

TREK REPORT

The provincial projects' site supervision composed of a high powered delegation from the Ministry of Finance & Economic Affairs and stakeholders from National Agriculture Department, NARI, FASDEP, NEMA, GCAV, SLMP and LHDP. This delegation was headed by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs. The site supervision lasted for two days from 13th -15th March 2015.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the provincial projects' site supervision was aimed at getting first hand information on the status quos of projects that have continued unabated to proliferate for the past few years. Assess their impact on beneficiaries and diagnoses the continuum set of problems faced in the design and implementations of the projects. Notwithstanding, among the principal objectives of the supervision was to formally admonish beneficiaries to take ownership of the projects through continued and persistent applications of techniques learnt during the course of the project to spur sustainability and economic development years after the project had gone.

In light of the above, projects that were key in overhauling the social and economic developments of the citizenry were selected to look at there immeasurable impact on the beneficiaries and the approaches designed to make it sustainable. The sites outlined for the visit were, Mandinaba, Kwinella, Firdausi, Wassu, Barajali, Sapu, Kerewan, Boiram, Dankunku and Jakoto.

BAFROW – MANDINABA MEDICAL CLINIC.

1. **Bafrow** is an NGO which was established in 2004. The clinic is mainly meant for women and it is one of the largest facilities across the country. It provides different services including literacy programs, skills development trainings and sensitization of the community on key instruments such as CEDAW. The center also focuses on preventive and curative issues of diseases such as HIV/Aids, Fistula and the like. On Fistula specifically, the clinic conducts major activities such as sensitization, skills trainings and the like for victims of the disease who have successfully undergone operations to lessen the associated stigma and discrimination and to reintegrate them into society. Recently, the it has received support from IDB which was used to conduct surgical operations on 30/13 women who are infected with fistula disease. Upon successful operation Major supporters of the clinic include the National Aids Secretariat, IDB, (which provides 40% of the clinic resource), Ecowas Gender center, foundations in the United States and other local partners.

The Bafrow **fistula** medical center was able to successfully treat those women suffering from fistula disease for free of charge, they provide the community women with loans to setup their own business, create a bank where they can save money within the center, adopt women to local language literacy, also have sent nurses for overseas training to burden their skills and knowledge as well as engaged the women in other skills such as baking bread, bafrow food for babies, cakes etc.



CHALLENGES

1. There inadequate space for the patients
2. There is need for more fistula wards
3. Inadequate funds for the women after care
4. To improve the psychological aspect of the clinic
5. The equipment and supplies are difficult to get

Recommendations

1. The Bafrow clinic needs some additional funding to improve the capacity of the wards

2. There is need to strengthen the procurement procedures. The clinic needs to have adequate funds for women after care.

LIVESTOCK HORTICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (LHDP)- MANDINABA – Poverty Allocation

The project is run by a group of 24 people called Poverty Alleviation. According to the focal person Musa, the group is mainly into the rearing of sheep. He stated that the group had an agreement with LHDP. His was for the group to provide thirty (30) ewes and the project to provide three (3) rams with the aim of cross-breeding them to multiply the number of sheep. The was able to sell 15 rams from the beginning of the project two years ago. Currently, they have a total of 35 sheep and aim to buy more rams to fatten and sell. Proceeds from the sale of their sheep are saved for expansion and in the event that LHDP support ceases in the future.



CHALLENGE

1. Fodder and water are sometimes in short supply for the animals (sheep) especially during the dry season

Recommendations

1. There is need for a borehole to help them with access address the issue of insufficient water supply
2. They need more plants to feed the animals (sheep).
3. The facility should be expanded as more sheep are envisaged to be reared

KWENELLA – MIX FARMING CENTER – WAAPP

This is a project that is directly funded through GLF funds. The purpose is to look at horticulture as major crop in the Gambia as we know Agriculture has mainly been focused on cash crops since colonial days.

The idea of mix farming was brought into light to assist farmers to get involve in inter-cropping and to teach them on how to go about it and some technical advises. No work has been done yet in terms of cropping due to some challenges they encounter.



CHALLENGES

1. Horticulture and seed productivity are in different departments which is a constrain in terms of mix farming
2. Crop seeds are difficult to get
3. Gacetting the seeds is also a challenge
4. There is no body to take charge of stamping the seeds to make it certified
5. Lack of adequate funds to go by the processes required

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. In order to make mix farming really work then they need to incorporate horticulture and seed productivity (WAAPP)
2. The government should be flexible on producing seeds for cropping easily
3. They should put in place a body to be responsible of stamping seeds in order to be certified
4. Also they the funds needs to be provided and on timely basis

FERRDOUSEY – LIVESTOCK – LHDP

This intervention is mainly based on sheep breeding and raring. The project is two (2yrs) old and the people of freedousey are so excited and ready to work as a community to take this opportunity to the next level for the benefit of the community. The leader of the village went further extending their sincere gratitude to the project and the Government at large for the poverty reduction in their community, the people of freedousey also highlighted that they do their utmost best to sustain facility and maintain business the use the community. The project provided shelter for the community of freedousey and they have managed to increase the number of sheep from 30 to 35 within 2years



CHALLENGES

1. When the animals get sick it's always difficult to have a vetnary doctor to check them animals
2. Food and water is difficult to acquire

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. They need to provide boreholes and food for the animals
2. The project should help them with vetnary doctors in time when needed

WASSU – GCAV - REHABILITATION

The Gambia Commercial Agricultural Value Chain (GCAV) is mainly focused on rehabilitating existing dikes to enable easy access to the rice fields and also prevent the hypos from getting into the rice fields. The people of Wassu kafoo express their happiness

to the project team and all the visitors to the fields, the kafoo leader further expressed the important of the dikes and tidal irrigation to them that it will help them get twice of what they use to get from the rice fields.

