



Agriculture: value chains and agricultural policies

Promoting development of territories based on family farming and small-scale farming, and inclusive and sustainable agricultural and food value chains.

Factsheet

- Agriculture: value chains and agricultural policies
- Cities for all and decentralisation
- Civic issues and democracy
- Drinking water, sanitation and waste management
- Health: nutrition and social protection
- Microfinance and professional integration
- Natural resource management and energy



BENCHMARKS

GRET has been working on this subject area **since 1976**.

17 countries of operation in 2019:

Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, DRC, France, Guinea, Haiti, Laos, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Myanmar, Niger, Senegal, Tunisia, Vietnam.

56 projects and studies.

GRET supports the development and implementation of decentralised joint land policies for greater security of access to land and natural resources for family farms, particularly for vulnerable groups.

GRET also helps farmers to improve their production capacities and the sustainability of their farms by prioritising agroecological practices that increase their resilience to cope with shocks, and their food and nutritional security. It supports the creation of financial services and non-financial services to provide advice on agriculture and farm management. In addition, it works to organise value chains and food supply for cities and regional and national markets, by supporting the development of small processing businesses and employment opportunities for women and young people, promoting the emergence of professional organisations, and supporting marketing and optimum value for quality products.

GRET also strengthens the capacities of farmers' professional and civil society organisations to provide new services to their members, participate in decision-making processes and contribute to public policies. It also contributes to analysing agricultural and trade policies and draws up recommendations in these areas.

By improving food supply chains and environments and raising consumers' awareness, GRET supports transition to sustainable healthy food systems

Methods of intervention

In partnership with local and international bodies (public institutions, local authorities, farmers' organisations and professional organisations, NGOs, engineering consultants, research centres), GRET implements or supports field projects and provides expert consulting (technical assistance, studies, feasibility, evaluation). It coordinates and publishes research and capitalisation documents, delivers training, and facilitates thematic networks (land, microfinance, agroecology).





GRET's approach

» “GRET improves farmers’ conditions of production according to the principles of agroecology, with a view to making family farms more autonomous, less dependent on external inputs, capable of drawing optimum value from their own resources and managing their debt”, explains **Dominique Violas, programme coordinator**. “Evaluation of our practices by our partners contributes to their strengthening and informs advocacy in favour of a more resilient agriculture.”



» “An increasing proportion of family farms’ production is sold on regional and national markets. GRET supports structuring of links in the value chain and the joint definition of fair, inclusive development strategies. Collective marketing, storage and support for processing units improve and diversify households’ income to reach these expanding markets, which are becoming increasingly demanding”, says **Cécile Broutin, programme manager**.



Key stakeholders' views



“Inclusive financial services in rural areas are necessary because they are an alternative source of funding between the banking sector – which requires guarantees – and loan sharks. Access to investment capital enables vulnerable rural families to diversify their activities, thereby minimising risks and strengthening their resilience. Thitsar Ooyin (TO) is also strongly involved in financial education and entrepreneurial training of its clients, so that they can be better integrated in the local and regional economy. GRET, TO’s main shareholder, plays a crucial role in maintaining TO’s social objectives.”

Lai Uk Nawl, director of the Thitsar Ooyin microfinance institution’s Chin branch, Myanmar

“The market garden set up with the support of GRET and Fongs enabled me to have a decent income. Before, I used to travel to Dakar for seasonal work as a cleaner. Conditions were very hard for my youngest child and my income was too low. Now I don’t have to leave any more. I have access to land and I grow vegetables on my own plot, thanks to the skills I acquired. This has improved food at home and then I sell the rest at the market in Diourbel. I have my own activity and stay close to my family.” **Mame Seye Faye, member of the Kadam women’s group, Senegal**



Focus on two actions

Madagascar: Supporting farmers’ autonomy in three regions

2014-2022 | Budget: 2 M€ | Funding: EU, CFSI, AFD | Partners: AMAD, communes.

GRET provides a local agricultural advice service in Guidimakha, Assaba and Brakna. Farm advisors support groups of farmers, in particular women’s cooperatives, to attain greater autonomy in their innovation and collective mobilisation capacities. They draw on the farming field school approach where participants take turns being teachers and students. The farmers developed agroecological practices and set up networks for exchanging farmer seeds and group marketing actions.



Haiti: Improving food and nutrition security in the Trois Rivières watershed

2018-2022 | Budget: 7.8 M€ | Funding: EU | Partners: ACF, AOG, Odrino, Protos.

GRET and its project partners are supporting 4,000 households in the communes of Gros-Morne, Bassin Bleu, Chansolme and Port-de-Paix to improve their resilience, in particular to climate change. One focus of the project is support for development of agricultural and agri-food value chains and agroforestry, to increase supply on markets and stimulate sectors generating added value while ensuring the inclusion of vulnerable households and protection of natural resources.



2020. Photos: © GRET.

SOME REFERENCES

• Diepart J.-C. and Allaverdian C., 2018, *Farming Systems Analysis: A guidebook for researchers and development practitioners in Myanmar*, Yangon: GRET – Yezin Agricultural University.

• Levard L., with contributions from Broutin C., Goudiaby M.-C., Hainikoye M., Kaboré C. and Traoré M., 2019, *Politique commerciale, politiques fiscales et filières lait en Afrique de l’Ouest. Analyse de cinq scénarios possibles d’évolution des politiques dans quatre pays de la région*, GRET.

• Merlet M., Levesque R., Range C., Benkhalha A. (dir.), 2019, *Structures agraires et accès des jeunes à la terre : gestion intrafamiliale du foncier et stratégies d’autonomisation des jeunes*, Regards sur le foncier no 7, “Land tenure & development” Technical Committee, AFD, French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Paris.



GRET is an international development NGO that has been actively fighting poverty and inequalities for more than 40 years in the field and at political level. More information on GRET’s activities in the area of “Agriculture: value chains and agricultural policies”: www.gret.org/themes/agriculture-en/