

Pro-ARIDES

Programme Agroalimentaire pour la Résilience Intégrée et le Développement Economique du Sahel



Ten-year Pro-ARIDES to pave the way for a more resilient and sustainable Sahel. Pro-ARIDES aims to 'contribute to increased resilience, food security and incomes of farmer and (agro)pastoralist households in the Sudano-Sahel zone of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger through effective, decentralised institutions and organisations for improved service provision, natural resource and land management and local economic development.'

The *Programme Agroalimentaire pour la Résilience Intégrée et le Développement Economique du Sahel* (Pro-ARIDES) is a € 100M programme financed by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. SNV will implement the programme over a period of 10 years with its consortium partners: CARE-Netherlands, Wageningen University & Research and The Royal Tropical Institute, as well as its local partners, national and regional umbrella farmers and pastoralists organisations, local governments and research institutes in the three countries.

Challenges and opportunities in the region

The Sudano-Sahelian zone of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger faces many challenges, which,

if not mitigated, could have devastating consequences for its populations and beyond. Affected by climate change and a changing environment, it experiences erratic rainfall, strong inequalities within communities, instability and conflicts, degradation of land and water resources, displacement and a fragile food and nutritional situation. All these factors, when put together, result in low levels of resilience that are extremely vulnerable to external shocks such as acute food insecurity and malnutrition many of which were aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, there are enough opportunities that, when harnessed, could reverse these trends.

Agriculture remains the key sector and main source of livelihood. Inclusive value chains could be a source of decent income and the fight against malnutrition. Equipped with matching skills, the youth represents a workforce available for agriculture who can be the engine necessary to transform this sector. Women could, with the right support and empowerment, take key roles in the development of value chains.

Creating decent jobs for these populations would contribute to lowering existing tensions, the attraction of violent extremist groups, and thus improve the stability of the region, in addition to increasing the resistance of the populations to various external shocks.

Theory of Change: Five (5) pathways

The **overall goal** is to 'Contribute to increased resilience, food security and incomes of farmer and (agro) pastoralist households through effective, decentralised institutions and organisations for improved service provision, natural resource and land management and local economic development'.

Pathway 1: Improved food, farm and herd management for more resilient production systems and better household nutrition

The key outcome area of this pathway is to achieve increased sustainable, diversified production and improved nutrition of households through secured food production, sustainable intensification and diversification. It targets both semi-subsistence and market-oriented farmer and pastoralist households, as well as cooperatives and household individuals with a particular emphasis on women and youth.

Key result areas

- Established supply and demand for tailored climate- and labour-smart technologies/practices and inputs.
- Established availability of farm/herd management and nutrition extension services by local public and private service providers and effective management by farmer organisations.
- Improved access to public-private financing of farm/herd management and agri-nutrition services.
- Increased household and farmer organisations' awareness of the benefits of healthy diets and participatory decision-making.

Pathway 2: Increased business, service and employment opportunities and market linkages generating more economic value

The key outcome area of this pathway is to achieve increased economic resilience and assets of households and businesses through diversified income sources, increased investment capacity and improved business performance. It primarily targets farmers, pastoralists, cooperatives, SMEs, service providers, financiers, traders and business clusters, while emphasising the involvement of young women and men in particular.

Key result areas

- Semi-subsistence farmers and pastoralists, women and youth linked to off-farm income generation opportunities.
- Established incentives and arrangements for collaboration between market actors.
- Improved business capacity of SMEs and farmer organisations for commercialisation and distribution
- Development of a service system which involves different service users and different demands, as well as different service providers.

Pathway 3: Sustainable management of land, water and other natural resources through peaceful and collective resource use arrangements

The key outcome area of this pathway is to achieve improved land tenure and sustainable use of natural resources through empowerment of farmers and pastoralists, improved decision-making and accountability of public/traditional institutions and improved service delivery

and management of natural resources by local governments and institutions. It primarily targets farmers and pastoralists households, land and water commissions, customary authorities, public services and agencies for land and water management and *collectivités territoriales*.

Key result areas

- Improved participatory decision-making, planning and implementation cycles for local development by regional and local governments.
- Improved strategic planning, decision-making and restitution, and internal management of farmer/women/youth organisations.
- Improved competencies of local land management institutions and multi-stakeholder dialogues on natural resource management and on conflict resolution (mediation capacities).
- Relevant stakeholders are represented in local and formal natural resource management structures.

