



The Food Agribusiness and Rural Markets (The FARM Project)

In the southern Greenbelt of South Sudan's three Equatoria States, USAID's **Food Agribusiness, and Rural Markets (FARM)** Project helps smallholder farmers grow staple crops to become self-sufficient, develops farmer cooperative organizations to aggregate and better market surplus production, promotes more agriculturally favorable policies, and builds local institutional capacity. Despite the volatile political climate of the world's newest nation, FARM is yielding results: Formerly subsistence farmers are boosting productivity and growing surpluses, while new and revived farming organizations are improving management and taking steps towards commercializing key commodities. Across nine rural counties and 27 *payams* or townships, FARM is training progressive farmers as community models, distributing improved seed, developing community block farms, introducing mechanization, organizing first-time agricultural fairs, developing market information systems, and helping cooperatives to engage directly in formal markets.

Project Background

USAID established FARM in 2010 to increase agricultural production, build rural markets, and improve public and private capacity in South Sudan to develop commercial smallholder agriculture. The \$54 million project operates in Eastern, Central and Western Equatoria, across the broad swath of high-potential agricultural land known locally as the Greenbelt. The FARM Project contributes to South Sudan's goals of achieving food self-sufficiency, reducing poverty, and promoting economic growth through higher agriculture productivity and market creation.

Contacts:

Tyrone Gaston, Chief of Party, FARM Project, Juba
Tyrone_Gaston@sudanfarm.org

David Miller, Portfolio Manager
David_Miller@abtassoc.com, Bethesda, Md.



QUICK FACTS

- 13,000 Farmers participating through 575 local farmer-based organizations (FBOs)
- 130 formal cooperative societies supported at community level
- 8 regional cooperative unions strengthened as agribusinesses
- 300% increase in maize yields from 2010-2013 using new varieties and changing behavior practices
- 325% increase in per-capita area cultivated by farmers
- Over 4,000 female farmers trained over the initial three-year period
- 80,000 men, women, and children reached via FARM household activities
- 548 public sector officials trained to support market-led agriculture

Key Activities

Boosting Production and Productivity

- Providing in-kind grants to community Farmer-Based Organizations for selected crops: maize, beans, groundnut, sorghum, and cassava and supporting them in harrowing and plowing
- Training farmers in Good Agriculture Practices (GAP), land preparation, crop timing, pest control, harvest and post-harvest practices;
- Introducing environmentally sustainable methods to safely increase land for cultivation;
- Training farmers to be business people by boosting their literacy, numeracy and business skills;
- Establishing local farmer training and extension services.

Market and Private Sector Development

- Conducting value chain and market analyses to identify potential markets for each of the targeted crops;
- Linking farmers to markets/traders through fairs and exchange forums, connecting local institutional buyers to cooperatives;
- Identifying key feeder roads needing improvement and sharing the information with donors and those implementing infrastructure programs.

Institutional Capacity Building

- Strengthening the management capacity of farmer organizations and cooperatives;
- Developing an extension service to deliver better production and market services to rural farmers;
- Supporting county and state governments to develop structures and skills to enable market-led growth.



Enabling Agriculture: Cross Cutting Activities

The FARM Project focuses on South Sudan's complete agricultural production system, including locally specific interventions that support peace-building and conflict resolution, as well as equity of opportunity for women and youth.



The project examines agriculture in the national and regional framework, targeting policies and investments (including in information technology) to jump-start this vital economic sector. Finally, FARM

works closely with all international donors and implementing partners to coordinate and support mutually important work.

Abt Associates is a mission-driven, global leader in research and program implementation in the fields of health, social and environmental policy, and international development. Known for its rigorous approach to solving complex challenges, Abt Associates is regularly ranked as one of the top 20 global research firms and one of the top 40 international development innovators. The company has multiple offices in the U.S. and program offices in more than 40 countries.