



FOSTERING INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN SUDAN'S KASSALA STATE THROUGH AGRO-VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT AND ACCESS TO FINANCIAL SERVICES

Improving livelihoods and food and nutrition security of target populations, especially women and youth

Context

The project aims to improve livelihoods and food and nutrition security of the target population in Sudan's Kassala State – especially women and youth. More specifically, it seeks to create sustainable job opportunities and foster inclusive economic growth in target areas.

Strategy

The project is pursuing an integrated approach in order to meet its objectives. Within the perspective of a value-chain development approach, integrating access to financial and non-financial services, it seeks market-oriented sustainable solutions to create sustainable job opportunities and foster inclusive economic growth.

The project combines interventions in the sphere of agricultural production and processing with interventions in the agricultural technology and agro-based micro- to small-sized enterprise development sphere, including facilitating access to finance through existing Microfinance Institutions operating in the local market.

Impact

As of 31 March 2019, 674 small-scale farmers cultivating sesame and horticultural products and fodder were financed by MFIs with the support of UNIDO for the purchase of agricultural technical packages. Of these farmers, 42 per cent were women and 40 per cent had never had access to a financial institution before. The supported farmers also received awareness-raising sessions on microfinance and financial education to ensure commitment to their loan management.

A collective 'Sunduk' fund of more than SDG 260,000 (US\$5,400) has been established and will serve as investment capital for the producer associations involved.

Finally, collaboration and fundraising with other ongoing initiatives as well as the strengthening of inter-project partnerships with the Italian Cooperation, UN Women and the African Development Bank was established.

Way Forward

The implementation of the PRO-P Facility will be based on the methodology experimented by EDIP across over 54 countries, including Sudan (in Khartoum State). The two initiatives will increase their synergetic interactions by involving the UNIDO Investment and Technology Promotion Offices (ITPOs) in Bahrain and in Italy.

A study tour is scheduled at the training centre of UNIDO ITPO Bahrain, which will involve project partners and stakeholders to consolidate the knowledge-sharing process between the two initiatives.

At a glance

Goal: Improve livelihoods and food and nutrition security of the target population in Sudan's Kassala State, especially women and youth.

SDGs: SDG 1, SDG5, SDG9

Donor: Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)
UN Women

Thematic areas: Agribusiness and Rural Development
Women and Youth

Partners: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry Irrigation and Livestock (MAFIL) of Kassala State

Budget: EUR 2,285,640

Duration: 3 years