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 increase 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 supporting marketing and optimum value for quality products.

GRET also strengthens the capacities of farmers’ 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 trade policies and draws up recommendations in these areas.

By improving food supply chains and environments and raising consumers’ awareness, GRET supports transition to sustainable healthy food systems.

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**

“GRET improves farmers’ conditions of production 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. “Evaluation of our practices by our partners contributes to their strengthening and informs advocacy in favour of a more resilient agriculture.”

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

**Key stakeholders’ views**

“Inclusive financial services in rural areas are necessary because they are an alternative source of funding between the banking sector – which requires guarantees – and loan sharks. Access to investment capital enables vulnerable rural families to diversify their activities, thereby minimising risks and strengthening their resilience. Thitsar Ooyin (TO) is also strongly involved in financial education and entrepreneurial training of its clients, so that they can be better integrated in the local and regional economy. GRET, TO’s main shareholder, plays a crucial role in maintaining TO’s social objectives.” Lai Uk Nawl, director of the Thitsar Ooyin microfinance institution’s Chin branch, Myanmar

“The market garden set up with the support of GRET and Fongs enabled me to have a decent income. Before, I used to travel to Dakar for seasonal work as a cleaner. Conditions were very hard for my youngest child and my income was too low. Now I don’t have to leave any more. I have access to land and I grow vegetables on my own plot, thanks to the skills I acquired. This has improved food at home and then I sell the rest at the market in Diourbel. I have my own activity and stay close to my family.” Mame Seye Faye, member of the Kadam women’s group, Senegal.

**Focus on two actions**

**Madagascar: Supporting farmers’ autonomy in three regions**

2014-2022 | **Budget:** 2 M€ | **Funding:** EU, CFSI, AFD | **Partners:** AMAD, communes.

GRET provides a local agricultural advice service in Guidi-makha, Assaba and Brakna. Farm advisors support groups of farmers, in particular women’s cooperatives, to attain greater autonomy in their innovation and collective mobilisation capacities. They draw on the farming field school approach where participants take turns being teachers and students. The farmers developed agroecological practices and set up networks for exchanging farmer seeds and group marketing actions.

**Haiti: Improving food and nutrition security in the Trois Rivières watershed**

2018-2022 | **Budget:** 7.8 M€ | **Funding:** EU | **Partners:** ACF, AOG, Odrino, Protos.

GRET and its project partners are supporting 4,000 households in the communes of Gros-Morne, Bassin Bleu, Chansolme and Port-de-Paix to improve their resilience, in particular to climate change. One focus of the project is support for development of agricultural and agri-food value chains and agroforestry, to increase supply on markets and stimulate sectors generating added value while ensuring the inclusion of vulnerable households and protection of natural resources.

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