



Is GAFSP reaching
small-scale food
producers in Senegal?

Introduction: The GAFSP supported PASA Lou-Ma-Kaf in Senegal

In Senegal, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty dropped from 55.2% in 2001 to 46.7% in 2011¹. Poverty remains high in rural areas (57.3%), where the majority of the 13 million Senegalese population lives. The deficit of productive jobs in rural areas is fueling an exodus of young people and women to urban centers both inside the country and abroad. Food insecurity remains high (16% of the population in 2014²) and affects primarily farm households and poor families. Although contributing less than 13% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)³, the agricultural sector supports more than half of Senegal's population. Less than 2% of the cultivated farmland is irrigated⁴. The livestock sub-sector employs about 3 million people and accounts for about 35% of the GDP in the agricultural sector⁵. Local grain production can cover only half of basic food needs, and the country imports 70% of its food⁶, particularly large quantities of white rice.

The Food Security Support Project (PASA) in the regions of Louga, Matam and Kaffrine (Lou-Ma-Kaf) is receiving US\$40 million from the public sector window of the multi-donor trust fund of the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP). The Senegalese government's contribution is US\$5.8 million. This five-and-a-half-year project (2013-2018) aims to improve rural food security and incomes by facilitating access for small-scale producers, women, and their organizations to rural roads, agricultural and livestock infrastructures, as well as to technologies, services and specially adapted training.

The project is expected to benefit more than 30,000 farmers and livestock breeders, including 13,000 women (43% of total beneficiaries). It is designed to pay particular attention to youth employment (by generating 2,900 direct jobs) and to building resilience to climate change.

The activities are implemented with the assistance of three state agencies: the Department of Livestock Breeding and Production (DEPA), the National Integration and Agricultural Development Agency (ANIDA) for setting up vegetable farms, and the Department of Catchment Basins and Artificial Lakes (DBRLA) for the development of lowlands and related activities. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Equipment (MAER) supervises and manages the entire project.

1 All figures in this paragraph are based on the Poverty Monitoring Survey of Senegal 2010-11: <http://anads.ansd.sn/index.php/catalog/17>

2 World Food Program, Global Analysis of Vulnerability, Food Security and Nutrition (AGVSAN), Senegal, July 2014: <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ena/wfp266798.pdf> FAO's 2017 report on the state of food insecurity in the world estimates that 11.3 percent of Senegal's population is under-nourished: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-l7695e.pdf>

3 FAO, Review of FAO activities contributing to the implementation of the Country Programming Framework (CPF) – Senegal 2013-2017, 2014: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-as812f.pdf>

4 African Development Bank, Food Security Support Project in Louga, Matam and Kaffrine regions (PASA/Lou-Ma-Kaf), Evaluation Report, April 2013: <https://www.afdb.org/fr/documents/document/senegal-food-security-support-project-in-louga-matam-and-kaffrine-regions-pasa-lou-ma-kaf-appraisal-report-31417/>

5 African Development Bank, 2013, op. cit.

6 FIDA: <https://www.ifad.org/web/operations/country/id/senegal>



FATOU DIA FEEDS HER SHEEP IN NGEUTTOU MALICK VILLAGE IN KAFFRINE REGION. THE PASA HAS PROVIDED HER WITH A RAM FOR BREEDING, AS WELL AS ANIMAL FEED, FARMING MATERIALS AND VACCINES.

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COMPONENTS	SUB-COMPONENTS
Development of agricultural and livestock infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of hydro-agriculture for the management and use of surface water: 450 hectares of irrigation areas using drip irrigation through boreholes, 60 hectares of market gardens (mini-boreholes, wells), 1,600 hectares of lowlands for rice and horticultural farming developed through the establishment of impounding sills and anti-salt dams • Organization of 25 pastoral units around 18 bore wells, equipped with water troughs • Creation and development of horticultural farms (ANIDA) • Construction or rehabilitation of livestock infrastructures (120 sheep/goat barns, 60 poultry houses, 18 warehouses, 30 vaccination sites) • Construction of produce storage infrastructure (25 sheds, warehouses, cereal banks, etc.) • Construction of 120 kilometers of rural roads
Support for development and capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen mechanisms for extension services and support-advisory services and capacity-building for more than 30,000 producers with a focus on organizational capacity, sustainable management of infrastructure, and processing and marketing of produce
Project management	<p>Project coordination and monitoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operations • Logistics • Services • Monitoring and evaluation • Support to the Directorate of Analysis, Forecasting and Agricultural Statistics (DAPSA)



