



## MISSION

You are on a mission in the Senegal Valley. It is your task to make an inventory in a few days, together with stakeholders (government, farmers, etcetera) practical possibilities to construct irrigation systems in the region. The question is whether irrigation is necessary and if so, what kind of irrigation. The chance that the donor is interested in other projects is small, however. Participation of local stakeholders is an essential ingredient of any good project.

You know from the literature studied and experts interviewed that the local farming system has three main activities:

- Migration labor
- Traditional submergence and rain fed agriculture
- Irrigated farming

Traditional agriculture is not really reliable due to the climate; irrigation therefore is a risk-spreading activity. Migration labor is as important as irrigation; often the two are closely linked. In one village, however, one activity is more important; in another village another activity may be much larger. Even between families differences can be considerable. Although the Senegalese government stimulates commercial farming most Valley agriculture is subsistence based. Only in Dioma an irrigation system has become a commercial success through tomatoes cultivation. These farmers are very enthusiastic, although the processing capacity of the factory is limited.

Irrigated fields were given to heads of households, which are men. Women do work on the fields. The new policy in Senegal is liberalization: farmers already manage the systems themselves, but they should also take over maintenance and financing. Until now, maintenance has not been done properly, reason why rehabilitation has been necessary occasionally. Technical mistakes in design and construction have occurred as well, however.

In the turnover policy of the systems to farmers the pump feeding the system is the most difficult element. Pump maintenance appears to be difficult for farmers. Extension workers claim that the fields are too small and that with these fields farmers will never be able to earn enough money to keep the pump running. It is important to know that circumstances for villages can be very different.

You will visit one village, Tatti, located on the river bank in the upper part of the middle region of the Valley. It is your first field visit of a series within your mission. The village has been selected at random on the map. An extension worker has informed the villagers about your visit. Your goal is to make an inventory of the problems in the village, and the role irrigation plays or could play related to these problems. You will stay in the village for 30 minutes.

On the way to the village itself you saw that the existing system further away from the village is not working. It was badly maintained; canals were full of sand. The system closer to the river functioned, although the canal which you passed was leaking heavily.

## Your task

Prepare your visit to the village. Put it in writing. Points to consider could be:

- General problems in the village
- The role of irrigation in the village
- Different groups and/or categories in the village
- Problems in existing irrigation



