



Louis Dreyfus
Fondation d'entreprise

**IMPROVING FOOD
SECURITY THROUGH
SUSTAINABLE
MICRO-FARMING
AND EDUCATION**


Activity Report 2016



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More than 1 300 farmers across Myanmar and Cambodia benefit from Louis Dreyfus Foundation agroecology projects. The Foundation supports farmers in developing innovative techniques for bio-intensification in their vegetable orchards, such as the use of green manure and irrigation solutions.





MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

“This is the time
to share what
we have learned”

Improving food security for smallholder farmers by supporting them in becoming self-sufficient remains the Louis Dreyfus Foundation’s clear ambition.

Created in 2013, the Foundation offers sustainable solutions with an overarching aim to improve availability and access to food in some of the world’s most vulnerable areas. Since our inception, we have gained considerable experience. Today, in our fourth year, we are well-positioned to reinforce best practice through new and existing projects, and to share the valuable lessons we have learned so far.

In 2016, our 24 initiatives spanned 19 countries across three continents. This year marked our first experience in South America, where we initiated an education program. And for the first time, we started supporting young entrepreneurs in developing countries, who are launching their own initiatives to alleviate hunger and poverty, and who could potentially change the face of their countries’ future.

To date, the Foundation has worked with 70 000 farmers, which in turn benefited approximately 400 000 people – and these numbers continue to rise with the growing expansion of our most promising initiatives. We see this as a testament to our efforts and dedication to the ongoing enhancement of our methodology and the infrastructure of our projects.

As we embark on our fifth year, our Advisory Committee and newly appointed Board will develop a new strategy in 2017, steering the Foundation into a second cycle of activity.

I have great confidence in the Foundation’s future, and will continue to extend my full support as we apply our experience and knowledge to achieving ever-greater food security for those who need it most – today, and tomorrow.

Margarita Louis-Dreyfus
President of the Louis Dreyfus Foundation



In Kenya, among several activities to enhance food security and livelihoods of smallholder coffee farmers, the Foundation promotes cost-effective techniques for planting banana trees from cuttings. Bananas are not only rich in nutrients but also a valuable source of income for farmers when sold in the local markets. In 2016, 5 500 banana cuttings were supplied to local coffee farmers.



ABOUT THE LOUIS DREYFUS FOUNDATION

Improving food security through sustainable micro-farming and education

The Louis Dreyfus Foundation aims to promote projects for sustainable agriculture, food security and self-sufficiency, particularly through direct **support to farmers and education initiatives**, with a particular focus on developing countries.

Our goal is also to highlight the global issue of food insecurity, and the challenge facing humanity, of doubling global food production sustainably.

18 
MICRO-FARMING PROGRAMS
 12 INITIATIVES IN AFRICA AND 6 IN ASIA

3 
EDUCATION PROGRAMS

2 
DEDICATED FUNDS

- EMERGENCY FUND FOR FOOD AID
- FUND FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS IN AGRICULTURE

ACROSS
19 
COUNTRIES
 IN 3 CONTINENTS

In 2015, the United Nations voted for 17 Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved over the next 15 years.

While the holistic work of the Louis Dreyfus Foundation is aligned with many of these goals, the one closest to our mission is Goal 2: 'End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, promote sustainable agriculture'.

Governance

The Louis Dreyfus Foundation is a company foundation operating under French law, with its registered office based in Paris.

The **Board** takes all decisions in the interest of the Louis Dreyfus Foundation. The Board members approve the endowment budget, assess programs and projects, validate the Foundation's strategy and oversee all of its efforts and activities.

Board members*:

Mrs. Margarita Louis-Dreyfus

- President, Louis Dreyfus Foundation
- Chairperson of the Supervisory Board, Louis Dreyfus Holding B.V.
- Non-Executive Chairperson of the Supervisory Board, Louis Dreyfus Company Holdings B.V.

Mr. Jean-Pierre Bechter

- Supervisory Board member, Dassault Group
- Board member, Le Figaro

Mr. Mehdi El Glaoui

- Supervisory Board member of Louis Dreyfus Holding B.V. and Louis Dreyfus Company Holdings B.V.

