

May 19, 2011

Economic Growth Office

Feed the Future Initiative

Bi-weekly Highlights

Achievements

- USAID/Senegal officially launched an innovative joint agriculture development and nutrition improvement program to fight against food insecurity in Senegal. Yaajeende, a Pular word for “abundance,” is USAID/Senegal’s FTF project that specifically targets the ultra-poor populations of The Senegal River Valley and Southern Forest Zone in order to increase food availability and promote nutrition best-practices. The celebration included an indoor fresh fruit and vegetable market, food security live comedy theater skits starring Senegalese television celebrities, music, and abundant tasting of local-food made by cooking-school chefs.
- USAID/Senegal’s Agriculture and Natural Resources Management Project, Wula Nafaa, broke ground on the construction of a dike structure that will mitigate the adverse effects of land salinization in Kaymor, Senegal. The dike will put approximately 250 hectares of sterile land into rice production. This activity is follow-up to a USAID agriculture intervention which began approximately 15 years ago on community land with substantial salinization challenges. Exemplifying a community-led and sustainable climate change response, Kaymor took the lead to mobilize technical solutions necessary to mitigate the land loss.
- USAID/Senegal’s Economic Growth Project, in partnership with Senegal’s Institute of Food Technology and featuring private sector corn value chain participants, held an exposition and tasting featuring six improved varieties of local maize. Indications are that Senegal corn is taking the local market as the strong press-corps presence asked questions of the attending producers association, agro-industry processing firms, and Senegal’s Institute of Agricultural Research.
- USAID/Senegal’s Agriculture and Natural Resources project, Wula Nafaa, will help a Rural Council create a tourism management strategy to help manage influx. Improved roads brought dramatically increased tourism to Senegal’s Dindéfelo waterfalls. Along with the Jane Goodall Institute Spain, USAID/Wula Nafaa will help the Rural Council to develop and implement a strategy to control visits at the falls and generate revenue for better management of the sites.
- USAID/Senegal’s new Education and Research in Agriculture project (ERA) builds foundation for implementation. The Minister of Higher Education along with the university Rectors and other ministry representatives discussed plans for Distance Learning and reviewed needs expressed by Agricultural Education and Training (AET) institutions.
- USAID’s new Agriculture and Nutrition project, Yaajeende, in full launch with training of trainers in Food Security Governance and Water Conservation and Composting, site selection, farmer support for the upcoming rainy season, and a climate change reconnaissance mission.

Upcoming

- Peace Corps’ Agriculture Program Director to visit all developed master farmer sites throughout Senegal. With rainy season approaching, volunteers and farmers will receive one-on-one support and direction at demonstration sites. Technical Assistants accompanying the program director will answer questions and provide site-by-site feedback.
- USAID/Economic Growth Project (PCE) is in Mali staging the Dakar-Bamako transport corridor two-day conference between Senegal and Mali. The conference will be jointly presided by the Prime Ministers from Mali and Senegal to adopt an action plan prepared by private sector and government agencies from both countries to reduce barriers to trade along the corridor. The initiative seeks to reduce constraints specific to trade in cereals as well as to improve Senegal’s performance on the “Trade Across Borders” Doing Business indicator.

CAADP

- Nothing to Report

Visitors

Name/Organization	Length of Stay	Purpose
Training of trainers team for Wula Naafa	May 11 to 26	Training of local trainers on Decentralization and Good Governance
Martin Webber, JE Austin for PCE	May 2-21	ENSA Value Chain Principles training and Preparation for the national Competitiveness Forum

“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

