

Building livelihoods resilience to alleviate poverty in semi-arid areas of West Africa (PLM)

Project Code: LFA/01/CP/IRDC/2009-13/

Objective:

The project objective redefined during the launching workshop aims to strengthen livelihoods resilience of small farmers and producers through the promotion of mixed systems, sustainable and profitable dairy and vegetable in semi-arid West Africa, and to enhance the contribution of agricultural and natural resources systems to improved livelihoods and quality of the environment in semi-arid areas of sub-Saharan Africa.

Background/Rationale:

Vulnerability is a major characteristic of livelihoods in semi-arid zones of Sub-Saharan Africa due to a wide range of critical and interlocking ecological and socio-economic factors. Household and community resilience can be strengthened through broad-based agricultural intensification that creates employment along value chains that meet growing local demand. The West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD), in partnership with the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and National Agricultural Research institutions and NGOs, proposes a 4-year action-research project to test and capture lessons for an approach to scale out a promising intensification strategy based on integrated smallholder dairy and vegetable production that will significantly increase smallholder income and improve household food security, and make households more resilient.

Project Outputs:

- ✓ Establish an integrated agricultural research for development process for identifying, testing, adapting and scaling out of integrated smallholder dairy-horticulture systems that enhances livelihood resilience and sustainability in the semi-arid zones of West Africa
- ✓ Develop and promote social learning mechanisms for adapting integrated dairy-horticulture production technologies to local conditions appropriate for resource-poor households, gender-sensitive, and that conserve the natural resource base
- ✓ Develop and test innovative tools and options for upgrading local dairy and horticulture value chains that offer employment and generate added income for resource-poor market actors, especially women, while conserving the natural resource base
- ✓ Identify and formulate pro-poor policy options to support integrated, market-oriented and ecosystem-friendly dairy and vegetable smallholder enterprises
- ✓ Strengthen the capacity of researchers and research institutions in responding to the needs expressed by stakeholders along the dairy and vegetable value chains

Project Funding Type: Commissioned / IDRC

Participating institution and country location:

1. IER Mali. Bara Ouologuem, (223 20 24 41 92/223 76 46 15 30, ouologuembara@yahoo.fr

2. ITRA, TOGO Dr Balabadi Dao ; Tel: (228 904 27 46, Email: kadomefa@tg.refer.org, jeankado@yahoo.fr)

3. Université ABDOU MOUMOUNI de Niamey - Niger; Abdoulaye Mohamadou, Email: 227 20 72 37 80 227 96 89 86 03; Email: azawagh@yahoo.fr

Lead Institution: DR Hamadé Kagoné, Programme Manager of EPA, CORAF/WECARD

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