

**IFAD'S EVALUATION OF ITS PROGRAMME
FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT**

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FIELD-BASED EVALUATION REPORT

NIGER

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CARE INTERNATIONAL:

CT/PIIP :	Cellule Technique de Promotion de l'Initiative et Innovation Paysannes à Aguié (Technical Unit for the Promotion of Local Initiatives and Innovations in Aguié)
FAO :	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCFA :	Franc de la Communauté Financière Africaine (Franc of the African Financial Community)
FIDA :	Fond International de Développement Agricole (International Fund for Agricultural Development)
IGA :	Income Generating Activity
M&E :	Monitoring and Evaluation
MFI :	Micro-Finance Institutions
NGO:	Non-Governmental Organization
PA:	Western and Central Africa Division of IFAD
PAIIP :	Programme d'Appui aux Initiatives et Innovations Paysannes (Programme of Support to the Farmers' Initiatives and Innovations)
PDRAA :	Projet de Développement Rural de l'Arrondissement d'Aguié (Rural Development Project of Aguié District)
PDSFR:	Project de Développement des Services Financiers Ruraux (Rural Financial Services Development Project)
PIAG :	Projet d'Intégration de l'Approche Genre, (Integrating Gender into PPILDA)
PPILDA :	Projet de Promotion de l'Initiative Locale pour le Développement à Aguié (Local Development Initiatives Promotion Project in Aguié)
PWB :	Programme of Work and Budget
SAV :	Schémas d'Action Villageois (SAV), (Village Action Plans)
SEAGA :	Socio-Economic and Gender Analysis (Programme of FAO)
VIPAF :	Programme de Valorisation des Initiatives Paysannes en Agroforesterie (Farmers' Initiatives in Agroforestry Improvement Programme)

MAP OF NIGER

Table 1. Map of Niger and project areas



INTRODUCTION

1. This report highlights the findings from a participatory gender sensitive evaluation exercise carried out in the Republic of Niger from the 18th of April to the 2nd of May 2006. The gender evaluation was undertaken as part of an IFAD-wide evaluation of its Programme for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. The mission consisted in evaluating two IFAD projects, conducting interviews with project staff and partners, and in using PRA tools during field interviews to some of the project target communities. These two projects are currently operational in the Republic of Niger, one is very community based, emphasis being placed on the full participation of men and women from the outset, while the other is a micro-finance project where participation and gender mainstreaming have not identified as cross-cutting issues to be addressed by the project's implementation from its inception.

I. PARTICIPATORY GENDER SENSITIVE SOCIO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

A. Field Level Evaluation of IFAD's Gender Programme in Western and Central Africa

2. In the last decade, specific programmes and activities for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment have been implemented by IFAD at regional, national and local levels. Globally, the overall aim of these programmes has been to strengthen the effectiveness of IFAD-financed projects in terms of gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment, so as to improve rural women and men's livelihoods and contribute to poverty reduction. These programmes are presently at different stages of implementation, but all have included, to varying degrees, components of gender mainstreaming in IFAD's field operations, technical assistance to projects for rural women's activities (to improve their access to productive resources), knowledge generation, vulnerable people's empowerment, support to policy analysis and advocacy to address gender inequalities as well as other issues.

3. Now, after several years of implementation, it has become necessary to take stock of the variety of experiences gathered, to conduct a systematic evaluation exercise of these programmes and to draw some lessons so that future planning is based on past experience. IFAD's Thematic Group-Gender has therefore decided to launch a process of self-evaluation, under the coordination of the Technical Advisory Division (PT). The evaluation exercise should be considered as an iterative process including the following phases and stages:

- Phase 1: Stock-taking: (a) Annotated Bibliography of documents related to the Gender Programmes; (b) Desk Review of documents; (c) Self-assessment questionnaires; (d) Knowledge Notes produced; (e) Interviews.
- Phase 2: Field: (a) Field-based evaluation; (b) Discussion at regional workshops; (c) Final strategy workshop.

Purpose and Approach of the Self-evaluation

4. The main purpose of the self-evaluation exercise, including the field-based evaluations, is:

- to assess how effective the Gender Mainstreaming Programmes have been in improving the interventions of the Fund's loan portfolio in addressing gender dimensions and empowering women and in attaining their specific objectives;
- to provide recommendations regarding future action to consolidate progress made and/or improve planning and implementation of gender mainstreaming action.

B. Target Groups

5. The target groups for the participatory gender sensitive evaluation conducted in Niger and the subject of this report were all the stakeholders involved in implementing the two projects in the two departments of Maradi and Tillaberi. The evaluation team consulted with project staff of PPILDA (Projet de Promotion de l'Initiative Locale pour le Développement à Aguié) and PDSFR (Projet de Développement des Services Financiers Ruraux); partner organizations such as Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and stakeholders from the University Abdou Moumouni of Niamey, who were all directly involved in project

implementation. Interviews were also conducted with men and women from three villages in the Department of Maradi and two in the Department of Tillaberi, who have all been active stakeholders in the aforementioned projects. Approximately 250 men and women were interviewed, half of whom were women, and all of whom represented community level groups involved in project activities.

C. Itinerary

6. The evaluation exercise in Niger lasted for 14 days and involved meeting with project staff, partners and project beneficiaries in five agricultural communities whose main activities were livestock rearing, food crop production and other income generating activities (IGAs) introduced by the projects. The mission was carried out with the purpose of meeting with the highest possible number of project stakeholders please see Table 2 below for the mission itinerary and meetings held.

Table 2: Mission Itinerary and Activities

Day	Activities
19 April 2006 Wednesday	<p>Arrangements made with Mr. Guéro of PPILDA to depart for Aigue' the same morning at 11.00 a.m.</p> <p>9.00 a.m.: change of plans due to project commitments in Niamey therefore departure deferred until 5.00 a.m. 20th April.</p> <p>Short briefing with Mr. Harouna of PDSFR to discuss a preliminary schedule of interviews and visits to PDSFR project sites and partners.</p> <p>Preliminary outline of tentative schedule discussed and prepared by the evaluation team for further elaboration with Mr. Guéro and Mr. Harouna.</p> <p>Draft questionnaire prepared for semi-structured interviews with projects staff of PPILDA and PDSFR plus partners.</p> <p>17.00: meeting with Mr. Guéro to finalize logistical preparations for the following day's journey.</p>
20 April 2006 Thursday	<p>Morning: Departure from Niamey to Aguié 6.00 a.m.</p> <p>Afternoon : Arrival Aguié a 17.00</p>
21 April 2006 Friday	<p>8.00 a.m. : Planning meeting with the coordinator of PPILDA Mr. Guéro Chaibou, CT/PIIP and the following members of the project team : Harouma Mamadou Traoré, monitoring and evaluation officer; Issa Hassam, in charge of implementation and development activities; Saley Kanta, in charge of stakeholder partnership management; Mrs. Saky Souleymande Roumanatou, sociologist and gender focal point¹.</p> <p>End of the meeting: 9.30</p> <p>17.00 – 20.00: A meeting was conducted with staff members from the PPILDA project where they assisted the evaluation team in analysing the impact of the project activities on: a) project staff; b) partners; c) on vulnerable groups of men, women and youth in the target communities.</p>
22 April 2006 Saturday	<p>Morning: The evaluation team was taken to Maradi to buy supplies for the field visits to the three villages identified.</p> <p>Afternoon: a) final preparations were made for the field trip which included a desk study of the participatory analysis conducted in the villages and other reports on training activities for the PIAG; b) in the early evening the team had a session with Mr. Guero in which he shared the successes and challenges of the PIAG and PPILDA</p>
23 April 2006 Sunday	<p>Morning: participatory interviews and exercises conducted with the men's group in the village of Dan Saga.</p> <p>Afternoon: participatory interviews and exercises conducted with the women's group in the village of Dan Saga.</p> <p>- Joint meeting of men and women for feedback and gathering recommendations for the project.</p>
24 April 2006 Monday	<p>Morning: participatory interviews and exercises conducted with the men's group in the village of El Guéza.</p> <p>Afternoon: participatory interviews and exercises conducted with the women's group in the village of El Guéza.</p> <p>- Joint meeting of men and women for feedback and gathering recommendations for the project.</p>
25 April 2006 Tuesday	<p>Morning: participatory interviews and exercises conducted with the men's group in the village of Guidan Bakoye (this village was not involved in the PIAG and therefore was visited to get an outside view of how successful</p>

¹ The fifth member of the team involved in the CT/PIIP Mr. Amadou Hassan was absent because he was conducting a workshop on lessons learnt from the gender approach used and the partnerships established with institutions and universities during the implementation of PIAG. The workshop was being held with professors from the University of Louvain in Belgium.

