



Resilience and Economic Growth in the Sahel - Enhanced Resilience

REPUBLIC of NIGER and BURKINA FASO

REGIS-ER

Quarterly Report

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**Blvd Mali Béro, 73 Rue Issa Béri
B.P. 12 909 NIAMEY
Tel.: (227) 20 35 16 48**

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Acronyms and abbreviations

English	French	Meaning
3N or HCl3N	H3N	Initiative du Haut Commissariat du GoN - Nigériens Nourrissent les Nigériens
A2N	A2N	Africa 2000 Network
AE	AE	Auxiliaire d'élevage (Veterinarian auxiliary or assistant)
AREN	AREN	Association pour la Redynamisation de l'Elevage au Niger
AUE	AUE	Association d'usagers d'eau (Water users' association)
BDL	BDL	Bio-Reclamation of Degraded Lands (Récupération biologique des terres dégradées)
CCA	ACC	Climate Change Adaptation (Adaptation au Changement Climatique)
CES/DRS	CES/DRS	Soil and water conservation (Conservation des eaux et des sols/Défense et restauration des sols)
CF	CF	Conservation Farming (Agriculture de Conservation)
CGPE		Comité de Gestion de Point d'Eau (Water point management committee)
CLTS	ATPC	Community-Led Total Sanitation (Assainissement total piloté par la communauté)
CSPS	CSPS	Centre de Santé and de Promotion Sociale (Health and Social Promotion Center)
CSV	CSV	Village sanitation committee (Comité de salubrité villageoise)
DAO	DAO	Dossier d'Appels d'Offres (Published request for bids)
DRM	GRC	Disaster Risk Management (Gestion des Risques des Catastrophes)
FFP	FFP	Food For Peace
FMNR	RNA	Régénération Naturelle Assistée (Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration FMNR)
GENOVICO	GENOVICO	Non-Violent Conflict Resolution NGO (Gestion Non-Violente des Conflits- ONG)
GNRM, H/GNRM	GGRN, R/GGRN	Head of/ Governance and Natural Resource Management component (Responsable/Gouvernance et Gestion des Ressources Naturelles), REGIS-ER
HNW, H/HNW	SNW, R/SNW	Head of/ Health-Nutrition- WASH component (Responsable/ Composante Santé-Nutr-WASH) REGIS-ER
ICT	TIC	Information and communication technology (Technologies d'Information and de Communication)
IGESPLAM	IGESPLAM	Initiation à la Gestion and à la Planification Maraîchère (Market Garden Planning system)
MARP	MARP	Network for the Promotion of the Participatory Approach (Réseau de Promotion des Approches Participatives)
MFI	IMF	Micro-finance Institution (Institut de Micro-Finance)
NCBA CLUSA	NCBA CLUSA	The National Cooperative Business Association/Cooperative League of USA
NRM	GRN	Natural Resource Management (Gestion des Ressources Naturelles)
PCOAS	PCOAS	Plan communal d'occupation and d'affectation des sols (Commune land use plan)
PDCO	PDCO	Patate douce à chair orange (Orange-fleshed sweet potato)
PMH	PMH	Pompe à motricité humaine (Hand-operated pump)
PI	PI	Prestataire indépendant (Independent tradesperson selling services)
PO	OP	Producers' Organization (Organisation des producteurs)
PTA	PTA	Plan de travail annuel (Annual Workplan)
IR	RI	Intermediate Result (Résultat Intermédiaire)
RISE	RISE	Resilience in the Sahel Enhanced
SAREL	SAREL	Sahel Resilience Learning Project (Projet d'Apprentissage de la Résilience au Sahel)
SBCC	CCSC	Social and Behavior Change Communications (Communications pour le changement social et de comport.)
SFR	SFR	Services Fonciers et Ruraux (Rural and Land Tenure Government Services)
SHELADIA	SHELADIA	Irrigation/ M&E company based in USA-REGIS-ER partner
SLC, H/SLC	BEE, R/BEE	Head of /Sustainable Livelihoods component (Responsable/composante Bien-Être Économique)
SP/CPSA	SP/CPSA	Secrétariat Permanent de la Coordination des Politiques Sectorielles Agricoles
SPRING		Strengthening Partnerships, Results, and Innovations in Nutrition Globally (sponsor of Digital Green)
SVPP	SVPP	Service vétérinaire privé de proximité (Local private veterinarian service provider)
TBD	TBD	To be decided
TDR	TDR	Terms of Reference (Termes de Référence)
URC	URC	University Research Corporation
USAID	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	GUS	United States Government /Gouvernement des États Unis
ViM		Victory over Malnutrition
VVV	VVV	Vulgarisateur volontaire villageois (Volunteer village veterinarian trainer)
WASA	EAA	Water and Sanitation Africa (Eau and Assainissement Afrique)
WASH	EHA	Water Sanitation and Hygiene (Eau Hygiène Assainissement)
WFP	PAM	World Food Program (Programme Alimentaire Mondial)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The central and field teams in all seven regions have been implementing activities at a noticeably faster pace compared to last year, thanks to field experience gained, logistics in place, and better knowledge of conditions on the ground. The quarter's results are more reflective of the effort put into the project by all components.

Highlights

- Visit to Iguéfane oasis garden by Niger's Prime Minister to appreciate the productive garden beds and solar-powered pump put in place by Albarka women's group with assistance from USAID | REGIS-ER
- Final signature of Tondikandia's local convention by the Prefect of Filingué, covering more than 220,000 hectares
- Training of local artisans in fabrication of rippers and identification of lead farmers for Conservation Agriculture in all villages in BF and Niger
- Partnership signed with World Food Program for soil restoration activities in Sabon Machi commune in Maradi
- Initiation of the Ecole des Maris (Husband Schools) and Safe Space platforms that address family planning, health, nutrition, and hygiene issues
- A strong beginning for farmer-managed natural regeneration this season in Burkina Faso, with more than 1,000 men and women receiving FMNR training including information about its role in adaptation to climate change
- Startup of REGIS-AG as the project moved into offices secured by REGIS-ER and had several consultative meetings with our staff to harmonize approaches and initiate contacts

Points of convergence

- Meetings between REGIS-ER, Mary Stopes International, and ECHO Humanitarian Assistance in Burkina Faso to define collaboration and possibilities for synergy in health and nutrition activities
- Participation in a Moringa promotion event organized by WA-WASH project, with a view toward setting up future smaller fairs to promote enriched products
- Participation in Ouaga by Country Rep and Technical Staff in meeting of FFP Partners hosted by CRS
- SPRING-sponsored Digital Green productions of health-related videos in Guidan Roumdji and Aguié with collaboration between Sawki/Mercy Corps, Lahia/Save the Children, and REGIS-ER
- Sawki and REGIS-ER joint exchanges by component to share and homogenize approaches
- Mapping by REGIS-ER of 78 villages ready to adopt the community-led total sanitation process with FFP partners Helen Keller, Save the Children, and Water/Sanitation for Africa; 27 villages are now going through the process and will be prioritized for grant money from REGIS-ER

Discussions are underway with Sawki in Maradi (Mercy Corps) and CRS in Zinder to see how REGIS ER can train and monitor CBSP/extension agents who will work with FFP partners to introduce CF/RNA in communes where REGIS ER is not currently working. For now, the idea is being tested on a small scale at selected sites. If it is successful, the approach will be expanded to include other communes next year.

Rotating fora on common themes among FFP partners in Niger

Based on the example of periodic meetings with REGIS ER and FFP partners in Burkina Faso, the first forum in Niger was hosted by REGIS ER in Niamey in February with a focus on Conservation Farming. It was attended by CRS, LWR, ICRISAT/ICRAF, USAID, SAREL, INRAN, REGIS-ER, and GIZ.

REGIS-ER presented its approach for implementing conservation farming combined with farmer-managed natural regeneration, both of which are climate change adaptation strategies that overlap REGIS's Governance and Livelihoods components.

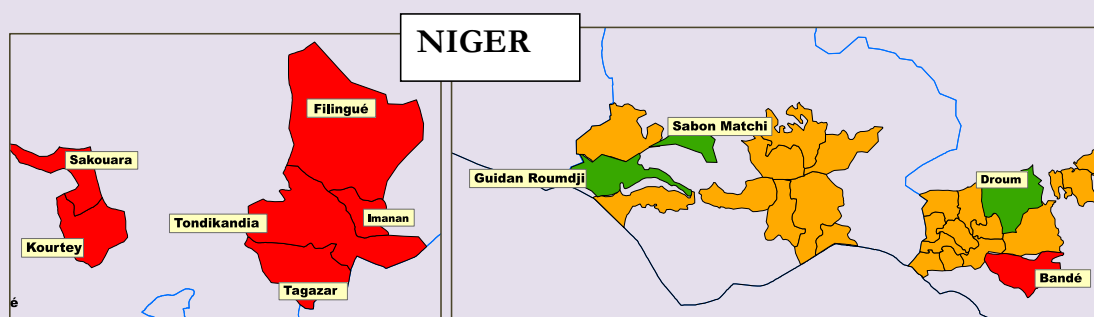
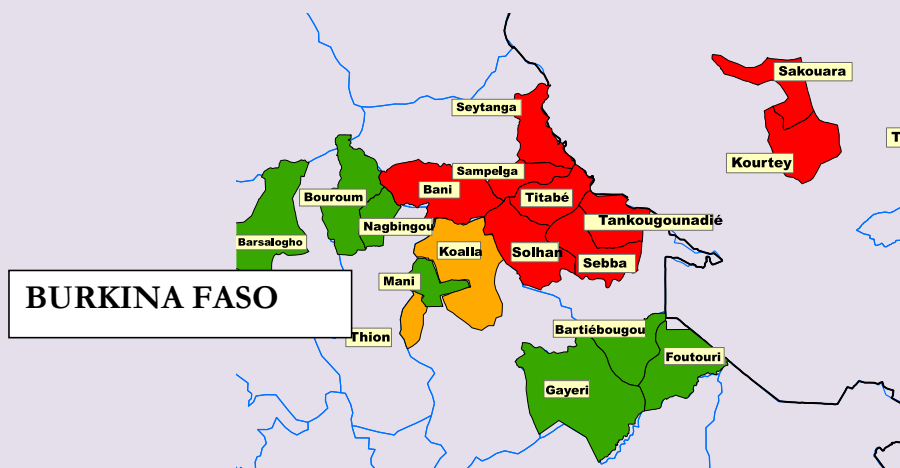
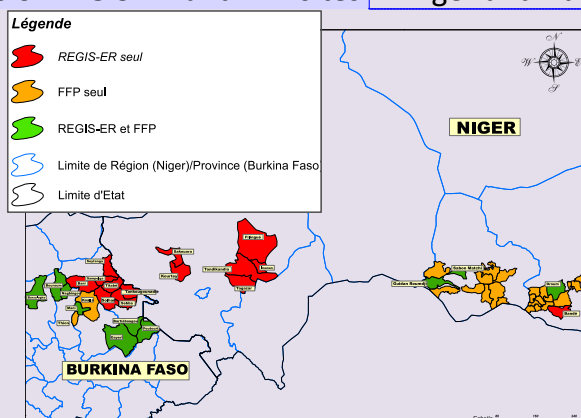
Partners contributed the following recommendations concerning REGIS' strategy:

