



ACTIVITY REPORT

2022

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ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

AFRAD	Aide à la Fertilisation Raisonnée des Cultures pour une Agriculture Durable au Niger (Support for rational crop fertilization for sustainable agriculture in Niger)
BAS	Special Allocation Budget
BI	Input Shop
BoP Inc	Base-of-the-Pyramid Innovation Centre
CAIMA.....	Centrale d'Approvisionnement en Intrants et Matériels Agricoles (Agricultural inputs and equipment supply center)
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
CONACEN.....	National Fertilizer Control Committee
COTEN	Niger Fertilizer Technical Committee
CRA.....	Regional Chambers of Agriculture
DAP	Di Ammonium Phosphate
DAP	Delivered At Place
DGA.....	General Directorate of Agriculture
DONGAD.....	Direction des ONG et Association de Développement
DRA.....	Direction Régionale de l'Agriculture
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCFA	African Financial Community Franc
FOB.....	Free On Board
i3N	Initiative Trois N « les Nigériens Nourrissent les Nigériens » («Nigeriens Feed Nigeriens»)
IFDC	International Fertilizer Development Center - Centre International pour le Développement des Fertilizers
GdN.....	Government of Niger
GIFS.....	Integrated Soil Fertility Management
MCA	Millennium Challenge Account
MCC	Millennium Challenge Corporation
MAG/EL	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises - Les Micro, Petites et Moyennes Entreprises

MT	Metric Ton - Tonne Métrique
NPK	Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium
OCP	Office Chérifien des Phosphate
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
OMEN	Niger Fertilizer Market Observatory
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OP	Producer Organizations
OIP	public international organization
PTF	Technical and Financial Partners
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
PIP	Priority investment program
PARSEN	Project to support reform of the fertilizer sector in Niger
PNSE	National Fertilizer Subsidy Program
PRN	Presidency of the Republic of Niger
SIAD	Decentralized and Partnered Input Supply Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture
SNCE	Société Nationale de Contrôle des Engrais
SOAPAM	Société Ouest Africaine de Production Agricole et Marchande
PASEC	Project to support climate-sensitive agriculture
PRAPS	Regional Support Project for Pastoralism in the Sahel
RAMSAR	Wetland classified as a RAMSAR site by the Nigerien government
TKM	Tonne-kilometre
UC-PMC	Millennium Challenge Programs Coordination Unit
2SCALE	Toward Sustainable Clusters in Agribusiness through Learning in Entrepreneurship

VISION

VISION OF HENK, PRESIDENT & CEO OF IFDC

On January 1, 2023, Henk van Duijn was installed as the new President and CEO of IFDC. Henk's vision is: "One mission, one team" with the ambition to return to the center court of IFDC's expertise areas while building on IFDC's strategy 2020 - 2030.

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

Henk brings a philosophy of soil health as the basis of a holistic to agricultural development. The realization of this vision will be achieved through staff and capacity development, special projects, the establishment of a Fertilizer and Soil Health Innovation center, and broad-based 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,
President & CEO of IFDC

WORDS FROM IFDC COUNTRY DIRECTOR



“

Plus de 235 647 personnes ont été touchées directement par les interventions de IFDC en 2021 - 2022 au Niger dans les domaines de la gestion intégrée de la fertilité des sols, du développement du secteur des semences et engrais, d'amélioration de la productivité agricole, d'accès au marché, de la professionnalisation des acteurs, de la promotion des technologies.

”

Dear partners,

It is a real pleasure for me, on behalf of the entire IFDC team in Niger, to present you with the 2021 - 2022 annual report on its activities. Thank you for your interest in our organization and its work in Niger.

2021 - 2022 was a year of great achievements for IFDC in Niger, despite the COVID19 and, above all, security contingencies.

Over 235,647 people have been directly affected by IFDC's interventions in 2021 - 2022 in Niger in the fields 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.

Almost 1,400,000,000 CFA francs have been invested in Niger in 2021 - 2022 through the implementation of IFDC's various projects and programs.

I would therefore like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to the sponsors of our current projects and programs: DGIS, MCC-MCA, the Netherlands Embassy, the Islamic Development Bank and USAID. Thank you for your continued trust.

I would also like to thank all the IFDC staff in Niger, who have worked so hard to achieve these results and improve the living conditions of agricultural economic actors.

We would also like to extend our special thanks to the Government of Niger, through the Ministry of Agriculture (MAG) and the Ministry of Land Management and Community Development, for their unfailing collaboration in our 2021 - 2022 activities. We would be remiss if we didn't thank all our partners for their support and their important daily involvement in achieving our objectives.

I would therefore 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 Niger during the year 2021 -2022.

Thank you very much

1. Introduction

IFDC (International Fertilizer Development Center), founded in 1974 and based in Alabama, USA, is an international public institution working for food security and poverty reduction in developing countries through the development and dissemination of efficient soil fertility management technologies, and the development of agricultural input and output markets. IFDC is recognized as a global center of excellence, with offices coordinating the implementation of activities in several countries in North and West Africa, East and Southern Africa and Asia. IFDC uniquely addresses global issues of food security and poverty by bridging the gap between research and impact, combining science-based innovation, holistic market

systems development, an enabling policy environment and strategic partnerships to help farmers and countries identify and scale up sustainable agricultural solutions, including improved nutrient use efficiency. 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 farm households and the countries in which they live.

