

profile

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Senegal Country Programme Evaluation

With an emerging economy and a growth rate of 3.5 per cent in 2012, Senegal is also one of the most advanced countries in sub-Saharan Africa in terms of democratic political systems. But the poverty rate remains high, especially in rural areas.

The State has made sizeable investments in agriculture, but has not succeeded in stimulating growth in the sector because other factors have diluted the positive effects: low agricultural prices, for example, and marketing and subsidy policies that can reduce or nullify the benefits of investment in agriculture.

Since starting operations in Senegal in 1979, IFAD has financed 16 projects amounting to US\$215.5 million. IFAD loans have helped to improve small-scale producers' access to a variety of sustainable agricultural services and innovations, and have supported producers' organizations and investments in agricultural infrastructure. There has been an increasing focus on economic returns with a view to enhancing the performance and profitability of the agricultural sector.



The strategic management capacities of producer organizations are reinforced by the projects supported by IFAD.

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Main evaluation findings

In partnership with the Government, IFAD adopted an incisive cross-cutting approach to agricultural development, combining significant involvement of beneficiaries in seeking local solutions with agricultural infrastructure that beneficiaries can manage themselves, with greater focus on economic returns through an agriculture value-chain approach to stimulate dialogue among stakeholders, market operators and producers' organizations.

Although the CPE found some successes at the project level, it also revealed a lack of sustainability of results after project completion. This shortcoming is symptomatic of a systemic weakness that undermines the promising gains in productivity and income achieved through specific projects, despite the high level of local ownership by governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. Land security and rural credit were part of specific projects, but a more strategic approach is needed for lasting results.

SENEGAL AT A GLANCE

Population: **13.7 million (2012)**

Population growth rate: **2.9% (2012)**

Rural population: **4.96 million (2012)**

Annual real GDP growth rate: **5.7% (2008-2011)**

Prevalence of poverty: **46.7% overall and 57.1% in rural areas (2011)**

Life expectancy at birth: **63 years (2011)**

Human development index: **0.470 (2012) - ranked 154th out of 185 countries**

Volume of IFAD loans 1979-2012: **US\$173.6 million**

Source: World Bank - 2012 World Development Report; United Nations Development Programme - 2012 Human Development Report; Population Reference Bureau - World Population Data Sheet 2012; IFAD data.

The programme was particularly successful in building capacities among the rural poor and their organizations. Many producer organizations supported by the country programme are becoming increasingly independent and able to manage their day-to-day affairs. But their capacities for analysis and negotiation are still limited when unforeseen factors arise. In order to support rural businesses, more has to be done to ensure greater sustainability in a value-chain approach that is linked with the rest of the country programme.

The most evident impacts of the programme were enhanced social capital and improved agricultural production and food security. The portfolio also generated positive impacts with regard to institutions and policies, though these were limited by the partial nature of the agricultural reforms and the piecemeal approach to environmental challenges, sustainable management of natural resources and climate change.

The projects undertaken were innovative, especially with regard to production techniques, research, local agricultural advisory assistance and livestock production. The possibilities for scaling up are limited, however, by the Government's fiscal capacity and by insufficient cofinancing from other development partners.

The country strategy reflects the evolution of IFAD's approaches and is in line with the Government's priorities. It focuses on local development. Environmental sustainability and climate change were addressed individually during project implementation, but are not yet being tackled in a strategic manner. Another factor to consider in the next country strategic opportunities programme is the need to strengthen synergies between lending and non-lending activities, which includes policy dialogue, partnership-building and knowledge management.

Key recommendations

- Continue to build on the programme's strengths: support for farmer organizations, capital investment and enhancement of commercial relationships and value chains.
- Continue to support rural businesses by working to incorporate them into agricultural value chains and supporting intermediary institutions rather than by supporting individual businesses or the creation of new businesses that might not survive after a project ends.
- Establish under the next country strategic opportunities programme (COSOP) ways in which IFAD and the Government further strengthen the programme approach and, in this context, determine how the benefits of the programme can be sustained.
- Examine ways in which grants can support COSOP objectives more effectively and be aligned more accurately with the broader goals of the country programme.
- With other donors, contribute to the continued development of the agricultural sector.
- Increase the focus on results with regard to gender equality and women's empowerment, and increase the importance accorded to climate change and environmental sustainability.



Community Equipment, Agricultural Commodity Chain Support Project

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Further information:

Republic of Senegal, Country Programme Evaluation, Report No. 3317-SN, August 2014, ISBN 978-92-9072-433-9, Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD, Via Paolo di Dono, 44, 00142, Rome, Italy. The full report, Profile and Insights are available online at: www.ifad.org/evaluation; email: evaluation@ifad.org.