ABSTRACT

Background: In Senegal, 60% of the small-scale salt producers are women. They face legal, economic and socio-cultural constraints that affect their leadership in the salt market.

Objective: To reinforce the capacity and ability of female salt farmers to contribute to the market’s supply of adequately iodized salt by implementing well articulated business plans.

Methods: Situation assessment including salt market analysis, training of female salt farmers on business plan formulation and management, as well as supportive mentoring and monitoring throughout the implementation of business plans.

Results: Active involvement of female salt farmers in decision-making process within the salt production area, household and communities. Increased incomes and household assets owned by female salt farmers. Increased self-confidence and contributions to the household expenditures such as education and health care.

Conclusion: Supporting female salt farmers to set-up salt iodization related micro-enterprises contributes to their empowerment, improves the quality of life of their families and increases the supply of adequately iodized salt.

BACKGROUND

- Senegal is the largest producer and trader of salt in West Africa with about 200,000 MT out of its 500,000 MT annual yield produced by small salt farmers.
- 60% of the small-scale salt producers are women. They face legal, economic and socio-cultural constraints that affect their leadership in the salt market.
- MI has been working with the Senegalese government inter-ministerial commission to reinforce the salt iodization programme to achieve universal salt iodization. Programme approaches include supporting salt farmers to set-up salt iodization related micro-enterprises to reinforce the capacity of salt farmers to sustainably produce iodized salt.

OBJECTIVES

To reinforce the capacity and ability of female salt farmers to contribute to the market’s supply of adequately iodized salt by implementing well articulated business plans.

METHODS

- The project of empowering 22 female salt farmers started in 2012 as a pilot test in NDIEMOU (Fatick region) and included:
  - a situation assessment in the salt production area of NDIEMOU with salt market analysis;
  - training of female salt farmers on business plan formulation and management in NDIEMOU;
  - supportive mentoring and monitoring throughout implementation of business plans in NDIEMOU.
- Pre-post survey to collect information about the economical status of female salt farmers: Key domains were:
  - women’s share of earned incomes within GIEs (small producers groups);
  - land ownership to develop salt works;
  - women’s access to bank loans;
  - women physical mobility (motorbike ownership);
  - women’s involvement in decision making.

RESULTS

• The number of women who have access to - bank loans to develop their salt iodization related business moved from 0 to 2 women.
• The number of women who are present in small producers regrouping bureau increased from 1 to 7 women.
• Increased incomes of female salt farmers: through the production and distribution of 1300 MT in the local market.
• The number of women who own land to develop their business centered around salt production and iodization went from 0 to 6.
• Improved mobility of women: the number of women who own motorbikes went from 0 to 3 women.

RESULTS: ROLE OF EMPOWERED WOMEN IN THE SALT PRODUCTION MARKET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ORIGINAL STATUS 2012</th>
<th>CURRENTLY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of women who own land to develop their business centered around salt production and iodization</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of women who have access to bank loans to develop their salt iodization related business</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of women who own motorbikes</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of women who are present in small producers regrouping bureau</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantity of adequately iodized salt produced and distributed by empowered women in the local market</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1300 tons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONCLUSIONS

Reinforcing the capacity female salt farmers to formulate and implement business plans empowers them in terms of economic capacity and decision-making.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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