

Education and Research in Agriculture (ERA)

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2012 QUARTERLY REPORT II (January 1, to March 2012)

USAID/ERA



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AETR: Agricultural Education, Training and Research Institutions
AKIS: Agricultural Knowledge and Information Systems
BFAR: Bureau de la Formation Agricole et Rurale
CAGE: Commercial and Government Entity
CCR: Central Contractor Registration
CFPH: Centre de Formation Professionnelle en Horticulture
CNCR: Conseil National de Concertation et de Coopération des Ruraux
CNFTEIA: Centre National de Formation des Techniciens d'Elevage et des Industries Animales
CNFTEFCPN: Centre National de Formation des Techniciens des Eaux et Forêts, Chasse et des Parcs Nationaux
DDL: Distance and Distributed Learning
ENSA: Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Agriculture
ERA: Education and Research in Agriculture
ESEA: Ecole Supérieure d'Economie Appliquée
FNRAA: Fonds National de Recherche Agricole et Agro-Alimentaire
FTF: "Feed the Future" – The Presidential Food Security Initiative
FY: Fiscal Year
GDP: Gross Domestic Product
GIS: Geographic Information Systems
GOANA: Grande Offensive Agricole Pour la Nourriture et l'Abondance
ISFAR: Institut Supérieur de Formation Agricole et Rurale
ISRA: Institut Sénégalais pour la Recherche Agricole
ITA: Institut de Technologie Alimentaire
LTAEB: Lycée Technique Agricole Emile Badiane
M&E: Monitoring and Evaluation
MOU: Memorandum of Understanding
NGO: Non-Governmental Organization
OIRED: Office of International Research, Education, and Development
PCE: Projet Croissance Economique
PMP: Performance Monitoring Plan
PMU: Program Management Unit (Our Office in Dakar)
REVA: Return to Agriculture Program
SEP: Strategic Engagement Priority
SNRASP: Agro-Sylvo-Pastoral Research of Senegal
TOR: Terms of Reference
UCAD: Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar
UCON: University of Connecticut
UGB: Université Gaston Berger
UT: Université de Thiès
UZ: Université de Ziguinchor

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The project USAID/ERA is focused on accomplishing its capacity building goals that support the objectives of poverty and hunger reductions, and inclusive economic growth in Senegal as part of the Feed the Future program. This report, which covers the second quarter report of fiscal year 2012 of the project, presents activities and results achieved for the period of January 1 to March 31, 2012.

During the quarter, USAID/ERA implemented a substantial set of high-yield activities and engagements involving focused training, workshops, equipment deliveries, collaborative research efforts, pilot eLearning implementation and scholarships initiatives. These interventions have allowed the project to obtain significant results that strengthen human and institutional capacities and reach local AETR partner institutions in all of major regions and places of operation in Senegal.

During this period, USAID/ERA placed a great focus on gender and outreach. The two major achievements for the period were: a successful workshop for women producers in the Casamance region and a practical and comprehensive workshop on career opportunities in the agricultural sector that targeted young collegiate professionals from a cross-section of the AETR partners of the project. As a result of these two initiatives, more than 150 women entrepreneurs and young scholars were provided with the tools and necessities to advance in their post-school careers and professional lives.

Displayed below are the key Q2 achievements of USAID/ERA, sorted by the three project components. *Highlights of target achievements are included at the end of each section in this Executive Summary. Detailed figures linking results to the official USAID/ERA PMP are listed in the Implementation Details of the report.*

A. Agricultural Education

For the period, USAID/ERA supported four key priority education-oriented interventions.

These were:

1. *A syllabus development at University of Thiès — ENSA and ISFAR lecturers.* This intervention was designed to explore how a syllabus conveys the educational goals of a course to students. Eleven faculty members from the University of Thiès had the opportunity to strengthen their skills in syllabus development. As early adopters of the syllabus revamping effort of ERA, they will be positioned to train colleagues at their respective institutions and other AETR partners and will be at the forefront of efforts to tailor agricultural education to the needs of the market in Senegal.

2. *ERA eLearning Pilot Deployment* — Since Feb. 12, 2012, USAID/ERA has been conducting a pilot eLearning initiative (ePilot) with 16 AETRs faculty members from the following institutions: UGB, UZIG, ENSA, ISFAR, CNFTEIA, and ITA. This intervention is an outcome of a needs assessment conducted by the project during the 2011 fiscal year. It aims to develop or strengthen eLearning and Distance education AETR partner institutions of ERA to reach the goal of increase education and information access in the agriculture sector by learners and end-users even at the most remote region of the country. ERA is implementing this intervention by helping partners agree on a design and implementation framework for the pilot project. Once broad acceptance has been reached, the next step is to scale-up the effort to include a sizable number of faculty members and researchers who have already expressed interest in strengthening their capacity in eLearning and Distance Education. ERA is also using the pilot phase of the eLearning intervention to provide its partner institutions with the necessary equipment, software, and academic materials to be used during the scaled-up phase of the intervention.
3. *The delivery of academic equipment and materials to 2 AETR partners in the Saint Louis region* — USAID/ERA delivered ICT equipment and materials to UGB and CNFTEIA as part of the focus on strengthening the partners' institutional capacity to deliver first-rate instruction to the next generation of professionals and leaders in the agriculture sector of Senegal. The materials were comprised of desktops, laptops, servers, software, printers, Internet modems etc., which had been officially requested by the institutions through the two needs assessments conducted jointly by the ERA Program Management Unit and the TWGs of each of the institutions.
4. *Finalization of the comprehensive demand study of the agriculture sector of Senegal.* During the period USAID/ERA worked with its technical consulting partners, University of Connecticut (UConn) and Senegal's *Ecole Supérieure d'Economie Appliquée* (ESEA) to finalize its comprehensive study of training, research, and outreach demand in the agriculture report and plan for integrating its recommendations into the curricula of partner institutions. The USAID/ERA comprehensive agriculture demand study incorporates the input and feedback of the AETR partners. These were provided through a series of three-day supply-and-demand workshops conducted across the country in December 2011 to validate the learning and discoveries provided by the study. Consequently, the recommendations will also serve as a baseline input for the focus to link the AETR institutions with the private sector of Senegal.

SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

Activities	Realization	Reference to PMP
1. <i>Syllabus development at University of Thiès — ENSA and ISFAR lecturers</i>	11 faculty members from the University of Thiès strengthened in syllabus development	Page 16
2. <i>ERA eLearning Pilot Deployment</i>	USAID/ERA conducted a pilot eLearning initiative (ePilot) with 16 AETRs faculty members from UGB, UZIG, ENSA, ISFAR, CNFTEIA, and ITA	Page 16
3. <i>The delivery of academic equipment and materials to 2 AETR partners in the Saint Louis region</i>	Equipment and materials delivered to UGB and CNFTEIA as part of the focus on strengthening the partners' institutional capacity to deliver first-rate instruction to the next generation of professionals and leaders in the agriculture sector of Senegal	Page 17
3. <i>Finalization of the comprehensive demand study of the agriculture sector of Senegal</i>	Comprehensive study of training, research, and outreach demand in the agriculture finalized	Page 19

B. Applied Research and Outreach

USAID/ERA launched its signature research program and a major outreach effort during the period.

