

ante evaluation study in 2023 confirmed the relevance and overall efficiency of the implementing Protocol, with some areas for improvement. The evaluation study also emphasized the importance of the new national strategy for fisheries and aquaculture for the period 2023-2027, elaborated with the sectoral support of the Protocol, and how it should be used to guide and coordinate the interventions of the EU and other development partners.

Evaluations, ROM and TAIEX missions of rural development projects had recommended to reinforce the EU approach in these areas by supporting the private sector, notably strengthening the value chain of products with higher added value, the institutional and technical capacities of stakeholders and better integration of local business realities with a broader economic framework. This implies a shift of perspective, previously mainly focused on food and nutrition security, to a new approach, which intends to pave the way for the private sector development in agriculture and fisheries. The new approach takes into account the principles of sustainability and inclusiveness and aims at food and nutrition security given the variety of the products of the selected value chains, that have the potential to improve dietary diversity, increase women's income and opportunities for nutrition education. This requires granular diagnostics on the most promising value chains and impactful investments, including support to key-reforms conducive to inclusive economic development, applied research and data management, capacity building in line with the market needs, infrastructure, innovation and knowledge and business sharing. Inclusion and decent jobs creation are critical: active labour force in Guinea-Bissau is mainly women and youth, which are workforce, potential innovative producers and entrepreneurs in agriculture and fisheries. Their involvement in the action and their empowerment are therefore key for the success of any sustainable intervention aiming at economic growth in these areas.