Scope of this study

ActionAid, one of the civil society organization members of the GAFSP Steering Committee, commissioned this study to review the implementation of PASA Lou-Ma-Kaf in Senegal, with a focus on small-scale food producers, women producers, the involvement and participation of producer and civil society organizations, and adaptation to climate change. This study is based on a field mission carried out in January 2018 in the three regions targeted by the project in northern and central Senegal: the sylvo-pastoral zone of Louga, the sylvo-pastoral zone of Matam, and the peanut production zone and rain-fed rice cultivation lowland areas of Kaffrine. The research team met individually with the employees of the project management unit and 22 beneficiaries, which included 15 women, and had group discussions with people in villages targeted by the project. Interviews were also conducted with a technical advisor of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Network of Farmers Organizations and Agricultural Producers of West Africa (ROPPA), as well as the Technical Support Cell of the National Council for Rural Coordination (CNCR), a national farmers' organization that is a member of ROPPA.

ANTA AND MAGOT
HARVEST OKRA IN THE
VILLAGE OF NGAYE
NDIAWAR

**CREDIT: SAM
PHELPS/ACTIONAID**

Key findings on the project implementation

After four years of implementation, the PASA Lou-Ma-Kaf has delivered the majority of investments initially planned, including more than 200 poultry houses and sheep barns, 15 stables, 46 vaccination sites, 32 agricultural farms, and 17 developed lowland basins. Technical and organizational capacity building has started. The project's impact is already being seen with the development of agricultural and livestock activities, a reduction in the number of young people and women leaving rural villages, a reduction in conflicts between farmers and herders, and a lower frequency of bush fires in the sylvo-pastoral area.

1. Does the project target small-scale food producers?

The PASA Lou-Ma-Kaf covers three very different regions. Louga is among the regions with the lowest poverty levels (less than 40% of people) in Senegal, whereas Matam is in the intermediate group, and Kaffrine is one of the country's poorest regions (more than 60% of people live in poverty). The project documents justify the selection of these regions due to a combination of factors that include poverty, food insecurity, lack of infrastructure and the absence of major agricultural intervention. The majority of people depend on agriculture and livestock to survive, and are therefore particularly vulnerable to low rainfall (about 400 mm/year for Louga and Matam) and the impacts of climate change.

The project reaches 44,078 people, including 7,170 agricultural producers and 36,908 livestock farmers, 70% of whom are women, and therefore exceeds initial expectations. The project was given access to the Unique Registry of the State to target its beneficiaries, which enabled it to focus on the poorest households. A significant proportion of these people are also beneficiaries of the government's National Family Food Security Allowance Program (PNBSF).

The selection of beneficiaries was carried out after a comprehensive process to define the selection criteria, which included gender, degree of vulnerability, experience of individuals in the activity concerned, possibility of contribution in kind, and place of residence, led by selection committees presided over by administrative authorities. The beneficiary lists were then forwarded to the management committees of the various project activities.

2. How has the project reached small-scale food producers?

a. Increase in agriculture production and improved working conditions

The implementation of PASA Lou-Ma-Kaf supported the creation or development of agricultural and livestock activities in the areas selected. The promotion of rice cultivation in the Kaffrine region was made possible by the development of lowlands areas that were previously vulnerable to strong winds and rain erosion, along with the provision of seeds and technical support for rice cultivation to 3,190 producers. A series of adjustments that were not initially planned at the beginning of the project, were carried out so that a maximum of beneficiaries could undertake rice farming. 1,226 hectares of paddy fields were cultivated in 2017, compared with 200 hectares in 2013. As the amount of land being farmed for rice increased, yields rose from 0.8 tons per hectare to 2.1 tons per hectare. On the initiative of the beneficiaries, 82 hectares were also used for cultivating vegetables for sale at local markets.

