

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
HOUÉNOUSSOU RABBIT PRODUCTION PROJECT
BENIN

I. INTRODUCTION

This appendix describes the activities to be undertaken and the results to be achieved with the funds obligated under this Agreement. Nothing in this Appendix A shall be construed as amending any of the definitions, conditions, or terms of the Agreement.

II. BACKGROUND

Houénoussou Group consists of twelve local artisans and farmers who produce rabbits in Ouèssè to generate complementary income to satisfy their families' needs. Ouèssè is an isolated village and one of the four poorest municipalities in the Zou-Colline Department with more than ninety percent of the households having a daily income of less than one dollar (INSAE 2008). The land has become very poor and inappropriate for agriculture, and the artisans' services are rarely used by community members because of their low purchasing power. Few donors have activities in the commune of Ouèssè because of its difficult access. In addition, the Couffé Mountains Forest Reserve near the village is increasingly protected from hunting, thus limiting the availability of bush meat, the main protein source in the area. Meat is becoming increasingly rare and expensive, limiting accessibility to the whole population.

Unfortunately, Group members are still using low productivity traditional breeding and production methods due to limited financial means. They use wooden cages which are difficult to clean and disinfect. The animals are kept inside members' homes, which are already crowded, and the presence of animal waste in the house is unhealthy for the members and their families. As a result, Group members are unable to take full advantage of the demand for rabbit meat in the Ouèssè area.

III. FINANCING

A. Contribution of ADF

The financial plan for ADF's contribution is set forth in Appendix A-1 to this Agreement. The parties may make changes to the financial plan without formal amendment of the Agreement, if such changes are made in accordance with Article 8 of the Agreement and do not cause ADF's contribution to exceed the obligated amount specified in Article 4, Section 4.1 of the Agreement.

ADF  Houénoussou 

B. Contributions by members of the Group

The Group's members will provide land (1800 square meters) for the construction of the rabbit production center. The beneficiaries will also provide the labor for production activities and supply breeding stock to initiate production in the new facilities. The Group will donate up to 55 rabbits for breeding stock at the end of Year 2, and up to 100 rabbits for breeding stock at the end of Year 3 to groups in the area wishing to initiate rabbit breeding activities. In addition, the Group will provide up to 20 kilograms of rabbit meat annually in Years 2 and 3 to the Ouèssè orphanage and social center for their end of year celebrations.

IV. PROJECT GOAL

The purpose of the Project is to improve the standard of living and economic welfare of low income farmers and artisans in Ouèssè Commune in Benin.

V. PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of this Project is to increase the incomes of Houénoussou Group as evidenced by an increase in Houénoussou Group members' incomes from a baseline of CFA 300,000 to:

- A. CFA 1,500,000 in Year 1;
- B. CFA 3,000,000 in Year 2; and
- C. CFA 4,200,000 in Year 3.

VI. PROJECT OUTPUTS

By the end of the Project, Houénoussou members' capacity to raise and market rabbits will increase as evidenced by the following.

- A. Sales through Houénoussou Group increase from a baseline of CFA 1,333,800 to:
 - 1. CFA 5,688,000 in Year 1;
 - 2. CFA 8,532,000 in Year 2; and
 - 3. CFA 10,715,000 in Year 3.
- B. The number of rabbits sold by the Group increases from a baseline of 640 to:
 - 1. 1,064 in Year 1;
 - 2. 1,596 in Year 2; and
 - 3. 1,910 in Year 3.

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- C. The quantity of rabbit meat sold by the Group increases from a baseline of 588 kilograms (kg) to:
1. 1,383 kg in Year 1;
 2. 2,075 kg in Year 2; and
 3. 2,484 kg in Year 3.
- D. The Group has improved its financial and administrative management as evidenced by:
1. the preparation of quarterly profit/loss and cash flow statements, minutes of regular and special meetings, monthly and annual reports; and
 2. the management team routinely using financial documents such as quarterly bank reconciliations, budget expenditures, and income and expense statements produced during the Project to make financial and management decisions for the Group.

VII. ACTIVITIES

Houénoussou Group will ensure, with the assistance of consultants as necessary, the following major activities are implemented.

A. Production Expansion Activities

Houénoussou will hire a qualified contractor(s) to fence the Group's production area and construct three rabbit production sheds, an office/warehouse, large diameter well with casing, and a slaughterhouse with septic tank to be used by Group members for production and processing of rabbits. Houénoussou will hire a qualified specialist to develop the request for bids for construction of the buildings, participate in the selection of the contractor, and monitor the progress and quality of the construction. Houénoussou will equip the production units with 327 wire mesh cages. The group will increase its breeding stock from approximately 73 animals to 105 by the end of Year 1 of the Project and to 135 by the end of Year 2 of the Project. Houénoussou will establish a revolving fund for the purchase of production inputs that it will be repaid by members when animals are sold through the Group.

B. Training and Technical Assistance Activities

Houénoussou will upgrade its financial and accounting systems to fully meet ADF certification requirements. Houénoussou will hire a project manager/accountant and obtain training in accounting, production quality standards and livestock management for its staff from local consultants. Houénoussou will

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hire specialists to provide training to members in intensive rabbit production, veterinary, marketing, contracting, cooperative and small business management, and processing techniques and practices. Houénoussou will also hire a part-time time livestock production technician to monitor its members' application of new, more intensive rabbit production techniques. Houénoussou will organize an exchange visit for Group members and the livestock technician to a modern rabbit farming site in Cotonou and the national rabbit production research institute.

VIII. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

ADF's Partner in Benin will provide the necessary standard ADF training in bookkeeping, monitoring and assessment. Houénoussou Group is responsible for ensuring the proper management and implementation of the Project. The ADF Partner in Benin will provide technical and management assistance during implementation of the Project.

IX. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Within sixty days of the effective date of this Agreement, Houénoussou Group, working with the ADF partner, will form a monitoring and assessment committee composed of a representative cross-section of the Houénoussou organization. The committee will work with the Partner to develop the Project monitoring plan. In addition, during implementation, the committee will have responsibility for ensuring that the Project follows the implementation plan, and that problems identified through monitoring and evaluation are properly addressed in a timely manner.