



# SENEGAL Fact Sheet

## FEED THE FUTURE AT A GLANCE

Feed the Future, the U.S. government's global hunger and food security initiative, is a \$3.5 billion commitment to support country-driven approaches to address the root causes of poverty, hunger and undernutrition. A whole-of-government initiative led by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Feed the Future leverages the strengths of multilateral institutions, civil society and the private sector. Globally we aim to assist 18 million vulnerable women, children and family members – mostly smallholder farmers – to escape hunger and poverty. Together, we will increase agricultural productivity, decrease poverty, drive economic growth and reduce undernutrition to improve millions of lives.

## COUNTRY CONTEXT

Senegal is among the most stable and promising countries in the volatile West African region, yet has experienced low economic growth rates in recent years, with only a small percentage of growth attributable to agriculture. Poor infrastructure, longstanding underinvestment, and an inhibiting policy environment continue to challenge the sector.

The Government of Senegal's growing investment in agriculture (of over 10 percent per year) has opened the door for progress in food security. In 2009, the country finalized its Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) Country Investment Plan, setting a long-term vision for agricultural development as the primary driver of economic growth. The coordination of the Investment Plan is housed in the Office of the Prime Minister, further emphasizing Senegal's desire to elevate the profile of agriculture and food security.

A main focus of Feed the Future is to reduce poverty and undernutrition. To support this focus, the Feed the Future initiative in Senegal integrates both sectors in its strategy. Senegal is characterized by a persistent moderate, chronic under-nutrition where anemia and the "hidden hunger" of protein and micronutrient deficiencies feature prominently. Although Senegal has one of the lowest undernutrition rates in West Africa, the condition persists as an underlying factor in Senegal's high under-five and maternal mortality rates.

## OPPORTUNITIES

Senegal has great potential to increase agriculture-led economic

growth. The country has abundant land, motivated agricultural entrepreneurs, and access to international markets through a major port.

Women already play a key role in value chain work, but there are further opportunities to engage and empower them. The climate in targeted zones is generally favorable for targeted crops, and with increased irrigation and improved seeds, productivity and yields could rapidly increase.

The Government of Senegal, civil society, and private sector have demonstrated a commitment to invest in agriculture and food security. The government's investment plan focuses heavily on increasing the production of rice, maize, and millet as well as preserving fishery resources to the potential economic benefit of nearly two million people.

## SENEGAL QUICK FACTS

- Geographically diverse area with wide range of climates & growing conditions
- Population: 12.5 million
- 1.8 million live in extreme poverty (<\$0.50/day)
- 51% are below the national poverty line (63% rural, 33% urban)
- 17% of children under-5 are underweight; 16% are stunted; and 8% are wasted

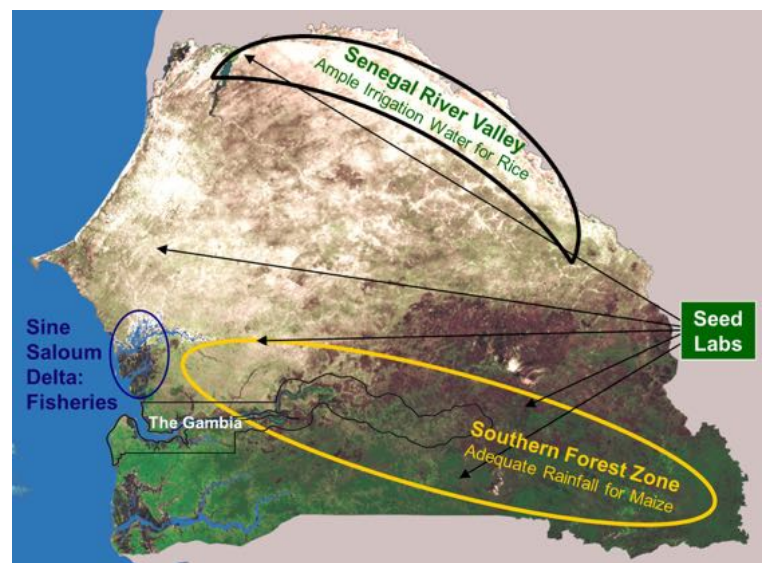
## KEY OBJECTIVES

In order to sustainably reduce poverty and hunger, Feed the Future in Senegal has four intermediate objectives:

- Inclusive agriculture sector growth
- Increased trade
- Improved nutritional status, especially of women and children
- Improved management of natural resources

## TARGET REGIONS

Feed the Future is primarily focusing its rice activities in the Senegal River Valley, maize activities in the Southern Forest Zone, and fisheries activities in the Sine Saloum Delta (see map below). Augmenting this geographic focus are the Essential Nutrition Actions (ENA) program that will be promoted nationwide through Senegal's health hut network, seed certification lab development, and the related capacity building associated with each.



