



Association Sénégalaise pour la Promotion  
de L'Agriculture Biologique

**Association Sénégalaise pour la Promotion de l'Agriculture  
Biologique**

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**Statut: ONG – Agrément N° 011254 du 22/12/93**

2007 REPORT

DECEMBER 2007

## **I. PRESENTATION OF ASPAB**

### **11. Introduction:**

Created in 1987, Senegalese Association for the Promotion of Organic Agriculture (ASPAB) supports and coordinates the activities of farmers on agroecology. Through its action on assistance, capacity building and advice, ASPAB works for a rigorous respect of the norms of production of organic agriculture.

### **12. Objectives:**

- a) to promote ecological practices on agriculture and farming systems
- b) To promote an ecological approach of the projects of development
- c) To bring farmers to avoid the dangers of pesticides
- d) To rehabilitate agriculture traditional techniques.
- e) Capacity building on organic and biodynamic agriculture for small farmers, gardeners, agents of development, people and their communities
- f) regeneration of the degraded soils by monoculture
- g) working with national and international organizations for the promotion of organic agriculture as a scientific model of an alternative agriculture
- h) realize with farmers' organizations, programs of development with ecological projects
- i) to permit exchanges of experiences between countries on organic agriculture
- j) to contribute to the amelioration and the protection of the environment
- k) to let know the indigenous flora in particular the one of Senegal
- l) to contribute to the promotion of agro-forestry
- m) to ameliorate the health of people by orientation of consuming organic alimentation
- n) Support its farmers' partners to commercialize their organic products
- o) to support the Farmer's Research on organic agriculture and agro-forestry

### **13. Activities:**

- a) Seminars of Formation
- b) Conference, courses, workshops
- c) Information - Documentation
- d) Agrobiologic Research in farmer's milieu
- e) Support to farmers and gardeners
- f) Commercialization of organic products
- g) Consultations, studies and monitoring of projects
- h) Support to agro-forestry
- i) Support to regeneration of soils

### **14. Our Label: BIOSAIN**

To recognize the products of organic agriculture

#### **BIOSAIN**

Created in 1989, BIOSAIN is grouping farmers' partners of SAPOA (ASPAB).

These farmers and gardeners agreed on:

To respect SAPOA BASIC STANDARDS

To respect rigorously the NORMES OF PRODUCTION OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

To respect the agrobiologic techniques and for that, to accept to be trained

To submit on the controls of their techniques and for the quality of their products

To accept to follow a PERIOD OF RECONVERSION at least for two years

The BIOSAIN Label will be delivered for only the productions controlled par the Agency of Certification put in place by SAPOA (ASPAB).

This label will guaranty the quality of products and will certify their organic origin.

#### 15. Situation of SAPOA implemented Projects

Titles of Projects	Donors	Amount	Periods
1. Sessions of Formation on Composting, Zones : Diogo, Potou et Diobass and equipment	Trocaire Ireland	4.082.722	1989
2. A. Workshop on agriculture traditional B. Participation the 7 <sup>th</sup> Int. Conference Int. of IFOAM in Burkina Faso	Action de Carême des Catholiques Suisses	1.660.000 1.000.000	1990
3. Sessions of composting in 6 villages : Diogo, Malicounda, Fadial, Keur Madaro and Bayakh	Conseil O. des Eglises	2.813.790	1990
4. Program of initiation to a method of fertilization by compost (15 sessions of formation for 300 farmers)	NOVIB	9.237.000	1990
5. 2 Seminar on organic agriculture in Thies and Ziguinchor for 60 Animators et Institutional support to SAPOA	Pain pour le Monde	11.517.000	1990
6. Sessions of Formation on organic agriculture for Animators of farmers' groups (30)	ASW	3.184.750	1991
7. Support Program and Formation on Agroecology	NOVIB	34.962.290	1993/94
8. Interim Phase of Consolidation and Formation	NOVIB	26.750.000	1994/95
9. Management of Family's wastes in Kolda and Kédougou	Ministère de la Ville et UNICEF	3.250.000	1995
<b>10. Agroecology Support Program in Senegal</b>	<b>USAID</b>	<b>134.640.288</b>	<b>01 August 1995 31 July 1997</b>

11. Biannual Support Program Agroecology Development	NOVIB	140.514.000	August 1998 July 2000
12. Agroecology Program Phase 3	NOVIB	184.699.124	November 2001 October 2004
13. Project of domestication of wild jujube	Belgium Technical Cooperation	5.641.576	2003 - 2004
14. Project of Alphabetization	PAPA II Canada	4.127.200	2004 (6 months)
15. Program of Transition for SAPOA	NOVIB	13.283.129	Nov./Dec 2004 /Jan 2005
16. Project of amelioration and domestication of local fruit species	UICN/Embassy des Pays-Bas	13.500.000	2005/2007
Project of recycling of domestic wastes in Keur Ibra Fall	International French Organization (OIF)	6.812.000	Nov 2007/Nov 2008
Support for building of Traditional Cultural Center of the Zone of Bande	Bronitsky and Associates (USA)	29.999.000	March 2007 to March 2008
<b>TOTAL of Received FUNDS</b>		<b>FCFA 631.673.869 or EUROS 964.388</b>	

