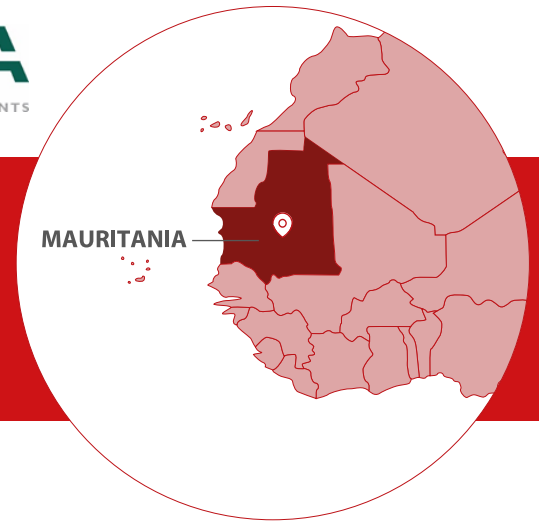


STRENGTHENING FOOD SECURITY THROUGH IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE IN MAURITANIA



The challenge

Mauritanian agriculture is highly variable and increasingly impacted by climate change, raising food insecurity risks. Frequent food and nutrition crises affect the poorest in rural and peri-urban areas, weakening their resilience. SONADER has engaged GOPA AFC to provide technical assistance for the ASARIGG projects, which focus on strengthening food security by revitalizing irrigated agriculture.



Our approach

We support project management and assist in restructuring strategy development; Promote agro-ecological practices and sustainable management of irrigated farming systems. Help transformation of country's agriculture, empowering communities to overcome climate and economic challenges while improving resilience and food security.



Project name: Technical assistance to improve food security through irrigation development in the Gorgol and Guidimackha wilayas - ASARIGG

Project region: Mauritania

Financed by: French Development Agency (AFD)

Implemented by: GOPA AFC, GOPA NEC

Duration: 12/2023 - 12/2026

The goal

The aim is to create a resilient and sustainable agricultural sector, directly benefiting around 2,000 mainly poor farmers, of whom about 70% are women. Key goals include establishing a robust internal control system at SONADER, enhancing management, and implementing comprehensive monitoring and evaluation. The projects will develop water and infrastructure, define services for economic players and agricultural organizations, and improve agricultural product development and marketing. Special support will be provided for women's groups, and gender mainstreaming will be promoted through the Gender Action Plan. Measures will be taken for organizational, institutional, and project management, as well as environmental and social monitoring. Support will be provided for managing agricultural, irrigation, and drainage equipment.

"Despite a demanding professional environment at SONADER and within the project, with a developing culture of collaboration and communication still needing improvement, many tasks from the technical assistance terms of reference have been initiated and are progressing well, thanks to the commitment and complementarity of our experts. Our team remains fully dedicated to ensuring the success and proper execution of this contract, while upholding the quality standards associated with GOPA-AFC's interventions."

Ola Yves Afouda, Team Leader GOPA AFC AT/AMOD

Key highlights



SONADER work plans and budgets are prepared effectively and are results-oriented.

Synergies are established between ASARIGG and other regional projects.

Monitoring and evaluation missions are carried out by the GOPA AFC team, including with the coordinator and AFD delegation.

Diagnostic study reports on cooperative operations are available.

Hydro-agricultural facilities are sustainably functional.

PTBA measures are implemented effectively and meet expected results.

UGP maintains current data on land characterization.

Professional organizations are formalized and have legal texts supporting their autonomy.

User associations efficiently **manage water resources** and maintain hydro-agricultural facilities.

The project's **monitoring and evaluation system** integrates with SONADER's system.

The project significantly **empowers women and promotes their participation in food and nutrition security**.



Supporting the diagnostic study on cooperative operations helped professional organisations formalise and adopt legal texts, strengthening their viability.



We contributed significantly to women's empowerment by supporting women's groups in MFP projects, increasing their role in food and nutrition security.

Voices from the field



"Diaguily is a village of immigrants who have supported the community by sending money. This new perimeter will help us achieve rice self-sufficiency and ease the burden on our immigrants. We plan to practice polyculture, which is a major advantage, and hope to sell surplus rice, with yields potentially reaching 7–8 tons per hectare. From the start, we have seen GOPA-AFC's competence, especially through their monitoring missions. Your team has assisted us both at the construction site and with producers, closely overseeing the perimeter's work and meeting with us, which left us very satisfied."

Diabé Touré, General Secretary of the Diaguily farmer's Cooperative

"The AT/AMOD has been instrumental to the project, driving significant progress, especially in construction. Their performance helped identify errors in the DAO related to organization, control, and execution, as noted in expert reports and communicated to SONADER. They also finalized the TOR for additional technical assistance for ASARIGG component 3 and contributed to the project's budgeting format. Overall, their support has been extremely valuable for the project."

Cissé Souleymane, AFD Team leader Agriculture, Rural development and Biodiversity

Examples of our success



We revitalised hydro-agricultural facilities, empowering local cooperatives and professional organisations toward sustainable, autonomous operations.



Installation of six motor pumps and commissioning of three irrigated perimeters for the 2025 agricultural season.



Our TA enabled careful planning of work schedules and realistic, results-oriented annual budgets.



Regular monitoring and evaluation missions, including with the coordinator and AFD delegation every six months.

