



Agriculture and nutrition

Supporting healthy, sustainable food systems by improving agricultural, food and nutritional practices and providing a good-quality diversified product offer.

Theme factsheet



BENCHMARKS

Work on this subject area since 2010.

9 countries of operation in 2019: Burkina Faso, Guinea, Haiti, Laos, Madagascar, Mauritania, Myanmar, Niger, Senegal.

11 projects and consulting missions.

Given the current climate and societal challenges, food and nutrition security (FNS) must now be considered for current and future generations alike. In addition to specific actions (focusing on nutrition or support for healthcare systems), agriculture has a decisive role to play in responding to these nutritional and sustainability issues, which can be tackled through food systems. In order to foster structural inclusion of this dual challenge in agricultural programmes, GRET is improving its practices via multi-sectoral approaches generated by its consulting missions. It draws on internal dialogue, joint planning and gradual inclusion of new skills and methods, so that the connection between agriculture and nutrition can become operational.

More specifically, GRET promotes agroecology projects including advisory and awareness-raising measures on food and nutrition, making it possible to highlight and strengthen the food and nutritional effects of agroecological practices and systems. In this way, the inclusion of advice and awareness-raising in sustainable systems for agricultural support (farming organisations, professional umbrella organisations, State services) that are complementary to healthcare services ensure sustainability and change of scale. Local agrifood businesses also play an important role in the availability and accessibility of local quality foods. This is why GRET supports numerous stakeholders in these value chains so that they can be inclusive, sustainable, generate income and process products that are healthy, nutritious, attractive and affordable.

Methods of intervention

GRET and its local and international partners (public institutions, local authorities, farming and professional organisations, businesses, NGOs, consultancy firms, research centres) implement projects linking agriculture and nutrition. It also carries out consulting missions (technical assistance, studies, feasibility, evaluations).

Together with its partners, GRET conducts and publishes research and capitalisation, delivers training and contributes to enriching public debate on food and nutrition security at various levels.





GRET's approach

» “Through its participation in the Civil Society Mechanism of the United Nations Committee on World Food Security (CFS), GRET is contributing to international advocacy for a future world political framework (Voluntary guidelines on future food systems) promoting transformation of food systems, which is crucial to effectively fight malnutrition and sustainably preserve our cultural and natural resources”, explains **Prémila Masse, projects officer.**



» “In order to strengthen its projects combining agriculture and nutrition and to provide its partners with operational and institutional support, GRET is implementing the Asanao programme – improving food and nutrition security in West Africa – in five countries (Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal). The programme is strengthening skills and enabling greater contribution to public debate”, says **Damien Lagandré, projects officer.**

Key stakeholders' views

“The support provided by GRET and CCFD-Terre Solidaire enabled the Fouta Djallon Farmers' Federation (FPFD) to develop its nutrition programme, which was part of the Résa Nord project (2009-2011) and continued under the Sara project (2016-2019). The intervention strategy combined awareness-raising on best nutritional and healthcare practices with the implementation of market-garden plots and strengthening of stakeholders' capacities. Participating farmers are now diversifying their production and organising food groups produced to obtain nutritional balance in their meals. Lastly, healthcare and hygiene practices for children and breastfeeding women were improved.” **Malal Taran Diallo, agricultural adviser and trainer with FPFD – Timbi Madina Pita, in Guinea**



“By providing advice to the family farm, GRET improved our money management. We learnt how to keep notebooks to better understand our farm's cash flow. We noticed that some expenditure could be avoided. I advised my husband and he accepted to cut down on some spending. In parallel, the development of our livestock breeding and integration of pigeon peas and orange-fleshed sweet potatoes in our cropping systems made it possible to improve our savings and our food. Our meals are varied and tasty, the children like them and are 'growing muscles'. Even though the facilitators have left, we are keeping the habits acquired going as best we can.” **Honorine Félicia, Ambovombe commune in Madagascar**

SOME REFERENCES

• Costis Claire, 2020, *Construire des liens durables entre agriculture et nutrition*, GRET, et nutrition, GRET, Development policies & practices n° 24, February 2020, 4 pages.

• GRET, 2017, *Production agricole, santé & nutrition*, Illustrated pedagogical tool, Repam project in Burkina Faso, 23 sheets.

• Levard Laurent (GRET), with participation from Occivil Piervil (GRET), Makenson Pierre (GRET) and Audalbert Norvilus (AOG), 2020, *Les activités de conseil à l'explo-*

tation familiale (CEF) dans le cadre du projet Capagrnut (Haïti), Capitalisation report, 81 pages.

2020. Photos: © GRET.

Focus on two actions

Burkina Faso: Prevention of malnutrition in the Mouhoun Loop (Premam)

2018-2022 | **Budget:** 2.2 M€ | **Funding:** EU, AFD | **Partner:** Development Media International.



The project supports vulnerable rural households to produce foods that are rich in nutrients (cowpea, sesame, vegetable-gardening, small live-stock farming) with a view to strengthening their resilience, taking a gender-inclusive approach. Small local agrifood businesses are supported to produce and market fortified products: flours for children and a complementary food for women. Nutritional education is also included in the support provided, while advocacy is underway for greater inclusion of prevention of malnutrition in public policies.



Laos: Making agricultural advice nutrition-sensitive

2018-2022 | **Budget:** 1.3 M€ (technical assistance) | **Funding:** EU, AFD | **Partners:** Niras, Ministry of Agriculture.

As part of the Nusap project, the Ministry of Agriculture is offering a local agricultural advice service in almost 300 villages in the north of Laos, combined with a support fund for individual and collective agricultural projects. Niras and GRET are providing technical assistance to the Ministry to make the support nutrition-sensitive: better understanding of eating practices within families and of the causes of child malnutrition, renewal of facilitation methods, and advice and training to Ministry staff. In parallel, a health-nutrition project is being implemented in the same villages to put a large-scale multi-sectoral nutrition approach into practice.