



ACTIVITIES REPORT

2022

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ABC	Agribusiness Cluster
AFO	AfricaFertilizer.org
AGRF	Green Revolution Forum in Africa
AIC	Informal Alliance for Change
AJVC	Youth Association for the Valorization of Cotton
AOPP	Association of Professional Peasant Organizations
APSA	Activity Agricultural production South
ASSEMA	Mali Seed Association
BMC	Business Model Canvas
CEDEAO	Economic Community of West African States

COMDT.....	Malian Textile Development Company
COASP	West African Peasant Seeds Committee
COVID.....	Coronavirus Disease 2019
C4CP.....	Country 4 Cotton Partnership
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
EnGRAIS.....	Enhancing Growth Through Regional Agricultural Input Systems
FEPAC.....	Pan-African Cotton Festival
FNDA	National Agricultural Development Fund
GRN.....	Natural Resource Management
GIFS.....	Integrated Soil Fertility Management
GFSS	Gloal Food Security Strategy
ICCO	Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation
IFDC	International Fertilizer Development Center
IITA.....	International Institution of Tropical Agriculture
IPR-IFRA	Rural Polytechnic Institute of Training and Applied Research
JPO	Open Days
ISSD-SAHEL.....	Integrated Seed Sector Development
LABOSEM	Seed Laboratory
LOA	Agricultural Orientation Law
MSD.....	Market System Developpment
ME	Regional Agricultural Inputs Market
MoU.....	Memorandum OF Understanding
MPME	Micro, Petites and Moyennes EEnterprises
NCA &T.....	North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
OP	Producers' organisation
YEO	Opportunities for Youth Employment
PAFISEM.....	Support Project for the Seed Sector
PDA	Agricultural development policy
PEA	Agricultural Business Cluster
PHTC.....	Post-Harvest and Trading Center
PME	Small and Medium Enterprises
PoINSAN.....	National Food and Nutrition Security Policy
PPP.....	Partnerships P ublic-P riveted
PSSD	Private seed Sector Development
RTI	RTI International (registered trademark and trade name of Research Triangle Institute)
SAE	Entrepreneurial support structures
SCS	Silvain Sales Department
SOPROTRILAD	Rice Production and Processing Company in the DEBO Lake Area
SPA	Supportive Partnership Agreement
UII.....	Universal Impact Indicator
SEE.....	Village Extension Agent
VSF.....	Veterinarians Without Borders
WACIP.....	West African Cotton Improvement Program
2SCALE.....	Toward Sustainable Clusters in Agribusiness through Learning in Entrepreneurship

VISION OF HENK, PRESIDENT & CEO OF IFDC

IFDC has since January 1, 2023, the arrival of a new President, Henk van Duijn. Henk's vision is: "One mission, one team" with the ambition to return to the center of the field while building on IFDC's strategy 2020 - 2030.



Indeed, to help address the challenges facing global food systems, IFDC has developed **Strategy 2020 - 2030**, which outlines four pillars of its work: (1) developing better technologies, (2) catalyzing agricultural productivity, (3) strengthening markets, and (4) driving impact.

"Under my leadership, in the coming years, the four pillars of our strategy will strengthen the core of IFDC's research and interventions. Together, the four pillars of our work will help farmers improve the health of their soils, agricultural productivity, and household incomes, thereby contributing to the food security and economic development of their villages, their nations, and the world." **Henk van Duijn**

With a philosophy of soil health as a holistic approach through a new global management team while dissolving regions to strengthen country offices. The realization of this vision will be achieved through staff and capacity development, special projects, the establishment of innovation and fertilizer production centers, and consulting services.

With the leadership of Henk van Duijn, IFDC wants to return to the forefront of soil health and fertilizer worldwide in the next 3 to 5 years.

"IFDC will intensify its efforts to find solutions to future challenges through research on soil fertility and nutrient use efficiency. We have the knowledge and expertise to make a significant impact in sub-Saharan Africa, where soil nutrient depletion, both natural and human-induced, is an ongoing challenge." **Henk van Duijn**



WORDS FROM IFDC COUNTRY DIRECTOR



“
More than 1 billion CFA francs have been invested in Mali in 2022 through the implementation of various IFDC projects and programs. We would like to thank the Government of Mali through the Ministries of Agriculture, all our partners and donors

”

Dear partners,

It is a real pleasure for me to present to you, on behalf of the entire team of **IFDC in Mali**, the 2022 annual report of IFDC's activities in Mali. Thank you for your interest in our organization and its interventions in Mali.

The year 2022 was a year of great achievements for IFDC in Mali despite the contingencies of the **COVID19** and especially security.

More than **275,000 people** were directly affected by IFDC's interventions in 2022 in Mali in the areas of integrated soil fertility management, development of the seed and fertilizer sector, improvement of agricultural productivity, market access, professionalization of actors, promotion of technologies, etc.

More than **1 billion CFA francs** have been invested in Mali in 2022 through the implementation of various IFDC projects and programs.

I would therefore like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to the donors of our current projects and programs, which are **USAID and DGIS**. Thank you for your continued trust.

My thanks also go to all IFDC staff in Mali who have invested in achieving results and improving the living conditions of agricultural economic actors.

We would also like to particularly thank the **Government of Mali** through the **Ministry of Rural Development** and the **Ministry of Trade** who have shown unfailing collaboration in our activities in 2022. We cannot end without saying a big thank you to all our partners for their support and their important daily involvement in the achievement of our objectives.

I would like to invite you to read and take note of the contents of this report to present the **various actions** and interventions of **IFDC in Mali** during the **year 2022**.

I thank you for your attention.

1. Introduction

IFDC (International Fertilizer Development Center) created in 1974 and based in Alabama in the United States, is an international public institution working for food security, poverty reduction in developing countries through the development and dissemination of technologies Efficient soil fertility management, development of agricultural input and market markets of agricultural products.

IFDC is recognized as a global centre of excellence with its coordination offices for the implementation of activities in several countries in North and West Africa, SouthAfrica and Asia. IFDC uniquely addresses global issues of food security and poverty by bridging the gap between research and impact, combining

science-based innovations, holistic market systems development, an enabling policy environment and strategic partnerships to help farmers and countries identify and scale sustainable agricultural solutions. including better efficiency in nutrient utilization. These approaches are needed to boost soil health and crop productivity while reducing the environmental impact of fertilizer use. IFDC translates research into action using local, environmentally friendly and impact-oriented solutions. Together with our partners, we seek to close the yield gap, eradicate world hunger, safeguard the soils on which our lives depend, and generate economic resilience for farming households and the countries in which they live.

