

Education and Research in Agriculture (ERA)

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2012 QUARTERLY REPORT III **(April 1, to June 2012)**

USAID/ERA



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AETR: Agricultural Education, Training and Research Institutions
AKIS: Agricultural Knowledge and Information Systems
BFAR: Bureau de la Formation Agricole et Rurale
CAGE: Commercial and Government Entity
CCR: Central Contractor Registration
CFPH: Centre de Formation Professionnelle en Horticulture
CNCR: Conseil National de Concertation et de Coopération des Ruraux
CNFTEIA: Centre National de Formation des Techniciens d'Élevage et des Industries Animales
CNFTEFCPN: Centre National de Formation des Techniciens des Eaux et Forêts, Chasse et des Parcs Nationaux
DDL: Distance and Distributed Learning
ENSA: Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Agriculture
ERA: Education and Research in Agriculture
ESEA: Ecole Supérieure d'Économie Appliquée
FNRAA: Fonds National de Recherche Agricole et Agro-Alimentaire
FTF: "Feed the Future" – The Presidential Food Security Initiative
GDP: Gross Domestic Product
GIS: Geographic Information Systems
GOANA: Grande Offensive Agricole Pour la Nourriture et l'Abondance
GRAAS: Groupe De Réflexion Sur L'Agriculture Au Sénégal
ISFAR: Institut Supérieur de Formation Agricole et Rurale
ISRA: Institut Sénégalais pour la Recherche Agricole
ITA: Institut de Technologie Alimentaire
LTAEB: Lycée Technique Agricole Emile Badiane
MOU: Memorandum of Understanding
OIRED: Office of International Research, Education, and Development
PCE: Projet Croissance Economique
PMP: Performance Monitoring Plan
REVA: Return to Agriculture Program
SEP: Strategic Engagement Priority
SNRASP: Agro-Sylvo-Pastoral Research of Senegal
TOR: Terms of Reference
UCAD: Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar
UCON: University of Connecticut
UGB: Université Gaston Berger
UT: Université de Thiès
UZ: Université de Ziguinchor

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The USAID/ERA project is focused on accomplishing its capacity-building goals that support the objectives of poverty and hunger reduction as well as inclusive economic growth in Senegal as part of the Feed the Future program. This report, which covers the third quarter of fiscal year 2012, presents project activities and results achieved for the period of April 1 to June 30, 2012.

Results for Q3 2012 touched on the three components of the project as well as cross-cutting areas. Target achievement highlights are included at the end of each section in this executive summary.

Three Signature USAID/ERA Q3 achievements are:

1. *Human Capacity Building in Education, Research and Outreach:* - Forge Agriculture Knowledge Information System (AKIS - Land Grant) with Private Sector Linkages.

Following the month-long series of 3 workshops held in Saint Louis, Ziguinchor, Thiès and Dakar (Saly), USAID/ERA organized a comprehensive 31-day study tour for 22 participants from all AETR partners and members of the private sector to the United States and East Africa. The study tour, which took place from March 28 to April 29, allowed participants to learn from on-going research and collaboration interventions led all around Virginia by Virginia Tech, in Alabama by Tuskegee University, in Kenya by the University of Nairobi, and in Uganda by Makerere University.

Through participation in the AKIS study tour, partners gained field-level experience in the following areas:

- Comprehensive and university-led partnerships and interactions with smallholder farmers; small, medium and private sector enterprises; and agro-industrial businesses
- The university engagement in the search for solutions to community problems
- The Engagement of Producers Organizations (OP)
- The strong involvement of the university in the research, outreach and training of producers and OP
- Private sector involvement in value chain and seed management practices
- Novel approaches to ensure students graduate with the skills necessary for their local market or to engage in commercial enterprises
- Student-focused teaching and training at the university
- General leadership – ways in which the university can best position itself to influence political changes that impact the agricultural sector

As a result of the learning gained during the AKIS study tour, participants are now developing several new project ideas that will be applied in Senegal. These efforts all center on how USAID/ERA partner institutions can improve food security goals. USAID/ERA will work with its partners to prioritize and fine-tune these projects during a series of restitution workshops scheduled for next quarter.

2. *Institutional Capacity Building – Education and Training Support:* Delivery of material to Agriculture Education, Training, and Research (AETR) partners in Ziguinchor, Dakar and Thiès.

USAID/ERA delivered and installed a significant quantity of laboratory equipment, computers (desktop, laptops, and servers), video-conference equipment, printers, networking equipment, office equipment, and other supplies to the following AETR partners: University of Ziguinchor, Lycée Technique Agricole Emile Badiane (LTAEB), Centre National de Formation des Techniciens des Eaux et Forêts, Chasse et des Parcs Nationaux (CNFTEFCPN), ISRA (Institut Sénégalais de Recherche Agricole), ITA (Institut de Technologie Agro-alimentaire), ENSA (Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Agriculture), ISFAR (Institut Supérieur de Formation Agricole et Rurale). The materials grant will strengthen teaching, research and outreach at partner AETR institutions.

3. *Institutional Capacity Building: Fostering Inter/Intra-institution Collaboration and Synergies –* Facilitating the development and set-up of : Senegal's Groupe De Réflexion Sur L'Agriculture Au Sénégal (GRAAS)

Groupe De Réflexion Sur L'Agriculture Au Sénégal (GRAAS) - USAID /ERA worked with its 12 AETR partners to facilitate the creation of an agriculture advisory group in Senegal. Titled GRASS, this advisory group seeks to foster greater inter/intra-institution collaboration and synergies to strengthen agricultural productivity in Senegal. GRAAS will use a comprehensive stakeholder to achieve its goals and objectives. This group intends to provide a framework for exchange and reflection on key issues of agriculture in Senegal. GRASS is to work with:

- All public institutions of education and training with a focus on agricultural science (universities, schools, institutes and training centers, etc.);
- Research institutes (ISRA and ITA) and Outreach/Advisory institutions e.g, (ANCAR)
- Development structures (state services, projects, NGOs etc.)
- Producers and producer organizations

Component 1: Agricultural Education

During the period, USAID/ERA supported the following interventions in the area of Agricultural Education:

A. Capacity building for curriculum development

With the goal of facilitating clear and consistent academic training, USAID/ERA held a curriculum enhancement workshop in Thiès in June for 19 ENSA faculty members. The workshop focused on syllabus standardization as a means to improving goals, objectives, and expectations for academic courses. As a result of this effort, the process of developing course syllabi is becoming institutionalized at ENSA and ISFAR.

