

# MADAGASCAR

## Project to Support Development in the Menabe and Melaky Regions – Phase II (AD2M-II)

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## ISSUES

Madagascar has one of the highest incidences of chronic malnutrition in the world: 47.3 per cent of the population suffers from acute malnutrition. It is not surprising then, that in 2010, 35 per cent of Malagasy households were food insecure - a rise from 2005 when 25 per cent were.

In Madagascar poverty is a fact of life. In 2012, the poverty rate was calculated at 71.5 per cent. This means that nationally, on average, people live on US\$0.67 per person per day. The international poverty threshold is US\$1.90 per person per day, which is significantly higher. In 2009 the agricultural sector accounted for about 30 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country. It is also responsible for up to 40 per cent for the country's exports, and employs 80 per cent of Malagasy families on two and a half million family farms. It is also a huge youth employer, with around 60 per cent of youth employed in the rural economy.

The annual average temperatures range between 23°C and 27°C. Climate models indicate that by 2100, climate change could lead to an average annual increase of 2.5°C to 3°C for the whole country. This temperature rise would have untold negative effects on the growing suitability of key crops.

The agricultural sector already has a weak average growth rate of 1.5 per cent. There are multiple causes for this, such as fragmented and low productivity, rural insecurity, destruction and overuse of natural resources, natural hazards such as cyclones, droughts and floods, and economic isolation, causing difficulty in accessing economic opportunities and markets.

What's more, Madagascar is vulnerable to cyclones. In early 2000, a series of three particularly devastating cyclones affected more than a million people and caused damage to agricultural infrastructure estimated at nearly US\$ 85 million.

## ACTIONS

The project consists of two main components. The first aims to promote effective climate change resilient production systems, while the second supports access to markets and other economic opportunities.



Investing in rural people

Adaptation for  
Smallholder  
Agriculture  
Programme

## ASAP

Launched in 2012, the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP) channels climate and environmental finance to enable smallholder farmers who participate in IFAD projects to increase their resilience. Through ASAP, IFAD is systematically integrating climate resilience into the overall IFAD portfolio.

### PROGRAMME SUMMARY

**Total cost:** US\$56.8 million

**Approved IFAD loan:**

US\$34.4 million

**ASAP grant:** US\$6.0 million

**Other contributions:**

OPEC Fund for international Development (OFID):

US\$7.5 million

Government of Madagascar:

US\$7.7 million

Beneficiaries: US\$1.2 million

**Programme period:** 7 years

(2015-2022)

**Executing agency:**

Ministry of Agriculture

**ASAP beneficiaries:**

342,000

**Programme objectives:** To sustainably improve incomes and food security in the productive areas of Menabe and Melaky.

The first phase of the project has successfully improved flood water irrigation systems.

These interventions optimised conditions for sustainable rice intensification (SRI). SRI optimises water efficiency in target areas. This next phase of the project will build on this by improving irrigation systems from rivers and floodwaters.

The project will also develop currently underutilized land, which will be tilled by 44 communities in the project area. The project will accelerate the uptake of various improved and climate resilient farming practices within these communities. This is intended to augment yields and production in a climate friendly and sustainable way.

The project will support the operation of land administrative authorities. These authorities will deal with registering long-term land tenure information at the commune and inter-communal level in order to safeguard the land rights of small agricultural producers, so as to encourage productive investments in land. Regional and national seed networks will also be established. New seed banks will produce high-quality seed varieties, including climate resilient strains. These seeds can have varying properties, such as shorter life cycles or drought tolerance. The project will also work on farm input supplies, ensuring agricultural equipment and provisions are available to meet the needs of family farms. AD2M-II will also take action to market the output of producer groups. It will negotiate contracts and then help farmers fulfil their obligations to these contracts. Additionally, the project will set up eight new operational credit unions that will be used to provide credit to numerous family farms. It will provide varying types of credit that will benefit people in different ways, depending on individual needs.

Nutrition education sites and family vegetable gardens will be established. These will be used to help vulnerable farming families with children under five years of age to access a more balanced diet.

Finally micro-projects targeting the most vulnerable households involved in the management of natural resources and communal village land will be set up. Actions that combat deforestation and environmental degradation at the community level will be up-scaled. This will help foster local participation in natural resource management.

## EXPECTED IMPACTS

The main expected outcomes of project activities will be reduced land conflict, greater investment in agricultural development and more effective natural resource management. Through the actions already taken during the first phase of the project, land users are obtaining certificates which guarantee their land-use rights. Throughout the target area, project activities will support smallholders to take action to overcome poverty, and strengthen productivity in an environmentally sustainable and responsible way. One of the areas the project will work in is developing new hydro-agricultural schemes. This aspect of the project will be responsible for bringing 9,120 hectares of land under efficient hydro-agricultural systems, along with 6,470 hectares of new viable farming land. In regards to the issue of land tenure, the programme will facilitate the creation of 20 land offices and a land tenure information and resource centre.

The project will oversee the production of 250 tons of new seed varieties. These interventions will play a vital part in combatting the effects of climate change, as new seed varieties are more resilient to drought and other harmful climate impacts that traditional seeds do not fare well against. Four hundred micro-projects will also be established aimed at the most vulnerable beneficiaries, which will involve them in natural resource management activities.

AD2M-II will organise 48 producer groups and negotiate contracts that will see 30 per cent of farmers' produce sold at a competitive price. It will go further to create a sustainable credit system whereby at least 8,800 people have access to financial services. This number comprises 1,000 people who will receive credit training, 3,200 people who will get to share access to village granaries, and 4,000 people benefitting from productive credit.

Information and help to achieve balanced diets will be available for 1,000 vulnerable families. This will help combat the chronic child malnutrition and general malnutrition that is rife in the target areas with famers' organizations.

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