“The income from groundnuts made it possible to buy rice, which is a basic need. With the project, we have experimented with rice cultivation, which has been a success. We now have the resources to support expenses we previously couldn’t afford like education, health, and solid housing, as we no longer have to buy rice.” — Yacine Fall, woman member of the DEGGO Group, Missirah Wadene Block, Kaffrine region

The project also supported the development of milk production, and the collection of milk to supply surrounding dairies, through the construction of cattle sheds for women producers, the construction of two dairies in Ourosogui and Dahra, the development of eight other dairies, and technical support to beneficiaries. The volume of fresh milk processed by the Largal dairy in Dahra doubled between 2015 and 2017.

The project has increased vegetable production by establishing collective production areas, market gardens (from 1 to 2 hectares of surface area) or farms (from 5 to 15 hectares). In the Kaffrine and Louga regions, the farms performed satisfactorily in their first rain-fed season using crops such as groundnuts and watermelons, which generated sufficient income for farmers to self-finance their production for the following vegetable season.

The distribution of agricultural inputs and equipment has helped improve productivity and lighten some workloads, especially for women. The tools and equipment distributed under the project are being used for agriculture (tractors, seeders, dehullers, rice grain polishers, tools, processing jackets, sprayers, etc.) and livestock farming and dairy processing (refrigerators, freezers, packaging materials, gas stoves, cans, equipment for small slaughter houses, etc.).

b. Development of local sales points

The construction of 93 kilometers of roads (out of a planned 120 kilometers) made it possible to open up the production areas and commercialize certain agricultural products. Market gardening began to emerge, particularly at Ngaye Ndiawar in Louga where tomatoes, chili and okra are grown. The produce is either sold to traders who travel around to the various market gardening areas, or sold locally in the villages and surrounding towns. It should be noted, however, that the tricycles provided by the project for farms in Louga are unsuitable for sandy roads, and therefore cannot be used to transport products to market. Farmers use their traditional carts, but they remain insufficient in numbers for the quantity of food materials that need to be transported.

The project also supports producers to market their products by organizing or participating in fairs in urban centers through the National Integration and Agricultural Development Agency (ANIDA). Producer organizations have participated on two occasions in the Dakar International Fair of Agriculture and Animal Resources (FIARA). The PASA Lou-Ma-Kaf also led to the creation of the local rice label Ndoucoumane, an initiative of producers who participated in exchange visits in the north of the country, particularly in the Senegal River Valley. Producers were supported to develop a logo, rice sacks, and to promote the product at fairs. The project plans to carry out chemical analyses to identify the possible characteristics of Ndoucoumane rice linked to the geographic location, and to promote them through the label.

In the area of dairy farming, the project brought the dairies closer to their customers by setting up 10 pushcarts and 10 kiosks located near schools to reach more children. Reducing the packaging size of processed products (from 5 liters to a half or a quarter of a liter) has also made it possible to develop a range of products that are financially more accessible for children and their families.



c. Increase in income

In general, farmers and cattle ranchers have seen their income increase thanks to PASA Lou-Ma-Kaf's support for agricultural production, particularly because they can sell vegetables, chickens, goats, and eggs, while improving their domestic consumption. As mentioned earlier, the development of lowland areas in the Kaffrine region has increased rice production, which is primarily consumed by producer families. Households that farm 0.25 hectares can harvest on average 700 kilograms of rice per year, and meet their rice needs for 6 months. They can then use the income from the dominant crop, groundnuts, not only to ensure food security but also for other needs, such as education, health or housing. In some areas of the Kaffrine region, such as Mbaye-Mbaye, Saly Escale and Diamagadio, the increase in paddy production even made it possible to market surplus rice.

The PASA Lou-Ma-Kaf has also helped to increase incomes from livestock raising. Milk that is not consumed by the households is sold directly by women or delivered to the dairy. The dairies' business has increased thanks to the work of reducing the operating costs

WITH THE MONEY THEY RECEIVE FROM SELLING PEANUTS, MARIAM AND THE MEMBERS OF HER GROUP ARE ABLE TO BUY RICE, WHICH IS A STAPLE FOOD.