This workshop, which is part of the plan to strengthen the academic program of all Agriculture Education Training and Research (AETR) partners of USAID/ERA, was led and facilitated by ENSA faculty members previously trained on the subject in March 2012. Participants received hands-on methods and approaches to improving their course syllabi, and identified follow-on strategies to ensure that all faculty members at ENSA, including temporary employees, work together in the standardization of syllabi provided to students at the school and at the University of Thiès.

B. Enhancing access in agriculture training

USAID/ERA brought together selected participants from all AETR partner institutions as well as representatives from USAID/Senegal to elaborate on the implementation plan for awarding its scholarship programs for academic years 2012 - 2014. The workshop, which was held on June 19, focused on the following areas:

- Scholarship programs, including their objectives and results
- A global vision of the different academic institutions that will receive the scholars
- A definition of the selection criteria
- An action plan with an execution timetable

C. Accessibility to education and training through distance learning

USAID/ERA seeks to assist ATERs with the goal of increasing access to agriculture training, research and outreach support to farmers. The project has embarked an extensive effort to provide Information Computing and Technology equipment to achieve that end. A lot of video-conference materials has been provide to 4 AETs (ENSA, ISFAR, ITA, ISRA) to allow them to develop distributed and distance education activities.

USAID/ERA continued to provide technical assistance to a select group of faculty from AETR partners who are participating in the project e-learning pilot program. USAID/ERA will focus in the coming quarters on making competitive grants available to the faculty members who participated in the e-pilot project to allow them to implement changes and addition to online courses. ICT infrastructures will provide technical assistance for e-pilot users and facilitate technology access.

D. AETR institutional analysis – supply-side study

The USAID/ERA project completed, in close collaboration with our AETR partners, several activities that advanced the AETR supply-side study. A major data collection effort that captured the composition and organization of training programs and curricula was done with the technical working group of each institution partner.

USAID/ERA is currently working with a partner from Virginia Tech and a local consultant to finalize the AETR institutional analysis. The analysis will provide a comprehensive baseline of data on all USAID/ERA project partner institutions.

The final report of this study will highlight the level of maturity of each institution in terms of its capability to respond to its stated vision and relative standing among peer institutions within the West Africa sub-region.

All the activities performed --and the results achieved-- by USAID/ERA during the period were singularly focused on strengthening capacities of the AETR partner institutions of the project. Moreover, As a result of the activities implemented in the period, USAID/ERA footprints in the quarter reached practically corners of Senegal to include: Dakar, Thiès, Bambey, Kaolack, Ziguinchor, and Saint Louis. For the rest of the fiscal year 2012, USAID/ERA plans to build upon the results obtained during its second quarter period and continues to assist its partner institutions to improve teaching, learning, training and student support services for the remainder year.

SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

Activities	Realization	Page Reference in this report
Workshop on curriculum enhancement benefiting 19 faculty members from ENSA	19 faculty members of ENSA strengthened on curriculum enhancement	14
Workshop on implementation plan of USAID-funded scholarship program for academic years 2012 – 2014	Scholarship program implementation plan elaborated	14
Institutional analysis – Supply	Data collection on the composition and organization of training programs and curricula	15
Delivery of material to Agriculture Education, Training, and Research (AETR) partners in Ziguinchor, Dakar	Equipment and materials delivered to UZIG, LTAEB, CNFTEFCPN, ITA, ISRA, ISFAR, ENSA as part of the focus on strengthening the partners’	17

Activities	Realization	Page Reference in this report
and Thiès	institutional capacity to deliver first-rate instruction to the next generation of professionals and leaders in the agriculture sector of Senegal	

Component 2: Applied Research and Outreach

During the period, USAID/ERA supported the following interventions in the area of Research and Outreach:

A. Capacity building

During the period USAID / ERA program improved both the administrative and research capacities of our Senegalese institutional partners, including FNRAA. The collaborative research projects allow USAID/ERA has been initiated and it is focused on increasing the research capacity of local partners and to expand their administrative capacity by introducing new funding mechanisms and helping create new knowledge that will improve food security in Senegal.

During this quarter, USAID/ERA conducted a pre-selection screening process for collaborative research projects through the following project activities:

Fixed Obligation Grant (FOG) training workshop: USAID / ERA organized a training workshop to help selected project coordinators and FNRAA officials prepare their collaborative research proposals in the FOG format. The two-day workshop was held on May 23rd and 24th, 2012 at the FNRAA offices. The training was attended by more than 20 people (coordinators, administrative and accounting personnel). The workshop provided our Senegalese partners with the necessary skills to develop a budget, work plan and milestones that are required to pursue Fixed Obligation Grants.

