



PROMOTING INCLUSIVE, ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND AND LOW-CARBON DEVELOPMENT IN THE GAMBIA

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been supporting the establishment and operationalization of community gardens in the Gambia to help boost production, enhance food security and nutrition and reduce poverty, particularly among women. However, these efforts have faced challenges, including post-harvest losses resulting from poor access to markets, lack of processing and/or cold storage facilities, and the perishable nature of horticulture products. In addition, fuelwood is the most accessible form of energy in the country, but its unsustainable use is leading to deforestation, desertification and land degradation. Traditional methods of energy use are inefficient and are putting much pressure on the forest and natural resources. Finally, with regard to fish processing, the quality of products is low owing to a lack of adequate fish processing facilities and techniques with improved hygiene and food safety standards. Such fish smoking techniques also expose processors to health risks from smoke and toxic fumes inhalation. Against this background, the project aimed to promote energy efficient technologies that could be used in the country's agriculture and natural resources sectors.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project adopted key strategies in eight community vegetable gardens, reaching around 2 500 beneficiaries, most of whom were women. These strategies included the installation of solar-powered cold storage units in the gardens to mainstream energy efficient solutions, reduce post-harvest losses, and enhance food security in rural communities in the country. Light-emitting diode solar lights were also installed around the perimeter fences, significantly enhancing security in the gardens. The FAO-Thiaroye Processing Technique (FTT) was used to construct two fish smoking ovens in targeted fish landing sites, to improve fish processing techniques and promote appropriate technologies that will enhance the quality and food safety of fish products, as well as health standards and safety of the work environment. The training provided for fish processors on FTT technology increased their capacity in processing quality fish to explore new markets, while adopting standard energy efficiency measures. In addition, the project constructed kitchens with improved cookstoves (ICS) in several schools for the preparation of school meals. The stoves are fuel-efficient and reduce the need for fuelwood and charcoal.

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget
USD 225 000

Duration
June 2020–April 2023

Resource Partner
Global Environmental Facility (GEF)
through the United Nations Industrial
Development Organization (UNIDO)

Partners
Department of Fisheries (DoFish),
Ministry of Agriculture (MoA),
Ministry of Petroleum and Energy (MoPE),
and Ministry of Basic and Secondary
Education (MoBSE)

Beneficiaries
Farmers, fishers, fish processors from
rural fishing and farming communities

IMPACT

The introduction of low-carbon emission technologies will effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support deforestation reduction targets and create health benefits for the target beneficiaries, in particular women engaged in cooking and fish processing activities. In addition, the installation of solar-powered cold storage units will contribute to reducing post-harvest losses, increasing production, and to guaranteeing sustainable clean energy supply in the gardens. This, in turn, will contribute to increasing beneficiaries' incomes.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

ACTIVITIES

- Eight community gardens in Lower River Region, Central River Region and Upper River Region of the Gambia supplied with four solar lighting systems each.
- Eight target community gardens supplied with solar-powered cold storage units; each unit included a fridge, two batteries, two solar panels and one solar-charged controller.
- Two improved fish smoking houses constructed at Brufut and Tanji fish landing sites in West Coast Region, using FTT.
- 60 fish processors trained on use of improved fish smoking techniques during six-day training workshop organized by Department of Fisheries, at Brufut and Tanji fish-landing sites (20-22 and 27-29 December 2022).
- Three kitchens constructed with ICS in three Lower Basic Schools in Upper River Region, Central River Region North and North Bank Region respectively.
- Draft Environment Education toolkit for schools developed.



Project Title

Operationalization of the SE4All Action Agenda: Promoting inclusive, environmentally-sound and low-carbon development

Project Code

FAO: UNJP/GAM/045/UID
Donor: SAP ID: 160041

Contact

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