

Swaziland Agricultural Development Project

It's all about **smallholders**





Revitalizing agriculture in Swaziland

In an effort to improve the food security of rural households and to foster equitable economic growth and development, the Government of Swaziland and FAO, with funding from the European Union (EU), work together to boost agricultural productivity, while at the same time reversing environmental degradation.

Smallholder agriculture is a critical lifeline of Swaziland's majority rural population.

But unreliable rainfall, uncontrolled livestock grazing, not fully exploited crop rotations, the cost of inputs and the HIV/AIDS epidemic have led to falling yields for more than a decade.

At the same time, food insecurity has risen dramatically, especially on the countryside. It is estimated that almost 7 out of 10 persons live below the poverty line.

Moreover, mounting pressures on land and water resources have led to an unsustainable level of environmental degradation and soil erosion.

The National Agricultural Summit (NAS) in 2007 concluded that increasing agricultural productivity and competitiveness are key to addressing the root causes of poverty and food insecurity in Swaziland.

The Swaziland Agricultural Development Project (SADP) was established in 2009 to revitalize agriculture and contribute to the creation of a vibrant commercial agricultural sector.

With a focus on improving smallholder crop and livestock production, research and extension service delivery and smallholder market-oriented agro-business development, the SADP fosters sustainable food security for rural households and contributes to increased equitable economic growth and development.

The SADP is a 5-years programme with €14.2 million of funding by the European Union and € 341 000 by FAO. It is implemented by the Government of Swaziland and FAO.

This is a flagship programme for the European Union

Amadou Traoré, Chargé d'Affaires a.i, EU Swaziland



SADP focuses on improving smallholder crop and livestock production, research and extension service delivery and smallholder market-oriented agro-business development.

Improved and sustainable agricultural production

SADP widely disseminates sustainable agricultural practices and livestock-based production methods, such as conservation agriculture, agro-forestry, vegetable cropping and livestock raising.

Moreover, the management of water resources for small-scale irrigation is being developed with the construction or rehabilitation of water dams and downstream irrigation systems.

Agricultural research and services

SADP assists the Ministry of Agriculture to develop policies, institutional structures and field programmes for more effective, demand-driven research and agricultural services to small holder producers.

Marketing and agribusiness development

SADP works with government agencies, non-governmental organizations, local entrepreneurs and agribusinesses to improve linkages between smallholders and commercial markets.

An important aspect is the financing of marketing operations through the establishment of a Marketing Investing Fund.

We want to transform the agricultural sector through market driven development of the value chains

Robert Thwala, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Swaziland



Main results in 2011

Strengthening production capacities

- Established more than 1 000 demonstrations plots
- Trained over 2 000 farmers
- Carried out 20 on-farms trials of appropriate technologies
- Established 50 youths groups for vegetable and poultry production
- Built 1 pig quarantine station

Strengthening institutional capacities

- Produced 4 national policy documents, concerning extension, farmer organization developments, markets and cooperatives
- Assessed capacity of 25 farmer organizations
- Development of training materials, nearly 40 items, of which 16 TV programs
- Trained over 500 farmer-trainers
- Concluded agreements with 16 national and international partners to contribute to SADP

**If you want to tackle poverty,
you have to put the
smallholder farmers first**

Nehru Essomba, Chief Technical Adviser, SADP



Main activities for 2012

- Establishment of a € 1 million Marketing Investing Fund to help small scale farmers link better to markets
- Rehabilitation of two earth dams and building of weirs, in tandem with downstream irrigation systems
- Rehabilitation of regional infrastructure to strengthen capacities of the Ministry of Agriculture
- Establishment of over 1 200 demonstrations plots for training on good agricultural practices, including conservation agriculture, agro-forestry, vegetable cropping, livestock raising
- Implementation of the new Agricultural Extension Policy
- Development of an Agricultural Research Policy
- Finalization of a National Farmers' Organization Capacity Development Programme
- Support Swaziland's involvement with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), a vision to stimulate economic growth in Africa through agriculture-led development



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FAO and EU: unlocking rural potential

The European Union is one of FAO's most steadfast and generous partners in promoting sustainable rural development to improve the lives of the poor. Working together on the ground in developing countries worldwide, improving food security in emergencies, employing research to foster food safety and quality, stimulating information-gathering to build policy, sharing know-how and involving partners in policy-making, the EU and FAO fight poverty at its root.

www.fao.org/europeanunion



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