



According to the Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2020, the number of chronically undernourished people in Africa is continuously rising, reaching 250.3 million in 2019, which corresponds to almost one-fifth of the population. Improving nutrition has been shown to improve health, have a strong impact on children's development, and can increase people's productivity, whereas a lack of it would be a threat for the wellbeing of smallholder families and their livelihoods. As a result, EUCORD is committed to address malnutrition by ensuring food and nutrition security.

NUTRITION RELATED PROJECTS

All forms of malnutrition are linked in one way or another to poor quality diets, which can be significantly changed by improving dietary diversity. Agricultural strategies that aim to increase dietary diversity can be enhanced by adding a nutrition education component that provides essential knowledge to farmers on why improving nutrition is good for farming since healthy families not only show a decrease in mortality and a stimulation of physical growth and cognitive development, but also result in more productive farms.



Who we are

EUCORD is a non-profit organization registered as a cooperative in the Netherlands, whose mission is to increase farmers' capacity to sustainably grow quality crops matched to the commercial needs of the agribusiness sector and in doing so, increase food security, develop the private sector and improve the livelihoods of rural communities. Working since 2003, EUCORD has four fulltime staff in Brussels and over 60 in-country staff based in Africa.



It is in this spirit that EUCORD, in its first partnership with Achmea Foundation, started the “Generating Revenue through Agricultural Inventory Credit” (GRAIN) project in Mali (2016-2019). One of the objectives is the reduction of malnutrition through vegetable gardens and improved nutritional education. The project helped to construct three nutrition training centers attached to existing community health centers and provided training on malnutrition screening and nutrition techniques to 55 community workers attached to the community health centers. These community workers in turn trained 2,340 women on improved nutrition techniques across the 3 municipalities covered by the project.

Moreover, as part of the USAID funded “Kingabwa Rice Intensification Project Phase II” (PIRK II) implemented in DRC between 2015-2019 in collaboration with Winrock International, nutrition workshops were held to sensitize women on the preparation of more nutritious food dishes for children. After receiving nutrition and culinary training, farmers noticed that their children were sick less often and showed a higher growth rate as measured on the scale of the neighboring health clinic. Farmers explained the benefits of the project which resulted in a better understanding of nutritional value of various foods and greater awareness of feeding children the most nutritional food items and how to prepare them.

WAY FORWARD

Looking forward, EUCORD is committed to ensuring and providing food and nutrition security for smallholder farmers and their families in sub-Saharan Africa and will focus on:

- Implementing a nutrition education strategy that considers gender dynamics to encourage increased dietary diversity and improved feeding practices of young children and women.
- Developing effective nutrition strategies taking into account the local context and dietary beliefs.
- Referring families to existing local government health extension services to obtain essential nutrition, health services, and supplies.

"Our children are healthier, growing better and less often sick."

