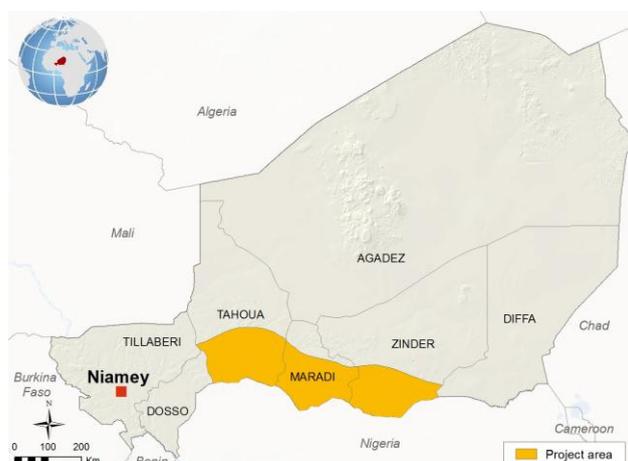


Niger

Family Farming Development Programme (ProDAF) in Maradi, Tahoua and Zinder



The designations employed and the presentation of the material in the map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IFAD concerning the delimitation of the frontiers or boundaries, or the authorities thereof.

ISSUES

Niger, a landlocked country with a territory of approximately 1.25 million km², is one of the world's least developed and food-deficit countries, with around 80 per cent of its population living in rural areas. The three regions where this project will be focusing: Maradi, Tahoua and Zinder, are home to more than 60 per cent of Niger's population. In the latest Human Development Index, Niger ranked in last place at 186th, with 75.9 per cent of its population living on less than US\$2 per day.

A third of Niger's land area is situated in the Sahelian zone, which is characterized by its high aridity and very high rainfall variability from one year to another.

Agriculture in Niger accounts for nearly 45.2 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product. As such, agriculture is extremely important to the livelihoods of Niger's population. Nevertheless, this high agricultural production potential is increasingly challenged by the negative impacts of climate change .

Environmental degradation and climate change impacts are progressively visible in Niger. There has been a decrease in the total area of forests¹, and this has accelerated habitat loss and reduction in plant diversity. Poor regeneration of natural resources and widespread soil degradation are harmful phenomena that are impacting crop yields and leading to the desertification of productive lands. This situation is exacerbated by water shortages, which are more pronounced in times of drought. Increasing silting of rivers is also a prominent issue. Water from the Niger River is essential for ecosystems and life. Its loss would devastate the lives of up to 100 million West Africans who rely on it.

There has also been a proliferation of invasive plant species. These species are usually inedible and encroach on productive lands.

Finally the spread of climate-sensitive diseases is causing widespread illness and death as those being affected are usually the same smallholders who are too poor to afford proper healthcare.

¹ [WMI WORKING PAPER 144](#) - An Overview of the Development Challenges and Constraints of the Niger Basin and Possible Intervention Strategies- Page 5 - Regassa E. Namara



IFAD

Investing in rural people

Adaptation for
Smallholder
Agriculture
Programme

ASAP

Launched in 2012, the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP) channels climate and environmental finance

to enable smallholder farmers who participate in IFAD projects to increase their resilience. Through ASAP, IFAD is systematically integrating climate resilience into the overall IFAD portfolio.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Total cost: US\$207.2m

Approved IFAD loan:
US\$24.25m

IFAD Grant: US\$24.25m

ASAP grant: US\$13m

Other contributions:

OFID: US\$6m

Italian Cooperation:
US\$28.2m

GEF: US\$8m

Ongoing IFAD projects:
US\$10.5m

Republic of Niger: US\$33.4m

Beneficiaries: US\$11.1m

Funding Gap: US\$48.5m

Project period: 8 years
(2015-2023)

Executing agency: Ministry
of Agriculture

ASAP beneficiaries: 290,000
Households

Project objective:

Sustainably guarantee food and nutrition security and rural households' resilience to crises in the Maradi, Tahoua and Zinder regions.

