

SENEGAL STORY- A STEP TOWARDS FOOD SUFFICIENCY



Senegal Farmers struggling to save the crop



A Step Towards Food Sufficiency



Introduction

The President of Senegal was looking at the development of irrigation infrastructure so as to achieve food sufficiency, to address occupation issue for unemployed rural youth and a means to stop the exodus to the cities for means of livelihood. The Confederation of Indian Industries organized a conclave on 'India-Africa Projects Partnership' in 2005. During the event, Kirloskar Brothers Limited (KBL) made a presentation about its range of pump sets and capabilities to ministers from over twenty-five African nations. After the presentation, delegates from Senegal approached KBL with an objective to seek expertise in putting up affordable, adaptable and appropriate irrigation systems in order to increase rice production.

Challenge

North Senegal: Lack of irrigation equipments was the major problem identified in North Senegal. Even though there was plenty of water in the Senegal River, there was no means to direct it to the fields in sufficient quantities to irrigate rice.

South Senegal: The problem in South Senegal was that the surface water was too saline to irrigate farmlands. The only option was to tap ground water for irrigation.

Solution

Kirloskar Brothers Limited presented a proposal to the President of Senegal and to all the major stakeholders of the rice production sector in 2005. All the queries raised were duly clarified and it was unanimously agreed that self sufficiency in rice production was necessary and achievable through this plan. The proposal was comprehensive with recommendations for the irrigation equipment required to double rice yields in two phases.

In Phase-I – from less than 10,000 tons to 500,000 tons by improving irrigation in existing farmlands and in Phase-II by bring in more land under cultivation to further increase the yield up to 1 million tons. KBL signed a contract with the Ministry of Agriculture for 2394 diesel engine driven pumpsets, 20 drip irrigation systems and various accessories including pipes, trolleys, hoses, pontoons, valves, etc. with installation and commissioning on a turnkey basis.

Learning

With the task of producing and transporting over 2394 diesel engine driven pumpsets and accessories, 20 drip irrigation systems and various accessories, adhering to timeframes was a major learning point for us in this project. We realized that proper planning and follow up will lead to the completion of the Phase I target of 2394 pumps on schedule. Accordingly, within eight weeks of receiving the letter of credit, we managed to ship 1600 pumps for Senegal from India. We are currently in the process of completing the Phase II which involves 250 submersible pumps driven by 20-62 kVA gen-sets and large vertical turbine end suction pump sets with agricultural equipments comprising of rice mills, vibro-destoners, ground nut decorticators, chippers, shredders and grinding mills.

Conclusion

Before KBL Project only 19% of the total demand of rice was being met in Senegal. But after completion of the Phase I of the KBL Project, around 50 % of the rice production is being met. On completion of the Phase II, the project will irrigate more than 1,50,000 hectares of farmland to achieve food sufficiency for Senegal by 2012-13.