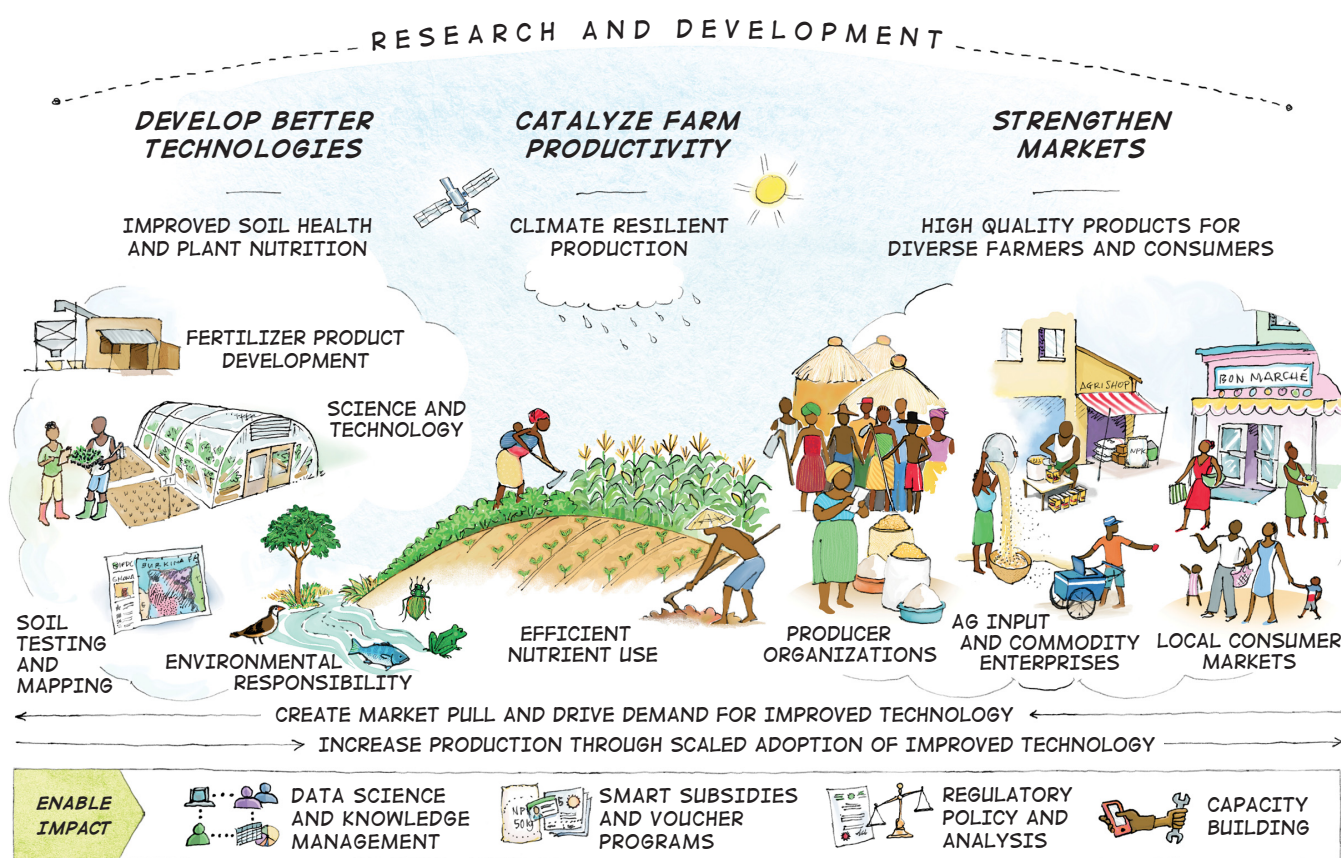


FIGURE 1. IFDC 2020-2030 Strategy 2020 - 2030 to feed the World

Brief Presentation of Niger: Soil conditions and fertilizer situation

Niger is an underdeveloped, landlocked country, with 81% of its population living in rural areas. Occupying around 13% of the country's total surface area, agriculture accounts for 40% of GDP. This agriculture is still unable to meet the food needs of a population of nearly 20 million.

With an annual growth rate of 3.9%, Niger's population is expected to reach 66 million by 2050. As a Sahelian country regularly confronted with the effects of drought, most of its soils are not very fertile. Annual fertility losses

from cultivated land are estimated at 377,000 tonnes of nutrients.

Niger suffers from a low contribution of the fertilizer sector to the objectives assigned to agriculture by the Head of State and the Government within the framework of the 3N initiative. The low consumption of fertilizers in Niger is an obstacle to achieving these objectives. Yet it is widely recognized that increased and rational use of quality modern inputs, including fertilizers, is essential to develop agriculture's capacity to feed an ever-growing

population.

The volume of fertilizer officially imported into Niger is one of the lowest in the sub-region: 94,000 tonnes per year, compared with 250,000 tonnes in Ghana and Burkina Faso, and around 800,000 tonnes in Nigeria. The intensity of fertilizer use in Niger has been estimated at 3 kg/ha for over ten years, well below the continental average of around 12 kg/ha.

After an in-depth diagnostic analysis of its agriculture, the Government of Niger drew up and adopted an agricultural policy called the 3N Initiative, "Nigériens Nourrissent les Nigériens" in 2012. The aim of this policy is to "protect the people of Niger from hunger and guarantee them the conditions for full participation in national production and improved incomes" by strengthening "national capacities for food production, supply and resilience in the face of food crises and disasters".

Niger is also committed to the ECOWAS regional agricultural policy, which is the crucible for the implementation of the agricultural component within the community. The overall aim of this policy is to make a sustainable contribution to meeting the population's food needs, to economic and social development,

and to reducing poverty in member states, as well as inequalities between territories, zones and countries.

This policy is based on three axes of intervention: **(1)** increasing agricultural productivity and competitiveness; **(2)** implementing an intra-Community trade regime; and **(3)** adapting the external trade regime. With regard to the first two axes, and at the end of the African Fertilizer Summit held in Abuja, Nigeria, in 2006, it became clear that in order to solve the problems of fertility of agricultural soils, the supply of nutrients necessary for crops and the preservation of the environment, it was necessary to adopt a legal framework for the use of fertilizers.

At regional level, the following texts were drawn up and adopted: **(i)** Regulations governing the quality control of fertilizers within the ECOWAS zone; **(ii)** Implementing regulations governing the labelling and tolerance limits of fertilizers marketed within the ECOWAS zone; **(iii)** the Implementing Regulations relating to the powers, organization and operation of the West African Fertilizer Control Committee; **(iv)** the Implementing Regulations relating to the manual for the analysis of fertilizers within the ECOWAS zone; and **(v)** the Implementing Regulations relating to the manual for the inspection of fertilizers within the ECOWAS zone.

Brief history of IFDC Interventions in Niger

IFDC began its activities in Niger in the 1980s with research in collaboration with the *International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics* (ICRISAT).

A satellite office was set up in 2009 as part of the implementation of Project 1000+, then in 2017, IFDC was officially installed following the granting of its Agrément authorizing it to operate in Niger as a non-governmental organization by order of the Minister of the Interior N°00060/MISPD/ACR/DGAPJ/DLP dated January 27, 2021. Registered in the Journal officiel et de l'imprimerie gouvernementale under No. 909736 of December 20, 2021, IFDC signed its Standard Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of the Republic of Niger, registered under No. 000564 2016/ DONGAD.

In Niger, IFDC has officially five (5) years' experience in

empowering and professionalizing small-scale farmers actively engaged in agricultural entrepreneurship and local and regional agricultural trade.

The office team consists of :

- » A staff of 20 (16H, 4F), including those responsible for monitoring field activities and administrative staff for day-to-day management of activities.
- » A head office based in Niamey at Quartier recasement, 3ème latérite opposite the former headquarters of the NGO KARKARA.

This report provides an overview of IFDC's interventions in Niger for the year 2021- 2022, the related investments, the alignment of activities with the Government's agricultural policy and the major results achieved.

