



FOREST and FARM FACILITY Country achievements



The Gambia



HIGHLIGHTS OF IMPACTS

- **Community forest tenure reform process unlocked** with Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) in vital role; follows decade of stagnation.
- **Incomes of members of Forest and Farm Producer Organizations (FFPOs) raised 35 to 50 percent** on average after FFPOs strengthened for business.
- **Value added to products from at least half of supported FFPOs (eight of 16 groups)** via new technologies to increase yields, reduce waste, diversify through processing, reported since FFF activities began in 2013.
- **Basket of products produced in forest and farm landscapes significantly increased** by effective integration of community forest management committees (CFMCS) and FFPOs.



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS BY THE NUMBERS

- **Ownership of 116 community forests covering 9 408 hectares** (representing 30 percent of all community forest tenure agreements in The Gambia) **transferred to local communities** from 2015 to 2017 after series of targeted actions, plus support from FFF.
- **100 forest management plans and 35 associated enterprise development plans linked** to community forests developed.
- **Six policies and national development plans revised** with input from national FFPO platforms.





THE GAMBIA SUCCESS STORY

“When the New Rice for Africa (NERICA) rice variety was introduced to us as rice farmers by the Department of Agriculture, we resorted to clearing of virgin forest areas to grow the new rice variety, thereby advancing forest destruction. My village Pakali Ba in the Lower River Region nearly lost the village community forest area to rice production. Now we are more enlightened that sustainable upland rice cultivation can be done in forest landscapes without felling of trees or application of imported fertilizer, resulting in high yield after harvests and promotion of natural forest regeneration”.

Sanna Darboe, Regional President, Rice Farmers Association, Lower River Region



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LESSONS LEARNED

Grassroots consultation can lead to membership expansion in national FFPOs linked with regional and global federations. However, translating regional and global policy advocacy work into tangible benefits at the local level remains a challenge.



GENDER/YOUTH IMPACT

Majority of executive committees now include women and youth; on average, 63.5 percent include women; 38 percent, or five out of 13 groups, led by women.

FFF initiated valuable partnerships with organizations that build gender expertise such as the African Women’s Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF). REFACOF supported FFF’s country work in The Gambia by mapping women’s organizations in forest landscapes and enhancing their capacity. The network also opened a new national chapter in The Gambia.

Through the partnership with REFACOF, 45 women’s producer organizations were reached in The Gambia.



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Partners: All Gambia Forestry Platform (AGFP); African Women’s Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF); Federation of Gambia Cashew Farmers Associations; National Association of Food Processors (NAFP); National Beekeepers Association of The Gambia (NBAG); National Coordinating Organization of Farmer Associations Gambia (NACOFAG); National Farmers Platform of The Gambia (NFPG).

Government counterparts: Agriculture and Natural Resources Platform; Department of Forests; Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources (MECCNR).