	<p>the project was, or not).</p> <p>Afternoon: participatory interviews and exercises conducted with the women's group in the village of Guidan Bakoye.</p> <p>- Joint meeting of men and women for feedback and gathering recommendations for the project.</p>
26 April 2006 Wednesday	<p>11.00-12.30 a.m. : the evaluation team together with Mrs. Roumanatou and Mr. Saley Kanta held a meeting with four staff members of the Institut National de Recherche Agricole du Niger (INRAN, National Agricultural Research Institute of Niger). INRAN was involved in the implementation of PIAG.</p> <p>16.00-18.00: The evaluation team met with a group of 20 people (three women and seventeen men) representatives of NGOs, extension services in Aguié and PPILDA staff members. Many of those present were not involved in the PIAG activities as they are new partners in PPILDA.</p>
27 April 2006 Thursday	<p>Morning: preparation for feedback session with PPILDA project staff in the afternoon.</p> <p>16.30-19.00: final meeting with PPILDA project staff to exchange feedback and recommendations for future gender mainstreaming in PPILDA.</p>
28 April 2006 Friday	<i>Departure for Niamey 5.30; arrival 16.30.</i>
29 April 2006 Saturday	<p>9.00-11.30: Meeting with PDSFR project team to analyse the impact of IFAD's gender action plan on: a) project staff; b) partner; c) vulnerable groups of men, women and youth in the target communities.</p> <p>Afternoon: Desk study of PDSFR annual report and a gender workshop report by the evaluation team.</p>
30 April 2006 Sunday	<p>8.45-13.00: Visits to the villages of Kollo and N'Dounga Tarey to meet with two women's groups benefiting from project support through access to micro-credit services.</p> <p>Afternoon: preparation for meeting with project partners on Tuesday 2nd of May.</p>
1 May 2006 Monday	Updating of mission report and review of semi-structured interviews questionnaires to be undertaken with partners on Tuesday.
2 May 2006 Tuesday	<p>8.30-9.30: De-briefing with Mr. Elhadj Abdou Chaibou, First Secretary of the Ministry of Agricultural Development.</p> <p>9.30-10.30: The team met with Dr. Amoukou Adamou Ibrahim at the Faculty of Agronomy of the University of Abdou Moumouni.</p> <p>10.30-12.30: The evaluation team met with Dr. Adam Toudou, Conference Manager and Scientific and Pedagogic Coordinator for CRESA at the University of Abdou Moumouni.</p> <p>14.00-15.30: Meeting with PDSFR staff to provide and receive feedback on the evaluation.</p> <p>16.00-17.00: Meeting with PDSFR partners.</p>
3 May 2006 Wednesday	<i>Departure for Rome 2.35 Am</i>

D. Sequencing

7. The field evaluation was divided into the following phases:

*

Mission preparation: a desk study of PIAG, PPILDA and PDSFR documents and reports were analyzed by the project team prior to their departure for Niger. A methodological note was also elaborated for the consideration of the IFAD mission coordinator and Country Portfolio Manager Ms. Cristiana Sparacino and for the Senior Technical Adviser – Gender and Poverty Targeting, Ms. Annina Lubbock.

- * **Field work:** Preparation of questionnaires for semi-structured interviews with project staff and partners. Selection of villages and PRA tools for the PRA exercises in the communities was done with the assistance of project staff. Finalization of the mission itinerary and logistical issues with local staff.
- * **Cross-cutting analysis and synthesis of findings:** at the end of each field work day and at the end of the field work. This analysis was conducted with the project staff and shared with all.
- * **De-briefing with the Ministry of Agricultural Development:** findings were shared with the First Secretary on experience gained during the mission to Maradi.
- * **Report writing:** further data analysis and elaboration.

E. Participatory Methods

8. The participatory gender sensitive methods used were based on the Socio-Economic and Gender Analysis (SEAGA) Approach. The evaluation team was assisted in its work in Aguié by the sociologist from the PPILDA project, who works as a facilitator in the communities and is the project gender focal point. Assistance was provided in Tillabéri by an agent from one of the Micro-Finance Institutions (MFI) active in the two communities selected. The average number of participants in the women and men's groups was around 25 to 30 in each village; mixed groups often included 40 village representatives. Special efforts were made to ensure the presence of older and younger men and women in each group.

9. Each participatory session held in the villages lasted about 2 hours both for women and men's groups and the feedback session at the end of the afternoon with both women and men lasted approximately 1 hour. The evaluation team visited one village per day in the department of Aguié and two on the same day in the department of Tillabéri. The field work analysis was shared with the project staff in a specifically designated session. Interviews with project staff and other partner institutions were conducted through the use of plenary sessions using open ended questions.

F. Participatory Tools

10. In the communities the facilitators used the following methods to encourage dialogue (it should be noted that the evaluation team realized that the facilitator in Aguié has a very good rapport with the villagers, thanks to PIAG activities from 2003 to 2005; however the same cannot be said of with the facilitator in the Department of Tillabéri, who seemed to be chivying the women present):

- * **Daily activity clocks/schedules:** were used for the purpose of identifying the average daily tasks of women and men in order to understand the different roles, interests and constraints they face. Participants strictly by gender
- * **Village maps:** were drawn by women and men farmers to illustrate what resources were available in their communities prior to the introduction of the project and what resources they attributed to the project activities undertaken in their community. Participants strictly by gender
- * **Pair-Wise Ranking:** this was used to discuss the main problems that men and women in the community have to face. These problems were then prioritized through the use of a matrix ranking. The purpose of identifying these problems was to link them to project services offered and to see if they had made any contribution to the alleviation of some of them.
- * **Seasonal calendars:** were used to share information and villagers' perspectives on annual rainfall, illnesses, food availability and agricultural work throughout the calendar year. This assisted in opening up discussions on perceptions of social change brought about through the project's activities.
- * **Semi-structured interviews:** these were used in order to encourage community members to discuss their view of project impact, in their own words. The facilitator's questions were built around existing information on the community and a list of sub-topics and key questions relating to changes in decision-making roles, division of labor, food security, access to agricultural and other resources, as well as changes in community roles for women and men.

II. RURAL POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS AND MAIN CONSTRAINTS IN NIGER

A. Background

11. Niger is a landlocked country of 1,267,000 km², located in the heart of West Africa, bordered by Algeria and Libya to the North, Chad to the East, Nigeria to the South, Benin and Burkina Faso to the Southwest, and Mali to the West. The Northern zone, covering about two thirds of whole surface area of the country, is located within the Sahara, it is an elevated region formed by plateaus and mountains and with the exception of some isolated oasis, vegetation is rare. The central zone is part of the Sahel (the Ténéré region) and is a semi-arid region with few trees. The South is the only fertile and wooded region and here there is enough rainfall to allow farmers to produce food crops without resorting to irrigation. The Southwest is characterized by periodic floods of the River Niger. Niger is situated in one of the hottest regions of the world, and has a mainly dry climate with marked variations in temperature. The rainfall pattern is Saharan in the North, with some 160mm falling in less than one month, and Sudano Sahelian in the South, where, during the rainy season (July-September), precipitations reach 600mm. Temperatures can exceed 40 degrees Celsius in the shade from March to June, the period of the "harmattan" wind. From November to February, temperatures drop considerably. The rainy season lasts from June to September; the harvest season, from October to January; and the hot and dry season, from February to May. The population of Niger is estimated to be 11,665,937 (July 2005 est.). The largest ethnic group is Haussa (56%), followed by Djerma (22%). Islam is the religion of 80% of the population.

12. Historically a gateway between the North and Sub-Saharan Africa, Niger came under French rule in the late 1890s. After independence in 1960 its economic and social progress was hindered by political instability and a five-year drought, which devastated livestock and crops. In 1990 a revolt by Touareg tribes, who accused the government of failing to deliver on promised economic aid, developed into an armed rebellion, ending only in the mid-1990s. The re-integration of former combatants from this rebellion is still under way. The country is currently divided into 8 regions, which are then subdivided into 36 districts (departments). One of the poorest countries in the world, Niger's economy is based largely on subsistence farming, livestock rearing, and some of the world's largest uranium deposits. UNDP's Human Development Report 2005 places Niger 177th out of 177.

13. Recurring droughts, accelerated desertification, a 2.63% population growth rate, as well as a drop in world demand for uranium have undercut an already marginal economy. Traditional subsistence farming, herding, petty trading, seasonal migration, and informal markets dominate an economy that generates few formal sector jobs.

14. Niger's agricultural and livestock sectors are the mainstay for all but 18% of the population. 14% of Niger's GDP is generated by livestock production (camels, goats, sheep, and cattle) and is said to support 29% of the population. Less than 4% of land is arable, 15% of which is found mainly along its Southern border with Nigeria. Rainfall varies and when insufficient, Niger has difficulty feeding its population and must rely on grain purchases and food aid to meet food requirements. Although the rains in 2000 were not good, for the next three years rains were relatively plentiful and well distributed, contributing to good cereal harvests. Last year Niger saw a devastating drought that led to a major food crisis across the country, leading to a lot of hardship. Millet, sorghum, and cassava are Niger's principal rain-fed subsistence crops; cowpeas and onions are grown for commercial export, and there are limited quantities of garlic, peppers, gum arabic, and sesame seeds.

Table 3: General Country data

Surface Area	1 266 700sqKm
Population (millions)	11.6
Population growth	2.63%
Life expectancy at birth (years)	44.4
Infantile mortality (under 5 years)	26.5%
Adult literacy rate	14.4%
GDP	USD 2.8 billion
GDP per capita (WB, 2005)	USD 232
Urban population (% of total)	22.2%
Human Development Index	0.281
HDI ranking 2005 (out of 177 countries)	177

B. Gender Division of Labor

15. Agricultural production systems in Niger can be analyzed along the lines of 4 major agro-climatic zones. Women's roles can be analyzed at three levels:

- **Noble women (Targui or Toubou):** they have a relatively privileged social position as they are responsible for managing their households and households resources which gives them quite a strong decision-making position within their families and community. They usually practice small-scale livestock production and manage milk production and its processing into butter, buttermilk and cheese, which they sell at local markets. They have the right to own land which they acquire either through inheritance or as a gift from their husbands. To supplement their income they weave straw mats for or are involved in petty trading (selling dress material and households utensils, etc.).
- **Descendants from slaves (Targui or Toubou):** these women play a full role in the agriculture activities of their masters and live on his land with their husband and children. The master is fully responsible for feeding and clothing them and in assisting them in covering expenses for ceremonial activities. Usually women in this group do all domestic work, including fetching water and taking small ruminants to pasture. They have the right to own their own animals (small ruminants) and they also produce handicrafts and grow their own crops in their master's field to meet household food needs and generate income. But the question of their legal rights is still very much taboo in Niger and is practically never brought up at community or national level.
- **Oasis Kanouri women:** unlike noble women from the Toubou and Touareg tribes, these women are responsible for all domestic tasks and water collection. Their main economic activities are based around petty trading such as the sale of salt, handicrafts and agricultural products.