They project also intervene on tidal irrigation so as to reduce the land to enable easy pass of water through the fields. These will help them grow rice and harvest it twice or more in a year. With the support of the project they were able to increase their productions, the earnings and water is properly flowing into the fields.



CHALLENGES

1. The hypos usually get into the fields to destroy peoples rice
2. Lack of funds to complete the dikes and tidal irrigation
3. Poor management of the community to control the fields on behave the community

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The community should mobilize funds to put in place for sustainability purposes
2. They need to create a body to manage those funds to monitoring the fields for use of wastages
3. To avoid conflict of interest they should grow the same type of rice at the same time

BARAJALI – RICE FIELDS

The people of Barajali have been trying so hard to make the verse land irrigable were water can flow through the fields so that they can work both dry and raining season but with the humble visit by the Government they are hoping that intervention on that aspect will be considered prior to national development. The dikes also will help them protect the fields from the hypos and to prevent the water from moving away from the fields when it rains. They assured the government they can produce four (4) tons per hectare



CHALLENGES

1. The hypos always destroy their crops
2. Lack of machines to help pump water into the fields
3. No tidal irrigation as the river is not far from the fields

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. They project should help the barajali community with more funds for more dikes and causeways to easy access their fields and also for the safety of the crops from the mammals like hypos
2. Another suggestion was made that the project should try and embark on tidal irrigation so as to gain access of water from the river
3. They community should adopt a society with a leader to control and monitor the fields and funds raised by the villagers for further development and sustainability.
4. It is labour intensive, they need to encourage the youths

SAPU – AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICES

The main reason of sapu facility is to teach and train farmers on modern farming systems on how to about it using best practices. The WAAPP project came to their aid by rehabilitating the facilities for human leaving purposes and about 15 houses were rehabilitated they have been doing everything in their power to provide the farmers with crop seeds. The sapu extension facility contains 35 staffs. They training the farmers on modern system of farming (best practice) and the rice production has increased from 1.6 tons to 4 tons per hectare.



CHALLENGES

1. Inadequate fuel for the machines to work on the fields
2. Transport difficulties for staffs from the extension facility to the town clinic, markets etc
3. No land development for farmers
4. No easy access to get inputs for farmers

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. A comment was made that the extension workers should be provided with more fuel allocation amounting around (**1m**) worth of fuel
2. Another suggestion was brought to the table that the projects are doing a lot of land development, what the Government should do is to create funds and make easy access of farming machines and affordable to farmers

KEREWAN FIELDS – UPLAND CONSERVATION-VISION 2016 GROUNDNUT

According to the extension workers and field coordinators the kerewan groundnut field is subjected on the vision 2016, the area 100x100m large. The field is divided into two, one

side is groundnut and the is intercrop were, and there are two irrigation systems of pumping water in the crops.

The drip system is where pipes are laid on the ground alongside the crop with holes on it about 50cm spacing between each hole to pump water on the crops.

The other irrigation system (sprinkler) is where the pipes will be planted in the ground and pump water into the crops. The expected time of harvest is 110 days.



CHALLENGES

1. The land is not fertile, lack of fertilizer to apply on it for best practice
2. Inadequate pipes to complete the laying
3. More groundnut species is required

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The land should be fertilized in other to help the crop grow fast
2. They should be provided with funds to buy more pipes to meet all the crops
3. The project should provide more groundnut varieties

NEMA – BOIRAM – DIKES

The NEMA projects under its mandates has helped the people of Boiram with dikes to access their fields to enable easy access of the individual fields and also to prevent the water floor out of their fields as well as to prevent the hypos interferences in the rice fields.

The boiram community is aware of the best practice farming system which is one of their strengths in terms rice production. The actual reason for the dikes is that each time it rains the water will flow out of the fields which doesn't help but with the Nema intervention they now able to produce more rice (5 to 6)tons per hectare.



CHALLENGES

1. Lack of training machines and toppling machine
2. Lack of combine harvesters
3. Inadequate dikes to access individual fields
4. No market after harvest

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. They need more funds to build more dikes to access the individual fields
2. Tidal irrigation is necessary to help them cultivate and harvest biannually
3. They need to establish a society to manage the farms and raise funds for sustainability purposes.
4. They should provide the farmers with tapping machines, combine harvester, and training on best practice
5. Create market for income generation

FASDEP DANKUNKU ACCESS ROADS

The village has a verse land for rice cultivation, the FASDEP project coordinator stated the allocated amount is **\$250,000.00** for three (3) access roads to enable the villagers to access their rice fields. According to the Project Coordinator they are facing certain challenges in

terms of implementation and he urged Finance to engage the donors at the higher level to make procurement flexible.



CHALLENGES

1. The recruitment of consultant is a problem
2. Procurement procedures is a constrain

RECOMMENDATION

1. Ministry of Finance should try and engage the donor and discuss on how best to work on the procurement issues so that implementation will begin as soon as possible.

Jakoto -

road Project by ???Background ??? The community expressed happiness and appreciation for bringing the project to them.

Benefits

- Run-off which used to wash houses, animals, and fertilizers away have stopped thus leading to increase in yield.
- Upon completion, the road project will open access to 2000 hectares of land for cultivation.
- It will also allow the community to have access to “Lumos” at Kaur, Brikamaba and other satellite settlements



Recommendations

- The community requested support to construct the road which leads Balangarr to Jakoto rice field.
- The community explained that they have begun thinking on ways of sustaining the project. They stated that they are instituting stringent laws/measures on the use and management of the road. One such measure currently in force is the discouragement of cattle trekking on the road as this usually results into damages on the soil structure.

