



FINAL EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT "CAPACITY-BUILDING OF FARMERS' ORGANISATIONS IN THE PALM OIL AND RICE SECTORS"

Ref.
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Expert(s)	Country	Volume (md)	Amount (€)	Beneficiary	Funding	Start date	End date	Partner(s)	Reference
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Detailed description of the project	Services provided
<p>Rising food prices observed at the end of 2007 and the first half of 2008 caused many problems for developing countries, including net importers of food. In response to this, the European Parliament and the European Council adopted a Regulation establishing a facility (called "Food Facility") for a rapid response to soaring food prices in developing countries, with a budget of one billion euros.</p> <p>Funded by the "Food Facility" managed by EuropeAid, the ACORH project, implemented by the Group for Research and Technological Exchange (GRET) and the <i>Maison Guinéenne de l'Entrepreneur</i> (MGE), with the support of many local partners, aimed at enhancing the production and processing of rice and palm oil in <i>Haute Guinée</i> and <i>Guinée Forestière</i>, strengthening the capacity of professional agricultural organisations (OPAs) working in these sectors and to structure them, at an inter-professional level.</p> <p>With a budget of €1.3 million, the ACORH had three specific objectives: (i) to improve the conditions for the production and storage of paddy rice, (ii) to increase the offer of quality husked rice and palm oil and to allow a better supply of urban centres, (iii) to better structure the sector by facilitating dialogue between stakeholders and with local and national authorities.</p> <p>After the project's end (implemented over 23 months between December 2009 and October 2011), GRET and the European Union Delegation in Conakry wanted to receive a comprehensive final evaluation in order to draw lessons from this first phase and to prepare a possible second phase.</p>	<p>Following the usual logical framework approach, the mission produced technical, economic, organisational and strategic analyses, with respect to 14 elements: RELEVANCE (1/ Overall relevance? 2/ Relevance for food security? 3/ Relevance in terms of strategy?), EFFICIENCY (4/ Sufficiency of means? 5/ Best use?), EFFECTIVENESS (6/ Results reached? 7/ Complementarity with other projects? 8/ Robustness of the monitoring and evaluation ?), IMPACTS (9/ On food security? 10/ On agricultural and processing practices? 11/ On Farmers' Federations?), SUSTAINABILITY (12/ Activities? 13/ Farmers' organisations? 14/ Equipment/infrastructure?). This required a lot of literature review and numerous field meetings with farmers' organisations supported by the ACORH project, the ACORH/MGE/GRET project team, and project partners. In particular, 41 farmers' organisations (10% of the supported organisations, a representative sample of each category of organisations) were interviewed.</p> <p>The overall impacts on food security are positive, but differ depending on the sector considered: a mixed impact on the upstream of the rice sector (energy dispersion on different agro-ecological zones, standard and sometimes poorly adapted technical package, etc.), a positive impact on the upstream of the palm oil sector (concentrated and regular support, with ad hoc advice), positive on the downstream of the two sectors (processors and traders satisfied by the financial, technical, and organisational support).</p> <p>The recommendations were as follows: 1/ Target (to limit farmers' organisations and the intervention area) 2/ Monitoring/evaluation (to carry out a baseline study of production and marketing), 3/ National policies (to adapt to the global context: tension on raw materials and establishment of Economic Partnership Agreements - EPAs) 4/ Collaboration (to consolidate the chain vision of Apex farmers' organisations), 5/ General approach (to put beneficiaries at the heart of the initiatives).</p>