

NEMA AVIP IMPLEMENTATION

REPORT OF THE FIELD EXERCISE ON THE SELECTION OF PLATFORM MEMBERS

8 - 11 MARCH, 2018



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1. BACKGROUND

In September 2017, WARF signed a contract with the National agricultural Land and Water Management Development Project (Nema) to implement a two-year pilot initiative to facilitate the emergence of 6 operational, functional and sustainable rice and horticulture value chains in selected Nema intervention areas. The initiative is being implemented in partnership with the Gambia Chapter of the Global Youth Innovation Network (GYIN - Gambia Chapter), in the framework of Nema's operational framework with the Department of Agriculture. The six selected sites for the implementation of the initiative are located in the West Coast, Lower River, Central River/South and North Bank Regions of the Country.

The main action of the initiative focuses on the creation of agricultural value chain interaction platforms (AVIP) to youth and women beneficiaries of Nema interventions to key value chain actors, including coaching, mentoring and limited value chain financing to ensure that they are fully operational, functional, profitable and sustainable. The platforms will act as the principal mechanism for interaction, negotiation, mutual learning and contractual arrangements between the value chain actors. Capacity strengthening support to each platform is geared towards ensuring the full operationalization and sustainability of the platforms. The emergence of operational and functional AVIP will contribute directly to the achievement of project outcome 1 (Improved productivity of scarce agricultural lands), outcome 3 (Value chain actors participate in local and national markets in a profitable way) and outcome 4 (Producer organizations accessing financial and non-financial services in a sustainable way).

The goal of AVIP is to contribute to the achievement of key Nema outcomes by establishing operational and functional women and youth-based agricultural value chain innovation platforms (AVIP) with secured access to profitable local, regional and national markets. The specific objectives are to:

- OBJ1: Establish 6 functional, operational and profitable agricultural value chain interaction platforms linking Nema beneficiaries to key actors of rice and horticulture value chains in project intervention sites in three agricultural regions.
- OBJ2: Create 18 new rural agri-businesses over 2 years, providing full-time employment for 90 to 100 rural youths and women members of selected rice and horticulture value chain interaction platforms (production, transformation and marketing).
- OBJ3: Provide value chain financing to promote access to agricultural capital and resources for 15 agro-enterprise members of the interaction platforms
- OBJ4: Produce a model for sustainable agricultural value chain development in The Gambia

2. SUMMARY OF IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

Following its launch and regional and community sensitization, the AVIP has conducted a successful value chain mapping exercise and submitted to the project its first technical report for the first quarter of implementation.

The AVIP implementation is now at a stage where platform members are being selected and this team embarked on the selection exercise during the period March 8 to 11, 2018, beginning with Berending and Noo Kunda on Day 1, Boiram and Kudang on Day 2 and Pakalinding and Darsilami on Day 3. It is important to highlight that this exercise was delayed as it was rescheduled at least twice due to the Nema MTR with IFAD, which was ongoing at the time, thereby making it difficult for the Nema Focal Point to participate in the exercise. The activity was conducted by the following **AVIP Core Implementation Team Members:**

Mr. Paul Mendy	Nema Assistant M&E and AVIP Focal Point
Lasana Jarra	Field Coordinator AVIP
Nyima Drammeh	CEES (representing DoA Focal Point)
Jainaba Manjang	GYIN Focal Point on the AVIP

3. SELECTION CRITERIA FOR PLATFORM MEMBERS

As is the practice in the implementation of AVIP, WARF has convened a one day workshop to determine the appropriate actors to form each platform and develop a guide for selection of platform members which was utilised by the team during the selection process. The following are the guidelines:

Platform members for the Rice Platforms

[Kudang, Boiram (CRRS) and Pakalinding (LRR)]

- Entry point is Nema VFA
- 4 representatives from the VFA
- 2 youth (50% male/female) from youth kafos/groups. These 2 youth should be actively engaged in the Agric value chain
- 6 farmers (i.e. rice producers)
- 6 principal stakeholders (i.e. 2 transporters, 2 millers, 2 middlemen/traders)
- Middlemen/traders are sub-divided into two categories, 1 village-based (middlemen) and 1 market-level based (middlemen).