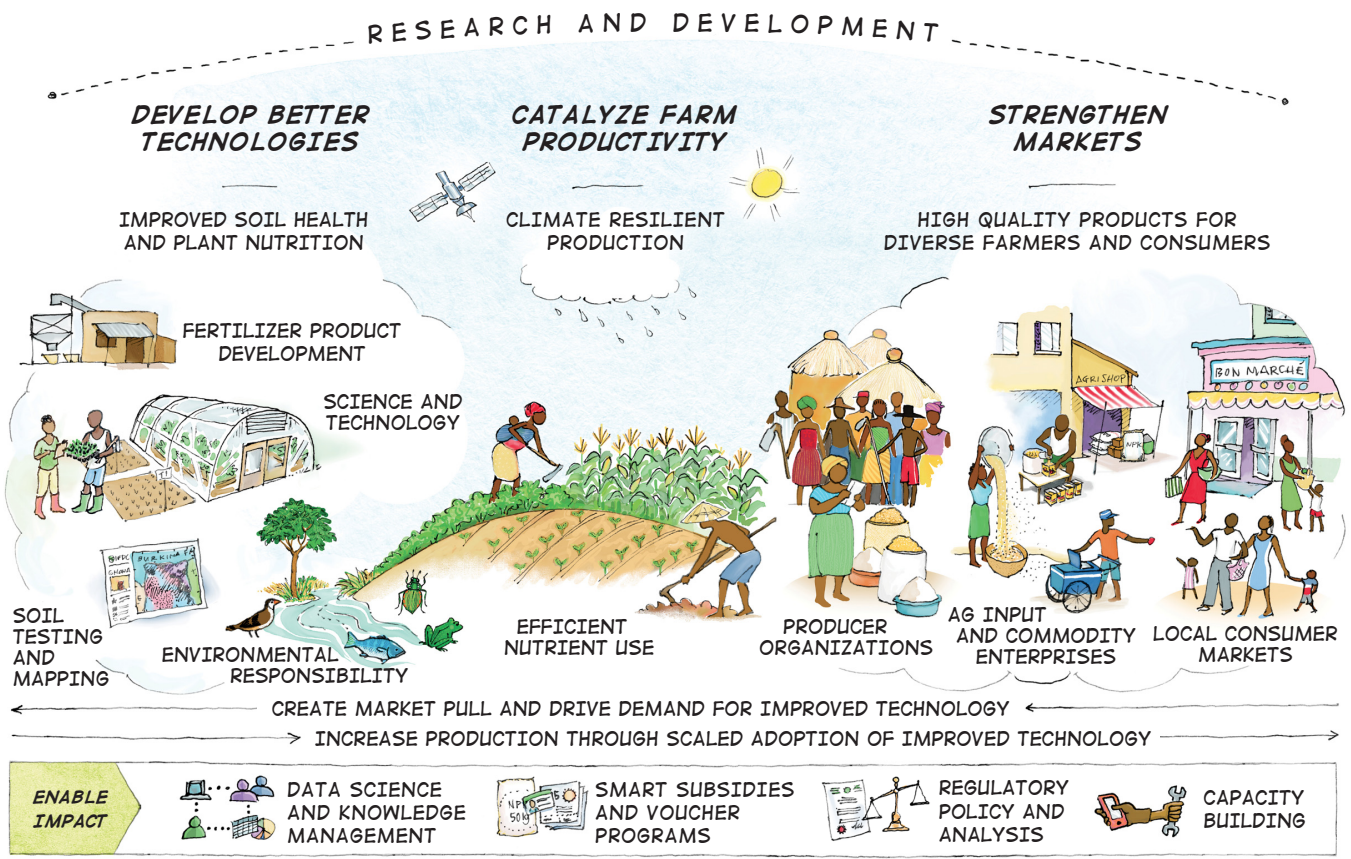


FIGURE 1. IFDC Strategy 2020-2030 to Feed the World

Brief Presentation of Mali: Soil Conditions and Fertilizer Situation

Soil conditions in Mali

Mali, a geographically landlocked country in West Africa, lies between the eleventh and twenty-fifth parallel north and covers an area of 1.24 million km², 60 percent of which is desert land. The production systems mean that several areas of the country are over-exploited. This is reflected, in particular, in the degradation of soils leading to a decline in fertility and consequently a drop in crop yields. The area of arable land is estimated at 30 million ha, i.e. 24 percent of the country, of which 11 million ha are occupied by crops and fallow land.

Currently, the situation is the opposite, with stagnant or declining yields due to declining soil fertility in many rural areas. Indeed, Malian soils are naturally poor or moderately poor in nutrients, while this natural fertility is managed in a very approximate way by the farmers. There are two

ways to manage it: (i) the restitution of fertility through fallows of varying lengths in relation to their potential fertility; (ii) the restitution of fertility through the use of inputs (organic matter and mineral fertilizers). Given the increase in agro-demographic pressure on the land, the farmer must increasingly use the second means, as the land is subject to increasingly shorter fallows. If these means are not used, yields per unit area will decrease.

Fertilizer situation in the country

In Mali, as in all Sahelian countries, fertilizer prices rose in 2022 as a direct result of the lack of global supply. Thus, fertilizers for the cotton system (cotton, maize, millet, and sorghum) have seen the following increases: the supplier price of cotton complex has risen from 383,000

FCFA in 2021/2022 to 620,000 FCFA/ton; that of cereal complex has risen from 380,000 FCFA/ton to 615,000 FCFA/ton; and that of urea has risen from 370,000 FCFA to 640,000 FCFA/ton. The price of urea in May 2022, compared to the average for the last five years, increased by 106%. With respect to subsidized fertilizer for cereals, according to AfricaFertilizer.org, based on interviews with distributors, the level of coverage was between 15 and 20% of needs during the same period. This is partly due

to difficulties in supplying the country and partly due to the reallocation of part of the budget to security issues. As a result, fertilizer subsidy programs could be severely impacted, but to offset this, the government has decided to maintain the fertilizer subsidy for the 2022 crop year in light of the price hike, setting the producer's share at CFAF 12,500 per 50 kg bag for mineral fertilizer and CFAF 2,500 per 50 kg bag for organic fertilizer.

A brief History of IFDC's Interventions in Mali

IFDC opened its office in Mali in 2001 and now has over 20 years of experience in the country, empowering millions of smallholder farmers to become agricultural entrepreneurs actively engaged in local and regional agricultural trade. Recent interventions have focused on harnessing digital technologies, mobile phones and solutions to change the way farmers access and use market information, weather forecasts and pest forecasts, as well as crop and business management advice. IFDC has contributed to rural development through the implementation of various development projects and programs including the Regional Agricultural Inputs Market (MIR) project, the WACIP (West African Cotton Improvement Program) project, the C4CP (Country 4 Cotton

Partnership) project, the Thousands to Millions (1000s+) project. IFDC has been assigned the role of leader of the implementation consortium of Phase 2 of the Toward Sustainable Clusters in Agribusiness through Learning in Entrepreneurship (2SCALE) program, the Integrated Seed Sector Development in the Sahel (ISSD-Sahel) project implementation consortium and a member of the implementation consortium of the Activité Production Agricole Sud du Mali (APSA) project.

This report provides an overview of IFDC's interventions in Mali for the year 2022, the related investments, the alignment of activities with the country's agricultural policy and the major results achieved in addition to the prospects.

2. IFDC's Current Interventions in Mali

2.1. Mission

In order to contribute to rural development in developing countries, IFDC's mission is to develop technologies that improve the incomes and well-being of both producers and entrepreneurs, while preserving the environment and natural resources. This is achieved through a combination of innovative research, agricultural product market expertise and strategic public-private partnerships, sustainable technologies for managing soil fertility and increasing agricultural productivity,

2.2. Objectives of projects and programmes implemented in 2022

IFDC is currently implementing in Mali three (3) projects and programs relating, among others, to 1-) the establishment of a well-structured seed sector that meets the needs of agricultural actors (ISSD-Sahel Project), 2-) to the development of agricultural chains and market systems to facilitate access from producers to agricultural and financial services needed to improve their productivity (2SCALE Program), and 3-) to the adoption and extension of climate-smart agriculture technologies and practices to improve the availability of nutritious food and the resilience of farm households (APSAs) of which IFDC is a member of the implementation consortium led by Research Triangle Institute (RTI) International as well as other implementing organizations.

2.2.1 ISSD-Sahel

The overall objective of ISSD-Sahel is to ensure the availability and use of high quality seeds through the establishment of a commercially viable and self-sustaining seed sector, supported by customer-oriented seed services.

2.2.2 2SCALE

The objective of 2SCALE is to contribute to food and nutrition security, sustainable and inclusive economic growth, and stability in Africa,

through public-private partnerships, which incubate and accelerate inclusive business models in the agricultural sector.

2.2.3 APSA

APSA's objective is to sustainably scale up the productivity of key value chains, leading to better consumption of nutritious food and resilience of farm households. This is achieved through a farmer-centred approach, which capitalises on existing producer organisations (POs) to transform the production ecosystem in the Sikasso sub-area.

