



A farmer sealing pearl millet seed mini-packs.

**Summary:** The aim of this project is to increase the utilization of improved seeds and other technologies to enhance the resilience of rural communities in Niger.

**For more information see:**  
<https://www.ccrp.org/grants/seed-systems-niger/>

**West Africa**  
 Community of Practice



**Project Partners**

- MOORIBEN Union Hareyben at Tera
  - Mooriben Union Made Bane at Falwel
  - FUMA Gaskiya
  - ICRISAT
  - INRAN
- Farmer Organization     ■ National Ag Research Center  
■ International Ag Research Center

# Research to Impacts Map: Seed Systems

Seed Systems Niger Project 2015-2019

## Understanding local preferences and knowledge

2015: **Farmers tested** two types of improved cowpea varieties (spreading and erect growth habits) intercropped with pearl millet varieties that were also under evaluation. The cowpea varieties were tested in pure stands as well.

A total of 18 “mother” (designed by researchers) trials and more than 100 “baby” (adapted by farmers) trials were installed in 9 villages. The mother trials were also conducted at 2 experimental stations.

## Varietal testing and seed producing capacity building for farmers

2006 on: Partner unions received intensive **training on seed production**, financial management and accounting including standards and requirements for becoming seed producers. Some of the producers have become the trainers on seed production for other farmer unions.

## Multi-functional varieties

2016: On-station results of **intercropping** cowpea with pearl millet show increases in Nitrogen and Phosphorous in the **soil** and increased yields of both millet and cowpea.



Farmers evaluating intercropped millet and cowpea.

## Farmer-managed seed production

2016: Partner unions produced 10 T of an improved groundnut cultivar and 29 T of 2 improved cowpea cultivars as well as pearl millet.

## Farmer-managed seed dissemination

2016: **Women-led seed processing and packing units** were established at each of the seed cooperatives. The **women** are paid by the cooperative for every 500g seed bag they produce. The project supported the women in determining the cost and final sale price.

## In-situ conservation

2017: Several **local varieties** are also grown in the study area, they are valued for their culinary and cultural attributes.

## More productive cropping systems

2019: Interviews with 150 female producers of improved groundnut and cowpea varieties across 15 villages indicate that the use of improved legume varieties **increased groundnut yields, on average, 2.5 fold and cowpea yields 8 fold compared to local varieties**. This led to an **improvement in annual average income** from \$38 to \$138. It has also increased the **length of household food availability** from 5 to 9 months per year.