



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

– Regional gender observatory –

**I. Context**

**1. Name of the innovation**

Regional gender observatory

**2. Country – Region**

Senegal

**3. Organization**

Agricultural Development Project in Matam (PRODAM)

**4. Who is the innovator?**

PRODAM

**5. Actors involved**

- Associations of women, young people and the handicapped
- Education and health experts
- Government, local and traditional authorities
- Local development support services
- Government services

**6. Starting date**

2006

**7. Type of innovation**

Institutional

**II. Key concepts**

**8. Summary**

Following a gender and development training course organized in 2005, the PRODAM and regional government services took the initiative of launching an observatory, which started work in July 2006 and is supported by vulnerable people (women, young people, the handicapped), government, local and traditional authorities, and various structures being developed in the region. It has the main aims of integrating the gender dimension into all development interventions and implementing policies and specific programmes to reduce poverty and inequalities between men and women in the Matam region. The observatory's strategic objectives are pursued through four priority thrusts:

- Capacity-building for women, young people and the handicapped
- Support for innovation by women, young people and the handicapped
- Access to funding
- Development of female and youth leadership

**9. What problems does this innovation seek to solve?**

Women, young people and the handicapped represent more than half the population and are the groups most affected by poverty. Although they are present in all the phases of the economic process, their contribution tends to be disregarded. Many programmes and projects carry out interventions focusing on this sector of the population, but in a fragmented way that means that the intended results are never achieved.

**10. Factors for successful replication**

There is no question of replicating this approach, inasmuch as, according to the Senegalese Ministry of Women, the Family and Community Development, a draft decree is under way to establish a gender observatory in each of the country's regions. In his general policy statement to the National Assembly, the Prime Minister even announced that Senegal will have a *NATIONAL GENDER OBSERVATORY* in 2008.

**11. Main results**

The involvement of all the local communities in the Matam region is a first positive result, for it has created a participatory dynamics. Other major social benefits are: increased awareness of the particular problems of the poorest sectors of society in the allocation of local and public resources; the participation of the poorest in the decision-making process; and, more specifically, their entry into competition for leadership positions. The organization of a *regional gender week* is now incorporated into the observatories' agendas.

## 12. Target group(s)

Women, young people and the handicapped

## 13. Difficulties encountered

The system is still under construction and the next participatory evaluation will allow better identification of any critical features needing improvement.

## 14. Financial aspects

The PRODAM's contribution has focused on launching the regional observatory and setting up local observatories. A total of 21 gender observatories have been set up. Mayors and leaders of rural communities have undertaken to find premises for the local observatories and make a financial contribution so that they can carry out their tasks. Observatory members are ready to pay a subscription for the operation of the institution. However, the resources that can be raised will not be enough to cover the full operating costs of the observatory. Even if the PRODAM and the partner government services can assume responsibility for training, a minimal budget is needed for visits to the most isolated villages and for meetings.

## III. Technical aspects

### 15.

A local observatory is established for each local community, supported by the young people, women and handicapped of the locality. The priorities and needs of vulnerable people will be available for consultation in the gender observatory's database. All activities involving advocacy, awareness-building, warnings, monitoring and lobbying will take place at the local level.

## IV. Further information

### 16. Key contacts

Name	Organization	E-mail
TOP ARAME	PRODAM II	<a href="mailto:top.arame@prodam2.net">top.arame@prodam2.net</a>
PRODAM	PRODAM	<a href="mailto:prodam@orange.sn">prodam@orange.sn</a>

### 17. Internet link(s)

[prodam@orange.sn](mailto:prodam@orange.sn)

[www.Prodam2.org](http://www.Prodam2.org)

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

Observatoire Régional Genre (= Regional gender observatory)

(to be placed on the site)