

There is a need to strike a balance between focusing the support/narrowing down the choice of value chains and the existing agricultural context in The Gambia, where the choice of horticulture is made taking into account that the country has four different agro-ecological zones and two seasons (rainy and dry). This Action combines support to farmers with eco-restoration of degraded agricultural land and focuses on promoting agro-ecological practices that require the use of mixed cropping, while the use of agro-forestry will further help to conserve soil and water and combat desertification. This is in line with the Great Green Wall objectives.

This action will build synergies and will be complementary to the following ongoing/planned actions and initiatives:

- Complementing this Action, five NGO grants signed in December 2023 will be supporting the production and use of organic fertilisers.
- The Gambia is requesting support of the Investment Climate Reform (ICR) facility to design and pilot the implementation of digital financial services that will expand women's access to finance and the range of options and choices open to them. The intervention will support the development of a suite of financial products and services that boost women's financial and economic empowerment and resilience.
- The EU regional West African Sustainable Ocean Governance Programme (WASOP) will support regional fisheries governance, blue economy (including and fisheries and aquaculture value chains), and conservation and restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems.
- Within the horticultural value chains, Cashew presents a very interesting prospects in terms of added value and job creation for Gambia. With production increasing 25% in 2022, Gambia could tap into the wave of investments in processing across West Africa focusing on exporting Cashew Kernels to Europe instead of Raw Cashew Nuts to Asia as it is the case now. With these aims and across producing countries in Africa, EU is launching a Cashew Initiative based on technical assistance, support to business development and policy support. This action could contribute to this initiative in The Gambia.
- In line with the MIP, the EU is developing an action on green jobs creation focusing on climate change adaptation and mitigation (tree planting, agro-forestry, environmental protection and conservation, integrated coastal zone management, mangroves restauration, among others).

Moreover this Action complements and takes into account other donors supporting the development of agricultural VCs, namely:

- (i) The World Bank's approved USD 68 million financing for The Gambia Inclusive and Resilient Agricultural Value Chain Development (GIRAV Project), addressing food insecurity by scaling up implementation of impactful activities – improving water availability and land tenure to foster climate resilient agriculture and supporting improved water and sanitation in the targeted areas.
- (ii) The Resilience of Organizations for Transformative Smallholder Agriculture Project (ROOTS) with a total cost of USD 81 million, with co-funding from IFAD, OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), Global Environment Fund, AfD and the Government of The Gambia, whose main objective is to achieve rice self-sufficiency.
- (iii) The African Development Bank Group, granted additional USD 12 million to bolster the ongoing Global Agriculture and Food Security Project, to promote the production of climate-resistant local food products in The Gambia, expanding cultivation areas for plant crops, upland crops -- groundnuts, maize, millet, cowpea and findi--and rice.
- (iv) The Green Climate Fund project "Climate Resilient Fishery Initiative for Livelihood Improvement in The Gambia (PROREFISH Gambia), with USD 25 million, implemented by FAO, aims to support vulnerable fishing communities in building resilience to climate change and in diversifying livelihoods through among other interventions climate proofing the sector, technology improvements, and enhance the fisheries and aquaculture value chains.