



Press Release
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For Immediate Release

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Partners for Development will strengthen the Benin pineapple value chain with USDA support

Partners for Development (Pfd) announces the launch of Pineapple Processing for Export (PINEX), a project funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) under its Food Assistance Division's Food For Progress Program (FFPr).

Washington, DC — Partners for Development (Pfd), a non-profit organization dedicated to improving health, agriculture and economic development initiatives in rural communities around the world, has signed a 5-year agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to improve private sector production, processing, and export of pineapple in Benin through the Pineapple Processing for Export (PINEX) project. Benin, a coastal country in West Africa, has an economy that depends largely on agricultural trade. Pineapple is Benin's third most valuable crop in terms of GDP and has significant potential for growth. Increasing Beninese capacity to produce and process pineapple for export markets will increase the competitiveness of the Beninese pineapple industry on the global market, contributing to improved economic growth in Benin.

Pfd delivers sustainable solutions to poverty through partnerships with local organizations in the countries it serves, prioritizing local ownership of the development process. PINEX was designed in close collaboration with Beninese pineapple producers and processors, and will work with and through some of these same local partners to achieve and measure results. PINEX will support and strengthen training across the Beninese pineapple value chain, helping to establish new standards of quality in the Benin pineapple industry. PINEX will address constraints commonly experienced by Benin pineapple farmers and improve participating farmer's agricultural productivity, resulting in quality improvements and increased sales and returns in the domestic and international market. Pfd will also collaborate with a network of micro-finance partners to ensure pineapple producers have access to capital to upgrade their tools and inputs and expand and their businesses.

Key to the success of PINEX are Pfd's partners, including Benin's Ministry of Agriculture, the private sector, various local stakeholders and organizations. These stakeholders, with Pfd's support, will work together to reach 5,200 targeted pineapple farmers and 70 processing companies to develop and improve the pineapple value chain in Benin.

Pfd will build on the success of its other USDA-funded Food for Progress project in Benin: [Growing Resources for Enhanced Agricultural Enterprises and Nutrition \(GREEN\)](#). Launched in 2011, GREEN provides management tools and trainings, access to credit and market linkages to smallholder farmers in horticultural value chains. Through its partnerships with local farmers' groups, as of September 2015, GREEN has helped over 9,000 vegetable farmers implement improved farming techniques, resulting in a 155% increase in produce production, and a 139% average increase in farmers' net income. Pfd envisions similar successes for PINEX.

Pfd remains committed to supporting the USDA's mission and vision under the [Food For Progress](#) (FFPr) program. PINEX supports the USDA's strategic objectives of increased agricultural productivity and expanded trade of agricultural products. To learn more about Partners for Development, please visit the organization's [website](#), [blog](#) and [Twitter](#) page. Please contact Jack Marrkand, Executive Director, at jmarrkand@pfd.org with any questions.

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