

Food security

Sustainable agriculture development in Koinadugu District in Sierra Leone

"This project has promoted peace and unity among our Farmer Association members and within our communities in the chiefdoms. Also collective farm work has increased our productivity and household income and this has put an end to farmers taking loans against standing crops."

Sheku M Fofanah, Secretary,
Kokefusa Farmers Association,
Kamasapie Community, Kasonko
Chiefdom



EU Partners

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Mankind's Activities for
Development
Accreditation
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Facts and Figures

- EU Contribution:
€ 1.34 million
(79.26% of total)
- Duration: 4 years
(2009 – 2012)
- Location: Koinadugu
District (in 5
Chiefdoms - Wara
Wara Yagala,
Sengbeh, Kasonko,
Folosamba
Dembelia and
Dembelia Sinkonia),
northern Sierra
Leone
- Direct beneficiaries:
1 800 households
(around 12 600
people)



Context

Agriculture is the largest economic sector in Sierra Leone. A large proportion of the population depends on agriculture for livelihood. The project is implemented in the Koinadugu district. Although soil fertility and climatic conditions are good, food production in the district is insufficient. Agricultural activities are highly labour intensive and happening on a small scale. There is a severe threat to achieving food security for rural communities due to a lack of access to markets and agricultural inputs and prevalence of unsustainable agriculture practices that degrade the environment.

Objectives

- Sustainable improvement of the food security of the population of the Koinadugu district.
- Increased income and farm productivity of the members of 60 sustainable Farmers' Associations (FAs), of which 45% are women and 70% young people in 5 chiefdoms of the Koinadugu District.

Impact

- As a result of the groundnut value chain selection and promotion, farmers are now engaged in the collective marketing of groundnut.
- Farmers have organised a task force responsible for market information sharing, which has led to better bargaining powers and an increase in household income.
- A reduction of conflict between crop and livestock farmers in the district.
- Establishment of over 20 seed banks by Farmers Associations.

For more information:

http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/sierra_leone/index_en.htm

MDG 1

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A new chance for rural farmers

29 year old Ferenkeah Marah is a secretary of Gbankondor Farmers Association at Sengbehneroh Community in Sengbeh Chiefdom. Ferenkeh dropped out of school at the age of 20 because he lost his father and his mother was not able to support his education alone. He became a farmer and also served in as secretary of Gbankondor Farmers Association. Because he was not able to keep the Association's records effectively, the Farmer Association members decided to send him to school and support him from the income derived from the sales of collective farm products (Nerica rice, groundnut, cassava).

Still a farmer, Ferenkeh is currently attending the UMC Heritage Secondary school in Kabala and he is in 3rd grade Junior Secondary School. He is now able to keep the Farmer Association's records. He is also a secretary of the Village Savings and Loan Association group where members mobilize savings internally and loan to its members.

Out of the Farmer Association's income, the group has succeeded in constructing two water wells in the community and is currently constructing a grain store with mud blocks. The association has in their seed bank 7 bushels of nerica, 19 of rice and 15 bushels of groundnut. The group is also operating a savings account with the Kabala Community Bank.



Ferenkeah Marah, secretary of Gbankondor Farmers Association at Sengbehneroh Community in Sengbeh Chiefdom