Pathway 4: Gender, youth and inclusiveness for resilient food systems development

The key outcome area of this cross-cutting pathway is to ensure the inclusion of men and women, as well as youth, elders and other marginalised populations, to achieve sustainable, equitable and resilient natural resource and land management and local economic development. It targets pastoral households & farmers, cooperatives, SMEs, service providers, financiers, traders and business groups, land and water commissions, public services and land and water management agencies,

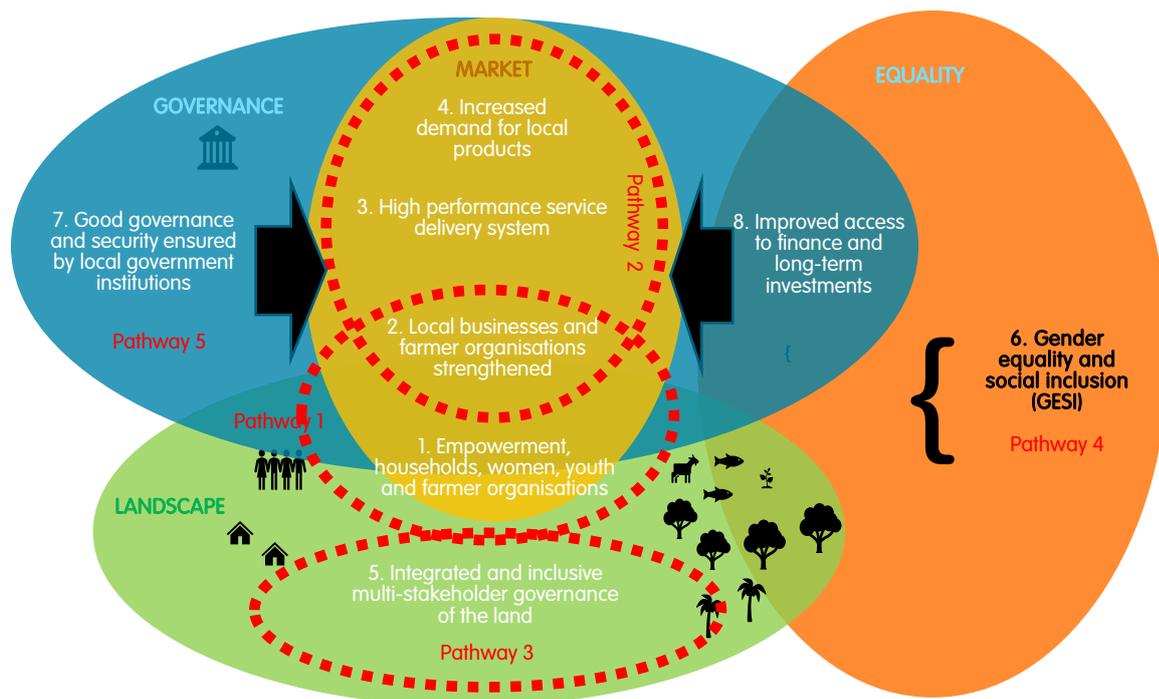


Figure 1: A visual showcasing systems change across the five pathways, linked to the implementation approach as described below

collectivités territoriales (with particular emphasis on young women and men).

Key result areas

- Organisation of women and young people as an autonomous ‘collective force’ to influence decisions/actions in their favour (access to land/factors and means of production, adapted financial products).
- Support for women’s and youth structures for the implementation of their skills in lobbying, management and influence of decisions.
- Capacity building on gender aspects of all public, private and civil organisations.

Pathway 5: Underlying – Strengthening institutions to re-establish social contract

The key outcome area of this underlying pathway is to support

regional and local governments (and other local authorities) to create enabling environments for natural resources management, service provision and management of economic infrastructure and to restore and/or establish social contracts among intervention populations. The target audience comprises land and water commissions, public services and land and water management agencies, local and national governments, and financial institutions, among others.

Key result areas

- Improved participatory cycles of decision-making, planning and implementation of local development by regional and local governments.
- Effective transfer of skills and resources to municipalities.
- In collaboration with the

national government, ensure safety and security.

- Improved access of governments and local communities to decentralised financing mechanisms, including collection of local taxes.
- Provide access to mobile phone payment systems to access available funding.

Implementation approach

Local institutions and organisations are at the heart of the programme’s strategy to ensure lasting impact. Pro-ARIDES will focus on systems change and scaling up as essential means to create sustainable and growing impacts that reach people, beyond the direct beneficiaries of a programme. This will ensure that the programme addresses key issues that will lead to strong transformations for

more inclusive, ecologically sustainable and resilient local development in the Sudano-Sahelian zone of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger.

Pro-ARIDES will work to shift to a system that is more inclusive, sustainable, and that incorporates systems change through:

1. Empowerment, households, women, youth, and peasant organisations
2. Strengthening local enterprises and farmers' organisations
3. High performance of the Service Delivery System
4. Increased demand for local products
5. Integrated and inclusive multi-stakeholder governance of the land
6. Gender equality and social inclusion
7. Good governance and security provided by government institutions
8. Improved access to finance and long-term investments

The programme will run in two phases. In the first five years of the programme, activities will focus on empowering institutions; strengthening capacity and establishing trust; and developing, testing and improving working methods and strategies.

In the next five years, the focus of activities will move towards expanding and scaling up approaches and interventions that have been found to be successful in Phase I and embedding these approaches, practices and technologies to ensure sustainability and lasting change. In addition, Pro-ARIDES will stimulate mutual learning, strengthening practices and knowledge management.

