



CORAF



WAAPP / PPAO

WEST AFRICA AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY PROGRAMME  
PROGRAMME DE PRODUCTIVITE AGRICOLE EN AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST

# Key Results in The Gambia



December 2018

# The Gambia



The Government of The Gambia invested, during the period 2011-2016, a total of **\$US 12 Million** to increase the productivity of rice, maize, poultry, small ruminant, vegetables value chains. The main activities supported were:

- i. Research and development infrastructural construction and rehabilitation and equipment procurement;
- ii. Training of young scientists and extension agents;
- iii. Technologies and innovation (T&I) generation;
- iv. T&I dissemination for broad adoption.

**Major** Research & Development;  
Infrastructural construction & equipment  
(2012 - 2016)

**\$US 1.05 Million**



**Major** Renewal of research-  
development personnel (2012 - 2016)

**\$US 0.636 Million**

**12 Young Scientists** Trained

Technologies dissemination  
between 2012 - 2016

**\$US 8.8 Million**

**69 139** farmers adopted  
on **56 000** ha



**Major** Research & Development  
activities between 2012 - 2016

**\$US 0.179 Million**

# Success Stories



## AWA JAGNE, Rice Producer From The Gambia

**T**he village of BOIRAM is now a model for most communities producing rice in the Gambia mainly because of all the support provided by WAAPP in collaboration with the National Agricultural Research Institute and the Ministry of Agriculture. Ms. Diagne's success as a female farmer is mostly due to the use of high yielding rice varieties introduced by WAAPP's innovation platform of BOIRAM.

The introduction of the Sahel 134 variety, the adoption of 21 agricultural best practices and the provision of agricultural inputs in time by WAAPP Gambia has induced a rice yield increase by 500%. This, has motivated the women and youth of the village, to fully invest in the production of upland rice.

Ms. Jane and a number of rice farmers from BOIRAM have diversified into the production of rice seed and yields increased from 1.2T / ha to 4.5T / ha for the 2013 season. Therefore, the economic situation of Ms. Jane has significantly improved. She described how she could now afford to educate her two daughters and take care of the household. Before the implementation of WAAPP in

her village, she used to sell small ruminants to meet the needs of the family.

With the new farming skills acquired, she is able to equip and improve her farm and help other producers. She has provided seeds to up to 20 small scale rice farmers in her community and become a role model and champion in rice production in the district of Fulladou.

Furthermore, she is now able to actively participate in decision making in her community and confidently interact with local authorities.

Through various training she attended, her knowledge on gender and climate change issues are commended by WAAPP technicians intervening in BOIRAM village.

Ms. Jane also invented 4 rice recipes (rice cookies, cakes, Chakeri and other products) that are appreciated by consumers. She is now able to train and educate other women on issues of nutrition and health.

## About WAAPP

The West Africa Agriculture Productivity Program (WAAPP) involves 13 countries. The 10-years program was designed to make agriculture more productive, sustainable and profitable for smallholder farmers in West Africa. Started in 2007, WAAPP also aims to improve the conditions of life of consumers through the provision of agricultural products at competitive prices, build a critical mass of researchers for sound, efficient and collaborative research programs and finally to ensure that technologies generated nationally are available regionally. The WAAPP was established at the initiative of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) as a response to the renewed commitment by African countries to implement the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program (CAADP). Participating countries fund the USD 500 million program through a loan system obtained from the World Bank. At the regional level, the program is coordinated by CORAF. More than two hundred technologies were released and adopted by almost 4,5 million producers and processors on about 4.8 million hectares. These technologies are available on [www.mita.coraf.org](http://www.mita.coraf.org). WAAPP financed master degree and Ph.D. studies for 1021 youths. This represents 72% of men and 28% women. These young researchers are expected to replace most the agriculture researchers going on retirement. The nine national centers of specializations of countries participating in the program benefitted from the renovation of their infrastructure and new research laboratories were constructed. Two of the centers have been upgraded in regional centers of specialization. This includes the Dry Cereals Center based in Senegal and The Roots and Tuber center based in Ghana. By increasing the primary crops yields between 30% for dry cereals and 150% for rice, fruit, and tubers, the program has had a considerable impact on food security and caloric intake. Caloric consumption rose from 2,777 kcals to 2,964 kcals and the "hunger period" reduced by 28 to 55% according to the commodity. WAAPP has also increased by 34% the economic situation of farmers as well as transformed communities.

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