



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

BOOSTING NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY AND HOUSEHOLD INCOMES IN MADAGASCAR

Agriculture is considered one of the key drivers of the Malagasy economy, accounting for 26.4 percent of the country's GDP and employing over 75 percent of the workforce. Despite this, Madagascar's agricultural production cannot meet the food needs of its population, a large proportion of whom are severely affected by food insecurity. In addition, Madagascar's potential in terms of availability of agricultural land and natural pastures, water resources, insularity, biodiversity and a young workforce in rural areas remains largely under-exploited.

Given China's expertise in the above areas, the Malagasy Government applied to benefit from the South–South Cooperation (SSC) programme.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project focused on three key areas of Madagascar's economic development.

The first was hybrid rice, in particular, the introduction of new technologies to increase the country's production areas. Hybrid rice yields are significantly higher than those of conventional rice.

The second area, small ruminant farming, includes combating animal diseases, improving nutrition (fodder production), including feed processing, and the breed selection programme (breeding programme and artificial insemination) to ensure and support the development of goat and sheep farming.

Finally, the project's third key area involved assessing the need to establish an agricultural value chain and presenting sustainable business ideas along with management, operations and market strategies, particularly through training.

The project showed, in particular, that hybrid rice cultivation and the fight against inbreeding in small ruminants are "appropriate" technologies for Madagascar as a country, with a very high rate of return and no need for considerable initial investment.

IMPACT

The project's expected impact was to 1) contribute to national food security and household incomes; 2) contribute to making Madagascar self-sufficient in rice by 2025 while reducing foreign currency outflows because of rice imports; and 3) promote investment, agrifood and trade in the agricultural sector.

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget
USD 1 767 486

Duration
November 2018–December 2022

Resource Partner
Government of the People's Republic of China

Partners
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (China), Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (Madagascar)

Beneficiaries
Farmers (men and women), local- and national-level technicians, research institutes and communities who will benefit from the increased capacity of local services

ACTIVITIES

- The hybrid rice training courses benefited 1 007 rice growers (641 in the Alaotra–Mangoro region and 366 in the Analamanga region), 59 percent of whom were women.
- A total of 5 537 producers were trained during the project, 2 250 of whom adopted Chinese technologies/practices.
- Eighteen demonstration plots to promote the use of hybrid rice were installed (11 in the Analamanga region and seven in the Alaotra–Mangoro region) and distributed as follows:
- Sixty-nine demonstrations were carried out in the “small ruminant farming” section.
- A 10 ha demonstration plot was created in Mahitsy, in the Analamanga region, to test the effectiveness, efficiency and economic power of hybrid rice, with a view to promoting the use of hybrid rice seeds on medium and large-scale farms.
- One hundred and twenty four technicians were trained, including 99 in hybrid rice techniques (69 in the Alaotra–Mangoro region and 30 in the Analamanga region) and 25 in small ruminant breeding (Diana region).
- The project also distributed 30 000 Juncao cuttings to the 241 beneficiary farmers to help disseminate the forage crops as quickly as possible.



Project Title

South–South Cooperation Programme (SSC) in support of the implementation of FAO’s Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Sector Programme (PSAEP) and Country Programming Framework (CPF) 2014–2019 in Madagascar

Project Code

FAO: GCP/MAG/087/CPR

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