1. *ERA Signature research program* – The project began the roll-out of its research program. This is being done with the assistance of Senegal's FNRAA. This partnership serves also in strengthening the capacity of the local institution to interact directly with USAID|Senegal in support of the mission's goals to work directly with indigenous institutions as part of USAID/Forward. Results achieved during the period include:
 - The development of a detailed approach and implementation plan for the research program, which will provide a clear way forward for the three-year period of planned activities

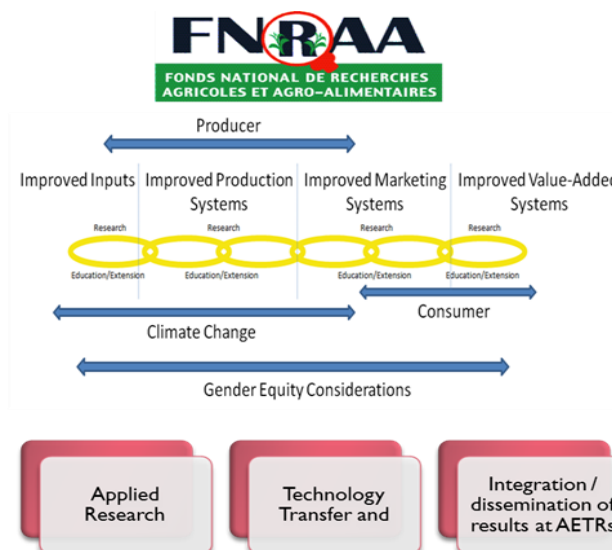
- The use of a Modified Value Chain for the four Senegal FTF cultures allowing researchers to focus on resolving gaps in a comprehensive fashion. This is represented via the graphic below:

Research Program Synopsis

Partnership with FNRAA for the benefit of the 12 AETR partners of the USAID/ERA project.

A modified value chain approach that includes 4 focus areas which are: input, production, marketing and transformation.

Improvements of each aspect of the modified value chain are being solicited in the call for proposals



- A request for proposals, which yielded over 25 responses from practically all of the AETR partners of the project. Other stakeholders were able to join consortia to participate in the call for research proposals.
 - A five-day workshop on the preparation of scientific research proposals, for bidders in the competitive grant program initiated by USAID/ERA, in partnership with FNRAA. The workshop was attended by 19 participants, which came from the AETR institutions.
 - A "Pre-award Grant Proposal or Bidder Conference" for the Primary Investigators of the full proposals. The conference was to serve as an avenue for answering questions and clarifying points of concerns regarding the final selection process for the winning proposals. The conference, which was attended by 37 participants, provided them the opportunity to consolidate proposals into stronger consortium lots. The consolidation effort was devised also to strength research linkages and partnerships amongst the researchers working in the same set of agriculture problems and issues in the agriculture sector.
2. *Outreach and support activities* – ERA rolled out two significant interventions in the area of outreach and support. These were:
- A capacity building workshop for 100 women food producers within the Ziguinchor region on the subject of production and processing techniques of local fruits and vegetables. The workshop, which was implemented through Collaborative partnership between the University of Ziguinchor

and ITA, focused on provide practical know-how to the women who are involved in food transformation. Topics included:

- Processing of fruits, vegetables, and local cereals
 - Organizational management to help the women in attendance in formalizing their structures to facilitate their access to grants and credits
 - Marketing
 - Fruit and Vegetables Seminar, which provided a background on the science that is behind cereals; Emphasis was thus placed on grain structure and biochemical composition
- Support for farmers in the valley of Ndinderling of Kaolack. This intervention is being undertaken in joint collaboration with Wula Nafaa. Following several meetings and field visits that took place with the producers of the Valley, USAID/ERA identified the following need and focus for this engagement:
 - Training of the producers to provide them with good cultural practices, the availability of resistant varieties, the availability of agricultural machinery for sloughing, harvesting and threshing the improvement of crop legume, etc.

SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

Activities	Realization	Reference to PMP
1. <i>ERA Signature research program</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MOU signed between Virginia Tech and FNRAA - development of a detailed approach and implementation plan for the research program - 25 responses for proposals received from practically all of the AETR partners of the project - 19 participants, which came from the AETR institutions strengthened on preparation of scientific research proposals - Bidder Conference which attended by 37 participants organized 	Page 21

Activities	Realization	Reference to PMP
2. A capacity building workshop	100 women food producers strengthened within the Ziguinchor region on production and processing techniques of local fruits and vegetables	Page 22
3. Support for farmers in the valley of Ndinderling of Kaolack	Partnership with Wula Nafaa	Page 24

C. Management and Policy

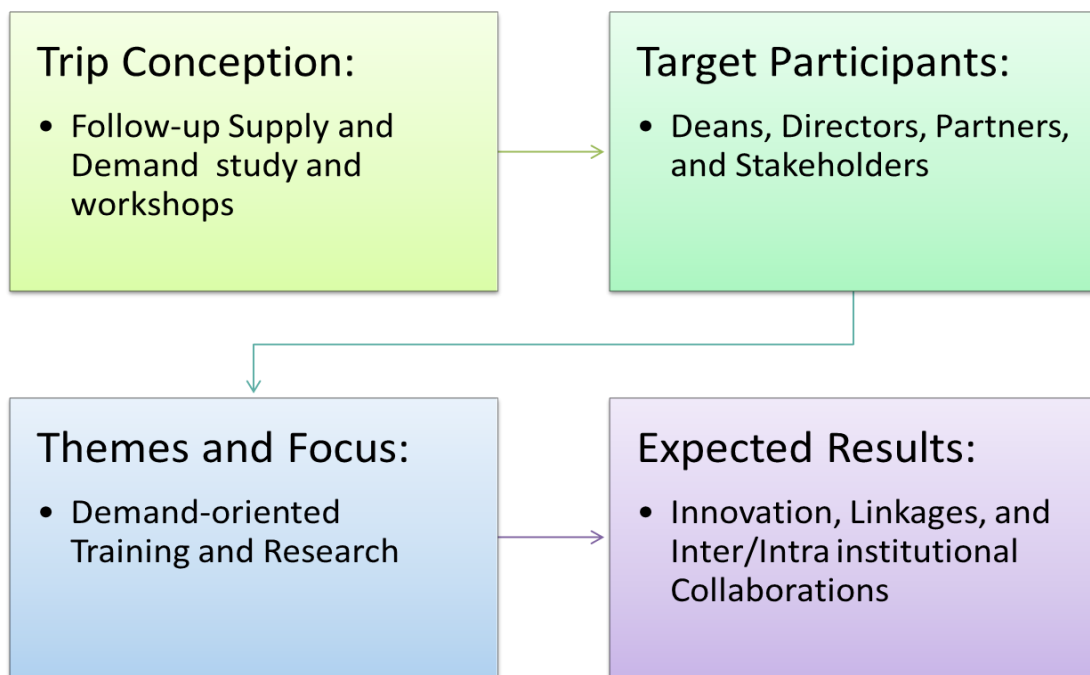
USAID/ERA implemented two significant interventions during the quarter for the Management and Policy aspects of the project.