B. Selection of 5 collaborative research projects

USAID/ERA received 25 collaborative research proposals as a result of the call for proposals. The Scientific and Technical Council of FNRAA identified five research projects for funding. These are:

- 1) **Increased and sustainable management of millet production in the areas of Thiès, Luga and Nioro:** improvement, dissemination and strengthening the value chain of the best

varieties: Principal Institution: ENSA; Participants: ANCAR, CERAAS; Funding Level: 150,000,000 CFA

2) **Improving the productivity of upland rice in the development and dissemination of production technologies in Casamance:** Principal Institution: ISRA / CRA-Djibelor; Participants: National Agency for Agricultural and Rural Council (ANCAR); University of Ziguinchor (UZig); Technical College of Agricultural Bignona (LTAB); Regional Framework of Rural Consultation (CRCR); Food Technology Institute (ITA); Funding Level: 99,256,300 CFA

3) **Production and processing of sweet corn in Senegal: Development of sterilized preserved foods:** Principal Institution: ITA; Participants: UCAD; CFPH; Funding Level: 98,070,697 CFA

4) **Promotion of local rice in the valley and delta of the Senegal River:** Principal Institution: UGB; Participants: ISRA (BAME and River) SAED; DRDR (Saint-Louis and Matam); CIRIZ (Podor); Feptides Groups and Women (Delegation Dagana, Podor, Matam); Funding Level: 150,000,000 CFA

5) **Sustainable improvement of crop productivity in a saltwater environment:** Principal Institution: ISFAR / UT; Participants: University Of Thiès (UT); National Agency for Agricultural and Rural Council (ANCAR); Senegalese Agricultural Research Institute (ISRA); Institute of Food Technology (ITA); Green Senegal; Funding Amount: 99,494,194 CFA

C. Global Climate Change

USAID/ERA initiated two climate change related projects this quarter.

Conservation Farming

The first project is a research project into how best to adapt Conservation Agriculture (CA) farming techniques to small grain production in the Thiès region. During this quarter, a series of meetings were held with small-scale producers to introduce the idea of CA. The concepts were so well received we had multiple producers' volunteer small parcels of land for the research.

Cooperative Research on the impacts of GCC on soil

The second climate change activity was the selection of a cooperative research project that is designed to meet the specific needs of producers who are adapting to climate change. The project will work to develop new soil recovery techniques that are impacted by an increased level of soil saline.

D. Collaboration with Wula Naafa:

USAID/ERA met with small producers of the Valley of Ndinderling and staff members of the USAID/Wula Nafa project to evaluate the opportunity to establish an agricultural extension service through the University of Thiès and ENSA. The extension service will focus on supporting small-scale toubacouta producers.

With research and outreach activities in collaboration with USAID-Wula Naafa, a win-win partnership has been initiated in the Ndinderling valley with the aim of supporting the development of an agricultural sector that may potentially play a role in poverty reduction and food security, while ensuring environmental sustainability.

SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

Activities	Realization	Page Reference in this report
1. Research grants and financial training workshop	19 participants from grantee teams strengthened in finance, administration and M&E	17

Component 3: Management and Policy

During the period, USAID/ERA supported the following interventions in the area of Management and Policy:

- A. AKIS training including outreach to farmers at Virginia Tech, TU, the University of Nairobi and Makerere University

The AKIS training program contributed to the USAID/ERA objective of improving teaching methods and supporting collaborations between AETR institutions and the Senegalese private sector and help partners gain the skills to boost agricultural development in Senegal. The participants of this study tour learned by visiting different examples of a "land grant system" as developed by American and African universities.

Linkages with the private sector

The integration of the value chain actors, specifically the private sector, into curricula and research development was noted as a necessity in producing graduates who are prepared to work in an agricultural value chain. Participants embraced the idea of collaborative projects and are now working together to bring their ideas into practice.

Inter-Intra Institutional Collaborations

An important achievement of the study tour was the idea of expanding the GRAAS (Reflection Group on Agriculture and agribusiness in Senegal) to all stakeholders in the private sector. GRAAS is an inter-institutional group composed of representatives from teaching and training structures, research institutes, state structures, NGOs, and farmer organizations from the private sector. Its objective is to contribute to the development of agriculture and improved food security in Senegal.

These reflections will be further developed during AKIS/restitution workshops scheduled for the fourth quarter of FY 2012 and to be hosted by USAID/ERA.

B. Facilitating a partnership between UCAD and RUFORUM (Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture – East and Central Africa).

Following the study tour organized by USAID/ERA in April, UCAD accepted the invitation by RUFORUM to join a consortium of East African AETR institutions to participate in a grant proposal entitled “Partnership to Build Innovation Capacity in Africa.” This effort is in response to a call for proposals from the European Union to strengthen Africa’s human capacity through education, training and research while enhancing the partnership of African institutions of higher learning to more effectively build institutional capacity and transform higher education to meet the demands for agricultural development.

C. Administrative Supports Grants

USAID/ERA awarded a series of administrative capacity-strengthening grants to its partners in the Ziguinchor region. Universities and research institutions received \$10,000, and the technical training centers received \$7,000. USAID/ERA procured and delivered equipment and materials to strengthen the administrative capacities of its partner institutions. Some parts of the grant awards also covered administrative training and technical support interventions requested by partners as part of the 2011 Needs Assessment.

SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

Activities	Realization	Page Reference in this report
Administrative Support Grants	3 partner institutions received equipment and materials to strengthen their administrative capacities	19

Activities	Realization	Page Reference in this report
Facilitating a partnership between UCAD and RUFORUM (Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture – East and Central Africa).	Partnership between UCAD and RUFORUM on-going	20
USAID/ERA study tour	22 participants from all of the AETR partners and members of the private sector studied working models that improve linkages between the private sector and research/training institutions in the US and East Africa	23

Cross- Cutting / Project Management

USAID/ERA realized a series of high impact achievements in the cross-cutting and project management aspects of the project. These included:

A. New USAID/ERA Thiès Office

During the period, USAID/ERA roll staff some its program staff to the new program support office in Thiès. This field office is to better support collaboration and partnership activities with ENSA, ISFAR, UGB and CNFTEIA.

B. USAID/ERA Team-building

From 06 to 09 June, the project organized a team-building workshop in Saly (Mbour). This workshop was attended by all PMU members and a representative of USAID/Senegal. The workshop focused on strengthening links between the staff, defining strategies to strengthen the PMU communication, and achieving results.

