Food & Nutrition Security

Organisation	Date	Reporting period
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Cotonou, Benin	May 2019	reports received between 15 sept 2017- 15 sept 2018

Result area 1	IMPACT/OUTCOME/OUTPUT	RESULT AREA
FNS	Outcome	2 Promote agricultural development: Double productivity and/or income of family farms (crop/livestock/fish producers)

ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

To what extent have the outcomes for this result area been achieved?

Over 16.000 producers have benefited from improved market access or inputs. This is mostly done through the Access to Agricultural Markets (ACMA) project. One important element of ACMA is to translate the possible benefits of smart agriculture and ICT applications for agriculture into a user-friendly platform for smallholders, for example in financial services and market information. In the follow up phase of this project, this is further explored. The number of family farms that have been measured with an increased income or production is part of the Jatropha project, which strengthens the jatropha chain (biofuel), with family farms engaged in aspects from production to soap to electricity. The number of family farms with increased revenues does not give an accurate picture because it only covers the producers in the Jatropha project (and not ACMA). It is expected that a much higher number of producers / family farms has increased their productivity and income, as a result of support in accessing financial services (warrantage, loans, etc.), agricultural/technical advisory, collective bargaining and sales, collective storage (warehouses) and business, technical and financial training/coaching. Unfortunately, only the number of people who benefitted from these services were not calculated. Since we are expected that many of these services will be delivered in a digital platform/learning environment, it is expected that in the future more accurate numbers can be provided. Nonetheless the targets for familyfarms with increased productivity have nearly been met.
Regarding family farms with improved access to input or markets, we notice that the results are below what was expected.

Indicator	Baseline + year	Target	Result	Source
2.1 Number of family farms with increased productivity and/or income	0(2015)	570 (2020)	473	BZ, source: Narrative annual report 2017, page 9. MINBUZA-2018.364691; "(http://sophia/hprmwebclientclassic/?uri=5329087&l=record&lang=in_english&mbd=true)"
2.2 Number of family farms with improved access to input and/or output markets		25000 (2017)	16283	BZ, source: Final narrative report, page 35, Sophia link: MINBUZA-2018.937995. (http://sophia/hprmwebclientclassic/?uri=5968458&l=record&lang=in_english&mbd=true)

To what extent have the outputs for this result area been achieved?

Over 16.000 family farms were reached. The activities as part of the Agricultural Market Access programme are focussed on strengthening the capacities of producers, processors and traders and organise them in business clusters for joint marketing, branding and collective bargaining. For producers and processors, this has led to the improvement of production and processing techniques and the use of by-products of the targeted products. Municipalities are involved for public-private consultations in order to improve the business climate, for example to discuss local taxes (offical and unofficial) and regulations. More emphasis is now being placed on production than in the past to contribute more to increasing agricultural productivity and income. ICT4Ag has also become an important priority for the Dutch FNS interventions (access to inputs and innovations, access to the market, access to inclusive finance, etc.) in Benin. During this reporting period, a new phase of this project was launched with a stronger focus on the production process, as well as taking advantage of technological developments in agriculture. In order to assure that there is sufficient scale (and clients), a donor working group was established to jointly invest in an ICT infrastructure for producers, processors and traders in agricultural products, including a market information platform, a digital learning environment, financial and logistical services. These applications are expected to be in use by 2020, which will transform the activities: from physical trainings to on-demand advisory services, that can eventually be commercially managed.

Indicator	Baseline + year	Target	Result	Source
2.x.1 Number of family farms directly reached		25570 (2020)	16756	BZ, source: Narrative annual report 2017, page 9. MINBUZA-2018.364691; BZ, source: Final narrative report, page 35, Sophia link: MINBUZA-2018.937995. (http://sophia/hprmwebclientclassic/?uri=5968458&l=record&lang=in_english&mbd=true)

Assessment of the results achieved across the entire result area 1

Assess achieved results compared to planning:	C. Results achieved poorer than planned
Reasons for result achieved.	This period marked the transition from the first phase into the second phase of the Access to Agricultural Markets Project. The results that are shown here are not in compliance with the targeted results. Thie number of beneficiaries is lower than in previous years, this is a result from the development / startup of the second project phase, during which the focus had become in providing digital / mobile services to family farms/producers and less on training smallholders. The idea is that in the new phase of the project, most of the knowledge and information sharing can be done more efficiently and on a much larger scale through digital platforms.
Implications for planning.	Planning has been updated: new phase of the project has started in end of 2017, with a focus on digital services, which will allow us to reach a higher number of farms/agrobusinesses, whilst at the same time keep better track of results)

Result area 2	IMPACT/OUTCOME/OUTPUT	RESULT AREA
FNS	Outcome	3.1 Use farmland (including pastures and fishing grounds) more eco-friendly

ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

To what extent have the outcomes for this result area been achieved?