Mrs. Franziska Hildebrand Alberti

- Partner at P&O Personnel and Organisational Development
- Board member, Fundación Cristo Vive Switzerland

Mrs. Yulia Levin

- Supervisory Board member of Louis Dreyfus Holding B.V.
- Board member of the European Forest Resources Group (EFRG)

Mr. Andrea Maserati

- Senior Head of Functions and Regions and Global HR Director, Louis Dreyfus Company

The **Advisory Committee** advises the Board on projects that the Foundation could support. Members are individuals selected for their experience and their ability to take the Foundation forward.

Advisory Committee members*:

Mr. Alok Adholeya

- Senior Director, Sustainable Agriculture Division, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

Mr. Erik Anderson

- Former CEO North America and former Senior Platform Head Grains & Macro of Louis Dreyfus Company

Dr. Peter Hazell

- Independent researcher
- Former Director of the Development Strategy and Governance Division, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
- Visiting Professor, Imperial College London (2005-2012)

Mrs. Sarah Hobson

- Acting Head of Strategic Grantmaking and Movement Building, Global Fund for Women
- Senior Fellow, Oakland Institute
- Former Executive Director of New Field Foundation and co-Chair, Africa Grantmakers' Affinity Group

Pr. Gilles Trystram

- Director General of AgroParisTech

Mr. Robin Woodhead

- Chairman, Sotheby's International

Mrs. Valérie Loze is General Director of the Louis Dreyfus Foundation

* As at January 1st, 2017



OUR MICRO-FARMING PROGRAMS

Location of our current programs



● New projects launched by the Louis Dreyfus Foundation in 2016

* Program completed

** Program extended in 2016

For more information about programs supported by the Foundation, please visit:

www.louisdreyfusfoundation.org



INDIA
 Aim to preserve the local environment and ensure food security by revitalizing traditional farming techniques and protecting biodiversity **
 2 500 farmers involved
 11 000 beneficiaries

MONGOLIA
 Promote the use of equipment that leads to more sustainable practices in agriculture (solar passive greenhouses)
 700 farmers involved
 3 500 beneficiaries

INDIA
 Promote sustainable livelihoods for smallholder farmers **
 3 900 farmers involved
 13 650 beneficiaries

SOUTH SUDAN
 Improve capacity for smallholder farmers in post-harvest management **
 4 376 farmers involved
 22 400 beneficiaries

THAILAND
 Aim to develop alternative techniques for rice production, such as agroforestry practices and self-sufficiency models
 1 257 farmers involved
 5 028 beneficiaries

MYANMAR AND CAMBODIA
 Encourage local farmers to move towards innovative agroecology practices **
 1 300 farmers involved
 6 500 beneficiaries

SUMATRA
 Preserve coffee farming ecosystems through agroforestry and training on production best practice
 7 635 farmers involved
 30 675 beneficiaries

ETHIOPIA
 Develop agroforestry, coffee rejuvenation and self-sufficiency for disadvantaged coffee farmers
 923 farmers involved
 3 979 beneficiaries

KENYA
 Enhance food security and improve livelihoods of coffee farmers by disseminating input and training
 27 729 farmers involved
 166 374 beneficiaries

KENYA
 Develop agro-biodiversity in farming *
 50 farmers involved
 260 beneficiaries

KENYA & RWANDA
 Improve self-sufficiency through sustainable energy, using Flexi Biogas equipment *
 212 systems installed
 1 512 beneficiaries





OUR MICRO-FARMING PROGRAMS

Our methodology to support micro-farming projects



Micro-farming is an agricultural system which fulfills the majority of food needs in a small area of land.

Micro-farming projects support families and communities by providing them with needed resources – such as seeds, logistical and technical expertise, training and education – so that they may become self-sufficient, and go on to develop farming activities and generate wealth in their area.


70 000
FARMERS INVOLVED


400 000
POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES

NEW INITIATIVE:
Program to improve the resilience of farming families in Southern Ethiopia through innovative agricultural practices



OBJECTIVE

Located in Southern Ethiopia, one of Africa’s poorest countries, and in rural areas where food security is a critical issue, the program supports farming families, primarily through the diffusion of innovative practices associating soil conservation and fodder production, under the leadership of local organizations (Iddir).

The Louis Dreyfus Foundation deploys an approach which combines anti-erosive structures and fodder production on the embankments, together with measures to improve fertility management, such as green manure, fodder species association, and introduction of legumes.

