



July 8, 2011

Economic Growth Office

## Feed the Future Initiative Bi-weekly Highlights

### Accomplishments

- Synergies in the Fatick rice sector. USAID/Wula Nafaa met with stakeholders and key technical partners including Conseil Régional, *Agronome et Veterinaires Sans Frontieres* (AVSF), Regional Directorate for Rural Development (DRDR), *Projet d'Appui à la Petite Irrigation Locale* (PAPIL), and *Agence Nationale de Conseil Agricole et Rural* (ANCAR) to identify synergies in support of the rice sector in the Fatick region. The meeting gave participants the opportunity to agree on the comparative advantages and role of each partner by focusing on leveraging available investment resources. Participants also re-examined intervention strategies in the light of sustainability and focused impact.
- Feed the Future project synergy. USAID/ERA and USAID/Program Croissance Economique (PCE) are strategizing synergies for activities in support of the Ecole National Supérieur en Agriculture (ENSA) in Thiès. PCE started a Master's Program in Agriculture Value Chain Management last year. ERA's complementary activities are starting up this year. USAID/PCE and USAID/ERA will jointly coordinate the support of the Master's Program.
- Organic sorghum producers' database partnership. In light of the success of marketing organic sorghum to the European livestock feed sector, USAID's economic development project is partnering with Peace Corps to create a database of organic sorghum producers. Twenty-five GPS devices are being made available to localize 5,000 organic sorghum plots subject to the Ecocert organic certification.
- Partnerships and mechanisation in the maize value chain. USAID/PCE signed purchase orders with the grain consolidators Sodefitex and Sedab, to produce and consolidate 5,000 tons of maize this crop year.
- Partnership protocol for hybrid maize. A protocol was signed between USAID/PCE, West African Seed Alliance (WASA) and Agrippa to implement 14 demonstration sites of hybrid maize in the regions of Fatick, Kaolack, Kaffrine, Tambacounda and Kolda. Those demonstration sites cover 20 ha.



*"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*

- Upland Nerica rice program development. USAID/PCE held an assessment workshop in Tambacounda summarizing its 2010 pilot program on upland Nerica rice production in the Kolda region including paddy and seed production, plot testing for optimal input use, training and extension. Farmers and other PCE partners who were involved in the pilot program attended the workshop along with prospective partners for the upcoming season. Under the pilot program, 104 tons of Nerica rice were produced and more than 100 farmers trained. Most importantly, rapid expansion of upland rain-fed rice is expected where the process of change was successfully introduced. . During this current season, USAID/PCE’s program will cover nearly 3,500 ha in the South, East and South Central regions.
  
- Development Credit Authority (DCA) guarantees approved. USAID received the approval of the DCA Credit Review Board to implement three loan guarantees to encourage agricultural lending in Senegal. This brings the DCA programming to nearly \$12 million of loan guarantees mobilized and expanded to more fully serve farmers and farm service providers nationwide.
  
- Banks and decentralized financial systems trained on value chain financing. USAID/PCE organized a training session at Mbodiene (Mbour) on Value Chain approach and financing, with focus on maize, millet/sorghum, sesame and rice value chain development models. Several financial institutions attended such as CNCAS, CMS, PAMECAS, MEC FEPRODES, MEC DELTA, UMECAS, CAURIE MICROFINANCE, DJOMEK, MEC FADEC NJM.
  
- Launch of capacity-building program for the National Agriculture Extension Agency. Implementation of the comprehensive capacity-building program for the National Agency of Agricultural and Rural Advisory was launched this week. The first session theme was entitled “Methods and Tools for the Analysis of Production Systems and Farming Practices.” Using a participative approach to training, the 22 participants were hosted at *Institut Supérieur de Formation Agricole et Rurale* (ISFAR) located in Latmingué near Kaolack. Each theoretical discussion was followed by direct application in surrounding villages.
  
- Competitiveness thematic workshops held. Two thematic workshops with the representatives of the Agriculture & Agri-business working group and Fisheries & Aquaculture working group of the Accelerated Growth Strategy (SCA) were organized around the competitiveness challenges and opportunities identified in the First National Competitiveness Report (SNCR). During workshops the participants validated the main findings of the SNCR, provided suggestions to improve future editions, prioritized the constraints to competitiveness in their sectors, and made recommendations to move the SNCR findings forward.
  
- Coordinating Support to the ENSA Graduate Agribusiness Program. A series of discussion meetings were held to help USAID/ERA, *Ecole Nationale Supérieure d’Agriculture de Thiès* (ENSA) and USAID develop synergies between Feed the Future projects supporting the ENSA training curriculum on value chain development and agri-food entrepreneurship. Agreements were reached concerning project focus, , short-term actions and medium-term priorities so that the program can move on more smoothly.

