**CGIAR Research Program on
Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)**

**Organisational Baseline Study:
Overview Report for Kollo – Fakara, Niger (NI0111)**

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# INTRODUCTION

This is a report of the Organisational Baseline Survey (OBS) carried out in March of 2012. The interviews were conducted at 11 organisations that were working or collaborating with farmers and/or the community in Fakara, which is in the Kollo Department of Niger. The research site is part of central Sahel's bio-climatic zone, with strictly monomodal rainfall distribution centred in August. The area suffers from high rainfall variability and erratic droughts as well as soils which are predominantly sandy with inherently low fertility. The agricultural system is made up of two agrarian cultures, Fulani pastoralists and Jerma crop-farmers whose staple is millet and secondary crops either dual purpose legumes (cowpea, bambara nut, ground nut) or cash crops (sesame, sorrel).

 CCAFS' organisational-level baseline studies supplement the quantitative household baseline surveys and the qualitative village baseline studies at the same locations.

The objectives of the organisational baseline study are to:

* Provide indicators to allow us to monitor changes in behaviours and practices of locally relevant organisations over time
* Understand the provision of information/services at the local level that informs farmers’ decision making about their livelihood strategies in response to climate change

# ORGANISATIONS INTERVIEWED

Prior to this organisational study, CCAFS conducted a participatory village study within the Kollo site. Participants of the village study were asked to create an institutional landscape of their community by listing the most important organisations that were active in the area and then providing information on how they were involved in the community. Specifically, the participants were asked which organisations were involved in food security activities, food crisis situations, and natural resource management (NRM) work. CCAFS then took this list of organisations and provided it to the interviewers conducting the Organisational Baseline Survey. The interviewers were given leeway to eliminate an organisation they believed was not relevant and to add any organisations that may have been left out of the village study discussions.

The village survey generated a list of 14 organisations for this site and interviews were conducted at 11 organisations. The interviewers did not include details as to why certain organisations were included and others were not.

Tabulated below is the list of organisations interviewed with a brief description of their activities.

|  |  |
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| Organisation | Main areas of activity |
| CAS (Communal Agricultural Service)  |  offers support and advice to farmers, as well as monitoring rain-fed crops and horticulture.  |
| CI (Care International)  |  is primarily involved in improving literacy, enhancing saving activities and creating cereal banks for women in the area.  |
| CLS (Communal Livestock Service) |  fights poverty by restocking herds and provides training in sheep and cow fattening techniques.  |
| DU (Dantiandou Union) |  works to improve literacy and help people to build savings.  |
| FU (Fameye Union) |  provides training on rainfed farming, sheep fattening and horticulture. It is also involved in the restoration of degraded lands and tree planting. Finally it implements warrantage, cereal banks and works to mitigate the stress of poor harvests on the community.  |
| GEF (Global Environmental Forum) | is dedicated to the restoration of eroded lands. Current activities in the area include the construction of stone dykes and plantation of Andropogon.  |
| ILRI |  is focused on livestock health, reproduction, feed, censuses and monitoring, sheep fattening, and monitoring biomasses and water points |
| MP (The Moringa Project) |  sensitizes farmers to the importance of moringa and offers training on planting, growing and production techniques. |
| ONG (ONG Vie) |  is involved in educating children and adults (primarily women), enhancing female leadership, encouraging saving and promoting horticulture.  |
| PS (Primary School) | is the local primary school which lists its primary areas of focus as education, hygiene and health.  |
| VHH (Village Health Hut) |  offers curative health services to the community as a whole. It also addresses needs relating to family planning, pre and ante natal care, and vaccination campaigns.  |

# SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

## Natural resource management:

 The FU, CAS and GEF seem to be the leaders in this area, primarily through their dedication to restoring degraded land in the region.

 Both ONG and CI state that they are building capacity to enable people to understand the problems of the environment; the former is working with future farmers and the latter women. GEF stresses the importance of restoring land to make it arable.

 GEF installs gauges to measure rainfall, while FU measures rainfall levels in the village. FU and CAS are involved in reforestation and tree plantation, particularly Acacia. CAS further expresses a focus on assisted natural regeneration and provides farmers with information about the preservation of trees on farmlands. Restoration of degraded lands is among FU's and CAS' activities. CAS constructs demi-lunes and Zaï, while GEF uses local materials to construct dykes. GEF plants Andropogon and IRLI seeds grazing areas. Finally, ILRI is involved in monitoring biomasses and water points.

## Preparation to withstand extreme events:

 This does not seem to be a well serviced area, which is surprising as this is a drought prone area.

 The following organisations provide groups with free food. It is not clear that this is during times of emergency but it can be inferred that they may offer support during these times. ONG gives food support to those enrolled in "gateway schools" (for children too old to be enrolled in school). DU distributes free foodstuffs to pupils. ILRI sometimes (less than yearly) distributes free foodstuffs in villages within the sphere of operation.

## Reduction of risk due to climate variability:

 Diversification of income and crops are well promoted as ways to limit the impact of climate variability.

 ONG, DU and CAS all promote and enable income generating activities (IGAs), ONG among women, DU among its pupils and CAS among farmers during the low season. CI provides women with some capital to start IGAs as well as giving information on how to organise themselves to save.

 In terms of farming CAS provides information about when and where to acquire improved seeds. MP promotes and provides training about moringa, its drought tolerance and high nutritional value. Meanwhile CAS, ONG and FU all promote horticulture to farmers. CAS further provides farmers with information about the onset of the rainy season when available. In case of a poor harvest FU distributes free cereals, sells cereals at reasonable prices, distributes improved seeds and gives access to seed and fertilizer on credit. ILRI trains farmers in fodder conservation techniques and CAS supports the creation of cereal banks.

## Activities' Relationship to Climate Change:

 There is no mention of climate change in any of the transcripts of the interviews. However, there is an understanding of and focus on restoring degraded land.

 The activities listed in the above three subsections have been listed because they do relate to climate change; however, in most cases they seem to be being implemented for other reasons, such as to improve agricultural productivity or to overcome natural year to year variability. Thus the organisations' climate change activities are may to be activities that date back to before there was a focus on climate change, and their attention to it is a by-product.