



Cochran Fellowship Program Africa

Senegal



In 2008, the Cochran Program trained 10 Senegalese Fellows in Biosafety, Soil Fertility, Food Safety, and Dairy Management.

Senegal's traditional agricultural products are peanuts, which account for 40% of cultivated land, and fish, which are abundant along Senegal's long coastline and productive continental shelf. The problem for Senegal is that agricultural production is easily disrupted by climatic variations and fluctuations in international agricultural markets. Being located in the drought-prone Sahel region is another stress for farmers as well.

However, Senegal remains politically stable and a major economy in West Africa. Senegal is still a net importer of food and will continue to be one until its agricultural systems become more efficient. In this regard, the Cochran Fellowship Program continues to organize training programs to help Senegal learn more about U.S. agricultural techniques that can help make the sector more productive.



Three Biosafety Regulators from Senegal and Burkina Faso visit a Tuskegee University sweet potato testing facility funded by NASA. The visit was part of a Biosafety training program that took place in October 2007. NASA and Tuskegee are currently growing genetically-modified sweet potato that contains up to 300-500% more protein and essential amino acids than a normal sweet potato. This transgenic sweet potato has the potential to decrease levels of malnutrition in developing countries where sweet potato is a staple crop. Sweet potato, which normally contains high amounts of carbohydrates and minerals, lacks sufficient amounts of protein and amino acids. Growing transgenic sweet potatoes with more protein means that more people can receive an adequate diet with less food.

Senegalese Cochran Fellows FY06-FY08	
'06	10
'07	01
'08	10
Total since '97	55

Major U.S. Agricultural Exports to Senegal

- Rice
- Wheat
- Dairy Products
- Processed fruits and vegetables
- Vegetable oil

Source: USDA FAS

Training Highlight: Dairy Management & Processing



Mamadou Loum (far right) and Awa Diallo (second from right), two Senegalese Cochran Fellows, and Mballo Ndiaye, a Senegalese official from the U.S. Embassy in Dakar, visit the Eichten Cheese Processing Plant in Minnesota. The Senegalese Fellows learned about small-scale cheese processing and marketing during this site visit. This training, which took place in September 2008, was organized by Bergquist & Associates/Global.

Major Senegalese Agricultural Products

- Fish (sardine, tuna, mullet, cuddlefish)
- Peanut
- Cotton
- Gum Arabic
- Melon
- Cherry Tomato
- Green Beans
- Mango

Source: USDA FAS

