

**National Coordinating of Farmers
Associations The Gambia
(NACOFAG)**

**Successful experiences of sustainable
agriculture focus on Commercialization The
Gambia Experience**

**At the Roundtable on Sustainable Agriculture
as means of Increasing Resilience: The vision of
West African farmers**

13 June 2013 at Brussels

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Presentation Outline

1. The Four major Pillars of Sustainable Agriculture
2. Partnership Strategies for production and productivity
3. Form of farming in The Gambia
4. Why economic crisis and food insecurity ?
5. Call for Action and change of approach

Form of farming in The Gambia

1. Agriculture for survival and food production for the family (small holders farmers): it constitutes up today the majority of the Gambian in Agriculture sector and related activities and provide food for 3 to 7 months for 1,700, 000 people with their small means of productions and productivity
2. Agriculture for economic growth (Commercialization, Agro-Business): It consists of investors non Gambian this type of agriculture has led to land grabbing in The Gambia (the right of small holders farmers) primary owner of agricultural Land has been take away from them. The Agribusiness objective is to supply the external market not the local market. Therefore it cannot ensure food security

The Four major Pillars of Sustainable Agriculture

- 1. Capacity Building** (the income from the marketing of our product are re - use for training, the exchange between producers and small merchant within the family) this indicates the role of family farming in sustainable agriculture
- 2. The quality production** making agriculture a collaborative business sector (establishment of certified seeds Cooperatives, land reclamation, natural resources mobilization)

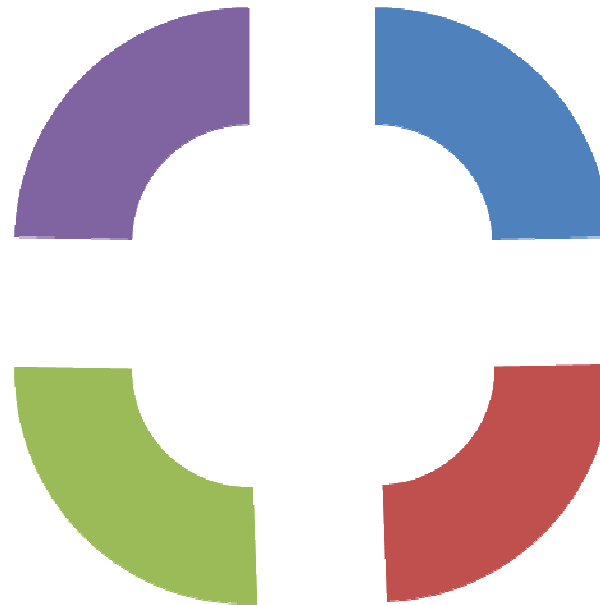
The Four major Pillars of Sustainable Agriculture

3. **Processing and Preservation** (the value added: establishment of small processing unit at Family level)
4. **Marketing** of Agriculture products and Non forest timber (establishment of Exchange cross Ltd) set with the partners a Bank Guarantee Fund to Support the Marketing)

How to minimize Economic crisis and food insecurity

1. Farming need to be commonly understanding with an holistic approach so that it can be sustainable. In any case when ownership is clear sustainability is always at low risk.
2. To talk about agriculture we need to ensure that the following conditions are in place with quality: Land (quality soil) Seeds (quality certified grains) Water (nutritional water) Equipments & Power (man or mechanic)

Activities relationship in sustainable agriculture



- Capacity Building
- Production
- Processing
- Marketing

The end result is to **Consume what we grow**
and **grow what we consume.**

Why economic crisis and food insecurity ?



1. Man is living with the consequences of poverty of the soil. The earth does not betray it is the man who betrayed. because Human does not reimburse what the land gave him (mismanagement and abuse exploitation of natural resources that why we are facing poverty, malnutrition led us to the present main crisis which is Conflict **“a man without activity is a crime against a Nation”**). In the end man become looser of his/her own identity to live with dignity.

We can put a sustainable approach to end hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition by 2025

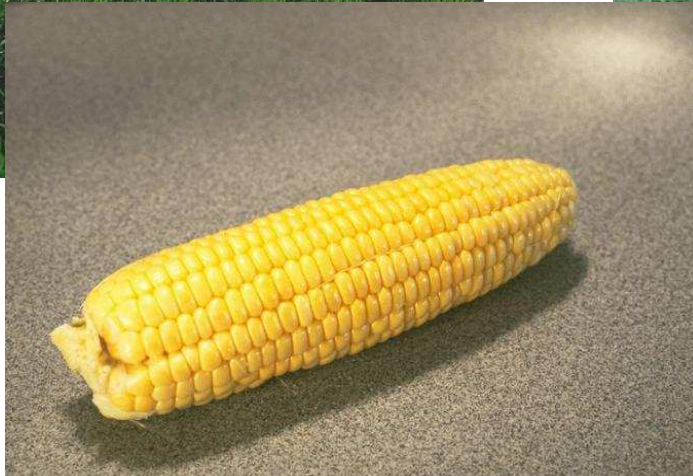


1. For that we need to use long term holistic approach and collaboration to regenerate the soil for adequate production. It is the right of everyone to a healthy, sufficient, nutritious and affordable food. But we need to play our roles so that to get our Right.

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1. This vision can be achieved. Urgent action is needed, both morally and that of politically an audacious and effective action. **We need to stop every day changing policies.**
2. Agriculture is always indispensable pillar for our Economic development and survival. **You can say I am not a farmer but I will not consume agriculture products.** Agriculture has been the larger employer sector in Africa and feed every humankind.

Partnership Strategies for production and productivity



1. Sustainable Agriculture is heavily depend on when we consider it as a business sector and not a risky investment area. We need to ask ourselves for following question (why should I go for agriculture, for with purpose, with what and for who)

Partnership Strategies for production and productivity

1. Consultation and mutual dialogue for addressing issues related to Agriculture and related activities (every parties should consume the failures and success for improvement)
2. Technical know how transfer to understand how to do things at all level (established Certified Seeds Producers Cooperatives)
3. Turn off the former of partnership we are having; so that to CHANGE for building sustainable partnership base on mutual trust.

Call for Action and change of approach

1. To organize National Farmers Conference for Government high Authorities, Private Sector and Farmers and their organizations. The objectives has two dimensions Planning and Evaluation of the Impact (forum of Dialogue around Policies and programmes)
1. The Financing of Gambia National Agricultural Investment Programme (GNAIP) and Programme for Accelerated Growth and Employment (PAGE)
1. Invest in what we know and feasible: adequate and holistic support to Family Farming primary partner of development and food provider for local market

Call for Action and change of Approach

4. **Think together, Act together and consume together:**
(Farmers without border invest on family farming is the only way of intensify production establish Bank Guarantee Fund for Agriculture (BGFA). **Model of Exchange crossroad Ltd (Creation of market and building production capacity of producers and processors)**
5. **Institutional Support to NACOFAG and its members Through ROPPA**



stop doing things at their place according to your ability



**CONTINUE MUTUAL DIALOGUE,
CONSULTATION AND INVOLVEMENT (THINK
TOGETHER, ACT TOGETHER AND CONSUME TOGETHER)
FIRST PILLAR OF EDF11TH**