- ▶ If local populations are to take over the FMNR process, assure that their local practices are taken consideration and that the approach builds on those.
- ▶ Introduce grinding mills into the villages so that they can produce animal fodder and feel less pressure to collect agricultural residues that should remain on the ground for their animals.
- ▶ Integrate rural radio into the program so that CF and RNA will be disseminated as widely as possible. Work with partners to send the same messages to stakeholders.

After the presentation, several partners requested training for their field agents. REGIS-ER committed to including partner staff in their upcoming field training.

Locations of REGIS-ER and FFP sites in Niger and Burkina Faso

Comment [U1]: Great maps !



The new map of work zones showing overlap and single-partner communes, produced at the request of USAID for a report on collaboration between REGIS-ER and FFP partners

Comment [U2]: Use consistant spelling for locations, e.g. Sakouara v. Sakoir and Kourtey v. Kourtheye..

INTRODUCTION

The RISE initiative (Resilience in the Sahel Enhanced) is a strategy of the United States government that aims to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable populations in the Sahel. The strategy is executed in part by USAID | REGIS-ER.

USAID defines resilience as the ability of people, households, communities, countries, and systems to mitigate, adapt to, and recover from shocks and stresses in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth. The overall objective of USAID | REGIS-ER is to increase the resilience of chronically vulnerable populations in marginal agriculture and pastoral zones in Niger and Burkina Faso. In the broader context, USAID investments in resilience seek to address the root causes of chronic vulnerability through nutrition-led agriculture and livestock rearing, better health and hygiene, stronger governance and natural resource management, and awareness of and adaptation to climate change impacts.

Activities undertaken to enhance resilience correspond to REGIS-ER's three main objectives (and their intermediate results), which are also the names of the three principal components:

- **Sustainable livelihoods** (diversifying economic opportunities, intensified agricultural and animal production and marketing, access to financial services)
- **Strengthened governance** (regional capacity building and advocacy, resilience planning, natural resource management through legally recognized land use plans, disaster and conflict risk management)
- **Improved health and nutrition** (greater access to potable water, capacity development of community health workers, behavior change communications for key health and nutrition actions, training for nutritious local food consumption and gardening, latrine and well construction)

A crisis-based modification of activities will engage if the Project mode temporarily changes to one of providing humanitarian assistance due to unforeseen events, thus disrupting other Project objectives as little as possible.

Cross-cutting activities that are integrated into the three components are the grant fund, prioritizing women for all activities, taking gender into account, training, communications, monitoring and evaluation, climate change adaptation, and mitigating environmental impacts.



Group photo of village volunteer trainers who were trained and provided medical kits in preparation for the Livelihoods Component poultry-raising activity, which creates jobs, diversifies revenues, assists with adaptation to climate change through increased resiliency, and improves nutrition for households benefiting from the program

1. Sustainable Livelihoods Component (SLC)

General considerations

The objective of the Sustainable Livelihoods Component is to provide a way for producers at all levels to achieve resilience and food security in spite of repeated shocks that result from climate change, degradation of soil quality, and demographics. The component addresses two of the food security pillars: availability of food through improved and intensified production, and access to better services, products, and information. The capacity of herders and agricultural producers is reinforced using proven successful technologies (such as protecting natural regeneration in fields, producing and storing fodder to fatten animals, and building water capturing structures) that serve to intensify and diversify production, which will lead to better nutrition, increased revenues, and a potential for increasing household assets. At the same time, the Project is facilitating access to financial services (savings and loans) and training in business literacy.

This period was used to refine the strategies for conservation farming (CF) and degraded land reclamation (BDL) ahead of the rainy season, and to implement market gardening and irrigation throughout the dry season, including revamping or reorienting the types of investments made in irrigation. In livestock rearing, the quarter was a chance to implement the poultry-raising strategy, continue with habbanayé in Niger, and start habbanayé in Burkina Faso. The savings and loan strategy to reach informal groups was also developed this quarter. With the arrival of REGIS AG, the challenge is to determine how to dovetail resilience activities of REGIS ER into the value chain approach of REGIS AG. Discussions are underway to develop our complementary strategies.

Summary table of progress towards indicator targets

OBJECTIVE 1. Sustainable Livelihoods								
Intermediate Result 1.1: Diversified economic opportunities								
Indicator	QUARTER OF FY 2014-2015				2013-2015 Performance			
	1	2	3	4	Cumul FY2 2014-15	Cumul FY1	Cum. TARGET FY 1+2	% Target FY 1+2
1.1.1. Increase in income from off-farm economic opportunities (\$US)	4,489	2,380*			6,869	16,498	1,500,000	2%
of which, for women	3,583	1,228			4,811	4,706		
1.1.2. Number of jobs attributed to REGIS-ER implementation (FTE)	292	418			710	350	480	221%
of which, for women	237	399			636	310		
New		313			313			
Continuing		105			105			
1.1.3. Number of people trained in skills relevant for local/ migrant off-season labor	2,122	2,781			4,903	39	10,000	49%
women	1,148	1,474			2,622	38		
Intermediate Result 1.2: Intensified production and marketing								
1.2.1. Number of farmers or others who have applied improved technologies or management practices	5,984	4 145			10,129	9,034	40,000	48%
practiced by women	5,485	2 782			8,267	8,507		
1.2.2. Number of hectares under improved technologies or management practices	185	85**			270	948	20,000	6%
practiced by women								
AGRIC-related		65			65			
IRRIGATION		1			1			
1.2.3. Number of individuals who have received USG-supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	5,052	5,200			10 252	6,199	100,000	16%
women	3,655	3,044			6,699	5 483		
Producers		4,291			4,291			
Government agents		20			20			
Private enterprise		8			8			
Civil society		11			11			

* Conversion is \$1 = 604 FCFA

** Many hectares under CF after recent training will be accounted for in the coming quarter

Comment [U3]: Please explain the low levels of 1.2.2 in relation to 1.2.1. Is this entirely due to delays in accounting for CF?

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Intermediate Result 1.2: Intensified production and marketing - continued								
Indicator	QUARTER OF FY 2014-2015				Performance 2013-2015			
	1	2	3	4	Cumul FY2 2014-15	Cumul FY1	Cum. target FY 1+2	% Target FY 1+2
1.2.4. Number of food security private enterprises, producer organizations, water user associations, women's groups, trade and business associations, and CBOs receiving USG assistance through REGIS-ER	132	128			260	215	1 200	40%
New		71			71			
Continuing	0	57			57			
Male	0	17			17			
Female	81	85			166	215		
Mixed	0	26			26			
1.2.5. Number of food security private enterprises, producer organizations, water user assoc'ns, women's groups, trade and business assoc'ns, and community-based organizations who have applied improved technologies or management practices	116	95			211	176	600	65%
New		51			51			
Continuing	0	44			44			
Male	0	13			13			
Female	74	64			138	150		
Mixed	0	18			18			
1.2.6. Number of firms (excluding farms) or CBOs engaged in agricultural and food security-related manufacturing and services now operating more profitably	0	0			0	6	120	5.0%
1.2.7. Number of vulnerable households benefitting directly from USG interventions through REGIS-ER	11,601	11 197			22 798	13 208	100 000	36%
Female	4	206			210			
1.2.8. Value of incremental sales (collected at farm-level) attributed to program implementation (MILLET, SORGHUM, MAIZE, COWPEA, RICE) - \$US	13,162	9,332			22,494	5,565	TBD	
Peanuts		9,932			9,932			
Intermediate Result 1.3: Improved access to financial services								
1.3.1. Value of agricultural / rural loans (\$US)	48,096	162,767***			210 863	97,737	1,250,000	25%
loans to women	32,190	86,908			119 098	56,661		
Mixed		7648			7 648			
Producers		118,108			118 108			
1.3.2. Number (%) of beneficiary households with access to formal or community-based financial services	269 (_ %)	1,983			2,252 (_ %)	956 (_ %)	TBD	Note: SAREL to survey %
1.3.3. Number of active informal savings and loan groups strengthened	20	1			20	1	400	5%
operated by women	16	0			16	0		
1.3.4. Value of savings accumulated by the project beneficiaries (\$US)	6,482	0***			6,482	0	1,250,000	1%
1.3.5. Number of MSMEs including farmers receiving USG assistance to access loans	68	91			159	10	250	68%
operated by women								

Comment [U4]: Are all 22,798 households reached so far in Year 2 « new », or were some included in the 13,208 reached in Year 1 ?

