



Gambia Inclusive and Resilient
Agriculture Value Chain
Development Project



WORLD BANK GROUP

GIRAV PROJECT

BUILDING INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT AGRICULTURE AND, STRONGER RURAL ECONOMIES

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

- i. To Promote the development of inclusive, resilient, and competitive agricultural value chains, focusing on smallholder farmers and agribusinesses and
- ii. To improve access to water supply in selected project target areas.

Project Cost: USD115.91million

Donors: World Bank IDA Grant (US\$108.0m), Gambian Government (US\$4.0m) & Beneficiaries Matching Grant Counterpart Contribution (3.9m)

Effective Date: March 15, 2022

Closing Date: December 31, 2028

Direct Project Target Beneficiaries: 200,000 value chain actors of whom women and youth will constitute 50% and 40% respectively

Executing agency: The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock & Food Security (MoALFS) is responsible for overall project implementation.

Project Implementing Unit: The Central Projects Coordinating Unit (CPCU) under the MoALFS.

PROJECT PARTNERSHIPS

The project is part of the World Bank's continuous efforts to support The Gambia government initiatives that accelerate the transformation of The Gambia's agri-food systems, enhancing their inclusivity, resilience, productivity, competitiveness, and sustainability. GIRAV supports the efforts of projects related to agriculture and nutrition security within the country as part of a coordinated strategy to foster socio-economic development.

With the Ministry of Agriculture serving as the Chair of the Project Steering Committee, the Project Implementation Unit collaborates closely with various stakeholders to implement the project. These include Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock & Food Security and its specialized technical departments (Department of Agriculture (DoA), Plant Protection Services (PPS), Soils and Mater Management Services, Horticulture Technical Services and the Department of Livestock Services); Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA); Central Bank of the Gambia (CBG); National Enterprise Development Initiative (NEDI); the Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI); National Agriculture Research Institute (NARI); National Coordinating Organization of Farmer Associations Gambia (NACOFAG); The Gambia Standard Bureau (TGSB); The Gambia Investment & Export Promotion Agency (GiEPA); National Roads Authority (NRA); Food Safety and Quality Authority of the Gambia (FSQA); Ministry of Lands, Regional Government and Religious Affairs; Ministry of Petroleum, Energy and Mines (through NAWEC), Department of Cooperative Development (DoCD); and the West and Central Africa Council for Agricultural Research and Development



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PROJECT PRIORITY VALUE CHAINS

- Rice (substituting for increasing imports)
- Horticulture (vegetables and mangoes for urban centers and export)
- Cashew (for domestic processing and export)
- Poultry (for urban centres)
- Maize (for poultry feed)

PROJECT COMPONENTS

Component 1: Improving the business environment for commercial agriculture development

Component 2: Building a productive and climate-resilient agri-food system

Component 3: Mobilizing productive private investments along the value chains

Component 4: Project coordination, monitoring and knowledge management

Component 5: Contingency Emergency Response

Component 6: Improving access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH).

INTERVENTION SITES : Countrywide

SPOTLIGHT ON KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER COMPONENTS 1,2 & 3

COMPONENT 1.

IMPROVING THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT FOR COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT

The objective of Component 1 is to establish an enabling environment that can foster private investment and build a competitive and sustainable commercial agriculture/agribusiness sector in The Gambia.

GIRAV Feeder Roads: **Connecting Businesses** | **Driving Rural Development** | **Transforming Lives and Livelihoods**

SUB-COMPONENT 1.4: IMPROVING RURAL CONNECTIVITY AND ACCESS TO MARKETS



Within the framework of sub-component 1.4, the Gambia government will tackle a significant challenge related to market access for smallholder farmers and SMEs by building high quality access roads. The intervention will contribute to a decrease in post-harvest losses and transportation expenses, develop rural economies and transform lives and livelihoods . It is being implemented by the NRA through private civil works contractors recruited through competitive bidding under the coordination and fiduciary responsibility of the CPCU.

The intervention will focus on constructing and restoring feeder roads, along with implementing a maintenance programme to guarantee their sustainability while adapting to climate change effects. A total of 204.7 kilometres of feeder roads will be built across five administrative regions in The Gambia, including: NBR: 75.7 km, CRR: 35.2 km, URR: 13.6 km, LRR: 4.5 km, and WCR: 75.7 km. Contracts for civil works, with a duration of 18 months, were awarded in December 2025.

SUB-COMPONENT 1.5: SECURING ACCESS TO LAND

The Gambia's inefficient land administration processes, insecure land tenure, and land disputes, especially in rural areas negatively affect the performance of the agriculture sector. Security of land tenure incentivizes landholders to invest in improved climate-smart varieties, fertilizers, mechanization, and improved management practices (including conservation), all of which are key to increased agriculture productivity and climate resilience.

The GIRAV project is providing institutional and legal support to land administration institutions under the Ministry of Lands, Regional Government and religious Affairs to improve The Gambia's land administration system and contribute to secure land tenure and climate-resilient spatial planning. Through this initiative, 10 Staff of the Ministry of Lands, Regional Governments and Religious Affairs awarded scholarship to pursue BSc (1) and MSc (9).