Facilitating access to quality seeds for micro-producers through seed selection, conservation and multiplication mechanisms is another key activity of this initiative. With their capabilities reinforced, farmers can control their access to quality wheat and potato seeds, to increase farming productivity and autonomy.

IMPACT

In the short term, beneficiaries will have increased access to cash through fodder production and sales. As it expands, the project will establish a fast-track approach to rapidly, and widely, diffuse techniques and varieties. This will improve fodder resources and fertility management in areas where farmers already have know-how on fodder cropping, soil and water conservation and open-grazing control. So far, 65.5km of anti-erosive structures have been planted with fodder grass and legumes, and 914 farmers have established a farm-based nursery to multiply fodder seedlings.

In the mid-term, farmers will gain sustainable access to quality wheat and potato seeds by multiplication and conservation, which will reduce family expenses, minimize the risk of share cropping and contribute to improving yields. The program has already supported 886 farmers by improving access to potato seeds and fostering their conservation.

In the long term, various environmental measures will enable the recovery of abandoned plots and the preservation of land and fertility. The rehabilitation of communal degraded lands will create collective pasture lands and wood lots, providing income-generating opportunities. As soil fertility recovers, natural resources are better preserved, animal productivity increases, and ultimately, food security is improved.

In partnership with:



Created in 1980, Inter Aide is a humanitarian organization specialized in implementing development programs, especially to support family farming. Its main objective is to reinforce the capabilities of vulnerable populations, enabling them to participate in improving living conditions in their communities.

www.interaide.org

2 540 
FARMERS INVOLVED
14 700 BENEFICIARIES

23 219 
TREES PLANTED
30 000 ADDITIONAL TREES UNDER PLANTATION

1 170 
QUINTALS OF POTATO SEEDS PRODUCED SO FAR

“In 2016, we did 175 meters of linear anti-erosive physical structures on my farm, otherwise the downstream plots would have been damaged. During the last rainy season, grasses were planted on the structures and are now well established. I saw a significant decrease in water erosion on the farm. Because of erosion control, inputs are not washed away and the harvest this year is very good. For instance, we had never produced more than 4 quintals of fava beans, and we achieved 6.5 quintals in our latest harvest. The grass planted around the homestead already benefits us by feeding our animals.”

Mulunesh,
from Wagebeta Heba village



TESTIMONIALS

Farmers share their stories, and explain how the Foundation's support has made a difference in their farming activities and improved their livelihoods.

STORIES



"My name is Lufti Helmi, from Paya Tumpi village. I'm 40 years old, and I've been growing coffee for 17 years. I inherited my coffee farm from my father, and I've been using organic techniques to maintain it for a long time.

I keep organic matter on the ground, putting all the dead bushes into holes we dig around the field.

I plant trees, because I want to contribute to reforestation, help my region become greener and be more resilient to climate change. Trees bring shade to the coffee plants, improving the quality of coffee. Thanks to the new trees birds and animals are coming back. They help recreate a natural atmosphere, a natural forest.

Places that have been more deforested are the ones that suffer the most from soil erosion. Especially during rainy season, it results in landslides so I'm planting trees to prevent soil erosion, too.

I also participate in this reforestation program because I want to help reduce global warming. In the past, our region was cooler and now it's getting hotter and hotter. The trees that we are planting through this program will help regulate our temperature as it was before.

I have three children, and my coffee farm is only two hectares, so it is not enough to be divided into three. Therefore, I would like my children to get a higher level of education than mine.

I would like to plant different tree species such as Saigon, mainly because it has a high economic value; avocado trees also, since they start producing fruit in a very short time. Like coffee, we can harvest the fruit five years after the plantation."

Beneficiary of the Louis Dreyfus Foundation's program in Sumatra



"I'm a vegetable farmer in the district of Koury; my name is Awa Dembélé. In 2016, the project has provided materials and training support to help improve food safety for my children, through moringa and vegetable gardens. These new practices generated increased yields for vegetables. The income from my sales now allows me to pay for school supplies for my seven children."

Beneficiary of the Louis Dreyfus Foundation's program in Mali



"With the support of the program, I introduced a new crop, Emmer Wheat. It was a new crop for me, I didn't know it before. It has produced 30 tillers per hill and the crop is excellent quality. I will continue to grow this next year if the production is encouraging."