Other achievements included:

- Completed activities in administration/coordination, finance, procurement and internal controls
- Recruitment of a finance assistant and a grant officer

SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

Activities	Realization	Page Reference in this report
Recruitment of new administrative and finance personnel	A finance assistant and grant officer hired	36
Soft opening of Thiès Office	Thiès Office opened; Focus on implementation of academic support, career management, and future agronomist programs	38
USAID/ERA Team Building	ERA's team reinforced	38

All the activities performed --and the results achieved-- by USAID/ERA during the period were singularly focused on strengthening capacities of the AETR partner institutions of the project. Moreover, As a result of the activities implemented in the period, USAID/ERA footprints in the quarter reached practically corners of Senegal to include: Dakar, Thiès, Bambey, Kaolack, Ziguinchor, and Saint Louis. For the rest of the fiscal year 2012, USAID/ERA plans to build upon the results obtained during its second quarter period and continues to assist its partner institutions to improve teaching, learning, training and student support services for the remainder year.

II. Implementation of Project interventions by component

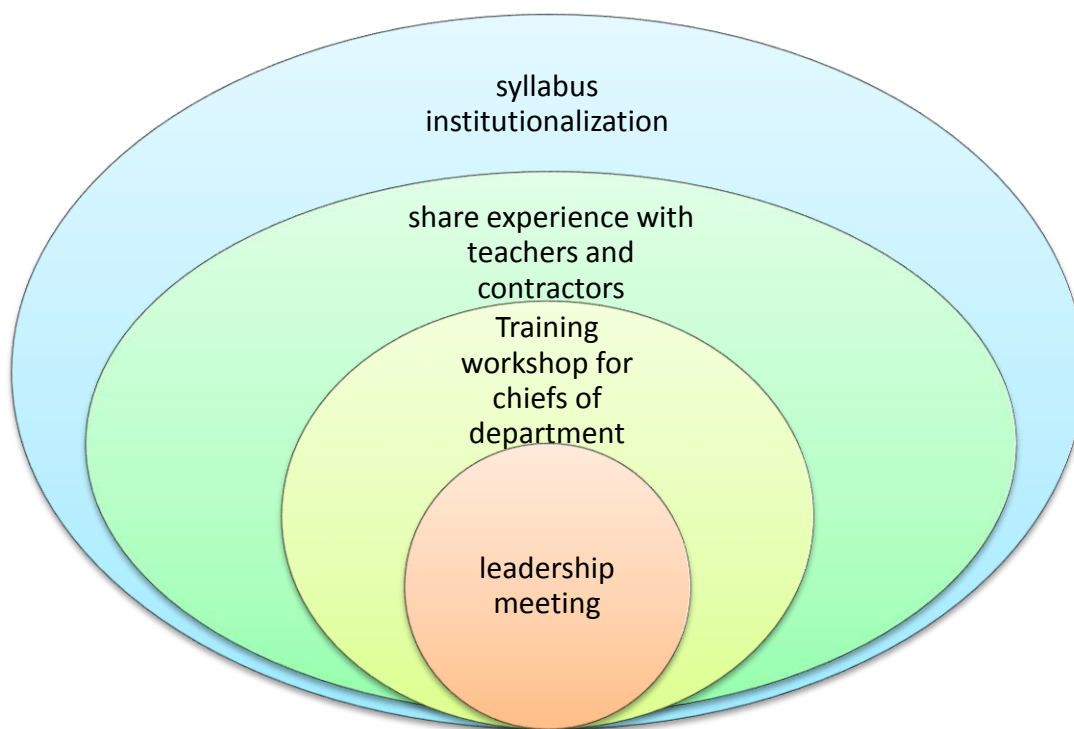
A. Objective 1: Agricultural education and training system strengthened

Result for Indicator 1.1: AETR institutions producing high performing and market oriented graduates

A. Workshop on curriculum enhancement benefiting 19 faculty members from ENSA

USAID/ERA, in partnership with ENSA, held a curriculum enhancement workshop in Thiès on June 5 and 6. The workshop was attended by 19 ENSA faculty members, and focused on how to improve the development of goals, objectives and expectations for academic courses through syllabus standardization. The workshop was led and facilitated by ENSA faculty members previously trained on the subject on March 2012 by Prof. Ozzie Abaye of Virginia Tech. The workshop was part of the plan to strengthen the program of all USAID/ERA AETR partners.

Diagram 1: Syllabus logical Framework



B. Workshop on implementation Plan of USAID-funded Scholarship Program for Academic Years 2012 – 2014

On June 19, USAID/ERA brought together AETR partner institutions and representatives from USAID/Senegal for an all-day Scholarship Program workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to get all parties to agree on the implementation timetable for the USAID-funded “Bourses d’Excellence” program.

The “Bourses d’Excellence” aims to promote excellence in agriculture while maintaining a focus on gender equity and inclusion. The workshop was focused on the following items:

- Objectives and results of the scholarship program
- Global vision of the different academic institutions to participate in the program
- Definition of the selection criteria for the future scholars
- Action plan with execution timetable

During the workshop, USAID/ERA engaged its partners in discussions to help improve the approach and strategy for implementation. It was decided at the workshop that the program needs to take into considerations the uniqueness and orientation of each institution while keeping a focus on institutional capacity-building rather than a generic provision of scholarships to students.

C. Finalization of AETR institutional analysis study TOR

The project has commissioned a series of studies to analyze the human resource needs of public and private sector partners. The University of Connecticut, in partnership with ESEA Dakar, completed this study, and the results were shared at a workshop. The AETR supply and demand study offered to make a comparative analysis to identify points of convergence or divergence.