## II. Description of Senegal:

### 2.1 Generalities :

- 2.1.1 Situated at the western extreme of the continent of Africa, Senegal is a Sahelian country covering more than 196,722 kilometers of which the greatest part is situated at least 100 meters above sea-level, with the exception of the South-East where are found the foothills of Fouta Djallon (Mount Sambagalou at 581 meters). Precipitation has been decreasing for several years, decreasing more than 1000 mm/year in the South to 300 mm/year in the North of the country. There is a single season of rain from June to October. One can distinguish four climate zones : (1) the North with a sahelian climate (rains to around 300 mm/year in less than two months/year and harmattan during nine months) ; (ii) the North-West Coast with a sub-canarian dry and with breezes lowering the temperature; (iii) Casamance with a sub-Guinean climate (rain of 1300 to 1800 mm/year and elevated temperatures ) ; (iv) the center with a Sudanian climate (rain rising from the West to the East from 700 to 1300 mm ?year over six to seven months).
- 2.1.2 The population is around 10 million inhabitants. The rate of growth of the population is 2.7%/year which will double the population in 26 years. The average density is 48 inhabitants/kilometer, but it is very unequally distributed over the country. In effect, 65% of the population lives in the West and the Center which occupies 14% of the surface of the country. The region of Dakar contains 25% of the population on .3% of the land. The population is characterized by 47% youth of less than 15 years, by a high rate of urbanization (47%) and a life expectancy of 51 years for men and of 54 years for women. The principal ethnic groups are Wolofs and Sereres (58%), Pulaars (23%), and Diolas, Balantes, Bassaris and Mandingues, etc. (19%).
- 2.1.3 The Laws on Decentralization passed in 1996 have strengthened the local decentralized local communities. They are endowed with ethical standards and financial autonomy and are administered liberally by counselors elected via universal suffrage. From now on, these

communities will function at the side of organizations of civil society, of partners privileged for the activities of development at the base.

## **2.2 Economic Situation**

- 2.2.1 While growth was limited to 1.7% from 1990 to 1995 (inferior demographic growth of 2.7%/year), the rate of growth of GDP attained 5.3%/year from 1996 to 2000, to attain more that 6% today. This is due to the effects of the devaluation of currency in 1994, to the rigor imposed in fiscal and monetary policy, but that lately manifests itself in the foodbasket of the household.

## **2.3 Poverty**

- 2.3.1 Since 1994, several studies conducted on poverty in Senegal have evaluated the proportion of households above the poverty level (fixed at 2400 calories per adult per day) to around 54% of the population in 2001. This proportion was at 58% in 1994. Meanwhile, other inequities taken at the same date, indicate that 65% of households consider themselves as poor and that 23% as very poor. Poverty is localized in the rural zones, in particular in the Center, the South and the Northeast. Three quarters of poverty is found in the rural zones. Poverty rises with the size of families; it rises when the level of education of the head of the family is weak. Surveys show the factors of poverty the most cited by families rebuild often from ruptures in the system of production : drought, degradation of soils (in particular, salinization), loss of equipment, floods and parasites.

## **2.4 Policy for Development:**

- 2.4.1 Confronted with the problems of poverty, the Government of Senegal adopted, in March 2002, a Document of strategy for the reduction of poverty (DSRP) prepared in close collaboration with the principal actors of economic and social development in the country. This strategy integrated well the major directions elaborated in the Tenth Plan of Economic and Social Development (PDES) for 2002-2007 and in the context of the New Partnership for the Development of Africa (NEPAD). The three major objectives of DSRP consist of : (1) assuring a sustained increase of 7-8% per year permitting the reduction to 15% the percentage in poverty in the period 2003-2005 and a doubling of revenue per inhabitant by 2015 ; (ii) to generalize the access to essential social services by accelerating the establishment of infrastructures in local communities before 2010 ; (iii) to eradicate all forms of discrimination and to establish equality of the sexes in primary and secondary education by 2015.

## **3. THE RURAL SECTOR:**

### **3.1 Generalities:**

- 3.1.1 Since economic growth of the country passed 5% per year on average since 1996, the growth in the primary sector was situated only around 3.6% per year which is near the rate of increase in the population of (2.7 %). That led to a loss of the contribution of the primary sector in GDP which was, in 2000, around 60% of the population and contributes, aside from products of fishing, for 12% in receipts from exports. Agricultural imports represent 16% of total imports. This sector plays equally an important role for the improvement of food security, for the supplying of prime materials to the agricultural industry, and uses a part of industrial and artisan products.
- 3.1.2 Agriculture, essentially pluvial and thus submissive to variations in rainfall, contributes around 42% of primary GDP. One assists in a solution increasing by importation of grains and which represent from 45-50% of the needs in grains of the country. Animal husbandry contributes 39% of primary GDP, fishing 14%, and forestry 5%. This last provides all the energy needs in the rural milieu and 80% in the urban milieu.

Importations of cereals and food aid represent 45% to 50% of the needs of cereals of Senegal.

### **3.2 Characteristic Principles :**

**3.2.1 Agriculture.** Cultivable land represents 3.8 million hectares, and 19% of the total land of the country. About 2.5 million hectares, being 65% of cultivatable land, are cultivated each year. The essential cultures are pluvial, irrigation not exceeding 3% of cultivated land and the decrease 1%. The greatest part of cultivated land is found in the peanut basin (71%) and in Casamance (12%). Eastern Senegal represents 7% of cultivated land, 437,000 of agricultural operations in the country (outside the region of Ziguinchor); the average size of operation varies in general from 0.5 to 4 hectares except in the region of Kaolack where it attains 8 hectares.