16. In the Sahelo-Saharan zone the main tribes are the Touareg, the Peuls and the Peul sub-group called the Bororo, the Arabs and the Toubou. Pastoralism is the main activity in this area. Women's role within this system varies according to ethnicity. Among the Touareg, the Toubou and the Arabs a cast system is prevalent, as with the Northern population groups. Noble women in this society have a lifestyle comparable to that of their Northern counterparts. They look after small ruminants but do not take part in pastoral migration. They have a certain level of control over their own resources and some decision-making power at the household level.

17. Women descendants from slaves occupy a similar place to those women from their same social background in the oasis. But it is worth noting that in certain communities especially among the Touareg, this type of master slave relationship is quickly disappearing.

18. Among the Peuls and their sub-ethnic group (the Bororo) in the pastoral zone, this cast system does not really exist. These communities are mostly pastoralist and they have managed to form strong relationships and trade with Southern farmers in the areas that they pass through during their migration period. Peul women have more responsibilities for their animals, often large ruminants that they acquire as part of their dowry, through inheritance or as a gift from their husband. Certain numbers of women among the Peul take

part in the migratory caravan doing all domestic tasks and looking after the sale of dairy produce along the way.

19. Among the Bororo seasonal migration is the norm, especially for women. Women migrate towards major cities or neighbouring countries where they work as hairdressers (usually plating other women's hair), repair kitchen utensils or sell traditional medicinal products. This type of migration is the consequence of long periods of droughts which over the past few years have decimated their herds; the money earned during this seasonal migration provides capital for buying livestock and is used to meet the food, clothing and social needs of households.

20. The Sudano Sahelian zone occupies 21.9% of the national territory and is the most densely populated part of the country with approximately 100 inhabitants per km² in certain parts. This zone is suffering from enormous environmental problems such as soil erosion; the gradual disappearance of woodlands and pastoral areas; and increasing soil infertility as well as the rapid disappearance of agro-forestry resources. This environmental crisis has often given rise to bloody conflicts between farmers and pastoralists over the past few years.

21. The Sudano region occupies 0.9% of the territory and it is one of the few remaining sylvo-pastoral zones in the country. These two areas are the main agricultural and livestock producing zones of Niger, rain-fed agriculture being the main source of income here. Agricultural communities share this territory with the Peul and the Touareg who are agro-pastoralists. Agricultural production is carried out on small family plots during the rainy season and traditional production methods are used.

22. Women's roles vary significantly in these two areas and in the farming systems that prevail there, and are very dependent on ethnic and religious adherence. With the exception of Maradi, women do not take part in field work except during the sowing and harvesting season. Traditionally, women are given a small plot of land for one to two years to produce their own crops and this land is usually 'lent' to them by a relative or by someone who had enough land to share. Here women grow wandzou, groundnuts, sesame seeds and vegetables such as okra and sorrel to try and meet household food needs and generate some income. In a bid to increase household food security women are beginning to grow more and more millet and sorghum. Women's access and control over land in these areas is governed by the fact that men are the main breadwinners of the family and as such are seen as having responsibility to provide for the food needs of their wives and children. Religious and socio-cultural traditions also have their role to play and result in women having almost no land rights and/or being given the least fertile plots of land on which to grow their crops. In chronically vulnerable households women have to take up other income earning activities (agricultural labouring during harvest time or they are forced to migrate to the big cities for work) to meet food needs. Thanks to the development of market gardening along the banks of the Niger River and in Komadougou Yobé, near Lake Chad women are becoming more and more prominent as producers. But land rights are still very difficult to establish and deal with. Women also engage in fish selling along the banks of the river and around the lake shores, as well as mat weaving in the Dallols. Livestock fattening and food processing is carried out by women in all parts of the country.

23. Among the Haussa and Kanouri (with the exception of those living in Maradi) some small differences in livelihoods options and social conditions can be noted when compared to women from the West of the country:

- * Women are less involved in agricultural production in the Zinder region and in Kanouri, because of strong Islamic influences.
- * Increasing numbers of women are acting as heads of households in the Department of Tahoua, because many women's husbands have been forced to migrate to neighbouring countries for extended periods of time, some staying away for a number of years at a time.
- * Women from agro-pastoral communities in this part of Niger are much more involved in small livestock rearing and/or managing milk production from family herds. They are also involved in the production of handicrafts on a small scale.

C. Main constraints

24. Despite their subordinate position and their perceived dependence women are contributing more significantly to household income over the past few decades. It is this contribution that allows them to enjoy relative economic autonomy and indeed some decision making power within their households and at the community level. However it must not be forgotten that rural Nigerien women are still subject to multidimensional constraints. While both men and women suffer similar economic constraints due to poverty and vulnerability, women's constraints are perhaps more strongly felt because of their lack of social status and the demands placed upon them by their productive and reproductive roles. More specifically, it is because of their domestic workload, their status as minors, and their lack of access to extension and research services, their limited access to agricultural inputs (land, credit, and equipment), their lack of control over resources, lack of access to education, training, information and their marginalisation in terms of decision-making and legal rights. All of these obstacles conspire to keep rural women in a vicious cycle of poverty. The issue of women's empowerment cannot be tackled without allocating time and resources to develop the necessary skills, knowledge and capacity to deal with poverty alleviation issues, food insecurity and providing access to training and information.

III. GENDER EVALUATION OF THE PPILDA PROJECT

25. The Department of Aguié is situated in the central area of Maradi and has an estimated population of 275,000 inhabitants. The area has one of the highest population densities in the region (100 inhabitants per km²). The population is extremely young with 48% under the age of 15, 80% are Haussa farmers, 18% are Peuls and 2% are Touareg pastoralists. Most income earning activities in the region are centered on agriculture production, livestock rearing and marketing. Local conditions do not lend themselves easily to these practices as over the past few years less and less land has been available for agricultural production due to a series of factors: primarily population growth has meant that households have less land to share out among its members; increased land infertility means that production has dropped; and environmental conservation measures mean that people have less access than before to communal lands for firewood and non-wood forest products.

26. People's way of life in Aguié is very much influenced by their socio-economic status often manifest in people's unequal access to land and resources. With a view to working towards reducing these inequalities an IFAD project called *Projet de Développement Rural dans l'Arrondissement d'Aguié* (Department of Aguié Rural Development Project, PDRAA) was implemented in the area from 1992 to 2002. This project provided credit opportunities and literacy courses etc., for women which helped improve their wellbeing to a certain degree. However according to the project Director, the top-down approach initially used by the project meant that it failed to target the most vulnerable groups, limiting the impact of its activities on the lives of beneficiaries. To redress this situation the project team together with IFAD piloted a new more participatory approach through the implementation of VIPAF, *Programme de Valorisation des Initiatives Paysannes en Agroforesterie* (the Promotion of Farmers Initiatives in Agro-forestry Programme). These efforts to promote participatory methodologies in rural development were further reinforced through the *Programme d'Appui aux Initiatives et Innovations Paysannes* (Support for Farmers Initiatives and Innovations Programme, PAIIP) from 2001 to 2004. It was thanks to a combination of lessons learnt from these three interventions that project staff realised that the need to mainstream gender issues to ensure women's involvement at every level of project implementation is a must. Based on these results a pre-evaluation mission from IFAD recommended that gender mainstreaming be considered a cross-cutting issue in the implementation of all activities to be undertaken in the new PPILDA project. While waiting for PPILDA to be approved, IFAD provided the transition team with a gender grant that was expected to ensure the mainstreaming of gender in PPILDA through the *Projet d'Intégration de l'Approche Genre* (Integrating Gender into PPILDA, PIAG).

27. PIAG was implemented from January 2003 to June 2005, its activities were to form the basis for a smooth transition to PPILDA, which was originally scheduled to become operational in June 2003 but was unfortunately delayed until May 2005. This delay coupled with the severe food crisis of June 2005 had some negative impacts on ensuring gender mainstreaming in all activities of the new project.

A. Action Plan and Strategy

28. Implementation of PIAG was based on the PAIIP approach, that is to say it was based on the idea of active participation by all and the inclusion of all social groups within target villages. From the outset, men and women from the target communities were involved in the identification and implementation of all project activities. The basic principles which underline the PAIIP approach are:

- a) the importance of the central role to be played by the community²;
- b) all social groups within the village are stakeholders with specific roles and responsibilities;
- c) partnership is based on transparency and equality;
- d) the project's plan of action is flexible, the main idea being to encourage a sense of ownership for local men and women of project activities that they can manage themselves.

29. PIAG had the following four specific objectives:

- 1) to improve women's and their groups' capacities to innovate and develop activities to increase their economic and decision-making power and improve their lifestyles;
- 2) consolidate the approach that was used in PAIIP;
- 3) contribute to the preparatory phase of PPILDA;
- 4) build the technical and organizational capacities of PPILDA's human resources (staff, partners and beneficiaries).

30. The identification of project activities was achieved using the following approaches:

- a) participatory self-appraisal and analysis with village women and men, to come up with village action plans;
- b) identification of partners;
- c) implementation of activities;
- d) participatory self-evaluation and redesign³.

31. The following indicators of success emerged during the course of a final evaluation of PIAG that was conducted by the project team:

Quantitative.