The APSA project is implemented by RTI International in collaboration with its consortium partners: Association des Organisations Professionnelles Paysannes (AOPP), Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO), International Fertilizer Development Centre (IFDC), Institut Polytechnique Rural de Formation et de Recherche Appliquée (IPR-IFRA), North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (NC A&T), Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (VSF).

2.3. Alignment with the country's agricultural policy

Through the approaches adopted by IFDC in the implementation of its programs and projects, in particular, the development of market systems, inclusive financing models, the development of Agricultural Business Hubs... , it fundamentally contributes to the achievement of three key objectives, in line with Mali's Agricultural Orientation Law (LOA): i) valuing local products in order to improve producers' incomes, ii) ensuring food security and iii) enable a long-term, sustainable agricultural development model based on family farms.

These IFDC actions in Mali reflect the strategic orientations and the expected effects and impacts of Mali's Agricultural Development Policy (PDA).

In general, IFDC's interventions in Mali fall within most of the main axes on which the ADI is based. The 2SCALE programme and the ISSD SAHEL project as well as APSA are part of the priority programmes drawn up

under the PDA and integrate the strategic sectors of the PDA (cotton, rice, vegetables, livestock, dry cereals, etc.).

2.3.1 ISSD-Sahel

Mali's agricultural orientation law considers the use of improved seeds, adapted to different ecological zones, as one of the main means to intensify food production and achieve their program to improve food security and self-sufficiency. Mali intends to resolutely tackle the challenges of modernizing its seed subsector, which, along with water management, is the driving force behind the structural transformation of the agricultural sector. The structuring and modernization of the seed subsector will take place against the backdrop of the redefinition of the seed policy and the development of a seed plan to operationalize the new seed policy. The lack of a seed sub-sector development policy and strategy is a major constraint to the availability and access to quality seeds. The State intends to reframe the current provisions governing the seed subsector, they are obsolete and no longer fit with the context of the current agricultural policy and with the provisions of the LOA that organizes the agricultural sector. The restructuring of the seed system also aims to enhance all categories of seeds, including farmers' seeds managed by farmers' seed systems.

Mali is at the forefront of the reflection for the recognition of peasant seed systems, farmers' organizations, as well as the West African Committee of Farmers' Seeds (national COASP) effectively carry this reflection. In addition, a national consultation framework on the official recognition of these systems was born in 2017 to bring the reflection to the national level. As part of Mali's policy to modernize the agricultural sector, the National Fund for the Development of Agriculture (FNDA) is planned. The implementation of the Seed Sector Support Project (PAFISEM) has made it possible to lay the first foundations for the structuring of the national seed sub-sector. This project had contributed to strengthening the capacities of the National Seed Service, thus allowing the sub-sector to benefit from significant structuring investments. Despite the significant efforts of PAFISEM, persistent dysfunctions and constraints continue to weigh on the proper functioning of the national seed system. ISSD-SAHEL supports all these above-mentioned initiatives for an effective transformation of the seed system in Mali.

2.3.2 2SCALE

2SCALE uses public-private partnerships (PPPs) to contribute to food and nutrition security, sustainable and inclusive economic growth, and stability, which aligns perfectly with the country's agricultural policy. In Mali, the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy is based on the Constitution and the various ratified international, continental and regional legal instruments. As part of the Strategic Framework for Economic Recovery and Sustainable Development, this national policy is based on sectoral, institutional and social reference framework documents, including: (i) the Mali 2025 National Prospective Study, whose overall priority objective is to reduce the incidence of poverty from 64% to 47.5% by 2025, through the implementation of all policies over the coming years, including the PoINSAN, (ii) the Agricultural Orientation Law (LOA) which is perfectly articulated with PoINSAN through its objective of achieving food security for populations through food sovereignty, (iii) the Agricultural Development Policy (PDA), (iv) the National Livestock Policy, the National

Gender Policy etc.

In view of these characteristics of the food and nutrition system, 2SCALE in Mali relies on 4 strategic product groups to contribute to the Malian State's food security policy. They are:

- Commodities/food crops
- Fresh/horticultural products
- Oilseeds & legumes
- Milk and animal proteins

2.3.3 APSA

Mali's Global Food Security Strategy GFSS programme consists of four distinct activities that are implemented by different partners, within the framework of joint results.

The three (3) key objectives of APSA are focused on strengthening cooperatives, increasing and supporting the adoption of climate-smart agriculture (CFS) technologies and practices, and improving farmers' decision-making capacity.

These objectives are consistent with Mali's National Food and Nutrition Security Policy, including: (i) the Mali 2025 National Prospective Study, whose overall priority objective is to reduce the incidence of poverty from 64% to 47.5% by 2025, through the implementation of all policies over the next few years, including PoINSAN, (ii) the Agricultural Orientation Law (LOA) which is perfectly articulated with PoINSAN through its objective of achieving food security for populations through food sovereignty, (iii) the Agricultural Development Policy (PDA), (iv) the National Livestock Policy, the National Gender Policy.

2.3.4 EnGRAIS

The Feed the Future Enhancing Growth through Regional Agricultural Input Systems (EnGRAIS) project for West Africa is a five-year USAID West Africa-funded project that seeks to address critical issues that constrain the effective supply and use of agricultural inputs in West Africa. EnGRAIS is expected to result in strong, positive, and lasting change toward improving the availability of and farmers' access to appropriate, affordable, and quality agricultural inputs. EnGRAIS works mainly with Regional Economic Communities included ECOWAS and WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION WAEMU, and fertilizer value chain actors from public and private sector in the region to create the necessary tools and environment to increase farmers productivity in the region.

2.3.5 AFO

AfricaFertilizer (AFO) is an initiative birthed in 2009 by IFDC, following the 2006 Abuja Declaration to increase Africa's fertilizer usage levels from 8kg/ha to at least 50kg/ha by 2015. AFO's mandate is to provide reliable, accurate, and timely fertilizer data and information to feed the fertilizer market information system in more than 18 sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries, including Mali.

3. Main activities in 2022 and results

3.1. ISSD-Sahel

3.1.1. Activities

In 2022, the coordination of the ISSD-Sahel project worked for effective coordination aimed at improving the production of first generation seeds, access and increased use of quality seeds by producers in the target regions of Mali. To inform performance indicators and report to the donor, coordination in collaboration with all consortium members developed an effective monitoring and evaluation system and proceeded to collect data from the baseline study from rural households.

The key actors and partners of the project were also trained in the methodology of data collection and management, particularly in the maintenance of the register used as the primary source of data. The consortium retreat was organized with all members for the collaborative development of an action plan and joint budget for 2023. Workshops to document and disseminate lessons learned during exchange visits to Uganda and Burundi (EKN funded ISSD Uganda and Private seed Sector Development (PSSD) project in Burundi) were organized in Mali.

The consortium finalized the literature review on the seed sectors in Mali. Twenty (20) themes were selected as 'Strategic Innovation' during the national workshops to validate the results of the assessment of the seed sector in Mali. These results of the assessment of the seed sector contributed to the development of the roadmaps for the transformation of the seed sector in Mali. These final documents of the roadmaps obtained have been published and validated by all national technical partners and politicians in Mali.

Field activities focused mainly on training and technical and commercial capacity building of the project's direct partners, including ASSEMA (Association des semenciers du Mali) and the cooperative members of the PHTC (Post-Harvest and Trading Center). Plots for seed production and demonstration of good agricultural practices have been set up, accompanied by the organization of guided tours and fairs.

3.1.2. Results

In 2022, the project was able to meet or exceed targets for some indicators.

