

**"Bambara Nut Farmer Research Network" -  
Institutionalizing farmer-researcher cooperation to  
increase research relevance and positive impacts for  
female farmers".**





Bambara nut plant



Bambara nut pods



Bambara nut seeds





Some Bambara nut local based meals

## Objective

The project has the objective to formalize, sustain and increase the impact of results of nine years of collaboration of 30 female farmers' organizations and researchers involved together in Bambara nut research and development. Specifically it is to go for a federation in the cover of INERA which will use "Farmers Research Network" and most of principles and sub principles of agro ecological intensification (AEI) to optimize the use of natural resources in female farmers' farming system.

Ultimate goal is to strengthen the moving of members of female famers' organizations and researchers from conventional agriculture for a sustainable and agro ecologically intensified female farmers' farming system in each village. A clear phase identification of female farmers' farming system constraints of negotiation

## Current state of knowledge in Farmers' Research Network (FRN)

- Using Mother and baby trials and “Farmers Fields schools”;
- Female farmers’ fully managed experiments varying between 500 and 600 every year
- Institutionalize participatory research and development between farmers’ organizations and researchers in 30 villages;
- Clear steps identified steps for implementing AEI

## Current state of knowledge in Farmers' Research Network

### FRN through Mother and baby trials

- Farmers choose locations of fields and combined options for implementing in their baby trials
- Farmers choose combined options to be implemented in their “field’s school”
- Farmers meet in their “field’s school” at regular periods for working and evaluating options and yields
- Farmers monitor field’s management such as date on ploughing and sowing, weeding, earthing-up, harvest and evaluation were done by female farmers’ together.



## Current state in Agro ecological intensification (AEI)

- Farmers and researchers involved in the Bambara nut project are moving from conventional farming system in semi-arid and low input agriculture contexts to using agro ecological intensification (AEI);
- Female farmers' farming system based on legumes (Bambara nut and cowpea) and cereals (maize, sorghum and millet) chosen as unit of intensification through
- Minimizing use of synthetic fertilizers and substitution by locally available natural fertilizers such as ash and organic matter; increasing crops diversities; support of farmers' organizations governance;

**On the way of a sustainable and an efficient production of food by/for smallholders.**



## Activity of institutionalization of Bambara nut producers' federation

- Meeting in March 2019 at Ouagadougou
- 2 to 4 female farmers organizations leaders at Ouagadougou
- Voluntary choice of village Bambara nu FRN responsible by village
- Voluntary choice from a set of villages from the same county of the Bambara nut FRN responsible by County
- Election of the national Bambara nut FRN responsible

Networks facilitate learning and knowledge sharing across farmer groups with similar agendas, interests, and constraints.

## Activity of institutionalization of Bambara nut producers' federation

- 33 female farmers from village level were elected as Bambara nut FRN responsible
- 8 female farmers from county level were elected as Bambara nut FRN responsible
- 1 female farmer was elected as national Bambara nut FRN leader by all participants

Networks facilitate learning and knowledge sharing across farmer groups with similar agendas, interests, and constraints.





## **Activity of female farmers farming system diagnostic : Identification of common constraints by female farmers (national level)**

- Insufficient rain
- Lack of varieties adapted to rainfall
- Low productivity of traditional varieties
- Inaccessibility to improved varieties
- Inaccessibility to fertilizers because of high prices
- Lack of equipment
- Lack of time leading to non-respect of the recommended technical itinerary
- Lack of training on production techniques and methods
- Poverty of soils



## **Activity of female farmers farming system diagnostic :**

### **Identification of common constraints by female farmers (national level)**

- Diseases and attacks of insects, caterpillars and striga
- Absence of agricultural equipment for the execution of cultural operations at the appropriate time resulting in late sowing and non-compliance with the cultural calendar
- Little knowledge of new farming techniques
- poor access to organic manure
- Absence of technical itineraries for women's cultures
- reduction of the working time devoted to individual fields
- Lack of means to acquire the amount of fertilizer needed for crops
- Crop losses related to conservation difficulties

**Activity of female farmers farming system diagnostic :**

Identification of common constraints by female farmers (county level)

**Activity of female farmers farming system diagnostic :**

Identification of common constraints by female farmers (village)

**Farmer groups set research priorities and influence the research agenda**



## Activity of negotiation: Crop preference for growing by village in Dapelogo

N°	Soglosi	Pamtenga	Tansèga
1 <sup>st</sup>	Cowpea	Cowpea	Cowpea
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Peanut	Bambara nut	Peanut
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Bambara nut	Peanut	Okra
4 <sup>th</sup>	Sesame	Okra	Sorghum
5 <sup>th</sup>	Okra	Sorghum	Millet
6 <sup>th</sup>	Millet	Millet	Sesame
7 <sup>th</sup>	Sorghum	Sesame	Bambara nut
8 <sup>th</sup>	Sorrel	Sorrel	Sorrel

Research effectively addresses farmers' problems and opportunities

## Activity of negotiation: Prioritization of research activities by female farmers in the village of Soglozi

N°	Crop	Constraints	Consequence Constraint	Use product	of High proportion
1 <sup>st</sup>	Bambara nut	1. Diseases 2.Late varieties	Low yield	1.food 2.Sale	Sale
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Okra	1.Larvae attack 2.Diseases	Low yield	2.Food 2.Gift 3.Sale	Food



## Partners / Team

SAWADOGO Jacques (technicien), GUIGMA Halidou (technicien), OUEDRAOGO Youssouf (technicien), OUEDRAOGO Edmond (technicien) , KIEMDE G  n  vi  ve (technicienne) OUOBA Adjima (Dr), NADEMBEGA Sabine (Ing  nieur recherche), HIEN Edmond (Pr, University of Ouagadougou, soil and fertility) KONATE Moussa (Dr), BARRY Silamana (Dr; INERA agro economist), DRABO Inoussa (Dr; INERA millet breeder), OUEDRAOGO Mahama (Directeur de Recherche)

OUEDRAOGO Ben Rashid : Ministry of Agriculture

NANDKANGRE Herv   : University Centre of Tenkodogo











Bambara nut FRN

THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION

**THANK YOU**

**MERCI**

**BARKA**

**AW NIKIE**

**GRACIAS**

**ASANTE**

**OBRIGADO**

**SIYABONGA**