1) **Gender training**, 15 people (including 4 women) from project staff and partner organizations were trained in gender analysis in May 2003 and gender training was organized in five villages in Aguié with 119 people being trained during that period (37 women, 82 men). In May 2004 three staff members, including the coordinator, attended a Western and Central Africa Division (PA) gender training held in Bamako, Mali.

2) **Capacity building**: based on needs identified through the self-analysis exercise conducted with the men and women of the targeted communities 75 farmers, 21 of which were women were trained in integrated cowpea protection; 101 women were trained and/or retrained in embroidery and knitting skills, others in soap and lotions making; 184 auditors were trained and this group included 66 literate women.

3) **Targeted support**: again based on needs identified by the communities' women and men, 39 groups, 24 of which were women's, were assisted in establishing community plots; 30 goats and 7 billy goats were bought by 7 women's groups (70 members), for breeding; a village monitoring and evaluation committee was set up to assist the goat project; a small flour mill was acquired for a women's cooperative; a seeding

² The approach stipulates that everything from appraisal to decision-making initiatives and innovations provide the basis for project action. The village is seen as an organised entity that has evolved its own social and organisational rules and regulations, and as such it is the source of ideas for project design and implementation.

³ For further details on this approach please refer to: Note sur le Projet d'Integration sur l'Approche Genre dans le PPILDA, avril 2006.

attachment and a cow were bought by a mixed group of women and men; three buildings were put up to house Income Generating Activities (IGAs) for women; 10 tons of improved seeds of millet, cowpeas and groundnuts, were produced; 174,000 Doum palm seeds were planted to stem soil erosion and this was done by 613 farmers, 107 of whom were women; and 11 farmers organization, 7 of which were for women, were given assistance in legally registering their activities.

Qualitative.

All stakeholders are aware of and sensitive to the notion of vulnerability, its causes, its links to gender issues and what local strategies can be used to combat it.

B. Impact on Project Beneficiaries

32. Three villages were visited for the gender evaluation, two of these villages were active partners in the PIAG project and the third was selected in order to see what kind of understanding and visible impact was observed by neighbouring villages not directly involved in the implementation of the project. The third 'witness' village Guidan Bakoye, will be a stakeholder in PPILDA from this year onwards. Approximately 150 adults were involved in the PRA exercises and interviews with the evaluation team, 50% being women and 50% being men. The PRA exercises showed that the project has succeeded in involving women, men, the poor and the vulnerable in most project activities and has helped village members realise that we all need each other in order to progress as a group. The project has sought to involve and share benefits with all groups within the communities, regardless of religion, sex, ethnicity etc. and has helped to promote the well-being of the poorest in order to improve their livelihoods and lifestyles, so that at some point in the future there will be enough for everybody at all times of the year and thus hopefully be less need for young men to emigrate, which is tearing apart the fabric of their communities and giving rise to rapid increases in HIV infections.

The village of Dan Saga

33. The first gender evaluation exercise for PPILDA took place in the village of Dan Saga. The team met with both men and women's groups and it was very clear that people had a strong sense of how the project had improved conditions in the community. Both old and young men agreed that training for capacity building, literacy and IGAs were important for the wellbeing of all community members. All of the men thought that the project had succeeded very well in involving women, men, the poor and the most vulnerable in all project activities. They also said that the project has helped to promote the well-being of the poorest in order to improve their livelihoods and lifestyles. The men said that they were happy with the literacy programs and expressed the need for the project to continue to offer this support to women and youth. Men said that women mostly benefited from IGAs and that they would like to see more and similar opportunities being offered to young people such as training and introducing them to agricultural and IGAs innovation, so as to stem emigration.

34. The evaluation team also met with the women of Dan Saga. Younger women were invited to prepare a daily activity clock for the dry and wet season which served to highlight how much work women usually have to do, and to discuss if IGA activities actually increased their work load. Each group presented the findings from their discussions which led to further discussions on how the women viewed the project; the women said that the project had helped to create a sense of community cohesion because it involves all social classes, all ethnic groups and all religious groups. They also said that relationships between the sexes have improved as far as they were concerned. They said that men have accepted the need to include them in development activities and that this is happening more and more. They now feel that they can express their opinion in public and feel they are more involved in decision making both at the household and community level. Women said that they can attend meetings without their husbands and share the information discussed with them afterwards. They also told the evaluation team that they would like to see more support for existing IGAs and the introduction of new ones, if possible. Literacy skills need a lot more support especially for women because it allows them to take a more active role in the community and give them access to more information.

35. In summary the project has played a significant role in:

- * increasing women's participation in village meetings and in other mixed fora;
- * "freedom of speech" for women has been promoted so they now can have their say in village meetings;
- * the social position of women has improved and they now can make decisions for themselves;
- * the economic power of women has increased because of their IGAs activities, which have generated significant income for them;
- * community decision-making power for women has improved (their roles in village committees);
- * there is greater involvement of youth and the more disadvantaged in development activities through training, capacity building and targeted support;
- * men are sensitized on the role and contribution that women play in social and economic development;
- * the Peul community is being progressively integrated into development activities, after a long period of exclusion;
- * sexual discrimination in terms of access to project support has decreased.
- * The project has also sought to work closely with women on raising awareness about the role ceremonies play in increasing household food insecurity. Women in this zone come under great social pressure to contribute food or money to village ceremonies both for their own families and those of others. Research conducted by the project team shows that this kind of expense plays a major role in compromising their own household food security. Awareness raising has been done with women's groups to try and encourage them to contribute a bit less and not to succumb to social pressures that can leave them and their children without food. Progress is slow but steady.

The village of El Guéza

36. The evaluation met with the people of the village of El Guéza to undertake PRA exercises with the men and women there. The men came up with a list of activities that they considered they can and will continue even when the project is over (Sustainability):

- * seed multiplication (the villagers feel prepared to train others in neighbouring villages on how they have learnt to identify good seed and how to test it before taking it to the field);
- * cereal banks;
- * health: a health worker has been trained and they feel that this given continuity and sustainability to health services in the community;
- * seed banks;
- * environmental sustainability: everyone is aware of what needs to be done for re-forestation and are working towards it as it can help stem soil erosion (one of the greatest problems faced by local farmers);
- * literacy is sustainable: women have raised the money themselves to keep classes going. In itself the ability to read is seen as good because it opens up the mind and allows people to explore new avenues;
- * the project has also assisted in fostering cohesion, encouraging meetings and consultation processes for village development.

The following recommendations were made:

- * more support to IGAs
- * more access to fertilizers, seeds and inputs in general;
- * youth need training and IGAs to help stem emigration;
- * more support to livestock component, as the crisis last year depleted capital due to stress sales;
- * more teachers and classrooms for children;

- * because of problems faced by the soap making group (women were being cheated during exchange transactions in Nigeria, where they are forced to go for raw materials) a suggestion was made that young men could take over this IGA;
- * urgent need for fertilizers and other inputs as the biggest issue for both men and women is infertile soil. Training is good but people need access to inputs as well.

37. The team met with the women's group in the afternoon. A debate on a series of issues including decision making, empowerment etc. ensued as a result of the information that came out of the preparation of daily activity clocks and this information concerned women's work load and the introduction of the IGAs.

38. Women told the evaluation team that they felt they now had a greater community role to play thanks to the project and that they now felt free to air their opinions in public meetings, unlike previously when fears over being considered forward by their in-laws or husbands, meant they stayed silent in public. Before the advent of the project men kept all information about community activities to themselves now women feel that they know and are involved in community issues because the project staff and partners have encouraged them to contribute their ideas and have kept them informed. They too recommended further support to livestock introduction, management and literacy skills and asked for new IGAs that would help increase their household revenue.

Observations:

39. Both villages seemed to have a real sense of ownership of the project. They were confident in their own ability to manage certain activities without the support of the project and were indeed still running committees etc. that were no longer being supported by the project. Dan Saga seemed to be better off than El Guéza and better maintained; because despite the project activities the communities seemed to be quite poor still, but perhaps some of this is the aftermath of last year's food crisis. People were struggling to make ends meet and the general health of the children and women did not seem to be very good. The project had programmed to work on nutrition and malnutrition issues as well as sanitation etc. this year, but a government directive has put this on hold and the project has been forced to concentrate on improving rain-fed and irrigated agriculture, environmental conservation and repair of agricultural access roads. This government directive affects all development projects active in the area for the rest of the 2006 financial year.

The village of Guidan Bakoye

40. The third village visited is called Guidan Bakoye and will be one of the targeted villages in PPILDA activities from this year onwards. It is one of the 6 villages in the Dan Saga network group (*grappe*); these networks of six villages are made up of one village that was involved in PIAG and five other villages that are in close proximity. The idea behind the establishment of such networks is to increase sustainability and ownership to the project through mutual support. A PRA analysis process has already been undertaken with community members to identify the activities they want to be involved in in the PPILDA. Guidan Bakoye was not a directly stakeholder in PIAG but men and women from the village were encouraged to attend some demonstrations in Dan Saga and some agricultural skills were shared with them which they have adapted to their village situation (see below for details). The evaluation team met with the men's group in the morning and they were invited to prepare a "Seasonal Calendar" giving details of rainfall, illnesses, food availability and agricultural work throughout the agricultural calendar year. A group of younger men were invited to prepare and discuss a "Pair-Wise Ranking" of six main constraints that they experienced in the community. The young men identified the following major constraints:

- 1) lack of infrastructures especially pertaining to water;
- 2) infertility of soils;
- 3) village isolation;
- 4) illnesses;
- 5) lack of employment or wage earnings opportunities for young people during the dry season.

