

## Rural development/agriculture – Togo

### Promoting rural roads

The agricultural sector is a central cornerstone of Togo's economy and provides livelihoods for most of the population. This is why it is also a key element of the government's strategy for economic development, poverty alleviation and food security. However, due to the poor rural infrastructure, in particular the network of paved and unpaved roads, producers and merchants are confronted with increasing transport times and costs. Against this background KfW Development Bank is financing the rehabilitation of rural roads in all five regions of the country.

### Current situation

Togo is one of the poorest countries in the world. 40% of the population lives on less than USD 1.25 per day.

80% of the population makes a living from agriculture, which results in a poorly diversified economy that is highly dependent on agricultural products. As an important cornerstone of Togo's economy, agriculture is thus a key part of the government's strategy for economic development, poverty alleviation and food security.

The economic situation is severely affected by the poor condition of rural infrastructure and the poor development of the road network. Producers and merchants are faced with longer transport times and growing costs. This applies both to the transport of goods and to the supply of necessary inputs such as seeds or fertilisers.

It primarily affects the main farming regions in the mountainous areas, with smaller merchants finding it

particularly difficult to tap into markets. Due to the desolate condition of the road network, the growth of the sector is limited.

Up to now, the development of the rural road network has been inadequate. The SAFER road maintenance fund set up by the government does not have the necessary financial resources. As a result, the condition of the roads is steadily deteriorating. Besides impeding trade in agricultural products and access to markets, this also hampers access to medical care and education.

<b>Project name</b>	Rural road construction programme
<b>Commissioned by</b>	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).
<b>Country/Region</b>	All five regions of Togo, particularly rural cotton, coffee and cocoa growing areas
<b>Project partner</b>	Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Élevage et de l'Hydraulique (MAEH) And the Agence Française de Développement (co-financier)





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### Project approach

KfW Development Bank is therefore financing the rehabilitation of rural roads and structures and supports their sustainable operation. Within the scope of the programme FC makes a contribution to improving the living conditions, especially of the rural population. The focus here is on the cotton, coffee and cocoa farming areas in all five regions of Togo with very different climatic conditions. The project is intended to improve and accelerate the sale of these products for the domestic and possibly also international market and to improve the use of inputs.

The aim is to contribute to the sustainable growth of the agricultural sector.

To ensure that the Togolese population is already able to benefit from the construction process at an early stage, suitable construction work and the necessary manual maintenance work in particular will be carried out as labour-intensively as possible and with the greatest possible participation of the local rural population. Ownership and participation are supported by the national maintenance system currently being set up. This involves the local population and the local organisations that make up the producer associations in the maintenance process. In order to increase local income in the short term, around 10% of the construction measures and 100% of the manual maintenance work is carried out labour-intensively. Around 80% of the unskilled labour force is expected to come from the respective regions. Advanced training and equipment measures financed under the project improve the effectiveness of the maintenance system and contribute to its sustainability.

Women are also to be involved in the project. At least 30% of the maintenance work is to be carried out by women. The FC project is financed jointly with the French Development Bank (AFD), with KfW acting as the lead agency.

### Impact

The construction of rural roads makes a direct contribution to alleviating poverty in structurally weak regions. Smaller merchants and inhabitants of remote areas are provided with market access and can also become producers themselves thanks to the improved connection. Possible supplier monopolies can be weakened by increased competition, increasing and producers' profits.

A 30% increase in traffic volume is expected on the new roads, which can be used all year round. Agricultural transport can take place there faster and more cost-effectively. The more rapid transport of products also improves the quality of agricultural crops and enables higher yields by facilitating access to inputs such as seeds.

Furthermore, by highlighting the advantages of well-developed access routes, an increase in private investment in the regions is also expected. Local families benefit from additional income through paid manual maintenance work, and above all from better links to health services and education.



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