Platform members for the Vegetable Platforms

[Darsilami (WCR), Berending and Noo Kunda (NBR)]

- Entry point is Nema VFA,
- 4 representatives (at least 50% female) from the VFA,
- 2 youth (at least 50% female) from youth kafos/groups. These 2 youth should be actively engaged in the Agric value chain,
- 6 farmers or producers (at least 50% female),
- 6 principal stakeholders (at least 50% female), i.e. 2 transporters, 2 processors, 2 middlemen;
- Middlemen are sub-divided into two categories, 1 to operate at village-level and 1 at the market-level.

Thus, each platform comprises of the eighteen (18) key actors in the rice and horticulture value chains as outlined below and in consonance with the guide:

1. Four (4) members of the VFA/Nema Kafos
2. Six (6) Producers
3. Two Youth engaged in Agriculture
4. Two (2) Processors for vegetable schemes and
5. Two (2) Millers for rice producers
6. Two (2) Transporters
7. Two (2) Traders (Middlemen based at community level and at the market level)

The Team visited all of the six AVIP communities and in each community convened a meeting in the form of a Bantaba. The communities were mobilised by prior contacts with the Nema Field Coordinators, VFA, DoA Extension Workers and key contact persons at each village.

Proceedings at each community followed the following sequence:

1. Opening prayers
2. Introduction of the purpose of the meeting by Mr Jarra
3. Facilitation of the selection process by Mr Mendy
4. Statement on the overall goal of the AVIP and key roles and responsibilities (expectations) of the platform members by Mr Mendy
5. Statement on the role of the youth in the AVIP by Ms Manjang
6. Statement on Sustainability by Ms Drammeh, DoA
7. Community feedback, issues, Q&A
8. Closing prayer

4. PLATFORM MEMBERS BY COMMUNITY

At the end of the selection exercise the following is the list of members as selected by the various communities:

Region	AVIP Site	Members	Contact details
NBR	Berending	Nema VFA	
		1. Jainaba Jammeh	6933258
		2. Kumba Camara	2439989
		3. Alagie Jaine	6658218
		4. Awa Camara	7794290
		Producers	
		1. Bala Camara	2195875
		2. Ensa Ceesay	2296031
		3. Jankey Manneh	6921036
		4. Bintou Njie	9040155
		5. Suwadou Manneh	7396179
		6. Mariatou Sonko	7615628
		Youth	
		1. Isatou Sonko	7557637
		2. Morro Marong	6366591
		Processors	
		1. Mariama Bojang	6464087/7324069
		2. Arfang Sonko	6671162/2895633
		Traders	
		1. Binta Sonko	6617733
		2. Mariama Sanneh	2825154
		Transporters	
		1. Abdoulie Sarr	6740637
		2. Modou Fatty	7001626

		Facilitator	
		Hawa Singhateh	3164881/2088945
		Co-Facilitator	
		Kombeh Darboe	9989887
Region	AVIP Site	Members	Contact details
NBR	Noo Kunda	Nema VFA	
		1. Dembo Jammeh	6198745
		2. Mariama Dampha	7995413
		3. Alagie Jadama	6540303
		4. Noo Dampha	7529183
		Producers	
		1. Ndure Dibba	6476735
		2. Fatou Jammeh	6226640
		3. Kebba Manneh	6596084
		4. Mariama Sonko	6599344
		5. Satou Saidy	
		6. Ansumana Dampha	6819823
		Youth	
		1. Mariama Drammeh	6307601
		2. Amadou Jammeh	6358743
		Processors	
		1. Fatoumatta Dampha	7166105
		2. Famara Dampha	7551696
		Transporters	
		1. Amadou Sarjo	6580938
		2. Baba Dampha	6582145
		Traders	
		1. Fatoumatta Jagne	3520127/6236182
		2. Sisawo Dampha	6481105