During the quarter, the project worked with a technical consultant to make a synthesis of all existing documents on supply and demand in order to have an AETR institutional analysis and baseline data for each of each the AETR partners.

a) Achievements for Indicators: 1.1.3

Objectives	Results	Indicators	Disaggregation	FY 2012 Target	Q3 Target	Q3 Realization	Realized Q1+Q2+Q3	% against 2012 Target	Comments
1. Agricultural Education and training system strengthened	1.1 AETR institutions producing high performing and market-oriented graduates	3. Number of curricula revisions completed with detailed course outlines		10	5	0	0	0	Curricula revision is a long process which is started with AETR partners with workshops organized on syllabus development, etc. Results will be counted in 4 rd quarter

Result for Indicator 1.2: AETR institutions capable of meeting a variety of agricultural training

A. Delivery of material to Agriculture Education, Training and Research (AETR) partners in Ziguinchor, Dakar and Thiès

USAID/ERA delivered and installed materials and equipment, computers (desktop, laptops, and servers), printers, networking, office equipment, and consumables to the following AETR partners: University of Ziguinchor, Lycée Technique Agricole Emile Badiane (LTAEB), Centre National de Formation des Techniciens des Eaux et Forêts, Chasse et des Parcs Nationaux (CNFTEFCPN).

The project delivered e-learning material in the form of video conferencing equipment to ISRA, ITA, ENSA, and ISFAR. The materials grant, which had been strongly requested by AETR partner institutions, is part of the institutional capacity-building program of the project in the area of training and e-learning. They intend to use the materials to deliver and participate in distance learning programs benefiting their researchers, partners, and collaborators. Moreover, the materials will help in facilitating greater access to research, outreach, and training materials for farmers, researchers and practitioners in the agricultural sector who live in the rural areas of Senegal.

B. Research grants and financial training workshop

With the Partnership established between FNRAA and USAID/ERA, five projects were selected upon the proposal received. To support the research grants, an administrative and financial management workshop was organized for May, 23 and 24. The objectives were to strength selected projects to prepare budgets, identify milestones and deliverables, all to improve the research grant proposal process.

b) Achievements for Indicators: 1.2.1, 1.2.3, 1.2.4, and 1.2.6

Objectives	Results	Indicators	Disaggregation	FY 2012 Target	Q3 Target	Q3 Realization	Realized Q1+Q2+Q3	% against 2012 Target	Comments
1. Agricultural Education and training system strengthened	1.2 AETR institutions capable of meeting a variety of agricultural training	1. Number of administrators and officials trained		20	10	19	19	95%	19 participants from granted AETR were strengthened on finance, administration
		3. Number of individuals who have received USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training (FtF Output Indicator 4.5.2-7)	Male	753	250	0	44	6%	The 12. % constitute: 100 women who were taught food transformation techniques for fruits and vegetables; 58 students who participated in a seminar pertaining to opportunities offered in the agricultural sector; 3 ITA members who participated in food processing training in Abidjan and Benin; The 21 persons from ENSA funded by ERA to organize a workshop on syllabus development
			Female	750	250	0	138	18%	
			Total	1503	500	0	182	12%	
4. Number of AETRs provided with improved ICT	Total	12	3	7	10	83%	ICT infrastructure and equipment were delivered to: UGB, CNFTEIA, UZIG, LTAEB,		

		infrastructure and equipment (USAID/ERA Output Indicator)							CNFTEFCPN, ISRA, ITA, ENSA, ISFAR, CFPH
		6. Number of AETR provided with improved non-ICT infrastructure and equipment (USAID/ERA Output Indicator)	Total	6	1	0	5	83%	Most of non-ICT infrastructures were delivered on Q1 and Q2. Acquisition of non-ICT infrastructures is in process

Result for Indicator 1.3: AETR institutions managed as centers of excellence with clear vision and strategy for their program development and contribution to national food security

A. Facilitating a partnership between UCAD and RUFORUM (Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture – East and Central Africa).

Following the April study tour organized by USAID/ERA, UCAD accepted the invitation by RUFORUM to join a consortium of East African AETR institutions to participate in a grant proposal entitled “Partnership to Build Innovation Capacity in Africa”. This effort is in response to call for proposals from the European Union to strengthen Africa’s human capacity through education, training and research while enhancing partnership of African institutions of higher learning. The goal is to more effectively co-build institutional capacity and transform higher education to meet the demands for agricultural development.

c) Achievements for Indicators: 1.3.1 and 1.3.2

Objectives	Results	Indicators	Disaggregation	FY 2012 Target	Q3 Target	Q3 Realization	Realized Q1+Q2+Q3	% against 2012 Target	Comments
1.Agricultural Education and training system strengthened	1.3 AETR institutions managed as centers of excellence with a clear vision and strategy for their program development and contribution to national food security	1. Number of AETR professors/researchers who contribute in international programs (exchange, research, consulting networking)		20	5	22	22	101%	
		2. Number of AETR with active international agreement		7	3	1	1	14%	Partnership with UCAD and RUFORUM (East Africa)

B. Objective 2: Strengthening Applied Research and Outreach

Result for Indicator 2.1: AETR institutions promoting innovative research solutions to public/private clients

A. Research grants and financial training workshop. These involved:

- 1) **Increased and sustainable management of millet production in the areas of Thiès, Luga and Nioro:** improvement, dissemination and strengthening the value chain of the best varieties: Principal Institution: ENSA; Participants: ANCAR, CERAAS; Funding Level: 150,000,000 CFA
- 2) **Improving the productivity of upland rice in the development and dissemination of production technologies in Casamance:** Principal Institution: ISRA / CRA-Djibelor; Participants: National Agency for Agricultural and Rural Council (ANCAR); University of Ziguinchor (UZig); Technical College of Agricultural Bignona (LTAB); Regional Framework of Rural Consultation (CRCR); Food Technology Institute (ITA); Funding Level: 99,256,300 CFA
- 3) **Production and processing of sweet corn in Senegal: Development of sterilized preserved foods:** Principal Institution: ITA; Participants: UCAD; CFPH; Funding Level: 98,070,697 CFA
- 4) **Promotion of local rice in the valley and delta of the Senegal River:** Principal Institution: UGB; Participants: ISRA (BAME and River) SAED; DRDR (Saint-Louis and Matam); CIRIZ (Podor); Feprodes Groups and Women (Delegation Dagana, Podor, Matam); Funding Level: 150,000,000 CFA
- 5) **Sustainable improvement of crop productivity in a saltwater environment:** Principal Institution: ISFAR / UT; Participants: University Of Thiès (UT); National Agency for Agricultural and Rural Council (ANCAR); Senegalese Agricultural Research Institute (ISRA); Institute of Food Technology (ITA); Green Senegal; Funding Amount: 99,494,194 CFA