These were:

1. USAID/ERA Study Tour - The planning for a study tour and selection of a total of 22 participants from all of the AETR partners plus members of the private sector to the United States and East Africa. The study tour organized on 28 March-which came as a follow-up to the supply /demand gap analysis workshops that were held by the project is to provide opportunities for partners to learn about working models that have been employed to improve linkages between the private sector and research/training institutions.

In addition, the study tour is to assist in fostering collaborative relationships between the Senegalese AETR themselves.

The USAID/ERA Study Tour Model



As shown by the above graphic, USAID/ERA is focused on facilitating linkages between the public and private sector of Senegal through the Study Tour. This is to foster curriculum, research, and outreach initiatives that focus on customers' needs. USAID/ERA facilitated a send-off reception at the residence of the Ambassador of the US in Senegal for the participants who are to participate in the study tour, on April 28, 2012. The reception provided a venue for the participants in the Study Tour to learn about the broader thrust of the policies and investments that the United States Government with a focus on food security to benefit Senegal.

2. Administrative Support Grants – USAID/ERA provided a series of grants to its partners to strengthen administrative capacities of those institutions. At the level of \$10,000 for the universities and research institutions and \$7,000 for the technical training centers, USAID/ERA procured and delivered equipment and materials to strengthen the administrative capacities of its partner institutions. Some parts of the grant awards also covered administrative training and technical support interventions which were requested by the partners as part of the Needs Assessment conducted in 2011.

SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

Activities	Realization	Reference to PMP
1. <i>USAID/ERA Study Tour</i>	Study tour organized for 22 participants from all of the AETR partners plus members of the private sector to the United States and East Africa to provide opportunities for partners to learn about working models that have been employed to improve linkages between the private sector and research/training institutions	Page 28
2. <i>Administrative Support Grants</i>	7 partners institutions received equipment and materials to strengthen their administrative capacities	Page 29

Cross-Cutting / Project Management

USAID/ERA realized a series of high impact achievements in the cross-cutting and project management aspects of the project.

These included:

1. *Workshop on post-school opportunities in the agricultural sector for young women-* During the period, USAID/ERA implemented a three-day (5-8 March) workshop in Saint Louis on career and research opportunities the agriculture sector, primarily for young women. The workshop which was attended by a total of 58 participants (three-quarters of the participants were women) exposed the participants to the diverse paths that are available in the agriculture sector. Focus was also placed on self-employment opportunities and the way to go about to start an agriculture-oriented enterprise in Senegal. During the many break-out sessions which took place at the workshop, students gained the benefit of learning from the experiences of successful practitioners and entrepreneurs who are in the agro field.

At the conclusion of the workshop, the Deputy Director of the USAID|Senegal, Mrs Alfreda Brewer, presided over the launch of the agricultural scholarship program of the project called “*Bourses d’Excellence.*’ Through the program, 140 scholars will

have the opportunity to get full support for their studies, which will range from Bac + 2 to Doctorate through the support of USAID/ERA.

Other achievements include:

- Finished the draft of its strategic gender plan, which was forwarded to the USAID | Senegal office for approval.
- Realized activities in administration/coordination, finance, procurement and internal controls.
- Revised indicators for project performance monitoring tools
- Implemented new communication standards to ensure greater visibility
- Recruited a Procurement Officer
- Started the process of new round of “heavy” acquisitions to meet the needs that were expressed by AETR partner institutions.

All the activities performed—and the results achieved—by USAID/ERA during the period were singularly focused on strengthening capacities of the AETR partner institutions of the project. Moreover, as a result of the activities implemented in the period, USAID/ERA footprints in the quarter reached new areas of Senegal to include: Dakar, Thiès, Bambey, Kaolack, Ziguinchor, and Saint Louis. For the rest of the fiscal year 2012, USAID/ERA plans to build upon the results obtained during its second quarter period and continues to assist its partner institutions to improve teaching, learning, training and student support services for the remainder year.

SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

Activities	Realization	Reference in the report
1. <i>Workshop on post-school opportunities in the agricultural sector for young women</i>	58 students including 33 girls, strengthened on career and research opportunities in agriculture sector	Page 31
2. Finalization of USAID/ERA strategic gender plan	USAID/ERA draft of its strategic gender plan, forwarded to USAID Senegal office for approval.	Page 31
3. Realization of activities in administration/coordination, finance, procurement and internal controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employers contracts signed and registered to labor inspection - contract signed with an insurance for employers health 	Page 33

Activities	Realization	Reference in the report
	<p>insurance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - USAID/ERA started the process of new round of “heavy” acquisitions to meet the needs that were expressed by AETR partner institutions 	
4. Implementation of tools for data collection	<p>Followed tools implanted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quarterly planning worksheet - Sheet track quarterly (to be completed by the PMU) results - Monitoring of annual results (to be completed by the PMU) fact sheet - Sheet track quarterly (to be completed by the AETR) results - Training tracking sheet (to be completed by the PMU and the AETR) 	Page 33
5. Implementation of new communication standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Banners - T-shirt - Custom presentation Binders - Posters - Media Invitations (television, radio, print with 15 bodies of press invited) - Press release - Video film of 10 minutes to put on the website of USAID/ERA 	Page 34
6. Recruited a Procurement Officer	A Procurement Officer hired	Page 35

II. Implementation of Project Interventions by Component

The achievements during this quarter are analyzed by objective and result

2.1 Component 1: Agricultural education and training system strengthened

2.1.1 Result 1.1 AETR institutions producing high performing and market oriented graduates

a) Syllabus development with ENSA and ISFAR lecturers

The course syllabus was developed as part of the curriculum review process. In March 2012 (5-7), Professor Ozzie Abaye from Virginia Tech conducted a syllabus workshop at Thiès with two AETRs (ENSA and ISFAR). This workshop was designed to explore how a syllabus conveys the educational goals of a course to students.