The number of rural households having adopted the use of quality seeds of one of the crops targeted by the project is 22526 against 22500 planned in Mali. The number of family farms affected by the promotion of the use of seeds is 38500 against 22500 planned in Mali, i.e. an achievement rate of 171%. 38,070 tonnes of pre-basic and basic seeds were produced by the project in 2022, representing 16% of the total production of first generation seeds on the varieties promoted by the project in Mali. 65 private enterprises and cooperatives benefited from the technical and commercial assistance of the project against 75 planned. The number of points of sale set up by the project through co-financing is 30 against 20 planned. The number of jobs created in the enterprises/cooperatives assisted by the project is 277 young people and women compared to 225 planned. The number of private producers trained on business management modules by the ISSD Sahel project is 14 compared to 5 planned. The number of seed production demonstration plots set up is 124 against 180 planned.



FIGURE 2. Key results of the ISSD SAHEL project in Mali in 2022

In order to increase the production of first generation seeds (pre-base and base) and to reduce the recurrent sales experienced by actors in the seed sector, introductory workshops on the pre-order system were organized in Mali. Contracts for the production and sale of seeds of priority varieties were signed between stakeholders, and action plans developed to experiment with pre-order systems specific to each priority speculation of the project. Practical training in quality control and germination tests, introduction to data collection tools were organized for seed companies.

The project trained 24 inspectors and controllers, 25 LABOSEM agents in Mali on seed inspection and quality control techniques. In Mali's efforts to improve the enforcement of seed quality regulations in Mali, training was organized for 25 seed companies that are members of the Mali Seed Association (ASSEMA) that have benefited from the points of sale. The project has started the establishment of learning plots, community seed production with nine (09) PHTC in Mali. ISSD SAHEL has also initiated negotiations between Dutch and Malian companies to establish direct commercial links to promote vegetable seeds of Dutch companies through model co-financing contracts. This commercial partnership involves the Sahelian seed companies that are members of the project partners, namely ASSEMA on the one hand, and the Dutch seed companies that are members of "Plantum" including East West Seed, Bakker and Brothers (Mali), Hazera and HZPC (Mali) on the other hand. Contracts for the promotion of vegetable seeds of Dutch origin are in the process of being signed.

The year 2022 was a year marked by an upsurge in insecurity in the priority areas of the project with reduced access for producers to agricultural inputs (seeds and fertilizers especially). This constraint has also been exacerbated by the war in Ukraine, further complicating producers' access to quality mineral fertilizers from Russia and Ukraine (NPK, Urea). In 2023, the project plans to focus on strengthening contract farming through the organization of B2B (Business to Business) and B2C (Busi-

ness to Consumers) workshops. These workshops aim to improve trade relations between actors in the seed value chain, producers' access to quality inputs (seeds and fertilizers), seasonal micro-credits and agricultural product markets. One of the business models aimed at improving trade relations is the pre-order model for first generation seeds between ASSEMA and national research systems.

3.2. 2SCALE

3.2.1. Activities

2SCALE is a programme based on public-private partnerships for the implementation of its activities. The active partnerships in Mali in 2022 were:

1. ML 05-SCS
2. ML 21- Siguida Yeelen
3. ML 22- Translait
4. ML 23- Keitala Negoce
5. ML 24- Zabbaan
6. ML 25- Transformers-Fonio
7. ML 26- SOPROTRILAD
8. ML 27 - Wasaso

COVID, ECOWAS embargo and insecurity were the major constraints for the 2SCALE programme in Mali during the year. These constraints have contributed to restricting the operations of programme actors. Despite these challenges, 2SCALE Mali has made significant progress in 2022. The major activities that marked the year 2022 were:

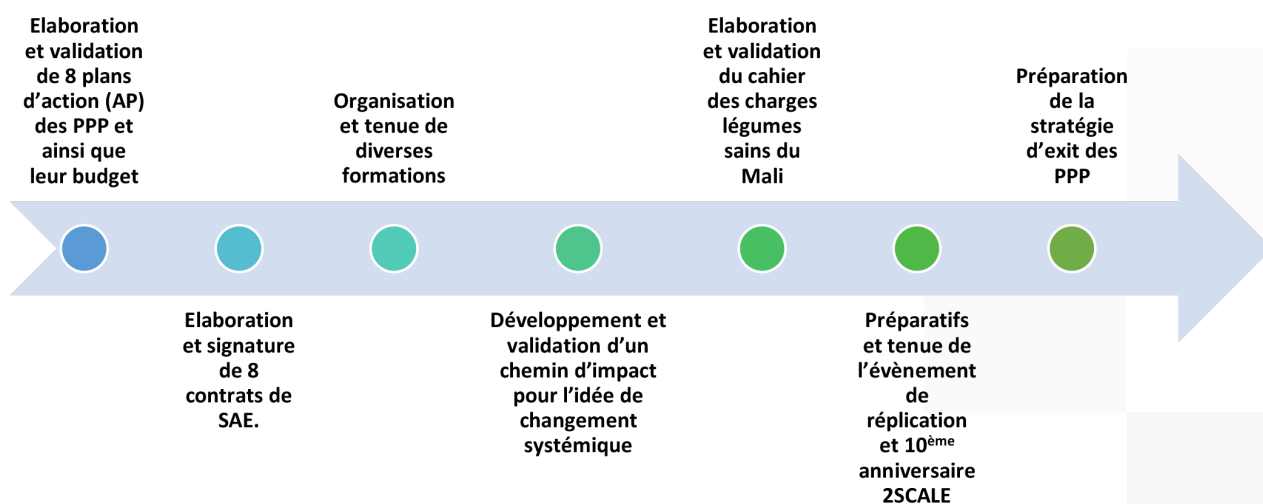


FIGURE 3. The major activities of 2SCALE in Mali in 2022

2Scale's activities revolve around various themes, most of which are translated into indicators, namely: Marketing BoP, small producers and their access to various services, green innovations, gender and youth inclusion, financial inclusion...

On the marketing and distribution side of BoP, many partnerships have worked to develop new products to attract low-income consumers. We also note the activation of the Translait market, the development of communication tools on the nutritional values of the products developed, campaigns on changing consumer eating habits, product certification, and the establishment of community schools. have been completed.

In the field of training of agri-food clusters and access to inputs and services, the major activities to remember are the training of staff and coaches on the training and development strategy of AEPs, the recruitment of a consultant to help with the implementation of PEA activities and an ABC specialist.

In relation to the theme of inclusive green innovations in the value chain system, for access to producers' inputs, a SPA (Supportive Partnership Agreement) was signed with Doun Ka Fa for the replication of the "Doni-Doni" service, a financial system and product that facilitates access to inputs to small producers on time.

The initiatives to facilitate access to quality and climate change inputs promoted by UPL in Côte d'Ivoire have been replicated in Mali through MPC in the SCS and Siguida Yeleen partnerships. A SPA will be effective in 2023 to formalize this partnership between 2SCALE and MPC Mali.

As part of Market System Development (MSD); after the development of intervention plans, three (3) partnership agreements were signed between IFDC, SCS; MALI fertilizer and Agriplus to facilitate smallholder farmers' access to quality inputs.

Women's economic empowerment and youth inclusion

With regard to women's economic empowerment, trainings were held on the YA strategy, the concepts of gender, gender equality, equality and equity, and the importance of promoting gender equality for all.

With regard to the inclusion of young people, several training sessions and follow-up meetings were organized on the themes of access to finance, start-up capital, targeting employment opportunities for young people in the value chain. In addition, to promote youth as an asset for business, young agripreneurs are strengthened on the OYE (Push-Match-Pull) strategy and life skills and linked to partnerships for the creation of sustainable opportunities for the different parties.

Regarding financial inclusion, the key activities of the period were the facilitation of access to financial services to small producers, MSMEs, PMEs, the development and signing of the collaboration protocol with CARE Mali and the launch of the 3rd crowdfunding cohort of 2SCALE.

