GRET supports the development and implementation of decentralised joint land policies for greater security of access to land and natural resources for family farms, particularly for vulnerable groups.

GRET also helps farmers to improve their production capacities and the sustainability of their farms by prioritising agroecological practices that facilitate their resilience to cope with shocks, and their food and nutritional security. It supports the creation of financial services and non-financial services to provide advice on agriculture and farm management. In addition, it works to organise value chains and food supply for cities and regional and national markets, by supporting the development of small processing businesses and employment opportunities for women and young people, promoting the emergence of professional organisations and consultation, and supporting marketing and optimum value for quality products.

GRET also strengthens the capacities of farming, professional and civil society organisations to provide new services to their members, participate in decision-making processes and contribute to public policies. It also contributes to analysing agricultural and commercial policies and draws up recommendations in these areas.

Methods of intervention

In partnership with local and international bodies (public institutions, local authorities, farmers’ organisations and professional organisations, NGOs, engineering consultants, research centres), GRET implements or supports field projects and provides expert consulting (technical assistance, studies, feasibility, evaluation). It coordinates and publishes research and capitalisation documents, delivers training, and facilitates thematic networks (land, microfinance, agroecology).
GRET’s approach

“Upstream of value chains, GRET strives to improve conditions of production for farmers according to the principles of agroecology, with a view to making family farms more autonomous, less dependent on external inputs, capable of drawing optimum value from their own resources and managing their debt”, explains Dominique Violas, programme coordinator. “The effects and impacts of these practices are evaluated with our partners to improve our methods of intervention and develop advocacy in favour of a more resilient agriculture.”

“An increasing proportion of family farms’ production is sold on regional and national markets. GRET supports the organisation of the various links in the value chain and the joint definition of fair, inclusive development strategies. Collective marketing, storage, support for processing units, commercial agreements, management and enhancement of quality are all levers to improve and diversify households’ income and reach these expanding markets, which are becoming increasingly demanding”, says Cécile Broutin, programme manager.

Key stakeholders’ views

“The partnership with GRET started in Mali, Senegal and Burkina Faso with the implementation of training schemes, experimentation and capitalisation, focusing on the milk value chain and natural resource management to inform advocacy and livestock farming policies (Galo project). It has always been based on productive exchanges, which made it possible to coordinate actions. This great collaboration is still ongoing in Burkina Faso (Go in project) and in Senegal (Asstel 2 project).” Ibrahima Aliou, General Secretary of Apess

“In the past, my income came mainly from rice production, but now my family expenditure is completely covered by vegetable farming, which is in fact not yet a widespread activity in the Delta. I am happy to share the techniques I learnt from the GRET team with the other farmers. Now I am well known as a farmer in my village and I am proud to be a pioneer of agroecology in the Delta.”

Sophie Myint, farmer in the Ayeyarwaddy Delta region in Myanmar

Focus on two actions

Madagascar: Improving food security and increasing farming income (Asara)

2015-2017 | Budget: 1.8 M€ | Funding: Catholic Relief Services, European Union | Partner: Centre technique agroécologique du Sud (Southern agroecological technical centre).

GRET strengthens the capacities of agro-pastoral farmers to implement techniques enabling agricultural production that is secure, remunerative and sustainable, via access to an appropriate services offer. The main focus of the project is the testing and dissemination of agricultural innovations suited to the local context, strengthening of services for farms, and development of productive infrastructures to support farmers to conduct collective projects and make them sustainable.

Cambodia: Support for intensive agriculture with low input requirements (Apici)

2010-2017 | Budget: 0.8 M€ | Funding: CG 92, FIND, Louis Dreyfus Foundation | Partners: CIRD, Siem Reap Department of Agriculture.

GRET and CIRD work with small farmers in the Siem Reap region to increase their income and improve their living conditions by providing support to intensify and diversify agriculture, and to strengthen farmers’ groups. Agroecology is a key element in the project. The latter also contributes to improving the marketing of healthy, local products on domestic markets in Siem Reap. GRET supports the creation of farmers’ groups and the emergence of farmer-collectors who collect, transport and sell the production of other farmers in the villages.

SOME REFERENCES


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