All systems of production, the four large grain cultures practiced are, by order of importance, millet/sorghum (around 1 million hectares), rice (96,000 hectares) and corn (70,000 hectares). Grain production attained an average of around 930,000 tons in the course of the ten last campaigns with marked fluctuations according to the years and the amount of rainfall. Regarding what concerns industrial cultures, peanuts are cultivated on nearly a million hectares and cotton on 20,000 hectares. Horticulture is one of the most dynamic productive activities in the agricultural sector. In 2000, the cultivated land in truck farming was estimated at nearly 22,000 hectares, permitting a total production on the order of 240,000 tons of truck farming products of which at least 60% were provided from the region of Niayes. The production of fruit (mangos, citrus fruit, bananas), in 2000, was estimated at 130,000 tons.

### **III. REALIZED ACTIVITIES:**

#### **3.1: Elaboration of a project titled: "Program for Management of Natural Resources and Sustainable Development in the Peanut Basin of Senegal."**

##### **1) Project Overview: The Peanut Basin of Senegal**

- a) The Peanut Basin accounts for nearly 30% of the nation's land area) and produces around three-quarters of Senegal's grain and peanut crops.
  - b) Because the agricultural practices used are not sustainable and are not indeed well adapted to tropical environments, the Basin's natural and human resources are rapidly degraded. The model of exploitation put in place over many dozens of years is based on a culture principally characterized by mechanization and fertilization: peanuts cultivated in rotation with millet have not resisted climatic changes. In the 1980's, the rigors of the program of structural adjustment, paired with a growing demographic pressure, definitely compromised the fragile earlier equilibrium.
- 2) **Current Situation/Condition:** In spite of numerous research and projects carried out in this zone over the course of the last decades, few solutions were found to arrest the degradation of the environment and thus the urban and rural impoverishment is well underway.
- 3) **Recommended Steps:** In view of this situation and the account now taken of the urgency of the problems in certain parts of the Basin, alternative solutions must be researched and put in place.
- 4) **Basic Program Methodology:** The methodology of the approach and analysis to be adopted must be different from those that have presided over the preceding choice of actions and projects including:
- a) reinstallation of the importance of the connection between people and the land including affirming the wisdom of the peasant farmers and building up peasant organizations to support this process;
  - b) selection of best practices in appropriate technology to replace existing unsustainable agriculture models;
  - c) initiation of training processes involving initial investment in a state of the art sustainable development training center using highly integrated technologies and approaches designed for tropical environments;
  - d) development of a whole system planning and development plan for the region that consider the value of local cultural heritage and sees this as a valuable and untapped national resource;

- e) Include in this planning process a plan for integrating sustainable businesses and practices involving construction, agriculture, forests and pasture so the benefits to each emerging sector are maximized;
  - f) develop alternative development strategies that involve multiple and integrated paths of activities and means of production rather than a monoculture of peanut production: the multi-cultivation of staple foods (millet, corn, sorghum, peanuts, niébé, manioc, fresh vegetables), raising animals for market, the cultivation of trees, as well as the transformation to and establishment of fair market value for production at the rural level.
- 5) **Urgent Issues in the Peanut Basin:** The Problematic and Goals of the Peanut Basin are correctly placed in a national context. However, certain of the goals are particularly urgent locally as well:
- a) density of the rising population;
  - b) the fragile and endangered natural environment and, in some zones, severe degradation already underway;
    - i) the extension of cultivated lands to the detriment of pasture and forested areas; stagnation of production;
    - ii) declining fertility of the soil;
    - iii) stagnation of animal husbandry;
  - c) the lack of valorization of rural production and the importance of diversification of rural activities;
  - d) weakness of agricultural revenue which hastens the exodus from rural areas (now moving from seasonal to extended duration);
  - e) slow modernization of indigenous crafts and weak development of local industries, which could, if developed, increase employment and produce equipment and material needed to improve the quality of life in rural areas;
  - f) the approach of development up until very recently has been technical, dictated by outsiders to the rural areas, oriented towards a single cash crop predominantly for export, i.e., peanuts, rather than a healthy-for-the land diversification, and has principally focused on men while ignoring the needs of women.
- 6) **Core Concepts/Themes of Integrated Sustainable Development Model for the Peanut Basin:** A viable ecologically and socially conscious strategy of rural development in the Peanut Basin must take account of three indivisible dimensions:
- a) the socio-cultural dimension which takes into consideration the different subgroups of the population, including ethnic groups, men, women, and youth, their traditional knowledge and present milieu;
  - b) the environmental dimension which must be integrated into all technical and economic choices to in order to reconcile the protection and regeneration of the environment with economic development; and
  - c) the economic dimension which must take account, at the same time, of the potential and limitations of the milieu, the factors of production and the possibilities for transformation and valorization of products and conditions of the marketplace for the benefit of local producers and the sustenance of rural communities.

