Agriculture is recognised as a determining factor for nutritional issues because it contributes to food and nutrition security. To facilitate sustainable inclusion of nutritional issues in agricultural programmes, GRET is improving its practices via multi-sectoral approaches generated by its expertise, its experience implementing projects and the knowledge accumulated thanks to its consulting missions and studies. It draws on internal dialogue, joint planning and gradual inclusion of new skills and methods, so that the connection between agriculture and nutrition can become operational.

More specifically, GRET promotes agroecology projects including advisory and awareness-raising measures on food and nutrition. This inclusion makes it possible to highlight and strengthen the food and nutritional effects of agroecological practices and systems. Another of GRET’s levers is the inclusion of advice and awareness-raising in sustainable systems for agricultural support (farming organisations, professional organisations, state services), in order to ensure durability and upscaling. Lastly, as local agrifood value chains play an important role in the availability and accessibility of local quality foods, GRET supports numerous stakeholders in these value chains so that they can be inclusive, sustainable, generate income and process products that are healthy, nutritious, attractive and affordable.

Methods of intervention

Projects connecting agriculture and nutrition are implemented by GRET and its local and international partners (public institutions, local authorities, farming and professional organisations, businesses, NGOs, consultancy firms, research centres). GRET also conducts consulting missions (technical assistance, studies, feasibility, evaluations). Together with its partners, GRET conducts and publishes research and capitalisation, delivers training and contributes to enriching public debate on food and nutrition security at various levels.
**GRET’s approach**

“In the Androy region in Madagascar, GRET has been developing sectoral supports for a number of years: developing agriculture on the one hand, and improving nutritional practices on the other”, explains Christiane Rakotomalala, project manager. “Since 2014, gateways between agriculture and nutrition have been even further explored in the region, with a dual action to promote agroecology and raise awareness on nutrition among families.”

“GRET wants to refine and highlight its position on connecting and agriculture and nutrition, and support its partners from an operational and institutional point of view. With a view to this, the Asanao programme – Improving food and nutrition security in West Africa – was initiated in five countries (Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal). It will make it possible to contribute more effectively to public debate”, says Damien Lagandré, project manager.

**Key stakeholders’ views**

“I am a member of a women rice-sellers group. I volunteered to receive training from GRET on nutrition and particularly on best feeding and healthcare practices for infants, young children and women. I, in turn, trained families of the members from my group, and those of members from other groups of farmers, processors and retailers of agricultural products. Today, I am regularly contacted by my community about questions on nutrition. Some families are eating more diverse food products and have also started to save for access to healthcare. Some groups have included discussions on nutrition in their monthly meetings.” Denise Loua, rice-seller in Forest Guinea

“Together with GRET and the Un Enfant Par La Main organisation, we are working in the commune of Gros Morne in Haiti to implement a food and nutrition security project. The Association des Originaux de Grande Plaine (AOG) and Un Enfant par la Main are promoting high-added value species to intensify and diversify agricultural production, while GRET is responsible for nutritional education of households and provision of advice to family farms taking nutritional issues into account. Our actions are complementary and are aimed at sustainability. They will be the subject of capitalisation that will highlight lessons learned.” Audalbert Norvilus, AOG representative

**Focus on two projects**

**Burkina Faso: Prevention of Malnutrition in the Mouhoun Loop (Premam)**

2018-2022 | **Budget**: 2.2 M€ | **Funding**: Agence Française de Développement, European Union | **Partner**: Development Media International.

The project supports vulnerable rural households to produce foods that are rich in nutrients (cowpea, sesame, vegetable-gardening, small livestock farming) with a view to strengthening their resilience, taking a gender-inclusive approach. Small local agrifood businesses are supported to produce and market fortified flours for children and a fortified drink for women. Nutritional education is included in the support provided. Advocacy is underway for greater inclusion of prevention of malnutrition in public policies.

**Myanmar: Nutrition-sensitive agriculture in a rural development programme in the Irrawaddy Delta**

2015-2019 | **Budget**: 100,000 € | **Funding**: LIFT | **Partner**: Welthungerhilfe (WHH).

GRET and WHH are contributing to the improvement and diversification of agricultural production, the improvement of sustainable natural resource management and nutrition, while at the same time strengthening the capacities of women. Awareness-raising is conducted and volunteers are trained to provide nutritional advice in their community. Seed kits enable the poorest households to produce fruit and vegetables in their home gardens. Agroecological practices are promoted. Lastly, a tool makes it possible to monitor households’ expenditure on food and to make the connection with nutrition.

**SOME REFERENCES**

- Reconciling agriculture and nutrition. Case study on agricultural policies and nutrition in Peru, Report, Levard Laurent and Vanessa Alby Flores, 2013, 40 pages.
- Projet Repam : Améliorer la résilience des populations pauvres et très pauvres et la sécurité alimentaire dans le Mouhoun, End-of-project brochure, GRET, 2017, 8 pages.

GRET is an international fair development NGO that has been actively fighting poverty and inequalities for 40 years in the field and at political level. For more information on GRET’s activities in the area of “Agriculture: value chains and agricultural policies”: www.gret.org/themes/agriculture-en and “Health: nutrition and social protection”: www.gret.org/themes/health-nutrition and www.nutridev.org

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