Beneficiary of the Louis Dreyfus Foundation's program in Southern India



"My name is Nyamsuren and I am the leader of the Chuluut cooperative in Arkanghai, which includes eight members and four local families. Our first harvest of leafy vegetables in our passive solar greenhouse was in 2014. The greenhouse technology is based on the direct capture of energy, without solar panels, and the night-time release of solar heat captured during the day. Together, we have learned to grow 26 types of vegetables.

In Arkanghai, we didn't know these vegetables. So we have learned how to cook and eat them. We eat our products but we also share them with others, and we have customers as well. It's very good for our local economy, as well as for our health and the community's.

Our group supports the team who work in a greenhouse recently built for the village's hospital. The members pass on their knowledge about the use of the passive solar greenhouse and the vegetables' canning process. Today, we plan to set-up a small business to sell their processed food."

Beneficiary of the Louis Dreyfus Foundation's program in Mongolia

"I am U Han Aye and I am living in Ahlae Chaung. This winter, I applied what I had learnt during training sessions provided by agronomists to grow melons.

I used the mulching techniques and methods of organic fertilization, and I replaced bamboo with nylon netting. I invested 74 000 Kyats (55 USD), but I will be able to use it for at least another three seasons.

We harvested more vegetables, both for the family and to sell, which enabled us to increase our income by 100 000 Kyats (75 USD)."

Beneficiary of the Louis Dreyfus Foundation's program in Myanmar



"My name is Abayne Lintiso. I am 33 years old, married and a father of three children. With my mother we are six living in the same house. When my father died, I was the only boy and took responsibility to look after my mother. I had no choice but to manage the farm, located in a steep and difficult area. We couldn't produce sufficient food for the family, and I had to find other options like share cropping on some other farmers' fields to complement the family food gap.

I engaged with the project, and I have now built 200 linear meters of soil and water conservation barriers on my land over the last two years. The grass species supplied by the project are reproduced in the garden and then transplanted onto the structures.

Another activity in which I engaged involved improved wheat seed access. I got the opportunity to borrow a small quantity. I dedicated a relatively fertile and good plot on my farm, planted wheat by row, and performed all the necessary good management. I produced around 75kg of seed from the original 4kg. After reimbursing the loan, I managed to conserve around 50kg of seed and used it to plant on my main fields.

Thanks to this activity, I didn't have to spend money on seeds. The good thing is I understood this system would allow me to easily access improved seeds at minimal cost."

Beneficiary of the Louis Dreyfus Foundation's program in Ethiopia



OUR MICRO-FARMING PROGRAMS

**Focus on:
The benefits
of agroforestry**

The Louis Dreyfus Foundation has developed agroforestry projects in Ethiopia, Thailand and Indonesia, counting on the support of PUR Projet for almost four years.

The Foundation has contributed to the planting of nearly 300 000 trees for over 1 700 families, within and around small-scale farms.

58 855 
TREES PLANTED
THROUGH THE LOUIS DREYFUS
FOUNDATION AGROFORESTRY
PROGRAM IN ETHIOPIA

"The trees planted thanks to the Foundation's support in Thailand, Ethiopia and Indonesia should over time sequester up to 50 000 tons of eqCO₂, thus contributing to climate change mitigation. The social and environmental benefits provided by the trees planted have been quantified at an equivalent of \$14/tree/year.

This figure includes benefits in terms of livelihoods (\$6,93 / tree / year), social and cultural services, soil conservation, water purification and regulation, biodiversity preservation, climate change mitigation, adaptation to climate change."

Tristan Lecomte,
PUR Projet's Founder

Agroforestry is the smart integration of different tree varieties into agricultural systems. This helps diversify farmers' income by increasing the volume and types of crops produced per hectare, while also reducing the use of inputs, stabilizing growth of production and increasing the biological capacity of each hectare.

Trees improve the quality and long-term sustainability of agricultural production. Parcels of land are protected from susceptibility to drought, pests and extreme weather conditions. Implementing agroforestry helps regenerate land fertility, and provides long-term financial opportunities in the form of sustainable timber. The long-term value agroforestry creates is significant, and can be passed down to future generations.