COMPONENT 2: BUILDING A PRODUCTIVE AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT AGRI-FOOD SYSTEM

The objective of Component 2 is to increase agricultural productivity through climate-smart intensification of selected production systems, focusing on enhancing water management and fostering access to improved climate smart agriculture technologies and innovations.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MODERN IRRIGATED WOMEN AND YOUTH-LED AGRIBUSINESS FIRMS (WYLAFS)

- Construction works on 40 model Agribusiness firms (20 Women-led & 20 Youth-led) equipped with solar-powered sprinkler and drip irrigation systems across 405.0ha vegetable gardens (20 women-led and 20 youth-led) has advanced. These firms are expected to be fully operational during the 3rd quarter of 2026
- Certified vegetable seeds and other production materials procured for all 40 WYLAFs
- Series of trainings programmes to build the capacity building of WYLAFs members on Governance and production techniques have been conducted

PROMOTION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES INNOVATIONS/PROVISION OF HIGH-QUALITY AGRICULTURAL INPUTS/EQUIPMENT

CORAF is making good progress in supporting GIRAV to enhance national seed systems .A total of 1,000 tons of improved climate-smart varieties of certified seeds (high-yielding, early maturing, drought-resistant, salt-tolerant, and aromatic) including 450 tons of rice and 550 tons of maize have been procured with CORAF support over the four past years and distributed cumulatively to 57,337 farmers of which 14,435 farmers during last rainy season 2025 (66 percent female and 23 percent youth) using the digital application to make it targeted, transparent and impactful. In 2025, a total of 250 tons of seeds were procured, of which 200 tons of maize and 50 tons of rice showing a more focus on maize following producers demand and to respond to increased needs of the emerging poultry industry.

WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT & FOOD SECURITY

The seed programme has led to an increase in yield with an average yield of 3 tons per hectare for maize, allowing farmers to cover their household needs and to have surplus for market estimated on average at 1 ton per farmer.

From a gender perspective, women are becoming maize producers because of the seed programme, and they are very grateful for this opportunity.

The seed programme has also empowered local farmers and the economy as more than 65 percent of the seed is sourced locally.



- **46,049 farmers using/adopting climate-smart technologies against a 30,000 target**
- **104% increase in yield of targeted agricultural commodities by direct project beneficiaries against a 50% target**
- **15,000 MTs of assorted chemical fertilizer procured and sold through the NFSPMC**

Key activities include sourcing and producing breeder seeds for four maize and four rice improved varieties from Ghana and Mali, identifying flood-tolerant crops, and facilitating a breeding mentorship program between NARI and Ghana's CSIR-Crops Research Institute. Technology exchange efforts encompass visits to Regional Research Centers of Excellence (RCE) and national offices in Ghana, promoting the development and dissemination of new technologies and partnerships. An action plan has been formulated to guide technology adoption and foster ongoing collaboration for greater development impact. A non-exclusive seed licensing agreement signed between the CSIR-CRI of Ghana and NARI to guide the production or reproduction, and sale or marketing of seed of the proprietary (CSIR-CRI).

Furthermore, a total of 20 new improved varieties of rice brought into the country have been tested successfully by NARI with very encouraging results with an average yield of 8 tons per hectare achieved at research station. GIRAV is supporting the multiplication of these new varieties to produce enough certified seeds to meet the indicator target and ensure country-wide dissemination and adoption.

In a bid to ensure the availability of high-quality certified seeds locally, GIRAV has stepped up support for the National Seed Secretariat (NSS). An assortment of essential rice production equipment has been procured for the NSS. These include 3 seed cleaners, 2 combined harvesters, 2 rice planters, 1 rotavator boat, 2000 seedling trays, 2500 seed bags (50kg capacity double layer bags), 10,000 seed bags (25kg capacity polypropylene types); 1 box of filter papers; 2 seed counters, 2 bales of sample bags, 4 bales of canvas bags and 1 light truck.

CORAF has facilitated the establishment of ten Innovation Platforms (IPs) including rice, maize, poultry, cashew, and mango value chains. Additionally, training is provided for platform leaders. The CRR South maize IP has a contract farming agreement with G Farm and within 12 months supplied 800 tons of maize to the firm.



SUPPORTING MECHANIZATION AND MODERNIZATION OF THE PRODUCTION SYSTEM

A total of 50,564 farmers benefited from agricultural assets or services, surpassing the target of 50,000. Farmer cooperatives and private investors in the rice value chain have received agricultural equipment, including 14 combined harvesters and 5 automated rice transplanters. In 2026, the following equipment will be distributed to farmers to encourage mechanization and modernize their farming practices: 60 maize milling machines, 100 rice threshers, 60 rice milling machines, 50 power tillers, 112 maize shellers, 25 power tillers with accessories, 5 rotary weeders, 10 drum seeders, 25 four-tine harrow power tillers, 10 four-row seeders, and 40 tricycles. This agricultural machinery will improve quality of produce and post-harvest loss management, save time and labour, and alleviate women burden in processing productions.

COMPONENT 3: PROMOTING PRODUCTIVE PRIVATE INVESTMENTS ALONG THE GIRAV PRIORITY VALUE CHAINS MATCHING GRANTS WORTH

Under this component, the Matching Grant initiative has mobilized up to USD5.0 million productive private investments in Agribusiness:

- USD 3, 98m Grant Financing for 19 SMEs (4 female, 15 male and 10 youth owned businesses)
- USD 1.23m to 74 groups (13 male-led groups with 19, 031 members, 61 women-led groups with 28,453 members and 42 youth-led groups with 16,431 members)
- USD 2.51m awarded to 312 individuals Together

JOB CREATION - These investments have enabled the creation of 15,075 new jobs for women and youth