

Food and Nutrition

Organisation	Publication Date	Reporting Period
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Budget Holder: COT		

Result area 1 - Enabling conditions Food and Nutrition Security

RESULTS

During the period under review, the Netherlands's interventions in Benin have enabled, producers, men, women and young people to improve production techniques by adopting new technologies, leading to better incomes. This is an important condition for improving their well-being. Also, a significant number of micro and small entrepreneurs, small scale farmers have developed their businesses and production units by earning more income, thanks to the support of projects funded by the Netherlands. Far from being limited to these aspects, the interventions also made possible the integration of thousands of individuals into rural land plans conducted in consideration of the new requirements of the Government Land Code, thus securing their access to land for a stimulation of private investment. On these areas, women and young people are actively targeted.

Interventions include, among others, the following projects: "Communal Approach to the Agricultural Market, Phase II, ACMA II" project, the Benibiz project which promotes entrepreneurship for young people and women and the project of local land management support.

ACMA II project works in 28 local governments in Ouémé, Plateau, Zou and Collines departments. This project focuses on key areas such as access to markets, inputs and finance. In addition it develops and promotes the use of ICT for agriculture. The interventions apply a value chain approach focusing on identified products.

Benibiz project intervene in 11 departments (out of 12).

The project on land was experimental, and included 2 local governments.

INDICATORS	Baseline	Target	Result	Source
ST_Number of (inter)national institutions that contributed to improved (sub)national	0	2	2	27008
ST_Number of businesses co-investing in FNS activities	NA	2	2	27523
ST_Number of farmers that adopt research results / knowledge / new technologies	NA	NA	2728	4000000765; 27523
ST_Number of FNS-related (inter)national policies/laws contributed to	0	1	1	27008
ST_Number of FNS-relevant innovations created (by phase: development of innovati	0	8	8	4000000765; 27523
ST_Number of graduates / trainers employed in FNS area	0	4	2	4000000765; 27523
ST_Number of jobs supported in agricultural chains/sectors	NA	NA	467	4000000074; 27523; 26197
ST_Number of micro entrepreneurs and SMEs supported in agricultural	0	22700	24523	4000000074; 4000000765; 26197
ST_Number of people that enjoyed (more) secure tenure rights to land	0	25500	28150	27008
ST_Number of sectors and/or value chains reached directly	0	6	6	25235; 4000000765
ST_Number of systemic (cross-dimensional) linkages contributed to	0	3	3	4000000765
ST_Number of value chains and/or sectors performing better	NA	NA	26	25235; 4000000765; 27523
ST_Number of women directly reached	0	11595	29553	27008; 4000000074; 25235; 4000000765
ST_Number of women that benefitted from FNS interventions	0	4845	5349	27008; 25235; 4000000765; 26197

Assessment of the results achieved across the entire result area 1

Assess achieved results compared to planning:	A. Results achieved much better than planned
Reasons for result achieved.	<p>The good results achieved for these indicators are due to the specificities of the projects that contributed to them.</p> <p>In fact, during the period considered, the "Communal Approach for the Agricultural Market, phase II" project has reached its targets and even exceeded them for several indicators. The revenues of producers, processors and traders have been increased thanks to the collective marketing system and a whole approach to market monitoring of targeted agricultural products. Another important source of income growth for project beneficiaries is the reduction of production and processing costs as well as the improvement of productivity in targeted agricultural value chains through the adoption of technical appropriate itineraries and new technologies.</p> <p>In addition, the project has established partnerships with local NGOs well embedded in communities, carefully selected and geographically close to the beneficiaries. Applying the principle of subsidiarity, the project was able to ensure effective support for beneficiaries and to achieve results fastly.</p> <p>Benibiz Project, focusing its activities on strengthening the capacity of young entrepreneurs to increase their turnover, is achieving very encouraging results that are beyond expectations. The quality of trainings, coachings and follow-up after care of these young entrepreneurs is of such quality that these entrepreneurs have an average growth rate of their turnover of more than 80% already exceeding the average rate planned for the end of the project which is 30%. The project leads young entrepreneurs to gradually realize that they themselves are their main factor of success. The project does not give as principal, direct funding to entrepreneurs but builds their skills and leadership to expand their market, adopt effective business management and marketing techniques, and effectively seek financing. Current project results show that women entrepreneurs are on average more successful. They have higher return and income growth than men. The quality of training and the impact of these are prioritized to the need to reach a large number of entrepreneurs.</p> <p>The Local Land Management Support Project, which was completed by the end of 2018, has broadly achieved its objectives. The success factors of the project are linked to good communication and awareness-raising activities among communities, including women and young people, on issues of access to land. These activities were able to induce a positive behavioral change in the affected communities, where some culturally entrenched perceptions were very unfavorable for women's access to land. Thus, with the support of the project, more and more women are accessing the land and getting sufficient rights for investments on land. Young people have also seen their situation start to improve in this area, receiving more and more attention in this area from local leaders, as is the case for women now. The national agency in charge of land and the national association of communes of Benin as well as the beneficiary communes of the project have received technical and material support which</p>
Implications for planning.	<p>There is no substantive change in the planning. Specificities are provided as per each project, regarding its specific result field.</p> <p>ACMA II Given the success, planning has not changed much. The project has maintained the principle of partnership with local organizations closer to beneficiary communities to impact the beneficiaries effectively. The target of some indicators has been revised upwards for more ambitions.</p> <p>Benibiz The second project has planned to recruit additional employee to quicken new entrepreneurs enrolment for more impact</p> <p>Land administration support The last project has been already completed. The report evaluated for the present results is the final report of the project.</p> <p>In view of the success of this pilot project, a new land project has already started in 2019 to support the national land agency, the ANDF, to make the cadastre available to the population in order to stimulate the private investment.</p>

Result area 2 - Nutrition Food and Nutrition Security

RESULTS

In the field of nutrition, the Netherlands' interventions in Benin, through the Benibiz project in its third component and to a lesser extent, the ACMA II and Jatropha II projects, have contributed to improving access to a quality, balanced, healthy and nutritious diet for populations including children, women and other people experiencing food and nutrition problems.