2. CURRENT IFDC OPERATIONS IN NIGER

MISSION

With a view to contributing to rural development in developing countries, IFDC's mission is to develop, through a combination of innovative research, agricultural market expertise and strategic public-private partnerships, sustainable technologies for managing soil fertility and increasing agricultural productivity, which improve the income and well-being of both producers and entrepreneurs, while preserving

the environment and natural resources.

Recent interventions have focused on support for the fertilizer sector, soil fertility mapping and management, rock phosphate use, agribusiness, agricultural value chain development, urea deep placement, digital technologies, and ICT solutions to improve farmers' access to and use of market information, weather and pest forecasts, and crop and business management advice.

Objectives of projects and programs implemented in 2022

During the period from 2021 to 2022, IFDC Niger has carried out activities under five (5) of its projects. PARSEN «Projet d'Appui à la Réforme du Secteur des Fertilizers au Niger», ISSD-SAHEL «Projet de Développement Intégré du Secteur Semencier au Sahel», 2SCALE «Toward Sustainable Clusters in Agribusiness through Learning in Entrepreneurship», RRVCDP «Projet Régional de la Chaîne de Valeur Riz - Niger», Projet de Recherche sur le Phosphate Naturel de TAHOUA et Omission des Nutriments

PARSEN

Accordingly, the Government of Niger (GoN) has requested financial support from the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) through the Millennium Challenge Account - Niger (MCA-Niger) for the implementation of the Fertilizer Sector Reform Plan adopted on January 12, 2018. A Project to Support Fertilizer Sector Reform in Niger (PARSEN) has been developed and implemented by IFDC with funding from MCC/MCA-Niger.

The objective of PARSEN is "to provide technical support for the successful implementation of fertilizer sector reform in Niger." Successful implementation of PARSEN requires a three-pronged approach focusing on: (i) increasing demand for fertilizers, (ii) involving the private sector, and (iii) building the capacity of all colleges of actors in Niger's fertilizer value chain.

ISSD-SAHEL

The Integrated Seed Sector Development Project in the Sahel aims to ensure the availability and use of quality seeds through the development of a commercially viable seed sector by producer organizations and the private seed sector.

2SCALE

The 2SCALE program aims to contribute to food and nutrition security, as well as sustainable and inclusive economic growth and stability in Africa, through partnerships, incubating and accelerating business models in the agricultural sector. Partnerships primarily involve the business champion, other private actors, smallholder farm representatives, relevant (local) authorities and knowledge management institutions.

In doing so, 2SCALE applies the "Dutch Diamond" approach, linking the private sector, the public sector, research and knowledge management institutions, and civil society institutions. The program will contribute directly to food and nutrition security and to the private sector.

RRVCDP-Niger

RRVCDP-Niger aims to help reduce high rice imports and stimulate economic growth by improving rice

production and processing, and encouraging private sector participation in the rice value chain.

TAHOUA Natural Phosphate Research Project and Omission of Nutrients

The TAHOUA Natural Phosphate and Nutrient Omission Research Project is designed to support Niger in carrying out a farmer-based evaluation of the agronomic effectiveness of Tahoua Natural Phosphate (TNP) activated on crops in Niger, and to finalize trials on nutrient omissions as part of work on the Dosso fertility map.

Link with the country's agricultural policy

Through the approaches adopted by IFDC in the implementation of its projects and programs, notably the development of market systems, inclusive financing models, and the development of Agricultural Enterprise Poles (AEP), it contributes fundamentally to the achievement of key objectives, in line with the "3N Initiative" agricultural policy and the various directions set by the country.

Taking into account the objectives of the national policy that promotes cereal crops, the specificities of the selected areas and the deployment period of the pilot phase, the following crops were chosen:

Irrigated crops: rice, corn, onions, cabbage, tomatoes, potatoes and cowpeas.

Rainfed crops: millet, sorghum, cowpeas, rice, potatoes, onions.

PARSEN

PARSEN is supporting the government in achieving the objectives of the fertilizer sector reform. The immediate objectives set by the targeted fertilizer subsidy program included: (1) Guarantee the availability of and access to quality fertilizers; (2) Subsidize fertilizers for all vulnerable producers and (3) Ensure the efficiency, traceability and transparency of subsidies from the State and its partners.

As part of the reform of the fertilizer sector, a new subsidy system was proposed and tested in 35 communes. This new system enabled producers to be identified in advance as beneficiaries of the subsidy, on the basis of well-defined criteria. This subsidy system, based on the principles of efficiency, transparency and traceability, has enabled the State to better control fertilizer subsidies.

One of the key areas of fertilizer sector reform is the strengthening of reform bodies and the establishment and operationalization of the FCE. This is achieved through technical assistance in the organization and conduct of their activities (meetings, workshops, information, awareness-raising, etc.), support in terms of management equipment and materials (computers, software, etc.) and capacity-building.

2SCALE

2SCALE uses public-private partnerships (PPPs) to contribute to food and nutrition security, sustainable and inclusive economic growth, and stability, which is perfectly aligned with the country's development policies, namely: (i) the Politique Nationale de Sécurité Alimentaire et Nutritionnelle (PNSAN); (ii) Stratégie Nationale de Promotion de l'Entrepreneuriat Féminin (SNPEF), (iii) Stratégie Nationale de Promotion de l'Entrepreneuriat des Jeunes (SNPEJ).

2SCALE in Niger operates in 4 strategic agricultural product groups, in line with government policy on strategies to improve people's incomes. These groups are

1. Basic products/vegetables
2. Fresh produce/horticultural products
3. Oilseeds & pulses
4. Milk and animal proteins

RRVCDP-Niger

In Niger, where food insecurity and poverty are increasing daily in rural areas, affecting around 80% of the population (HCI3N 2012), the President of the Republic has set a "Zero Hunger by 2021" objective as part of the 3N initiative "Les Nigériens Nourrissent les Nigériens" and the President of the Republic's Renaissance Acte II Program. One of the main strategic thrusts of the 3N initiative is to increase and diversify agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries production by improving "the productive capacity of land and water" and "the widespread use of innovative techniques and technologies adapted to Niger's ecological and socio-economic conditions". The Government of Niger is implementing a component of the Regional Rice Sector Development Program (RRVCDP-NIGER) with financial support from the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) to support the national strategy for rice self-sufficiency by 2025.

The RRVCP covers ten (10) countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The target beneficiaries are 2 million smallholder households in the 10 countries.

3. 2021 - 2022 Main Activities and Results

PARSEN

The reform of the fertilizer sector covers 35 communes in eight (8) regions of Niger. Fertilizers are a very sensitive issue, given their contribution to the livelihoods of some 80% of Niger's population. Very unfavorable to small producers, the old supply system, with its various facilities, has won over many supporters in all Niger's communes. We can already guess that any reform that upsets this system will meet with countless resistance at all levels.

