OBJECTIVES
To mitigate these threats and facilitate the sustainable access by local populations to water and land resources available in the watersheds (basins and valleys), the Government of Niger through the IAP program will promote soil and water conservation and soil protection and restoration works (structures) on a large scale (see Fig. 2). The objective is to sustainably increase the incomes of family farms, their adaptation to climate change and their access to local, urban and regional markets.

CONTEXT
The high vulnerability of family farming in Niger to climate variability is amplified by the effects of climate change, which affect livelihoods over both the long term (production potential: fertility, soil, water) and short term (post-crisis decapitalization), with a negative impact on food and nutrition security. The Tahoua, Maradi and Zinder regions, which are the most productive, are also the most affected by erosion (wind and water), leading to siltation of watersheds, deforestation and declining groundwater levels.

KEY COMPONENTS
The project will focus on two key outcomes focused on (i) sustainable family farming to allow rural producers, including women and youth, to diversify their production, increase their yields and build their capacities to adapt to external shocks, notably those related to climate; and (ii) access to markets to help farmers market more efficiently their agro-silvo-pastoral production surplus in semi-wholesale markets that supply the centers of national consumption and transboundary markets. Cross-cutting aspects related to value chains, capacity building and knowledge management will be further strengthened through direct support from the regional “Hub” project.
The lead agency for the project at national level is the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, which will work closely with the High Commission for the Initiative on Nigeriens feeding Nigeriens (HCi3N). Major stakeholders include Regional Directorate of the Environment, Water User Associations, local authorities (communes), Public Building and Works, regional and departmental services for waterworks, specialized service providers and the Regional Agriculture Chambers. To identify or introduce innovative practices, the program will also engage local research institutions and centers of excellence, including the National Institute for Agricultural Research of Niger, the International Center for Research in the Semi-Arid Tropics (for agricultural practices and innovative plant material) and the AGRHYMET Regional Centre (for observation and management of climate risks). The project will engage over 22,400 households or close to 157,000 people (including 30% women and 30% youth) as direct beneficiaries.

**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land under integrated and sustainable management (M ha.)</td>
<td>230,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHG emissions avoided or reduced (CO2e)</td>
<td>346,302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genetic diversity of crops and animals maintained or increased (%)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land cover (increase, %)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED**

The lead agency for the project at national level is the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, which will work closely with the High Commission for the Initiative on Nigeriens feeding Nigeriens (HCi3N). Major stakeholders include Regional Directorate of the Environment, Water User Associations, local authorities (communes), Public Building and Works, regional and departmental services for waterworks, specialized service providers and the Regional Agriculture Chambers. To identify or introduce innovative practices, the program will also engage local research institutions and centers of excellence, including the National Institute for Agricultural Research of Niger, the International Center for Research in the Semi-Arid Tropics (for agricultural practices and innovative plant material) and the AGRHYMET Regional Centre (for observation and management of climate risks). The project will engage over 22,400 households or close to 157,000 people (including 30% women and 30% youth) as direct beneficiaries.

**EXPECTED IMPACTS**

**Sustainable family farming**

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

**Family farmers’ access to markets**

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

**INNOVATIVENESS**

Two innovative aspects of the project will contribute towards achieving the development objective: (i) strengthening sustainable family farming; and (ii) improving market access for family farms. Strengthening institutional capacities starting from the national level program, “Nigeriens feed Nigeriens” (i3N) and including the management of environmental and climatic constraints in local planning processes, will allow for local scaling-up of the program’s activities.