***Several thousand dollars in credit have not yet been recorded on the data collection sheets.

IR 1.1. Diversified economic opportunities

Community-based solution providers (CBSP) and independent service providers (PI)

Niger

Nursery grafters and plant producers: Financial assistance was given and continues as supply nurseries are being set up. Managers are in the process of producing plants, as described in the following chapter.

Comment [U5]: In the form of grants or facilitated access to loans ?

Improved seed and manioc cutting producers: Two sites in Tillabéri South (Tarbanassa and Aggou) were assisted with weeding, hoeing, mounding, and irrigation services.

Village animators and CBSP for gardens: Six CBSP in Tillabéri South facilitated 42 garden sites that are producing vegetables; some sites are on their second crop. CBSP were trained in IGESPLAM garden planning system, which they are using to plan and produce year-round.

Training of metal workers in ripper production: In the conservation farming (CF) strategy for 2015, three metalworking enterprises were trained in Niger: one each in Maradi, Zinder, and Niamey. The same training was given in Burkina. The ambitious goal is to produce a ripper for each village of REGIS ER.

Contracts with private veterinarians (SVPP) and startup of work agreement with auxiliaries (AE): REGIS-ER signed contracts with four SVPP - 2 in Maradi, 1 each in Zinder and Tillabéri South - to assist with the 2014-15 vaccination campaign. A first training session of 20 AE took place in Guidan Roundji on February 17-20, covering the role, function, and limits of AEs, as well as animal health concepts, and ended with a signed contract. The training was attended by two field agents, two technical service agents from Guidan Roundji Department, an adjunct from Dakoro Department, and the REGIS regional livestock specialist.

Summary of CBSP and PI assisted in Niger

Type	Maradi	Tillabéri North	Tillabéri South	Zinder
Nursery managers grafters and plant producers Improved seed producers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Nursery managers Investment in progress for supply nursery: 30 CBSP per Nursery manager Monitoring and advice for plant production: Moringa, Baobab, citrus, mangoes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Nursery managers Hangars nearly finished Monitoring and advice for plant production: baobab, Ziziphus, papaya, mangoes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Nursery managers Assistance with grafts for mangoes and Pomme du sahel (Ziziphus) Cuttings for manioc being made by 2 producers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Nursery managers Completed shade construction Monitoring and advice on plant production: Pomme du sahel, Papaya, Baobab, Moringa
Village animators			Six CBSP trained in IGESPLAM are working on 42 garden sites	
Artisan to make rippers	1 person trained in Maradi	1 person trained in Niamey		1 person trained in Zinder
Private veterinarians Vet auxiliaries	Contract signed with 2 SVPP to assist with 2014-15 vaccination campaign 20 AE trained in Guidan Roundji		Contract signed with 1 SVPP to assist with 2014-15 vaccination campaign	Contract signed with 1 SVPP to assist with 2014-15 vaccination campaign

Burkina Faso

CF animators: As the strategy was being developed for conservation farming, the Component considered whether to call on producer organizations, local NGOs, or local animators to help scale up CF. In the medium-term, CF animators could become PI or CBSP. 20 animators were identified in Kaya and Fada on the basis of the ideal profile. Each CF animator is expected to work under a contract (currently being drawn up) that specifies coverage of 60 producers in four villages (15 per village) and an area of 60 hectares.

Training of metalworking artisans in ripper welding: In order to make the 2015 CF action plan operational, 10 welders from metalworking shops in Kaya, Dori, and Fada Provinces were trained in ripper fabrication in Ouagadougou. The trained metalworkers will be able to make rippers available to our target groups in each region, and will become a source for manufacture and sale of rippers.

Masons to build chicken houses: 10 masons were trained in technical specifications for chicken houses; some of them have begun the work already and masons from BF have trained masons in Niger.

VVV (volunteer village veterinarian trainers): 10 VVV, including one woman, were trained in veterinarian care, preventive measures, and local chicken raising techniques. They were provided with kits containing medical supplies, vaccinations, and medicines.



Training of 5 metalworking enterprises in Burkina Faso and 3 in Niger; making production templates

Summary of CBSP and PI assisted in Burkina Faso

Type of CBSP or PI	Dori	Fada N’Gourma	Kaya
CF animators		10 CF animators selected Contract preparation in progress	10 CF animators selected Contract preparation in progress
Artisans who make rippers	1 workshop (2 people) trained in Dori	2 workshops (4 people) trained in Manni and Gayeri	2 workshops (4 people) trained in Barsalgho and Tougouri
Masons who construct chicken houses	2 trained	4 trained	4 trained
VVV	2 trained	4 trained	4 trained

Grooming a Community-Based Service Provider (CBSP)

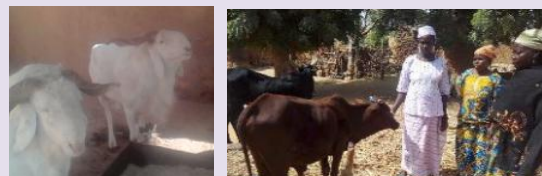
1. Identify a gap in a key value chain that is preventing quality products from reaching the market and maximizing producer profit (for example, a need for value-adding, supplying inputs, grafting)
2. Propose a solution to fill the gap that can be implemented at the local level with the appropriate services and supplies
3. Ask local residents to identify a potential CBSP who is knowledgeable and who they could trust for good information and business sense, not just someone who works with projects and short jobs, who has durable links with local producers
4. Provide business and technical training to the selected CBSP as he/she develops liaisons with clients and builds up commercial relationships based on trust and consistency that will lead to long-term sustainability of the new enterprise

“Independent providers” are already-established businesses that offer contractual services.

Enterprises and diversified livestock units

Niger: Development of animal fattening enterprises

Animal fattening has created jobs for 1,498 producers, of whom 1,416 are women, in 10 of the communes where REGIS works. In Tillabéri North, the value of sales of small ruminants amounted to 4,666,200 FCFA for 387 households that were in our animal fattening program. In Zinder, revenues were estimated at 671,500 FCFA for 193 women in producer organizations carrying out this activity for the last 6 months. They have already begun the second phase of six months.



Animal fattening by model entrepreneurs in Gaounawa, Zinder

Development of aviculture: Using criteria that favor selection of women with children under 5 years old, 120 beneficiaries were selected for the aviculture operation (similar to habbanayé, where new animals are bred with good stock and passed on to new beneficiaries). 20 of these are lead producers who will provide more training in the village.

Comment [U6]: This comes to just under 3,500 CFA per woman for six months of work. Is this net profit or gross revenue? Do women feel that this is worth their while? Was animal fattening not supported in the other two regions?

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Small ruminant enterprise development by vulnerable people: Habbanayé operations took place in Maradi and Zinder as 200 beneficiaries each received 4 goats and a feed kit of five sacks of wheat bran and five sacks of cotton seed.



The Prefect of Magaria (left), the Chef de Canton of Droum (center), and a representative of H3N (right) give each vulnerable person a kit in Bandé

In Tillabéri South, last year's habbanayé operation is continuing produce offspring (see details in following heading).

In Tillabéri North, habbanayé is in the preparation phase:

- ▶ 10 villages/settlements have been selected:
 - Kourthèye (Kourthèye: Diribangou, Komobongou, Lossa Peulh, Lossa Bella, Bourbongou, Sorbon Goungou)
 - Sakoiria (Kalbiri, Balsadjé, Bolbolé, and Tigodaret)
- ▶ 80 vulnerable women (40 for the first round and 40 for the second) were identified in 4 Kourthèye villages (Diribangou, Lossa Bella, Lossa Peulh, and Sorbon Goungou)
- ▶ Identification of beneficiaries is ongoing for other selected villages of Tillabéri North.

Summary of enterprises and diversified livestock units in Niger

Type of enterprise	Maradi	Tillabéri North	Tillabéri South	Zinder
Animal fattening	Technical support Target groups received credit from MFI	Technical support Target groups received credit from MFI	Technical support Target groups received credit from MFI	Technical support Target groups received credit from MFI
Poultry units	30 units to receive assistance were identified	30 units to receive assistance were identified	30 units to receive assistance were identified	30 units to receive assistance were identified
Small ruminants to be raised by vulnerable beneficiaries	100 women beneficiaries received animals and feed	Identification of future livestock rearing operations to be assisted in progress	Continued assistance provided to women beneficiaries of habbanayé last year	100 women beneficiaries received animals and feed

Burkina Faso

Development of aviculture activities: 60 beneficiaries of whom 10 are VVV and members of MtM groups were selected in 10 villages of three regions. The beneficiaries were selected on the basis of vulnerability criteria decided in village general assemblies. The process of assisting with training and investment is ongoing.

Development of animal fattening enterprises: The Component has held meetings with MFIs RCPB, Graine Sarl, MEC Jounlimanni, COODEC/BB, and COOPEC/GALOR) concerning access to credit. The meetings were followed by assistance and counsel given to committed animal fattening clients.

Development of small ruminant commercial activity by vulnerable beneficiaries: 150 vulnerable people were selected to be given a resource base of goats to fatten and sell, and to be assisted by REGIS with the activity.

Comment [U7]: Is this habbanaye or another type of activity?

