Upgrading Sudan’s sesame seed value chain

This project was aimed at increasing stakeholder revenue in Sudan’s sesame seed value chain by enhancing their capacity to comply with food safety and quality requirements for exporting to high-end markets such as Japan, Korea and the EU.

Focused on small-scale farmers from the states of North Kordofan and Al Qadarif, the project contributed to export diversification by increasing revenue from the non-oil industry while improving the quality and safety of sesame seeds.

UNIDO facilitates business linkages for Sudan with international market - 20 January 2022

STDF/PG/435

Status
Completed

Start Date
01/10/2018

Project Value (US$)
$1,281,189

STDF Contribution (US$)
$904,989

Beneficiaries
Sudan

Implementing Entities
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Partners
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MOAF), Sudan
Ministry of Industry (MI), Sudan

Background

The agricultural sector is essential to the diversification of the Sudanese economy. It is the main source of income for Sudan's population, employing up to 80% of households and making up a third of the economy.

However, exports are limited to countries in the region – Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan – and China as produce failed to meet SPS standards set by Japan, Korea and the EU. This was due to pest contamination, microbiological contamination, mycotoxin-producing fungi and noncompliant pesticide residues in final products.

The project focused on reducing SPS deficiencies by enhancing stakeholder capacity while strengthening testing services and
upgrading laboratory capabilities.

More specifically, aflatoxins, salmonella, and a restricted agricultural chemical use such as carbaryl are the major reasons why the product is rejected at the border of importing countries, consequently decreasing export opportunities.

The project is designed to reduce SPS deficiencies by enhancing stakeholder capacity while also strengthening testing services and upgrading laboratory capabilities. This will increase Sudan’s ability to supply safe and high-quality sesame seeds to various export markets.

Results

Improved compliance with SPS measures and implementation of good agricultural practice

- Six farmer field schools were established. More than 400 farmers (40% women) and 50 post-harvest sesame handlers in North Kordofan and Al Qadarif were trained on land preparation, the use of improved seeds and weed control.

- Thirty extension workers were trained as expert trainers in good agricultural and hygiene practices. Eleven regulatory officers were trained according to ISO 17020, which specifies requirements for testing and safety inspections.

Improved quality and hygiene conditions

- Working with a national plant protection organization (NPPO), the project supported a detailed review of Sudan’s plant health legislation to identify gaps and provide recommendations to improve.

Developed new business linkages to the international market

- A business-to-business event connected 24 Sudanese sesame producers with 27 buyers from Japan, South Korea, China, the EU and the Middle East. The producers and buyers explored opportunities to enhance market access and export revenue.