11 faculty members of these institutions had opportunity to develop:

1. Syllabus Course Selection
2. Instructional Methodologies
3. Training Exercices
4. Syllabus ressources
5. Updated syllabus contents
6. Training Timeline



Syllabus workshop at Thiès, March, 5–7, 2012

The next phase is to disseminate the syllabus development to other faculty member and involve to students of these AETs in this process.

b) E-Learning pilot process

To develop eLearning in AETRs, the process of design and implementation of eLearning framework required to establish an online pilot project which presents future plans in this regard. Since February 12, USAID/ERA has been conducting a pilot eLearning initiative (E-pilot) with 16 AETs faculty members from UGB, UZIG, ENSA, ISFAR, CNFTEIA and ITA.

ePilot objectives included:

1. Understand eLearning process
2. Test ERA eLearning website
3. Instructional design
4. Communication and interaction issues



ERA eLearning website

Evaluation of ePilot

Effectiveness of the program is being assessed through the evaluation of the participants. In general, the participants were satisfied with the quality of members' interaction and course deliberation techniques. Particular attention should be provided in instructional design while developing the course materials. Course materials should be developed focusing on active case-based learning paradigm. Regular interaction with the participants should be made mandatory on part of the facilitators.

The next phase of the e-pilot project will be dedicated to the facilitation of sustainable change in the use of eLearning technologies by improving digital teaching and learning resources and ICT-infrastructure. In addition, each e-pilot member will be invited to submit eLearning project.

2.1.2 Result 1.2: AETR institutions capable of meeting a variety of agricultural training

a) Delivery of equipment to Saint Louis (CNFTEIA, UGB)

Through its objectives of reinforcement of the capacities of its partners in equipment and infrastructure institutions, USAID/ERA conducted in the delivery of computer hardware, furniture, and equipment to UGB and CNFTEIA.

1. UGB received the following ICT equipment:

- ✓ 75 Desktop Computers
- ✓ 75 UPS Systems for the Desktops
- ✓ 75 Antivirus Programs for the Desktops
- ✓ 15 Laptop Computers
- ✓ Two Servers
- ✓ Two UPS Systems for the Servers
- ✓ Two Copies of Windows 2008 Server
- ✓ Two Antivirus Programs for Servers
- ✓ Two Color Laser Printers
- ✓ Two Black and White Laser Printers

2. CNFTEIA has benefited from:

- ✓ 40 Desktop Computers
- ✓ 40 UPS Systems For The Desktops
- ✓ 40 Antivirus Programs For The Desktops
- ✓ Five Laptop Computers
- ✓ Two Servers
- ✓ Two UPS Systems for the Servers
- ✓ Two Copies of Windows 2008 Server
- ✓ Two Antivirus For Server
- ✓ One Color Laser Printer
- ✓ Two Black and White Laser Printers

3. CNFTEIA also received the office equipment referred to below:

- ✓ Seven Individual Desks
- ✓ Seven Desk Armchairs
- ✓ 20 Chairs
- ✓ One Executive's Armchair
- ✓ Seven Filing Cabinets
- ✓ One Large Worktable for Meetings
- ✓ One Conference Table
- ✓ One Executive's Desk and Accompanying Cabinet
- ✓ Five Metal Cabinets
- ✓ Ten Tables For Computers
- ✓ 10 Computer Chairs

In addition to these pieces of equipment and materials, these two institutions have received as well office supplies (paper, ink cartridges, office chairs, internet keys, external hard disks, and USB storage keys).

The equipment and furniture provided will contribute to the continued improvement of working conditions for these institutions.

b) Finalization of the comprehensive demand study of the agriculture sector of Senegal.

The USAID/ERA comprehensive demand study of the agriculture sector of Senegal was completed during the quarter. The full report will be forwarded o USAID under separate cover.

c) 2.1.2.1

Indicators

achievement

Objectives	Results	Indicators	Disaggregation	FY 2012 Target	Q1 Target	Q1+Q2 Target	Realized	% against 2012 Target	Comments
1. Agricultural Education and training system strengthened	1.2 AETR institutions capable of meeting a variety of agricultural training	3.Number of individuals who have received USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training (FtF Output Indicator 4.5.2-7)	Male	753	53	128	28	3.72%	The 21.45% constitute the 100 women who were taught food transformation techniques for fruits and vegetables plus the 58 students who participated in the seminar pertaining to the opportunities offered in the agricultural sector. It is planned to organize other workshops of the same style with the other partner institutions that are participating in the project
			Female	750	50	128	133	17.73%	
			Total	1503	103	253	103	21.45%	
		4.Number of AETRs provided with improved ICT infrastructure and equipment (USAID/ERA Output Indicator)	Total	12	4	6	2	33.33%	The deliveries for the other institutions are in course and will be finalized in the next quarter of the fiscal year.
		6. Number of AETR provided with improved non-ICT infrastructure and equipment (USAID/ERA Output Indicator)	Total	6	4	5	4	80%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 pick-up et 1 mini bus delivered to ENSA 1 pick-up delivered to ISFAR <p>ISFAR, ENSA, CNFTEIA and UGB have also received office furniture</p>

2.2 Component 2: Strengthening Applied Research and Outreach

2.2.1 Result 2.1: AETR institutions promoting innovative research solutions to public/private clients

a) ERA Signature research program

For the implementation of its second component, USAID/ERA has begun the rollout of its competitive grant program with FNRAA to fund collaborative agricultural research projects. For this, a pilot collaboration between the two structures has been implemented for one year. The goal of this pilot program is to refine existing procedures for submission, selection, contracting, monitoring, and evaluation of research projects accepted for funding by SNRASP, FNRAA, and USAID/ERA (the National Steering Committee for Agro-Silvo-Pastoral Research, the National Fund for Agricultural and Agri-Food Research (FNRAA), and the Education and Research in Agriculture Project). These structures will be assisted throughout the process by the Management Entity of the USAID/ERA Project at Virginia Tech as well as by the other partner universities in the USAID/ERA consortium.

In this context, during the second quarter of 2012, the following activities were executed:

- **On February 1, 2012, the joint ERA/FNRAA pilot issued its first call for grant applications.** The call for proposals was open to research teams having expertise in agriculture and agribusiness, for the spontaneous submission of research projects following a value chain approach to improve the productivity of three target local cereals: rice, millet and corn. This call for proposals was organized by FNRAA but funded by USAID/ERA. In total, twenty five applications were received and reviewed by members of the CST FNRAA and representatives from USAID/ERA.
- **A Training Workshop for Bidders** on the development of research projects was held from March 5 to 9, 2012. The objectives of this workshop were to improve the quality of future research proposals and increase the number of projects funded under the call for proposals on 1 February 2012. The training was developed, implemented and facilitated by two expert consultants hired by FNRAA. This workshop was attended by 19 participants of diverse backgrounds representing the research establishment of the Senegalese agricultural sector.
- **Bidders' Conference, March 22, 2012 in Dakar:** USAID/ERA and FNRAA organized a joint meeting for project coordinators to enable them to have as much information as possible to optimize and improve their research proposals. Additionally, there was an effort to build strong partnerships between Senegalese, American, and foreign research institutions, as well as nongovernmental organizations, International Agricultural Research Centers (IARCs), and the private sector—all with the goal of forming

multidisciplinary teams across institutional barriers. This seminar was attended by more than 37 people and held at the Hotel Ngor Diarama.

