

Rainbow Development in Africa

Working for farmers and farming communities in southern Mauritania and northern Senegal

Newsletter/Winter 2008: Current Projects



Sylla Women's Organic Market Garden Project



Well Digging



Mid-Gorgol Community Project



Schools Project

Welcome to our new Newsletter.

As can be seen from above (and overleaf), we have had a busy and productive year. Our Sylla Women's Organic Market Garden Project has seen the 329 members of the Sylla Women's Cooperative produce their first vegetable harvest; our first deep-bore well, benefiting a community of 1000 people, is newly completed; after exhaustive research and consultation, our large Mid-Gorgol Community Project is fully designed and ready to start; and our Schools Project – building two, equipped libraries for two primary schools – is underway. On top of this, local partner ADMAPE, through whom we conduct all our work in southern Mauritania, has successfully purchased a new Rainbow-financed Toyota service vehicle and continues to provide numerous services to farming communities through our Futa Initiative project.

All has not been easy sailing, however. The south of Mauritania remains a challenging place in which to conduct development work. Decades of political and economic marginalisation along with an increasingly unpredictable climate (last year there were droughts; this year, floods), crippling low market prices and spiralling costs of living all continue to inhibit development and drive communities into poverty. It is a testament to partner ADMAPE's hard work that we have been able to deeply penetrate and gain the trust of this disparate, marginal community, enabling us to help them identify their problems and find real, hands-on solutions.

We are proud of the work we are doing and hope that our supporters, without whom this work would not be possible, will continue to support us and, through us, the many courageous and determined farmers amongst whom we work.

Peter Hudson, Director