There is an increasing awareness of the problems with unsustainable land use in Benin. The recent adoption by the Ministers Council of the National Action Plan on Sustainable Land Management 2018-2027 illustrates the commitment of the Government. The embassy has been a long and reliable partner in Benin for land rights and conservation issues. A project for land securitization in selected municipalities included support for eco-friendly use and investments in agricultural lands. Also the Jatropha project invested in the development of eco-friendly agricultural practices. As a result, 250 ha of farmland is used more eco-friendly. With the start of the new Land administration project in the end of 2018, it is expected that this can be scaled in the common years.

Indicator	Baseline + year	Target	Result	Source
3.1 Number of hectares of farmland used more eco-friendly	0(2015)	228 (2020)	250	BZ, source:Narrative annual report 2017, pages 9 and 10. Calculation: (+ 385.38-157,3+5.56+4,15+7+4,5), MINBUZA-2018.364691;

To what extent have the outputs for this result area been achieved?

The project aimed to support communities to adopt agroforestry practices aimed to conserve and enhance the wealth of the land. Municipalities are at the heart of these interventions, being the leader of multi-stakeholder platforms designed as part of these interventions. The embassy shares with the other technical and financial partners the experiences of these interventions in sector group meetings.

Indicator	Baseline + year	Target	Result	Source
3.x.1 Number of hectares of farmland directly reached	0(2015)	228 (2020)	250	BZ, source:Narrative annual report 2017, pages 9 and 10. Calculation: (+ 385.38-157,3+5.56+4,15+7+4,5), MINBUZA-2018.364691;

Assessment of the results achieved across the entire result area 2

Assess achieved results compared to planning:	B. Results achieved as planned
Reasons for result achieved.	It is expected that in coming years these efforts for eco-friendly agroforestry practices can be scaled up to a wider number of municipalities.
Implications for planning.	none

Result area 3	IMPACT/OUTCOME/OUTPUT	RESULT AREA
FNS	Outcome	5 Create enabling conditions for FNS: Food- and agribusiness

ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

To what extent have the outcomes for this result area been achieved?

Together with the economic / psd cluster, the focus on enabling conditions, and in particular agribusiness development in food security has increased. This started with the Agrobusiness center project and continued in the Benibiz project. In the latter project, tailor-made technical and business support is provided to young entrepreneurs (start-ups), as well as SMEs in or linked to the agricultural sector. In addition to direct support to entrepreneurs, the enabling conditions and in particular infrastructure is often of crucial importance. In previous years, the embassy has supported the rural feeder roads project of the Ministry of Infrastructure in Benin (PASTR8). This resulted in a high number of (temporary) jobs. Also conditions for producers and agrobusinesses such as acces to markets and financial services have been improved through projects such as the Access to Agricultural Markets project. This project has also invested in upgrading selected value chains with a potential for regional trade.

Indicator	Baseline + year	Target	Result	Source
5.1 Number of jobs supported in agricultural chains/sectors	0(2014)	n/a	340981	Final narrative report PASTR 8 (2014-2018), page 79. MINBUZA-2018.1258445 (http://sophia/hprmwebclientclassic/?uri=7266601&l=record&lang=in_english&mbd=true)
5.2 Number of value chains and/or sectors performing better		7 (2017)	9	MINBUZA-2018.364691; MINBUZA-2018.653980
5.3 Number of businesses co-investing in FNS activities	0(2014)	2	2	MINBUZA-2018.364691

Assessment of the results achieved across the entire result area 3

Assess achieved results compared to planning:	A. Results achieved better than planned
Reasons for result achieved.	Despite several challenges in the execution of the Feeder Road programme, most notably1) the delays in execution of activities, 2) difficulties in (financial) administration at the municipal level and 3) the lack of other donors/funding mechanisms the results are achieved. However, the impact evaluation that was conducted in 2017-2018 showed that the impact of feeder roads in terms of access to agricultural markets, increased revenues for households were limited. The ACMA programme has managed to upgrade the selected value chains in the selected regions. In particular by creating platforms linking producers, processors and traders and improving facilities and bargaining capacity. Also the agriprofocus network in Benin has played an important role in strengthening enabling conditions for agribusinesses through networking and knowledge-sharing.
Implications for planning.	The feeder roads project has ended and instead there is a stronger focus on the agribusiness and entrepreneurship ecosystem. In both Benibiz and ACMA there is a strong focus on support to young entrepreneurs, both men and women, and improving financial and other business development services.