Summary of diversified livestock enterprises in Burkina Faso

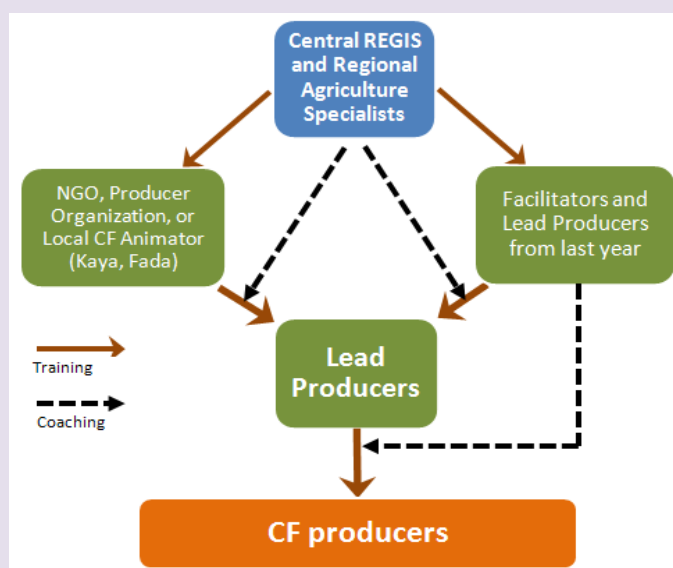
Type of enterprise	Dori	Fada N'Gourma	Kaya
Poultry units	12 units being assisted (of which 8 are women)	24 units being assisted (of which 16 are women)	24 units being assisted (of which 14 are women)
Small ruminants to be raised by vulnerable beneficiaries	78 animal breeders selected (only women) Assistance is ongoing	32 animal breeders selected (only women) Assistance is ongoing	40 animal breeders selected (only women) Assistance is ongoing

IR 1.2. Intensified production and marketing

Conservation farming (CF)

The strategy for scaling up CF in 2015 was detailed in January. The plan shown requires lead producers and, further, for CF animators to play a part in Kaya and Fada regions of Burkina Faso. The strategy will lead to training 5,000 producers on 5,000 hectares in both countries.

The strategy was presented to regional teams in both countries. Afterwards, producers who can commit to the activity were identified along with possible CF areas. Numbers retained are described below.



Identification of producers committing to CF this year

Distribution of producers committing to CF this year in Niger

Region	# Producers		Area (ha)	
	Planned	Signed up as of March 31	Planned	Signed up as of March 31
Maradi	600	657	600	498
Tillabéri North	360	263	360	180
Tillabéri South	360	528	360	462
Zinder	600	783	600	629
Total	1,920	2,231	1,920	1,768

Burkina Faso

Successes from last year in Kaya and Fada Provinces (refer to the Success Story at the end of this report) have led to greater ambitions for this year, which will require the help of CF animators to implement the strategy.

Distribution of producers committing to CF this year in Burkina Faso

Provinces	# Producers		Area (ha)	
	Planned	Signed up as of March 31	Planned	Signed up as of March 31
Dori	360	508	360	459
Fada	1,500	2,291	1,500	2,734
Kaya	1,500	1,463	1,500	1,508
Total	3,360	4,262	3,360	4,701

Training of lead producers and local CF animators: In the context of scaling up CF for the 2015 season, training in CF begins with training of trainers: lead producers (PL), animators (according to zone), technical services (ST), facilitators, and FFP partners. Training occurs through several modules and using the 2015 manual designed for the purpose. The first training of trainers sessions held are shown in the following table.

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Number of people trained in CF during the quarter (Burkina Faso)

Province	PL	CF animators	ST	Facs	FFP	Total
Dori	32		8	9		49
Kaya	15	5	3	5	0	28
Total BF	47	5	11	14	0	77

NB: In Fada, training was in progress during the writing of this report

BDL

Niger

Women are being identified for BDL activities. 828 have been identified in Maradi for 9 sites covering 23.6 hectares.

Burkina Faso

Identification of sites: 50 ha (30 in Fada, 14 in Kaya, 6 in Dori) were identified. Work by women has begun on the sites; a minimum of 30 ha will be covered this year (10 ha per region).

Training of women in BDL: The first training in degraded land reclamation techniques was held in Nakombgo, Barsalgho (Kaya Province). 41 women were trained in both composting and building rock terraces.

Irrigation

Niger

Five irrigation sites have been set up in Tillabéri South. They reduce work time required for the women, which allows them to increase revenues. The MCC representative and Niger's Prime Minister have both paid a visit to Iguéfane site and congratulated the Project on its work.

Oasis gardens irrigation systems completed

N°	Region	Type of irrigation system	Village	Area (ha)	Status
1	Tillabéri South	Oasis Garden - wells and pulleys	Sourgo Koira	1,0	4 wells equipped with pulleys
2	Tillabéri South	Oasis Garden - wells and pulleys and Volanta pump with basins	Soukoutou	1,0	2 wells with pulleys and 1 Volanta pump serving 6 water storage basins
3	Tillabéri South	Oasis Garden - watering borehole, solar pump, faucets	Tinkafa	1,5	1 watering borehole with solar pump serving 10 faucets equipped with hoses; 1 watering well to be completed in April
4	Tillabéri South	Oasis Garden - watering borehole, solar pump and basins	Iguéfane	1,2	1 watering borehole with solar pump and 10 water storage basins
5	Tillabéri South	Oasis Garden - wells, Volanta pump, pulleys	Marakou	1,0	2 watering wells with solar Volanta pump for 1 well; pulley system on the other

In Tillabéri North, Maradi, and Zinder, irrigation work is in progress, as shown in the following table.

Irrigation works in progress in Niger

N°	Region	System	Village	Area (ha)	Status
1	T-Nord	Private	Sakoir	22.0	Identification finished; application being assembled
2	T-Nord	Oasis Garden	Marah	5.0	Identification finished; application being assembled
3	T-Nord	Oasis Garden	Silboli	10.0	Application being assembled
4	Maradi	Oasis Garden	Elkolta	1.5	Installation of wire fence in progress
5	Maradi	Oasis Garden	Zabourey	1.5	Installation of wire fence in progress
6	Maradi	Oasis Garden	Fadin baya	1.5	Installation of wire fence in progress
7	Zinder	Oasis Garden	Koudouma	1.5	Installation of wire fence in progress
8	Zinder	Oasis Garden	Kakitama	1.5	Installation of wire fence in progress



Compost-making as part of CF: Kouini village training



BDL training in Nakombgo - building rock terraces and learning how to compost

Comment [U8]: CEO

Comment [U9]: Explain how providing irrigation equipment to a private individual with 22ha benefits the most vulnerable ?

Burkina Faso

Training in the use of Money Maker treadle pump: 239 producers were trained in use and installation of the pump (201 in Fada and 38 in Kaya).

After the training, 50 interested parties signed up to continue exploring use of the pump, including six who have already taken steps to obtain it using their own funds.



Money Maker training in Bougou; Woman using the treadle pump in Fada Province; Garden site in Bissighin

Grant applications for investment in garden sites: During the quarter, several requests for grants for gardens or vegetable production areas were submitted with help from facilitators. Six are currently being considered. Five land deeds for gardening groups were obtained with assistance from REGIS-ER.

Study on irrigation design for Burkina regions: In view of the difficult geological settings of our work areas in Burkina Faso, an irrigation specialist from Sheladia carried out a mission in March to analyze our options. The report is pending.

Home gardens**Burkina Faso**

In Barsalogho commune, 36 women began harvesting leaf crops and vegetables, hibiscus, and cowpea from their home gardens. However, transporting water was a major constraint for the women. The Project is starting to equip women with push carts that have been tested and adapted to their needs.



Home Garden: 2 pousse-poussettes were supplied to women in Darkoa village, Barsalogho; more are planned

Comment [U10]: Will home gardens in Niger also include vegetables (like in BF) or only baobab/moringa? If the latter, what justifies the different approach?

Market garden production

IGESPLAM (Niger and Burkina Faso): In order to better serve gardeners and to optimize irrigation investments in the future, regional agriculture and irrigation specialists were trained in the garden planning tool IGESPLAM (Initiation à la Gestion et à la Planification Maraîchère). The tool allows users to plan year-round gardening activities using symbol-based icons and a timeline. Training took place in Balléyara, Niger, from February 23 to March 3.

Niger**Status of garden production activities in Niger**

Regions	Status
Tillabéri North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 PO assisted with obtaining fertilizer for 372 growers including 319 women Counsel provided to 374 producers (in 26 PO, including 310 women) who then applied the technologies on 3.88 ha: 2.9 in Kourthèye and 1.0 in Sakoira
Tillabéri South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six CBSP facilitated development of 42 garden sites and have begun recording their own production A second garden crop is being implemented on some sites (Iguéfane, Marakou2, Tinkafa, Gao Tawey, Sougoukoira...) with help from the CBSP in setting up parcels and direct seeding IGESPLAM garden planning system is being used at 5 sites in Sourgo Koira, Soukoutou, Tinkafa, Iguéfane, and Marakou.
Zinder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Garden technologies are being adopted, including improved plant nurseries, improved seeds, use of bio-pesticides, fertilizer management, and composting (82 producers on 2.8 hectares) Use of the warehouse receipts program by 103 producers

Comment [U11]: Please clarify whether Oasis Garden, Market Gardens, BDLs etc.

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Status of Moringa production

Region	# Producers	Production site	Status	Observation
Maradi	171 (of whom 169 are women)	Households	Sowing recently finished	Cascade training of 229 producers in digging zaï, planting, spacing, and adding organic matter
Tillabéri North				As a form of promotion, 3 Kg of seed was given to the du Nursery manager at Sansane Haoussa to produce 2500 plants for 50 women gardeners at an oasis garden in Silboli (Kourthèye); and 5.5 kg of Moringa seed is being delivered to producers in Sakoirra and Kourthèye communes
Tillabéri South				As a form of promotion, 31.5 kg of Moringa PKM1 seed was delivered to Balléyara household producers, including 7.5 kg for private production. Household enumeration and quantification of areas to be seeded are in progress.
Zinder	301 women	13 garden perimeters in 6 villages of Bandé, covering 3.8 ha	Re-planting just ended	Initial crop was destroyed by plant pests

Preparation of manioc cuttings continues at two sites in Tarbanassa and Aggou (Tillabéri South), including weeding, hoeing, mounding, and irrigation.