Component 2 Perspectives for Q3, FY 2012

- Enforce CPG of FNRAA by members of USAID / ERA workshop, May 3, 2012
- Negotiation and funding of selected projects
- Training on financial management and project administration for winning proposals
- Draft concept notes for non-competitive research projects

b) Outreach and support activities

Women in the Private sector: Capacity Building Workshop for 100 Women Food Processors in Ziguinchor

This activity was held to comprehensively address the gender issues through specific interventions and priorities that target women at four types of stakeholders. The USAID/ERA project, in collaboration the University of Ziguinchor and ITA, has organized (1-9 February) the workshop for the women who are involved in food transformation in the Casamance region. This capacity building activity aims to provide practical know-how to these women in order to better meet standards regulations and needs from customers.

This Capacity Building effort allowed the promotion of synergies between partner institutions to deliver training services to local farmers and other stakeholders within the private sector.

Focus: Public-Private Partnership interventions in the Region of the Casamance

As a follow-up to the supply and demand workshop that was organized in December 2011, the USAID/ERA team conducted a prospective study on opportunities for capacity building for local women food processors of cereals and vegetables in the region of Ziguinchor. The result of this inquest was strong request for training made by the groups of actors in the region.

The project facilitated the joint collaboration of the two AETRs, the University of Ziguinchor and the Food Technology Institute. This proved to be an effective means to meet the training needs identified at the local level. In pursuit of its goal of strengthening of capacities and promotion of inter-institutional synergy, the project committed its full support to provide for the organization of a training workshop with the said institutions for the female food workers of Ziguinchor.

Two rounds of training sessions, each four days each were planned to reach a target of 100 women. Each session saw the participation of 50 food workers who were distributed in two groups of 25 women. Group sessions were conjointly facilitated by teachers and

researchers from ITA and UZIG assisted by teachers from the LTAB and the Forestry Center of Djibelor.

During the three days, two workshops of food transformation were conducted: the first for cereals and the second fruit and vegetables. The participants came from the manufacturing units of local women's cooperatives throughout the districts of Ziguinchor. These technical sessions were taught by trainers of ITA/Dakar under the Supervision and coordination of the USAID/ERA team and the focal points of the University of Ziguinchor.

At the end of the three-day training modules, the two teams of 25 women were merged for the session on management and organizational capacity building which was facilitated by a team of teacher-researchers from the Department of Economics and Management at University of Ziguinchor. This session brought together all 50 women and dozens of spectators for discourses on marketing, finding capital, supply chains, and other diverse subjects.

Because of its participatory approach to problem solving, the seminar helped to reinforce the community of local women food producers and to create ties with the local business and research establishments. At the final gathering of both rounds of participants, more than 120 women from diverse backgrounds provided significant feedback. They clearly indicated that the workshop illustrated the necessity for women to join their efforts to achieve tangible economic results. They conveyed the need for creation of an “*Organisation faitière*” of all of the groups operating in different agricultural sectors in the region in order to have a well-organized regional entity that represented their interests across the various actors in the region of Ziguinchor.

USAID/ERA will continue to work with partners to strengthen local initiatives to reach the optimization of processes at all levels of the value chain. Existing links between stakeholders create synergies that will enhance end products at all levels from the lab to the field to the factory. Development of a good organizational management scheme across a federation of actors becomes fundamental.

As a result of this realization, USAID/ERA's partner institutions, the University of Ziguinchor and ITA entered into partnership with the Ziguinchor Community Development Council, the Regional Entrepreneurial Center and the Government Regional Development Agency of Ziguinchor to form a powerful new regional entity that will work side by side with extension agencies such as PADERCA and ANCAR to facilitate this process of organizational change.

2.2.2 Coordination of project activities to create synergies between USAID/ERA and other NGO projects

In order to create synergies between the different projects funded by USAID, the project participated and/or initiated some collaborative actions.

a) Joint collaboration with Wula Nafaa in the valley of Ndinderling

- *Initial Contact with Wula Nafaa*

In fiscal year 2012, USAID/ERA was invited to assist in activities during a Day of Reflections for the Management Committee (COGIRBAF) of the Valley of Ndinderling in Toubacouta. The program was organized by the USAID/Wula Nafaa Project.

- *First Formal Visit with Wula Nafaa*

Following this initial phase of contact, an exploratory mission of visits and exchanges was then conducted by a joint team of USAID/ERA and USAID/Wula Nafaa project members in Kaolack.

The mission objective was to foster collaboration between the National Superior School of Agriculture (ENSA) of University of Thiès and the USAID/Wula Nafaa project in two key zones of intervention: Kaolack on one hand and a natural resources management in the Valley of Ndinderling, Toubacouta on the other hand. The following conclusions are the results of the meetings and field visits that took place with the producers in the Valley.

Wula Naafa is open to collaboration with ERA and the University of Thiès / ENSA. The needs they expressed were related to:

- Training producers on best practices for agriculture,
- Illustrating the availability of pest / disease resistant varieties of crops,
- Showing availability of agricultural machinery for shelling, harvesting, and threshing,
- Improvement of crop varieties at the level of the farmer,
- Etc.

USAID/ERA Collaborator and Virginia Tech Faculty Member Dr. Ozzie Abaye made recommendations on the following points of potential collaboration with Wula Nafaa:

- Conduct Joint Research – in line with feed the future FTF initiatives: to enhance agricultural productivity, agribusiness and market development,
- Address the FTF call for “purpose-driven, impact-oriented” research that coordinates with education, extension, evaluation, and feedback. In addition to research, that

addresses FTF initiatives, we can make complementary investments in regional programs where food security issues go beyond national boundaries.

- USAID/ERA can cash on the infrastructure already in place by USAID/Wula Nafaa by providing training program in the following areas:
 - Soil fertility and quality
 - Composting (composting—methods, storage, and use).
 - Organic farming
 - Seed production and distribution
 - Conservation Agriculture
 - Natural resources management
- Possibility to put together a team of experts from Virginia Tech, USDA and in country partners from UGB, UCAD, ENSA, ISFAR, and ANCAR

b) Joint activities have begun in this sense and their achievements will be listed starting in Q3 2012.

- *Third Visit with Wula Naafa*

A third meeting of USAID/ERA with Wula Nafaa was held in Kaolack in March 13, 2012. The mission objective was to participate in the meeting organized by Wula Nafaa project on "Conservation Farming" with other partners from Wula Nafaa, PCE, USDA, Yaajeende, Peace Corps, NCBA, CLUSA INTERNATIONAL, and others.

