CULTIVATING SKILLS FOR COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Collaboration for Adaptation and Resilience in Mali (Co-FARM)

Background

From 2014–2018, START and our regional partners worked with stakeholders to explore options for bolstering supplemental irrigation in Koutiala, Mali as part of the Adaptation at Scale in Semi-Arid Regions (ASSAR) project, one of four projects of the Collaborative Adaptation Research Initiative in Africa and Asia (CARIAA). Building on this work, which led to the construction of runoff catchments called BCERs (Bassin de Collecte des Eaux de Ruissellement), the <u>Co-FARM</u> project has sought to increase the resilience and adaptive capacities of the BCER water resource users in the area of N'Goutjina, a rural commune in the Cercle of Koutiala

The project is based on the premise that collaborative community resilience and adaptive capacity are crucial for communities to survive and thrive under climate change. Therefore, START is partnering with the Rural Polytechnical Institute for Training and Applied Research (IPR/IFRA) in Katibougou, Mali, the Association Malienne d'Éveil au Développement Durable (AMEDD) in Koutiala, Mali and ReosPartners (South Africa) to work with those BCER users in N'Goutjina in a way that bolsters inclusive, holistic resilience to provide a stronger foundation upon which individuals and the community will be able to respond to unpredictable changes.

This work was carried out with financial support from the UK Government's Department for International Development and the

necessarily represent those of the UK Government's Department for International Development, IDRC or its Board of Governors.



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Engagement

During our stakeholder engagements with community members of N'Goutjina, it became clear that water retention was a major problem with the BCER constructed there. To help mitigate this issue, a concrete basin liner was added to the BCER and a solar pump was installed on an adjacent borehole to supply more steady water in times of low rainfall.

In anticipation of the more steady water supply, the community members requested training in key activities to help realize the full potential of the BCER and its resources, including adjacent farmable lands.



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Targeted Capacity Strengthening

Climate Smart Vegetable Production

A faculty member from IPR/IFRA Katibougou, trained in installation of market gardens, guided training participants in skill building exercises around vegetable bed preparation, soil preparation, inputs, sowing and transplanting practices, control of weeds, pests, diseases, watering, and water conservation practices.

Aquaculture

A trainer from the Association Beta Gamma Recherche & Developpement (Beta Gamma R&D) led partipants through a detailed aquaculture training including the best practices of pisciculture, the different species of fish that are easy to produce and feed in the local context, and different techniques of pisciculture.

Solar Pump Maintenance

A practice session was conducted using the solar modules to be installed at the pump site. A field visit with the trainer, also a lecturer on renewable energies from IPR/IFRA Katibougou provided an opportunity to check the quality of the equipment and discuss possible changes. The design of the frames to support the modules was changed for more performance and security against theft and maintenance practices were demonstrated and discussed with participants.