Burkina Faso

Participation in a promotional day for Moringa at Koukouldi: Agriculture and irrigation specialists, health and nutrition specialists, and two producers from Seytenga/Dori garden site attended the Moringa promotion day in Koukouldi village, Koudougou Commune, February 18. The day was organized by USAID | WA-WASH.

Moringa promotion status

Regions	Producers		Production site	Status	Observation
	#	Total			
Dori	60	70	Gardens and perimeters	Water sources drying up are causing a problem at Batibogou. Overall, plants are still young.	The plan is to emphasize planting moringa out of nurseries into household gardens.
Kaya	10		Home gardens		

Fruit tree production

Niger: Fruit and forest tree production is in progress in all regions.

- ▶ Tillabéri North: 2,000 baobab and *Ziziphus* (1000 for each) are growing at Sansane Haoussa with 1,500 papayas in pots and 64 mango trees germinating.
- ▶ Tillabéri South: Grafting is in progress. 5,353 scions including 283 mango and 5,070 Pomme du Sahel have been distributed to five nursery managers.
- ▶ Maradi: Plants are generally developing well. The nursery at Hannou Gazané has 1,600 moringa seedlings that are tall enough to be planted. The nursery at Guidan Roundji has 2,000 baobab seedlings ready for planting. 400 citrus and 500 mango seedlings are ready for grafting.
- ▶ Zinder: Young fruit and forest trees grew in the two nurseries thanks to intensive monitoring that greatly improved their growth.

Status of plants in Zinder fruit and forest tree nurseries

Nursery manager name	Village	Pomme du sahel		Papaya		Baobab		Moringa	
		plants ready to graft	Plants grafted	Plants surviving	Ready to outplant	Plants surviving	Ready to outplant	Plants surviving	Ready to outplant
Salé Ibrah	Damao	816	0	700	0	1000	0	0	0
Nourou Amadou	Droum Kafi	652	0	471	0	912	0	435	0

Comment [U12]: Nice table. Why not on table for all regions ?

Burkina Faso: A strategy for enlisting nnursery managers will be developed next quarter.

Aviculture

Niger

The strategy for the aviculture pilot activity was brought to all the regions and resulted in the selection of 120 beneficiaries in the four regions, including 20 VVV lead trainers. Some of the criteria for selecting beneficiaries include those preferred by the Health Component: women who have at least one child under 5 years old.

Burkina Faso

Targeting pilot villages: 10 villages were selected in the three intervention provinces to test our aviculture approach. Village general assemblies were held during the quarter so that 60 beneficiaries including 10 VVV could be selected. At the same time, Mother to Mother (MtM) groups were formed. The Project hired an aviculture consultant to facilitate implementation and followup of the activities. 16 regional specialists and four facilitators, including one woman, were trained in rearing and monitoring local poultry in Kaya Province.

In terms of beneficiaries, 10 masons were trained in chickenhouse construction and 41 producers (including 21 women) were trained in techniques for raising and breeding local poultry.

10 VVV including one woman were trained in animal health for poultry, protocols for disease prevention, and techniques for rearing poultry. They were also given medical kits including vaccinations and medicines. Professional VVV cards were distributed by the Village Aviculture Promotion Center (CPAVI), the country's specialized technical service.

Habbanayé

Niger: In Maradi and Zinder, habbanayé operations have started with the delivery of 800 vaccinated and deparasitized goats and a supply of animal feed to 200 beneficiaries. In Tillabéri North, the activity is in preparation.

The test phase of habbanayé was carried out in Tillabéri South in 2014. The following results have been recorded: the goats are in good health, 88 have given birth (for a cumulative total of 127 kids since the beginning), 77 males and 50 females), and only four cases of mortality recorded since last year.

Burkina Faso

Ten bids were submitted to supply 150 beneficiaries of the habbanayé operation. Local suppliers of animals and animal feed were contacted, and sorting is taking place to select the winning bid.

Dollich

Niger: In Zinder, dollich (hyacinth bean) production was set up on seven sites: 2 in Bandé and 5 in Droum. Pod production has been noted at Dan Jagalé and Banima II. In Tillabéri North, dollich harvest is in progress at two sites: Lossa Peulh and Kourmou.

Burkina Faso: The box below shows the impact of introducing dollich into Fada work areas.

The impact of dollich on animal fattening

A few months after the introduction of dollich in Fada Province, we noted the impact. To illustrate, a producer, Mr. Lompo Kangnopoli in the village of Oué of Gayéri Commune (East Region), saved up a store of dollich amounting to 1.96 tons of fodder, in spite of a poor 2014 rainfall season with uneven distribution. He undertook the fattening of his cows, and after only two months, found that producing dollich is indeed a profitable undertaking.

If a producer grows and stores enough fodder such as dollich, he/she will not be required to buy so much high-nutrient feed; this is a big savings on costs that eat into profits at the time of sale.



A bull fattened over 2 months using dollich as the basic feed: Oué, Gayéri Commune

Comment [U13]: Out of 450? When is the first « passa long » expected ?

Other livestock activities

Niger: Producers were trained in the treatment of coarse fodder and making multivitamin blocks in Maradi (29 producers, who will then train other producers) and Zinder (21 producers and PO representatives, who in turn trained 64 producers).

Burkina Faso: Information and sensitization activities have led to consensus-based selection of sites for installing animal watering points for villages or groups of villages in Kaya and Bogandé Provinces. This allowed site selection through a transparent process.

IR 1.3. Improved access to financial services

Organizational promotion and setting up new producers' organizations

Niger

The following activities took place in Zinder and Tillabéri North and South with the objective of improving organizational governance and economic profitability.

- Auto-analysis of existing organizations supported by REGIS-ER (identification of training needs for producer groups)
- Support for creating new organizations
- Training in associative functioning (characteristics of PO structures, roles and tasks of members)
- Orientation of groups by MFIs for access to finances for revenue-generating activities

Comment [U14]: Please provide more information on number/nature of organizations (e.g., new vs existing)

Region	Content of training	Number and types of people trained	Number of groups involved
Tillabéri North	Organizational analysis	775 PO members	22
	Association life	775 PO members	22
Tillabéri South	Organizational analysis	922 PO members	47
	Association life	922 PO members	47
Zinder	Process of creating a new PO	140 PO members	7
	Organizational analysis	147 PO members	7
	Orientation to MFIs	540 members	27

In Maradi, internal analysis of organizations has begun in three Oasis Garden sites in Zabouré, Elkolta, and Fadin Baya (Mallamey).

Burkina Faso: Seven animal fattening groups in Kaya were assisted in forming producer groups to take advantage of group-based guarantees required by MFI credit grantors.

Credit

Niger

During sensitization, training, and informational activities of REGIS-ER components, the need for financial assistance is noted. In 10 communes of Niger, the total credit provided was about 104,320,790 FCFA, of which 95,653,340 came from MFI and 8,667,450 came from internal sources (loans between members of self-formed groups). Beneficiaries of all types of credit include 1,549 women and 127 men who are members of formal and informal producer groups. The main activities financed are animal fattening, small commerce, and purchase of garden inputs, as shown in the following table.

Status of savings and loans as of March 2015

Region	Commune	Number of beneficiaries		Activity	Loan amount (FCFA)	Source of financing	Internal savings (FCFA)
		Women	Men				
Maradi	Guidan Roudji and Sabon Machi	19 groups		Warehouse receipts	20,906,520	Kokari	Not reported
		133	45				
Tillabéri North	Sakoira and Kourthèye	288	71	Animal fattening, warehouse receipts	30,692,450	Kokari (22 025 000) Internal loans (8 667 450)	21,515,850
Tillabéri South	Filingué, Imanan, Tagazar, Tondikandia	24 groups including 1 informal		Animal fattening, petit commerce	22,825,000	Kokari	Not reported
		434	10				
Zinder	Bandé, Droum	694	1	Animal fattening, warehouse receipts	29,896,820	Kokari, Yarda	Not reported
Total		1,549	127		104,320,790		21,515,850

Comment [U15]: Why are internal savings not reported in other regions ?

Burkina Faso: DCA (USAID ~~guarantee fund~~)

Meetings took place to plan for a possible link with the DCA fund proposed by USAID, although the fund has almost completely been processed at Ecobank in Burkina Faso. A new request for DCA funding, oriented toward MFI institutions closer to our target populations, was presented to a mission from the regional USAID office.

Savings and loans by informal groups

A study is underway in the two countries to inform our strategy for automanaged community savings and loans (SECCA) that will target informal groups in our zones.

Comment [U16]: Loan Guarantee Agreement. It is not a fund.

2. Governance and Natural Resource Management Component (GNRM)

General considerations

REGIS-ER is enabling the environment needed to establish a partnership with local authorities, civil society organizations, environmental groups, producer organizations, the local private sector, and the media, so that good governance issues (the fourth pillar of food security) can be addressed.

The component builds capacity of local government and community-based organizations in terms of decentralized decision-making, planning, management and monitoring of natural resources. It assists people at the commune and village levels with developing natural resource management plans and training conflict and risk management structures in a context of changing climate.

Institutional and individual capacity-building to address climate change is part of the responsibility of the component. In this regard, REGIS-ER is assisting villages with annual natural resource management plans as part of ongoing training in climate change adaptation.