Different agroforestry models, with trees integrated along the edges of fields, intercropped, or at landscape level, deliver multiple benefits to ecosystems and the projects' smallholder farmers. Unlike full-sun monoculture fields, which are extremely vulnerable to climate and cause ecosystems to degrade, agroforestry systems preserve productive ecosystems, improving their resilience and adapting to climate change.

Reforestation projects supported by the Foundation are designed, and implemented by local farming communities, for their own benefit.


Community empowerment, a key aspect of these projects, always places a strong emphasis on developing capabilities for better decision-making and transparency.

Our partner, PUR Projet, has developed robust methodologies to assess and quantify the many benefits associated with agroforestry systems. Some of these socio-economic benefits, resulting from the Louis Dreyfus Foundation's agroforestry project in Ethiopia, were highlighted in a Harvard study in the summer of 2016.



**Focus on:
Investing in
solutions for
post-harvest
loss**

The Louis Dreyfus Foundation has supported the World Food Programme (WFP) by rolling out solutions for post-harvest loss in Uganda, Mali and South Sudan. Over 15 000 farmers have received specialized training and gained access to subsidized equipment to curb post-harvest loss.

6 000 
TARPAULINS
 SUPPLIED BY THE FOUNDATION IN SOUTH SUDAN CONTRIBUTED TO REDUCING POST-HARVEST LOSSES TO LESS THAN 15% OF TOTAL PRODUCTION

“The Louis Dreyfus Foundation has played a catalytic role in supporting communities in Sub-Saharan Africa with post-harvest loss trainings and subsidized equipment, impacting over 95 000 lives since 2014. Moving forward, the WFP and its Global Post-Harvest Knowledge & Operations Centre seek to continue to collaborate with the Louis Dreyfus Foundation. Together, we can increase awareness among farmers, expand market demand for post-harvest loss equipment, and integrate the Zero Food Loss Initiative with the private sector and government programs across the world.”

Brett Rierson, Head – Global Post-Harvest Knowledge & Operations Centre (KNOC) at the World Food Programme

Post-harvest loss is a significant problem in Sub-Saharan Africa. On average, African smallholder farmers lose 40% of their harvests within months, to pests, mould and moisture. Farmers’ inability to store crops forces them into a vicious cycle – they are forced to sell at rock-bottom prices at harvest, only to buy back their own grain months later at lean season prices, often from the same trader. The small amount of grain stored at home is in traditional storage units. These are not air-tight, which fosters the spread of aflatoxins, a highly carcinogenic substance, and the leading cause of cancer in Africa.

In 2014, the WFP started pilot programs to combat post-harvest loss, delivering positive results that exceeded expectations. The Louis Dreyfus Foundation joined the WFP’s effort to eradicate post-harvest loss in Uganda, providing the necessary funding to scale-up the project and reach 9 400 farmers.

The WFP is now replicating the model in eight other countries. Over 120 000 farmers have already purchased their own hermetic storage silos. The Louis Dreyfus Foundation is supporting this expansion, helping farmers improve their post-harvest practices in South Sudan, a country ravaged by conflict, and in Mali.



The combination of effective training and simple, airtight storage equipment frees smallholder farmers from the struggle to preserve their hard-earned harvests from spoilage and pests. Research by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) on the WFP’s Zero Food Loss Initiative, published in February 2017, confirmed that “Uganda’s farmers reported a significant improvement in income, food security, and socio-economic well-being (e.g., household health, children’s education, women’s workload, status in the community). As households begin to consume more of the food they harvest and store, reduced food expenses enable financial flexibility to address other needs. Storage technologies also contribute to financial stability since grains can be sold incrementally throughout the post-harvest season. Hence, it was not surprising to observe improvement in areas such as children’s education, as grains are often a suitable form of tuition payment, and women’s workload, as storage technology reduces daily efforts to gather grains for consumption that are typically undertaken by women. This study contributes to the evidence base showing a significant impact of storage technologies on smallholder farmers’ livelihoods”.

Summary Report: Scaling Adoption of Hermetic Postharvest Storage Technology in Uganda; MIT CITE (Comprehensive Initiative of Technology Evaluation)



OUR EDUCATION PROGRAMS



Oxford University

LOUIS DREYFUS-WEIDENFELD-HOFFMANN SCHOLARSHIP AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Training the future leaders of developing countries at Oxford University.