Result area 4	IMPACT/OUTCOME/OUTPUT	RESULT AREA
FNS	Outcome	6.1 Improve secure tenure rights to land

ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

To what extent have the outcomes for this result area been achieved?

Land rights and land administration is one of the priorities, not just for the embassy, but also for the Benin government. In 2015, the embassy supported a bottom-up approach by VNG (projet foncier local) to 'experiment' with the new Land Act in Benin, with a particular view on preventing land conflicts, access to land for women and ensuring investents in agricultural lands. The municipalities/villages that were involved in this project are highly engaged and have taken all necessary steps to improve secure tenure rights to land. The embassy has been in discussion with ANDF (the newly established land administration agency) to understand how the development of a national cadastre can be supported. Kadaster International has conducted several missions to scope these possibilities and has signed a MoU with ANDF . Overall results are higher than expected, despite some delays due to political decision-making about the role of rural land plans under the new Land Act.
However, even though the results are good, a constant point of attention remains gender and inclusion. It is important to ensure that a Dutch contribution does not mostly benefit men, but instead to ensure that rights for women, for youth, and for other groups with a weak social-economic status are reinforced so that they can enjoy secured access to lands and improve their living conditions.

Indicator	Baseline + year	Target	Result	Source
6.1 Number of peopleS that enjoyed (more) secure tenure rights to land	0(2015)	N/A	6000 (male: 4800, Female: 1200)	Narrative report. MINBUZA-2018.365521

To what extent have the outputs for this result area been achieved?

Results have been achieved. The Netherlands in Benin has made an effort to bring all institutions, organisations and groups together in a landrights working group. Issues such as misunderstandings between projects and the national agency for land administration about rural land plans have been discussed and solutions developed. The theme of access to land for women has been prioritized.

Indicator	Baseline + year	Target	Result	Source
6.2 Number of (inter)national institutions that contributed to improved (sub)national land governance aspects	0(2015)	5 (2018)	5	Narrative report. MINBUZA-2018.365521
7.1 Number of improvements in major (inter)national FNS policies/laws	0(2015)	1(2018)	1	Narrative report. MINBUZA-2018.365521

Assessment of the results achieved across the entire result area 4

Assess achieved results compared to planning:	A. Results achieved better than planned
Reasons for result achieved.	One of the successes is the contribution to the improvement of the rights of access to land for women through awarness raising actions. This success is important because in the projects area, socio-cultural factors are unfavorable to the autonomy of women and more particularly to their access to land. One lesson is that inclusive and participatory approaches when associated with a good strategy of communication and sensitization, could help to improve women and youth access to land, even in regions where women rights are denied by the local authorities. The main challenges were at the more political level / national context where there were different fractions in the reform process of land administration. Overall the NL supported projects and the embassy have had a constructive approach in overcoming these differences.
Implications for planning.	No main change envisaged for the rest of the interventions. A new programme for land administration (on a more institutional level) is now launched and the lessons from this 'experimental' intervention are taken into account, in particular those related to the involvement of municipalities.

Activity			Implemented by	
Name	Actual expenditure in 2018	Name organisation	Channel	Department/Embassy
27523 - Jatropha II	358583	ITA	NGOs	COT
4000000765 - Approche Communale II	3870029	IFDC	NGOs	COT
4000000074 - BeniBiz	1197913	Technoserve	NGOs	COT
27008 Projet Foncier Local	121119	VNGi	NGOs	COT
25235 Approche Communale I	98246	IFDC	NGOs	COT
28197 - Evaluation PASTR II	31853	Particip GmbH	Research institutions and companies	COT
4000001510 - Land Administration Benin	1593690	MDF	NGOs	COT
4000000028 - Policy Support Fund	574827	MULTI	Research institutions and companies / NGOs	COT