The establishment and signing of a collaboration agreement with CARE Mali aims to boost financial inclusion activities.

As for the replication event, 2SCALE organized the commemoration of its tenth anniversary to share its successful experiences of inclusive business models with a wider audience. This replication event was based on proven and documented business models and practices.

As for the idea of systemic change, around the PPP SCS, the idea is "to organize the production of healthy vegetables in Mali according to a common and recognized Quality Guarantee standard". A steering committee set up by SCS companies; Sanzara, Macha.sarl, Latyland Organique Farmer has set up an 'Informal Alliance for Change (AIC)

which now has more than 100 committed actors (Producers, Input Suppliers, Transporters, Processors, Support Structures etc.) of the market gardening value chain in Mali. This, to support intensive production, marketing and large-scale processing of healthy vegetables of good quality anoleptic.org at affordable prices with a system of traceability and guarantee of safe quality for the benefit of ordinary Malian consumers. The specifications of healthy vegetables of Mali were validated on November 10, 2022 at the MEMORIALE MODIBO KEITA of BAMAKO under the high patronage of the Minister of Rural Development.

As for the idea of systemic change, around the PPP SCS, the idea is "to organize the production of healthy vegetables in Mali according to a common and recognized Quality Guarantee standard". A steering committee set up by SCS companies; Sanzara, Macha.sarl, Latyland Organique Farmer has set up an 'Informal Alliance for Change (AIC)' which now has more than 100 committed actors (Producers, Input Suppliers, Transporters, Processors, Support Structures etc.) of the market gardening value chain in Mali. Mali's healthy vegetable specifications have been validated with a traceability system for certification.

3.2.2. Results

Despite the many challenges mentioned above, 2SCALE has enabled vulnerable communities to continue to consolidate and increase their capacity for inclusion in value chains and to develop resilience strategies to the negative consequences of climate change. The cumulative results obtained in 2022 are:

- ✓ Improved access to nutritious food for **325175** low-income consumers, **(Mali's target is 150,000)**
- ✓ Also improving livelihoods for smallholder farmers 129383 integrating them into value chains to sustainably improve productivity and increase incomes, target **110,000**.
- ✓ **2772 MSMEs** connected to inclusive value chains and **7721 jobs** created
- ✓ Nearly **33651** ha carried out of a target of 54,000 in eco-efficient production, achievement rate **62.31%**.
- ✓ **€2,263,695** mobilized by companies as the value of financial services
- ✓ A sub-sectoral change trajectory plan for improving vegetable quality developed and being implemented
- ✓ Specifications for the production of healthy vegetables have been developed and validated
- ✓ Strong involvement of Mali's public institutions in supporting the idea of sectoral change;
- ✓ Through the MSD (Market System Development) approach, a system of access to shared risk inputs of private actors is set up and functional for access to inputs for small producers
- ✓ Development of new products (natural yogurt, banana, vanilla), based on fresh cow's milk and soy (soy milk, soy skewers, soy flours etc.)

The number of BoP consumers included in the food system (UI1) has increased considerably in 2022, several factors can explain this trend, including the increase in the number of PPPs that have contributed to this objective and especially the sale of large stocks of rice and soybeans respectively by the Rice Production and Processing Company in the Lake Debo Area (SOPROTRILAD) and Keitala Négoce



FIGURE 4. Key results of the 2SCALE Project in Mali in 2022

3.3. APSA

3.3.1 Activités

In accordance with its action plan, the APSA project, implemented by a consortium composed of RTI, IFDC, ICCO, AOPP, VSF, IPR-IFRA, NCA&T carried out the activities related to the selection of the new VEAs (Village Extension Agent) in the areas of intervention of the project on the basis of a strategy and criteria for identifying leading producers in their locality and who are able to technically accompany other small producers on the techniques and innovations promoted by the project.

This selection was made during the regional workshops held in Sikasso, Koutiala and Bougouni. Also, technological and thematic packages have been identified for the benefit of partner cooperatives in the Bougouni, Koutiala and Sikasso area. Specific training in vegetable production techniques, rapid composting in piles and pits and improved traditional poultry farming were sent to VEAs and Leaders of partner cooperatives.

As a result, the dissemination plots of technology packages on target crops (maize, millet, sorghum, rice, cowpea and groundnuts) were managed with advisory support and follow-up by VEAs. In addition, the project conducted trainings on improved plant and climate-resilient

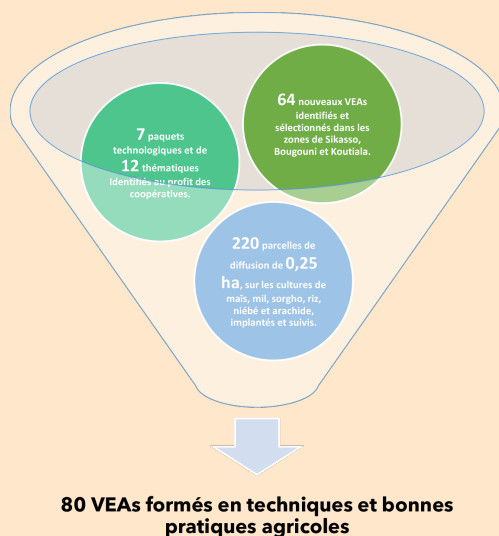
seed production and certification techniques, small ruminant breeding, fodder production, storage, conservation, and good harvesting and post-harvest practices for cereals and legumes. Finally, guided visits to the dissemination plots of PPU and Microdose technologies were carried out. Partner cooperatives and VEAs/leaders participated in fairs, stock exchanges, Open Days (JPO) etc.

3.3.2 Results

In 2022 the project was able to achieve significant results, including the identification and selection of 64 new VEAs in the areas of Sikasso, Bougouni and Koutiala. Added to this is the identification of 7 technology packages and 12 themes for the benefit of cooperatives.

A total of 80 VEAs were trained in market gardening, rapid heap and pit composting, improved poultry farming, small ruminant breeding and fodder production and conservation, on the technique of production and certification of improved plant seeds, and on good harvesting and post-harvest practices for cereals and legumes. 220 dissemination plots of 0.25 ha on maize, millet, sorghum, rice, cowpea and groundnut crops have been set up with the organization of guided tours.

FIGURE 5. Key results of the APSA Project in Mali in 2022



3.4. EnGRAIS

3.4.1. EnGRAIS Key Activities Targeting Mali in 2022

In 2022, EnGRAIS released the revised version of the **Fertilizer and Seed Recommendations Map for West Africa (FeSeRWAM version 2.0)** www.feserwam.com. From the onset of the development process of the online platform, researchers from **IER (Institut d'Economie Rurale)** and other stakeholders in Mali were involved in providing critical data and participating actively in all activities to deliver the final FeSeRWAM product. Following the development process of this making decision tool, training was organized in main agricultural area in the countries to national trainers included extension agents, agro dealers, and local NGOs that have now the main role to disseminate in-country agro-input package (AIPs) from the FeSeRWAM to Malian Farmers.

Using the same process EnGRAIS and through a collaboration with PR-PICA, national trainers from in Cotton areas have now the know-how and conducted national- and farmer-level training programs on the efficient use of the AIPs.

Through collaboration between EnGRAIS, the **African Plant Nutrition Institute (APNI)**, and the **West Africa Fertilizer Association (WAFa)**, fertilizer private sector stakeholders from Mali were trained, among other stakeholders, on the 4Rs principles for appropriate and responsible nutrient management, especially fertilizer use.

In 2022, EnGRAIS officially released the new Fertilizer Bulk Blending Guide for West Africa. Mali fertilizer value chain actors were actively involved along the development process to the launch event. EnGRAIS worked with blenders across the region, including those in Mali to gather information to develop the Guide.