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(electricity, rental of premises) of the Dahra cooperative, thanks to the establishment of stables and specialization of certain cows in milk production, including during the dry season, because of the structuring of the milk collection to improve the dairies' supply, and thanks to marketing support (see above, opening of kiosks and smaller package sizes).

"We had a dairy before the project intervention but we had enormous difficulties because of burdensome rental and electricity charges. The project relieved us by building us functional premises, by providing us equipment, pregnant heifers and other support. Now, our standard of living has improved significantly. When we milk our dairy cows in the evening, the milk is partly consumed at home, and partly sold locally. When we milk them in the morning, we deliver the milk to the cooperative, which gives us a payment every two weeks." — Khady Sow, president of the Largal cooperative in Dahra, Louga region

The support for the development of sheep, goat and poultry farming also enables families to save money and sell animals in the event of one-off expenses, particularly for healthcare. The increase in income from small livestock has enabled some families to invest to diversify their economic activities or to cover their children's schooling costs.

"With the support from the project, I started with a coop with local chickens and a rooster. With the revenue, I bought goats. This project has been of great help to me in the areas of food, education and health. When I gave birth to my youngest child, all

MARIAMA SELLS MILK FROM A KIOSK PAID FOR WITH HER FARMING GROUP'S PROFITS. THE GROUP WAS SUPPORTED BY THE PASA

CREDIT: SAM PHELPS/ACTIONAID

medical expenses were supported by this activity.” — Gnilane Faye, beneficiary of goat and poultry farming support, Siloko, Kahi commune, Kaffrine region

d. Food security and nutrition enhancement

The PASA Lou-Ma-Kaf has improved food security mainly through support for food production and livestock. The expected results, the expected performance indicators and the content of the activities, focus primarily on the work of increasing production of rice, vegetables, milk and meat, and marketing the products, but do not include activities or goals specifically related to dietary diversification or nutritional security.

Food availability has improved thanks to the project, particularly due to increased production of rice, milk, vegetables and eggs. The development of previously unused lowland areas and rice farming in the Kaffrine region put an end to the dominant groundnut production, which contributed to increases in income but did not directly result in an increase in food security for producer families. Paddy cultivation in the area allows partial rice autonomy for the 5,136 households in 82 different villages that grow rice. The construction of 9 storage warehouses, especially for rice, also has the potential to reduce the post-harvest losses and increase local food availability.

The field research revealed that the development of poultry farming, vegetable gardening, and milk and meat production has had a positive impact on the diets of the most vulnerable people, including children, with an increase in the consumption of vegetables and animal products, especially eggs. Marketing support has also led to the setting up of kiosks selling dairy products for schoolchildren. Finally, income from the sale of animals and vegetables, and even rice in some cases, has increased the purchasing power of households, much of which is devoted to food.

e. Strengthening of local farmers' groups

The project has strongly focused on organizing producers into groups for various activities. For example, a women's group was supported to create the Ourossogui Dairy Cooperative. Twelve livestock rearing organizations have been strengthened in their roles and responsibilities, particularly in marketing, advocacy, and the procurement of equipment and inputs.

The creation of vegetable farms in the Louga and Kaffrine regions is based on the structuring of producers into Economic Interest Groups (GIE), an intermediate category between sole proprietorship and companies. On average, a GIE has 15 members and an area of 5 hectares of arable land. This land must provide sufficient income for each producer. Single GIEs or unions of 2 or 3 GIEs manage the farms (5 to 15 hectares), in terms of equipment and input management, monitoring and organization of production, harvesting and marketing, access to credit, and negotiation of contracts with traders. GIEs and unions of GIE are grouped into cooperatives at the regional level.

The project has strengthened collective access to land for producers in the areas concerned through the local governments' allocation of lowland areas for rice or land for vegetable farms and storage infrastructure. The land is assigned to the farm GIEs, which allocate parcel use rights to the individual producers. The support provided for the use of the lowland areas in the Kaffrine region created an opportunity to bring together villages that previously had limited relations or were in conflict.

