

# MEET BOUKARI

## BOUKARI HAROUNA

### FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE MOORIBEN FEDERATION WEST AFRICA

I am from a **family of farmers** and am a **founding member** of the **Mooriben Federation** of **Niger**, one of the largest coalitions of farmer unions in Niger. At Mooriben we are really proud to have received the Equator Prize this year.

Through Mooriben, I have learned how to produce improved seeds and how to manage seedlings in nurseries. Another **important innovation** I have learned is **biological pest control** using **Habrobracon hebetor**, an **ectoparasitoid wasp**. The **Habrabracon** female kills millet miner larvae and lays her eggs on them. These then hatch and kill the millet miner caterpillars.

**The most urgent problem I am trying to solve** is the **low productivity** of the production system of **women farmers' fields** at the farm level. In order to address the fact that in the current production system, the woman farmer does not have access to organic fertilization, **I developed an organic and mineral fertilizer** that we experimented with during the 2021 crop year.



**What I like best about my work** is the combination of farming as well as the work of breeding the wasps, managing nurseries and producing high-quality seed. The seeds I produce are then purchased by women processors who make products such as fortified and enriched flour. This gives the community high-quality, **local products** that **help improve food security**, not only for individual families, but for others in my country and in the sub region of the Sahel more generally.

**“The work of agroecology has enabled me to support my family while also contributing to the well-being of others.”**

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