



August 24, 2012

Economic Growth Office

Feed the Future Initiative Bi-weekly Highlights

Accomplishments

- **Community Resilience through Conservation Farming –** On Aug. 7, the USAID Education and Research in Agriculture project, USAID/ERA, began experimental research on how to help Toubacouta communities build resilience through better farming techniques. The research, which will build on existing work by USAID/Wula Nafaa on conservation farming, will collaborate with other associations in the region. The experiment combines the cultivation of legumes with millet or corn to reduce weeds, conserves soil moisture, and improves crop yields. This kind of work has been successfully tested in the United States, Mali, and Haiti, and is being replicated in the Toubacouta region given the triple benefit. The team is working with producers and farmers in the region to set up a timetable for additional training and demonstration.
- **Women-led Associations Receive Equipment and Training for Cereal Production –** Last week, the USAID Economic Growth project, USAID/PCE, provided three women's associations in Kaolack, Podor, and Koungheul, with dryers, packaging equipment, computers and printers to help improve production and marketing of infant cereal. These associations serve poor families in Senegal who cannot typically afford imported cereal to help ensure adequate nutrition for weaning and at-risk children. In addition to the equipment grant, which boosts their output capacity and quality, USAID provided technical support to develop a more nutritious and hygienic cereal made from a calibrated blend of maize, millet, cowpea and peanuts. USAID is also assisting in the development of new products and expanding the local markets for institutional actors involved in early child nutrition and local health facilities.
- **USAID Senegal Hosts Minister of Agriculture on visit to Kaolack region.** On Aug. 9, Senegal's Minister of Agriculture Benoit Sambou visited several USAID/Wula Naafa activities. More than 50 representatives of local governments, community members, technical services, partners and the technical advisor representing the Minister of Nature Protection and Ecology were also present. The first site was a dike structure in Kaymor aimed at mitigating the adverse effects of land loss due to salinity, putting approximately 250 hectares of sterile farmland into rice and vegetable production in the coming years, which will significantly contribute to food security in the region. The Minister of Agriculture also visited rice fields supported by USAID/Wula Nafaa, as well as corn fields implemented through conservation farming techniques.



“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*

- **The Agriculture and Nutrition program, USAID/Yaajeende,** and The African Development Bank’s Local Small Irrigated Perimeter Project (PAPIL) are collaborating in Kedougou to rehabilitate and improve existing irrigation infrastructure by planting vetiver and other erosion reducing plants along berms, canals and trenches to prevent damage from wind and rain. During the past quarter, USAID/Yaajeende and PAPIL identified 24 communities in Kedougou where more than 209 hectares of irrigated land can be stabilized. The project has delivered 85,000 vetiver plants, which will permit more intensive use of irrigated perimeters and will ultimately improve the yields of irrigated crops, in Kolda and Kedougou.

Upcoming Events

- In August, USAID/PCE engaged eight local consultants to provide on-going support value chain partners for monitoring and data management for the next seven months. The consultancies will cover all aspects of monitoring and managing data critical for tracking activities from production through to harvest and commercialization.
- From Sept. 2-7, Peace Corps Senegal’s Food Security Team will host a training session on the Master Farmer program for staff and Volunteer representatives from other West Africa Peace Corps posts, including Ghana, Guinea, Togo, and Benin. The training will provide an overview of the Master Farmer program, including a brief history of how the program was developed, how the program has been improved since its inception, and an explanation of the various agriculture and agroforestry technologies demonstrated in the Master Farmer sites.