

# SAFE-World Project/Initiative Summary

**Country: Sudan**

**Project/Initiative Title:** En Nahud- IFAD

Nos. farmers: 15,000

Hectares: 7,500

Agro-Ecological Zone: V

Improvement types

1	2	3	4x	5	6x	7x	8	9
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## A. Key Impacts

### **A1 – Productivity**

	Before/Without	After/With	% change
Sorghum/ millet			20-30
Groundnut			14

### **A2 – Impacts on natural capital**

Water supply development

### **A3 – Impacts on local community (social capital)**

Credit Co-ops

### **A5 – Key changes in farm / regional system**

Sheep raising

## D. Contact Point for Project/Initiative

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## E. Project Narrative

The Sudan. The En Nahud Project (S 016 SU) is situated in an area of semi-arid savannahs (300 mm rainfall in the north and 500 mm in the south) with considerable interannual variation and uneven distribution of rainfall. Population density is low, averaging 5 to 10 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>. The main constraint on land development is the shortage of farm labour. Small ruminants play an important role as a vehicle for savings and as a source of cash in emergencies. Water supply for human and farm consumption is extremely limited, with most of the population spending up to 50% of their income on this resource. The project's main component focused on seasonal credit (80% of CB) for land-development activities (inputs, labour, seed) and intermediate credit for equipment and the development of water

resources.

In 1996-97, project benefits accrued to nearly **15 000 households**. Over 40% of the project's funding went to crop-related activities; sheep-raising, water-supply development and the procurement of carts were the other main uses. The average incremental impact on millet, sorghum and groundnut production is estimated at around **10 000 tonnes** (compared with the 17 900 tonnes anticipated in the pre-evaluation report). This was possible thanks to the expansion of the cultivated area as a result of the availability of credit for purchasing seed and hiring labour; crop yields are thought to have increased significantly as well, although the figures have yet to be confirmed: 30% for millet, 20% for sorghum and 14% for groundnuts (1995/96). The component to relaunch the production of gum arabic was a failure. Overall, the project's short-term impact has been very positive. The reason for its success lies mainly in the solid organization and management of the credit system that was set up and the outstanding training provided to credit cooperatives. The project team was particularly adept at tailoring project activities to farmers' constraints and priorities. The most striking example of this was the inclusion of a major village water-supply component that helped to jump-start several productive activities, namely sheep-raising. In terms of economic and food security, the impact of the water-supply and small-livestock development provided under the project was perhaps more significant than the expansion of millet and groundnut fields, which remain very exposed to the risk of drought.

*Alberta Mascaretti*