Activities

This reform came at a time when the world was facing a series of challenges, firstly the COVID 19 pandemic and then the war in Ukraine. The consequences of these problems in the agricultural sector were a shortage of fertilizers on the world market, an increase in sea freight and hence soaring fertilizer prices. Prices have more than quadrupled in some markets. Critics of the reform have made this their slogan, linking this global

phenomenon to the reform.

Niger shares more than 1,000 km of border with Nigeria. These uncontrolled flows between the two (2) countries affect the quality of fertilizers distributed to producers.

Many activities were carried out, including :

- » Support for OMEN, COTEN and CTER in implementing the targeted subsidy
- » Activities to strengthen the FCE's bodies and to set up and operationalize the FCE
- » Facilitating ownership and internalization of reform activities by stakeholders
- » Training in fertilizer inspection and control (fertilizer inspectors, customs officers, gendarmes, laboratory technicians)
- » Capacity building and support for private fertilizer operators :

Tableau 1. *Implementation plan for the phase 2 targeted subsidy operation*

	ACTIVITIES	MANAGERS	IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS
Preparatory activities	Determining beneficiary communities and proposing targeting criteria	COTEN	OMEN, DGA, PARSEN
	Voucher company recruitment	OMEN	COTEN, DGA, DMP, PARSEN
	Financial company recruitment	OMEN	COTEN, DGA, DMP, PARSEN
	Contractualization with importers for the purchase and distribution of fertilizers	OMEN	COTEN, DGA, DMP, PARSEN
	Design of the targeted subsidy platform	MOKHA	OMEN, COTEN, PARSEN
	Partner training		
System Operationalization	Information and awareness-raising	OMEN, COTEN, CTER	MOKHA, PARSEN
	Registration and distribution of vouchers to beneficiaries	CTER, MOKHA	OMEN, COTEN, PARSEN
	Collection of beneficiaries' contributions	NITA	OMEN, COTEN, CTER, MOKHA, PARSEN
	Fertilizer distribution	Fournisseurs d'engrais (ANIDE)	OMEN, COTEN, CTER, MOKHA, PARSEN
	Payment of fertilizer suppliers	OMEN	DMP, MAG, MF

In order to improve the country's fertilizer supply and thus meet producers' fertilizer needs for increased agricultural production, it is first necessary to know the fertilizer requirements. To carry out this study, requirements were determined in 2 different ways, with more or less similar results, amounting to some 95,000 tonnes. Once this had been done, the next step was to determine how to meet these needs, by analyzing the supply circuit in order to identify bottlenecks and propose solutions for improvement. Supply actors were identified, and a SWOT analysis of direct actors was carried out. Constraints related to fertilizer supply and distribution were also identified, and solutions proposed.

Following this study, proposals were formulated to make the various fertilizer formulas available and accessible, especially the most commonly encountered. PARSEN facilitated contacts between Niger importers and manufacturers (Dangote, Notore, Indorama, OCP), blenders (Golden Fertilizer, Kasko) and large companies (SODECO).

The bodies have carried out or actively participated in the mobilization of resources from the State and its partners for the implementation of the targeted subsidy operation, the revision of texts to readapt them to new realities, missions to neighboring countries and negotiations with manufacturers/mixers, the swearing-in of fertilizer inspectors to facilitate the country's fertilizer supply and fertilizer quality control.

3.1.2. Results

A total of 11,801 beneficiaries out of 22,480 registered, or 52.5%, received their fertilizers. This rate, while satisfactory for a first nationwide targeted subsidy operation,

needs to be improved in the future.

The second subsidy operation targeted through the FCE reached 11,801 producers in 8 regions of Niger, spread over 35 communes.

Through its emergency program, the government has provided fertilizer to some 60,000 farmers in 114 communes. This has significantly improved the availability and accessibility of fertilizer in the regions. A 50 kg bag is sold to beneficiaries at 10,000 CFA francs, compared with 27,000 CFA francs on the market. These two (2) operations have made it clear that the State has not put an end to fertilizer subsidies.

A great deal of effort has gone into raising awareness of the reform as a whole. A change in understanding of the new reform has already been noted. These results have been achieved thanks to the diversity of targets reached, their location and socio-professional sector, etc. through targeted subsidy operations, private sector reinforcement and meetings, the distribution of documents and gadgets, the publication of press articles, etc. These activities will be maintained until the end of the year. These activities will continue until the end of PARSEN in March 2023, especially in remote areas far from major urban centers.

Overall, the targeted subsidy had a leverage effect that contributed positively and significantly to food and nutritional security and poverty reduction. As yields were improved, production surpluses were obtained. Overall, for every 1 kg of fertilizer subsidized, surplus production helped generate around 10 kg of additional cereal equivalent.

Tableau 2. Plan de mise en oeuvre de l'opération de subvention ciblée phase 2

Speculation	Yield surplus	Totale area planted (ha)	Surplus production (Kg)	Average Price (F CFA/Kg)	Monetary surplus from production (F CFA)
RICE	1,46	1 804	2 633 840	398	1 048 268 320
SORGHO	0,34	1 050	357 000	285	101 745 000
MAIZE	0,67	1 844	1 235 480	281	347 169 880
ONION	8,28	1 202	9 952 560	416	4 140 264 960
Total	-	-	14 178 880	-	5 637 448 160

Source : PARSEN/IFDC survey, September 2022 N=11801

The new FCE targeted subsidy operation reached 11,801 people out of 25,000 targeted producers. Those who benefited from this operation were those who paid their counterparts of 10,000 FCFA per 50 kg bag on time.

- » Stakeholders in the Nigerien fertilizer sector are satisfied with the perceptible changes, such as the state's regalian role being better assured. The results of the evaluation show that PARSEN has helped to clean up the Niger fertilizer sector, which is now governed by a more appropriate and functional legislative and regulatory framework. The Nigerien fertilizer sector presents a brighter picture because the legislative and regulatory framework lacked organization, was institutionally inadequate and unsuitable for private-sector development.
- » The satisfaction of institutional actors is justified by the fact that the strengthening of the fertilizer control system in Niger is helping to reduce the risks of (1) importing products harmful to agricultural production, (2) introducing products harmful to human health, and (3) introducing fake fertilizers that have no effect on soil fertility and disappoint farmers' expectations at the end of the agricultural season.
- » The evaluation reveals that liberalization of the fertilizer sector has led to (1) the reorganization and professionalization of private operators, who are now at the heart of fertilizer supply, (2) the official import of large volumes of appropriate, high-quality fertilizers, (3) better coverage of the country by distributors and retailers who ensure that the fertilizer needs of agricultural producers are met, (4) the promotion of entrepreneurship through the creation of numerous

private companies and the formalization of former informal businesses, and (5) the creation of direct jobs by the private sector.

