

Securing Food

Developing rural areas

Food is a human right. A sufficient supply of food is, however, required in order to realize it. Food must be produced, available and it must be accessible for everyone. In fact, many people suffer from food insecurity, that is: they lack the resources and opportunities to adequately feed themselves on a regular basis and in a balanced way. This is due to the prevalence of poverty and results in malnutrition as a consequence. Mainly people in developing countries are affected by this phenomenon and there especially the rural population. KfW Development Bank counteracts with targeted support measures and instruments in favor of small farmers and agricultural development. It acts on behalf of the German Federal Government and contributes through its measures and activities to fighting poverty and establishing food security.

tural and food products has so far kept pace with the increasing demand and the rising population. Nevertheless little has changed concerning the large number of starving and undernourished people during the past years. The reason for this is not a lack of agricultural production. The main factor today, however, is the lack of purchasing power particularly in the developing world.

The majority of people who are insufficiently nourished lives in remote or rural areas and covers its livelihood in parts or as a whole with agriculture. To resolve acute nutritional deficiencies and reach food security in the long run, rural development has to focus on the population, which is particularly vulnerable to food shortages and uncertainties. A combination of securing the food production for the own consumption, generating income from employment and at the same time increasing the production for the market can help.

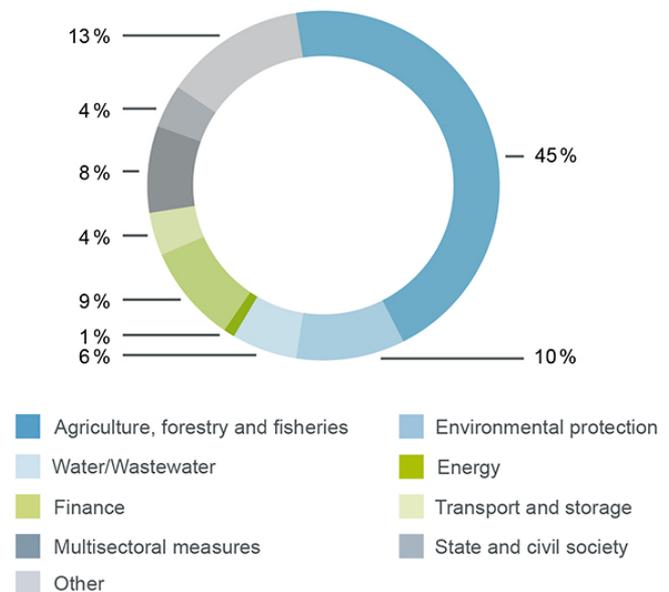
Context

More than 800 million people suffer from hunger, another billion suffer as a result from malnutrition. Both hunger and malnutrition are manifestations of food insecurity, which in turn is closely linked to poverty. The reason is that many people do not have the necessary resources to buy enough food for an adequate and balanced diet. Poverty, however, is not the only contributing factor to the problem of insufficient nutrition: high population growth, the progressive climate change, natural disasters, wars and conflicts play also an important role. Changing consumption habits and rising food prices add to it as well and make food security an even more pressing challenge.

The world cereal productions have been at record highs in the last three years. The global production of agricul-

Rural development commitments 2012 – 2016

Total: EUR 2.55 billion



The KfW development approach

KfW has significantly expanded its activities in the field of rural development in recent years and came up to a financing volume of EUR 2.55 billion between the years 2012 and 2016. The scope of projects and programmes is wide and reaches from supporting agriculture itself, rural infrastructure, micro credits for environmental protection and drinking water supply. Even though not all of these projects are specifically geared towards food security, most of them contribute to it in several ways. This is especially true for irrigation projects as they lead to a significant increase in production and productivity in agriculture, reduce vulnerability to climatic fluctuations and therefore foster rural income overall. Using water prudently and sustainably will stabilize yields in the medium and long-term.

A better rural infrastructure facilitates access to markets for producers and consumers alike, thereby normally reducing the prices. Last but not least, special loans for rural areas may also help to improve the situation because farmers then invest for instance in machinery or seeds. This allows them to increase their crop volume, hence their income and ultimately their revenues. Projects in health care, social security as well as for drinking water and wastewater supply can also have a positive effect on food security.

However, due to population growth over the next 30 years an additional two billion people want to eat. To supply these nine billion people not only with calories but also protein, vitamins and minerals is one of the most urgent challenges for the future. The loss of fertile soil, of available drinking water and biodiversity nowadays increases. KfW Development Bank therefore advocates treating food security, poverty reduction, natural resource protection and adaptation to climate change within a holistic approach.



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Small Dams and irrigation ensure a higher and certain harvest.
Source: KfW / Robert Roth

Mali – Small Dams for Irrigation

In Mali KfW Development Bank mainly supports the promotion of irrigation systems. It concentrates on small farmers, who gain independence from the increasingly irregular and fewer rains. Through more and better crops they are able to withstand climate change. Each new or refurbished small dam is in itself a success story. With irrigated agriculture an average of 100 women and men per 500 square meters land can grow their own vegetables or grain. Per hectare they can now for example harvest up to 60 tons of onions and two tons of millet annually.

This way, the farmers generate on average an additional income of EUR 73 per person. This corresponds to about 40 % of a normal annual income in Mali and not only enables regular clothing and three meals a day, but also a regular school attendance for children. And thanks to the dams the groundwater level is rising, thus providing the people also with more drinking water. All this secures their food supply and helps to lead them out of poverty. This is quite considerable in a region where three fourth of the people live below the poverty line. With the construction of small dams and simple laterite – often the first access to towns and important to sell the products on the market – KfW Development Bank promotes the agricultural and economic development in the region on behalf of the German Federal Government.