CONTEXT
Agriculture plays an important role in Benin's economy, accounting for 32% of GDP and employing a large part of the working population. The main food crops (maize, cassava, sorghum/millet, yams, cowpeas, and groundnuts) cover domestic demand but remain well below the potential offered by the ecological conditions of the country.

CURRENT STATUS OF THE INVESTEE
Officially created in 2005 and approved in 2008 by the Ministry of Finance and Economy, the Réseau National des Caisses Villageoises d’Epargne et de Crédit Autogérées du Bénin (RENACA-Bénin) is a union of Decentralised Financial Systems (DFS) made up of 33 branches structured into eight village savings and credit funds (CAVECA) located in six of Benin’s 12 administrative departments.

OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT
The project’s objective is to strengthen Renaca’s capacity and create teams of internal trainers to:
- develop and deliver training modules on financial education and agricultural practices for its smallholder farmer clients; and
- strengthen its staff's capacity to evaluate and analyse agricultural loans.

The expected outcomes by the end of this project are:
- 4,700 farmers trained in financial education; and
- 2,990 farmers trained on sustainable farming practices.

IMPROVEMENT OF FINANCIAL AND NON-FINANCIAL SERVICES
FOR SMALLHOLDER FARMERS IN BENIN