Another form of collective structure, the Saving for Change groups (EPC), shows the project's positive impact in terms of empowering groups of producers. The EPC system, which has existed in Senegal since 2009, was adopted by PASA Lou-Ma-Kaf following the failure to

solicit decentralized financing structures to support the Ndoucoumane rice label activities (see above). In the case of PASA Lou-Ma-Kaf, the EPC system promotes savings for agricultural inputs. The amounts saved are reinvested in credit activities at fixed interest rates.

3. How does the project engage small-scale food producers, farmer organizations and civil society organizations?

a. Engagement and participation of small-scale food producers, especially women

Under PASA Lou-Ma-Kaf, beneficiary producers were organized into community structures to participate in the different project phases. Producers have been involved through general meetings at the targeted sites, deliberations of their local structures, meetings and surveys, specifically at the beginning of the project. Throughout the process arrangements have been made to encourage women's participation. They have been a core focus group for the project activities and individual women and women's associations were involved in decision-making at local and project level. After the communities' internal consultations and their agreement to participate in the project, the project team facilitated the establishment of community structures and the appointment of leaders. Beneficiaries' representatives participated in the local selection committees (chaired by the administrative authorities) that were in charge of preparing the beneficiaries list, based on a report prepared by the project technicians.

In the implementation phase, beneficiary representatives also participate in the project's monitoring committees and in the committees that manage the physical infrastructure built under the project (pastoral bore wells, water management works in the lowlands, etc.). Beneficiaries also participate in community structures (GIEs, women or other groups) that manage the production, processing and marketing activities. In Kaffrine, the beneficiaries decided to produce onions in the lowland areas in addition to the rice production planned by the project. Community structures are supported by the project to strengthen their technical and organizational capacities and increase their autonomy. Beneficiary representatives may also be consulted during field visits by project staff, particularly in the context of monitoring or evaluation procedures, and they also participate in the PASA Lou-Ma-Kaf steering committee.

b. Engagement and participation of farmer and civil society organizations

Civil society organizations have been involved in the project but their involvement has often been limited to seeking information or providing support during the project start-up period. The farmer organization SYNAEP-JAPANDOO and the West African Women's Association (WAWA), two national-level umbrella organizations, are members of the PASA Lou-Ma-Kaf steering committee. As such, they are involved in the process of validation of the Annual Work Plans and Budget (AWPB) and the project's annual activity reports. They participated in the annual review and AWPB validation workshops in 2014, 2015 and 2016, as well as in field visits.

Civil society has also participated in strategic reflection processes on themes such as the development of natural resource management plans through pastoral units and a food security stakeholders' platform convened by the project.

It should be noted, however, that the National Council for Rural Consultation (CNCR), the main umbrella organization for small-scale farmers and family agriculture in Senegal, and member of the Network of Farmer Organizations and Agricultural Producers of West Africa (ROPPA) has limited involvement in the PASA Lou-Ma-Kaf. The CNCR was consulted and feedback was received at the beginning of the project, but not during its implementation.

In addition, as mentioned above, PASA Lou-Ma-Kaf promoted the creation of one-off community organizations for its implementation, including in areas where structured organizations existed prior to the project. Support and reinforcement of existing structures would have made it possible to better guarantee the sustainability of the project's achievements after its closure. The organizations created specifically for a project tend to collapse after the project ends. Effective involvement of the CNCR in the implementation of PASA Lou-Ma-Kaf would probably have helped avoid this pitfall by identifying the existing producer organizations in the various project areas.

4. How does the project reach and benefit women?

PASA Lou-Ma-Kaf primarily benefits women. It is estimated that about 70% of the more than 44,000 beneficiaries are women. In its implementation, the project supports activities in which women are very involved. They benefit from technical and financial support, and are strongly committed to the management of the infrastructure and activities implemented.

FARMERS FROM
NDIONGU FALL VILLAGE
IN LOUGA REGION USE
ANIMAL MANURE TO
FERTILIZE THE SOIL.