To improve access to knowledge about fertilizer costs along selected strategic corridors in West Africa, EnGRAIS launched the new version of the **West Africa Fertilizer Cost Simulator**, together with all reports and factsheets related to a cost build-up study based on which the Simulator was developed. The virtual launch event was attended by many Mali stakeholders. This tool will allow to make strategic decisions according to the most advantageous fertilizer route to use in order to reduce the cost of acquisition to producers.

The EnGRAIS project organized a virtual pre-consultation regulatory capacity strengthening meeting of the **West African Committee for Fertilizer Control (WACoFeC)**, which included stakeholders from Ministry of Agriculture, and discussed the state of readiness of **ECOWAS Member States** including Mali to establish WACoFeC to address challenges confronting fertilizer quality control efforts.

In a Training of Trainers workshop on techniques and procedures for fertilizer inspection and quality control in West Africa and the Sahel, EnGRAIS included trainees from Mali as well as other West African countries.

3.4.2. Results

The FeSeRWAM platform is responding to the specific agro-ecological needs on appropriate fertilizer, improved seed, and good agronomic practices of Mali farmers to increase their yields.

Currently, EnGRAIS has developed **50 Mali country-specific AIPs** in a brochure to help farmers in Mali increase their productivity and improve their livelihoods.

Technical private sector actors who participated in the **4Rs Nutrient Stewardship training** have acquired the necessary skills to train and advise farmers on best management practices for fertilizer use.

This **Fertilizer Bulk Blending Guide for West Africa** addresses the challenges of poor fertilizer blending practices and harmonizes blending activities to align with internationally accepted standards that help blenders in Mali improve quality of their bulk fertilizer blends.

The Cost Simulator benefits all fertilizer supply chain actors, including those in Mali as it is a free cost management tool for sourcing, importing, blending, and trading fertilizers in West Africa.

Over **500 copies (in French and English) of the WAFBIG** were printed and distributed across West African countries to provide advice, data, and information to a range of stakeholders, including those in Mali, on fertilizer prices and market crisis, and update stakeholders on up-to-date fertilizer trade and consumption.

Following the launch of version 2.0 of the FeSeRWAM, EnGRAIS carried out in-country agro-input package (AIP) and the FeSeRWAM dissemination activities in several countries, including Mali, (reaching

about **600 national trainers** who will in turn train farmers,) and conducted national- and farmer-level training programs in seven Francophone countries, including Mali, on the use of AIPs. Malian farmers were appropriately guided in the use of FeSeRWAM/AIPs through the development of an AIP brochure specifically for Mali stakeholders to improve their productivity.

The **WACoFeC** is to assist **ECOWAS** and **UEMOA Commissions**, as well as the Executive Secretariat of CILSS, to implement **ECOWAS Regulation C/REG.13/12/12** in countries like Mali, focusing on fertilizer quality control, in a bid to develop an efficient fertilizer sector in Member States and add value to agricultural productivity.

As a result of the technical training on fertilizer inspection and quality control, the Mali delegates gained a good understanding of the key provisions of the ECOWAS regulations, fertilizer quality control, the different inspection modalities, and their specific procedures. The delegates were also equipped enough to train other fertilizer inspectors in Mali to improve fertilizer quality in the country.

3.5. AFO

3.5.1. Activities

In response to current trends in the **fertilizer sector across SSA in 2022**, AfricaFertilizer.org rebranded as AfricaFertilizer and launched a revamped [AfricaFertilizer.org](https://www.africafertilizer.org) website, during a hybrid event in Nairobi, Kenya. Key Mali fertilizer value chain actors participated in the event.

Working with national partners, AfricaFertilizer organized its annual **Fertilizer Technical Working Groups (FTWG)** meeting in Mali and brought strategic national fertilizer industry players together to discuss, validate, and publish Mali national fertilizer data.

Following the FTWG event, AFO published national fertilizer statistics overview and output tables, which are summaries of discussions of the FTWG fertilizer validated data, to guide industry decision making across the board in Mali. The overview contains Mali's monthly fertilizer imports, production, apparent consumptions, and comments from participants of the FTWG meeting.

Throughout nine months of 2022, AFO published its **FertiNews, a monthly e-newsletter**, which captures fertilizer data, statistics, and related information across SSA, and disseminated it widely to various stakeholders, including those in Mali, which fertilizer supply chain actors in Mali took advantage of to make critical decisions.

In 2022, AFO published the Africa Fertilizer Watch which captures fertilizer industry highlights in various countries across West, East, and Southern Africa, including Mali. The highlights, which includes fertilizer availability and affordability, provided updates for industry comparison, analysis, and decision making to benefit industry actors, including those in Mali. AFO collected and compiled information on fertilizer plants from fertilizer manufacturers, blenders and organic plant owners in Mali and published the 6th edition of the annual Fertilizer Plant Register, a product that showcases various fertilizer plants and their capacities across sub-Saharan Africa, excluding South Africa. Fertilizer plants in Mali were duly captured in the Register.

To provide a summary of Mali's trade data information of a **10 years' time series** on fertilizer import and apparent consumption, AFO published the Mali Fertilizer Country Factsheet which gave a snapshot of fertilizer production, blending plant sites, and crop and season calendar of Mali.

3.5.2 Results

AFO's revamped website provides in-depth data on fertilizer supply chains and availability of over 18 SSA countries which Mali can take advantage of to build its national fertilizer supply chain.

By participating in the AFO rebranding and launching event, Malian fertilizer stakeholders seized the opportunity to abreast themselves of happenings in the industry across SSA to promote their individual work and support their national fertilizer industry agenda.

The outcomes of AFO's FTWG meeting in Mali produced credible fertilizer data and information which are critical for the government of Mali and business enterprises to make informed decisions.

Fertilizer statistics and market comments produced and disseminated in AFO's e-newsletter, FertiNews, exposed key fertilizer stakeholders in Mali to happenings around the continent, which they took advantage of in their day-to-day activities.

The inclusion of Mali's fertilizer plants and their capacities in AFO's 6th edition of the SSA Fertilizer Plant Register has the potential to stir up interest in investing in fertilizer plants to increase fertilizer production in Mali.

AFO's fertilizer country factsheet about Mali provided Mali's trade data information of a 10 years' time series on fertilizer import and apparent consumption. Stakeholders can use this document as a reference resource for their operations.

4. Success stories and testimonials

4.1. ISSD-SAHEL

Karim Mallé, Director of the ZAMOHO seed company in Koutiala

Thanks to the support of the ISSD-SAHEL project in packaging and local points of sale, ZAMOHO has increased its turnover by more than 35 million CFA francs. ZAMOHO has set up demonstration plots not far from the points of sale with open days on the technical routes of seed production to be promoted in order to generate demand in the area of Sorobaso, Diomatènè and Koualé.



FIGURE 6. Local points of sale and rice varietal plot of the ZAMOHO company in Sorobaso, Koutiala Region in Mali

Additional information on the ISSD SAHEL project can be found on the IFDC website, through the following links:

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- Integrated Seed Sector Development in the Sahel (ISSD/Sahel) – IFDC
- IFDC, Partners Launch Seed Program in Mali and Niger – IFDC
- IFDC Holds Kickoff Meeting for the Integrated Seed Sector Development in the Sahel (ISSD/Sahel) Project – IFDC
- Exchange Visit Between the ISSD/Sahel Project and the PSSD Project – IFDC

4.2. 2SCALE

“I started taking small amounts of 20 to 40 liters of fresh milk per week. Today I sell more than 2388 liters per month” confides Diop Astan with a beaming face, she tells us her story.

