

## Prevention and Management of Food Crises and Other Natural Disasters

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 this component is to reduce the negative impacts of disaster and situations leading to food crises by mobilizing adequate resources to help prevent and cope with food crises or natural disasters as well as reach the groups affected at the most appropriate time. The component is aimed at providing social protection of vulnerable groups, policy measures that will increase food production and economic gains, infrastructure development to support production activities, and the development of a mechanism that enhances effective networking and coordination between producers and buyers. To achieve this objective, the programmes will address the specified areas dependent on comparative advantage and potential to improve food security of beneficiaries. Particular attention will be paid to the vulnerable groups for their social and economic protection through policy advocacy to increase, support to production infrastructure and linkage between surplus and deficit areas.

### Estimated cost

The total cost of the programme is estimated at US\$ 40,458,000.

### SUB-PROGRAMMES

#### I. THE PROMOTION OF THE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

*Objective:* To set up functional early warning system in ECOWAS Member States to quickly detect the risk of food crisis and adopt mitigating measures at the most appropriate time. At the regional level, a coordination framework will be developed for dissemination of information at the ECOWAS level. The component consists of three sub-components: (i) strengthening of the early warning system, (ii) emergency preparedness and, (iii) development of disaster prevention and control programmes. Key focus areas would be the institutionalization of agro-meteorological and hydrological services in The Gambia, formation of multidisciplinary working group to coordinates the production and dissemination of information and data, strengthen the National Disaster Management Agency and adopting measures that will mitigate occurrence of disasters.

<sup>1</sup>This brief summarises the specific objectives, activities, and funding requirement for **Programme 4: Prevention and management of food crises and other natural disasters**.

*Activities:*

- i) Assessment of the state of existing hydro meteorological networks and flood monitoring stations under the Department of Water Resources
- ii) Process data, publish and disseminate information on early warning to end users
- iii) Sensitise policy makers and local communities to promote the use of early warning information in sectoral plans
- iv) Support the formulation and dissemination of the national disaster policy and management plan
- v) Repositioning of emergency stocks (seeds and cereal banks, food and non-food items) to ensure proximity to these stocks when disasters occur.
- vi) Training programmes on disaster preparedness and response
- vii) Establishment/support of disaster management fund
- viii) National and community awareness campaigns to reduce incidence and control of bush fires, pests and diseases.
- ix) Regular vulnerability assessments to determine appropriate intervention
- x) Support the national adaptation plan for action(NAPA) on climate change especially for improving the availability of surface and underground water use suitable for agriculture
- xi) Review disaster management legislation
- xii) Disaster reduction mainstreaming
- xiii) Institutional strengthening and community capacity building for effective implementation and control programmes.

*Estimated Cost:* US\$4,678,000.

## 2. DEVELOPMENT OF CRISIS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

*Objective:* To adopt quick responses to food crisis and other forms of disasters-related crisis in order to reduce their negative impact on affected population and communities. The management of the crisis brings into play a number of measures which must meet the specific needs of the population. Key focus areas for this component are: (i) social protection for vulnerable groups, (ii) policy advocacy to increase production, (iii) support to production infrastructure and, (iv) linkages between surplus and deficit area.

*Activities:*

- i) Conduct nutrition food needs assessments for vulnerable groups
- ii) Food for work programme for vulnerable groups
- iii) Establishment and management of cereal banks
- iv) Establishment of a revolving capital for purchase of food stock for cereal and seed banks
- v) Development of appropriate recipes for households and sensitization to increase consumption of local cereals.
- vi) Increase budgetary allocation to agriculture to meet 10%
- vii) Promote private sector investment in agriculture
- viii) Establishment of processing facilities for local cereals
- ix) Formulate strong commodity cooperatives
- x) Encourage establishment of cottage industries for processing cereals and horticultural products
- xi) Development of assessment tools that will identify deficit and vulnerable groups as well as surplus areas
- xii) Promote strong market linkages
- xiii) Construct and rehabilitate storage facilities.

*Estimated Cost:* US\$35,330,000.

## 3. POST-CONFLICT LAND REHABILITATION

*Objective:* The conflict arising from the activities of the separatist movement in Southern region of Senegal close to the border of the Western Region of The Gambia poses a threat of land mines in the area. The threat posed by landmines is an obstacle to the economic activities in that belt. Currently, economic activities in the affected areas have been temporarily halted to minimize any incidence of mines. Efforts are being made by the Gambia Red Cross Society to sensitise and educate the affected communities on landmines and the potential danger they can cause. Key focus here is to develop a programme to support or complement the effort of the Red Cross Society to reduce or prevent any incidence of landmines and ensure that the region is free of landmines so that it can be reopened for economic activities.

*Activities:*

- i) Sensitise local inhabitants
- ii) Launch a landmine impact survey of the region to determine the area most affected
- iii) Launch a programme to de-mine the affected areas to safe life and restore economic activities in the region.

*Estimated Cost:* US\$450,000

**Table I: Indicative budget for programme 4: Prevention and Management of Food Crisis and Other Natural Disasters**

SUB-PROGRAMMES	TOTAL US\$	Estimated Government Contribution	Current Estimated Gap
Promotion of early warning system	4,678,000	467,800	4,210,200
Development of Disaster Crisis Management System	35,330,000	3,533,000	31,797,000
Post-conflict land Rehabilitation	450,000	45,000	405,000
<b>Programme Total</b>	<b>40,458,000</b>	<b>4,045.800</b>	<b>36,412,200</b>