66 SCHOLARS
SPONSORED SINCE 2012



FROM **33** COUNTRIES



2 PHD SCHOLARS
IN PLANT SCIENCES



In partnership with:



The Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Trust (WHT) runs the unique and highly sought-after Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Scholarships and Leadership Programme based at the University of Oxford, as well as the Humanitas Programme of Visiting Professorships, run in partnership with the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

www.whtrust.org

South Africa


LOUIS DREYFUS PROGRAM FOR SCHOLARS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Supporting students from disadvantaged communities and innovative agricultural projects at the African Leadership Academy.

1 SCHOLAR
FROM CAMEROON
SUPPORTED FOR A 2-YEAR
A-LEVEL PROGRAM



2 YOUNG
ENTREPRENEURS
FROM RWANDA AND IVORY
COAST WINNERS OF THE LOUIS
DREYFUS FOUNDATION AWARD
FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN
AGRICULTURE AT THE ANZISHA
PRIZE, IN 2015 AND 2016



In partnership with:



The African Leadership Academy (ALA) seeks to transform Africa by developing a powerful network of over 6 000 leaders who will work together to address Africa's greatest challenges, achieve an extraordinary social impact, and accelerate the continent's growth trajectory.

www.africanleadershipacademy.org

"The Louis Dreyfus-Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Programme was an engaging experience for me, as it provided me with the tools and perspectives to understand, react to and address some of the challenges facing us – to think globally and act locally. The scholarship that allowed me to undertake a degree programme at Oxford, was fundamental for me to develop the knowledge and capacity to make meaningful efforts towards the conservation of forests in India."

*Manan, India, MSc
Environmental Change
and Management*

NEW INITIATIVE:
Vocational education program in agricultural school in Bolivia to develop professional and social skills



OBJECTIVE

Bolivia is one of the poorest countries in South America. Different climates within its regions, diverse land types and difficult access to water require specific agricultural skills. Unfortunately, young adults living in poverty have limited access to such know-how and little opportunity to work on a common goal in the agricultural field.

The Agricultural School of Fundación Cristo Vive Bolivia (FCVB), based in Cochabamba and supported by the Louis Dreyfus Foundation, aims to give personal and professional development to youngsters from rural parts of the country. In order to improve their quality of life, the school provides agricultural knowledge, as well as practical and management skills. In addition to the specific agricultural education program, a boarding house for students, adjacent to the school, will open in 2017.

The house, designed by the Technological Institute of Berlin (Technische Universität Berlin), is being built with the help of Procasha, a local foundation of women construction workers who are expertly carrying out the works. By working and living together, the main objective of the boarding house is to create a sense of responsibility and community.

IMPACT

The FCVB Agricultural School is part of a technical college, founded in 2006, which focuses on developing health, social and personnel skills during a 3-year program. The program is recognized by the education authorities of Bolivia as delivering a certificate equivalent to an academic diploma. The 'agronomy campus' has become a reference point in an area which enjoys a long tradition of agriculture.

By combining traditional Bolivian agriculture, which has a direct impact on the production of day-to-day food, with other alternative fields (like growing flowers for sale or breeding farm animals), the school has become a model of social and professional development. The new boarding house will enable students from rural and poor regions to strengthen their contact with others, and will help to guide them in their personal development.

In partnership with:



Fundación Cristo Vive (FCV) gathers independent and ecumenical foundations dedicated to public welfare in Chile, Bolivia and Peru. Founded by German nun Karoline Mayer, who has been living and working in the slums of Santiago de Chile for more than 45 years, FCV aims to improve impoverished peoples' standard of living, their individual advancement and their integration into society.

www.fcv-bo.org
www.fundacioncristovive.cl

Technological Institute of Berlin (Technische Universität Berlin)

www.code.tu-berlin.de
www.bellavista-code.de

64 STUDENTS INCLUDING 38 WOMEN ENROLLED IN THE 2016 ACADEMIC YEAR

73 STUDENTS INCLUDING 42 WOMEN ENROLLED IN THE 2017 ACADEMIC YEAR

"I chose this curriculum because I want to learn the theory as well as practical skills. At the beginning of the first year, when we came to do activities in addition to the courses, we saw that the ground was not so good and the environment was very different to what it is now (full of herbs, no crops... the land seemed abandoned). But over the years, we have worked and seen an improvement. Since the beginning, we participated actively at the school, we came here to help build the classrooms, to make the soil more fertile; now we see that these efforts have helped to make the school become a reality."