a) *Achievements for Indicators: 2.1.1 - 2.1.6*

Objectives	Results	Indicators	Disaggregation	FY 2012 Target	Q3 Target	Q3 Realization	Realized Q1+Q2+Q3	% against 2012 Target	Comments
		1. Number of new technologies or management practices under research (FtF output indicator 4.5.2-39)	Millet	1	1	2	2	200%	Five research projects are granted with FNRAA collaboration
			Maize	3	3	1	1	33%	
			Rice	1	1	2	2	200%	
			Aquaculture	2	0	0	0	0%	
			Climate change	1	1	0	0	0%	
			Other aspects of food security and economic growth	2	2	0	0	0%	
			Total	10	8	5	5	50%	
		2. Number of new technologies or management practices under field testing (FtF)	Millet	1	1	0	0	0%	Any new technologies or management practices under research are yet available
			Maize	2	2	0	0	0%	
			Rice	0	0	0	0	0%	

		Output Indicator 4.5.2.39	Aquaculture	1	0	0	0	0%	
			Climate change	1	1	0	0	0%	
			Other aspects of food security and economic growth	1	1	0	0	0%	
			Total	6	5	0	0	0%	
2. Strengthen applied research and outreach		3.Number of new technologies or management practices made available for transfer as a result of USG assistance (FtF output indicator 4.5.2-39)	Millet	0	0	0	0	0%	Any new technologies or management practices under research are yet available
			Maize	2	1	0	0	0%	
			Rice	1	0	0	0	0%	
			Aquaculture	1	0	0	0	0%	
			Climate change	0	0	0	0	0%	
			Other aspects of food security and economic growth	1	0	0	0	0%	

		Total	5	1	0	0	0%	
		4. Number of farmers who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance	200	100	0	0	0%	
2.1 AETR institutions promoting innovative research solutions to public and private clients	5. Number of food security private enterprises (for profit), producers organizations, water users associations, women's group trade and business associations, and community-based organizations (CBOs) that applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance (FtF outcome indicator 4.5.2-28	Food security private enterprises(f or profit)	1	1	0	0	0%	
		Producers organization s	1	1	0	0	0%	
		Water users associations	2	2	0	0	0%	
		Women's group	20	0	0	0	0%	
		Trade and business associations	1	0	0	0	0%	
		Community -based organization s	0	0	0	0	0%	

			Total	25	4	0	0	0%	
		6. Number of food security private enterprises (for profit), producers organizations, water users associations, women's group trade and business associations, and community-based organizations (CBOs) receiving USG assistance (FtF outcome indicator 4.5.2-11)	Food security private enterprises(f or profit)	1	1	0	0	0%	
			Producers organizations	1	1	0	0	0%	
			Water users associations	0	0	0	0	0%	
			Women's group	30	05	0	25	83.33%	
			Trade and business associations	3	03	0	0	0%	
			Community-based organizations	2	2	0	0	0%	
			Total	37	12	0	25	67,5%	

Result for Indicator 2.2: AETR institutions providing outreach services and technical support to clients in farming communities and the private sector.

This process started with the study tours. USAID/ERA is working with its partner institutions on the outreach services and technical support to clients in farming communities and the private sector.

b) Achievements for Indicators: 2.2.1, 2.1.2

Objectives	Results	Indicators	FY 2012 Target	Q3 Target	Q3 Realization	Realized Q1+Q2 +Q3	% against 2012 Target	Comments
2. Strengthen applied research and outreach	2.2 AETR institutions providing outreach services and technical support to clients in farming communities and the private sector	1. Number of partnership developed to deliver training services to local farmers and the private sector	5	3	0	0	0%	This process started with the study tours. This will be discussed during the study tour restitution workshop which will be held in July following the experience gained in the United States and East Africa.
		2. Number of short courses delivered in response to stakeholder demand	1	1	0	0	0%	

C. Objective 3: project management and policy support

Result for Indicator 3.1: AETR supported to elaborate strategic documents

The AETR institutional analysis study incorporates the baseline data and the level of maturity of each partner institution. Consequently, the results and recommendations also serve as a baseline to support AETR in elaborating their strategic documents.

a) *Achievements for Indicator: 3.3.1*

Objectives	Results	Indicators	FY 2012 Target	Q3 Target	Q3 Realization	Realized Q1+Q2+Q3	% against 2012 Target	Comments
3. Project management and policy support	3.1 AETR supported to elaborate strategic documents	1. Number of institutions supported to update their strategic documents	6	3	0	0	0%	During the period of this report, USAID/ERA worked to finalize the TOR of its AETR institutional analysis study. This indicator is closely linked with the finalization of Institutional analysis

Result for Indicator 3.2: Management and administrative system of target AETR strengthened

USAID/ERA is in the advanced diagnostics phase to achieve this result. The next step is to perform an advanced data gathering with follow-on analysis to provide a clear baseline of existing state of AETR each institution from a capability maturity level. Moreover, this activity is to indicate gaps at a more granular level between the training offered by AETR institutions and the demand from the private sector in agriculture to meet the goals of improved production, greater nutrition and improved food security in Senegal.