The meeting had two major objectives:

- Identify the different partners and approaches related to the "Conservation Farming"
- Prepare the FIARA for a day of communication dedicated and supported by USAID/SENEGAL (5 to 15 April 2012) and issue common guidelines for participants

Through presentations of different programs on conservation farming by Wula Nafaa, PCE, USDA, Yaajeende, and Peace Corps, different points of project convergence have been identified. Issues related to the practical modalities of extension and development of Conservation Farming were discussed in link with the national strategies for restoration and improvement of soil fertility. Concerns were chiefly oriented around:

Improvement of fertility of soils based on Conservation Farming, improvement of program synergies, creating demand driven programs, empowering producers to be sustainable and not dependent on external inputs, resource and experience sharing, and distribution of the costs of production for instructional materials.

The meeting ended with the presentation of a draft agenda for the Organization of a panel on the "Conservation Farming" at the FIARA (April 2012).

USAID/ERA has joined the dynamics of partners in the field of the Conservation Farming and engages with Virginia Tech to provide training and organization to farmers in partnership with other projects of USAID | Senegal.

c) *Open House at the USAID/ERA Project Management Unit*

USAID/ERA held an open house for other implementers of projects funded by USAID | Senegal with a focus on FTF. The open house was held to solicit input and feedback from the other implementers on the USAID/ERA research program. The open house was attended by representatives of: PCE, Yaajeende, Wula Nafaa, Comfish and Peace Corps. The meeting allowed the ERA project team to present to our counterparts the various aspects of our program and objectives.

Discussions and exchanges were held on synergistic activities. These also allowed the different parties to develop a mutual understanding of country-wide programs and activities. Two working groups were formed for the occasion to discuss in-depth potential zones of collaboration. The first group focused on Component 1 of the ERA Project: Education and Training. A second group was formed in charge of topics related to Component 2: Research and Outreach. Both groups saw the participation of all partners. The opportunity allowed us to identify a number of existing opportunities for cooperation in our fields of intervention. Some examples include:

- The representatives of Yajende and ERA shared the interest of working on a nutrition program with our project partners
- PCE and ERA exchanged on our existing collaboration in a “Value Chain” program and also discussed opportunities for collaboration in the field of agriculture production.
- Wula Nafaa and ERA are studying the ways and means implement joint project interventions on subject of "Conservation Farming."
- Peace Corps and ERA also discussed the possible opportunity to join activities by hosting volunteers in roles internship and training
- Logistical issues relating to all programs have been addressed including those related to: geographical position, project agendas, and the subjects of specific interventions

The day ended with enthusiasm from both the visitors and the ERA team. All were pleased following the display of the many opportunities, benefits, and interests shared by USAID | Senegal stakeholders. Participants pledged to coordinate their approaches where possible in order to facilitate efficient achievement of one and other’s objectives.

2.2.1.1 Indicators achievements

Objectives	Results	Indicators	Disaggregation	FY 2012 Target	Q1 Target	Q1+Q2 target	Realized	% of 2012 Target	Comments
2. Strengthen applied research and outreach	2.1 AETR institutions promoting innovative research solutions to public and private clients	6. Number of food security private enterprises (for profit), producers organizations, water users associations, women's group trade and business associations, and community-based organizations (CBOs) receiving USG assistance (FtF outcome indicator 4.5.2-11)	Food security private enterprises(f or profit)	1	0	0			
			Producers organizations	1	0	0			
			Water users associations	0	0	0			
			Women's group	30	0	25	25	83.33%	25 women's groups were trained during Ziguinchor workshop in food processors. Those women 'groups can be considered also as Producers organizations
			Trade and business associations	3	0	0			
			Community-based organizations	2	0	0			
			Total	37	0	25	25	68%	
		7. Number of AETR trained in other areas for food security or economic growth	Total	07	0	7	7	100%	Training workshop for bidders

2.3 Component 3: project management and policy support

2.3.1 Result 3.2 Management and administrative systems of target AETR strengthened

Objectives fulfilled under this component fell under the following interventions:

a) Study Tour of the US and East Africa on Public–Private Collaborations

The results of market study commissioned by the project were presented during the month of December through the organization of three Supply/Demand analysis workshops.

Various comments and suggestions were received and considered in the final study report. One converging point of the participants of these workshops was the need to better articulate training supply on demand from the private sector, major employers of the graduates from these training institutions. Better structuring of training programs in order to better integrate the results of research and internships in a real environment have been strongly recommended. This is the start point of the idea of organizing a study tour to the United States and East Africa to visit examples of innovative training and research with a strong link with the private sector.

The identification and selection of participants initiated in the month of December ended in January. The visa application process and program development were the major activities during this quarter and led the Sendoff ceremony and departure of study tour participants

In total, 22 partners were selected from the three key areas of activity namely education, research and consulting. The agricultural private sector is represented by 5 members.

b) Send off ceremony organized at the residence of the Director of USAID, in honor of participants traveling in the US and Africa on the Study Tour

The United States Ambassador to Senegal held a send-off reception on Wednesday, March 28 at his residence for the participants who are to go on the study in the United States and in East Africa. The ceremony brought together the 22 participants of the April study tour and others representatives of USAID/ERA's partner institutions. It was an opportunity to initiate a network between the key stakeholders of the public private partnership in Senegal.

c) Administrative support grants

USAID/ERA procured and delivered equipment and materials to strengthen the administrative capacities of its partner institutions. Some parts of the grant awards also covered administrative training and technical support interventions which were requested by the partners as part of the Needs Assessment conducted in 2011. These grants were provided by USAID/ERA provided to strengthen administrative capacities of those institutions. Universities and research institutions each received \$10,000. The training centers received \$7,000. USAID/ERA personnel worked with the partners to budget and procure the items that were identified. All of the items procured have been delivered to the AETR institutions. USAID/ERA plan to provide a similar level of funding to the partners for the next fiscal year to cover items demanded but which could not be awarded in 2012.

d) 2.3.1.1 Indicators achievements

Objectives	Results	Indicators	Disaggregation	FY 2012 Target	Q1Target	Q1+Q2 target	Realized	% of 2012 Target	Comments
3. Project Management and policy support	3.2 Management and administrative systems of targeted AET strengthened	4. Number of private sector participants in international GDA study tour	Female	1	0	1	1	100%	
			Male	4		4	4	100%	
			Total	5		5	5	100%	
	3.4 AKIS (Agricultural Knowledge and Information System) linkage among components	2. Number of cross-component study tours	Total	1	0	1	1	100%	

III. Cross-Cutting Project Achievements

3.1 USAID/ERA'S Interventions for Gender and Equity in Agriculture

In response to the complex issue of gender equity in agriculture, USAID/ERA has developed a comprehensive intervention framework to address many of the systemic gender issues and challenges faced by Senegalese women in the agriculture sector.

In the second quarter, the document of reference for the project's Gender Equity Strategy was finalized and sent to USAID for its approval.

In terms of interventions, several field activities were also conducted.

The USAID/ERA response aims to comprehensively address the gender issues through specific interventions and priorities that target women at four types of stakeholders:

- *Institutions of Education and Research*
- *Farmer's Organizations*
- *Government Agencies*
- *Private Sector Enterprises*

The types of women that are targets of our strategic initiatives range from students and researchers to community organizers and entrepreneurs. Our interventions have targeted women at levels ranging from the small farmer in the village to the top levels of political and university governance.

