

Development of Agricultural Chains and Market Promotion

The Government of The Gambia's Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRSP), the National Medium-Term Investment Programme (NMTIP 2005), the Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy (ANRP) and the Gambia National Agricultural Investment Programme (GNAIP) provides the basis for the development of national and regional programmes to overcome the challenges that constrain the development of agriculture in The Gambia. The challenges are clearly interdependent and require a concerted action. The GNAIP combines policy, institutional, infrastructure and technology related measures to address the multiplicity of supply-side constraints to enhance the growth potential of The Gambia's agriculture. The GNAIP would integrate on-going programmes and projects into this framework and take on the role of a national programme for food security. The overall objective of the GNAIP is to increase the agriculture sector's contribution to the national economy by increasing productivity through commercialization and active private sector participation predicated on a sound national macroeconomic framework aimed at enhanced growth and poverty reduction. The programme will facilitate and strengthen the productive capacities of small and medium scale farmers to create enabling environment to promote large scale farming and development of agribusiness, and facilitate access to markets and value addition for a selected range of commodities such as rice, livestock, groundnuts, millet, sesame, cashew, fish and horticulture. A key performance indicator is an increase in agriculture sector growth from its current estimated 26% to 60% per annum by 2015 to enhance the incomes and food security status of the producers.

The GNAIP focuses on the following key programmes:

1. Improvement of water management
2. Improved management of other shared resources
- 3. Development of agricultural chains and market promotion**
4. Prevention and management of food crises and other natural disasters
5. Sustainable farm management
6. Institutional capacity building for programme implementation

Outcomes and Objectives

The objective of the program is to enhance the transformation of agriculture from traditional subsistence form to a commercial and modern one through the use of appropriate technologies for value addition. This will result in increased income for the farmers as well as improved foreign exchange earnings for the country. The program has three main components all of which if properly implemented will lead to the attainment of the above objective. In addition they will also improve market access for the farmers, reduce the drudgery involved in the processing of agricultural produce, reduce the amount of post harvest loss and diversify the dietary intake of the population.

Estimated cost

The total cost of the programme is estimated at US\$ 106,130,000.

SUB-PROGRAMMES

I. DEVELOPMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING CHAINS

Objective: This component targets food crops that have comparative high market potentials at domestic, regional and global levels which include the following such as rice, groundnuts, maize, millet, sorghum, horticulture, agro-forestry food, short cycle livestock chains, and fisheries products.

Activities:

- i) Use of improved seed varieties and livestock breeds;
- ii) Provision of agricultural extension services;
- iii) Provision of agricultural inputs and machinery on timely basis;
- iv) Construction of appropriate storage facilities;
- v) Provision of appropriate technology for preservation, processing and packaging of Produce;
- vi) Strengthening of microfinance Institutions for improved access to credit by farmers;

¹This brief summarises the specific objectives, activities, and funding requirement for **Programme 3: Development of agricultural chains and market promotion**.

- vii) Promotion and use of alternative sources of energy;
- viii) Promotion of participatory forestry (eco-tourism, community forestry etc);
- ix) Promotion of intensive livestock production regime;
- x) Capacity building of stakeholders in crops, livestock, fisheries, horticulture and forestry subsectors;

Estimated Cost: USD 63,075,000.

2. STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL OPERATOR SUPPORT SERVICES

Objective: The objectives of this component is to ensure that the capacity of stake-holders in the crop, livestock, fisheries, forestry and horticulture sub-sectors is adequately strengthened through provision of and access to capital, access to market information and the use of appropriate technologies for production as well as marketing of agricultural produce. Implementation of the component will alleviate un-employment, improve inter-agency collaboration and as well as effective implementation and coordination of the program. The key focus areas for this component are: i) developing financial services in line with operators needs; ii) develop market information systems (MIS); iii) capitalizing on available technologies and conditions for their utilization by farmers/ producers and the agri-food companies and afro-industries; iv) Implementing a research program on rational utilization of biotechnologies in the agricultural sector.

Activities:

- i) Increase funding for the sector through implementation of Maputo declaration;
- ii) Create a basket fund for the sector where donors and NGOs could contribute;
- iii) Encourage and strengthen establishment of strong farmer organizations;
- iv) Create enabling environment for commercial banks investment in the agricultural sector;
- v) Conduct research and transfer of new technologies to farmers and other stakeholders;

- vi) Human capacity development and sensitization, which will include providing university training in all aspects of agricultural development;
- vii) Disseminate information through various media;
- viii) Training of how to access and use information;
- ix) Create an agricultural market data base;
- x) Promotion of farmer field school concept as training for farmers;

Estimated Cost: USD 33,025,000

3. PROMOTION OF INTRA-REGIONAL AND EXTRA-REGIONAL TRADE

Objective: The objective of this component is to create enabling environment for trade facilitation between the Gambia and other countries particularly countries within the sub-region through appropriate policy formulation, development and implantation. The component will ensure that trade policies and rules of the Gambia are consistent with sub-regional, regional and global trade rules. This sub-component targets the following areas such as The Gambia trade pattern and policies; intra-regional trade and extra-regional trade. The component targets strengthening trade relationship with countries within the sub-region and the EC and explore market opportunities beyond traditional partners.

Activities:

- i) Development of sound trade policies consistent with regional and global ones;
- ii) Promote trade with countries within the AU in particular ECOWAS block
- iii) Promote trade with other countries outside the regional block;
- iv) Improve infrastructure for movement of goods and services;
- v) Promote product awareness campaign through regional and international Trade fairs
- vi) Geographic diversification of markets for locally produced agricultural products.

Estimated Cost: USD 10,030,000.

Table I – Indicative budget for programme 3: Development of agricultural chains and market promotion

Sub-Programmes	Total (US\$)	Estimated Government Contribution	Current Estimated Gap
1. Development of food processing chains	63,075,000	6,307,500	56,767,500
2. Strengthening of national operators support services	33,025,000	3,302,500	29,722,500
3. Promotion of intra and extra regional trade	10,030,000	1,003,000	9,027,000
Programme Total	106,130,000	10,613,000	95,517,000