

**Resilient Food Systems** is one of the three Integrated Approach Pilots funded by the Global Environment Facility. Implementation is led by the International Fund for Agricultural Development, in collaboration with 12 African countries and several regional partners. The five-year programme is committed to **fostering sustainability and resilience for food security in sub-Saharan Africa.**

As an integral part of this regional initiative, the Family Farming Development Programme in Niger is contributing to the collective impact of the Resilient Food Systems Programme.



## Context

The high vulnerability of family farming in Niger to climate variability is amplified by the effects of climate change, which affect livelihoods over the long term, impacting production potential: fertility, soil quality and water availability. In the short term, key negative impacts are on food and nutrition security. The Tahoua, Maradi and Zinder regions, which are the most productive, are also the most affected by wind and water erosion, leading to siltation of watersheds, deforestation and declining groundwater levels.

## Objectives

The project contributes towards achieving the development objectives:

1. Strengthening sustainable family farming; and
2. Improving market access for family farms.

ProDAF aims to combat the main drivers of environmental degradation through the promotion of a holistic and integrated approach to improve the productivity of agricultural systems where food insecurity is directly related to the degradation of the environment.

Scaling up is being pursued through the strengthening of institutional capacity, including both at national level with the Nigeriens Feed Nigeriens Initiative (i3N) and at local level local planning processes related to the management of environmental and climatic constraints.

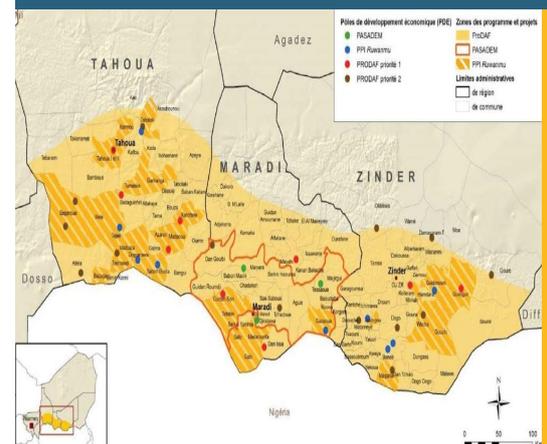
The project aims to address climate and degradation induced threats and facilitate the sustainable access by local populations to water and land resources available in the watersheds.

The Government of Niger through the Resilient Food Systems programme is promoting soil and water conservation and soil protection and restoration works across a large scale. The core objective is to sustainably increase the incomes of family farms, their adaptation to climate change and their access to local, urban and regional markets.

## Key outcomes

The project focuses on two key outcomes, firstly sustainable family farming to allow rural producers, including women and youth, to diversify their production, increase their yields and build their capacities to adapt to external shocks, notably those related to climate.

Secondly, enhanced access to markets to help farmers efficiently market their agro-silvo-pastoral production surplus in semi-wholesale markets. These markets supply the centres of national consumption and transboundary markets. Cross-cutting aspects related to value chains, capacity building and knowledge management are further strengthened through direct support from the Regional Hub project.



Project area for Niger

## Global Environmental Benefits GEBs

 230,800 (ha)  
land under integrated and sustainable management

 346,302 (MtCO<sub>2</sub>e)  
GHG emissions avoided or reduced

# ProDAF is contributing to the following (SDGs)



- SDG 12 concerning the establishment of sustainable production methods including the rational management of natural resources;
- SDG 13 on combating climate change, including strengthening resilience and coping capacities in the face of climate hazards and natural disasters;
- SDG 15 concerning the preservation and restoration of terrestrial ecosystems, including the fight against desertification and the preservation of freshwater ecosystems.

## Expected impacts



### Sustainable family farming

- 20,500 ha. under soil and water conservation works and pastoral land management.
- 10,000 ha. under water mobilization infrastructure.
- 7,500 ha. with irrigation equipment and infrastructure.
- 190,000 ha. under assisted natural regeneration, improved seed varieties, animal drawn cultivation).



### Family farmers' access to markets

- Construction of 9 wholesale markets.
- Construction of 18 crop collection facilities.
- Construction and rehabilitation of 850 km. of rural roads linking production areas to collection centres and wholesale markets.
- Support for regional transport corridors and cross-border trade (West African Network of Cereals).

## Approach

At the national level the core approach includes:

- **Improve water infiltration into the water table** by reducing water erosion and silting at the level of production basins in order to ensure the sustainability of ecosystems as well as better resilience of production systems, with a direct impact on improvement of food security;
- **Strengthen the conservation of biodiversity**, both through the development of pools corresponding to Ramsar sites and the development of passage corridors, where the elimination of the invasive species *Sida cordifolia* will allow a return to original ecosystems more diversified;
- **Strengthen soil carbon storage** (1.4 tonnes of carbon equivalent / ha / year or 350,000 tonnes of carbon equivalent per year).

## ProDAF

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## Resilient Food Systems

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## Stakeholders engaged

The lead agency for the project at national level is the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, which works closely with the High Commission for the Nigeriens Feed Nigeriens Initiative (HCi3N). Major stakeholders in the project include Regional Directorate of the Environment, Water User Associations, local authorities (communes), Public Building and Works, regional and departmental services for waterworks, specialized service providers and the Regional Agriculture Chambers. ProDAF is engaging local research institutions and centres of excellence, including the National Institute for Agricultural Research of Niger and the International Centre for Research in the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), for expertise on agricultural practices and innovative planting materials, in addition to the AGRHYMET Regional Centre, for observation and management of climate risks.

## Target Beneficiaries

Engagement increase

22,400 Households

30% Woman

30% Youth

## Impact achieved to date by the project

- » Increase in household income (70,000 CFA per year) through the sale of products and by-products.
- » Strengthening of biodiversity with the introduction and/or appearance of new varieties or herbaceous, tree and animal species.
- » Increase in agricultural production.
- » Halving the lean season (2-4 months depending on location) by using remuneration received to pay for food, small ruminants and to develop income-generating activities.
- » The amount of carbon sequestered currently estimated at -6.3 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per hectare per year for biomass, and -5.3 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per hectare per year for soil (GEF/PASADEM completion study report).

\*By March 2019, as per presentation at the Resilient Food Systems annual workshop.

