

Land and livelihoods for smallholder and pastoralist families

Context

The West African country of Senegal has been one of the most stable in the region since gaining independence in 1960. Yet for the overwhelmingly young population, prospects of a life with sufficient income for themselves and their families are dwindling steadily – especially in rural areas. Plots of land that are too small, infertile and eroding soil, lack of rain, insufficient means of production and lack of capital are some of the reasons why many farming and pastoralist families can no longer get by on their earnings. In addition, for some years now land speculation and land-grabbing by investors have been a problem. Farming families with no official land titles are at risk of losing their land. The habitat available to pastoralist families and their herds is also under threat. Many young people are migrating to the cities or abroad in search of a better life.

Objectives, priorities, activities

On the one hand the 2016–2021 HEKS/EPER Country Programme focuses on access to land. Citizens are to play a part in formulating the reforms to current administrative and land law. On the other, additional priorities include natural resource regeneration and conservation, sustainable farming and income support for smallholder and livestock-rearing families. HEKS/EPER and its local partners are active in the country's north-eastern Ferlo region, in the coastal area (Niayes, Petite Côte) and in the Saloum Delta. They support the local people in obtaining secure access to land, in regenerating and protecting natural resources and in producing and marketing agricultural goods.





Target groups

The beneficiaries are families and more particularly women's groups in four regions, who live from the production and sale of fruits and vegetables, livestock rearing and seafood.

Partnerships, networks, alliances, memberships

HEKS/EPER works with local authorities and includes them in project activities. In certain fields, agricultural research centres are also preferred partners. Wherever possible, HEKS/EPER cooperates with other international relief agencies and co-funds joint projects.

HEKS/EPER on the ground

HEKS/EPER operates a Coordination Office in the city of Thiès.

Topics and working approach

HEKS/EPER-funded projects originate in cooperation with beneficiary target groups: the starting point is dialogue between partner organizations and beneficiaries about aims and activities. In this way local knowledge feeds into project work.

Country:

Senegal

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