **Maize seed producers in Kaolack establish 2012-13 projections:** On Feb 16., USAID/PCE assisted private seed operators to facilitate a working session for the members of REPROSEM, a maize seed producers network in Kaolack. The session worked to confirm 2012 and 2013 projections for foundation and R1 seeds, to quantify the inputs required to produce these seeds, and to identify the financing arrangements for these activities.
- **National Agriculture Investment Plan implementation planning workshop:** From Feb. 21-23, representatives of the National Agriculture Investment Plan (PNIA) technical committee came together with USAID/PCE support to identify constraints faced in the implementation process of the PNIA, to review the proposed institutional framework for PNIA coordination, to plan monitoring and evaluation activities, and to develop an action plan for 2012.
- **Training metal workers in Tambacounda, Toubacouta, Kédougou, and Djilor:** USAID/Wula Nafaa organized training workshops for artisans in collaboration with USDA/CLUSA (in Toubacouta & Djilor) and USAID/Yaajeende (in Kedougou) to produce the 3rd generation ripper. The workshop trained local metal personnel on how to manufacture the ripper which is used for conservation farming techniques. Given the numbers of increased farmers' use of conservation farming techniques to boost crop yield in their fields, more farmers are expected to purchase additional rippers from service providers to meet their equipment needs.



“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*

- **Improved drinking water in the village of Dandé:** USAID/Wula Nafaa supported the construction of a drilled well, water tower, and public fountains to access safe drinking water in the village of Dandé in the rural community of Dindéfélo, Kedougou region. These structures will provide safe drinking water for the population and significantly reduce cases of diarrhea, especially in children. They will reduce the amount of time that it takes women to search for water, and protect the local stream, used by the local chimpanzee population, from pollution.
- **Management plan for the Community Nature Reserve:** USAID/Wula Nafaa presented a management plan for the Community Nature Reserve of Dindéfélo to the local Rural Council. The management plan has a term of five years and covers the activities of conservation and development that will affect the 10 villages in the rural community. It will help to protect more than 13,200 hectares and promote an active local tourism industry.
- **Testing and production of new varieties of food security appropriate crops:** From Feb. 13-18, USAID/Yaajeende and a team from the Center for Horticultural Development (CDH) at the Senegalese Institute for Agricultural Research (ISRA) visited Niger to observe new food security technologies being implemented by the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) and to identify and select new varieties of horticultural crops that can be useful for food security purposes in Senegal. Under ISRA's supervision, 24 African bean varieties were collected and will be tested by CDH, with project support, in the village of Ndouloumadji in the Matam region. These bean varieties, in addition to being adapted to high temperatures, are an excellent source of protein, iron and zinc, potentially resolving some of the key malnutrition issues in the USAID/Yaajeende intervention zones. This CDH pilot activity is intended to also produce a sufficient quantity of seed to equip seed multipliers throughout the intervention zones during the next agricultural season. Pilot seed multiplication sites will be set up in March in Bakel in order to multiply the seeds and increase access to smallholders.
- **Peace Corps Gambia visits Senegal's Master Farmers:** Representatives from Peace Corps/The Gambia, members of NGO Future in Our Hands (FIOU) and several Gambian farmers came to Thiès Feb. 19-23 to learn more about Peace Corps/Senegal's Food Security program, particularly the Master Farmer program. The visit involved presentations about the goals, objectives and strategies of the program, an overview of the Master Farmer program, the various technologies being promoted, the program accomplishments thus far and plans for the future. Participants visited three different Master Farmer sites to see the program in action.
- **Using communication tools to support fisheries reforms in Senegal:** From Feb. 15-16, USAID/COMFISH brought together key fisheries stakeholders in Senegal to develop a communications strategy in support of the project. Participants in the meeting included representatives of Senegalese Fisheries Ministry, Local Fisheries Councils, local and national fisheries organizations and NGOs, as well as the media. Through plenary discussions and group work, the meeting helped to formulate communications strategies in support of key project objectives (climate change, fisheries governance and destructive fishing practices) and to identify key target groups and relevant communications activities/tools for the project. The development of this strategy will further raise the project's profile while helping to rally support for key fisheries reforms in Senegal.

Upcoming Events

- **NERICA upland rice 2011 season review and 2012 season planning and investment.** During the second half of March, USAID/PCE, together with ANCAR (Ministry of Agriculture) and other projects, will hold a three-day event in Kolda with the participation of all stakeholders to share the results and lessons learned from

the previous season, to discuss among the value chain stakeholders NERICA rice productivity, to examine specific issues such as climate resilience, technology transfer and financing, and to begin the process of organizing the 2012 season.

- **Training of farmer networks in agricultural risk management.** At the end of March, USAID/PCE in partnership with Oxfam's Market Access Support Program for Rice Farmers in the Senegalese River Valley (PINORD) will hold an agricultural risk management training for producer organizations to increase expertise in risk management related to agricultural production, financing, and legal commitments.