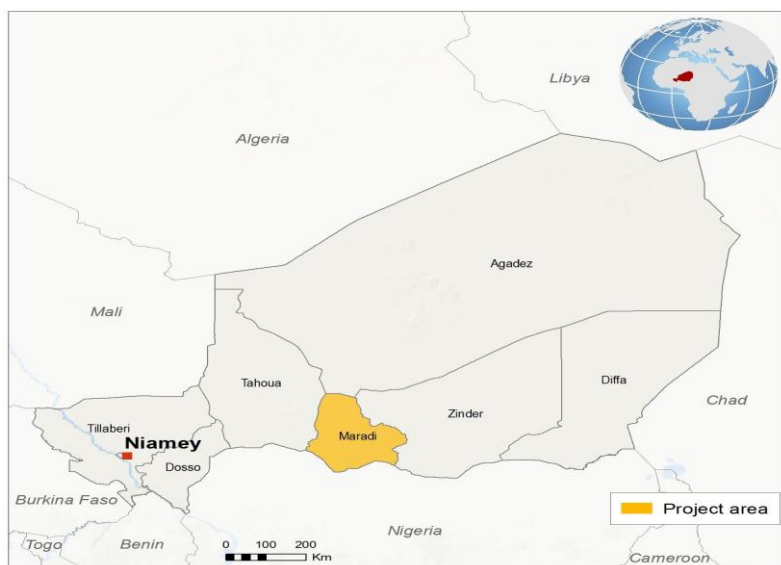


NIGER

Project to Support Food Security in the Region of Maradi (PASADEM)



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 is a landlocked country in Western Africa, with the southern third of its land area situated in the Sahelian zone. Annual rainfall varies between 150 and 600 mm, concentrated in just three months of the year. Owing to its dependence on agriculture (26 per cent of GDP in 2009), Niger's economy is highly vulnerable to climate shocks as evidenced by the food crises of 2005 and 2010, and frequent droughts in previous years.

The Maradi region is at the epicenter of food insecurity in Niger, due to a combination of geographic, demographic and economic factors including: i) high poverty levels among the rural population; ii) dependence on rain-fed agriculture; iii) high birth rate; iv) degraded ecosystems exacerbated by climate change; and v) volatile food prices.

Coping strategies among the local population typically involve a drastic reduction in food consumption, decapitalization of livestock and other assets, accelerated migration, and serious consequences for the level of malnutrition, especially among young children, pregnant women and the elderly. When not affected by extreme climate events, production levels are sufficient to provide good food availability and potential for exports. However, in years of low rainfall, production declines precipitously and the population must resort to grain purchases and food aid.

ACTIONS

The project objective is to improve food and nutrition security of rural people around 5 centers of economic development (Tessaoua, Tchadoua, Sabon Machi, Guidan Roudji and Djirataoua) in 18 communes in the Maradi region. The project will focus on activities under the following components:

Mainstreaming sustainable land management in development planning at the local and departmental levels. This component is designed to facilitate the integration of sustainable land management activities through i) the establishment



The Global Environment Facility (GEF) brings together 183 countries, the private sector, civil society organizations and international institutions to address global environmental problems. The GEF-IFAD partnership promotes win-win solutions to deliver both global environmental benefits as well as significant gains for rural poor people.



Investing in rural people

PROJECT SUMMARY

Total cost: US\$35.9 m

Approved IFAD loan:

US\$22.2 m

GEF: US\$340,000

Other contributions:

Government of Niger

US\$5.6 m;

World Food Programme:

US\$ 2.7 m;

Beneficiaries US\$1.3 m;

Project period:

6 years (2012-2018)

Executing agency:

Ministry of Agriculture in the Republic of Niger

Beneficiaries: 65,000 households

Project objective: Improve living conditions and strengthen the resilience of rural households in Maradi to avoid recurrent food crises.

and operation of a regional sustainable land management platform; ii) strengthening institutional capacity for sustainable land management in the decentralized administrative units; and iii) improving knowledge management on sustainable land management and dissemination of information.

Reversing the trend of land degradation through sustainable land management investments on the ground. This component is designed to encourage rural communities to put sustainable land management into practice while restoring and strengthening the productive capacity of pastoral, forests or agricultural land, through community-based land use and investment planning, and recovery of degraded lands.

Promotion of conservation agriculture and sustainable alternative income sources. This component supports alternative land management practices for storm water capture and sustainable farming in arid areas through i) the demonstration of tools and techniques for conservation agriculture; ii) the identification and promotion of alternative livelihoods opportunities; iii) the production of technical manuals for sustainable income generating activities; iv) the strengthening of technical and managerial skills to stimulate income generating activities; and v) technical support for the implementation of micro-projects.

EXPECTED IMPACTS

Mainstreaming sustainable land management in development planning at the local and departmental levels.

- The project supported the establishment of a multi-stakeholder platform on sustainable land management in the Maradi region, chaired by the Governor and hosted by the Regional Directorate of the Environment (DRE). The platform builds and disseminates good sustainable land management practices in the region.
- The project has met its goal of supporting community investment plans (with activities to recover degraded land) in 18 village areas.

Reversing the trend of land degradation through sustainable land management investments on the ground.

- Thus far, the project has helped recover 8,130 hectares of degraded land, treated 7,387 hectares colonized by the invasive *Sida cordifolia*, and cleared 159 hectares of land colonized by eucalyptus.
- Recovery of degraded land is conducted through the Cash for Assets Programme, which pays cash to farmers who practice land rehabilitation techniques. So far, 15,042 vulnerable households in Maradi have benefitted from assisted natural regeneration.
- The project has organized training sessions for assisted natural regeneration operators and NGO partners in all seven departments of Maradi.

Promotion of conservation agriculture and sustainable alternative income sources.

- 73 farmer field schools have been established where about 2,190 beneficiaries have received technical training on various themes including tilling methods, selected seed varieties, administration of mineral and organic fertilizers and pest control.
- Assisted natural regeneration has been promoted in 15 communes, with 23,332 adopters and 69,436 hectares of land currently under restoration.
- In 2015, 4 micro-projects were supported, including stocking ponds, support for traditional beekeepers and support to groups involved in the commercialization of non-timber forest products. Due to widespread demand and success of this intervention, micro-projects will continue to be prioritized.




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