



Pro-ARIDES

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

Operation Zéro-Zipélé, a community-led initiative to restore degraded land and strengthen productive capital” in the commune of Nouna (Burkina Faso)

Pro-ARIDES' overall objective: “To contribute to increased resilience, food security and household incomes for farmers and (agro-) pastoralists in the Sudano-Sahelian zone of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, through efficient decentralized institutions and organizations for improved service delivery, natural resource and land management and local economic development”.

The Agri-Food Program for Resilience and Economic Development in the Sahel (Pro-ARIDES) is a program financed by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. SNV is implementing the program over a 10-year period with consortium partners CARE-Netherlands, Wageningen University & Research and The Royal Tropical Institute, as well as with its local partners, national and regional farmers' and pastoralists' organizations including FESCOPA-B and CNA. Through trajectory 1 of the program, FES-COA-B is implementing land reclamation techniques such as zaï (Ordinary and Rectangular), stone cordons and half-moons and RNA (Régénération Naturelle Assistée) in the program's intervention communes. These techniques are disseminated to farm households by community trainers in each village.

It is through these household replications that the “zero zipélé operation” came into being in the commune of Nouna in the village of Babekolon.

In effect, long practiced in the country's most arid regions (north, centre-north, sahel), CES/DRS techniques such as half-moons and zaï were previously little-known by producers in certain localities, including the commune of Nouna, where the land still seemed to give “false hope” to farmers, despite the fact that degradation is accelerating year on year with climate disruption. To galvanize their peers, the community trainers in the commune of Nouna, after receiving training from FESCOPA-B via the agricultural technical services, launched the “zero zipélé” operation, which means “zero denuded land”.



Training of community trainers by STDs, animators and supervisors on dryland reclamation techniques

Trajectory 1 - Improved food, farm and herd management for more resilient production systems and improved household nutrition.

The main effect (key outcome) of this trajectory is to achieve increased sustainable and diversified production and improved household nutrition through secure food production, sustainable intensification and diversification. It targets both semi-subsistence and market-oriented farming and pastoral households, cooperatives and individual households, with a particular focus on women and young people.

This operation will be repeated in all 21 Pro-ARIDES communes, and will be a great success, with strong local support. Farmers have wholeheartedly welcomed and adopted the re-silvicultural techniques promoted by Pro-ARIDES, which they see as a solution to the shortage of arable land caused by the accelerated degradation of natural resources.



Community trainers train farm households in dryland reclamation techniques

“Operation Zero Zipélé” enabled women to develop barren land to make up for the lack of land, which is a major problem for women in rural areas. This is the case for women in the villages of Tonkoroni and Patiarakuy in the commune of Nouna, who have developed two hectares (2ha), i.e. 1 ha for each group of 30 women in each village. This reclaimed land will enable them to produce in peace for the 2022-2023 season. They intend to increase these superficies for future campaigns.

“We are very fières to participate in the training on techniques for reclaiming denuded land through zaï and half-moon techniques.

Today, we would like to thank the Pro-ARIDES program for enabling us to develop 1 ha for our production this season”, says the president of the Benkadi cooperative in the village of Tonkoroni (Nouna).

Training of CFs and households in CES/DRS techniques was carried out by FESCPAB using a “participative, empowering and above all practical” approach. Cascading training sessions were organized for the program’s technical departments, animators and supervisors, 55 of whom were trained. Based on this pool, 34 training sessions were organized in the 21 communes, building the capacity of 609 community trainers (CTs). Based on this pool of CFs, household training sessions were then organized, with each CF mandated to train at least 15 households around him or her. s the training sessions were practical in the field, each training session was profit to recover a superficie of 0.25ha with at least 2 of the 4 technologies promoted (Zaï, Demi-lune, Cordons pierreux and RNA).

Through this approach and training scheme, some 9, 135 households have been strengthened and at least 160ha of dryland reclaimed.

Afin order to encourage the CFs in this incentive, the program has decided this year to support them with certified improved seed kits to develop the reclaimed land. In addition, the training of stakeholders in land reclamation techniques will continue during the 2022-2023 wet season, with the establishment in 15 communes with low security defis of 30 Farmer Showcase Plots combining the promoted CES/DRS techniques and the use of certified seeds of improved varieties. This will enable around 900 households to be trained in these extension tools.



“When I took the training with our community trainer, I was in a hurry to come and start the Zaï in my zipelés that I thought were useless. I didn’t know what techniques to apply to reclaim this space, and today I’ve started zaï on ½ ha. I intend to exploit all this bare space of about 3.5 ha afin order to enlarge my field and increase my income” says Mr. AKUYO Maurice from the village of Hienkuy in the commune of Nouna.



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