This will allow USAID/ERA to:

- Finalize AETR Institutional analysis
- Create an AETR Baseline data
- Define the level of capability maturity of each institution
- Develop an intervention plan that addresses the gaps in capability of each institution

b) Achievements for Indicator: 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.3 and 3.2.5

Objectives	Results	Indicators	Disaggregation	FY 2012 Target	Q3 Target	Q3 Realization	Realized Q1+Q2+Q3	% against 2012 Target	Comments
3. Project management and policy support	3.1 Management and administrative systems of target AETR strengthened	1. Number of AETR institutions using databases tracking students' academic records, performance and post-graduate occupations		14	4	0	0	0%	USAID/ERA is in the advanced diagnostics phase to achieve this result. With more accurate statistics USAID/ERA will develop targeted interventions that address the gaps in capability of each partner AETR institution.
		2. Number of AETR institutions using accounting software to manage program finances and to generate reports		2	1	0	0	0%	
		3. Number of students participating in private sector internships	Female	5	2	0	0	0%	
			Male	5	2	0	0	0%	
		Total	10	4	0	0	0%		
5. Number of private sector/university research collaborations		5	2	0	0	0%			

Result for Indicator 3.3: Database on agricultural sector human resources put in place

USAID/ERA is in the advanced diagnostics phase to achieve this result, which is closely linked with result for Indicator 3.2.

c) *Achievements for Indicator: 3.3.1 and 3.3.2*

Objectives	Results	Indicators	FY 2012 Target	Q3 Target	Q3 Realization	Realized Q1+Q2+Q3	% against 2012 Target	Comments
3. Project Management and Policy support	3.3 Database on agricultural sector human resources put in place	1. Number of institutions/organizations undertaking capacity/competency assessments presented for consultation as a result of USG assistance (USAID/State standard indicator)	12	6	0	0	0%	USAID/ERA is in the advanced diagnostics phase to achieve this result. With more accurate statistics USAID/ERA will develop targeted intervention to develop and integrate Database on agricultural sector human resources that will serve the unique needs of each partner AETR institution.
		2. Number of institutions with improved management information systems, as a result of USG assistance (USAID/State	6	3	0	0	0%	

		standard indicator)						
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III. Cross- Cutting Project Achievements

USAID/ERA's interventions for Gender and Equity in Agriculture

During this quarter, the project placed strong importance on gender activities.

In June, a workshop was held with selected AETR institutions. These institutions agreed that the upcoming scholarship program would award 60% of the scholarships to women. An action plan was developed during this workshop that specifically requires that the 60% goal is met.

In addition, the program has developed a fund for at-risk students for the academic years 2012-2014. This program will help students, especially girls, of limited financial means to carry out their studies.

Both programs are focused on assisting young women and other vulnerable student populations in becoming leaders in the agriculture sector. USAID/ERA is currently in the process of concluding modalities for selection criteria, and the review and awarding of scholarship funds – all of which will be done in close collaboration with its partner AETR institutions.

Project Management

USAID/ERA project has worked closely with the home office at Virginia Tech in the revision of its own internal management standards. Significant efforts have been put in to ensure administrative and overhead costs have been reined in significantly. This has served to ensure that more money goes to program activities with a direct impact on USAID/ERA indicators. We believe that these steps will ensure that USAID/ERA can manage its costs efficiently, thereby allowing the project to reach the maximum number of beneficiaries in Senegal.

Monitoring and Evaluation

During this quarter, the project worked in monitoring and evaluation to:

- ✓ review the Q2 report taking account USAID suggestions
- ✓ review the PMP including tools developed for data collections
- ✓ continue tools implementation for data collections

Communications, Media, Marking and Branding

Media coverage: During the period of April-June 2012, the USAID/ERA project delivered a significant amount of materials and equipment to its partners in Dakar, Ziguinchor and Thiès. Both “le SOLEIL” and the “Senegalese media Agency” provided wide coverage of the distributions and showed the achievements of the project to their respective audiences.

USAID/ERA Newsletter: The second USAID/ERA newsletter was published during the quarter in French and English. The newsletter highlighted activities implemented during the period.

USAID/ERA Materials and Equipment Branding: All equipment and materials delivered to AETR institutions were branded according to USAID rules.

USAID/ERA promoted FtT via the American Chamber of Commerce/US Week: The project participated in activities implemented during the US Week, organized by the American Chamber of Commerce.

USAID/ERA, in collaboration with the Wula Nafaa, Yaajeende, and COMFISH projects conducted the FtF stand. Visitors were attracted by all the programs developed by USAID to support the objectives of poverty and hunger reduction, as well as to expand economic growth in Senegal as part of the Feed the Future Program.

Recruitment of a Grant Officer

A grants officer and an administrative assistant were recruited to support our grant and administrative activities.

Achievements for Indicator: 3.6.1, 3.7.2, 3.7.4, 3.7.5 and 3.7.6

Objectives	Results	Indicators	FY 2012 Target	Q3 Target	Q3 Realization	Realized Q1+Q2+Q3	% against 2012 Target	Comments
3. Project management and policy support	3.6 A performance monitoring plan is implemented and operational	1.Number of quarters	4	1	1	3	100%	
	3.7 A communication plan is implemented and operational	2. USAID/ERA web site created	1	1	1	1	100%	
		4. Number of newsletters	6	2	1	2	33%	
		5. Number of Success stories	2	1	0	0	0%	
		6. Number of digitized documents	200	100	0		0%	
		7. Number of highlight media coverage	7	1	0	6	86%	
		8. Number of insertion in “Le Soleil”	3	1	1	33%	0%	

IV. Lessons learned

During the third quarter, USAID/ERA proceeded to roll out a number of high profile activities which had to be held back due to externalities such the strike in the higher education sector of Senegal as well as the country's presidential elections. In addition, project staff developed a stronger understanding of programs, operations and good organizational structure. USAID/ERA identified key lessons and took measures to modify its implementation approach accordingly.