41. Both groups presented the results of their discussion to the plenary and discussed how they viewed the PIAG activities that they had seen being implemented in Dan Saga (some 45km distant). They also discussed how they indirectly or directly benefited from the project activities. They said that they really liked what they had seen in Dan Saga and they were involved in some of the demonstrations, which allowed them to replicate what they saw in their own community, e.g. vegetable production, planting of palm trees to decrease soil erosion, and, based on what they had seen in Dan Saga, they also established a communal plot for women in their own village. They appreciated the fact that everybody in Dan Saga was involved in the project including women and people from all social classes. They also said that they appreciated the gradual process undertaken to involve women in all of the project activities. They have seen the IGAs that are up and running in Dan Saga and they are hoping that the same kind of activities can be undertaken with the women in their community. The support given through the project to buying inputs such as small agricultural machinery is also something that they would like to replicate.

42. It was unanimously agreed that the literacy programme is a vehicle of empowerment not only for women but for young men also. The men of Guidan Bakoye said that they have been able to observe changes in women's role in Dan Saga and that not only have men understood the need to include women but that women have shown themselves willing to contribute to community activities. In fact, they think that the project has been a mind opener for them. In the past, men were the only ones called to the village meetings, but now when people from Guidan Bakoye go to Dan Saga they have notice that the village crier also calls for the women. They feel that Dan Saga has become a model for them and they would like to see the same project approach and activities being introduced to Guidan Bakoye. They emphasised the importance of trying to assist the young men in the village to become economically independent because they, the villagers, felt that those young men made major contributions to food security, but through lack of choice locally they are forced to emigrate for long periods of time to other countries in order to meet the basic needs of their households. Therefore their livelihoods needs should to be met so that they can stay at home and play their full role in the community life.

43. In their PRA action plans, developed with the assistance of the project team, the community had identified another pressing need and that was the urgent need to build classrooms in the schools to replace those of straw that are washed away by the rains every year. Each year the village children can no longer attend school during the rainy season, because of lack of shelter. However the government directive mentioned above means this component that will be postponed to at least next year as all funds are to be dedicated to agricultural production.

44. The team met up with the women's group in the afternoon. About 30 women were present and the whole group undertook a "Pair-Wise Ranking" of community problems common to everyone present. While the women identified similar problems to the men, their list of priorities is as follows:

- 1) illnesses;
- 2) loss of fertility in the soils;
- 3) livestock;
- 4) access to good seeds;
- 5) lack of capital for IGAs;
- 6) lack of water.

The women interviewed by the evaluation team went on to identify how they had directly and indirectly benefited from PIAG activities in Dan Saga. The women mentioned the following issues: 24 women directly benefited from the establishment of a communal plot, based on the example of what they saw in Dan Saga; they were also involved in learning how to grow vegetables and were given seeds for *Cassipourea*. The women also mentioned a savings project set up by Care International which PIAG supported by working with the women on how best to invest their money. The women said they would like to see this component established in their community too and would also like to benefit from support for their agricultural production activities.

C. Project impact on staff

45. The project staff said that their involvement with PIAG has assisted them in building their capacities in gender analysis. Today gender mainstreaming is a cross-cutting issue to be dealt with in all aspects of project implementation from the selection of partners to prioritizing activities with the men and women in targeted communities that will reach all social groups. From the outset of project implementation all statistics generated by the project have been gender disaggregated and every effort is made to ensure that women are given the opportunity and training to become equal partners with men.

46. When the evaluation team asked if the gender programme had brought about change in staff attitudes and working procedures they were told that new staff members have not been directly trained on gender although they are fully aware that gender is a major cross-cutting issue for all PPILDA activities. Sensitization training on gender mainstreaming for new staff members was scheduled to take place later this year once the full complement of staff was on board, but recruitment processes and capacity building processes within the project have been delayed because of external pressure (political and others). Everybody in the project says that they feel responsible for gender mainstreaming but while new staff is still a bit resistant to gender mainstreaming, this has to be accepted as people coming from different working experiences and backgrounds always show some initial resistance. All staff expressed the hope that capacity building on gender for staff members and partners would be undertaken early in 2007 and that the training will be based on lessons learnt from PIAG. The question was also raised about the capacity of partners to deal with gender issues and the PPILDA team said that they would be part of the group targeted for training in early 2007. Local NGOs have been favoured in the recruitment of new partners for PPILDA and for their knowledge and practice of gender sensitive PRA, but because implementation of project activities only commenced in October 2005 the PPILDA project staff have not had the opportunity to verify the strength of these NGOs in PRA and gender analysis approaches to date.

47. Prior to the arrival of the evaluation team the PPILDA staff had very kindly prepared a preliminary evaluation report on gender mainstreaming in PIAG and PPILDA. This report provided the basis for detailed discussions with staff and helped to quickly provide information on some of the challenges and successes the team had encountered in mainstreaming gender during PIAG. In the report mention was made of involving men and women in the communities in all stages of the project cycle, thorough the use of participatory approaches. Based on the feedback provided in the report, the evaluation team raised the question or whether or not the villagers were comfortable and familiar with the project cycle and the use of PRA tools in project planning and implementation. The PPILDA team said they were satisfied with the communities' use of these tools and maintain that they even use them in the absence of project staff, which implies that they have become part of the communities' planning tools.

D. Impact on partner organizations

48. Many different partnerships were established during the implementation of PIAG and these include local NGOs, extension services and research institutes, as well as with the Universities of Abdou Moumouni (Niamey), Louvin and Bamako. And last but not least, strong partnerships were forged between these stakeholders and the communities' men and women.

1) Local NGOs and government extension

49. A group of 20 people (three women and seventeen men) representing NGOs, extension services and PPILDA staff members were interviewed (see Annex I for a list of those present) for the evaluation. Many of those present at the plenary meeting had not been involved in PIAG activities as they are new partners for PPILDA. The evaluation team asked those who were new to the project to discuss their experience in using participatory gender sensitive approaches, prior to their partnership with PPILDA, and those who were involved in the implementation of PIAG were asked to discuss those same issues in terms of the project activities they had been involved in. Some of those present had no direct experience of gender mainstreaming, but all felt that they had always made sure that both men and women had been targeted in other projects they had been involved in. According to the representatives of the NGOs present, they feel that it is their duty, when working in the field with people, to make sure that every effort is made to create

synergies between different social, ethnic and gender groups in a strategic way. Working with women and men is what is meant by working with rural populations for them.

50. Those NGOs who had been stakeholders in the implementation of PIAG recognized the importance of participation and gender in all development activities. According to those NGOs the people living and working in the villages targeted by PIAG are asking for and demanding certain kinds of capacity-building services such as literacy skills, and IGAs and they felt that they have been successful in responding to these needs. They also added that because women are much further behind than men in Maradi in terms of access to resources such as land, inputs and training, they felt that it is only right that women are favoured above men when it comes to training opportunities, for the moment at least.

51. The NGOs felt that, because a lot of gender sensitization has been done at community level, the majority of people at the grassroots level are in agreement about including women and men of all social and ethnic groups in all of the project component activities. They feel that there is only a small minority of men who still continue to resist change, especially when it comes to increasing women's visibility in community life. Therefore all NGOs present said that the gender sensitive participatory approaches and methodologies used during PIAG were very effective.

52. The PPILDA project provides support to activities chosen by the communities' men and women themselves. Therefore according to the project partners this gives a better probability for these activities to be sustainable once project support finishes in the future. The fact that both women and men have been trained in leadership skills, literacy and IGAs means that they have a better understanding sustainability issues and management of groups.

53. Representatives from national extension services say that they still experience problems with their own recruitment processes. The State has not tried to recruit equal numbers of women and men for extension activities and often female staff, whose participation would be necessary to ensure outreach to women in certain areas of the country, are not available.

54. The issue of a gender policy in their own organizations was discussed and people honestly said that there were still barriers to women's recruitment because of fears relating to pregnancies leading to absence from work for a long period of time, but they felt things were gradually improving within their respective NGOs. There are many more female graduates on the job market nowadays who are ready to move more freely around the country, unlike in the past where single women did not have that freedom of movement, but government recruitment processes need to catch up.

55. The point was raised about the need for capacity building at the institutional level, especially for new members of PPILDA staff and for themselves as NGOs and extension service partners. All felt that they could benefit from gender training because those originally trained during the initial stages of PIAG have left the area and or the NGO/government service they had been working for, therefore training is needed for those who have taken their place, for those who are new partners, and to refresh the skills of PPILDA staff who have already been trained, as well as PPILDA staff members who have not yet been trained. Everyone acknowledged the fact that it was very important for them as a team to have a common view point on gender mainstreaming and that they needed to keep abreast of emerging trends for gender mainstreaming in development activities.

2. Research institutions

a) Institut National de Recherche Agricole du Niger (National Agricultural Research Institute of Niger (INRAN))

56. The National Agricultural Research Institute of Niger was and is a major stakeholder and partner for PIAG and PPILDA research activities within the communities in Aguié. Institutionally INRAN's involvement in PIAG has wrought changes in their research processes, changes in their relationships with men and women farmers and extension service providers, as well as changes in their attitudes towards the need to conduct gender analysis when working with vulnerable groups in tackling food insecurity issues.

Those present at the meeting told the evaluation team that for them gender analysis goes beyond simply understanding the roles and responsibilities of men and women to a more holistic approach to include ethnic minorities, children, young people and the elderly. The organisation has been working with participatory gender sensitive approaches since the early 1980s, but their work with PIAG has increased their capacity to target the needs of vulnerable groups and to include all social groups within a given community in research and development activities. They said that women and men's needs are different and are dictated by imbalances in their access to land, agricultural inputs and other resources. Thanks to INRAN's experience with PIAG they feel that one of the most vital lessons they have learnt is the necessity to include local initiatives in their research processes. As researchers they have come to appreciate that everyone, including men and women farmers, has knowledge to bring to the table. Their relationships as researchers with both farmers and extensionists have changed because of partnerships forged through the project and other initiatives. The project has assisted all stakeholders in defining the roles, responsibilities and contributions of everyone to the development process.