Marlene, student at the Agricultural School in Cochabamba



OUR DEDICATED FUNDS

The Fund for Young Entrepreneurs in Agriculture

While the Foundation focuses on expanding successful micro-farming programs as a priority, remaining open to new opportunities is essential to identify innovations related to self-sufficiency through sustainable agriculture.

For this reason, the Foundation has created a dedicated fund to help budding initiatives which support smallholder farmers.

In 2016, three pilot initiatives were launched in Nigeria, India and Senegal.

Village enterprises and organic farm training for rural youth in Nigeria

The Springboard organization engages young people from rural and semi-urban areas in personal development and social change through sustainable agriculture.

The aim is to improve food security, reduce local youth unemployment and discourage urban migration – key causes for the high crime rate in Nigeria.

Based on a 12-month non-residential program, the project combines organic farming and entrepreneurship training to provide participants with the relevant skills to start their own agricultural enterprises. The project has already involved 100 disadvantaged young people from 5 villages, whose small businesses in turn created 85 additional jobs. 150 new participants (young farmers and community entrepreneurs) from 10 communities have been selected for 2017.

Creating community-based producer groups for soapnut production in India

Harvest Wild changes rural women from agricultural households into producer groups to collect and process soapnuts, a fruit with natural saponin content that has effective cleansing properties.

As soapnut trees grow wild (without any agricultural input), and are available in large numbers in several states in India, this initiative generates additional income for communities by developing the market for soapnut-based natural laundry detergents. It also encourages farmers to adopt agroforestry models by planting soapnut trees on the periphery of farms and degraded land, thereby improving soil quality.

The project's 100 beneficiaries have harvested 4 000kg of soapnuts to date, leading to an additional income of €55 per person in 2016. Another 25 to 50 women will be involved this year, with the target to double the volume of collected soapnuts.

Contribution to support a women's cooperative in improving the value chain of fonio in Senegal

Sen Women Up develops processing activities to support female entrepreneurship in fonio, a traditional and healthy cereal, while offering fair trade opportunities in Senegal and France.

The project engages a cooperative of 10 women in one of Senegal's poorest regions, by building a mechanized fonio processing plant which will multiply productivity gains and increase demand for raw cereal from smallholder farmers. It also encourages greater consumption of fonio by the local population to effectively fight malnutrition and improve food security.

The Emergency Fund for Food Aid

The Louis Dreyfus Foundation supports projects across vulnerable areas of Asia and Africa. In the event of unforeseen climatic conditions or health crises, many fragile communities rely on emergency humanitarian assistance. As a result, in 2014 the Foundation created an Emergency Fund for Food Aid in order to ensure a basic level of subsistence, in terms of food and water, in case of such disasters.

In 2015 and 2016, the worst drought in Ethiopia's recent memory caused successive harvest failures – up to 70% in some regions – and widespread loss of livestock. This resulted in a major humanitarian crisis with food insecurity for 10.2 million people. In response to this crisis, the Louis Dreyfus Foundation made a donation to the World Food Programme (WFP). An assessment showed that approximately 750 000 children (aged from 6 months to five years old), pregnant women and nursing mothers were suffering from moderate to acute malnutrition, so the donation focused on childhood nutrition.

Thanks to this contribution, the WFP provided 8 031 children with food – purchasing 66.5 metric tons of PlumpySup – to help prevent severe malnutrition, and to ensure that an entire generation is not lost to the drought.

Meet some of the young entrepreneurs supported by the Foundation



Lawrence Afere (32) founded Springboard in 2008 in Nigeria; he was selected in 2014 as one of the 500 Washington Fellows for Young African Leaders, an initiative by President Barack Obama.

"I remember it was a Friday, November 17, 2006, when my life changed. This change was triggered by a report in the newspaper about the plight of over 30 million unemployed Nigerian youths, raising the question of what may happen to the country in 2020 if nothing was done to solve the situation. By 2020, Nigeria will have over 20 million highly skilled criminals.

