

PRIVATE SECTOR PEER LEARNING: PARTNERSHIP PROFILES

PromoBanana, Facility for Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Food Security

Description: The partnership [PromoBanana](#) (Protect and Modernize Philippine Banana Production) falls under the Facility for Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Food Security of the Netherlands Enterprise Agency. The facility encourages public-private partnerships to combine the expertise of different partners and find innovative solutions that improve food security and strengthen the private sector in developing countries, with expected positive effects on sustainable development and poverty alleviation. The public and private sectors, non-governmental organisations and knowledge institutions can form a collaborative venture with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and thus be eligible for a subsidy.

Development Assistance Committee member: Netherlands

Budget: EUR 3.8 million

Duration: 2013-17

Location: The Philippines

Sector: Food security and agronomy

Activities: Various

Beneficiaries: Banana growers

Objective: The partnership's objective is to help banana growers in the Philippines protect their (Cavendish) banana plantations from an epidemic of Panama disease – a lethal fungus – by modernising and expanding existing laboratories to improve detection. The partnership should protect both employment and food security.

Partners: The Netherlands Enterprise Agency will financially contribute a subsidy of up to 50% of the required funding, while Wageningen University and Research (the partnership's co-ordinator), Dutch private agro-technology companies SoilCares (specialised in soil fertility research) and ClearDetections (specialised in modern diagnostics), and two local banana companies will work together to help avoid the consequences of Panama disease. Banana growers throughout the Philippines will be able to bring samples of soil, water and plants for analysis in the two local companies' modernised and expanded laboratories or in mobile laboratories. They will therefore be able to determine whether their plants are healthy and take action if necessary. Part of the programme is dedicated to the provision of training to farmers on disease detection and management.

Key activities: Priorities include the modernisation and expansion of the two local companies' laboratories so that they can act as the "centre of expertise" for banana growers throughout the Philippines, particularly in Mindanao, the upgrading of mobile laboratories' equipment and development of methods and training for its use, and knowledge sharing by means of leaflets and information meetings.

Results: Laboratories are in the process of upgrading. Machinery has been purchased and is now being installed. Soil sampling is underway. The partnership has been subject to delays because of a change in partnering organisations.

Monitoring and evaluation: No information specifically on this partnership was found. However, beneficiaries of Facility for Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Food Security grants must provide details on the implementation of projects using the facility's monitoring and evaluation plan, which covers outputs, outcomes and sustainability indicators.

Insights: The partnership has brought together a wide range of organisations in the Netherlands and the Philippines to co-operate on new technologies for the banana sector, leading the way for future co-operation. However, it has been a challenge to deal with partnership changes during the course of the project. In addition, the project shows the importance of conducting adequate feasibility analysis to inform partnerships. The feasibility analysis would have benefited from an examination of uncertainties in terms of key factors, such as price variables, for effective risk management.

SOURCES:

Larive International (2014), "Facility for Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Food Security (FDOV)", www.larive.com/fdov.

Netherlands Embassy in Skopje, Macedonia (n.d.), "Facility for Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Food Security (FDOV)", <http://macedonia.nlembassy.org> (accessed 1 July 2016).

Netherlands Enterprise Agency (n.d.), “Facility for Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Food Security (FD0V)”, <http://english.rvo.nl/subsidies-programmes/facility-sustainable-entrepreneurship-and-food-security-fdov> (accessed 1 July 2016).

Wageningen UR (1 July 2013), “Another major step in better disease management in the global banana sector” (press release), www.wageningenur.nl/en.htm; Wageningen UR (n.d.), “PromoBanana,” www.wageningenur.nl/en/project/PromoBanana-1.htm (accessed 1 July 2016).