I am Mrs. DIOP Astan Coulibaly, I started selling milk through my little brother who made me discover the activity. I started taking small amounts (20 to 40 liters of fresh milk per week). My membership in the district’s local milk processors cooperative facilitated the acquisition of equipment (kiosks, freezer) and my milk supply as I receive my milk home. Thanks to the support of 2SCALE (market study on local milk, training in business model canvas (BMC), quality standards of local milk), milk transformation techniques into yogurt (yogurt without aroma, flavored yogurt), the implementation of a logo and a marketing and distribution strategy including trolley model for local distribution and itinerant milk sales etc.), I increased my turnover. Today I sell more than 2388 liters per month, a monthly turnover of 1 433 000 FCFA and a net profit of 238 800 FCFA. My sales products consist mainly of pasteurized fresh milk, fènè (fermented), ghee, yogurt etc. Thanks to this activity, I became a support to my family (children, brothers)”.



Astan Coulibaly milk kiosk



FIGURE 7. Testimonial from Astan Coulibaly, Trans Milk Partnership



Promotion of rice by parboilers in Siguida Yellen, Ségou



Valorization of rice from Lake Debo, Mopti

FIGURE 8. Promotion and valorization of rice by women parboilers in Siguida Yellen and at Lake Debo



SCS Market, Bamako

Specification validation workshop

Composting techniques



Activation Translait market, Bamako

Model chicken coop, Wasaso



Distribution of Zabbaan Holding products

Product Development, Complementary Soy Flour, Keitala Negoce

Launch of Keitala Negoce products by the Ministers of Handicrafts and Rural Development, Sikasso

4.3. APSA


 "I have been a corn farmer for over 30 years. Today, I cultivate on 15 hectares. At the beginning of the agricultural season, following Sene Yiriwa's trainings, the extension worker of our cooperative taught us how to make compost in piles and how to use it. At first, I was really reluctant, so I only did it on one (1) hectare. I was pleasantly surprised by the result. On the hectare my yield was similar to that of 2 hectares the previous year. Next year, I will apply it to more surfaces," explained



FIGURE 10. Oumar Koné, producteur de maïs Coopérative de Diambala, Commune de Bougouni, Région de Bougouni/Debo


 "Feed The Future Sene Yiriwa taught us how to do in-line sowing and transplanting rice. Then we learned how to use the microdose on millet sorghum and do the deep placement of urea on rice. These are technologies that I used for the first time this year. With the on-the-fly seeding, I had 3 tons of yield on 2 hectares. With its new technologies, this year, I am sure to have 6 tons and 500 kilograms. I thank USAID and Feed The Future Mali Sene Yiriwa for this support," said Sata Traoré.



FIGURE 11. Sata Traoré, rice producer, Diomo Cooperative, Zangasso Commune, Koutiala Region



"In our village, 90% of the population grows rice. It is our main food. Rice cultivation is a traditional activity. However, with climate change, poor soils and high agricultural inputs, we can no longer cope. To address these difficulties, since 2021 we have been working with Feed The Future Mali Sene Yiriwa. Through this project, we saw the need to adopt new techniques and technologies. We understood that to have more yields, we must abandon certain traditional practices and train. With the support of Feed the Future, we organized the women's leaders into a group of 30 people. This group participates in all rice cultivation trainings. They will then make the restitution to the other members of the cooperative.



FIGURE 12. Arouna Doumbia, rice producer, Siguidiya Cooperative, Koumantou Commune, Bougouni Region



"Thanks to the advice and training of Feed The Future Mali Sènè Yiriwa, with the unavailability and high cost of chemical fertilizer, I turned to the production and intense use of organic manure. For my two hectares, I used about 200 carts of organic manure and this year I hope to make a record harvest. According to the agricultural service, the average yield per hectare is 20-25 bags (100 kg). I had barely 40 bags in previous years. But this year, God willing, I hope to exceed 50 bags (of 100 kg) bags thanks to the efforts made and the contribution of organic fertilizer"



FIGURE 13. : Bakary Mariko, maize producer of the Badenya Ton Cooperative, Commune of Zantiébougou, Bougouni Region



Sikasso Regional Workshop



Producer Working Group



Bougouni Regional Workshop



Stack production technique of FO



Cage Making Session



Transplanting session of seedlings



VC participants of a plot of sorghum in MD by the women of Koutiala



Nursery protection board making sessions

4.4. EnGRAIS



EnGRAIS AIPs Training in MALI

4.5. AFO



AFO FTWG Meeting in Mali

5. IFDC Institutional activities / IFDC participation in external activities

In addition to the activities carried out within the framework of the various projects implemented by IFDC in Mali, IFDC organized numerous institutional activities and participated in many activities organized either by the Malian government or by other partners.

5.1. Organization of the open days of IFDC's 20th anniversary in Mali.

The main activity organized by IFDC in 2022 in Mali was its Open House. These open days were held from May 12 to 13, 2022. IFDC's objectives were to:

- ✓ Inform its public and private partners about its twenty years of existence in Mali, and about the different projects it has implemented that contribute to improving the country's agricultural production and productivity.
- ✓ To create a framework of meeting and opportunity for fruitful collaboration between institutions, experts and professionals



FIGURE 14. *The ambiance during the IFDC open house in Mali on May 12-13, 2022*

sharing the same interests to share experiences and show the impacts of IFDC activities at the global, regional and national levels

The event was placed under the high patronage of **Mr. Modibo KEITA, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development**, and had as its theme: **"IFDC, 20 years in Mali, Development of Agriculture from the Grassroots"** and brought together more than 200 partners. The presentations focused on sharing IFDC's interventions, including a) significantly boosting agricultural production of better quality through the adoption of efficient agricultural technologies based on rational and optimal use of water resources, land, seeds and fertilizers and also respectful of the environment ; b) promoting resilient systems and climate-smart agricultural technologies among small farmers to improve their income and food security situation.

Emphasis was put on working with partners, building local capacity, working with smallholder farmers, promoting the participation and engagement of women and youth, and creating employment opportunities for youth in agribusiness partnerships.

IFDC took advantage of these days to proceed with the signing of an agreement with the CAA of Samanko to open a learning environment for students and also to share information between IFDC and the faculty. The interventions in Mali were for the occasion brought to the general public through Actu Hebdo, a program initiated by ORTM.



FIGURE 15. *Demonstration of urea briquette production*

The open days were successful, IFDC was solicited by several other structures to weave synergies of collaboration for the development of projects and or programs.

5.2. Signing of a partnership agreement between IFDC and the Agricultural Learning Center of Samanko (CAA DE SAMANKO): Youth employment, IFDC and CAA hand in hand in Mali

The Mali Government, for the modernization and development of the agricultural sector, has made it a point of honor to create the Samanko Agricultural Learning Center which is directly attached to the National Directorate of Agriculture. In alignment with the Malian government's policy, IFDC has signed a partnership agreement with the CAA for a period of two (2) years renewable and focused on the training of students in the areas of expertise of IFDC through its projects and programs.

This agreement binds IFDC and CAA in the contribution of CAA students in research on agricultural and agri-food development, the accompaniment and supervision of students during internships at IFDC, the provision of cross expertise of the two partner institutions, the development of results and data, the development of joint projects. Mr. Yaya Coulibaly, Director of the Samanko



FIGURE 16. *Signing of a partnership agreement between IFDC and the Agricultural Learning Center of Samanko (CAA DE SAMANKO)*

Agricultural Learning Center said: **"The Samanko AAC, through this partnership will provide IFDC with students for internships, facilitate the continuous training of IFDC staff, provide IFDC with scientific, technical and human resources, premises and other**

logistical resources, and collaborate with IFDC in the development and implementation of its projects and programs, this is a good opportunity for us."

5.3. Staff event –Team Building

The IFDC headquarters provided the country offices with a team bonus that allowed the country representative to organize a team meeting and celebrate the good results achieved during the year. This bonus was an opportunity to revitalize teamwork through a dinner organized for this purpose on December 30, 2022 in the IFDC office.