The major agricultural constraints are climatic, economic and technical, as well as institutional. Farmers have limited to no access to the factors of production such as physical inputs and equipment, extension services, rural financing and markets. Climate scientists forecast a significant drop in cereal yields if nothing is done to better adapt the country's farming systems to climate change.

ACTIONS

The project will focus on two main components: i) strengthening sustainable family farming; and ii) improving access to markets. It will target beneficiaries through investments on wholesale markets, but it also has a specific focus on women and youth. Special attention will be paid to the most vulnerable households and younger women, particularly those affected by early marriage.

The project will strengthen farm productivity in several ways. Cereal and horticultural crop yields will be substantially increased via the introduction of improved cropping techniques, high-quality seeds, animal-drawn ploughing and innovative irrigation techniques. Significant increases in crop yields will enable rural families to produce enough for household consumption and a surplus for commercial sale. This surplus is expected to provide farmers with contingency funds that can allow them to prepare for climate shocks.

Other ways ProDAF will improve farmers' livelihoods is by improving small-animal husbandry and poultry farming. This will be done in three ways: i) through the creation of six new private veterinary services in the vicinity; ii) advisory services in poultry farming and small-animal husbandry; and iii) the distribution of animals to reconstitute the livestock capital of 13,500 of the most vulnerable two-person households (women and young people).

ASAP funding will be used specifically in the first project component, mainly on watershed management through land rehabilitation and diffusion of Natural Assisted Regeneration (RNA). ASAP will promote better land use management practices, thereby generating positive environmental impacts and improving the resilience of highly vulnerable households. This will include a reduction in the agricultural sector's carbon emissions.

ASAP funding will contribute to the conservation of water and soils (land rehabilitation) as part of the natural resources rehabilitation section of the project. It will finance the distribution of improved seed varieties and the teaching of more resilient

farming methods throughout the farmer field schools (FFS). The improved seed varieties are adapted to the foreseen effects of climate change, where traditional varieties may not be (e.g. shorter life cycle to face the shortening rain season).

EXPECTED IMPACTS

The project will have far reaching impacts on small-scale agriculture in Niger. With at least 30 per cent of the beneficiaries of all activities being women and/or youth, the project will change the lives of many people with very limited prospects. Through sustainably boosting farm productivity it will allow farmers to increase their incomes, which in turn will strengthen their ability to cope with various shocks, including climate related shocks such as droughts.

The ProDAF project activities are expected to lead to the following results:

- Recover 16,000 hectares of degraded land
- Stabilise 2,000 hectares of dunes around watershed ecosystems
- Create 2,500 hectares of silvo-pastoral space (combination of forestry and domestic animal grazing)
- Build/rehabilitate 139 small dams to recover approximately 700 hectares of land for irrigation
- Build seven multipurpose mini-dams
- Provide equipment for 6,800 hectares of small-scale irrigation. Thus, the programme will generate a total of 7,500 hectares of irrigated land.
- Introduce 210 innovations in small-animal husbandry, benefitting 15,750 households
- The establishment of 400 hectares of wind-breaking hedgerows around market gardens
- A semi-wholesale market will be built in nine new economic development poles
- And finally rehabilitate/build 850 km of rural roads

However with specific ASAP funding, the ProDAF project will also lead to:

- The development of 10,400 hectares of watersheds which will allow the conversion of degraded land
- An inclusive GIS system for all three regions of the project
- 158,000 hectares in RNA
- Teaching improved techniques at FFS level
- Raising local awareness on the subject of climate change (20 water user associations trained; 18 natural resource management groups created; 30 local development plans integrates climate risk mainstreaming)

ASAP will enable the project to make sustainable improvements in the region and will ensure better monitoring of environmental indicators which will ultimately help farmers to combat the effects of climate change more effectively.

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