These include:

1. Streamlined and clarified ways to conduct in-country workshops
2. Support for field staff outside of Dakar
3. Cost management and financial control

Streamlined and clarified ways to workshop – As a capacity-building project, USAID/ERA has the need to implement multiple workshops at the local level. Through experience gained from the workshops conducted in 2012, as well as from feedback received from the USAID/ERA team-building exercise, we rolled out a series of administrative procedures, including the use of a checklist to facilitate smoother workshop roll-outs. We will continue to monitor the use of these tools and, where applicable, adjustments will be made to improve program performance.

Support for field staff outside of Dakar – The USAID/ERA office opened its first field office in Thiès. This office is to support the project's many field activities in the Bambey, Thiès and Saint Louis corridor. The addition of the Thiès office has necessitated some fine-tuning of local processes and procedures to ensure that the timing of all relocations is in synch with employees' ability to work independently in a suitable fashion. The leadership of the project took steps to ensure that clear communication processes and support systems were made available so staff could meet the expectations and responsibilities required.

Cost management and financial control – As a USG-funded project, USAID/ERA is focused on doing the most with funds that have been provided. USAID/ERA has taken many steps to ensure that returns on program investments are maximized. High-cost items with low to moderate yield investments such as building and infrastructure have been curtailed. The use of high-paid international consultants has been minimized. Steps are being taken to ensure that more funds are spent locally.

V. Constraints

Level of partner needs vs. funds available - USAID/ERA has the objective to build management and administrative capacity at a total of 13 Senegal institutions, all of which are direct beneficiaries of grants and procurement activities of the project. A major constraint of USAID/ERA concerns the level of funding available. Moreover, each partner is at a different level of capability maturity in regards to achieving the goals and objectives of USAID/ERA through the FtF results framework. Thus, project personnel of USAID/ERA are spending a significant amount of time working with their partners to ensure that there is a clear understanding regarding what the USAID/ERA project is able to do. We also firmly believe that through a continued focus on capacity building, all of our AETR partners will be in a position to find other sources of revenue to meet their financial shortfalls and properly compete for them.

VI. Activities planned for the next quarter

Listed below are the activities planned for the next quarter of fiscal year 2012 by USAID/ERA.

- **Workshops on AKIS Learning and Discovery In Senegal** – USAID/ERA will hold workshops in late June to mid-July under the theme of “Agriculture Knowledge Information System Learning and Discovery in Senegal”. The USAID/ERA AKIS workshops will bring together Senegalese agricultural sector stakeholders to discuss how to development of the Agriculture sector. The workshops are slated to take place in Saint Louis, Ziguinchor, Thiès and Dakar. The project will endeavor to get concurrence on capacity building interventions in the areas of Training, Research and Outreach. The stakeholder input will feed into the USAID/ERA FY 2013 planning.
- **Advanced Curriculum Map** – USAID/ERA will continue to work with AETRs, in the development of a Curriculum mapping process for collecting and recording curriculum-related data that identifies core skills and content taught. The completed curriculum map then becomes a tool that helps teachers keep track of what has been taught and plan what will be taught. The purpose of a curriculum map is to document the relationship between every component of the curriculum.
- **Advanced Data Gathering / Follow-on Analysis** - An advanced data gathering with follow-on analysis will provide a clear baseline of existing state of each AETR institution from a capability maturity level. This activity will indicate gaps where training offered by AETR institutions can help meet the demand from the private sector in agriculture for improved production, greater nutrition and improved food security in Senegal.

This will include:

- Finalize AETR Institutional analysis
- Create a AETR Baseline data
- Define the level of capability maturity of each institution
- **Implementation Plan of Scholarship Program “Bourses d’Excellence” and Maintenance Funds for At-Risk Students for Academic Years 2012 - 2014-** USAID/ERA will work with its partners to launch the Scholarship Program “Bourses d’Excellence”. An analysis is being conducted to determine the number and mix of bourses to be allocated for each partner institution including the number of bourses that can be made available for foreign study given budgetary constraints.
- **Research program Phase I – ITA and ENSA** – USAID/ERA is aiming to proceed with funding research activities by ITA and ENSA, 2 of its 5 grantees. ITA and ENSA have gone through the entire process of completing all of the steps required for getting funded through. It is estimated that the other 3 grantees will be funded in late September or early October as they are in the process of working with the USAID/ERA team in finalizing their budget and work plans.
- **Workshop value-chain focused agriculture research – Per request from UCAD, ISRA, and ITA,** USAID/ERA is planning to hold a value-chain focused agriculture research workshop in partnership with Michigan State University. This workshop will explore existing approaches in use to remedy gaps that have been identified in the rice, maize, and millet value chains. These are the three FTF cultures for Senegal being targeted by the research program of USAID/ERA.
- **Forum on seed value chain to increase agricultural productivity in Senegal** – As a follow-up to the April 2012 Study, USAID/ERA will finalize the planning for a forum on seed value chain in Dakar in late October. The forum, will be held in conjunction with the USAID/ERA Open House on value-chain focused research, will have 3 key orientations. These are: 1) Facilitating of focus on enhancing nutritional value of seed through modern selection/breeding techniques 2) Linking seed technology to the private sector and 3) Assisting with the creation of an enabling institutional environment for seed management and governance. USAID/ERA intends to work with all of the actors in the field of seed management in putting together this forum.
- **E-pilot grants** - The focus of the E-pilot grants is to increase faculty engagement in distance learning, and enable anytime/anyplace teaching by extending learning technology skills and knowledge.
- **Agriculture HR Database** – Selection of the consultant to design the database with follow-on implementation plan at a target institution is to take place during the 4th quarter.
- **Delivery of Equipment and Materials** - Equipment and materials procured by the project will be delivered to partners in Dakar, Thiès, Ziguinchor and Bignona.