Summary table of progress towards indicator targets

OBJECTIVE 2. Improved governance and natural resource management								
Indicator	QUARTER 2014-2015				Performance 2013-2015			
	1	2	3	4	Cumul FY2 2014-15	Cumul FY1	Cum. TARGET FY 1+2	% Target FY 1+2
2A. Number of community-level plans implemented with NRM, conflict management, or DRM components	7	0			7	0	50	14%
2B. Number of stakeholders with increased capacity to adapt to impacts of climate variability /change	620	1,982			620	317	1,500	195%
Intermediate Result 2.1: Strengthened natural resource management								
2.1.1. Number of institutions with improved capacity to address climate change issues	0	131			131	0	180	73%
2.1.2. Number of community residents participating in NRM meetings	0	535			535	84	660	94%
women		323				7		
18-30 years old		95						
31+		440						
2.1.3. Number of hectares under improved NRM practices (local conventions)	0	108			108	222,500	250,000	89.0%
Intermediate Result 2.2: Strengthened disaster risk management								
2.2.1. Number of people trained in disaster preparedness as a result of USG assistance	0	167			0	0	300	56%
women	0	22			0	0		
2.2.2. Number of communities with disaster early warning and response (EWR) systems working effectively	0	0					30	0%
Intermediate Result 2.3: Strengthened Conflict Management								
2.3.1. Number of conflict prevention systems, conflict assessments, or response mechanisms supported by USG assistance	8	42			8	0	100	32%
Prevention or response mechanism	1	42						
Evaluation	7							

Comment [U17]: 2,602 ?

Comment [U18]: What type of institution are these (e.g., Producer Organizations) and how was their capacity improved?

Comment [U19]: What does this number represent (CES/DRS activities in BF)?

Comment [U20]: 50 ?

OBJECTIVE 2. Improved governance and natural resource management								
	QUARTER 2014-2015				Performance 2013-2015			
Indicator	1	2	3	4	Cumul FY2 2014-15	Cumul FY1	Cum. TARGET FY 1+2	% Target FY 1+2
2.3.2. Number of disputes mediated to the satisfaction of all parties to the conflict	0	0			0	0	20	0.0%
Intermediate Result 2.4: Strengthened government and regional capacity and coordination								
2.4.1. Number of community development plans implemented after joint planning meetings held between local and sub-national units	0	Indicator under review			0	0	15	0.0%
GAP (Gender)								
4.D. Number of hectares of farmland registered in the name of women	24.3	13.8			38.1	45.0	TBD	

IR 2.1. Strengthened natural resource management

Climate change

Niger

Training and sensitization meetings held by REGIS-ER components continue to inform rural populations about the causes and consequences of climate change. During some of these meetings, seriously eroded areas were identified with 419 producers in Tillabéri South and with several villages in each Region of Maradi, Tillabéri North, and Zinder. Preparations to address such issues were made during a workshop on climate change in Niamey that brought regional coordinators and specialists together from Niger and Burkina Faso.

Quality control for rock terraces and bunds: 25,500 linear meters of rock terraces (corresponding to 127 ha of land treated) and 1,200 meters of bunds (2 hectares) were built in the villages of Soukoutou, Sourgo Koir, Loko Damana, Bangario, and Sansani Tabla in Tillabéri South. Small equipment was brought to the CES/DRS sites in six villages there. 312 producers were trained in building CES/DRS structures.

Collaboration with WFP under the Cash for Work program: Under WFP's Cash for Work program that will include soil restoration work, REGIS-ER's Maradi regional team attended training in household surveys to participate in the identification of very poor households in Sabon Machi Commune. 1,722 households were identified, of whom 89 were headed by women, in 44 villages of the commune.

Burkina Faso

Implementation of CES/DRS: A study tour on innovations in climate change adaptation (zaï, rock terraces, half-moons, FMNR) in northern Burkina (Ouahigouya) was organized for 27 lead producers from Barsalogho, Gayéri, and Seytenga, including nine women, with assistance from MARP. An integrated strategy for CCA activities that includes CES/DRS was drawn up and shared with Governance specialists during a workshop in Niamey.

Areas suitable for land reclamation were identified in the three regions as pilot activities for CES/DRS. 108 producers, including 57 women, from three villages in Barsalogho and Bouroum, plus 80 people including 60 women, were introduced to the method for siting and building rock terraces.

Natural resource management plans: The team in Fada has begun elaborating natural resource management plans in villages. 187 people including 42 women participated in NRM fora in two villages of Gayéri and Manni. Draft plans are complete for Bandikidini and Siédougou villages.

Local conventions and village terroir plans

Niger

Local convention fora were held in Tondikandia in 19 villages with more than 400 people attending. In February, the commune council moved the adoption process forward and the Prefect of Filingué signed and validated the document in Tillabéri.

Information and sensitization of stakeholders on local conventions were carried out in Zinder. In Droum Commune, a steering committee was set up and trained in the steps. The Component is finalizing the map for Guidan Roudji Commune for its CL. Eight management plans for village terroirs are being drawn up as well, including two in Burkina.

Comment [U21]: For the GNRM component, please provide more info on the development impact of these activities (i.e., the "so what"). For example, soil conservation and NRM activities could be more clearly linked with CCA. What is the expected result of training the COFOBs?

Comment [U22]: Are these 129 hectares of land included under indicator 1.2.2 ?

Comment [U23]: Validated by whom ? Also, discuss the sensitization that was done for the LC in Tondikandia ?

Comment [U24]: Please explain what are village terroirs.

Burkina Faso

Local conventions in Barsalogho and Seytenga Communes: After the Kaya regional team was trained, the team in Dori was trained in the local convention steps with a view towards commencing the process in Seytenga. The relevant technical services were involved as was the Sahel Regional Directorate of Studies and Planning. The steering committees for local conventions have been set up and their members trained, 19 for Barsalogho and 16 for Seytenga. The composition of the committees is reflective of gender and socio-professional group considerations.

In order to facilitate diagnostics of natural resource issues and to draw up management rules, a zoning process was set up in each commune: six in Barsalogho and three in Seytenga. Zone committees were also set up. Training in diagnostics and resource mapping was animated by a REGIS-ER team from Niamey for regional teams in Dori and Kaya.

Farmer-managed natural regeneration

Niger: 128 producers volunteered to implement FMNR in their fields. In Zinder, a field visit to future FMNR sites was made. In Guidan Roumdji commune, 300 producers were inscribed in the FMNR program.

Burkina Faso: The second phase of training in FMNR took place in the three provinces at the village level. In all, 1,387 producers including 504 women were trained in FMNR and CCA in 49 villages (17 in Kaya, nine in Fada, and 23 in Dori). In each region, six steering committee members for the local convention and one representative of the Regional Directorate of Economy and Planning took part in the training.

IR 2.2. Strengthened disaster risk management

A partnership for DRM training was established between REGIS-ER and Karkara NGO in Niger. In Burkina Faso, REGIS-ER is collaborating with Red Cross for this activity. Red Cross has proposed an action plan for March through September 2015 that covers Barsalogho, Seytenga, and Gayéri Communes. Regional Red Cross teams and REGIS-ER teams will collaborate on elaboration of commune contingency plans.

Comment [U25]: What is the value of this sub-award ? If it's over \$50,000 you need to submit the sub-award for approval since Karkara wasn't included in the original agreement.

IR 2.3. Strengthened conflict management

A total of 13.5 hectares of land was deeded to women this quarter, including 3.75 in Burkina Faso for three parcels.

Niger

180 members of the COFOBs in 19 villages of Tondikandia Commune were trained; CoFoBs were set up in five villages in the commune. Final selection of other test villages in other regions is ongoing.

Burkina Faso

REGIS-ER is planning with PDEV II to implement field activities, starting with diagnostics of natural resources and potential conflicts between users in the context of Barsalogho and Seytenga local conventions.

Comment [U26]: Please share a copy of the action plan so that we can better understand Red Cross' approach.

IR 2.4. Strengthened government, regional capacity, and coordination

In Niger, the representative of Tondikandia's CoFoCom participated in the training and installation of the CoFoBs.

In Burkina, the technical services in Seytenga and the Sahel Regional Directorate of Studies and Planning participated in the training on local convention steps.

3. Health-Nutrition-WASH Component (HNW)

General considerations

The Health and Nutrition Component of REGIS-ER (HNW) is undertaking a range of innovative actions to improve public knowledge about, and bring solutions to crucial problems related to, health, nutrition, and sanitation -- particularly among the most vulnerable populations.

Activities are integrated with nutrition-led agriculture and behavioral change among men and women according to their attitudes and habits in regard to HNW.

To address questions related to the third pillar of food security -- rational utilization of food -- the program promotes dietary diversity, access to new biofortified foods, better access to health and nutrition services, and access to better sources of water and sanitation.

The target population includes children less than five years old, pregnant and lactating women, and the most vulnerable women and girls.

The component works with WA-WASH to set up potable water systems and to address hygiene issues like improved latrines and hand washing with soap. Women's groups like Mother to Mother (MtM) are being formed to work in moringa gardens and BDL. These sites are also platforms for promoting better nutrition and healthier behavior change.

Summary table of progress towards indicator targets

Note that gaps in the numbering sequence of indicators signify places where impact or outcome indicators are being calculated by SAREL using data collected from household surveys to be carried out in April/May 2015.

OBJECTIVE 3. Improved health and nutrition								
	QUARTER 2014-2015				Performance 2013-2015			
Indicator	1	2	3	4	Cumul FY2 2014-15	Cumul FY1	Cum. TARGET FY 1+2	% Target FY 1+2
Intermediate result 3.1: Better access to potable water								
3.1.1. Number of households using an improved drinking water source	0	2			0	0	TBD	0.0%
3.1.1.bis Number of water points built or rehabilitated by REGIS-ER	0	2						
3.1.3. Number of households using an improved sanitation facility	0	72			0	0	TBD	0.0%
3.1.3.bis Number of improved latrines built or rehabilitated by REGIS-ER	0	72						
Pit latrine with slab (by REGIS)		2						
Improved ventilated latrine (by REGIS)		6						
Other types (by REGIS)		8						
Other types (by individuals or households)		56						
Intermediate result 3.2: Improved health and nutrition practices								
3.2.2. Number of children under 5 reached by USG-supported nutrition programs during reporting year		10,424			10,424	0	150,000	7%
3.2.4. Number of people trained in child health and nutrition through USG-supported programs	120	3,765			3,885	109	60,000	7%
women	36	2,675			36	74		
3.2.5. Number of trained CHWs, CHVs and CBOs without stock-outs of essential medicines/products during the last 30 days before the date of the visit	Indicator dropped April 2015				0	0	TBD	
3.2.7. Annual couple-years of protection	Indicator replaced April 2015							

IR 3.1. Increased Access to Potable Water

Rehabilitation of water sources

Niger

A total of 54 water sources are being repaired and 55 villages have been selected to be the first to get new wells in Project regions. World Vision is one of our partners; it plans to offer two options for larger villages, according to national norms (one self-service station with four waterholes and one source with a manually-operated pump or PMH). Water management committees (CGPE) have been set up in each village where a repair or construction is planned.

