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IFAD and Togo

Working together for long-term agricultural and rural development

During the 1990s, Togo suffered through a socio-political crisis, an economic regression and a decrease in public and international aid. As a result, an estimated 62 per cent of the population currently lives below the poverty line.

The country's challenge now is to create the conditions for economic growth – and the Government of Togo believes that the best way to achieve lasting growth is through increased production and productivity in the agriculture sector.

For these reasons, after more than a decade out of the country, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is working closely with the Republic of Togo to put agricultural and rural development on track.

The impetus for this renewed commitment grew out of the improved political stability that began to take hold in the mid-2000s. This commitment is strategically important, as poverty rates in rural areas recently reached 80 per cent. Togo's determination to improve its agricultural production was evident in 2009, when it became the first country in West Africa to sign a compact under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

New project will boost production, increase incomes

In 2011, as part of Togo's National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Programme (PNIASA), which is aligned to CAADP, IFAD is supporting a new project to raise the productivity of small-scale growers of three staple crops: cassava, maize and rice.

The Support to Agricultural Development Project (PADAT) targets 220,000 food-insecure farmers, including women and young people, in isolated areas, and an additional 160,000 farmers with the potential to better commercialize their production. Activities will include technical support such as soil fertility management, irrigation, training of producer groups and production of improved seeds. The project will also help farmers to add value to their products through the construction of roads and storage facilities, marketing assistance and support to umbrella producer organizations.

The project is funded through the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), which was established in 2010 in response to pledges by G8 members in L'Aquila, Italy in 2009. In Togo, the GAFSP framework has resulted in a singular degree of donor coordination: all of the cofinanciers have agreed to work through a single project support unit and to be guided by the same implementation procedures.



The GAFSP resources have also accelerated project design, approval and implementation, halving the time required to launch the project. This experience suggests that political will, coupled with donor coordination, innovative thinking, support for national policies and the commitment of the national government, can enhance success.

Total funding for PADAT is US\$63.5 million. IFAD is providing a grant of US\$13.5 million; the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development is contributing US\$15.0 million; the West African Development Bank is providing US\$15.0 million; and GAFSP is channelling a further US\$20.0 million grant through IFAD.

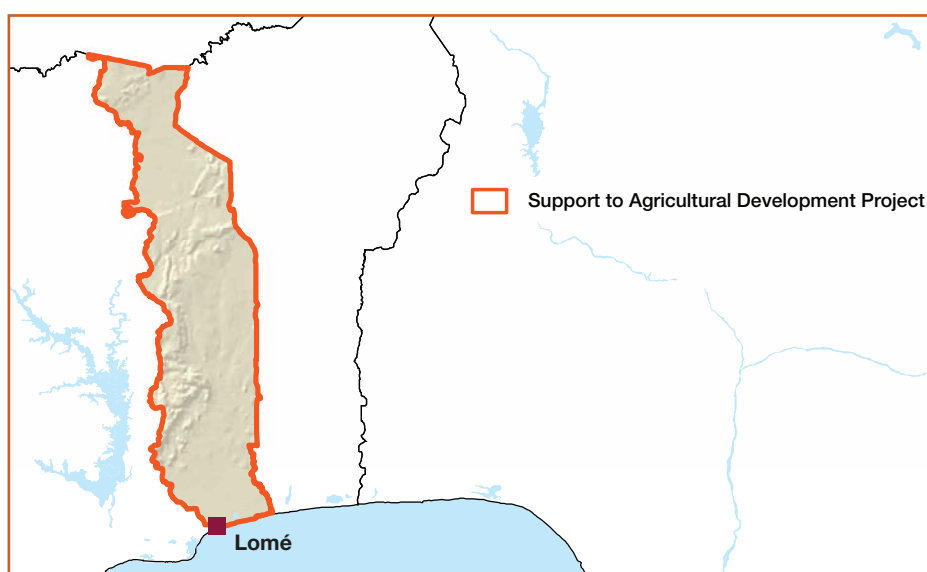
In close consultation with the Government of Togo and the World Bank, all preliminary activities for the set-up of PADAT have been implemented.

These include:

- Joint World Bank-IFAD baseline survey
- Joint World Bank-IFAD implementation manual
- Joint World Bank-IFAD monitoring and evaluation system
- Joint World Bank-IFAD financial management system (MIS)
- Procurement plan for the first year
- Partnership conventions
- Selection and contract awards for implementing partners
- Procurement of seeds and fertilizers

About 19,200 small farmers have already benefited from the kick-start operation, which includes the distribution of seeds and fertilizers. More than 8,650 hectares will be cultivated with maize and rice.

The project will be officially launched in mid-October 2011.



Closed projects

Since 1983, IFAD has financed five other projects, which are now closed.

Notsé Rural Development Project

Duration: 1983-1988

Total cost: US\$9.6 million

IFAD loan: US\$8.5 million

Directly benefiting: 4,875 farmers

National Small Livestock Project

Duration: 1989-1993

Total cost: US\$11.9 million (62 per cent overall budget)

IFAD loan: US\$6.4 million

IFAD grant: US\$810,000

Directly benefiting: 75,000 farmer households

Support to Village Groups in the Eastern Savannah Region Project

Duration: 1993-1997 (Closed earlier than planned. Initially the project was to be run until December 2000.)

Total cost: US\$15.3 million

IFAD contribution: US\$5.8 million (38 per cent overall budget)

Directly benefiting: 6,000 farms (13,500 families)

Village Organization and Development Project

Duration: 1996-2003 (Suspended in 2001 and resumed in 2005.)

Total budget: US\$9.6 million

IFAD contribution: US\$7.6 million

Directly benefiting: 40,000 farmer households (499,000 people)

National Agricultural Services Support Project

Duration: 1998-2002 (The project experienced three suspensions and was reformulated in 2000.)

Total cost: US\$52.6 million

IFAD contribution: US\$10.0 million

Building a poverty-free world

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) works with poor rural people to enable them to grow and sell more food, increase their incomes and determine the direction of their own lives. Since 1978, IFAD has invested about US\$13.2 billion in grants and low-interest loans to developing countries through projects empowering about 400 million people to break out of poverty, thereby helping to create vibrant rural communities. IFAD is an international financial institution and a specialized UN agency based in Rome – the United Nation's food and agricultural hub. It is a unique partnership of 167 members from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), other developing countries and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).



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For further information visit the Rural Poverty Portal: www.ruralpovertyportal.org



Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty

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