Strengthening Inclusive Partnerships for Smallholders in Rainfed Areas

(SIPRA Project)

Year 2 Annual Work Plan Revised

(Jan -Dec 2024)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs NL

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List of abbreviations

A4S	Aqua 4 Sudan
ARC	Addressing Root Causes
CPC	Crop Protection Committee
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
HAC	Humanitarian Aid Commission
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
NRM	Natural Resource Management
PRC	Peace and Reconciliation Committee
PEA	Political Economy Analysis
SC	Steering Committee
SME	Small – Medium Enterprises
SPA	Smallholder Producer Associations
SOS	SOS Sahel
ToC	Theory of Change
TSC	Technical Support Committee
WR	World Relief
WUR	Wageningen University
WCDI	Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation

1. Introduction

The SIPRA program is designed to unlock the untapped potential of Sudan's rain-fed agriculture sector. The program aims to empower smallholders, including women and youth, to become entrepreneurs and create transformative change in Sudan's rain-fed sector. The overall goal of the SIPRA program is to contribute to improved food and nutrition security, resilient livelihoods, and economic development in Darfur and Kordofan states.

The conflict in Sudan, which erupted in April 2023, has inflicted dire consequences on food security. The ongoing instability, alongside significant grain deficits and soaring prices, poses substantial risks to food systems. This precarious situation threatens to further deteriorate food (in)security in the upcoming agricultural season. According to the FAO's Mid-Season Assessment report, agricultural production is projected to significantly decline during the ongoing harvest, with sorghum and millet production expected to plummet by 24 percent and 50 percent, respectively. As the conflict intensifies, food insecurity and livelihood impoverishment are forecasted to worsen, particularly from May onwards, during the lean season. Several credible data sources project an impending crisis of severe hunger and starvation that the world has not witnessed in decades in Sudan. Urgent action is imperative from all key stakeholders to address this escalating crisis.

In consultation with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherland, Sudan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA NL), the SIPRA consortium has revised the 2024 workplan of activities to incorporate immediate support for vulnerable farmers, focusing on those urgently requiring access to seeds and essential agricultural inputs and services. This includes timely provision of certified seeds, tractor services, fuel, and post-harvest management support in original SIPRA and selected non-SIPRA states. The input support package is to enhance household food and nutrition security and the resilience of smallholder farmers. Targeting three more states, Gedaref, Blue Nile and White Nile states builds on lessons from the 2023 planting season support and the need to reach as many Sudanese households as possible to boost food production.

The revision of the 2024 SIPRA Program workplan is part of a step-by-step comprehensive process of adapting the Theory of Change (TOC), reprioritizing and re-positioning the the whole SIPRA program to be relevant to the war context in Sudan.

2. Implementation Strategy

The 2024 SIPRA workplan of activities have been revised to prioritize accelerating food production—to meet the current needs of the Sudanese people. The revised 2024 workplan embodies the essence of SIPRA's integrated approach and long-term development oriented vision, however, the reality of the ongoing conflict calls for an implementation strategy that prioritizes boosting food production and exploring innovative methods to enhance value addition while leveraging private sector involvement to strengthen market linkages.

The revised 2024 workplan incorporates input support — the provision of timely agricultural inputs, such as seeds, and pesticides, and facilitate access to support services such as, tractor services, fuel, and post-harvest management support targeting and assisting needed smallholder farmers to cultivate their farms and remain productive and particularly not miss the current planting season—this is particularly urgent as missing the season will have dire impact on access to food.

Looking ahead to long-term resilience, beneficiaries of the input support will be educated on seed preservation techniques, enabling them to set aside a portion of their harvest for subsequent planting seasons, ensuring continuity and self-sufficiency. Another approach to ensure sustainability of the input support, is to explore the establishment of community seed banks. These seed banks will operate through existing Producers' Associations (PAs) platforms, leveraging their reach and local networks.

Another revision to the 2024 workplan in direct response to the needs of 2024 and the current context, is the need to bolster household dietary diversity and nutrition among smallholder farmers and their households. A key strategy in achieving this goal is promoting homestead (vegetable) gardening, locally known as "Jubraka." Through these

targeted interventions, women will be empowered to enhance productivity with relative ease and minimal cost. Hands-on training in effective gardening methods will equip them to increase vegetable production. The goal is to extend efforts beyond mere production by emphasizing the importance of green leafy vegetables in household diets. By stimulating demand and consumption, the aim is to improve overall nutrition. The homestead package encompasses postharvest activities such as harvesting, drying, and handling. Additionally, the homestead gardening has economic potential as well. By treating them as income-generating opportunities too, farmers will be empower to derive financial benefits from their produce.

The revisions made to the 2024 workplan targets immediate gain of boosting food production structured to contribute to the long-term recovery from the war. The revised 2024 workplan of activities also explores livelihood opportunities that align with long-term recovery. Integrating Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) into the SIPRA Producer Association (PA) model and Women Groups platform will foster sustainable, resilient, and equitable economic development for smallholders

The revised workplan embodies a forward-thinking vision, ensuring that farmers not only navigate current difficulties but also thrive in the long run. Structured around the four SIPRA outcomes (see below the summary), through these concerted efforts, the revised 2024 workplan aims to meet the immediate needs while make meaningful contributions to the recovery and resilience of the Sudanese people.

- **Outcome 1**: Focuses on boosting food production using the Producer Association (PA) platforms adopting Climate Smart Agriculture practices including post-harvest management. To use small grant challenge fund to support producer associations to engage in productive and innovative value-addition activities and income for the groups.
- **Outcome 2:** Collaborate with other stakeholders to leverage and support Agro-MSMEs in their areas of need to provide required services to farmers and producer associations. This is expected to enhance aggregation, transportation, value addition, and market linkages.
- **Outcome 3:** Given the context, the focus of this outcome will be to work with stakeholders at state and locality levels to create enabling environment to boost food production.
- **Outcome 4:** Focuses on learning to inform evidence-based adaptive programming for sustainable and resilient food systems.

3. Coordination

The consortium will maintain collaboration with local authorities, community leaders, and key stakeholders to ensure transparency and minimize unintended consequences. Furthermore, a conflict-sensitive implementation strategy will be deployed to avoid harm and contribute to peacebuilding efforts. The SIPRA consortium partners play an active role in coordinating efforts across various sectors, including Food Security & Livelihoods, Health & Nutrition, WASH, Education, and emergency response clusters facilitated by the various UN agencies. They participate in weekly and monthly sectoral clusters as well as all NGOs' coordination meetings. These meetings serve as platforms for joint planning of assessments, conducting sectoral and geographic mapping, and coordinating resources and responses. The goal is to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure uniformity in program implementation across all partners.

4. Budgetary

The revised budget for 2024 now amounts to € 7,509,465 which include € 2,785,629 for input to support the 2024 planting season. Although the total budget is beyond 7 Million, the consortium is happy to prefinance, should the balance of previous instalments and possibility of instalments within 2024 not be sufficient, with the understanding that we can catch up in the coming years, given the dedicated budget for SIPRA for the full project duration.

Annex 1 – Detailed WorkPlan with Targets

SIPRA PROJECT 2024
ACTIVITY PLAN. Revis

Annex 2 – Draft Budget

ANNEX D - Budget
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