Comment [U27]: Explain how many people will then have access to potable water as a result.

Burkina Faso

After a detailed diagnosis, REGIS-ER plans to rehabilitate 72 waterholes equipped with manual pumps less than 10 years old in three regions. This operation will be carried out with assistance from craftspeople who are in the business, and with involvement of the mayors' offices so that the commune will take ownership.

A diagnosis is being developed on the functionality of water user associations (AUE) with a view toward reactivating them to manage the water sources being repaired.

IR 3.2. Improved Health and Nutrition Practices

Consumption of enriched foods

To facilitate access to products promoted by the Project for better nutrition among children less than two years old (such as Moringa, baobab, PDCO), HNW developed recipes for powders containing these products. The objective is to find the 10 best formulas with the most complete fulfillment of iron, zinc, vitamin A, and folic acid requirements for this age group. A lab will be analyzing the exact composition of the formulas being tried and results will be known next quarter.

Comment [U28]: ER should reach out to partners such as CRS who already have experience making enriched flours in Niger and Burkina Faso. Also, villagers in Dantchandou (Dosso) learned how to make Moringa powder for children through CLUS Moringa project.

Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC)

Niger

Community mobilization: Training of trainers took place in the regions for field agents, district focal points, and regional health specialists for REGIS to mobilize communities and share the Mother to Mother (MtM) strategy. Training was facilitated by the country HNW staff, bringing together 52 REGIS-ER staff and 15 health agents including 2 from Maradi, 2 from Zinder, 8 from Tillabéri North, and 3 from Tillabéri South.

After the training, mobilization meetings were set up in each health center. Field agents, CSI heads, and focal points took part with five community contacts at each village. These included religious leaders, village chiefs, woman leaders and community relays. 424 MtM groups were set up in these villages where FFP partners are not working.

A total of 48 REGIS staff, 41 government health agents, and 988 community members participated in 23 meetings (6 in Maradi, 6 in Tillabéri North, and 6 in Tillabéri South, 5 in Zinder).

Pilot phase of SPRING/Digital Green video production: A highlight of the quarter was the initiation of fieldwork with Digital Green in Maradi. HNW has spent time identifying media specialists, organizing training, and participating in production of the films. 30 media specialists, three radio agents from Gobir, two assistants, the project coordinator, and a market information system person participated in the meetings that were facilitated by Digital Green. The first video has been produced on "the first 1,000 days" and is currently being edited.

Pre-testing SBCC tools: A set of message posters has been adapted from a set developed for the Nutrition Directorate of the Health Ministry of Niger. They were pre-tested and updated based on feedback from the field. 100 sets were printed.

Comment [U29]: Please provide a copy to USAID.

Burkina Faso

Community mobilization: Workshops were held in Manni and Sebba health districts. Each one brought together representatives from all the villages in the district. At each CSPA, an informational meeting was held in which the MtM strategy was shared with representatives of associations, opinion leaders, representatives of pregnant and breastfeeding mother groups, Health Agents Based in the Community (ASBC), and volunteer resource persons working in the health and nutrition field. The meeting made it possible to assess people's degree of participation and commitment, and made it possible to select lead mothers and confirm ASBCs. 324 MtM groups were formed with one lead mother at the head of each.

Training in HNW

Niger: Training of trainers was given for the Health-Nutrition-WASH package in several sessions organized for 17 government health agents and 10 REGIS field staff.

Burkina Faso: In collaboration with partner sanitation district staff, 156 ASBC and 324 lead mothers from Burkina's East and Sahel Regions were trained in five essential themes: exclusive breast-feeding (including immediate placement of the infant at the breast), complementary feeding at different ages (6-8 months, 9-11 months, 12-24 months), how to wash hands with soap, how to make tippy-tap hand washing stations, and how to lead and animate a MtM group.

Sensitization on nutritional values of garden and dairy products: In Tillabéri South, motivational meetings were held in the communities for greater consumption of garden foods and dairy products with high nutritional value, such as baobab, PDCO, and Moringa. 248 people attended, of whom 229 are women.

Husband schools (EdM)

Burkina Faso: A meeting was held to share the "Husband school" strategy adapted from Sawki and Mwangaza Action approaches. The attending Regional Health Director of the Center-North and chief sanitation district doctors committed to working with REGIS-ER on this approach.

Safe Space

Niger: Maradi Region is hosting the first Safe Space meeting rooms in four test villages in collaboration with Sawki. Through Digital Green, SPRING is assisting REGIS-ER in this effort with four informational videos.

Mother to Mother

Dietary diversification: With a goal of creating the right environment for adopting best practices for dietary diversification, 89 women who are members of MtM or Care Groups (through FFP partners) were selected for poultry and goat grants. Women who had already started leaf and vegetable production in home gardens also received Moringa plants. In order to facilitate transportation of water to irrigate these gardens and encourage the women, two garden carts (pousse-pousses) were given to women in Kaya. These two activities were a collaborative effort with Livelihoods Component.

Community-led total sanitation (CLTS/ATPC)

Niger

Of 40 villages planned for CLTS activities this year, 39 have already started the process. Households have built their own latrines in 414 cases; of these, 52 are considered "improved" in the sense of having a strong base with a hole that is covered to keep flies out. 382 others are being built. A village health committee (CSV) was set up in each village starting the CLTS process. Thanks to CLTS, the rate of households installing latrines went from 0 to 100% in Tsanw village in Maradi Region.

Burkina Faso

Initiation of villages into the CLTS process continued this quarter with 35 out of 50 planned villages starting the process. Among the 25 latrines built so far, 10 are completed and 15 are at the excavation stage.

114 masons from the villages received five training sessions in how to build VIP 1-hole family latrines, during which they built 10 latrines each associated with a tippy-tap hand-washing station. The masons who were trained worked with our field staff to assist households with digging and making bricks.

Identification of vulnerable households for latrine grants: To achieve better equity in access to social services including for sanitation, the Project identified vulnerable households that receive grants for building improved latrines. In Niger, 1,110 households and 1,300 households were selected at village assemblies using criteria for vulnerability that were set by villages themselves. Most of the households have already contributed their share of the work by digging or making the bricks. Grants will come through during the coming quarter.

The presidents of the Village Development committees (CVD) in CLTS villages have signed grant contracts for family latrines for vulnerable people.



Installation of a tippy-tap; latrine construction

Cross-cutting activities

Coordination and management

Partnership with FFP projects: In the context of assuring layering and sequencing with FFP and RISE projects, meetings were held to start a workshop to identify areas of convergence between projects with their specific activities. The principle of holding fora with rotating presenters was accepted and REGIS-ER headed the first of these to talk about its conservation farming approach. The next forum in March was headed by CRS, which presented its M&E system.

In Burkina Faso, USAID sent a mission out to Manni and Gayéri communes in the context of HNW.

REGIS-ER participated in evaluation meetings for ViM and FASO.

REGIS-ER received a mission from the Chief Operating Officer and the Program Manager from NCBA CLUSA headquarters in February. Information was exchanged with team members and field visits were carried out in Niger and Burkina. The mission met with Mary Stopes International about possibilities for collaborating in family planning.

Small grants fund

During the quarter, REGIS-ER organized training of NGO partner accountants concerning reporting expenditures and managing funds. AREN, ADROC, and Kokari accountants did not take part in the training. Meetings took place with WASA Niger, AREN, Mwangaza, WASA Burkina, and A2N to improve partner involvement in project activities.

After expenses of NGO partners were analyzed, REGIS-ER sent advances to them so that activities in the field could continue.

Cost share: The total amount of cost share collected and reported is \$51,066 in Project intervention zones. This is smaller than the amount reported last quarter, \$148,451. This quarter, REGIS was not able to document all the expected contributions from veterinary products and services during the animal vaccination campaign, which constitute the main portion of the cost share. Also, community contributions toward latrines and water source repairs were low because the activity got off to a slow start.

Cost share by country was 29,149,215 FCFA from Niger and 1,715,185 FCFA from Burkina Faso.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting, and Analysis

The MERA section evaluated its system with staff members with the idea of making corrections to it. Two workshops were held, one in Ouagadougou on February 3 and 4, and one in Niamey on February 26. The heads or country coordinators of the three components attended along with the regional coordinators and M&E assistants.

Three workshops were held to send out the latest Dimagi applications for telephones in Niger (February 2-5 in Maradi and February 25-27 in Tillabéri South), and in Burkina Faso (February 17-20 in Fada). All the facilitators and regional M&E assistants were equipped. The REGIS ICT and IT specialists led the workshops.

A key event of the quarter was the first official review of targets and indicators during a workshop in Niamey March 10-12. All component heads were present. The meeting was led by Sheladia head Jan Twarovsky and the M&E specialist Abou Diawara. Two USAID staff were present, Mr. Kossomi Aboubacar and Ms. Megan Kyles.

In the context of the baseline studies to be carried out by REGIS-ER, a tool that measures institutional capabilities was elaborated with Sheladia and shared with SAREL. Dimagi has developed an application to collect the information based on this tool, and it will be sent to the field in the next few weeks.

An additional test of Dimagi applications and their use in collecting information was carried out and can be used to assess whether data and justifying documentation have been sent in by facilitators.

A M&E specialist was hired for the Ouagadougou office this quarter. He attended the indicator review workshop and participated in quarterly data processing as part of his training. The processes of hiring a database administrator and a database developer are in progress.

