

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Post –Harvest Capacity Building 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

ONG Agbenyigan (Agbenyigan) was established in 2002 to promote income-generating projects by local women's groups and grassroots organizations to fight against hunger and poverty in the Couffo Department of Benin. Agbenyigan provides extension services and small loans to its members. The organization is composed of 45 affiliated groups with 625 members.

The rural women in the Couffo Department are unable to generate significant income from their main crops, maize, cowpeas and cassava, due to high post-harvest losses and poor processing techniques that reduce the competitiveness of their products in the local markets. The women do not have sufficient incomes to invest in the small equipment and materials needed to upgrade their storage and processing techniques. In addition, Agbenyigan lacks the organizational capacity to adequately manage large scale activities to address its members' problems.

III. Funding

A. ADF Contribution

The financial plan for ADF's contribution is set forth in Appendix A-1 of this Agreement. The parties may make changes to the financial plan without formal amendment, 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.

B. Grantee Contribution

The Grantee will provide a room where the training sessions will be held.

IV. PROJECT GOAL

The goal of the Project is to improve the living conditions of rural women and their families in Couffo Department, Benin.

V. PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of the Project is to improve Agbenyigan's capacity for sustained expansion of services to its members, as indicated by the development of a three year business plan that ADF deems suitable for funding by a donor or other financial institution.

VI. OUTPUTS

- A. Improved administrative and financial management capabilities, as indicated by the following.
 1. Agbenyigan's internal financial control system attains full ADF financial certification.
 2. Agbenyigan produces financial reports including income statements, cash flow statements, and balance sheets used by Agbenyigan leadership for strategic and financial management decisions.

- B. Agriculture processing and storage activities by Agbenyigan's members expanded, as indicated by the following.
 1. The quantity of cassava processed into *gari* by the five participating groups increased from a baseline of 364 *kanti* (131.04 metric tons) to:
 - a. 400 *kanti* (144 metric tons) in Year 1 of the Project;
 - b. 440 *kanti* (158.4 metric tons) in Year 2 of the Project; and
 - c. 484 *kanti* (174.24 metric tons) in Year 3 of the Project.
 2. Sales revenue from *gari* marketed by the five participating groups increased from a baseline of 11,995,500 FCFA to:
 - a. 13,195,050 FCFA in Year 1 of the Project;
 - b. 14,514,555 FCFA in Year 2 of the Project; and
 - c. 15,966,011 FCFA in Year 3 of the Project.
 3. Net income from *gari* sales by the five participating groups increased from a baseline of 1,635,750 FCFA to:
 - a. 2,878,920 FCFA in Year 1 of the Project;
 - b. 3,166,812 FCFA in Year 2 of the Project; and
 - c. 3,483,943 FCFA in Year 3 of the Project.
 4. The quantity of maize stored by the five participating groups increased from a baseline of 6,667 kilograms to:
 - a. 7,333 kilograms in Year 1 of the Project;
 - b. 8,067 kilograms in Year 2 of the Project; and
 - c. 8,873 kilograms in Year 3 of the Project.

5. Sales revenue from maize marketed by the five participating groups increased from a baseline of 1,280,000 FCFA to:
 - a. 1,408,000 FCFA in Year 1 of the Project;
 - b. 1,548,800 FCFA in Year 2 of the Project; and
 - c. 1,703,680 FCFA in Year 3 of the Project.
6. Net income from maize sales by the five participating groups increased from a baseline of 295,333 FCFA to:
 - a. 381,333 FCFA in Year 1 of the Project;
 - b. 419,467 FCFA in Year 2 of the Project; and
 - c. 461,413 FCFA in Year 3 of the Project.
7. The quantity of cowpeas stored by the five participating groups increased from a baseline of 2,467 kilograms to:
 - a. 2,713 kilograms in Year 1 of the Project;
 - b. 2,849 kilograms in Year 2 of the Project; and
 - c. 2,991 kilograms in Year 3 of the Project.
8. Sales revenue from cowpeas marketed by the five participating groups increased from a baseline of 561,167 FCFA to:
 - a. 722,944 FCFA in Year 1 of the Project;
 - b. 795,239 FCFA in Year 2 of the Project; and
 - c. 874,763 FCFA in Year 3 of the Project.
9. Net income from cowpea sales by the five participating groups increased from a baseline of 196,840 FCFA to:
 - a. 315,944 FCFA in Year 1 of the Project;
 - b. 367,889 FCFA in Year 2 of the Project; and
 - c. 426,045 FCFA in Year 3 of the Project.

VII. ACTIVITES

In order to achieve the projected improvements in organizational capacity and member productivity, Agbenyigan staff and trustees will acquire management training and provide improved agricultural processing equipment and technical assistance to member groups. Five groups engaged in cassava processing and five groups engaged in corn and cowpea storage and sales will be selected from among Agbenyigan's membership. These groups will be provided with a technical package of processing equipment and training, to improve the profitability of their activities by increasing production and reducing loss rates.

A. Equipment

The five member groups engaged in cassava processing will be provided with one set of *gari* production equipment each. The set of equipment will include a portable grater with 3-horsepower engine, a screw press, two carts to transport cassava and *gari*, four cooking pots and two improved wood stoves.

The five member groups engaged in corn and cowpea storage and trading will be provided with one set of storage equipment each. The set of equipment will include two tarpaulins, six rakes, and 100 25-liter and 10 50-liter barrels.

B. Technical Assistance and Training

1. Agbenyigan will hire qualified consultants to undertake the following training activities:
 - a. provide training to women's groups and to the executive members of Agbenyigan on association management;
 - b. provide training to women's group members in literacy, French and product costing;
 - c. provide training to women on improved techniques of processing cassava into *gari*, tapioca and bread flour;
 - d. provide training to women's groups on improved techniques of storage and conservation, and design a mechanism to store cowpeas and maize in dry sealed plastic containers;
 - e. provide training and technical assistance to Agbenyigan executive members in administrative and financial management and internal controls;
 - f. provide training to executive members on reporting, management, monitoring and evaluation of community projects; and
 - g. provide computer training to executive members of Agbenyigan.
2. Fifteen members of the cassava processing groups will participate in an exchange visit to Savalou, an area well known for the quality of its cassava products, in order to share experiences on the processing of cassava and its derivatives.
3. Agbenyigan will hire the following project staff, whose salaries will be financed by ADF for the first two years of their employment:
 - a. an accountant to assist with the preparation of quarterly and financial reports and the establishment of a financial management system; and
 - b. an agricultural technician to assist the women groups with management and monitoring of Project activities.

VIII. Roles and Responsibilities of the Parties

Agbenyigan is responsible for the management and implementation of the Project while the ADF Partner in Benin will provide technical support and guidance.

IX. Monitoring and Evaluation

Within sixty days of the effective date of this Agreement, the Grantee, working with the ADF Benin Partner, will form a monitoring and assessment committee composed of a representative cross-section of the Grantee organization. The committee will provide ADF with input for the Project monitoring plan. In addition, during implementation the committee will be responsible for ensuring that the Project follows the implementation plan and that problems identified through monitoring and evaluation are adequately addressed in a timely manner.