		Facilitator	
		Nyima Suwareh	20156558
		Co-Facilitator	
		Mamud Gianna	7441427
Region	AVIP Site	Members	Contact details
CRRS	Boiram	Nema VFA	
		1. Bassy Buoy	3633462
		2. Ida Buoy	3877592
		3. Ebou Buoy	3309960
		4. Alagie Basiru Buoy	7052720
		Producers	
		1. Hinchu Buoy	7114732
		2. Chendou Buoy	7063928
		3. Sarjo Trawally	6522937
		4. Abdou F Buoy (Allulai)	3913787
		5. Awa Jagne	6971829
		6. Awa Mbye	
		Youth	
		1. Ali Buoy	7938259
		2. Ndey Buoy	9996652
		Millers	
		1. Modou Jagne	7359083
		2. Jambie Buoy (Fass Abdou)	3838694
		Transporters	
		1. Amadou Buoy	7474262
		2. Baboucarr Wadda	3235774
		Traders	
		1. Fanta Buoy	2448773
		2. Fafa Jobe (Brikamaba)	

		Facilitator	
		Musa Bah	2692865
		Co-Facilitator	
		Malang Sanneh	
Region	AVIP Site	Members	Contact details
CRRS	Kudang	Nema VFA	
		1. Lamin Ceesay	6418580
		2. Momodou Danso	6958789
		3. Sainey Camara	6809855
		4. Niama Ceesay	
		Producers	
		1. Malissa Kongira	6408873
		2. Masinjang Kani	6989342
		3. N'kay Kanyi	6189074
		4. Jainaba Dampha	6813135
		5. Bunja MK Marena	2192503
		6. Famara Marena	7222794
		Youth	
		1. Saikou Saïdy	6836589
		2. Aminata Fofana	6653673
		Millers	
		1. Jatta Sabally	6377402
		2. Kaybuteh Touray	9872233
		Transporters	
		1. Falai Camara	2240157
		2. Junkung Sidibeh	6202491
		Traders	
		1. Momodou Baldeh	6479545
		2. Sulayman Kurang	9994648

		Facilitator	
		Mariama Cham	3715160
		Co-Facilitator	
		Basiru Fofana	3748333
Region	AVIP Site	Members	Contact details
LRR	Pakalinding	Nema VFA	
		1. Bakoto Sanyang	6522171
		2. Satou Dibba	
		3. Sillah Manneh	6362563/7797097
		4. Kinteh Manneg	6363478
		Producers	
		1. Jalima Cham	6784511
		2. Jainaba Saidy	2396461
		3. Binta Ceesay	
		4. Kaddy Darboe	
		5. Adama Prierra	
		6. Chaku Dibba	
		Youth	
		1. Wonto Fatty	6893518
		2. Ebrima Manneh	
		Millers	
		1. Awo Sanyang	7832111
		2. Seedy Ceesay	6980464
		Transporters	
		1. Ebrima Marong Suso	6778125
		2. Yafai Manneh	
		Traders	
		1. Jainaba Jarjusey	
		2. Mama Marong	

		Facilitator	
		Sarjo Jarju	6692355/7804805
		Co-Facilitator	
		Essa Manjang	
Region	AVIP Site	Members	Contact details
WCR	Darsilami	Nema VFA	
		1. Momodou Jallow	7453009
		2. Fabakary Cham	9139551
		3. Fatou Samba	7516999
		4. Mbassy Bojang	9301645
		Producers	
		1. Binta Camara	9281152
		2. Sirra Njie	2428755
		3. Fatou Juma Jallow	9306645
		4. Ndey Sonko	2959494
		5. Buba Sambou	9959528
		6. Sidat Badjie	3293464
		Youth	
		1. Margaret Sambou	9303132
		2. Modou Jammeh	3223894
		Processors	
		1. Amie Ceesay	2420339
		2. Binta Sanyang	9897360
		Transporters	
		1. Ebou Jarju	9919494
		2. Sainabou Demba	9219112
		Traders	
		1. Awa Jarju	9798074/2799614
		2. Man Jassey	9071377