57. INRAN feels that some continuing obstacles to women's participation persist: because women often have very little land it is difficult for them to become involved in testing and research activities. Other issues related to religion and ethnic adherence (they thought that male jealousy among the Peul was an obstacle to including Peul women in training) are continuing constraints to women's participation. INRAN's relationship with extension has radically changed, they feel that instead of working in competition they have harmonised their activities with each other so that everybody feels part of a transparent research agenda. Thanks to the project they feel that a dynamic partnership exists and that this is not dependant upon the presence of certain individuals but rather on the institutionalization of this partnership. INRAN works with other projects and institutions and the process of using participatory gender sensitive approaches to research started in the institution before the advent of PIAG, but the project's activities and capacity building support have increased their ability to use Participatory Action Research (PAR) more effectively. INRAN has changed its approach to research analysis so that now it not only looks at issues from a scientific point of view but also from a socio-economic one. This approach still needs strengthening and those present at the meeting said that they would welcome some form of further capacity building in gender analysis during the course of their new partnership with PPILDA.

58. The field research carried out by INRAN students has changed radically in terms of including PRA, gender, and vulnerability issues. In fact, research topics developed by students are being dictated by field necessities rather than by university perceptions of felt needs, they said.

b) University of Abdou Moumouni, Niamey:

59. The University was instrumental in producing the vulnerability study conducted during the initial phases of PIAG implementation. Thanks to the University's 3 to 4 year association with the project they have started to bring about change in the university curriculum, but progress is slow. Based on partnership with the project, they have developed a guide for students on how their thesis can become an instrument to support local development (Guide Méthodologique pour les mémoires et doctorats: comment concrètement transformer sa recherche en instruments d'appui au changement locale). This guide currently in draft form will be used in the university locally and also with partner academic institutions in Belgium, Mali and Burkina Faso. The university's partnership with PIAG has helped them realize that the young women and men they have been training were not very good at talking with farmers and at setting up development projects. This has changed as a result of the exchange system for research students established between the project and the university. The partnership with a development project such as PIAG means that they are now more open and participatory in their partnerships with farmers and others, because they have seen the added value of participation by all in giving rise to sustainable development activities. The university acknowledges how much farmers can contribute to development research and to the realisation that innovations for farmers have to be economically viable and based on local initiatives.

60. Some important institutional changes have occurred. Research is no longer purely carried out on a scientific level but social issues are taken into account also. In Niger today there is a critical mass of support from the University staff for participatory approaches and they feel that much added value could be obtained

by using university students for analysis and research projects because they have more time to spend in the field and because they are locally based.

61. Another very important result of the partnership with PIAG has meant that a student exchange network has flourished with Belgian Universities and other African universities in the region. This is a North-South exchange that involves a number of Universities in Francophone Africa and Europe. Through their research, projects, professors and students try to understand what leads people to become vulnerable (isolation, poverty, natural disasters, social vulnerability, psychological vulnerability and issues to do with the economic burden of ceremonies) and link that to the problems of food insecurity and environmental degradation.

62. In most academic institutions change is very slow, especially when it comes to changes in curricula. Universities are very conservative, but through Masters' degrees' students university staff has managed to create a greater awareness of the crucial role played by farmers in research. Convinced of the importance of first hand experience from gender sensitive participatory projects, university staff sends 10 students a year to Aguié to conduct research based on the needs and initiatives of local farmers. This exchange has led to important changes in university research processes. Furthermore the students who have been able to conduct their research with the project in Aguié have all been highly sought after on the job market thanks to their experience there. These researchers have revolutionized their vision of farmers' role in agricultural research. Traditionally or theoretically researchers did not have to have direct contact with the "consumers" of their products. Traditional research methods were based on establishing experimental plot on farmers' land and developing questionnaires to be administered to interviewees and analysed by academics afterwards. The project has taught them that they do not need to work beside the farmers in the field but with the farmers, because they are researchers as well. Thanks to this experience the University has been able to prepare tailor made modules for Mali, Burkina Faso, Belgium and Niger itself on issues to do with PAR. Those staff members interviewed by the evaluation team felt that extension has stayed a bit behind because it's often passive and more administrative in its approaches.

E. Innovations, lessons learnt and sustainability

63. *Innovations*: the approach used by the project has meant that isolated and small scale innovations introduced by local farmers have been shared with other communities and replicated in line with local ecological conditions and agricultural practices. The project has placed a lot of emphasis on farmers innovations and initiatives and has given support to people in the villages and on sharing these innovations and experiences with the international community (for details of lessons learnt please refer to www.enda.com⁴).

64. The PAIP project was also instrumental in assisting FAO in training on the Farmer Field School approach they were using but the PAIP team succeeded in insisting on the importance of the role played by valuing farmers' innovations and of women's participation, thus ensuring a more integrated gender approach to the implementation of these schools.

65. *Lessons learnt*: the PIAG grant was the lynch pin that permitted gender to be mainstreamed and become an integral part of the planning for PPILDA implementation with the communities. The grant allowed the team and all other project actors to systematically include gender issues in the pre-project identification of activities for PPILDA. The project team intends to reinforce this gender sensitive approach with new partners and staff that have come on board this year, when they are implementing PPILDA activities in the communities, as they feel it is a vital component to ensuring the sustainability of activities undertaken. Mainstreaming gender in PAIP has taught the team that the needs, constraints and problems of all social groups need certain pre-conditions in order to be dealt with successfully. That is to say they need to:

- * ensure that all social groups and both men and women are included in all stages of the project cycle from identification to monitoring and evaluation;

⁴ ENDA is the Web Site of Environmental Development Action in the Third World, where successes and lessons learnt, and documented during the course of PIAG are shared.

- * promote the active participation of all village social groups in village committees responsible for monitoring project related activities;
- * organise sensitization meetings with those social groups who have been excluded from project activities in order to encourage their full participation;
- * establish a communication network that takes into account the way information is shared, and not shared, with various social groups in the communities (in PIAG a man and a woman in each community had the job of making sure every community stakeholder was informed on progress and changes in project activities).

66. *Sustainability*: this project has addressed the issue of sustainability from its inception. The main project stakeholders are confident that, thanks to the approach used, even when project support ceases the majority of activities will continue to be run by village members themselves. The following points were raised by the beneficiaries, partners and project staff and they illustrate the level of sustainability that has been built into the project design from its inception:

- * seed multiplication (the villagers feel prepared to train others in neighbouring villages on how they have learnt to identify good seed and how to test it before taking it to the field). This skill is now part of their farming systems approach and is continuously used throughout the production cycle;
- * the establishment and running of cereal banks is seen as playing a vital role in food security by all community members. During the food crisis of 2005 the presence of the cereal banks provided a safety net;
- * in some of the villages the project activities assisted community members in deflecting the worst effects of the 2005 food crisis, thanks to the fact that the small livestock component groups were able to sell some goats and sheep in order to buy millet to feed their families during the crisis;
- * health workers have been trained in some of the villages and the communities feel that this has given continuity and sustainability to health services there;
- * the establishment and running of seed banks has given confidence to the farmers in knowing they have access to quality seeds. Therefore, they are determined to continue with the smooth running of the banks;
- * environmental sustainability: everyone is aware of what needs to be done for re-forestation and are working towards it as they know it helps stem soil erosion, one of the greatest problems for local farmers;
- * literacy is sustainable: women have raised the money themselves to keep classes going in certain villages, a necessary skill strictly linked to the development of people;
- * the project has also assisted in fostering cohesion, encouraging meetings and consultation processes for village development;
- * the negotiation process used for setting up the small livestock component ensured that men and women felt ownership of the process and, as a consequence, sustained the activity. As a matter of fact, even though the project ceased in assisting the villagers over a year ago, the committee members have continued to ensure the fair distribution of goats to the neediest households.

F. Challenges and Future Directions

67. *IFAD's Gender Plan of Action*: the PPILDA team is fully aware of the fact that they urgently need to train their own staff and partners on gender issues, despite the government moratorium. This moratorium affects the capacity building activities planned for 2006. These capacity building activities, requested by the communities have been put on hold by the Government so as to concentrate project funds and activities on rain-fed and irrigated agriculture, environmental management and the reconstruction of agricultural feeder roads.

68. *Office procedures*: there needs to be an internal evaluation of gender mainstreaming in and among team members, but it is difficult to measure gender sensitivity among team members when there is only one woman on the team. The full team should be on board and operational by September, hopefully there will be another woman among the new staff members.

69. *Capacity building*: on the issue of decreasing women's workload, it might be necessary to conduct a study with groups of local women to better understand what "overworking" really means to them. The concept of overwork needs to be understood from the point of view of community women. Before starting to look at decreasing women's workload the issues of food security and malnutrition need to be addressed. Negotiations between men and women need to be initiated in order to try and reduce the amount of time women spend in the family field. Women often have to neglect their own production in favour of working for their husbands. In fact, often the most vulnerable women in the community are forced to sell firewood to meet their household basic food needs and therefore neglect to work in their fields in order to continue this activity. The revenue from the sale of this wood is very small. Despite that it ensures women with enough money to buy small amounts of food for their children, neglecting their own food production and leaving them even more vulnerable in the dry season.