*Taking account of these three dimensions permits reinforcement of responsibility for the rural world by the national government and all stakeholders and of instituting integrated programs, which are responsive to the needs of the rural population.*

- 7) **Proposed Regenerative Intervention Measures to Reverse Degradation:** In order to reverse this tendency, SAPOA proposes to establish a program entitled: “**Program of Natural Resources Management and Sustainable Development in the Peanut Basin of Senegal.**” The intervention proposed is justified by:
- a) The marked disequilibrium between the current weak productivity of most of the systems of production and the pressing needs of a population which continues to grow
  - b) A dynamic among small farmers which is witnessed as a mobilization at the level of village organizations for dialogue with all stakeholders and for participation in the reflection on the alternative solutions in view of sustainable development.

- 8) **Zone of Intervention Statistics:**
- a) **Geographical Location** - The zone of intervention proposed is situated in the center – east of the Peanut Basin the length of the axis of Kaolack-Koungheul-Tambacounda.
  - b) **Rainfall** - It corresponds to a zone of average annual rainfall in the order of 600 mm.
  - c) **Population and Density** - Varies between 65 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup> (Birkelane, in the West) to nearly 30 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup> (Koumpentoum, to the East). Its population rises to nearly 70,000 inhabitants, forming between 8,000 and 9,000 households.
  - d) **Geographical and Ecological Conditions**- It is relatively homogenous and characteristic of a part of the Peanut Basin; it does not present the most severe limiting factors found in the Basin, but it presents a collection of important problems and constraints now and for the future if none of the proposed actions are put into place rapidly. In effect, the exploitation of the lands (cultures) and the vegetation (cutting and removal of woods – wood for fire and wood for construction – taking into account the proximity of the national highway) is going to accelerate from West to East; some measures must be taken soon in order to protect and regenerate the heritage of land and horticultural resources.
- 9) **Program Aims and Objectives:**
- a) **Ameliorate** the life conditions of these populations by the realization of infrastructures in the public interest such as drilling (village and rural hydraulics), building small access roads, instituting anti-erosive measures, the creation or the rehabilitation of social infrastructures (health and education) and the promotion of centers of services in the context of a well-considered administration of the region. These heavy investments, which could not be implemented directly by the base communities, would bring great advantage to a large portion of the population but will not be included in the budget of this program.
  - b) **Intensify** and diversify production without depleting the soil or continuing the dangerous practices of superficial cultivation.
  - c) **Restore** the environment and control animal husbandry which currently occupies large land masses, by permitting the raising of animals under different forms well integrated with plant and forest cultivation and protective of water supplies in much smaller areas, thus embodying one source of profitable activities while keeping equilibrium with the natural milieu.
  - d) **Promote**, in the near term, a rural urbanization by diversifying activities and sources of employment at the level of urban centers nearer to rural villages by the installation of small factories to process agricultural products and manufacture clothing for community use and export in order to make profitable these productions, locally, rather than sending raw produce elsewhere for production and profit for those outside the rural community.
  - e) **Reinforce** village and inter-village organizations (with logistic and technical support and training) in order to promote their own self-development, to participate in different levels (from household, to community to region to nation) in making decisions and regional plans, and in order to permit them to enlarge their impact in neighboring villages or territories.
- 10) **Community Based Intervention Methodology:** This program proposes to intervene, on diverse levels of decision-making which influence local and regional development:
- a) at the level of the family, which constitutes the social fabric of the villages and forms a sort of unit of primary decision concerning the use of the land;
  - b) at the level of small affinity groups where collective social and economic interests are expressed;
  - c) at the level of villages, which form the sociopolitical entities at the base of the regional fabric, they are the guarantors of the heritage and of the interests of the communities, in particular that which concerns the portion of space used and controlled by themselves," the village territory;"
  - d) at the level of rural communities, wherein the leaders are elected and thus have the power to establish a system of broader participation.
- 11) **Core Organizing Principles:** The program, which intends these actions, will be articulated through five organizing principles:

- a) infrastructures of public interest : village hydraulic systems, access roads, social/educational infrastructures (rehabilitation of schools) and health infrastructures (rehabilitation of rural centers and hospitals of public health), of which plans are studied by the administration and decentralized structures, with the agreement of farmers' organizations for the zone;
- b) actions of land management: concentrating the proposed actions of "rural sustainable development" in some 70 villages, currently more directly sustained by farmers' organizations, with supporting services (like internet access, factories, hospitals) to be strengthened in four to five nearby small cities; and of agricultural development: to progress from widely and loosely dispersed management toward centering in zones, especially for credit, or intentional increased agricultural productivity , at the request of members of farmers' organizations (some 2000 to 3000 family enterprises, being 20-25% of the enterprises of the zone) to lead by farmers' organizations with the collaboration of services of the State
- c) diversification of activities, improvement of production and creation of employment, promoting by credits in the near term at the level of the zone the installation of small rural entrepreneurs;
- d) training programs, by the financing of an interdisciplinary team, at the level of SAPOA, charged with coordinating and empowering the project in these farming areas, to enable the work of the community trainers through office equipment (computers, etc.) and transportation (jeep, truck) with the farmers' organizations;
- e) formation (training of cadres of technicians and farmers in the approaches of eco-development, land management, training in the subject matter of management and literacy, and exchanges of skills between farmers.

