



## SENEGAL:

### *Improving the resilience of agro-ecosystem services*

#### CONTEXT

Agriculture plays a leading role in Senegal's economy with significant potential to contribute to increasing the country's household incomes and food security. Despite this potential, Senegal's agriculture is characterized by a precarious agro-pastoral system relying largely on cereal and root crops. A poor rural community base facing high levels of food insecurity is further plagued by frequent droughts, high post-harvest losses and water mismanagement. The Government of Senegal, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) designed a project within the Integrated Approach Pilot for Food Security regional programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) with the objective to increase the resilience and sustainability of food production systems and enhance food security in Sub-Saharan Africa.

#### MAIN APPROACH

The project will support Senegal to integrate priority ecosystem services into investments to improve small-scale agriculture and food value chains. The ecosystem services approach, which focuses on the creation of synergies between provisioning services, such as food and fibre production, and regulation and support services, such as carbon sequestration, pollination and protection of water resources and genetic diversity, can deliver a sustainable contribution towards enhancing food security. To pursue these goals, a three-pronged strategy has been designed to bring about comprehensive transformation and an alternative scenario for agricultural development: (i) engagement of all stakeholders by strengthening institutional frameworks for resilience and sustainability; (ii) adaptation, diversification and dissemination of practices capable to achieve a large-scale transformation of agro-ecosystems; and (iii) monitoring the impact of ecosystem services on resilience and food security in targeted areas.

#### IMPACT/RESULTS

The initial stage of the project has included project design, consultations with national stakeholders and a validation workshop. Baseline sector and technology assessments have been carried out, and an environmental and social management plan has been drawn up. It is expected that over 5,200 households, of which approximately 40% consist of women and youth, in the Central and Northern Groundnut Basin and Louga (two major agro-ecosystem zones) will benefit from the project by: (i) increased yields of rainfed crops and of subsistence agriculture in general; (ii) rehabilitation and exploitation of mangroves; (iii) lower post-harvest losses; (iv) recovery and sustainable management of lowlands and watersheds; (v) improvement in management of surface and groundwater; (vi) promotion of renewable energy sources; and (vii) establishment of mechanisms to raise the value of production.

#### AT A GLANCE

**Project title:** Agricultural Value Chains Resilience Support Project (PARFA)

**Donor:** Global Environment Facility

**Budget:** USD 7,219,450 (GEF); USD 28,544,133 (national sources)

**Thematic areas:** Creating shared prosperity and safeguarding the environment

**Other technical areas:** Climate change and land degradation