Training and communications

Terms of reference, training events, and other activities of the quarter

Livelihoods	Governance/ NRM	Health-Nutrition	Other
Grant applications in Tillabéri South and North IPM in Tillabéri South	Training in local conventions in Dori and Kaya	CLTS, Zinder Technologies Wash, T-North MtM approach, T-North	SAHEL fair (Salon d'Agriculture-Environnement and Elevage) - Niamey March 2015
CF: Workshop to revise 2015 CF strategy; CF training in BF, Niger	Training in CCA for BF and Niger teams, Niamey	Community mobilization, Fada, Dori Zinder, Maradi, T-North and South Training of masons for VIP latrines, Fada and Dori	Training in grants Draft agreement between REGIS-ER and ASUSU
Livestock: Mineral block and fodder making; improved traditional breeding for poultry in Kaya	Training of steering committee in resource diagnostics, Dori and Kaya	Training/orientation of ASBC and lead mothers in hand washing w. soap, making <i>tippy-taps</i> , feeding infants, Dori	Ethnographic research initiated by SAREL for gender, to support REGIS-ER
Livestock: Training of CBSP/AE/ women poultry vaccinators, Maradi Training in savings and loans, Niger Collaboration w. 2 consultants	Training on FMNR (Titabé) /Dori	HNW package and Fam Planning, T-South, Maradi, Zinder Printing of Informational posters SBCC in Zinder, Maradi, Tillabéri North and South	Meetings and field visit with Afrique Fondation Jeunes for household gardens
Gardens: Training in IGESPLAM, T-S Irrigation: Training in Money Maker pump, Manni		Training of masons for family VIP latrines, Barsalogho and Bouroum	Discussion with consultant Nancy Keith on Digital Green training in Maradi

Gender

In REGIS-ER's approach, vulnerable women are prioritized for several activities: BDL, oasis gardens, habbanayé, soil conservation works, and many activities in the health and nutrition domain, where specific groups target women: MtM, Safe Space, Lead Mothers, Women Leaders, and others. The Governance Component has a mandate to facilitate obtaining land deeds in the name of women or women's groups before sizeable investments are made such as irrigation systems and wells. During Project hiring, women are always encouraged to apply and given preference if they qualify.

In the husband schools, men are targeted so they can contribute to improving household health, nutrition, and family planning where appropriate.

In our M&E system, gender is one of the disaggregations for most indicator results.

An international consultant is currently drawing up a gender strategy to strengthen the Project's 2014 training of staff in awareness of gender issues.

Some indications of women's involvement in REGIS-ER activities - November 2013 to March 2015

Indicator	Cumul Oct-Mar FY2	Cumul FY1	Total FY 1+2	% pertaining to women
1.1.1. Increase in income from off-farm economic opportunities (\$US)	6,869	16,498	23,367	41% of the increase
of which for women	4,811	4,706	9,517	
1.1.2. Number of jobs attributed to implementation	710	350	1,060	89% of the jobs
of which for women	636	310	946	
1.1.3. Number of people trained in skills relevant for local and migrant off-season labor	4,903	39	4,942	54% of the participants
women	2,622	38	2,660	
1.2.1. Number of farmers or others who have applied improved technologies or management practices	10,129	9,034	19,163	88% of the producers
women	8,267	8,507	16,774	
1.2.3. Number of individuals who have received USG-supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	10,252	6,199	16,451	74% of the participants
women	6,699	5,483	12,182	

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Indicator	Cumul Oct-Mar FY2	Cumul FY1	Total FY 1+2	% pertaining to women
1.2.4. Number of food security private enterprises, producer organizations, water user associations, women's groups, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations receiving USG assistance	261	215	476	81% of the organizations
operated by women	166	215	381	
1.3.1. Value of agricultural and rural loans	210,863	97,737	308,600	57% of the value in \$US
(\$US) of which went to women	119,098	56,661	175,759	
2.1.2. Number of residents participating in NRM fora	448	84	532	62% of the participants
women	323	7	330	
2.2.1. Number of people trained in disaster preparedness	167		167	13% of the participants
women	22		22	
3.2.4. Number of people trained in infant health and nutrition	3,885	109	3,994	70% of the participants
women	2,711	74	2,785	

Problems and Solutions

- Some field agents did not fully understand the process for implementing HNW activities. Specialists in the central offices need to communicate more fully with field agents about roles and responsibilities.
- Some misunderstandings of health-nutrition indicators are leading to incorrect reporting. The March indicator review document contains clarification of operational definitions that will improve this situation.
- A new directive has been issued to submit training terms of reference for approval at least 10 days ahead of time, and only for activities appearing in the monthly planning.
-

Comment [U30]: Please elaborate. What problem did this cause specifically.

SUCCESS STORY: A self-motivated farmer becomes a conservation farming spokesperson

Korgo Hamidou is proud of his millet field that he grew using conservation farming techniques that helped overcome rain gaps at the beginning of the season



“Using the ripper and zai holes, millet is more resistant to temporary droughts. Stems are thicker, spikes are fuller, and plants develop more fully; stalks remain erect in spite of the wind, unlike millet grown using traditional practices.”

In Ambara village, producers’ enthusiasm for conservation farming methods is more pronounced than anywhere else. No wonder, with a model farmer in their midst.

A native of Ambara village, situated in Bouroum Commune in northeastern Burkina Faso, Korgo Hamidou is a courageous producer who is dedicated to farming in spite of relatively modest yields, while most people in the village struggle to make a living through traditional gold mining.

In 2014, when all signs pointed to a difficult agricultural season, Hamidou ended up a proud farmer because he discovered and applied a new way to farm through conservation farming training provided by USAID | REGIS-ER.

As part of its toolkit for adapting to climate change, conservation farming is promoted in all REGIS intervention zones as a best practice.

As soon as Hamidou returned to Ambara after CF training, he not only established his own field with the new methods, he also trained and assisted five other village farmers to do the same.

“Since I don’t have my own ripper,” he says, “I adapted my plow by attaching a splitter 15 cm off the ground, and that is how we made furrows in our fields.”

Good vegetative growth in his field, in spite of pockets of drought after the plants sprouted, attracted neighboring farmers, curious to know the secret.

Hamidou led site visits to his field, showing the techniques to people from neighboring villages. He goes to all the meetings about climate change adaptation to share his experience and testify that conservation farming gives farmers an advantage in a tough climate.

Annex: Environmental reporting for the quarter

Livelihoods

EMMP REQUIREMENT	ACTION TAKEN or FORMS SUBMITTED
PESTICIDES/FERTILIZERS - Documents, videos, or radio messages produced on integrated pest management, soil fertility, handling of agricultural produce, conservation agriculture, other topics related to those mentioned on this form	PER and SUAP to be elaborated using existing manuals and materials.
DEMONSTRATION SITES - Random site visits should be made to verify whether beneficiaries are using restricted pesticides.	Random visits to be arranged for the coming agricultural season
IMPROVED SEED - The component declares in simple form that procedures required by USAID to procure seed have been followed (new varieties are researched on plots of less than 4 hectares; plant materials are quarantined before distribution; technical sheet with potential impacts on local varieties is developed)	Seeds ordered in 2015 using appropriate channels for local acquisition and planning for demonstration sites
IRRIGATION Screening form for new sites filled in to identify potential impacts of the system on the environment, with mitigation activities described	Feasibility study completed for Niger River. Testing for arsenic and E. coli will be integrated into the water quality assurance plan. IEE Amendment cleared but with 10 conditions to be addressed
LIVESTOCK - animal feed List of the number of animals delivered and the quantity of food required to feed them calculated and accounted for; feeding plan for when the delivered feed runs out; hectares under contract for improving pasture quality	Training in animal fattening planned in coming months. Yields of hay and fodder quantified but not linked to number of animals delivered through habbanaye
LIVESTOCK - water Evidence that animal and human water sources have been separated; documentation of new conflicts developing over newly managed water sources; for multi-use systems, analysis of water quality and observation of poor practices	N/A yet (DAO being sent out for boreholes)
Livestock - habbanaye Proof that the breed introduced can adapt to the intervention zone; justification for the selection of this breed; proof of its performance in the local setting	Operations in Maradi and Zinder: lessons from 2014 have been used to assure timely construction of goat shelters and contracting with trained vaccinators ahead of time. Low mortality at Tillabéri (4) and good reproductive rate

Governance and NRM

EMMP REQUIREMENT	ACTION TAKEN or FORMS SUBMITTED
FARMER-MANAGED NATURAL REGENERATION - promoted by the Project	Theme integrated into modules for CF and CCA. Number of people trained will be reported at year's end
INFRASTRUCTURE AND CLIMATE CHANGE - major works to incorporate climate change considerations	The only infrastructure in question is gabion dams to be placed in 20 village ravines in Tillabéri. Quality control forms will be used once the work is underway.

Health-Nutrition

EMMP REQUIREMENT	ACTION TAKEN or FORMS SUBMITTED
WELLS AND BOREHOLES - Water quality plan Water quality assurance plan in place for each site; copy sent to environment specialist in Niamey	Water quality assurance plan to be detailed in the next quarter 2 analyses completed for Maradi well sites
WELLS AND BOREHOLES - documentation and monitoring List of new wells by site and type, GPS coordinates archived by the component and a copy sent to environmental specialist in Niamey for verifications and spot checks One visit per quarter to a randomly selected site to verify good maintenance and utilization (visual inspection sheet in EMMP)	Coordinates taken for first well sites
WELLS, IRRIGATION SYSTEMS, BOREHOLES, OTHER WATER SOURCES Evidence of committees set up to maintain and ensure management of new sites	Water management committees selected and trained
LATRINES Form filled in to assure good siting (not in a water course; at least 30 m away from any water point) - annex in EMMP	Forms for correct siting of some wells submitted and showing acceptable distances from closest wells