I was really sad and concerned after reading this report. And then my perspective shifted from living for myself to finding a way to contribute to solve the situation, and also become self-employed. After I graduated from University in Business Administration, I returned to my town, Akure, to pursue my dream of helping to create meaningful jobs for the unemployed youth. I started the Youth Farm project which was later renamed Springboard.

Every day, over 5 000 rural and semi-urban youth migrate to the cities in search of a job when only 40% of over 84 million hectares of arable land in Nigeria are used, and could produce food locally. My project wishes to combine the strength of youth and the available agricultural resources to create massive job opportunities, and at the same time improve food security in the country.

Support from the Louis Dreyfus Foundation helps me to fulfil my dreams and to see greater possibilities for my project, and for Nigeria. Through this Fund for Young Entrepreneurs in Agriculture, my team and I have been able to involve more young people in farming and village enterprises; with further support, we hope to scale up our work across Nigeria and see it replicated across the continent."

Manas Nanda (31) founded Harvest Wild in 2015 in India; as a Louis Dreyfus-Weidenfeld scholar, he graduated from Oxford University with an MBA (distinction) in 2014.

"Prior to enrolling for the MBA, I had worked in an NGO in India for over 2 years, managing rural development projects. During this stint, I realized that there were several agricultural and forestry products that naturally grow in rural India and have a large market potential. However, due to lack of market access, many of these resources are not collected and are simply left to rot.

With this in mind, I spent my year at Oxford University creating a business model for a social enterprise that would enable women from rural communities to increase their income from otherwise unharvested products. Soapnut-based laundry detergents have high export potential in several developed countries. Providing a platform for farmers to sell soapnuts creates a passive source of income for women, reduces soil erosion thanks to the trees and decreases the release of chemicals into water bodies through the use of natural detergents instead of conventional detergents.

As a recently formed organization, we had limited means to execute our initiative. The Fund for Young Entrepreneurs provided us with the resources to implement the project on the ground, which involved hiring people, spreading awareness among community members to harvest soapnuts, and buying equipment to process them into laundry detergent. In addition to financial support, the Louis Dreyfus Foundation has opened up potential channels to market soapnuts in France, which could increase the benefits to farmers."

NIGERIA

250  FARMERS INVOLVED

435  POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES

INDIA

125  WOMEN FARMERS INVOLVED



LOOKING AHEAD

Forging closer
links with
communities

Our mission is to promote projects in sustainable agriculture, food security and self-sufficiency. It reflects the ongoing, and pressing, issue of food security across the world today.

Guided by intense scrutiny of our 2016 programs, in 2017 the Louis Dreyfus Foundation will articulate a two-pronged strategy for the next few years. Focusing on education and micro-farming, we will seek to weave even closer links with the communities we aim to help.

Education is a powerful tool for change. As such, we will reinforce our commitment on this topic, leveraging learning and achievements and disseminating know-how. We will study how to best approach initiatives that support education, and to optimize how we help farming communities.

The Foundation will also expertly evaluate its microfarming programs, tightening its portfolio to focus on priority zones and ensure projects are sustainable. We will identify initiatives with a strong impact, potentially extending them further. In parallel, the Foundation will bring employees from Louis Dreyfus Company closer to priority areas, inviting them to support specific local initiatives.

Empowering vulnerable farmers, while simultaneously training a new generation on best practice, will enable the Foundation to help communities become more resilient.

We plan to start a new cycle of activity with a trim portfolio containing efficient projects. They will be fully aligned with our ultimate aim to support agricultural communities across the entire agricultural food chain, both by sharing and effectively transmitting best practice for food security.



Initiated and managed by Louis Dreyfus Company employees, with the support of the Foundation, the micro-farming program in Northern Ghana aims to fight poverty by empowering vulnerable farmers with aid and education; 3 685 acres have been planted with maize, millet, soya, guinea corn and tomato for 757 smallholders, helping feed a community of 2 800 beneficiaries.

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GRET (inside front cover)

InterAide (pages 07 & 09)

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In Southern Mali, the Louis Dreyfus Foundation encourages sustainable practices through an agroecological center. This provides 3 500 vulnerable farmers (mainly women) with equipment, seeds, training, and capacity-building sessions to ensure better productivity using natural resources.