Intervention areas

Pro-ARIDES will be implemented in the Sudano-Sahel zone of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, focusing on the areas where agricultural and pastoralist livelihoods meet each other.

We have pre-selected nine regions in the Sudano-Sahel zone which include secondary, small-to-medium towns that generate (food) demands and employment opportunities.

In **Mali**, the *Ségou* Region (with the Cercles of Tominian and San) and the Mopti Region (with the Cercles of Koro and Bankass).

In **Burkina Faso**, the *Boucle du Mouhoun* Region (with the provinces of Sourou, Nayala and Kossi), the Centre-Ouest Region (with the provinces of Sanguié and Boulkiemdé, the Nord region (with the provinces of Passoré, Zondoma and Yatenga) and the Est Region (with the provinces of Gnagna and Gourma).

In **Niger**, the *Tillabéri* Region (with the departments of Kollo, Say and Torodi), Dosso Region

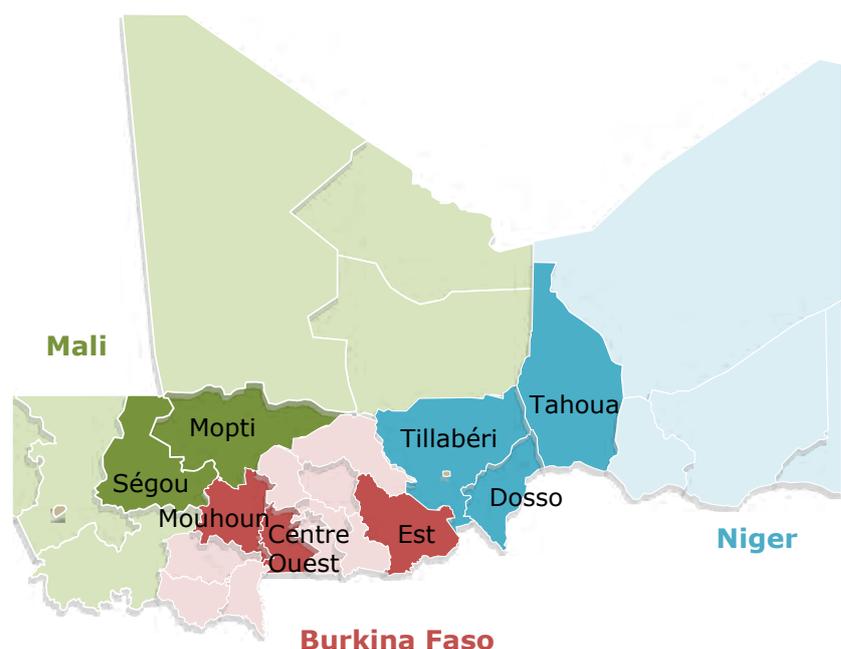
(with the départements of Tibiri, Dioundiou and Falmey) and Tahoua Region (with the départements of Malbaza, Konni and Madaoua).

Partners

Pro-ARIDES is led by SNV in collaboration with consortium partners, CARE Netherlands, Wageningen University and Research (WUR), and the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT). SNV and CARE will be playing a key role in the management of the programme while WUR and KIT are responsible for the knowledge and research component.

The consortium partners will work closely with local farmer and pastoralist organisations, national and regional governments and research institutes in the three countries.

In **Burkina Faso**, the local implementation partners are the National Chamber of Agriculture (CNA), the National Land Observatory (ONF), and the Federation of Agricultural Professionals of Burkina



(FEPAB). The National Institute for Environment and Agricultural Research (INERA) and the Impact Research Institute (IRI) are the two local knowledge development and learning partners.

Research of Niger (INRAN) and the Laboratory of Studies and Research on Social Dynamics and Local Development (LASDEL Niger).

In **Mali**, the local implementation partners are the National Coordination of Organizations Peasant Women (CNOP), The Malinese Association for the Promotion of Sahel (AMAPROS), the Regional Development Agency (ADR) of Segou and Mopti, and the Near East Foundation (NEF). The local knowledge development and learning partners are the Institute for Rural Economics (IER) and ODYSSEE.

In **Niger**, the local implementation partners are the Association for the Revitalization of Livestock in Niger (AREN), the Federation of Market Gardening Cooperatives Niger (FCMN Niya), and the Regional Council of Dosso, Tahoua and Tillabery. The local knowledge development and learning partners are the National Institute of Agricultural

At a glance



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Title: Pro-ARIDES (PROgramme Agroalimentaire pour la Résilience Intégrée et le Développement Economique du Sahel) | **Focus areas:** Food security and resilience | **Countries:** Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger

Donor: Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Partners: CARE-Netherlands, Wageningen University & Research, and The Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), together with its local partners (umbrella farmers and pastoralists organisations, local governments and research institutes)

Size and duration: € 100M over 10 years | **Targeted impact:** 2.9 million people

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