FIGURE 17. : IFDC team building event

5.4. Site visit

The Smallholder Agricultural Productivity Enhancement Program in Sub-Saharan Africa (SAPEP), 2015-2021, \$2.72 million, Islamic Development Bank is supporting West African smallholder farmers to overcome productivity challenges related to soils, seeds, training and market access. The program helps increase smallholder farmers' use of ISFM technologies and improve their access to improved seeds, financial services, and product markets along the agricultural value chain. This program ended in 2021, but one of the key achievements supported by IFDC was the construction of a soil testing laboratory, a first in Mali. IFDC, IER and the SAPEP coordinator made a field visit to assess the progress of the laboratory construction located in the IER courtyard in Sotuba. IER and SAPEP welcome the support of IFDC, a second joint visit is planned for March 2022 to identify the equipment needs of the laboratory.



FIGURE 18. : A field field visit to the Soil Testing Laboratory in the IER courtyard in Sotuba

5.5. Restitution workshop of the study on the management of the agricultural subsidy (E-Voucher) in Mali

At the invitation of the Ministry of Rural Development, IFDC participated in November 2022 in the restitution workshop of the study on the management of the agricultural subsidy (E-Voucher) in Mali. The objective of this study was to contribute to improving crop production and productivity by developing soil fertility maps as part of the agricultural fertilizer subsidy (E-Voucher). "Portable laboratories" for soil analysis called SoilDoc Kits, training on the use of these kits, soil sampling, in situ analyses and at the Soil-Water-Plant Laboratory (LSEP) in Sotuba, collection of producers' perception and supervision on soil fertility management and restitution of the results obtained to producers were carried out. This is part of the Project to Support the Implementation of the Pilot Soil Analysis Program funded by the World Bank.

IFDC with these interventions on soil management and fertility was requested by the Ministry of Rural Development through a letter of request for collaboration, which led us to the development of a MoU in

November 2022. IFDC is closely following the initiative implemented and improving the MoU in order to expand its lines of collaboration with the Ministry of Rural Development.

In addition, the ERC congratulated IFDC for its support for the construction of a laboratory for the analysis of fertilizers and soil, "a first in Mali", IFDC had entrusted this work to SAPEP (Implementation Partner). Today the fertilizer and soil analysis laboratory is built, and IER is seeking IFDC's support and consulting expertise to equip the laboratory.

5.6. Participation in the 3rd edition of the investment forum in the cotton sector in Mali

The investment forum in the cotton sector in Mali was organized by the Association des Jeunes pour la Valorisation du Coton (AJVC). The workshop was attended by executives from public and private administrations, members of the AJVC, technical and financial partners as well as the press. The purpose of this workshop is to exchange with stakeholders on issues related to the development of the cotton value chain.

IFDC having worked on the cotton sector through WACIP and C4P projects to occupy a place of honor at this ceremony. IFDC's participation was mainly to prospect the field in order to identify other partners and establish a Project idea with production of a concept note to one or more donors. Discussions are under way to lead to a project on cotton.

5.7. Participation at the Panafricain de la cotonnade (FEPAC) festival in Kita

During this meeting, the Compagnie Malienne de Développement du Textile (CMDT) shared with the partners the results of the 2021/2022 season, which was crowned with success with a production of more than 777,000 tons, placing Mali at the forefront of cotton producing countries in Africa. To meet the major challenges of the WTDC, the company has put in place an agricultural production plan, an industrial production plan and a commercial plan.

During this festival, IFDC focused on the results obtained during the implementation of WACIP and C4P projects in Mali through the distribution of cotton training tools.

This festival was an opportunity to share experience on the practice of kits (deep urea placement) in order to raise producers' awareness of the excessive use of urea.

5.8. Participation in the launch of the Agribusiness Deal room in Mali organized by AGRA

The Agribusiness DealRoom is Africa's first matchmaking platform organized by AGRF to catalyze investments in African agriculture.

The launch of Mali's Agribusiness Dealroom was an opportunity to showcase opportunities in Mali's public and private sectors to investors, financial institutions, development partners and other stakeholders seeking partnerships. Beyond the showcase, it was also an opportunity to deepen the commitment of all actors and mobilize increased investment and partnerships in the country.

Participation in the launch of the Dealroom allowed IFDC to share information about the ISSD project and 2SCALE in Mali with private sector actors. Thanks to this ASEMA meeting, one of the strategic partners of the ISSD project was able to travel to Rwanda to participate in the forum in order to establish contact with the new partners and communicate on his business idea.

5.9. Participation in the launch of resilience-building activities for vulnerable communities

The Minister of Rural Development Mr. Modibo Keita chaired SIKASSO on December 6, 2022 at the launch of a series of activities initiated by Sugu Yiriwa Mali Sud.

A distribution of kits was effective as part of the strengthening of the

resilience capacity of vulnerable communities participating in FEED THE FUTURE Sugu Yiriwa Mali including women and youth on additional funding from the US Government through USAID for an estimated amount of 400 million FCFA.

Keitala Négoce, one of the companies supported by 2SCALE, benefited from this support and a stock of seed was purchased from the company and redistributed in areas of high soybean production.

6. IFDC investments in Mali in 2022

The following table summarizes the cost of implementing activities and maintaining IFDC Representation in the country in 2022.

Tableau 1. Summary of IFDC investment in Mali in 2022

ACTIVITES	FCFA
Project 1 : ISSD-SAHEL	
Equipment / Other	40 000 000 +142 768 858
Salary/Operating	205 000 000
Subsidy to actors	100 000 000
Sub total 1	487 768 885
Project 2 : 2SCALE	
Equipment / Other	76 850 125
Salary/Operating	273 016 518
Subsidy to actors	238 813 609
Sub total 2	588 680 252
Project 3 : APSA	
Equipment	
Salary/Operating	66 365 469
Subsidy to actors	
Sub total 3	66 365 469
TOTAL	1 142 814 579

7. Conclusions and outlook

Responding to the multiple global crisis characterized by COVID-19, the war in Ukraine and the effects of climate change that are causing food insecurity; All development actors, both those in the private and public sectors, have their part to play in meeting the world's food needs. To do this, IFDC through its projects and programs rely on its expertise and experiences to strengthen the resilience of smallholder farmers by promoting good agricultural practices, the principles of integrated soil fertility management, the adoption of climate-smart agriculture, technological innovations, market access. IFDC also develops networks of actors to facilitate the inclusion of small producers (youth and women), and their access to various services including access to inputs, financial services through its AEO approach and the development of market systems.

The success of our projects, companies, or any other activity necessarily requires continuous training, capacity building and the application of knowledge and experience accumulated over the years. Agricultural actors, like any other actor called upon to play a role in the development of our countries and meet the food needs of our populations, need more than ever technical support and capacity building to be able to provide quality products and services

allowing them to compete on the market and benefit from their respective activities. It is in this sense that IFDC, in its interventions, focuses in part on advisory support and technical capacity building.

To accentuate its interventions in Mali and its impact on smallholder farmers, 2023 represents a landmark year for IFDC due to the current crises, including the soaring fertilizer prices caused by the Ukrainian crisis and the lack of inputs at the local level. Thus, it will be a question for IFDC, through its programs and projects, to focus on supporting its actors in the adoption of good agricultural practices, in particular, the development of organic fertilizers, compost, the use of seeds requiring less fertilizer, the adoption of conservation agriculture. It will also be a question of developing new opportunities to support the Malian government in the implementation of its policy and the achievement of its agricultural objectives. To this end, IFDC will scrutinize the various calls for proposals aimed at improving Mali's agricultural system, supporting producers in their efforts to cope with climatic hazards and improving their production and income, adapting agriculture to the climate by promoting good cultural practices, promoting soil preservation and fertility.

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