**12) Implementation: Specific Strategies and Action's Towards Program Development to Address the Problems in the Peanut Basin**

<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Tools</b>	<b>Actors</b>
<b>A. Intensification/Diversification of Production</b>	1. To increase sustainable agricultural production and income 2. To reduce importations of cereals	Intensive Crops of cereals, fruit trees and peanuts Aquaculture Fish Ponds for intensive crops. Irrigation during dry season (gardening). Intensification of agriculture (manure, composting, etc.)  Intensive Animal husbandry (raising cows, sheep, goats and chicken).  Diverse Activities: transformation of agriculture products, crafts, etc.	Capacity building  Providing seeds, equipment and Commercialization  Micro-Credit  Refinancing the constitution of stocks of inputs (seeds, organic fertilizers) and agriculture products	Farmers' Organizations and Family exploitations With SAPOA' support and Partners
<b>B. Restoration of the environment and control of the expansion of animal husbandry</b>	1. Research environmental action and natural resources protection and management. 2.Rehabilitation and protection of flora and	1. Support of management of village lands 2. Training, information, education and communication on sustainable farming	1. Contracts of development between SAPOA and Farmers' Organization	Farmers' Organizations Family's exploitations with support of SAPOA and Partners

	<p>fauna</p> <p>3. Restoration, protection and conservation of soils and water and increase agricultural value of valleys and bas-ponds</p> <p>4. Fight against erosion and crops diseases naturally</p> <p>5. Integration of agriculture and forestry</p>	<p>including organic farming, biodynamic farming and ecologic farming</p> <p>3. sustainable agriculture</p> <p>4. plantation of trees</p> <p>5. raising animals</p> <p>6. Restoration, conservation, protection of soils, forest and water</p>	<p>s</p> <p>2. Capacity building/Ecol. practices and techniques/ Diobass' methodology</p> <p>3. Micro-credit (seeds, organic fertilizers)</p> <p>4. Credit for intensification (equipment).</p>	
<b>C. Strengthen Farmers' organizations and Local communities</b>	<p>Support and strengthen farmers' organizations and local communities for education (rehabilitation of traditional and introduction of modern technologies) and help them to realize their integrated activities.</p>	<p>Organizing workshops and conferences on sustainable development (spiritual, cultural, social, economic, ecological and political issues).</p>	<p>1. Institutional support</p> <p>2. Training</p>	SAPOA and Partners
<b>C'. Taking account of socio-cultural dimension which takes into consideration the different subgroups of the population, including ethnic groups, men, women, and youth, their Knowledge</b>	<p>1. Include in this planning process a plan for integrating sustainable businesses and practices involving construction, agriculture, forests and pasture so the benefits to each emerging sector are maximized</p> <p>2. Develop alternative development strategies that involve multiple and integrated paths of activities and means of production rather than a monoculture of peanut production: the multi-cultivation of staple foods (millet, corn, sorghum, peanuts, niébé, manioc, fresh vegetables), raising animals for market, the cultivation of trees, as well as the transformation to and</p>	<p>1. Support for collective reflection at the level of country villages and rural for the safeguard and protection of the environment and the durable management of natural resources, and above all to result in sustainable family agriculture for the nurture of communities of small farmers.</p> <p>2. Support of micro-finance and micro-enterprise. In this area, SAPOA will support self-managed financial institutions by reinforcing them at the institutional level, but also by putting at their disposal financial resources comparable to a specialized bank</p>	<p>1. Contracts of development between SAPOA and Farmers' Organizations</p> <p>2. Capacity building/Ecol. practices and techniques.</p> <p>3. Micro-credit (seeds, organic fertilizers).</p> <p>4. Credit for intensification (equipment).</p>	SAPOA and Partners

	establishment of fair market value for production at the rural level.			
<b>D) To develop a whole system planning and development plan for the region that consider the value of local cultural heritage and sees this as a valuable and untapped national resource and promoting urbanization of small cities.</b>	<p>1. Include in this planning process a plan for integrating sustainable businesses and practices involving construction, agriculture, forests and pasture so the benefits to each emerging sector are maximized</p> <p>2. Develop alternative development strategies that involve multiple and integrated paths of activities and means of production rather than a monoculture of peanut production: the multi-cultivation of staple foods (millet, corn, sorghum, peanuts, niébé, manioc, fresh vegetables), raising animals for market, the cultivation of trees, as well as the transformation to and establishment of fair market value for production at the rural level.</p>	<p>1. Support for collective reflection at the level of country villages and rural for the safeguard and protection of the environment and the durable management of natural resources, and above all to result in sustainable family agriculture for the nurture of communities of small farmer</p> <p>2. Support of micro-finance and micro-enterprise. In this area, SAPOA will support self-managed financial institutions by reinforcing them at the institutional level, but also by putting at their disposal financial resources comparable to a specialized bank</p>	<p>1. Contracts of development between SAPOA and Farmers' Organizations</p> <p>2. Capacity building</p> <p>3. Micro-credit (seeds, organic fertilizers).</p> <p>4. Credit for intensification (equipment).</p>	<p>Farmers' Organizations Family's exploitations with SAPOA and Partners</p>
<b>E. To develop a Participative Approach for Research and Development/Research</b>	<p>1. the bio-socio-economic milieu of the farmer would be taken into account;</p> <p>2. the farmer would be considered a researcher;</p> <p>3. the research will originate in and will take into account all the elements of the farmer's agricultural system;</p> <p>4. the farmer is called to participate in the validation of methods, to reject certain agricultural practices and to appropriate others;</p> <p>5. the farmer becomes</p>	<p>1. the research could help to fill out the sustainable techniques in order to better clarify the notions of the yield of the land, the associations between plant species, and the best species succession for planting.</p> <p>2. look also to see the possibilities of plant culture associations for lessening the cost of production, the maintenance of fertility of the soil, the defense of the environment and of the health of the human population.</p>	<p>1. Contracts of development between SAPOA and Farmers' Organizations</p> <p>2. Capacity building/Eco. practices and techniques/ Diobass' methodology</p> <p>3. Micro-credit (seeds, organic fertilizers)</p> <p>4. Credit for intensification</p>	<p>SAPOA and Partners</p>

