



Women's empowerment and challenges in the face of climate change in Niger

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Women and agriculture: the paradox!

The contribution made by women

- Account for 43% of the global agricultural workforce
- More than 50% of farmers (in sub-Saharan, Eastern and Southern Asia) are female
- They produce **60-80%** of food in developing countries; although more than 90% of women are responsible for preparing meals in these countries, they eat less well and are the last to eat, in keeping with cultural traditions

Worldwide **only** 10 to 20% of landowners are women and only 5% have access to extension services

In Niger: 7% of women have access to land; yields for women are lower than they are for men (-19%); women have a poor level of access to factors of production; the illiteracy rate among women is 88%; 3 out of 4 poor people are women; with an average of 8 children per woman, their workload is greater

FAO (2015) *WHY gender*: Key facts. Rome <http://fao.org/gender/gender-home/gender-why/key-facts/en/>

FAO, WB-IFAD (2015): Gender in Climate-Smart Agriculture

Niger Gender Policy (2008)

IFETE (Women and Land Rights Initiative) Niger report 2013



What social and technical innovations have there been for women?

Innovation	Approaches	Evidence
Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA)	Approach based on religious and administrative law + CARE gender approach + involvement of religious leaders, male 'champions' (role models) and radio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Participation of men and boys in collecting water and wood, two-way dialogue on current issues (WEP 2009-2013) ✓ Decision-making in the areas of sexual and reproductive health: +23% (WEP 2009-2013) ✓ Better control and allocation of resources: 48% to 84% (WEP 2009-2013) ✓ Access to land + 33% (IFETE 2010-2014)
	Networking and gender equality platforms: mobilisation of religious leaders + use of the radio + mobilisation of resources (donors)	<p><u>National plea</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ School attendance among girls in Tama/Tahoua 2013-2014 rose from 33% to 87% ✓ 70.5 million West African CFA francs (117,500 US dollars) support fund for the income-generating activities (IGA) of mothers, aimed at keeping their daughters in school, from the Civil Society Support Project Phase 2 (PASOC II) and the Community Action Program Phase 3 (PAC 3)



What social and technical innovations have there been for women?

- Academic curricula: social norms and healthy environment
- Solar energy and/or biogas: domestic energy and irrigation
- Mechanisation: production, post-harvest transformation and conservation
- NTIC: information, training, awareness-raising, communication/mobile telephones, platform = mobile telephones-radios
- Service supply centres supported by rural women and young

Folie 4

JT14

Are these all more examples? I am not sure I understand "énergie solaire biogaz et mécanisation" What you mean here?

Jeremias, Theresa; 20.06.2016

Greater access to and control over natural resources by women

Gateway	Approaches	Evidence
Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA)	Community action plan for climate change adaptation	Contextualised and inclusive strategies; use of climate-related information; inputs supply system Integrated production/agroforestry parks Improved resilience to shocks and production stability
	Inclusive financial products	Inventory credit system (warrantage): farmer organisations + microfinance institution: in Dakoro, 464 women obtained a loan of 17,135,900 West African CFA francs (29,000 US dollars) in return for 143 tonnes of supplies used as collateral
	Restoration of degraded areas: community involvement, good governance, regeneration of land cover	The net profit of 400,000 West African CFA francs (650 US dollars) is redistributed among the parties involved
		Herbaceous production: 2 tonnes/ha/year, seed: 6 tonnes/year Stocking density: estimated to be 620 TLU
	Collaboration with the research community: technology transfer	Access to technologies: seed priming, transplantation of millet, improved seeds, etc.



Folie 5

JT21

You have the technology transfer on slide 7 so I would delete it here.

Jeremias, Theresa; 20.06.2016

JT23

Can we only have one example of the animal and/or the ffd? I am not sure what you mean with the first point (20% Mairie, caisse...)?

Jeremias, Theresa; 20.06.2016

Greater access to and control over natural resources by women


Management of the TAMBARAOUA PASTORAL REGION in a community-based enterprise, 2012-2015 Maradi Region



La stratégie SUPER (the sustainable, productive, équitabile and résilient approach) de CARE : Climat field school, Farmers Field Business school , etc.



Diversification, transformation and nutrition: Synergies and challenges?

Synergy (existing or potential)	Challenges
Diversification	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between NGOs, farmers' organisations and seed companies • Between NGOs, universities, farmers' organisation and community-based radio stations • Between NGOs, microfinance institutions and farmers' organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System of extension-State and community council • Accessing, managing and controlling water • Investment capacity/financial access - donors are focused on specific products (export) • Knowledge of and capitalisation on local innovations • To go beyond standard modes of production and innovate, taking into account climate change
Transformation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between research institutions and innovative universities • Between NGOs, a private company (Sahara Sahel Foods) and a group of women and young people • Between farmers' organisations and the agri-food industry (milk industry) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little interest shown by the State, private sector, donors • Weak enterprise spirit, capacity to meet demand (technical/financial and organisational) • Standardisation service fails to operate • Mentality of consumers in Niger towards local products
Nutrition education	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between NGOs, the health structure, farmers' organisations and male and female role models • Between NGOs and the United Nations system (financing) • Between the global 'Scaling Up Nutrition' (SUN) movement and the national 'Tous Unis en faveur de la Nutrition' (TUN) collective: Between the government, civil society organisations, researchers, UN and the private sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mastering communication throughout the year of the nutritional potential (non-wood forest products, local fruit and vegetables) • Food and eating habits, bring about a change in behaviour • Good nutrition ≠ overnutrition • Taking into account the multi-sectoral status of nutrition

What policy framework is in place for women?

- At the level of the state in Niger: Gender Policy, Economic and Social Development plan, Ministry of Population, the Promotion of Women and Child Protection, Social Affairs Committee in the National Assembly
- Growth in female political participation
- Civil society and women's organisations

!!!

- Space for citizenship education (rights and obligations)
- Greater presence of female LEADERS = VOICE in strategic decision-making bodies at all levels

VSLA as a strategic gateway: will the women of Niger be able to exploit this strength?

Conclusion

- Strong political commitment at state level (clear objectives, allocated budget, monitoring-evaluation-chain of accountability from top to bottom) and in terms of coordination
- Sectoral integration: Convergence and coherence around the integrated programme of the ministries responsible for agriculture, health and nutrition, the promotion of women, and a multi-stakeholder process with development support actors
- Funding dedicated to tried-and-tested models (VSLA, equity platforms, CBA, gender approach of CARE, SUPER, etc.), has a multiplying effect in terms of impact: state and donors + coalition or alliance of contributing parties
- Environmentally sustainability supported by communities and states
- CARE Impact Accelerator provides the motivation for creativity and innovation!!!
Flexible funding mechanism required
- Global movement: Scaling Up Nutrition
- Governance and accountability: State, West African regional organisations, international organisations
- VSLA and gender equality platform = gateway: National/regional/global network
500,000/15,000 VSLA 10,000,000-world 23 countries



Thank you for your attention