Thus, the Benibiz project, thanks to the nutrition sale agents, who are women, was able to ensure the distribution of food products of good nutritional quality in the project areas, more specifically in the departments of zou and Borgou in Benin. The distribution of such food products is coupled with nutritional education for the benefit, in particular, of women.

For its part, the ACMA II project ensured the increase in production and distribution-marketing (including a part on the Beninese market) of certain products of good nutritional quality such as soybeans.

The Jatropha II project has improved the incomes of women and men, processors and producers, who have been able to use part of these incomes to improve the diet of children and women.

INDICATORS	Baseline	Target	Result	Source
ST_Number of people with improved access to healthy/diverse food	NA	NA	24548	4000000074
ST_Total number of undernourished people reached directly 1.1.1	NA	2100	16494	4000000074; 4000000765; 27523
ST_Total number of undernourished people reached indirectly 1.1.2	NA	NA	59213	4000000074; 4000000765; 27523

Assessment of the results achieved across the entire result area 2

Assess achieved results compared to planning:	A. Results achieved much better than planned
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Reasons for result achieved.	With its nutrition quality products distribution component coupled with nutritional education, Benibiz project reaches several thousands of individuals in terms of contributing to improved nutrition. Going door to door on the one hand and community meetings on the other hand has proven its effectiveness in reaching more people. ACMA II project has been able to achieve very good performances by working effectively with competent local organizations and by developing a collective system which has proven its effectiveness in selling large quantities of products.
Implications for planning.	There is no main change in the planning. However, Benibiz project has planned to intervene, in the distribution of quality nutritional products, a little more directly on the financing of women sales agents of these products in order to enable them to access funding that will allow them to improve product baskets where products of good quality are very well represented. This is to limit the risks that female sales agents are much more interested in appeal products not having a tangible link with nutrition, for the sole purpose of making a profit.
Result area 3 - Productivity Food and Nutrition Security	

RESULTS

In the area of productivity and related aspects, the interventions supported by the Embassy of the Netherlands in Benin have enabled not only a significant number of smallholders and family farmers to benefit from specific support relating to production techniques and efficient agricultural transformation and to have access to quality inputs, but also to increase their income, thanks to the combined effects of the adoption of new technologies and of collective marketing systems promoting economies of scale.

ACMA II and Jatropha II projects have contributed the most to these results.

INDICATORS	Baseline	Target	Result	Source
ST_Number of family farms (crop/livestock/fish producers) with improved access to	0	25321	36840	25235; 400000765; 27523
ST_Number of family farms (crop/livestock/fish producers) with increased	281	5121	12799	400000765; 27523
ST_Total number of family farms (crop/livestock/fish producers) reached directly	482	2100	47470	25235; 400000765; 27523

Assessment of the results achieved across the entire result area 3

Assess achieved results compared to planning:	A. Results achieved much better than planned
Reasons for result achieved.	ACMA II project works on 7 value chains: corn, cassava and its derivatives, palm oil, peppers, fish, soybeans, peanuts. For each of these value chains, the project has developed a multi-actor strategy with agricultural businesses clusters. Producers, processors of each agribusiness cluster receive specific trainings on cultivation techniques which substantially improve crop yields, post-harvest technologies, agricultural entrepreneurship, management, marketing. The trainings are associated to demonstration of practices. The beneficiaries actors are structured into cooperatives and groupings within the Agricultural Business Clusters. Furthermore, ACMA II partners with local NGOs well embedded in the communities that contribute to fasten results. With the Jatropha II project, producers of jatropha seeds are supported to use effective methods of producing seeds and also food crops such as corn and peanut with good yields. Jatropha seeds are used to produce oil, which in turn is used, among other things, to make soap that is very profitable for women.
Implications for planning.	No main change in ACMA II planning.

Result area 4 - Sustainability Food and Nutrition Security

RESULTS

With the support of the Embassy of the Netherlands in Benin, approximately 7,500 hectares of land have benefited from sustainable agricultural practices that do not degrade the soil, but on the contrary, improve the richness of the soil. This was possible thanks to the interventions of two projects, in particular: ACMA II and Jatropha II.

INDICATORS	Baseline	Target	Result	Source
ST_Number of hectares of farmland (including pastures and fishing grounds) used	0	5600	7415	400000765; 27523

Assessment of the results achieved across the entire result area 4

Assess achieved results compared to planning:	A. Results achieved much better than planned
Reasons for result achieved.	ACMA II Project supports producers to adopt cultivation techniques combining the use of organic materials to enrich the soil. Chemical fertilizers are also used on certain crops, but in well-studied and limited doses. Through the Jatropha II project, producers are strengthened and adopt technical of production including the use of organic materials from the seed of jatropha after extraction of the seed to get oil, or from dead leaves of jatropha. These practices improve the richness of the soil and allow obtainment of good yields.
Implications for planning.	No main change in ACMA II planning.

* Find more information on the projects on Openaid.nl with the activity numbers listed under 'Source'