



**– International Fund for Agricultural Development –
– Identifying and sharing innovation in Western and Central Africa –**

– Management of pastoral land –

I. Context

1. Name of the innovation

Management of pastoral land: pastoral units approach

2. Country – Region

Senegal

3. Organization

Agricultural Development Project in Matam (PRODAM)

4. Who is the innovator?

PRODAM

5. Actors involved

Herders, local communities, State technical services, government authorities, NGOs and the project

6. Starting date

1998

7. Type of innovation

Institutional

II. Key concepts

8. Summary

The approach developed for management of pastoral land consists of seeking synergies between the PRODAM, herders and actors involved in natural resource management. In particular, a certain number of initiatives have been implemented, including:

- Construction/rehabilitation of wells and associated structures
- Construction of firebreaks
- Establishment of pastoral management plans
- Organization of herders and of management committees for the various infrastructures installed
- Implementation of a major programme of capacity-building (literacy, training), support and advice
- Establishment of a pastoral unit umbrella organization

9. What problems does this innovation seek to solve?

Extensive livestock farming as practised in the Ferlo region is based on herd mobility and the exploitation of natural resources that are being degraded year by year as a result of climatic fluctuations and the herders' lack of organization. The herders have suffered for a long time from the absence of a discussion and coordination framework, a situation that has led to an overly individualistic spirit. This innovation seeks to resolve these difficulties.

10. Factors for successful replication

The approach can be replicated in all zones where collaborative management of pastoral land is established in order to improve the people's living conditions, inasmuch as it is based on traditional practices with regard to the use of natural resources. To encourage success, all management documents, including digital maps, are translated into the national language and are thus accessible to herding communities.

11. Main results

Improvement in the irrigation network, reduction in bush fires and illegal cutting, reduction in social conflict, good representation of women in decision-making bodies, promotion of income-generating activities for women, boosting of young people's social status (literacy training), autonomous well management, entrustment of herders (by the Rural Council) with responsibility for rural areas, greater participation of herders in natural resource management, ongoing consultation among herders and development of a collective spirit, and improvement in livestock performances: fertility rate rising from 53 to 62 per cent, mortality rate falling from 13.1 to 8 per cent, additional production of more than 500,000 litres of milk and nearly 150 tonnes of meat.

12. Target group

Herders

13. Difficulties encountered

Points requiring improvement:

- Permanent boosting of actors' capacities with a view to a better understanding and effective adoption of the pastoral unit approach
- Support to the Ferlo umbrella organization by building professional skills
- Promotion of income-generating activities for young people and women

14. Financial aspects

Average cost of establishing a 40,000 ha pastoral unit = CFAF 11,700,000:

- Development of management plan: CFAF 2,000,000
- Preparation of maps in the local language: CFAF 500,000
- Literacy training of members: CFAF 6,000,000
- Training of leaders: CFAF 3,200,000

Average cost per hectare: CFAF 292.5

III. Technical aspects

15. An approach based on the study of local people's practices of pastoral natural resource use and implementation of a participatory management model involving all the actors concerned: herders, local communities, technical experts and government authorities. It is based on the following principles:

- Ensuring protection of existing natural resources and rehabilitation of degraded areas to increase their productivity
- Making the local people effectively responsible for implementing programmes drawn up with them, and involving them in sustainable natural resource management

IV. Further information

16. Key contacts

Name	Organization	E-mail
Mamadou Thierno Ba	PRODAM	thiernoba@prodam2.net thiernoba@sentoo.sn
Cheikh Fall	PRODAM	cfall@prodam2.net

17. Internet link

www.prodam2.org

18. Key documents (document title + link or contact or address)

Développement pastoral dans la zone du Ferlo et gestion de l'espace pastoral: l'approche par les unités pastorales (= Pastoral development in the Ferlo zone and management of pastoral land: the pastoral unit approach). Contact: Cheikh Fall, PRODAM, cfall@prodam2.net