- » The introduction of the targeted subsidy program, which took place against a backdrop of low fertilizer use and difficult access to fertilizers in Niger, was a "Subsidy-Push" policy measure to control prices, avoid a "Price-Pull" and promote access by Niger producers to the fertilizers they needed for a successful agricultural campaign.
- » The targeted subsidy was effective and appropriate in the short term in substantially increasing the use of fertilizers as agricultural inputs, and in turn contributed to improving soil fertility and enhancing producers' resilience to the negative externalities of climate change. This conclusion is based on the fact that access to fertilizers was difficult for farmers who were subsidized for the two years without targeted fertilizer subsidies. Respectively 54% and 55% of those surveyed did not use fertilizers during the two campaigns 2020-2021 and 2021-2022.
- » From a social standpoint, the two targeted fertilizer subsidy episodes had a positive impact on agricultural production in the 2019-2020 and 2022-2023 campaigns. Overall, 99% of the beneficiaries surveyed who benefited from the fertilizer subsidy in the 2019-2020 phase and 94% of those who benefited from the second 2022-2023 phase claimed this impact. The data indicate that the agricultural yields of beneficiaries who planted areas of 2 hectares or less in the 2019-2020 and 2022-2023 crop years were better than their yields in the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 crop years.

	Yields (t/ha)			
	2019-2020 Fertilizer subsidy	2020-2021 Without subsidy	2021-2022 Without subsidy	2022-2023 Fertilizer subsidy
Rice	2.74	1.92	1.80	3.28
Maize	0.80	0.70	0.63	1.28
Sorghum	2.87	0.94	1.37	1.64
Onion	8.57	7.33	6.98	15.26

Source : PARSEN/IFDC survey, September 2022

- » In the short term, the targeted fertilizer subsidy has helped to raise the level of fertilizer use (NPK and urea together) among the beneficiaries of the subsidized fertilizer program surveyed. This level of use is estimated at around 137 Kg/ha on average on the irrigated farms of vulnerable producers with cultivated areas of 2 hectares or less.
- » The targeted fertilizer subsidy has helped to strengthen beneficiaries' resilience to poverty. As the targeted fertilizer subsidy program has helped to improve agricultural production, it should also, all things being equal, increase farmers' incomes, and, by extension, the assumption that beneficiaries will have more income from the sale of their produce to meet their basic needs is plausible.
- » Beneficiaries of targeted fertilizer subsidies also justified their satisfaction by (1) the value of the subsidy granted to them, (2) the involvement of decentralized government departments, (3) the timely delivery of fertilizer, (4) the availability of fertilizer, and (5) the proximity of the fertilizer distribution site, which appeared to be the two other major factors of satisfaction for this same campaign.
- » Another major point of satisfaction for the beneficiaries of the targeted subsidy is the participative and inclusive approach of the process that led to the awarding of the subsidies. Indeed, members of Producers' Organizations (POs) as well as members of the Committees for Targeting and Identifying Grant Beneficiaries (CCBS) expressed their satisfaction at having been involved in the process of raising awareness, identifying and registering producers benefiting from the targeted grant.
- » Beneficiaries were also satisfied with the proximity of financial services during the implementation of targeted subsidies, and with the local arrangements for fertilizer delivery. Indeed, POs indicated that the proximity of financial institutions facilitated counterpart payments by their members, who very often encountered enormous difficulties in accessing financial institutions that were often far from their localities of residence. Proximity points for delivering fertilizer to beneficiaries on presentation of purchase vouchers have reduced the hassle of travelling.
- » As of December 31, 2021, the Ministry of Agriculture had issued 47 import approvals, 88 distribution approvals and 15 fertilizer import authorizations. According to Niger customs statistics, from January to July 2021, the private sector brought more than 63,000 tonnes of fertilizer into the country via various corridors (Nigeria, Benin, Togo, etc.). However, other private actors, often unregistered, continue to supply markets with fraudulently imported fertilizers.

ISSD SAHEL

The use of quality seed is the single most important determinant of agricultural production potential, on which the efficiency of other agricultural inputs depends. Thus, sustained increases in production and productivity depend to a large extent on an efficient

and dynamic system for supplying farmers with quality seed of improved varieties. In this system, the timely availability and accessibility of quality seed to farmers is of paramount importance to achieving sustained productivity growth.

The "Integrated Seed Sector Development in the Sahel" or ISSD/Sahel project, financed by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN) in Mali and Niger, aims to ensure the availability and use of quality seeds through the development of a commercially viable seed sector by producer organizations and the private seed sector.

This project, coordinated by the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC), is being implemented by a consortium of institutions including IFDC, the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA) and Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) (Netherlands).

Activities

As far as the ISSD Sahel project is concerned, actions have been implemented to facilitate the creation of a dynamic, pluralistic seed system that takes account of the coexistence of formal and informal seed systems in the supply of seed to small-scale farmers in the target areas of Niger and Mali.

Key activities include: the production of pre-basic and basic seeds in the off-season and data collection, monitoring the implementation of the pre-order system, organizing seed cooperatives into unions and training them in cooperative management, carrying out an evaluation of Sahelian companies in collaboration with WUCDI, drafting the annual report and preparing the mid-term evaluation of the project. cières en unions et leur formation en gestion des coopératives, la réalisation de l'évaluation des entreprises sahéliennes en collaboration avec WUCDI, la rédaction du rapport annuel et la préparation de l'évaluation mi-parcours du projet.

Results

The fourth quarter of 2022 was essentially marked by the production of first-generation seeds and training sessions for partners on technical production, post-harvest and marketing itineraries, the continued setting up of sales and packaging outlets accompanied by B2B workshops, the establishment of a partnership between Sahelian and Dutch companies to promote market garden crops, and the organization of workshops to officially launch the roadmaps and share lessons learned in Uganda (ISSD Uganda) and Burundi (PSSD) in Niger.

2SCALE

In Niger, the 2SCALE program is based in Niamey on the premises of the international NGO SNV-Niger.

The communes of intervention are those affected by the 7 partnerships to be built during the phase. The 2SCALE program will collaborate with the sectoral ministries, as the Action is in line with their missions.

The 2SCALE program in Niger will run for 6 years, from 2019 to 2024. It has national coverage, as it can intervene anywhere in Niger. The communes of intervention in Niger are those covered by the PPP activities developed within the framework of the Program.