## FEED THE FUTURE: IMPACT IN SENEGAL

Over the next five years:

- An estimated 445,000 vulnerable Senegalese women, children, and family members—mostly smallholder farmers—will receive targeted assistance to escape hunger and poverty.
- Approximately 188,000 children will be reached with services to improve nutrition and prevent stunting and child mortality.
- Significant numbers of additional rural populations will achieve improved income and nutritional status from strategic policy engagement and institutional investments.

## CORE INVESTMENTS

The U.S. Government's Feed the Future strategy for Senegal focuses on investments in five core areas:

- Improved productivity & market linkages in key value chains: rice, maize, millet, and fisheries
- Scaled-up Essential Nutrition Actions
- Rural infrastructure
- Policy reform
- Human resource capacity

### Improvement in Targeted Value Chains

This investment works to improve the value chain of three staple grain value chains—rice, maize, and millet—selected for their potential to achieve impact in reducing poverty and malnutrition. These activities aim to bring 50 percent more rice, 40 percent more maize, and 35 percent more millet to the local marketplace that meet local standards of quality to the benefit of many grain producers and consumers. The program will also work to improve Senegal's sizable fisheries sector through policy and sustainable management reforms. Fisheries make a high-value economic and nutritional contribution in Senegal, but are a diminishing resource.

### Scaled Up Essential Nutrition Actions

Essential Nutrition Actions (ENAs) include seven internationally acknowledged maternal and child health actions that improve nutrition and reduce maternal and child mortality. Feed the Future in Senegal will integrate nutrition activities into food-system economic activities, strengthening the link between increased food production, increased incomes, and increased consumption of quality and nutritious foods, particularly by women and children. In addition, ENAs will be promoted nationwide through capacity building of health facility personnel and increased access to Senegal's health hut network.

### Rural Infrastructure

To ensure long-term agricultural productivity, Feed the Future in Senegal will improve the infrastructure for post-harvest operations, including processing, storage, and access to finance. In addition, investments are revitalizing up to five seed certification labs and seed conditioning facilities in order to increase the capacity of the seed system to address food insecurity.

## Policy Reform

In Senegal, Feed the Future policy reform efforts focus on enhancing the business environment; developing and testing new policies and management structures for the fisheries sector; and helping to move agricultural law toward implementation, including decreasing subsidies in the agricultural sector.

## Human Resource Capacity

Investments in human resource capacity will ensure access to and development of next-generation agriculture technologies in Senegal. The program will improve agriculture research capacity and associated higher-education institutions, strengthen human resource capacity across public and private sectors, and increase entrepreneurship and management capacities.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

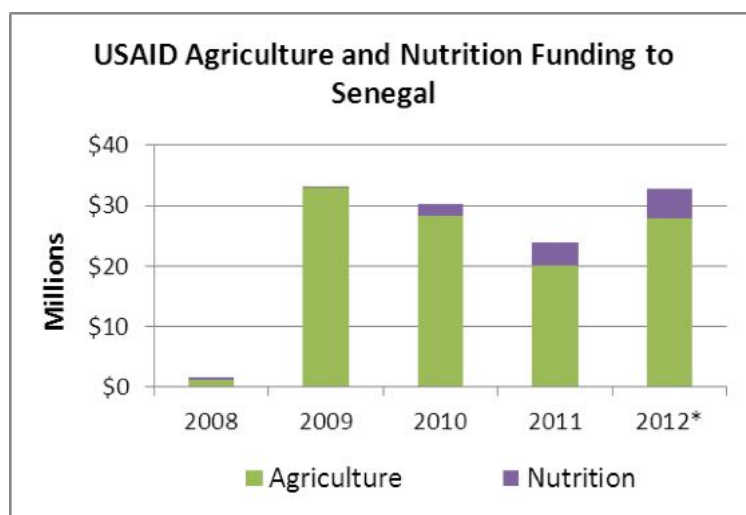
Because poverty, food insecurity, and the environment are inextricably linked, Feed the Future intends to improve natural resource management within Senegal's two targeted agro-ecological zones. Climate change is expected to threaten systems within these zones as water and arable land become increasingly scarce. If properly managed, however, income from sustainably managed eco-systems can act as a stepping stone in the economic empowerment of the poor.

## GENDER INTEGRATION

Both men and women play a major role in agriculture in Senegal and Feed the Future will tailor interventions to meet the needs and preferences of both sexes. This includes full-family involvement in household nutrition training, equitable land tenure policies, training and credit programs for female seed developers, and support to rural women's advancement in processing, bulking, sorting, and transport.

## WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH

Feed the Future elevates coordination across the U.S. Government to harmonize investments for greater collective impact. This interagency engagement led by USAID includes collaboration with the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Millennium Challenge Corporation, U.S. African Development Foundation, and Peace Corps.



\*2012 is included in the President's budget request to Congress