Whereas ERA's fiscal year 2010 gender plan placed its emphasis on women researchers and administrative in our partners institutions, the project has moved forward this year and started put the focus on women from the private-sector and students from partner's institutions. This represents progress on our Gender Intervention Strategy that is moving us from phases of Foundational Analysis and Setup, to the beginnings of pilot interventions and readiness for full scale gender oriented programs.

□ **Students: Gender Awareness Workshop on shared opportunities in the agricultural sector**

As a corollary to the launch of the new ERA Scholarship Program, a three-day (5-7 March) workshop was held in St. Louis with the collaboration of the University of Gaston Berger. The workshop brought together end-of-cycle students from all project partner institutions. The workshop served to educate our partners on the benefits of consideration of gender in their programs as well as highlight vocational possibilities for rising professionals

in agriculture. In addition to participating students, numerous administrative representatives of partner institutions also benefited from attendance.

Using this seminar and strategic communications as a launch pad, USAID/ERA developed a platform of activities to inform and guide institutions who are seeking improved gender accessibility at their schools.

The workshop provided an opportunity for exchange and sharing between soon-to-be-graduating students and faculty from various training institutions in terms of fields of activity but also levels of study. Participants were full of useful information and exchanges have been productive.

Among the deliverables, the workshop allowed students to have a better understanding of the opportunities existing in the agricultural sector. As a result, the workshop helped them to redefine the limits of their expectations and remove potential barriers keeping them from pursuing their dreams.

Students who attended the seminar felt well-oriented and informed on how to seek out business opportunities in the agricultural sector, and they felt well equipped to embark on ventures of entrepreneurship and self-employment. While showcasing opportunities for entrepreneurship and private sector activity for rising graduates was the principal focus, academic leaders were also made aware of many options for integrating the needs of the private sector in the classroom and create new links between their schools and the boots on the ground in Senegalese agribusinesses.

According to testimonies collected from students, it was the first time they were associated with such workshops and faculty mentors also welcomed this initiative of the project.

✓ **The launch of the scholarship program on March 08**

Within its goal of strengthening the capacities of partner institutions, the project offers a scholarship program with two main objectives:

- facilitate retention of girls in the cycles of agricultural education through scholarships and support
- promote excellence in studies through the provision of excellence awards

The project organized a big event to mark the celebration of International Women's Day on March 8. The program was headlined by the launch of its new scholarship program in support of girls in agricultural sectors. The ceremony, chaired by Ms. Alfreda Brewer, Deputy Director of the USAID/Senegal was hosted the University Gaston Berger de Saint-Louis.

140 scholarships totaling \$1.5 million (750 million CFA francs) from the BTS PhD were announced.

This ceremony marked an occasion for the Deputy Director of the USAID/Senegal to show the important place of women in rural economic and social development. In the implementation of this awards program, 60 percent of these allowances will be granted to girls enrolled in agricultural sectors to encourage excellence, the pursuit of training and agricultural research in Senegal.

According to the deputy director, "by choosing to grant these scholarships on international women's day, USAID wishes to reaffirm its commitment to ensure that there is always in the institutions of education in agricultural sciences, room for students that, tomorrow, will help strengthen the presence and the role of women in the community of agriculture in Senegal"; These awards are also a means to advance the integration of women in the economic fabric of Senegal and encourage gender equality and the strengthening of women's economic power. They are also intended to encourage excellence and foster innovative education, research, and training in the field of agriculture.

The Rector of the UGB, Professor Mary Teuw Niane, made mention that "scholarships of excellence and support for girls in agricultural sectors", is "a small step for the young girl [but] a major step for the emancipation of the Senegalese woman".

It is in this sense that he thanked warmly USAID and the USAID/ERA project which, according to him, have become model institutions of governance, training, and research. Their development of agricultural resources and partnerships with top universities will lead to great improvements in training, research and agricultural entrepreneurship throughout Senegal.

3.2 Project Management

USAID/ERA project has worked closely with Virginia Tech in the revision of its own internal management standards.

Improved administrative, accounting, and financial procedures are being followed in the implementation of activities related to procurement, the recruitment of consultants, and in other internal operating procedures.

USAID/ERA has begun the process of new round of "heavy" acquisitions to meet the needs that were expressed by AETR partner institutions. Project personnel has worked with USAID to finalize calls proposal along with necessary prioritization and evaluation schemes are to be developed for the heavy equipment (generators, motopompes) and infrastructure grants awards.

3.3 Monitoring & Evaluation

After the review of the project reference documents (MPM, 2011 annual report, 2012 Work plan, etc.), the M & E set out to put in place monitoring tools to measure and evaluate the performance of the project. Thus the tools below have been proposed:

- Quarterly planning worksheet
- Sheet track quarterly (to be completed by the PMU) results
- Monitoring of annual results (to be completed by the PMU) fact sheet
- Sheet track quarterly (to be completed by the AETR) results
- Training tracking sheet (to be completed by the PMU and the AETR)

3.4 Communications, Media, Marking, and Branding

During the period of January-March 2012, the USAID/ERA project initiated a number of activities with its partners relating to improved media strategies. Some of them have been accompanied by a communication campaign to inform project recipients and the public in particular of the latest in project happenings.

Television, radio, and the press provided large contributions to show the achievements of the project and share the information with target audiences.

In addition to this mass communication, different tools have been developed to give to each event the effect and the impact desired.

Banners and posters were thus made to inform participants and bystanders at project activity sites on the nature of the intervention activity being carried out. T-Shirts were used as a medium to present the project and achievements for participants to some workshops

Video clips have been taken and will be available on the forthcoming web site of the project to promote information sharing in the USAID/ERA community.

The following media tools have been employed based on the specificity of the event:

- ✓ **For the formation of women food processors in Ziguinchor on 1-09 Feb, 2012**
 - Banners
 - Video
- ✓ **For International Women's Day and the workshop on opportunities for employment in the agricultural sector, Saint-Louis from 5 to 8 March 2012**
 - Banners

- T-shirt
- Custom presentation Binders
- Posters
- Media Invitations (television, radio, print with 15 bodies of press invited)
- Press release
- Video film of 10 minutes to put on the website of USAID/ERA

✓ **For the Send-off Ceremony with the Ambassador**

- Making a Manta poster
- Media coverage (print media, radio, TV)
- In French and English press release

3.5 Recruitment of a Procurement Officer

A Procurement Officer was recruited to the month of February to take charge of the implementation of all activities related to the procurement.