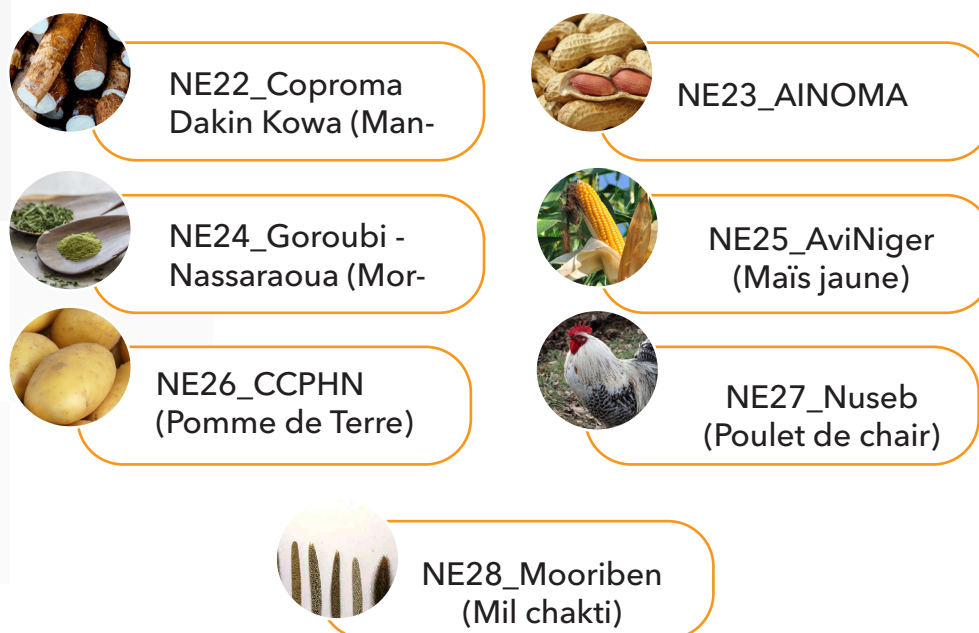


FIGURE 2. 2SCALE's active partnership in Niger in 2022

Nevertheless, the following relevant activities were carried out:

- ✓ Preparation and validation of 7 annual action plans and partnership budgets;
 - ✓ Organization and holding of various training courses (training of staff and support services on the ABC clusters strategy and the implementation of AVEC, gender and youth approaches, business relations and market access, business relations retention, etc.);
 - ✓ Ongoing capacity-building for actors in all sectors;
 - ✓ The development of implementation plans idea of systemic change in the poultry and vegetable sectors;
 - ✓ Writing replication cases to inspire impact creation;
 - ✓ The production of video "encyclopaedias" of partnerships for capitalization ;
 - ✓ Preparation of the PPP exit strategy.
- » 2SCALE's activities revolve around various themes, most of which have been translated into indicators, namely: BOP marketing, small-scale producers and their access to various services, green innovations, gender and youth inclusion, and financial inclusion. Thus: In terms of BoP marketing and distribution, a total of eight (8) new product formulas in the cassava value chain have been developed by the partnership to reach more BoP consumers. In the peanut sector, peanut paste and peanut spread have been developed to reach more BoP consumers. In the corn and rice sectors, new products such as semolina and rice couscous, as well as small-scale packaging, have also been developed to make the products more accessible to all.
- » In the area of agri-food cluster training and access to inputs and services, the major activities include training staff and coaches on the PEA training and development strategy, recruiting a consultant to help implement PEA activities, and recruiting an ABC specialist.
 - » With regard to the theme of inclusive green innovations in the value chain system, several innovative technologies and products have been introduced and tested in partnerships. These included the scaling-up and introduction of new varieties of maize, cassava and peanut seeds, as well as organic fertilizers, polyter (a natural hydro-retainer), aflasafe to reduce aflatoxin levels in produce, etc.
 - » With regard to women's economic empowerment, training courses have been organized on the AYA strategy, the concepts of gender, gender equality, equality and equity, and the importance for all of promoting gender equality. These training sessions resulted in methods being taught to trainers, SAEs (entrepreneurial support services) and partnership facilitators on the identification and inclusion of young people.
 - » With regard to the inclusion of young people, several training sessions and follow-up meetings have been organized on the themes of access to financing, start-up capital and targeting employment opportu-

Activities

2SCALE is a program that relies on public-private partnerships to implement its activities. The partnerships active in Niger in 2022 are :

nities for young people in value chains. In addition, to promote youth as an asset for business, young agrispreneurs are reinforced on the OYE (Push-Match-Pull) strategy and life skills, and linked with partnerships to create sustainable opportunities for all parties.

- » With regard to financial inclusion, the key activities of the period were to facilitate access to financial services for small producers, MSMEs and SMEs, and to draw up and sign a collaboration protocol with CARE Burkina Faso. Training producer groups in the tools and operation of Village Savings and Credit Associations (AVEC/VSLA).
- » With regard to 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. Burkina Faso had a list of 5 cases to present.

Results

The 2SCALE program is implemented in collaboration with 7 partners from the private sector, NGOs and business support services. This project will contribute to the production and processing of products such as manioc, groundnuts, moringa, yellow corn, broiler chicken, potatoes and chakti millet, mainly for low-income consumers.

2SCALE has enabled vulnerable communities to further consolidate and increase their capacity for inclusion in value chains, and to develop strategies for resilience to the negative consequences of climate change. The cumulative results achieved by 2022 are:

- » At least 117,692 low-income consumers gained access to improved nutritious food through inclusion

in local value chains and end markets,

- » 7281 farmers (5% women, 40% young people) are empowered and have their incomes improved through inclusion in agricultural clusters and (regional) value chains,
- » Eco-efficient production practices for products targeted on 3,640.50 ha are adopted,
- » 3 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs, including at least 2 run by women) were supported to improve their inclusive business activities,
- » 949 micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs, including at least 300 women entrepreneurs and 649 young entrepreneurs) have had their capacity strengthened through inclusion in value chains,
- » 195 additional non-agricultural jobs created (including at least 300 for women and 100 for young people)
- » 7 partnerships (PPPs), successfully implementing inclusive business models along target agri-food value chains have been developed. Sustainable partnerships are an essential means of achieving program results,
- » 2,045,468 euros (or 1,339,781,540 Fcfa) in private-sector co-investment to catalyze inclusive businesses partners are mobilized.
- » The advocacy and lobbying capabilities of PPP actors are strengthened with a view to improving policies that contribute to the sustainable and inclusive transformation of the sub-sector in the agribusiness and agro-industry sectors,
- » New knowledge is developed on partnerships and business models that bring about change in inclusive businesses at scale and in building links with African



FIGURE 3. Key results of 2SCALE program in Niger in 2022

OUSSEINI HAMA, producteur de pomme de terre

Nous avons bénéficié d'une formation efficace de CCPHN, 2SCALE et AIDD. Par exemple AIDD a dépêché ici un agent qui en plus de la formation nous sensibilise sur le métier.

En plus, nos partenaires nous ont mis en contact avec des banques qui nous prêtent de l'argent pour la bonne marche de nos activités. Avec de simples trous creusés à même le sol, la pomme de terre peut être conservée jusqu'à 2 mois en attendant de trouver des magasins pour une conservation plus longue.