70. *Women's leadership*: the issue of women's leadership and how to support it is another challenge for PPILDA. To date the project has insisted that village committees have to give certain posts to women, in order to ensure their presence and participation during village decision-making procedures. This type of positive discrimination is necessary but in order to promote women's leadership successfully it has to be accompanied by capacity building opportunities so that women can fulfil their roles. This is also visible in the challenges the project faced in selecting village animators with the community. It is obvious that some of the women were not chosen because of their ability to communicate and organise, but because of internal social and community pressure. It was suggested to the team that if they wanted people who were already functionally literate they might do well to establish a series of criteria that could be shared with the community and agreed upon. That way they would have a chance of getting people who could do the job better. Furthermore, since decision making is closely linked to economic power, women are requesting training in IGAs, agricultural production, literacy and leadership so as to take their equal place in society.

71. A further challenge that arose during the implementation of PIAG was connected to the small livestock component. In some instances this component was not successful because the villagers hid the truth about who was buying the goats from the project staff. In one or two villages, farmers, who were not the poorest or most disadvantaged people in the community, gave their poorer neighbours the necessary deposit to buy the goats, which they then appropriated for their own herds. This has become one of the lessons learnt by project staff about the importance of establishing ownership by the community of the activities agreed upon so as to avoid similar future misappropriation of project goods.

72. The project stakeholders have also come to realise that despite concerted efforts to involve people from every social and ethnic group in the community they have not managed to be hugely successful with involving the Peul. The problematic is currently addressed through the on-going implementation of PPILDA activities.

G. Recommendations

73. The following recommendations were made based on discussions with the project team, partners involved and men and women beneficiaries of the project. It should be noted here that most of the recommendations put forward are based on what the PPILDA team already recognized as needing further support and strengthening.

Capacity building for PPILDA staff and partners

- 1) Project staff and their partners need to be offered training on gender and participatory approaches for each of the project's component, in order to establish a common vision of these cross-cutting issues and how to address them in the project. Past success in gender mainstreaming under the PIAG will only continue if new staff and new partners can also be exposed to the methodologies successfully used. It has already been noticed that among some of the newly arrived staff members there is resistance to continuing with the gender sensitive participatory approaches used to identify project activities with community members to date. This is causing quite a lot of stress among and between staff members and needs to be addressed at the earliest opportunity otherwise it may derail progress made so far.
- 2) Ms. Roumanatou would need to be further supported in her work as gender focal point of the project. Everyone should be responsible for evaluating the integration of gender issues in all project activities.
- 3) The project team should try and develop a gender strategy addressing all project's activities to provide project's and partner's staff a common vision of the gender approach and its implication in daily work.

Gender capacity building in the communities

- 1) The problem of the lack of female leaders could be partially resolved through building their capacities in the following areas: literacy, management training, group formation, management training and conflict resolution.
- 2) There is a need to develop and support activities for young people in the communities, so that they can fulfil their community and family roles and not be forced to emigrate.
- 3) Efforts should be made to encourage synergy between the IGA activities of women and youth groups. But caution needs to be exercised in not trying to integrate them too much. Young men in the community are better prepared than women to deal with the marketing and commercialisation of their products, so measures need to be taken to ensure that women do not lose control over the existing IGAs they are running.
- 4) In order to ensure better participation of the Peul, efforts will need to be made to encourage them to join existing village groups or new groups that will be created. Some project activities or demonstrations could be organized in Peul settlements where neighbouring village men and women could join, so as to increase their involvement in project activities.
- 5) In order to overcome some of the constraints being placed on the project to meet its training and capacity building commitments (the Government has insisted that all training activities be suspended until 2007), the evaluation team suggested that the project look into the possibility of establishing time banks or Local Exchange and Trading Systems (LETS) with the communities's assistance. The driving force behind LETS schemes is to try and ensure that currency is kept circulating in the local rather than the global market, so that its benefits are felt through the exchange of goods and services in a locally denominated 'virtual' currency. LETS members in communities worldwide have voluntarily come together to support a lifestyle that is less dependant on the global market and its members (see LETS as offering greater access to all social groups within the community to affordable training, education, health care, additional employment and more qualitative resources such as a better quality of life and wider social networks). These approaches have worked in communities worldwide where efforts are made to share services (such as literacy, training, etc.) with disadvantaged members of the community in exchange for services rather than money.⁵ Because there are no financial costs involved, the evaluation team thought the establishment of LETS might circumvent current obstacles to the project's ability to continue with their capacity in building activities.

⁵ See the following websites for details of this approach: <http://www.gml ets.u-net.com>; <http://www.lets-linkup.com>; <http://lets.net>.

IV. GENDER EVALUATION OF THE PDSFR PROJECT

Introduction

74. The Programme for the Development of Rural Financial Services (PDSFR) was approved by IFAD's Executive Board in May 2000, signed on the 8th of December 2000 and has been operational since June 2001. The programme has as its overall objective the improvement of rural people's living standards and its specific objective is to sustainably improve rural people's access to financial services especially for poor and disadvantaged groups such as women and youth. In order to reach these objectives the programme has to make sure that financial services, through the offices of decentralized professional organizations, can better respond to the specific needs of the most vulnerable rural populations. PDSFR has the mandate to assist micro-finance sector institutions in ensuring that these services are made available countrywide.

A. Action plan and strategy

75. From its inception the project faced a number of conflicts both internal and external for the first two years of operations. Conflicts arose between the project management team and the technical team, as well as with the supervising ministries for the project, i.e. Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Agricultural Development; the latter has since ceased to supervise the project. This led to changes being made in the project agreement during the course of 2004 and these changes resulted in the abolition of the technical unit and to the reorganization of management as well as the recruitment of a new programme director. Therefore, project activities were first implemented during only the course of 2003. The project seems to be experiencing difficulties in reaching its targets. The end of its first phase will be in December 2006, although this was originally scheduled for May 2005.

The programme has the following four components that correspond to its overall objective:

- 1) bringing the micro-finance sector up to professional standards⁶;
- 2) developing and consolidating Decentralized Financial Systems (Systèmes Financiers Décentralisés: SFD);
- 3) research and development to come up with a micro-finance model that responds to the felt needs of rural men and women;
- 4) programme management (M&E).

76. In the activities carried out within the project to date, it is difficult to see where gender sensitive participatory methods have been used to identify customer needs and to build the capacity of project staff and micro-finance sector institutions in mainstreaming gender and participation in their community work. Unfortunately, project's objectives were set without taking into account the need for participation and without assessing the central role it plays in promoting sustainability.

B. Impact on project beneficiaries

The village of Kollo-Zongo

77. In collaboration with the PDSFR Coordinator a field visit was organised to two villages benefiting from project support in having access to micro-credit services. PRA tools were selected to initiate contact with the community but the evaluation team experienced difficulty in persuading the micro-credit agent to assist the team in explaining and using the tools with the women of the community; therefore it was decided that the evaluation team would explain the exercise in French and that the PDSFR Coordinator would facilitate the dialogue between the team and rural women.

78. In the village of Kollo the team met with 15 out of 24 members of the credit group, none of whom were literate. The original credit group had been set up in the village in 1996 with 52 members, and then reformed in 2002 with a total of 24 members due to internal difficulties. Through the use of "Pair Wise Ranking" the

⁶ For the most recent updates on the Micro-Finance sector in Niger, please see the PDSFR Annual Report 2005.

group of women was invited to come up with a list of 5 main problems they, as women, have to face in the village. These problems were then prioritized and are as follows:

- * access to water (for irrigation and households consumption);
- * access to health services (human);
- * access to money;
- * access to food;
- * access to health services (animals).

79. The evaluation team went on to explain the purpose of having raised these problems and went on to link them with what, if any, contribution the women thought their access to micro-credit services has made in alleviating some of these problems. Women said that the loans had helped them to buy food that they would normally not have been able to purchase without the assistance of their husband or another family member, but this practice raises serious questions about the capacity of women to repay loans in the future, as they are using funds to meet their basic needs rather than generating income. The women interviewed felt that last year's food crisis was off-set somewhat in the community thanks to the credit scheme, as the women's groups used some of the money to buy millet. Regarding decision-making women said that they feel that they now have more of a say at home. However details of this were not provided as the women seemed slightly reluctant to voice ideas in the presence of the NGO agent. In terms of community decision-making they can now attend village meetings and have no problem in voicing their opinions as they feel free to talk. When there is a general call for assistance both women and men contribute and, women believe that their contributions are more quickly organised than those of the men.

80. Women thought that extending similar access to micro-credit services to men would be too risky as this might lead to family and/or village abandonment (already happened on the past).

81. Thanks to their access to credit, women changed some of their activities as they could purchase agriculture inputs necessary to increase their production. However, the problem of access to water, highlighted in the "Pair-Wise Ranking" exercise, forced them to stop vegetable gardening activities, which used to be another source of income.

82. The women provided the following recommendations for improving the impact of credit services offered to them: they would like to see an increase in the amount lent to them so that they can market their produce further a field. They would also like to be able to commercialize the sale of cereals and cassava flour, something they feel they could do if they had access to bigger loans. They would like to have literacy courses as none of them have been to school, as well as training on group management if it's made available. However it has to be said that these suggestions were raised by the evaluation team because no capacity building activities seem to have been organised in conjunction with the micro-finance services offered. Again a certain level of reserved-ness could be seen among the women in complaining about the interests rates been charged on the loans, which raises the question on how the approach information was shared with them before taking any loan. The PDSFR never provided any explanation regarding this briefing on the credit schemes.

The village of N'Dounga Tarey

83. In this village there are 8 women's credit groups, with 20 to 35 members in each group. The team met with the Saye group which has 32 members. 15 members of the group were present, including the Secretary and the President. "Pair-Wise Ranking" was used to identify the 5 main challenges faced by women in the village and the following list of prioritised problems emerged from the exercise:

- * access to health services;
- * access to food;
- * access to water;
- * access to a flour mill;
- * access to electricity.