	an element of application and of diffusion of the results of the research to other farmers in his milieu		(equipment).	
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**3.2: Training of 1.500 small Farmers on: The Priority of Family Agriculture in Africa**

The reasons for which family agriculture must be the priority of the politics of development are solid. Any agro-economic system, today, must achieve economic efficacy, socioeconomic equity and the sustainable management of natural resources.

First, there is no economic alternative to the maintenance in the rural milieu of a majority of African's population. In spite of the high growth rate of the urban population, many of whom immigrate to the cities from the rural areas. The urban economy is already no longer capable of absorbing more rural immigrants. It leads only to increased poverty in the urban zone with shanty towns, unemployment and disillusionment, especially of young men and women looking for a chance in life. Given current economic priorities and scarcity, there is little hope for a reversal of this trend in the near term. It is essential to find good ways for the rural population and culture to remain largely intact.

The second reason follows from this. Given that it is necessary to maintain a rural population of considerable numbers, (and knowing that important rate of the rural population is already living below the poverty line) and, given that increased rural and urban populations require more food and sundries, it is necessary to increase local employment to provide rural family income. This can be done through stepped up agricultural productivity of more than 3% per year to meet the growing need plus work opportunities diversified into jobs other than in agriculture, but located in rural areas.

This accommodation cannot be obtained with agriculture based on capital intensification one of whose aims is a reduction in the workforce. Only a minute proportion of farmers, who have a comfortable income augmented from non-agricultural income, can support this type of agriculture. This agriculture has, without doubt, its place in the Africa economy and could play an increasingly role in agricultural exportation. However, it does not solve the problem of the rural population, both intrinsically valuable and still growing.

The third reason is that, taking account of the broad extent of poverty in rural areas of Africa, the only efficacious method to combat it is, in the short and medium term, not to finance a few, already solvent farmers, but to return to employment and agricultural productivity the majority of small farmers who have been excluded from such investment and do not have the wherewithal to improve their productivity on their own.

In Africa, the politics of rural and agricultural development, must give a priority to the family agriculture and take into account the new national and international context of this agriculture. This politic does not exclude other forms of agriculture but it replaces them in an order of priority corresponding to criteria of efficacy and of equity concerning the distribution of public resources.

**Sustainable Agriculture in Africa**

One of the principal weaknesses of agricultural politics in Africa, over several years, is the absence of a vision shared among the stakeholders among whom active engagement is one gauge of success. The States, the producers and the other participants in the process of agricultural and rural development have failed to come to agreement toward a long range plan taking into account the factors most important to each.

One of the fundamental reasons for this marginalization of the majority of the principal actors is the conception of a model of agriculture based on a radical substitution of technologies to intensify production for traditional practices: the machine is substituted for the person, chemical fertilizers for natural animal and vegetable matter, irrigation for a system of a culture based on the natural increase and decrease in the water level.

This industrial conception did not honor the motivations intrinsic to the rural world for its ambition was not to build an alternative, one united voice appropriate to agricultural development, but to placate an external model.

### **Reinventing a Model of Agriculture and Rural Development Based on the Family Farming**

Sustainable agriculture as an alternative agricultural system of production arising from a holistic vision (interdisciplinary: agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, forestry) wherein farmers are the motors of the process; organization and administration of rural spaces with a particular accent on the administration of natural resources and the protection of the environment; local development will be the base of all strategies in function of the different agricultural zones or sub-zones; sustainable family farms will be the pedestal on which the agricultural sector advancing from tomorrow will be built; the institution by the State of an environment favoring and easing the production and productivity of farms, permitting a better repartition of agricultural profit among the actors according to their work.

This model could support sustainable family agriculture. Sustainable family agriculture is an agricultural system, which puts the accent on the rational administration of natural resources (use, conservation, renewal of the soils, of water, of forests, of the biomass, of marine and animal resources).

It seeks to collaborate with nature instead of dominating it. Sustainable agriculture empowers a strong intensification of agricultural systems combined with a strong diversification of vegetable and animal production.

Sustainable family agriculture puts the accent on biological diversity and the natural association of cultures. It is supported by traditional indigenous knowledge, but is enriched by modern techniques and technologies, which limit external inputs.

In place of synthesized chemical fertilizers and pesticides, sustainable family agriculture utilizes the ensemble of renewable energies and biodegradable materials found in the local environment for fertilization of the soils and uses natural and integrated struggle in the control of insects, which attack plants.

Sustainable agriculture is a system of agricultural production in which plant and animal species support one another through food, waste and compost, where an ensemble of sustainable renewable natural energy sources are utilized, where farmers are able to cultivate continually in every season of the year, with their animal and/or vegetable production achieving a fair return, all the while limiting external inputs.

