

May 5, 2011

Economic Growth Office

# Feed the Future Initiative

## Bi-weekly Highlights

### Achievements

- Agriculture Sector Financing Conference. USAID/Economic Growth Project (PCE), Agence Nationale Chargée de la Promotion de l'Investissement des Grands Travaux (APIX), and Conseil Présidentiel de l'Investissement (CPI) hosted a conference presided by the Ministry of Agriculture to discuss the need to improve the agricultural finance system. Due to the high risks associated with food system investment, only 4% of total bank financing supports the agriculture industry.
- Food Security and Grasslands Conservation Workshop. USAID's Education and Research in Agriculture (ERA) project received Professors from Virginia Tech to provide the workshop at Senegal's Ecole nationale Supérieure en Agriculture (ENSA). This investment synergizes with ENSA capacity building activities concurrently rolling out under USAID/Economic Development Project's Master's Degree Program on Value Chain Development and Agri-food Entrepreneurship.
- USAID/Wula Nafaa takes chimpanzee conservation to the next level. Through a Small Grants Fund with Iowa State University's Department of Anthropology, Senegalese living alongside chimpanzees are learning about chimpanzee behavior, extinction risks, and ecology. The goal is to resolve issues between the human population and the chimpanzees sharing natural resources in Southeastern Senegal.
- USAID/and IFAD met to discuss a joint intervention focused on the millet value chain. This partnership strengthens and complements FTF programming. IFAD is considered the lead donor in millet production whereas USAID focuses on in seed system development and commercialization. USAID/Senegal and IFAD agreed to carry out planning, implementation, and monitoring of this food security related activity.
- Progress in Policy Trade and Communication. April 25<sup>th</sup> marked the start of a two-month USAID investment to assist the Government of Senegal to improve performance on the Doing Business 2012 rankings and to define 3-year targets and action plan for increasing competitiveness. A team is working directly with the national agency for investment promotion (APIX), the Prime Minister's office and relevant sector ministries to review 7 Doing Business indicators in depth (enforcement of contracts, access to credit, building permits authorizations, transfer of property, protection of investors, cross border trade, and taxation). The activity is part of a comprehensive plan to help

improve the processes of formulation, monitoring, and implementation of business environment reforms in Senegal.

- Senegal Labor Regulation web portal launches to eliminate a “Doing Business” barrier: A May 4<sup>th</sup> launch of the Ministry of Labor’s labor legislation and regulation web site provides access to the compendium of labor law impacting Senegal’s work environment. This information portal, <http://www.travail.gouv.sn/>, opens a door toward business environment modernization by eliminating cumbersome labor law knowledge and enforcement gaps. Texts will continue to be posted as they become available during the following months. This event cumulates three years of USAID/Economic Growth Project support to finalize text redaction and the associated adoption and dissemination of laws and decrees.
- USG/Peace Corps Volunteers build nutrition and agriculture education skills to complement Senegal’s Feed the Future strategy. Forty-six new trainees were taught the good nutrition habits appropriate to the Senegalese culture and the associated outreach and training practices as part of pre-service training. In addition volunteers received a Counterpart Workshop and practiced presenting Senegal ecology themes in local languages. The volunteers continue to achieve substantial community level impacts through tree planting, gardening, and appropriate technology development.

### **Upcoming**

- Institutional Support for Seed Development and Agriculture Policy Implementation. USAID/Senegal is in the planning stages to provide significant support for the Ministry of Agriculture to develop a national seed development system and advance the implementation of 9 thematic components of the *National Agricultural Law*. USAID/Senegal received a solicitation letter from the Ministry of Agriculture to provide the support; the planning meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 9, 2011.
- USAID/Yaajeende Project Launch. The launching of USAID agriculture and nutrition project will take place on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **CAADP**

- Nothing to Report

**Visitors**

Name/Organization	Length of Stay	Purpose
GIADRA (Ibrahima Sidibe) for Wula Nafaa	Now through May 15	Train local artisans and private sector service providers on animal traction ripper implement crafting and hoe making.
Martin Webber, JE Austin for PCE	May 2-21	ENSA Value Chain Principles training and Preparation for the national Competitiveness Forum
Nathan Kline, Amy D’Angelo, and Stephen D’Alessandro from Booz Allen Hamilton	Now through May 14	Doing Business reforms and indicators

*“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*

