



BEST PRACTICE IN ADULT EDUCATION FOR A JUST TRANSITION

Project APSU
Promote Sustainable
Entrepreneurship

JULY 2024



Co-funded by
the European Union

Project APSU

– Promote Sustainable Entrepreneurship

Context and Initiative Details

Name of the initiative	Project APSU – Acting to promote and support entrepreneurship
Geographical scope	Local scope through an international project (with the cooperation of French organization but taking place in specific regions in Senegal)
Sources of funding	Public funding: French Development Agency (AFD); Enabel (Belgian agency of international cooperation)
Duration of the initiative	3 years (2018 to 2021)
Target audience	Less than 35 years old youth, returning immigrants, farmers, farmers organizations and local populations, with a specific approach for disabled people
Social justice focus area	Worker rights, environmental justice, social justice, education and training to sustainability
Goals of the initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist local communities and farmers in organizing themselves to find markets for their goods and boost production in a sustainable manner. • Provide support for the initiatives of youth and business owners by creating entrepreneurship pathways that take advantage of chances in the agro-food industries. • Fortify facility governance through participation. • Aid in the cooperative and effective management of productive resources, including water and land.

Good Practices Description

Stakeholder engagement in the process

Inclusion of farmers (direct beneficiaries) in this co-constructed project, through training and accompaniment to the issues of cooperation in the natural resources management.

Methodology used (if available)

A multiactor co-construction method. The GRET always involves all stakeholders:

- In the diagnosis of needs within the targeted territory;
- In the implementation of workshops
- In the perpetuation of the project

In its international projects, GRET has consistently promoted a resource management approach based on the “commons” as theorized by Elinor Ostrom. This concept refers to shared resources managed collectively by a community through self-governance and cooperative institutions, rather than by private ownership or centralized government control.

GRET is exploring this hypothesis by extending the scope of the commons to include services and territories, and by critically examining its practices as a development operator. This commons-based approach facilitates the co-construction of project governance and the co-management of natural resources, involving all stakeholders.

Teaching approaches (if available)

The “learning” component comprises testing, creating, and improving tools and support strategies that foster a shared resource mentality among stakeholders. The gradual construction of their collaborative governance models is then made easier by this process.

Challenges and outcomes

Key factors contributing to success

Farmers must take an active part in workshops providing information and training, and then engage with the project by collaborating and coordinating. As a result of this involvement, support methods and tools that encourage stakeholders to seek common ground can be tested, produced, and adjusted, which eventually helps shared governance models develop more gradually.

Encountered difficulties and challenges

The project is a component of a larger program with multiple stakeholders, all of whom are bound by contractual obligations and operate under different motivations (e.g., timelines for implementation, performance metrics, and desired outcomes). Sadly, this “project logic” frequently places a higher priority on goals at odds with building resilient, democratic, and autonomous communities that can have a say in financial decisions that impact them.

Recommendations

The 2019 diagnosis’s recommendations, which are directed at local government agencies, farmers’ organizations, users, and technical services locally, are applicable on both a macro and micro level.

- It encourages unions and farmer organizations to embrace a Commons-based management model in order to protect water and land resources. As a result, it makes farmers more aware of the concerns surrounding sustainable agriculture and enables them to participate in resource management governance.
- It promotes the Tassette and Notto Diobass territories (where the APSUS project was carried out) to adopt an integrated management of water resources (GIRE).

Impact

- Creation of 1,650 jobs, including 500 to 600 people within collective areas and 1,000 to 1,150 others in other individual or collective economic initiatives.
- Local producers are organizing to sustainably increase their production and find markets for their products.
- The modalities for managing productive resources (land-water) are established through collaborative efforts and implemented.

(Source: <https://www.eclosio.org/project/agir-pour-promouvoir-et-soutenir-lentrepreneuriat-apsu/>).