Agroecology, biodynamic, and all other forms of organically agriculture are integrated within sustainable agriculture. Sustainable family agriculture is centered on the family farm which is the place where all agricultural-sylvan-pastoral-aquatic activities coexist and complement one another. In effect, the family farm is an intertwined system of production composed of different elements in permanent relationship:

- the familial group
- natural resources on which the family works
- agricultural materiel
- factors of production
- non-agricultural activities

Thus, sustainable agriculture, based on the family farm, is a powerful way of utilizing and intensifying the workers' efficacy by giving productive employment in the rural setting and thus, also, engaging the struggle against poverty.

Nevertheless, systems of sustainable agriculture are complex and ever more global and holistic in reach, extending from the family farm to the international environment while passing through the territory, the nation and the sub-region.

Thus, for good success of systems of sustainable agriculture, it is necessary to take into account the following elements:

- the necessity to have experimental zones of farmers' organizations engaged in the practice of sustainable agriculture;
- the support of the State in the process to generate systems of sustainable agriculture by putting in place favorable policies to assure the security and food sovereignty of the country and of the region;
- the active participation of NGO's and of farmers' organizations in the definition of these politics. In this sense, the partnership among the stakeholders has an important role to play in strengthening the capacities of the farmers' organizations in the realm of agricultural policies in which they may be, as yet, unpracticed.
- the good pricing of agricultural products, their promotion and sale in local markets by measures permitting healthy competition with imported products which are strongly subsidized and thus able to enter at very low prices. The subsidization of agricultural products from the North coming to local markets is a great barrier to the development of local agricultural products (either at the level of domestic markets or for export to the markets of the North where, in addition, the World Trade Organization (WTO) imposes sanitary and phyto-sanitary conditions which African products do not meet).
- the promotion of the local economy by processing agricultural products in small enterprises and factories within the rural milieu thus permitting a greater retention of profits; this will, likewise, provide an important diversification of employment in small cities and villages of the rural milieu and a resulting augmentation of demand for goods and service which will benefit the whole local economy.
- the placement by the State and its partners of socioeconomic investment structures and infrastructures in the rural milieu for access by the population of the basic services of education, health, access to potable water, transportation, housing and services of communication and energy;
- involvement of the technical services of the State, NGO's, and institutions of research and agricultural consultation in the generation of systems of sustainable agriculture which require participative approaches and methodologies but also affirm the benefits of technical, environmental, political, institutional, cultural, social and economic planning.

Through this approach, ASPAB trained 1.500 small farmers to promote sustainable agriculture in Senegal.

### **3.3: Implementing the Project titled: "Support for building of Traditional Cultural Center of the Zone of Bande":**

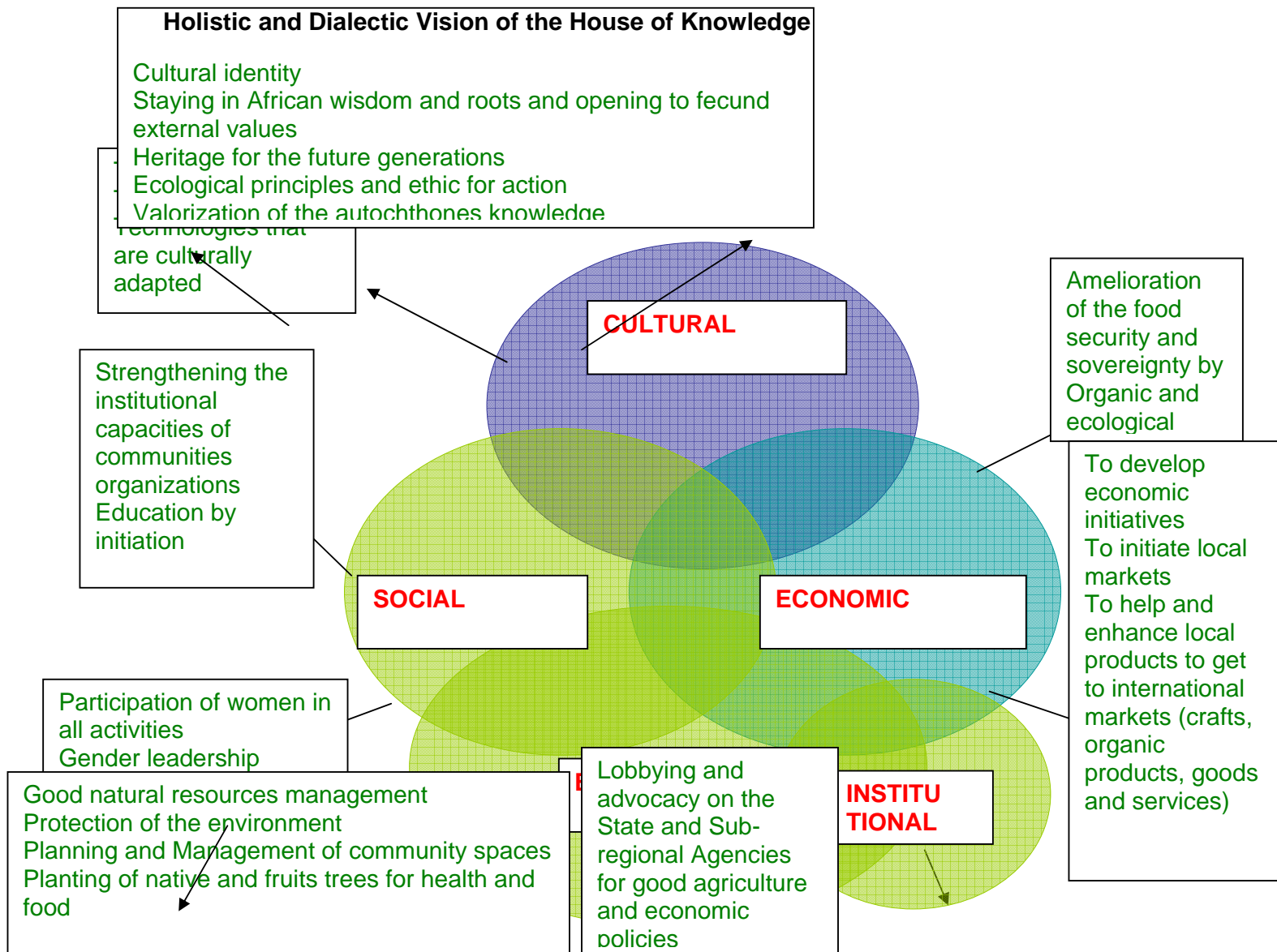
In March 2007, ASPAB, CIRPED and the Bronitsky and Associated decided to implement a project titled: "Support for building of Traditional Cultural Center of the Zone of Bande" after receiving a demand from the Indigenous peoples of the Zone of Bande.