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Women are the sole beneficiaries of activities supporting the development of dairies, poultry houses and stables. More than 60% of sheep and goat-raising beneficiaries are women. In the Louga region, the first 15 vegetable farms created benefited 426 people, including 189 women producers, exceeding the target of 40% of female beneficiaries. In the project implementation, women's position was reinforced by abandonment of such activities by men who are employed in other economic sectors, or who migrated to cities, or out of the country.

The project implementation improved women's workload. In the sylvo-pastoral zone, the search for water is one of women's daily tasks. The construction of water points (rehabilitation of existing bore wells and new bore wells) within the project makes it possible to reduce this work.

"Before the project, we spent a good part of the night in search of water. Now this constraint is removed." — Rouguy Sow, woman member of the pastoral unit of Labardi, Louga Region

Some women's living conditions, including their safety, have also been improved because they have abandoned the dangerous activity of selling charcoal on the roadside in favor of rice growing.

"Our main activity was the sale of charcoal along the national road. The quest for customers sometimes caused fatal accidents; with the project, we have abandoned this activity for rice growing which gives us more returns in complete safety." — Yacine Fall, farmer in Missirah Wadene, Kaffrine Region

The women benefited from the project in terms of income from agriculture and livestock activities. Agricultural farms and market gardens have a positive impact on both women's incomes and family nutrition. For example, in the Louga region, for some 400 women who received market gardening support, the sale of vegetables produced in off-season yielded 30,543,590 CFA francs in 2016 and 23,853,265 CFA francs in 2017. The project also supported the beneficiary women in processing and trade activities, notably by supporting 8 existing dairies and building 2 new ones. The women of Dahra Cooperative took advantage of the existence of their first local livestock market in the sub-region to develop the sale of livestock feed. The 10 supported dairies are operated by women's groups.

The project has also promoted the economic empowerment of women through dairy cooperatives but especially through the development of savings and credit activities through the Saving for Change system (EPC, see above). The project favored the creation of 84 savings-credit groups that reached 1,957 people, 96% of them women, who saved 28,464,375 CFA Francs in 2017. At the end of December 2017, 19 million CFA francs of loans were given from savings, mainly to support expenditure on agricultural production inputs.

Women's involvement in community life has also been improved through participation in project activities, particularly in training.

"In the recent past, we didn't even dare to approach meeting places. Now, we participate in all the meetings that are held in the village." — Rouguy Sow, woman member of the pastoral unit of Labardi, Louga region.

5. Does the project make communities more climate resilient?

The development of beneficiary communities' climate resilience is an explicit goal of PASA Lou-Ma-Kaf. In this area, the development of infrastructure and water management



techniques (soil water conservation, soil conservation and restoration) in the lowland areas makes it possible to optimize the use of water for agriculture in areas where low rainfall is one of the major climatic constraints. There is also development of fauna and flora in the lowland areas due to better water management. As mentioned earlier, the development of rice growing has also led some beneficiaries to abandon wood cutting and charcoal sales.

Other project activities contribute to the protection of surrounding vegetation to combat desertification: reinforcement of firewalls, creation of windbreaks, promotion of butane gas use rather than wood or charcoal, construction of stone or brick rather than wooden buildings, attempts to cultivate fodder plants, use of farm residues in livestock raising, and local agreements to preserve natural resources and prevent conflicts. A collective protection of vegetative cover is emerging in some areas, particularly where sheepfolds or goat farms are being developed. To feed the animals, fodder resources are protected against bush fires and against overexploitation by grazing herds.

The project has led to the increased use of selected seeds adapted to local climate conditions (varieties with short cycles, disease-resistance and productivity). These seeds are

WATER MANAGEMENT IS REALLY IMPORTANT FOR ASSANE AND HIS FARMERS' GROUP WHO GROW LETTUCE.

CREDIT: SAM PHELPS/ACTIONAID

distributed free of charge to farms and gardens for the first growing season and then following the first harvest, a rolling fund is set up and managed by the producer group federations, which enables farmers to buy seeds and inputs for the following season. The rolling fund is supplemented by contributions from savings and bank loans, notably to buy fertilizer. The development of such production models that require farmers to buy seeds and inputs each year is a risk in terms of the loss of financial and technical autonomy, and resilience, for producers, especially in the event of crop failures, which result in falling income. However, it appears that there is ongoing discussion at the project level about the production of certified seed in the project area.

