

FEED THE FUTURE GUINEA AGRICULTURAL SERVICES: STRENGTHENING MARKET-LED AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGY, AND EDUCATION (SMARTE)

INTRODUCTION: SMARTE

The SMARTE project (Strengthening Market-led Agricultural Research, Technology, and Education) is a 5-year (2016 – 2021) project funded by USAID Guinea and implemented by Winrock International, an American not-for-profit organization. The project SMARTE project contributes to the education, extension, and research and development objectives of the Feed the Future – GAS Program (Guinea Agricultural Services).



OBJECTIVE

The primary objectives of SMARTE are:

- Improving education and agricultural training for the development of extension services and public and private agricultural advisory focused on the needs of the market.
- The establishment of sustainable systems of information flow driven market demand for strengthening the capacity of actors targeted agricultural value chains to make decisions based on economic opportunities.
- Research & development of new technologies to support the growth of productivity and profitability of value chains for rice, horticulture and livestock.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- 80,000 households using new technologies or improved agricultural techniques
- 12,000 SME's receiving higher quality information to spur the growth of their businesses
- 110 new profitable and practical technologies and practices co-developed with the private sector and research institutions and introduced to the market

TECHNICAL COMPONENTS AND CROSS-CUTTING INTERVENTIONS

<h3>Agricultural Education and Training (AET)</h3> <p>Design curriculum to reinforce entrepreneurial aptitude and transfer market-demanded skills to AVENIR agents, emphasizing continuing education via classroom, remote, and one-on-one training to build technical skills. The project will give AVENIR agents the opportunity to attain the competency required to improve agricultural practices in the rice, horticulture, and livestock sectors.</p>	<h3>Advisory and Extension Services (EAS)</h3> <p>Provide extension services to Guinea's agricultural sector through AVENIR agents who deliver high quality information and new technologies to small and medium farmers, unions, and federations, as well as identify and resolve client training gaps with support from technical assistance providers and the AET team.</p>	<h3>Research & Development (R&D)</h3> <p>Identify, research, and commercialize innovative, and profitable technologies through private sector-led demonstrations on producer plots to expose farmers to new technologies and practices. AVENIR Agents will be the link in educating producers and processors, as well as collecting data on the impact of the technology.</p>
<h3>CCI 2: M & E and Learning (MEL)</h3> <p>SAVY and SMARTE's MEL plan is a system of continued learning for the project team, partner institutions, and AVENIR agents. The system utilizes a project specific mobile application to insure the efficient collect, transfer and analysis of information in real time to inform technical and managerial decisions making.</p>	<h3>CCI 3: Environmental Compliance</h3> <p>In keeping in line with USAID's initial environmental study, SAVY and SMARTE regularly develop and update the risk mitigation plan related to the environmental compliance of the projects agricultural activities.</p>	<h3>CCI 4: Gender Inclusion</h3> <p>SAVY and SMARTE uses an inclusive gender approach throughout the life cycle of each project activity to ensure that the needs of men and women are taken into account to guarantee equitable access to services and outputs of the project.</p>
<h3>CCI 5: Communications</h3> <p>The SAVY and SMARTE projects develop dynamic communication strategy, collect success stories, design promotional materials specific to the area of intervention, and conduct awareness campaigns engaging media and stakeholders to increase the visibility of the project.</p>		