



AVENIR PROJECT

Adaptation and Valorization of Entrepreneurship in Irrigated Agriculture

The Adaptation and Valorization of Entrepreneurship in Irrigated Agriculture (AVENIR) is a project implemented by the Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) in collaboration with the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), now part of the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT (the Alliance). Global Affairs Canada funds the project with co-funding from MEDA and the Alliance. MEDA is the lead implementing institution, with the Alliance as a key technical partner, with the support of local partners in Senegal.



Photo Credit: X.Scheldeman

Implementing partners

Alliance



Funder



Global Affairs
Canada

Affaires mondiales
Canada








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The AVENIR Project is funded by Global Affairs Canada.

AVENIR will improve the socio-economic well-being and resilience of farming households in the regions of Sedhiou and Tambacounda, via climate-adapted irrigation and agricultural practices, with an emphasis on women and young people. This will be accomplished by increasing profitability of agri-businesses in climate-adapted value chains (agroforestry, horticulture, rice). The project also focuses on improving access to inputs and climate-smart technologies, efficient and affordable irrigation techniques; and fostering multi-stakeholder platforms for sustainable and equitable management of water resources. The five-year project will directly benefit up to 10,000 women and youth (70% women) from farming households, and indirectly benefit an estimated 35,000 individuals.

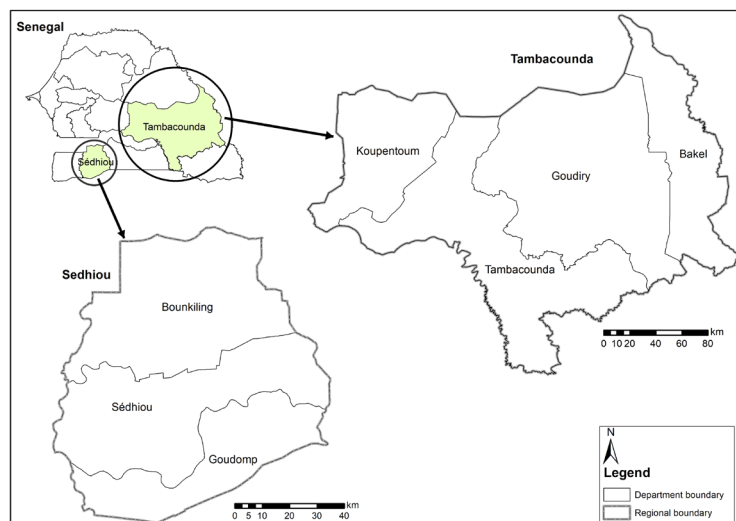
Background

In response to Global Affairs Canada's Call for Proposals, MEDA and the Alliance formed a consortium to respond to the project's ultimate outcome of "Improved socio-economic well-being and resilience of farming households, with a particular emphasis on women and young people". The proposal design included extensive consultations in Senegal with women, youth, farming households, private sector and NGO intermediaries, as well as local and national stakeholders. Women and youth revealed several impediments to their more equal participation in, access to, and decision making in agriculture at both household and community levels including:

-  Limited knowledge of farming as a business.
-  Limited access to land.
-  Lack of improved inputs and mechanized equipment.
-  Limited knowledge on use of climate-smart agriculture practices.
-  Poor irrigation techniques.
-  Limited market linkages and coordination across market actors.
-  Time constraints due to obligations to fulfill household duties.

These consultations allowed the design team to identify interventions that will respond to expressed needs, address key socio-economic constraints identified within selected value chains, and align with existing initiatives and priorities.

Areas of operation



Key focus areas of AVENIR

1. Increased socio-economic empowerment of women and young people

This outcome encompasses the complex and inter-related changes that take place in both social and economic realms as part of the empowerment process. Interventions for economic empowerment focus on improving incomes and opportunity via key value chains, while developing critical leadership and soft skills. A key aim will be to increase the capacity of women and youth to profitably operate agri-businesses in selected climate-change-adapted value chains and improve market access.

2. Sustainable and innovative intensification of irrigated and climate-change adapted crops

This outcome will prioritize climate-smart agriculture and irrigation systems to improve livelihoods especially for women and youth. Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) reflects an ambition to improve the integration of agriculture development and climate responsiveness. CSA initiatives focus on three pillars: sustainably increase productivity, enhance climate adaptation, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. AVENIR will improve access to agriculture and irrigation inputs, technologies, and techniques, and increase the capacity of input and service providers to disseminate

products and services that promote sustainable intensification of selected climate-change-adapted crops to farmers.

3. Improved, sustainable and equitable local governance and territorial management of water resources

This outcome will focus on improving governance and management of water resources, working with government, civic groups and market actors. Capacity building activities and stakeholder dialogues will increase capacities of local/territorial actors to manage water resources sustainably and equitably.

Photo: Kedougiu, Senegal. Credit: Freepik.com



Project Model

The AVENIR project will support greater integration of women and young people from farming households for increased productivity within selected climate-change adapted value chains with strong market potential. The project will also promote market opportunities that increase the value addition of agricultural products and seek public-private partnerships and ongoing monitoring and research on successful techniques and technologies that will both strengthen and ensure sustainability of project interventions.



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Biodiversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) are part of CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food-secure future.
Biodiversity International is the operating name of the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI).

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