By conducting an Assessment of community dialogue of the zone of Bande and by elaborating an Action plan, the objectives and the results of this project are the following:

- Describe the vision and mission for the Traditional Cultural Arts Center
- Align the vision and mission to the future – with time lined projections and measurable milestones
- Document the work and history of the community and its arts and traditions both verbally and visually
- Articulate the specific programs, activities and aspirations of the Traditional Cultural Arts Center in the words and understanding the Community Leaders and members
- Identify current and potential stakeholders – locally, regionally, nationally and internationally
- Identify existing and potential markets – for artists, product and performances
- Identify possible funding and sponsorship opportunities
- Analyze the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the venture
- Outline a strategic approach to engaging with the identified new markets and describe action stages
- Explain promotional information needs in a format suitable for international markets
- Describe a pathway for taking positioning the Traditional Cultural Arts Center and taking the arts and culture of the Bande people to the World

- Provide a documented base for approaching and seeking national and international leverage of funds and resources needed

**3.3: ASPAB is working to build a Vision about the House of Knowledge:**



The program will research on:

- ✚ Birth celebration in different ethnic groups
- ✚ Initial education by the family, ethnic and community
- ✚ Circumcision, period to pass to become adult (young girls or young boys) in different ethnic groups
- ✚ Marriage
- ✚ Rituals to prevent and to prepare the rainy season
- ✚ Rituals for planting and harvesting
- ✚ Ancestral council (wisdom for the protection of traditional believes and values of the community for a sustainable existence)
- ✚ Death, the next door

### **“Building the House of Knowledge”: Aim**

**The overall aim of the project is to:**

“Strengthen the recognition of and support to positive traditions as a vector for development in Africa in terms of poverty reduction, social development, democratization and promotion of human rights”;

“To support networking and sharing of best practices from positive traditions, demonstrate the social and economic impact of positive traditions and to advocate for an enabling policy environment for positive traditions in Africa”;

“To build a conceptual framework to guide thinking about the House of Knowledge policy and market development in West Africa. The conceptual framework will be practical and useful. It will describe innovative strategic interventions to improve the House of Knowledge activities market performance and new ways to increase the efficiency and sustainability of African positive traditions use. The audiences for this conceptual framework include West African government policy analysts and decisions makers, development agency representatives and employees of development organizations, including non governmental organizations, involved in the design and implementation of projects to promote efficient and sustainable use of African positives traditions, as well as students learning or researching on the development community who is engaged in the policy dialogue”.

### **Objectives of HK:**

- ✚ Research, organisation of a large collective thinking on positive traditions and follow-up activities.
- ✚ Training young people, women and adults in many fields including the values and principles of the African culture;
- ✚ Computer skills and Internet access for world and data processing, access to worldwide markets, agricultural and medical information, networking among farmer’s organizations, and e-mail access for all;
- ✚ Environmental issues and natural resources protection;
- ✚ Organic agriculture and market marketing;
- ✚ Economic issues specifically on the globalization and liberalization of economy and the impacts of World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Trade Organization (WTO) policies and strategies on the developing countries;
- ✚ Economic issues specifically on the globalization and liberalization of economy;
- ✚ Cultural and social issues particularly on local governance and democracy;
- ✚ Health care, education, family planning, immunization and diseases prevention against HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria and other diseases which affect the welfare of agricultural communities;
- ✚ Sustainable development by organizing workshops and conferences on cultural, social, economic and ecological issues;
- ✚ Creation of “House of knowledge Networks for the promotion of Positive African Traditions” and initiate a “Liaison Letter of HK Networks” to link them together;

- ✚ Dissemination and implementation of the duplication of HK process in Senegal and in some West African countries like: Mali, The Gambia, Mauritania and Guinea.