At the same time, technical support for agricultural activities has been based on assisting with access to chemical inputs, fertilizers and pesticides, particularly through distributions or through savings and loan schemes. This promotion of polluting and expensive inputs must be called into question in terms of the effect on producers' autonomy and resilience. In the field, the use of chemical fertilizers has been justified by the low availability of organic fertilizer (animal manure). The implementation of bio-digesters has advanced very slowly, with a realization rate of 5% (35 digesters out of 700 expected). These facilities can, however, play an important role for the integration of agriculture and livestock farming by enhancing organic manure, as well as reducing dependence on fossil fuels for lighting and soil fertilization.

Recommendations

The PASA Lou-Ma-Kaf is currently delivering its remaining activities, while also preparing for closure. It is therefore important to ensure that activities are completed while ensuring that the project has a lasting and sustainable impact.

On the general project's approach and overall strategy:

- Improve the involvement of umbrella farmer organizations and civil society organizations, including women's rights organizations, in the project implementation, monitoring, evaluation and strategic management. This may include providing specific support to these organizations to improve their analytical and participatory capacities.
- Focus on strengthening and working with existing local organizations rather than creating specific structures for project implementation.

On supporting agricultural production to support food security and the fight against poverty:

- In the context of monitoring and evaluation, and project impact assessment, summarize the impact of its implementation on direct and indirect beneficiaries' food and nutrition security.
- Strengthen intermediation with microfinance institutions (MFIs) and Regional Directorates of Rural Development to enable producers to benefit from state-subsidized input distributions.
- Connect the Saving for Change (EPC) groups to the formal financial system, and promote access by the project groups and beneficiaries to adapted financial services (credit, savings and insurance).



On marketing support for small-scale food producers:

- Support contractualization between producers (vegetable gardeners or livestock breeders) and traders to ensure sustainable and profitable markets for production.
- Institutionalize participation in national and sub-regional fairs and exhibitions.

On women's empowerment:

- In the context of monitoring and evaluation and project impact assessment, prepare a gender-specific assessment of the project impact on women's empowerment, using gender disaggregated data.
- Establish a training plan that addresses themes such as organizational dynamics,

MAYOR SAMBA BA WITH HIS CATTLE. THE DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND WATER MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES IN THE LOWLAND AREAS MAKES IT POSSIBLE TO OPTIMIZE THE USE OF WATER FOR AGRICULTURE IN AREAS WHERE LOW RAINFALL IS ONE OF THE MAJOR CLIMATIC CONSTRAINTS.

CREDIT: SAM PHELPS/ACTIONAID

leadership and participation in decision-making processes, bargaining power, local governance, gender, women's rights and autonomy, micro finance.

On support for youth employment:

- Develop training programs targeted specifically at young people to create employment opportunities (in maintenance and driving of agricultural equipment, such as relay mechanics, etc.) and encourage their engagement in decision-making spaces (training programs in organizational management, financial management, etc.).

On climate resilience and natural resource management:

- Prioritize the installation of bio-digesters to avoid wood cutting.
- Extend the work of water and soil conservation, and soil defense and restoration in lowland areas to combat erosion and restore vegetation cover.
- Support alternative energy sources (especially solar energy) because of the high cost of diesel and electricity bills.
- Combine agriculture and livestock on farms to fertilize the soil.
- Promote community seed multiplication programs to promote the diversity of species and varieties, and encourage producer self-reliance in terms of inputs.

On project sustainability:

- Develop a sustainability plan for future technical, financial and organizational autonomy of the community structures created or supported by the project, particularly for agricultural activities based on the purchase of inputs.
- Develop plans to transfer project innovations to permanent public structures (Regional Departments of Rural Development, National Agency for Rural Counsel, Department of Livestock Breeding and Production, etc.).
- Set up and implement a plan for the maintenance, up-keep and sustainable development of the infrastructure built by the project (water retention structures, boreholes, storage depots, roads, etc.), including by strengthening stakeholders' technical and organizational capacities to develop their technical and financial autonomy in infrastructure management.

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