FIGURE 4. : Testimony of OUSSEINI HAMA, potato grower from Hamdallaye

RRVCDP-Niger

Within the framework of the project, the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) was chosen as the technical partner for the execution of certain program activities under the coordination of the Program Management Unit (PMU) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. Various activities have been carried out as part of the implementation of this project in 2022.

Activities

The project covers 3 regions of Niger (Dosso, Tillabéry and Niamey). The direct beneficiaries will be 70,000 producer households in the intervention zone, including 5,250 women producers, researchers, technicians, and private-sector actors in the rice sector.

Within the framework of the Regional Rice Value Chain Project - Niger, activities on good rice-growing practices, farmers' field schools (application of deep urea placement) and soil fertility mapping have been implemented. These activities will certainly contribute to increasing the soil fertility of rice fields and the rice yields of farmers in Niger.

Results

The main results generated through the activities carried out within the framework of RRVCDP-Niger in 2022 are:

- » Capacity-building on good rice-growing practices/ Controlling pesticide use/ Developing a recommendation guide on fertilizers adapted to rainfed rice and AHA (A25 in the PAD)
- » Participation in setting up and running grower training fields (Application of Urea Deep placement (A27 in the PAD))
- » Establishment of a soil fertility map and implementation of Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM) (A28 in the PAD) :
- » The soil fertility map of the managed rice fields in the Niger River valley itself will be produced from the interpretation of the results of the analyses, all of which will be carried out at the CROPNUTS laboratory in Kenya.
 - ✓ 17,500 ha of additional rice-growing land
 - ✓ Increase paddy rice production from 5.5 t/ha to 8 t/ha
 - ✓ Increase rice productivity by 30%*.

Mr Abdou Beidou Amadou Serki, Yelwani Perimeter Manager (ONAHA /Tillabéry)



I'm very pleased with this collaboration and call on those who support this project to consolidate and continue the actions on the next campaigns, through the IFDC Niger which has brought many changes on my perimeter palpable results are there on the ground of the SH 2022 and today the SS 2023.



FIGURE 5. : Testimony of Abdou Beidou Amadou Serki, Yelwani Perimeter Manager (ONAHA /Tillabéry)

Results

As part of the implementation of the said activity, the INRAN and IFDC technical team conducted trials during the 2021 and 2022 winter season on cowpea at Kallon-Mota in the Dogondoutchi department and on sorghum in three villages in the Gaya department, namely Bengou, Tanda and Tara. In addition, the same trials were carried out on market garden crops

in Bengou, Matankari, Konni and Bonkoukou and in pots. doute le PNTA serait un engrais phosphaté très efficace et rentable pour l'augmentation conséquente des rendements des cultures et l'amélioration de la production agricole au Niger.

Tableau 3. Agronomic efficiency of different crops by zone

Treatments	Peanut		Millet		Cowpea	
	FANE	GRAIN	ROD	GRAIN	GRAIN	FANE
T2	46%	45%	62%	65%	55%	58%
T3	42%	36%	56%	64%	32%	27%
T4	54%	47%	61%	67%	51%	38%

Results

Overall, despite all the constraints and difficulties encountered, the activity went well under acceptable conditions for both rainfed and market garden crops. Interesting results were obtained at the end of the trials. The PNTA achieved yields similar to those of the DAP, and much higher than those of the PNT. In addition, PNTA was found to be far more effective than PNT, and more or less equivalent to DAP. As a result, it

was found that, for crop production at recommended fertilizer rates, the use of PNTA is economically more profitable than the use of PNT or DAP.

So, in view of the convincing results obtained, and if the trend and performance observed are maintained or further improved, PNTA would undoubtedly be a highly effective and profitable phosphate fertilizer for increasing crop yields and improving agricultural production in Niger.



L'essai PNT sur le niébé



L'essai PNT sur l'arachide



L'essai PNT sur le mil



Application d'engrais sur l'essai soustractif



Différence entre T8 et T7 de l'essai soustractif

PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT: THE AFRAD PROJECT

The AFRAD project aims to identify soil nutrient requirements and map deficiencies and constraints with a view to optimizing fertilizer recommendations and use to boost agricultural productivity. The area of interest in this pilot phase is the Dosso region. A characterization of the agro-ecological, geomorphological, edaphic and agronomic data will enable a better adjustment of the methodological approach for the implementation of soil sampling and analysis activities and the fertilizer recommendations to be validated for the various crops.

IFDC has provided small-scale farmers in Niger with the benefit of know-how (SMaRT) already successfully implemented in East and Southern African countries. This approach includes soil fertility mapping and the development of recommendations specific to agricultural regions, balanced fertilizer formulas including secondary nutrients and microelements (ENSM). IFDC's assistance is offered through the «Aide à la Fertilisation Raisonnée des Cultures pour une Agriculture Durable au Niger (AFRAD)» project. This project complements and reinforces efforts undertaken as part of the reform of the fertilizer sector; it will enable knowledge and capacities to be strengthened for greater effectiveness and efficiency in the use of fertilizers in the country.

Support for the implementation of a pilot phase of the AFRAD project is proposed to the Niger Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG/EL) through the World Bank-funded West African Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP / PPAO).

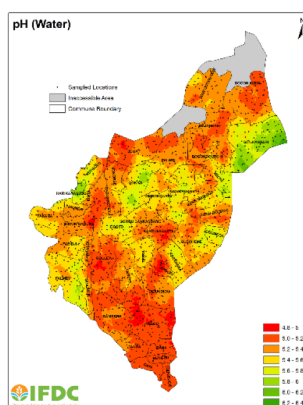
Fertility maps and their significance for crop nutrition

Nutrient deficiency and pH constraint maps have been produced as a result of this study. Although the information provided by the maps is only indicative, they nevertheless guide fertilizer formulations that offer a better chance of improving crop responses to fertilizer applications, and thus increase the return on invest-

ment for growers who invest in fertilizer use.

Georeferenced soil and analytical data were used to create a database that was used to produce soil fertility maps from regression analysis using kriging as an interpolation method to create map prediction data with the R program. The least squares method was used to generate a surface map prediction model. For each parameter, an algorithm was run, iterating to generate the best map prediction models with least residuals.