- Implementation of an Agriculture Mutual Guarantee Structure. USAID/PCE organized a training session to explain a new Agriculture Mutual Guarantee Structure mechanism to 24 leading producers. This activity is part of USAID/PCE's strategy to develop new financial tools and models to increase interest of financial institutions in extending credit to rice producers. A 20 ha pilot program to finance upland rice at Mampatim (Velingara) was also set up in collaboration with Ecobank, Kissal Patim' Credit Mutual, and the NGO Hopes 87.
- Wild Foods Training of Trainers (TOT) for Community Nutrition Volunteers. All the Nutrition Facilitators for USAID/Yaajeende in Matam, Bakel, Kedougou have completed a training of trainers about how to conduct workshops that glean conventional wisdom surrounding wild foods production and processing as well as Community Nutrition (with a focus on children). The project's facilitators have now conducted TOTs for more than 79 Community Nutrition Volunteers in Matam and 125 CNVs in Kedougou.
- Microenterprise workshop held. USAID/ERA Consortium member Tuskegee University and its team of Professors Ntamulyango (Ntam) Baharanyi, Youssouf Diabate, and Henry Findlay animated a workshop « *Micro – entreprise rurale et l'entrepreneuriat en Casamance* » from June 15 – 17 in Ziguinchor. The workshop included a day and a half of discussion and analysis of curriculum topics. Participants included Technical Working Group members from *Lycée Agricole Emile Badiane* of Bignona, *Centre National de Formation des Techniciens des Eaux, Forêts, Chasses et des Parcs Nationaux* and University of Ziguinchor as well as representatives from PADERCA, Center for Enterprise in Ziguinchor (CEZ) and Agency for Rural Development (ARD).
- Sites selected for School and Community Gardens. USAID/Yaajeende has selected sites for school and community gardens in Bakel, Matam and Kedougou. School gardens staff worked *the Inspection des Ecoles* to target priority schools. In Bakel, 28 garden sites have been retained for the first year including 13 community gardens and 15 school garden sites. In Matam, 44 sites have been selected including 16 community gardens, 28 school gardens. In Kedougou, six school garden sites have been selected and community garden site selections will be finished soon.
- Kolda Regional Harmonization Conference. USAID/Yaajeende participated in the Kolda Regional Development Harmonization Conference hosted by the Governor of Kolda in order to prepare for the project's activities to begin at the end of the year.
- Peace Corps Senegal Update. On June 20<sup>th</sup> 12 master farmers, 20 volunteers, and five staff convened at the PC training center in Thies to participate in the first annual master farmer assessment. Participants observed the diversity of situations, technologies, and levels of development at different sites, discussed and exchanged experiences, and explored what is working and what improvements should be made within the program. As a follow up, Peace Corps sent electronic copies in English and French of volunteers' calendar of activities and data collection procedures at Master Farmer Sites. Peace Corps tech trainers led gardening trainings in Louga and Richard Toll. In addition, Peace Corps received 17 new Small Enterprise Development volunteers and a Monitoring and Evaluation Intern who will help streamline data collection within Peace Corps' food security program.

## Upcoming Activities

- A one-day seminar is planned on July 13 in collaboration with DAPS to share with all stakeholders the latest agricultural survey results and the methodological innovations introduced with support from USAID/PCE.
- USAID/ERA will host Drs. Ozzie Abaye, PhD., Professor, Crop & Soil Environmental Science and Amer Fayad, PhD, Assistant Program Director both of Virginia Tech from July 3 - 17. They are slated to undertake a detailed assessment of existing agriculture programs, and applied curricula and curriculum-linked research efforts at the University of Thiès. This effort will support strengthening of the university's curriculum, increase access and focus on applied research, and facilitate the transfer of courses and students within and between the agriculture colleges and universities. Drs. Abaye and Fayad will work closely with the Technical Working Groups of the University of Thiès including ENSA and ISFAR and relevant members of the PMU in conducting this activity.
- USAID/ERA is receiving Dr. Scott Farmer and Ms. Elizabeth Bowles of Virginia Tech to perform a detailed evaluation of the overall ICT and ESL/eLearning infrastructure for the ERA project and make appropriate recommendations. One of the goals of the ERA project is the increase of system-wide capacity in ELearning and Distance Education. They will visit Agricultural Education and Training (AET) institutions at Thiès and at St. Louis between July 13 and 23.
- Regional Project Launches. In July USAID/Yaajeende will host a regional launch in Tambacounda, Matam and Kedougou to formally introduce USAID|Yaajeende to region level stakeholders and actors. The local launch in Tambacounda will be held on July 13 at the *Communauté Rurale* building.

## CAADP Updates

Nothing to Report

## Visitors

Name/ Organization	Length of stay	Purpose
Abdoul Murekezi / MSU	June 27 -July 1	Co-facilitate a five-day session on “Business Models for Agricultural Entrepreneurs” as part of the ENSA agribusiness training program.
Felipe Tejeda, Consultant	July 5 - 16	Assist the project in creating Public Private Partnerships and potential GDA projects.