84. These 5 problems were then linked to the group's access to credit and questions were raised on what role credit had played in easing some of the problems above and how it was used last year during the food crisis. Women confirmed that since having access to credit facilities, they have been buying sacks of rice at 8.500 CFA at harvest and selling them soon after at 12.000 CFA. Through the credit they are also doing animal fattening, which income is used to buy medicines and food. During other discussions, women explained there were no health services available in the village which forced them to travel at least 4km to the nearest town for assistance. They said that the village was currently experiencing outbreaks of *cholera* due to lack of water and malaria widespread among children. It is worth mentioning that this village is about 1.5km from the River Niger, but do not have access to water.

85. In terms of decision-making, women felt that they have more freedom to attend village meetings and speak if they so choose. Husbands have now no problem if they attend sensitization and training workshops, when asked which trainings had been offered they mentioned only the literacy classes in which none of them was enrolled as they have to wait until the end of the current six-month cycle to join. They would also like training in sewing and other IGAs as this would increase their income and reinforce solidarity within the group. When asked if men should be offered the same services, they were of the opinion that men cannot be trusted as they borrow and maybe use the money to marry again or to leave the village, abandoning their families to their own devices.

86. During the food crisis women were able to reinforce their cohesion as a group. Other village women approached this group to get a membership or small personal loans.

87. The one recommendation offered by the group was to receive IGA training to increase income and group cohesion.

C. Project impact on staff

88. As already mentioned, it was very difficult to assess the impact of IFAD's Gender Action Plan on the project staff, its partners and beneficiaries. In 2004, three staff members attended a gender workshop in Bamako (Mali) organized by PA and came up with a Gender Plan of Action that was to assist them in mainstreaming gender activities in the project components before the end of the year. One of the activities identified in the action plan was the organization of a gender workshop which was held in 2005 (due to an internal evaluation process which prevented the project from conducting this workshop in 2004). The workshop lasted for two days and analysed gender and micro-finance issues; 25 people attended, six of whom were PDSFR staff, 19 partners and 5 women. Examination of the workshop report revealed that many definitions of basic gender terms were incomplete and women's access and control over resources was not given priority. This lack of access and control was linked to women's lack of access to services, a factor which needs to be addressed in any micro-finance setting. The group worked on identifying a list of constraints for rural women and men but these were only partially translated into action plans.

D. Impact on partner organizations

89. All of the partners attending the December 2005 PDSFR gender training realised that they were doing gender analysis without calling it gender analysis. They appreciated the fact that the cultural aspects of micro-finance services are very important but most of the MFIs represented there were working almost exclusively with women groups as they have a better track record of repayment than men and ask for smaller loans which they repay quickly, unlike men. Women "do" credit better. For the partners represented, gender meant giving credit to women and no organisation seemed too concerned with addressing the issue of how hard it is to bring men on board in a sustainable way. It was hard to get a sense of any future possibility of capacity-building training being offered as part of the micro-finance package, to either women or men.

90. All partners agreed that it is important to include gender issues in their work as it helps them reach the most vulnerable. They said that women see access to credit as being a service they wish to see continue. However, to date the project has concentrated its capacity building efforts with MFIs on providing equipment, financial services software package training and organisational training along with exchange

visits to other micro-finance projects in the region without providing any social requirements for an holistic micro-finance service for marginalised rural men and women. Literacy programmes are considered as not part of the service that the PDSFR could justify in the Annual Programme of Work and Budget (APWB). The evaluation team argued that literacy programmes are to be considered as an integral part, and the basis for, a good micro-finance service.

E. Innovations, lessons learnt and sustainability

91. Despite probing, the evaluation team was unable to ascertain if the project had introduced any participatory gender sensitive innovations into the micro-finance sector of Niger. As a matter of fact, the first phase of PDSFR was dedicated to consolidating national MFIs, the objective being to render the sector professionally competent and autonomous, now it would be ready to train beneficiaries.

The PDSFR Coordinator stated that the project required the “faire-faire” approach; therefore the major grassroots level achievements depend on the NGO’s partners. 20 years ago the micro-finance sector in Niger was more sensitive to socio-economic factors, but in recent years it has become purely economic in its focus. There is no evidence to suggest that these MFIs partners are being monitored on their response to social issues by project staff; gender sensitive M&E requirements seem to be a simple case of head counting.

F. Challenges and future directions

92. One of the biggest challenges facing the micro-credit sector in Niger in the future is to try and become more gender sensitive and participatory in its outreach to the communities. A mind shift will be necessary to try and persuade those working with rural men and women to include these same people in their planning and implementation processes. To date the project has done a lot to encourage the four main national MFIs to establish technical groups who can offer “joint” services or support nationwide. The project has also been instrumental in consolidating and reorganizing a network of 20,000 borrowers, as well as providing support to the traditional women’s “tontine” system. Having said that, however, women and men clients were not consulted during the appraisal of the credit sector, therefore target groups for credit services were identified by MFIs staff alone. It is imperative that a more participatory approach be adopted in the sector.

G. Recommendations

93. The following recommendations were suggested to the PDSFR team in order to improve their gender mainstreaming processes:

- * gender and participatory approaches need to be mainstreamed in the project as they are not at all visible;
- * assistance needs to be offered to the MFIs in identifying organisations that might be able to conduct capacity building trainings with their clients as they seem unable to provide training that answers to the social needs of the target groups;
- * loans offered should be provided together with social capacity building skills in order to increase sustainability. Under the current system loans are offered to the poor and disadvantaged members of target communities who normally would not benefit from access to credit services, which means that in and of itself, the services offered constitute an improvement in people’s wellbeing. But in order to ensure that there is sustainability in people’s access to financial services, the MFI sector needs to support these men and women in building their basic literacy, numeracy, decision-making and leadership skills. This should assist in empowering them to ultimately move out of the micro-credit sector and become part of the mainstream credit clientele, therefore bringing about lasting change;
- * project staff needs further gender and participatory analysis training. This training process could benefit from the development of case studies based on lessons learnt in the micro-credit sector, both regionally and internationally, on instigating social change.

V. CONCLUSIONS AND GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

94. There is a social contract inherent in any development project process. This social contract takes the form of equal partnership between all actors involved in project activities. The evaluation process involved in visiting two very different development projects in Niger has helped to emphasize the vital role played by participation in any sustainable development initiative. If participation and gender equality are not included and stressed from the project inception then the social contract is in jeopardy. This social contract has to be based on a system of trust, equality and transparency. If a development project cannot guarantee this and cannot ensure that all actors are offered equal opportunities in capacity building to fulfill their roles and functions in a participatory way, then the whole question of sustainability is brought into doubt.

95. During the course of the evaluation of the two projects the team was grateful for the support offered them through the medium of the questions and specific issues to be addressed, that were elaborated at IFAD Headquarters during the first phase of the Gender Programme Evaluation Process. One modification was introduced by the team when meeting with and interviewing project partners and this was to establish what existing experience they had with mainstreaming gender issues prior their partnership with the project in question. Perhaps this discussion point could be considered for inclusion in future field evaluations, as currently the questions seem to be based on the broad assumption that partners had not gender mainstreaming experience prior to their partnership with IFAD projects.

96. With regards to the annotated bibliography, the evaluation team realized that quite a lot of documentation produced at headquarters and locally at the project level for Niger projects, that evaluate issues such as participation and gender mainstreaming, has not been either made available or included in the bibliography. Therefore it is recommended that all evaluation teams ensure that they investigate the availability of such documentations at the local level and ensure that they secure copies of the same to bring back to IFAD Headquarters for inclusion in the bibliography.

ANNEX I

PPILDA Partners and Staff Encountered

Name	Organisation
Illia Habou Tichintier	INRAN
Issa Harouna, Agronome	INRAN
Tidjani Abass *	INRAN
Maman Nouri, Directeur	INRAN

Name	Organisation
Sahirou Na-Allah,	Chef Antenne ONG, ONDERNA
Abdou Iddi	Chef Élevage Aguié
Kassoum Mamane Nazir	PPILDA
Guéro Chaibou	PPILDA
Abdou Wada	ONG Génération des Verts
Ali Saïdon	Chef Alphabétisation
Ibrahim Salha	Chef du Département Sociale
Ada Chékaraou *	Alphabétisation Aguié
Saley Kanta *	PPILDA
Maazou Sanda *	Agriculture Gazawe
Hassane Issa *	PPILDA
Mme Ekadé Roumanatou *	PPILDA
Bassirou Hassan *	DDDA Aguié
Tassiou Moussa	PPILDA
Hamidou Garba	ONG Tatali
Mme. Sani Mariama *	Génie Rural Aguié
Mme. Iddi Aichatou	ONG ATPE
Amadou Abdou *	Chef Environnement
Abdou Boukary	Direction Departemental Amenagement duTerritoire /Developpement Communautaire adjoint

* equals those who were stakeholders in the PIAG

Name	Organisation
Dr. Amoukou Adamou Ibrahim	University Abdou Amoumouni, Faculty of Agronomy
Dr. Adam Toudou	University Abdou Moumouni, Faculty of Agronomy, CRESA.

PDSFR Partners and Staff encountered

Name	Organisation
Yahaya Issaka	PDSFR
Mme. Dioni Maimouna	PDSFR
Hari Hamadou	PDSFR
Saoude Chaibou	PDSFR
Harouna Mahamadou	PDSFR
Ibrahim Moustapha	ANIP-MF
Alhou Amomini	MLPEC
Ango Halilou	UMEC
Zakaria Sawadane	KOKARI/SICR
Barko Fatima'	CSSFD/MEF
Abdou Abdou	KOKARI

ANNEX II

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