1. Soil nutrient deficiency maps of the Dosso region: Carbon
2. Soil nutrient deficiency maps of the Dosso region: Total nitrogen
3. Soil nutrient deficiency maps for the Dosso region: Assimilable phosphate
4. Soil nutrient deficiency maps of the Dosso region: Potassium
5. Soil nutrient deficiency maps of the Dosso region: Calcium
6. Soil nutrient deficiency maps of the Dosso region: Magnesium
7. Soil nutrient deficiency maps of the Dosso region: Sodium
8. Soil nutrient deficiency maps of the Dosso region: Sulfur
9. Soil nutrient deficiency maps for the Dosso region: pH
10. Soil nutrient deficiency maps of the Dosso region: Manganese
11. Soil nutrient deficiency maps of the Dosso region: Zinc
12. Soil nutrient deficiency maps of the Dosso region: Boron
13. Soil nutrient deficiency maps of the Dosso region: Copper
14. Soil nutrient deficiency maps of the Dosso region: Iron



Exemple de la carte de pH

Tableau 4. Summary of the new provisional formulas recommended for the main crop groups

Culture	Formula	Dose	Amendement or cover Fertilizer
Cereals			
Lowland rice, irrigated rice	NPK 17-17-17 + 5S + 1,2 Zn + 0,2B	150-200 kg/ha	Urea, 100 kg/ha
Rainfed rice, maize	NPK 17-17-17 + 5S + 1,2 Zn + 0,2B	100-150 kg/ha	Urea, 50 kg/ha
Millet and sorghum (row and strip spreading)	NPK 17-17-17 + 5S + 1,2 Zn + 0,2B	150 kg/ha	
Millet and Sorghum (Microdose)	NPK 17-17-17 + 5S + 1,2 Zn + 0,2B	50-70 kg/ha	
Pulses			
Peanut, Cowpea	NPK 10-20-20+ 5S + 8CaO + 5 MgO + 1,2 Zn + 0,2B	150 kg/ha	
Peanut, Cowpea	NPK 10-20-20+ 5S + 1,2 Zn + 0,2B	150 kg/ha	Dolomite 500 kg/ha
Market gardening			
Non specific	NPK 17-17-17 + 5S + 1,2 Zn + 0,2B	200-300 kg/ha	100-150 kg/ha

Good agronomic practices



FIGURE 7. Mixing fertilizers with risk of segregation (left) and incorporating trace elements into granulated fertilizers by coating (right)

4. Other IFDC Activities/Participation of IFDC in External Activities

Organisation of IFDC's 5th anniversary open doors in Niger.

These open doors were held at IFDC's premises in Niger from February 14 to 16, 2022.

Under the patronage of Mr. Maman Ibrahim Mahamane, Minister of Regional Planning and Community Development, the theme of the event is: IFDC 5 ans au Niger, Développement de l'Agriculture de la Base au Sommet.

Over a 3-day period, they brought together the financial and technical partners who work with IFDC through projects already implemented and those in progress.

The open doors were an opportunity to get closer to potential partners and identify new project opportunities.

Students from the Faculty of Agronomic Sciences at the University of Niamey took the opportunity of the first day of the event to learn more about IFDC and its work in Niger. "We're impressed by all IFDC's achievements in Niger," they confided at the end of the visit.

Niger Open Doors, an opportunity for fruitful collaboration. These days bring together like-minded institutions and professionals, as well as the agricultural economic actors who benefit from IFDC's interventions in the country.



Team building/ Year-end cocktail party

In its managerial management, IFDC introduced a new performance management strategy in 2019, which involved awarding recognition to the best-performing employee, i.e. one who scored an average of 4 or more in the assessment.

In 2020, many employees achieved a score of 4 or more. And the year 2020, which was particularly exceptional, very difficult (Covi-d19) and yet enabled IFDC to achieve a positive financial balance sheet, boosted the management team to change the individual bonus into a group bonus to celebrate last year's good results. From then on, the group bonus was introduced into the system and is regularly celebrated to this day.

To mark the occasion, the bonus group 2022 for IFDC Niger organized a recreation day on December 22, 2022 in Niamey, bringing together all IFDC Niger staff and consultants.

A cette occasion, le bonus groupe 2022 pour IFDC Niger à organisé une journée récréative le 22 décembre 2022 à Niamey regroupant tous les staffs et les consultants de IFDC Niger.



5. IFDC investments in December 31, 2022

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

Tableau 5Récapitulatif des investissements IFDC du 1^{er} Janvier au 31 Décembre 2022

ACTIVITIES	FCFA
PARSEN	
Investments /Equipement	200 000 000
Salary/Operations	300 000 000
Contracts with service providers	130989524
SUB TOTAL 1	630989524
ISSD SAHEL	
Investments /Equipement	150 000 000
Salary /Operations	100 000 000
Contracts with service providers	167380000
SOUS TOTAL 2	417380000
PROJECT 1 : 2SCALE	
Investments /Equipement	50 000 000
Salary /Operations	50 000 000
Contracts with service providers	100 000 000
SUB TOTAL 3	200 000 000
RRVCDP	
Investments /Equipement	25 000 000
Salary /Operations	25 000 000
Contracts with service providers	29791923
SUB TOTAL -4	79791923
TAHOUA Natural Phosphate and Omission of Nutrients	
Investments /Equipement	10 000 000
Salary /Operations	5 000 000
Contracts with service providers	57190950
SUB TOTAL-5	72190950
TOTAL	1400352397

6. Conclusion and Outlook

During 2022, IFDC invested in agricultural development, focusing on the issues of innovation and fertilizer procurement. Indeed, the impact of the war in Ukraine led to a rise in the price of inputs, making some of them inaccessible, which had an impact on the launch of agricultural campaigns.

By drawing on its expertise and experience, IFDC has been able to strengthen the resilience of small-scale farmers and continue to promote good farming practices, integrated soil fertility management and climate-smart agriculture.

The year 2023 represents an important scaling-up year for IFDC in Niger. Through its projects and programs, IFDC will focus on supporting its stakeholders in the

adoption of good agricultural practices such as the development of organic fertilizers, compost, the use of seeds requiring less fertilizer and conservation agriculture. It will also develop new opportunities to support the government of Niger in implementing its policy and achieving its agricultural objectives.

To this end, IFDC will be scrutinizing the various calls for proposals aimed at improving Burkina Faso's agricultural system, supporting producers in their efforts to cope with climatic hazards, improving their production and income, adapting agriculture to the climate, and demonstrating good methods for restoring and preserving soil fertility.



Demonstration Kollo zone



Demonstration Kollo zone



Demonstration Gaya zone



Distibution of Fertilizer Agadez



Niger Seed Sector Roadmap Workshop



Mission to Supervise the operationalization of APPSN Member companies sales outlets



Training of National Trainers on AIPs Dissemination and FeSeRWAM Platform



ISSD Sahel Consortium retreat



Fast pitch at ISSD Sahel Consortium Retreat



Demonstration Tillabery zone

Reference:

SOU, Sami K. Thierry. " La Salinisation Est Devenue Une Cause Importante De Dégradation Des Sols Et De L'agriculture ", Dr Mamoudou Traore, DG Du Bunasols." MAAH, 6 Dec. 2021, https://www.agriculture.bf/jcms/pv10_103955/fr/-la-salinisation-est-devenue-une-cause-importante-de-degradation-des-sols-et-de-l-agriculture.

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