



May 24, 2012

Economic Growth Office

## Feed the Future Initiative Bi-weekly Highlights

### Accomplishments

- **Increased Access to Credit for Agricultural Production and Marketing.** USAID/Wula Nafaa hosted farmer network representatives in five regions to collect production, commercialization and credit information for better preparation of the 2012 agricultural campaign. The participants drafted contracts specifying the amount of credit necessary given surface areas, input quantities needed and minimum production needs for commercialization. The contracts were signed by producers and countersigned by the presidents of their respective *Communautes Rurales*. For example, the Keur Saloum Diane network, which includes 34 Producers' Groups, signed contracts for \$95,880 (47,9 million francs CFA) of credit, which will enable maize production on 799 hectares and a minimum commercialization of 399,500 kg of maize.
- **Dindéfelo Community Approves Nature Reserve Management Plan.** Dindéfelo's new management plan, approved by the *sous-préfet* of Bandafassy in the Department of Kédougou, will help protect more than 13,200 hectares of forest and promote ecotourism in the area. Twenty five village representatives will be designated as the management committee for the reserve. Approval of the Plan marks the official beginning of local administration of the reserve.
- **Testing Consumer Preferences for Nerica Rice.** USAID/PCE, in partnership with AfricaRice, organized tasting sessions to assess the rice preferences of urban consumers in Kolda. Testers invited women en route to or from the local market to a laboratory to test Nerica rice varieties. Nerica rice varieties 1, 4 and 6 were assessed by 120 for visual quality and taste in comparison to the most popular imported.
- **Training for Tomato Nursery Management.** Ahead of the 2012 agricultural campaign, USAID/Yaajeende organized, a training workshop from May 9 to 14 on tomato seed distribution and tomato nursery development during the rainy season. Biological land recovery activities are currently ongoing in three regions. These training workshops were also designed to provide participants with the skills they need to develop nurseries for the ICRIXINA tomato variety and ultimately market seedlings. The participants were also introduced to simplified bookkeeping activities for calculations of price calculations reasonable sales margins which members of the community could afford. The Senegalese Institute of Agricultural Research (ISRA) will continuously supply seeds through the APS leaders selected by their peers in each region. A total area of 55



*“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*

ha was developed, including 20 ha in Kédougou, 20.5 ha and 14.3 ha Bakel in Matam. In addition to these, a provisional land allocation process was developed in the Rural Councils.

- **Improving Off-Season Vegetable Production.** To help improve the availability and accessibility of off-season vegetables, USAID/Yaajeende staff were trained from May 2 to 8 on the processing and preservation of okra, onion, sweet potato, tomato and hibiscus. These techniques consisted in drying, powder processing and manufacturing marmalade, drinks and syrup either for consumption or marketing. This training will soon be extended to community nutrition volunteers, facilitators, and groups receiving market gardening training.
- **Peace Corps Welcomes New Master Farmers.** From May 13-18, nine new Master Farmers as well as three new Assistant Master Farmers attended orientation in Thiès regarding their role under the joint USAID-Peace Corps food security agreement. Each farmer signed a contract for the Master Farmer program, which commits them to perform various field demonstrations on one hectare of land in exchange for inputs and training. They learned new techniques for field crops, gardening and agroforestry, which they will implement in their own fields. Master Farmers work in close collaboration with Peace Corps staff and volunteers, as well as other Feed the Future partners. Representatives from USAID/Yaajeende also attended the training to be able to better assist the new Master Farmers working in the same zones of intervention.
- **Earthworks Training in Kolda.** From May 5-10, Peace Corps conducted a series of Earthworks trainings in the Kolda region. Volunteers and their counterparts spent one day at each of five sites, where they worked alongside community members to discuss and design landscaping systems for improved water harvesting and organic matter retention in agricultural areas. A total of 31 male and 59 female community members received training and assisted in the implementation of these improved techniques in visible and durable demonstration sites. By the last day of the training, the counterparts gained enough skill and confidence in Earthworks techniques to conduct trainings on their own.

## Upcoming Events

- USAID/Wula Nafaa will launch a series of rural radio programs to provide farmers information on preparations for the coming agriculture season. Information will cover Conservation Farming subjects such as field preparation, compost application, and fertilizer use. Programs will also target the water management sites of Wassadou, Samecouta, Ferme 2, Kaymor, Ndendlerling, Boly 2, and Ndour Ndour to prepare for the rainy season rice production.
- USAID/PCE is planning two regional workshops for rice and maize value chains stakeholders to increase their familiarity with the objectives and intent of the National Agriculture Investment Plan (PNIA) and to discuss what opportunities the PNIA may offer them. Tentative dates are May 30-June 1 (St. Louis), and June 6-8 (Kaolack).