



Project Newsletter 1

Increasing food legumes production by small farmers to strengthen food and nutrition security through adoption of improved technologies and governance within south-south cooperation

Background

The overall production levels of food legumes both in India and Morocco have steadily fallen in the last decades and certainly not in accordance with their potential. Yields of food legumes have stagnated and no yield breakthroughs have occurred. Thus, one of the most salient features of the current food legumes market is the consistently lower production against the demand. This has led to increased prices worldwide. It has also made the market volatile and vulnerable to fact and fiction.

In Morocco, while food legumes exports represented 45 to 60% by volume in the 1970's, the failure of production to keep pace with the national overall demand, Morocco relies now on importing to supplement local production capacity, which affects considerably the balance of payment and per capita consumption. The land cropped annually with food

legumes went from 511 000 hectares during 1970-1980 to 380 000 hectares during 1990-2000 decades. During the last decade, it stabilized around 365 000 hectares annually. The global food legumes production went from 2.4 to 2.8 million quintals annually. Average yield went from 6.3 to 6.6 quintals/ha.

es, insect pests and parasites, limited use of inputs, access to market, labor cost and availability and low degree of mechanization, and weak farmer organization.

Within this initiative, India and Morocco through South to South cooperation will join their efforts and expertise to boost



The annual per capita consumption decreased from 5.8 (1984) to 5.6 kg (2001). Productivity levels of food legumes have remained low and variable due mainly to low yield potential of existing varieties, poor seed multiplication systems, susceptibility of cultivars to environmental stresses and depredation by diseases,

food legumes production in their respective countries. The goal of such initiative would improve food security and nutrition, soil health, income growth, employment opportunities and farmers' organizations and empowerment. Though, both countries will mutually cooperate to sustain their food security through trade.

Expected Outputs and Activities

Output 1. Value chains of targeted food legumes studied and analyzed

Output 2. Improved varieties tested and evaluated through on-farm participatory approach

Output 3. Integrated crop management options refined and tested by farmers

Output 4. Functional village-level based seed delivery systems established

Output 5. Value addition through post-harvest processes,

storage and labeling of food legumes investigated

Output 6. A pilot knowledge connectivity system using different ICT tools to meet the needs of information and knowledge of targeted rural communities established

Output 7. Pilot community based organizations (CBO/farmer aggregation) demonstrated

Output 8. Back up research to enhance technology generation,

including, IPM/ICM, Crop improvement, adapted mechanization carried out

Output 9. Capacity building and networking of all stakeholders achieved

Output 10. M&E system for project implementation, management and impact developed and monitored on a regular basis

Output 11. Pro-food legumes enabling policy explored and documented

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Main Objectives

Dissemination and adoption of improved technologies and governance to increase productivity of food legumes through participatory knowledge management systems and South-South collaboration.