3.6 Project Management indicators achievements

Objectives	Results	Indicators	FY 2012 Target	Q1 Target	Q1+Q2 Target	Realized	% of 2012 Target	Comment
3.Project management and policy support	3.4.AKIS (Agricultural Knowledge and Information System) linkage among components	1.A Strategic project gender integration plan created and implemented (USAID/ERA Output Indicator) (37)	1	1	1	1	100%	1st draft is send to USAID/Senegal for approval
	3.5 Project Management	2. Employment contracts signed	15	0	15	15	100%	
		3. Contract with an insurance company for staff health insurance	1	0	1	1	100%	
	3.6 A Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) available	1. PMP final report available	1	1	0	1	100%	PMP finalized and send to USAID/Senegal for approval
		2.Number of monitoring and evaluation mission reports	2	1	1	0	0%	M&E mission is not started yet. M&E Expert was hired on December. She takes time to review documents, to implement tools for data collection, before making mission
		3. Number of quarters	4	1	2	2	50%	
	3.7 Communication	1. Communication plan final report	1	0	1	0	0%	

		available						
		3. Number of communication supports updated	5	0	5	5	100%	
		4. Number of newsletters	6	1	2	2	33.33%	
		5. Number of highlight media coverage	7	2	6	6	85.71%	Highlight coverage during : - Mini bus deliveries at UGB - Mini bus delivery at CNFTEFCPN - Mini bus delivery at ENSA - ICT equipment delivery at CFPH - Scholarship program launch on 8 th March - Send-off ceremony for US and East Africa study tour participants

IV. Lessons learned

USAID/ERA strives to maintain strong working relationships with the administrative, technical and financial support services of its AETR partners. This ensures that project's activities and deliverables are achieved with as few delays as possible. As a result of the increased push to deliver equipment and materials to partners during the second quarter, USAID/ERA identified key lessons learned and took measures to modify its implementation approach accordingly.

These include:

1. Implementation of clear documentation procedures for the acceptance, utilization, and maintenance of grants equipment and materials procured by USAID/ERA
2. New strategies for data collection and other sources of verification for workshop and activities completed in collaboration with AETR partners
3. Use of multiple means of communication to ensure that all USAID/ERA partners and stakeholders are properly updated on all project's activities and results

Implementation of clear documentation procedures for the acceptance, utilization, and maintenance of grants equipment and materials procured by USAID/ERA

As USAID/ERA entered the scaled-up phase of delivering grant equipment and materials to its partners, the project leadership reviewed its existing documentation procedures for ensuring proper acceptance, utilization, and maintenance of those items. USAID/ERA personnel thus worked in close collaboration with its partners to develop documentation procedures and protocols to serve as verification sources for the items provided. In addition to being an audit trail, the document ensures that all items are inventoried correctly. USAID/ERA worked personnel of the AETR partners of the project to build administrative and technical capacities within the local institutions. This same push by the project positions those institutions to be part of USAID/Forward initiative in the future.

New strategies for data collection in collaboration with AETR partners

USAID/ERA improved strategies and approaches put in place for data collection to serve as sources of verification activities such as for workshops and field training in collaboration with AETR partner institutions. The M & E Expert of the project revised the forms and other documentation to be used for data collection by the partners. Moreover, other project personnel worked closely with their counterparts from partner AETR institutions to appropriate maintenance records will be maintained for the grant items provided over the course of the project. These activities facilitate record keeping and traceability allowing the most efficient use of project's time and resources.

Developed different means of communication to ensure that partners are properly updated on all project's activities and results

USAID/ERA implements its field activities on an iterative basis given its large number of partners both at the local and international levels. As a result, a major challenge is ensuring that all partners stay informed and updated in a consistent manner. During the quarter USAID/ERA implemented a comprehensive information dissemination strategy to avoid gaps and unevenness in awareness of project activities by partners. This involved bi-weekly bulk e-mail messages, bi-monthly newsletter and the creation of a project website. During the following two quarters of fiscal 2012 ERA plans add more contents to its online site and examine the potential of other media such as CD and smartphones as means for information-sharing. We believe that this multi-prong approach in communicating project's results with partners and stakeholders will help to create a true project community where information is equally shared and all stakeholders can stay informed about the project's accomplishments.

V. Constraints

As USAID/ERA implements its activities on a comprehensive and broad-scale fashion a key constraint is *expectation management*. Because of a number of factors, such as USAID priorities and unevenness in institutional readiness, the project cannot offer the same level of support and assistance across the board to all of its 12 partners. In addition, other local actors in the agriculture sector of Senegal have expressed strong wish to be included as primary partners of USAID/ERA. This is so that they can be awarded capacity building grants. USAID/ERA will need to continue working with its Executive Leadership and its Oversight Committee to assist with prioritizing investments particularly within the constraint of the level of funding available to the project. This will ensure broad understanding and acceptance the manner with which the project is allocating its limited resources to attain its objectives.

VI. Activities planned for the next quarter

Listed below are the activities planned for the next quarter of fiscal year 2012 by USAID/ERA.

- **Advanced curriculum map** - Develop with AETRs, a Curriculum mapping process for collecting and recording curriculum-related data that identifies core skills and content taught, processes employed, and assessments used for each subject area and grade level. The completed curriculum map then becomes a tool that helps teachers keep track of what has been taught and plan what will be taught. The purpose of a curriculum map is to document the relationship between every component of the curriculum.
- **E-pilot grants** - The focus of the E-pilot grants is to increase faculty engagement in distance learning, and enable anytime/anyplace teaching by extending learning technology skills and knowledge.

- **Workshop on pedagogy practices** - The purpose of this workshop is to design, develop, and implement different teaching strategies. This workshop will provide participants with a wide variety of pedagogical strategies based in current theoretical paradigms for teaching students.
- **Workshop on Seed Value Chain** – Planning for the Seed Value Chain workshop. This is a direct outgrow of the USAID/ERA April Study Tour will begin in the 3rd Quarter with a focus on delivering the workshop in the fourth quarter of 2012.
- **Workshop on "Conservation Farming"** – Planning for a workshop "Conservation Farming" as direct response to Climate Change. This workshop is part of the joint collaboration efforts with Wula Nafaa in the valley of Ndinderling valley of Kaolack
- **Research Grants and Financial Training Workshop** – The first sets of grants will be issued during the quarter. Financial training workshop will be held at the headquarters of the PMU for all of the winning teams.
- **Agriculture HR Database** – Selection of the consultant to design the database with follow-on implementation plan at a target institution is to take place during the quarter.
- **Training and Scholarship plans** – Training and scholarship plans for 2012-13 will be finalized. A timeline for action will be developed
- **Delivery of Equipment and Materials** - Equipment and materials procured by the project will be delivered to partners in Dakar, Thiès, Ziguinchor and Bignona.
- **New round procurement grant activities targeting “heavy equipment” and infrastructure** – Bid calls along with necessary prioritization and evaluation schemes will be developed for heavy equipment (generators, motopompes) and infrastructure grants awards.
- **Grand Opening of the Thiès Office** – ERA staff will move to Thiès to support activities in partnership with ENSA, ISFAR, UGB and CNFTEIA.