

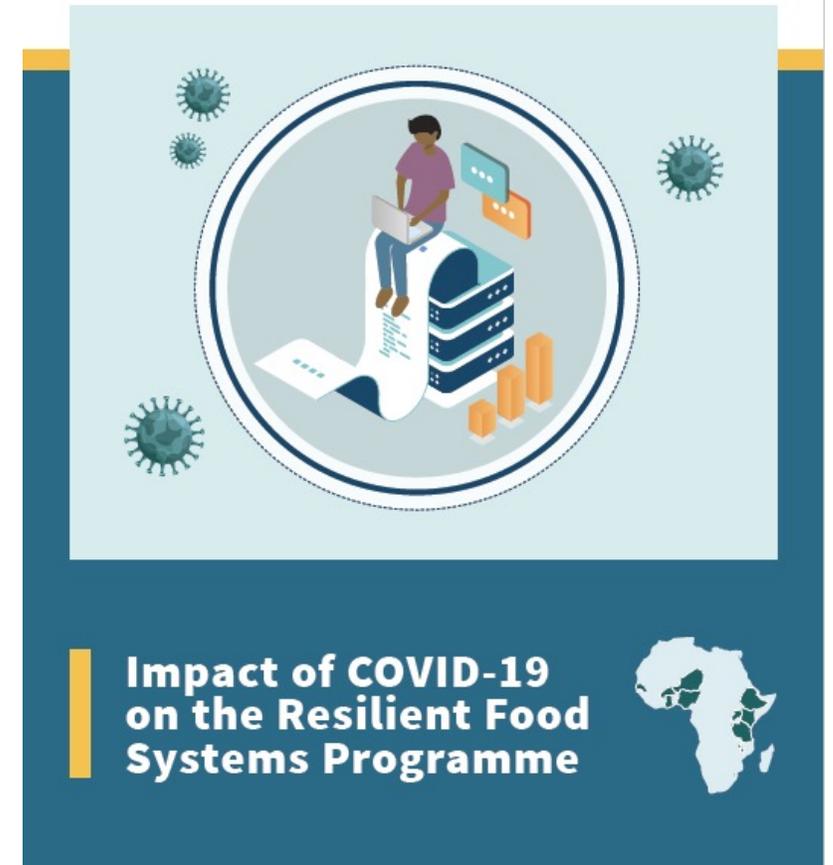
Participatory Natural Resource Management and Rural Development Project in Nord, Centre-Nord and Est Regions of Burkina Faso (Neer-Tamba Project)

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COVID-19 status and implications for project efforts

Burkina Faso just as all other countries in the world has been affected by the COVID-19 virus. As at August 30th, 2021, a total of 13,777 cases have been recorded with 13,535 recoveries, 71 active cases and 171 deaths. The project supported its implementing partners (decentralised State technical services and the Regional Chambers of Agriculture) in its implementation area by providing sanitation kits as part of efforts to curb the spread of COVID 19;

The project provided each of the 12 provinces in the implementation area with a tractor for lowland ploughing as part of efforts to improve agriculture production as a way to boost domestic production given the reduction in the import of food products due to border closure





Highlights: June 2020 - August 2021

- Improvement in the resilience of implementing partners through capacity building to deal with the security threat, the COVID 19 pandemic (through the provision of 261 hand washing stations, 642 gallons of alcohol based sanitizers, 2,484 SSP2 masks , 266 liquid soaps, 5,352 bar soaps, 150 latex gloves) and the negative effects of climate change (**2051 officers trained out whom 653 are women**);
- The partnership with social engineering operators, whose skills have been strengthened and who are involved in the scaling up of good practices, has made it possible to achieve the project's targets despite the unfavourable context mentioned above; RFS funding has made it possible to develop 9,794.75 Ha of CES/DRS (i.e. 150.7% of what was projected) and to carry out RNA on 6,120.5 Ha of land in the northern region. The presence of OIS has contributed to making accessible agricultural practices that are resilient to climatic changes. More specifically, OIS assisted the PDE promoters in the establishment and maintenance of 108 nutrient gardens (of which 55 in 2020) and 26 nurseries (of which 18 in 2020).
- The project, in collaboration with the ONDD, has carried out an assessment of the carbon footprint of the project activities. This represents 10.86% of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). As of 30 June 2021, the ONDD estimates that the project activities have resulted in a reduction in the level of emissions of -1,495,873 TCO₂eq (86.43% of the project's target). As a result, the project contributes 10.86% to the achievement of Burkina Faso's NDC (137,663,000 TCO₂eq by 2030)



Highlights June 2020 - August 2021

- The sharing of experiences between the Project's actors and the community members and other development actors through a national fair organised by the Project in Ouahigouya in the North. As a results: 9,185 people, representing 78.4% visited the Income Generating Activities (IGA) stands and 21.6% visited the stands occupied by the Project's institutional partners

Project approach and accomplishments related to gender/youth transformation and mainstreaming

The project has a focus on gender mainstreaming by strongly involving women and youth in the project implementation;

As part of efforts to support promoters of sustainable exploitation of non-timber forest products, 4,224 women were reached out of a total of 4,530 beneficiaries, representing a participation rate of 93%;

With regards to agricultural development (stone cordons, zai, half-moons, filtering dams, etc.), women project holders account for 27.3%.



Challenges faced and how they were addressed

- Some communities in the three regions covered by the project were affected by security threats. However, thanks to the partnership developed with local institutions and decentralised state departments , the project was able to achieve its targets;
- The COVID 19 pandemic has affected the implementation of some activities, following a quarantine imposed on the country by the health authorities, however, project monitoring has been carried out with the support of the decentralised technical departments and the project's local partners (SEMUS and FNGN) – local social engineering operators in charge of scale up.
- Unfavourable conditions for agricultural production due to climate change: the project has engaged the services of specialized partners to build the capacities of actors and stakeholder groups to strengthen the resilience of community members to these climatic changes.

Important lessons learnt from the project

The project has been successfully implemented despite the various challenges mentioned earlier, thanks to the network established by the local partners and decentralized technical state departments within the implementation area. These groups have contributed to strengthening the capacities of the community members to deal with security and climate change related issues. This collaboration was backed by the partnership and implementation agreements signed with each of the partners.

What part of your project would you want to feature as a case study for RFS to inspire others?

The part of the Project that can be shared with all the actors is the inclusion of Social Engineers in the scaling up of good agricultural practices. This has made it possible to mitigate the effects of security risks and has brought the Project closer to the beneficiaries. This has facilitated the mobilisation of beneficiaries for the implementation of the project's activities despite the many challenges encountered.



Activities planned for 2022

- Budget for social Engineers for the first phase of the project;
- Monitor the implementation of funded POEs;
- Organise consultation/exchange meetings with partners and beneficiary promoters;
- Communicate and capitalise on the Project's partnerships;
- Conduct a survey on the impacts of the projects on the beneficiaries;
- Evaluate the carbon footprint and the NDVI.



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