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MALI

GADIABA KADIEL SITE

SHEEP FATTENING IN GADIABA KADIEL

“WHEN ANIMALS FILL THE POCKETS OF WOMEN”



Women in the Gadiaba Kadiel village in Mali have a considerable know-how in sheep and cattle fattening but lack the means to conduct and develop their activities. Thanks to their hard work, organization and association, they have succeeded in conveying their voices and convincing the authorities to support them and were finally able to increase their revenues and improve the livelihoods of their families.

“The Benkan association is well structured, dynamic, and works with well-defined bodies. Its first activity is sheep and cattle fattening, from which it derives its main revenues. However, the Association faces several financial and material problems to modernize and improve its activity for the great benefit of the village ». With the arrival of the Mali-SAWAP project, the Association was able to present its project proposal and was short-listed and then selected after presenting a detailed document about its project. The Association final selection attests for its knowledge and the quality of its work»

MrYacouba Diallo Mayor
of the Gadiaba Kadiel commune



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Women's association specialized in cattle and sheep fattening

Before 2017, most of the women of the Gadiaba Kadiel village derived their income and livelihood from the region's natural resources. They cut wood, transform it charcoal and sell it.

However, they have a good knowledge of the sheep fattening activity, which consists in breeding, feeding and fattening animals to sell them in the market once finished.

In 2017, a number of women decided to create an association and were able to obtain a grant from the PGRNCC project amounting to 6.598.750 CFA francs, which enabled them to buy 80 head of sheep and launch their fattening operation. The women participating in this operation contributed with 5% of the sheep acquisition total costs.

Significant return

When finished and ready for slaughter, the sheep were sold in domestic markets. The sale return allowed the association to:

- Create a solidarity fund
- Ensure a working capital of 500.000 CFA francs
- Retrieve the women's contributions
- Acquire two additional calves (140 000 CFA francs per unit).

A part of the profit is used to cover expenses related to the animals feeding and treatment and for the payment of two permanent guards.

How to fatten sheep and cattle?

Sheep and cattle fattening (or finishing) is the stabilization of animals to reduce their pressure on the environment and their intensive feeding to slaughter weight to supply the market with good quality animals. The minimum age of sheep at their acquisition stage is one year and the fattening period may, at least, last 3 months. The feed used for fattening sheep include mainly straw, vegetable tops, leaves, etc) in addition to oil cake as food supplement.

Income-generating activities

Thanks to the solidarity fund, the member women of the association are able to benefit of a credit condition of having a certificate signed by the recipient, a witness and the Association President.

By providing interest-free credit, the solidarity fund helped women to conduct their own income-generating activities and ensure the needs of their families.

Other advantages ...

In addition to its advantages and benefits for women, the sheep and cattle fattening initiative helps also to reduce animals grazing and to prevent the destruction of adjacent forests by limiting animals' mobility. By reducing the exploitation of natural resources and providing income to vulnerable population, the sheep and cattle fattening operation presents thus a resilient activity to climate change.

Success Factors

The Association effective operation and efficient management and the women's competence and good knowledge in the field of sheep fattening have undoubtedly contributed to the project success. Added to this is the remarkable solidarity and cooperation among women and the financial support provided by the solidarity fund.



Members of the association

Difficulties faced

Water shortage / Unfavourable climate / and limited financial means



Prospects

Increasing the number of sheep which will inherently contribute to better revenues

The President of the Association and the two-earl bought cattles

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