		Facilitator	
		Kalilu Sanneh	3088460/2188289
		Co-Facilitator	
		Fatou Badgie	6364275/7364275



Platform members at Berending



Platform members at Noo Kunda



Platform members at Boiram



Platform members at Pakalinding



Platform members at Darsilami

5. KEY ISSUES/CHALLENGES DISCUSSED

At end of the selection process, each community took time to highlight some of the burning issues affecting production in their area:

Platform Name	Key issues
Berending	The water pumping and distribution system is not functional resulting to failure of the entire nurseries planted. The community said these issues are already shared with the Project Director.
Noo Kunda	Demarcation of the garden is not yet completed. They attributed this delay to the unavailability of the personnel of United Purpose who should lead the exercise. The community also reported that the pumping system is not functional as water goes up to fill up the tank but does not pump down to the garden. Some of the pipe are said to be leaking and need to be fixed to avoid waste of water.
Boiram	This is a rice platform and No issues were raised. This is one of the six Nema Farmer Organizations which are already enjoying support.
Kudang	This is a rice platform and No issues were raised. This is one of the six Nema Farmer Organizations which are already enjoying support.
Pakalinding	This is a rice platform and No issues were raised. This is also one of the six Nema Farmer Organisations which are already enjoying support. This same community of Pakalinding has a Nema sponsored 5ha vegetable garden scheme benefiting the same community. It is thus recommended that the project should consider creating a horticulture platform as well, so as to enhance the marketing of garden produce.
Darsilami	The water pumping and distribution system does not reach all

	<p>ends of the garden leaving a good part of the garden without water supply. They think they need more reservoirs provided. Solar power goes out when the sun is down leaving them short of the needed quantities of water to water their crops.</p>
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6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- i. It's generally observed, and this was confirmed by the Solar Operator at the Pakalinding Garden, that solar systems installed at the Nema Gardens do not have solar batteries. Lack of solar batteries makes it impossible for the trapped solar energy to be stored and utilised to pump water even when sunlight is not available.
- ii. The selection process was done successfully at all communities. Community members are optimistic they will make it work. And the team has promised that training activities, including exchange visits will commence immediately, thus raising high hopes. The levels of excitement are high. It is important that the subsequent activities are rolled out without delay.
- iii. There is need to conduct an orientation workshop for the platform members as well as the facilitators and co-facilitators to build their understanding of the AVIP concept, rationale and modus operandi. This should be the next most immediate step.
- iv. WARF and GYIN to formalise contracts for the Facilitators and Co-Facilitators and get them to the field without delay.
- v. There is need to establish a second platform (horticulture) at Pakalinding to address the needs of the vegetable garden there. It is very likely that the same farmers are benefiting from the rice field as well as the vegetable garden. WARF should promptly engage the project on this.
- vi. The AVIP is generally unknown beyond the six communities selected. There is need to raise more awareness about the initiative using various media as may be

feasible. This is important to generate more interest and attract young people and other players to take part in the platform.

7. OTHER OBSERVATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- a) The project has two 5ha garden schemes at Saruja and Nanaba in CRRS where the only platform available is for rice. These gardens are being put under production at present and so there is need to create one platform to serve the two communities.
- b) The project is also establishing a vegetable garden at Macca Sader in CRRN where there is no existing platform to serve that community. It is important to consider establishing one platform at Wassu to serve the community of Macca Sader.
- c) The project is establishing nine (9) vegetable garden schemes in the URR. Since the six platforms being established do not cover URR it is necessary that the project and WARF consider establishing at least two platforms to promote full realization of the horticulture value chain, increase incomes and create employment for the youth and women of that region. The ongoing infrastructure development works are progressing quite satisfactorily and are expected to be completed by the end of the second quarter, 2018.