



Analysis of gender barriers in the design and implementation of climate change related policy for agriculture and food security in Burkina Faso

Progress Report

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1. Introduction

The fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2007, stated that climate change impacts will differ according to gender. It also highlights that most studies of climate change impacts tend to group countries or populations together and ignore differences within groups such as gender. Burkina Faso is not an exception. Studies have shown that, given equal access to resources and expertise, women often achieve higher yields than men. In fact, women farmers are responsible for as much as 70% of the agricultural output that feeds African families (World Bank, 1989) and contribute approximately 46% of Africa's farm labor. In addition, women contribute 90% of food processing, fetching water and fuel; 80% of food storage and transport; 90% of the work of hoeing and weeding and 60% of harvesting (Blackden and Bhanu, 1999). These results were obtained by women as they had not fairly access to resources than men.

Gender-aware approaches to climate adaptation that seek to improve women's adaptive capacity will benefit not just to women, but the household they are part of and the people they are responsible for. There is a need to understand how to improve women's adaptive capacity and learn how to support women against climate threats. This will imperatively help to address the equitable access to climate-proof technologies for men and women in Burkina Faso.

The purpose of this research project is to promote gender mainstreaming into the current adaptation national policy and practices for agriculture and food security. The expected outcome is that policy makers in Burkina Faso have a better understanding of the linkages between climate change and gender in order to legally improve the development of policy-related measures on climate change, agriculture, and food security. The following outputs are sought from conducting the project:

- *Output 1:* The differential effects of the current climate change related policy on men's and women's adaptive capacity and their respective livelihood resources are identified and analyzed;
- *Output 2:* Legal and technical approaches and tools to mainstream gender into climate change, agriculture and food security are contextualized and promoted.
- *Output 3:* Evidence-based knowledge on the quartet system "gender-climate change-agriculture-food security" made available to scientific community and decision makers

This project seeks to address four research questions as follows:

1. How do climate change impacts differ across gender?
2. Does the current climate related policy properly integrate gender-based differential adaptation strategies?
3. What are the gaps in policy design and implementation, with respect to gender?
4. What are the possible legal and technical ways to develop gender inclusive policy on climate change, agriculture and food security in Burkina Faso?

The overall methodological approach for the implementation to this project is the Participatory Action Research (PAR). This is the best way of collecting information to reflect the experiences of people most directly affected by climate change. Specifically, several research methods will be combined to order the gather enough evidence to support decision-making process regarding gender based approaches to climate change adaptation in Burkina Faso. These include Literature review, community-based surveys, focus group discussions, and individual interviews.

This report describes the progress towards achieving the project objectives. It covers the first six months (October 2011 to March 2012) of the project implementation plan.

2. Progress on setting up research

The implementation of the project started by developing detailed work plan for the activities. Upon the validation of the detailed work plan, contacts were established with the target groups of actors for this project. These target groups include key informants within central administration in charge of rural development (agriculture, environment and livestock sectors), decentralized administration in the same economic sectors and local government. Explanations were conveyed to all selected stakeholders in order to ensure that they understand the objectives of the project and that they are supportive to the process. Appointments were then made with each of the respondent.

During the reporting period, the following activities were planned to achieve output 1.

Activity 1.1: Identify potentials and gaps in the current climate change related policy with regards to gender mainstreaming principles

This activity has started with the collation of all national policy documents. The following documents have been reviewed: National Adaptation Programme of Actions (NAPA), Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy, National Gender Strategy, Land and Agrarian Reform, and Local development Strategy.

The activity also included reviewing scientific and /or technical reports on climate change and adaptation to its impacts in Burkina Faso, as well as the sub-region. Although the activity was planned to be completed in two months, this activity will be pursued throughout the project cycle. At this moment, the implementation rate can be estimated at 75%.

Activity 1.2: Identify barriers (legal, economic, social, policy and institutional) to implement gender-balanced approaches in climate adaptation initiatives in Burkina Faso

This activity begun with the constitution of the list of key informants in the national institutions involved in rural development and women affairs both at central and decentralized administrations levels. Then, a checklist of themes to address during the individuals interviews was developed (see Annex 1 for list of interview questions). In the central administrations

(Ouagadougou) a total of 10 key informants were interviewed to gather information about their perception of the barriers to implement gender-balanced approaches in climate adaptation initiatives in Burkina Faso, including the national adaptation programme of actions. In decentralized administrations a total of 10 key informants were interviewed (5 in Ouahigouya and 5 in Tenkodogo, see Annex 2 and 3 for maps). In addition to the key informants of the national administration, the checklist was also used to discuss with nongovernmental organizations working with agricultural producers in the centre-east and northern regions in Burkina Faso. The implementation rate of this activity can be estimated at 70%. Remaining tasks consist of in-depth analysis of gathered information and finalizing the report.

***Activity 1.3:** Collect field data to elucidate the complex and dynamic relationships among climate change, agriculture and food security and how they affect men and women differently*

This activity includes collating qualitative and quantitative evidence on the importance of supporting women as well as men to adapt to climate change as this will increase the overall impact on agriculture and food security in the households. A field visit was organized. The objectives of this field visit were twofold: to finalize the selection of the study sites, and organize preliminary focus group discussion with local community (farmers association in Tenkodogo and Ouahigouya) with the view of refining the forthcoming questionnaire for individual data collation. The implementation rate is estimated at 50%.

The challenging part of setting up the research activities was related to access to original literature particularly on national policy documents. Documentation regarding national policies is not easily accessible to the public, including scientists. One needs to thoroughly identify a mutually beneficial entry point to access the original copies of national policies. Internet search for national policies documents is feasible, but the reliability of some posted copies remains questionable because there are drafts. Nonetheless, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has strong partnership with most of the target groups of key informants in central public administration, which facilitated the start-up of the project activities. The interviews conducted at the central and decentralized administrations levels were overall smooth. However, some appointments to interview were postponed several times because the key informants were not available.

3. Implementation and budget follow-up

During this first semester, there were no logistical difficulties that delayed the implementation of the project. The budget has been adequately monitored and expenditures fit well within the work plan.

4. Research Methods

The research methods used so far are: the review of literature, the individual interviews with the key informants and the focus groups discussion.

4.1 The review of literature

The approach to the literature review consists of firstly the selection of document, which has been completed in order to identify the official documents dealing with the subject. These included the NAPA, the National Gender Policy, the Local Development Strategy, the Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy and the International Conventions adopted in Burkina Faso. Other documents have been reviewed such articles and reports. Criterion used for the literature review are (a) the consistency of each policy document with the gender approach and (b) whether gender is well referred to in that document. The major challenge in reviewing the selected policy documents was related to accessing reliable versions. It took longer to locate the final version within the central administrations.

4.2 The individual interviews

An open-ended questionnaire was designed for key informants in both the central and decentralized administrations in charge of rural development and gender affairs. The questionnaire (annex 1) included the following: description of activity, relationship with rural farmers, and the use of gender-based approach. A face-to-face technique was used to fill in the individual questionnaire. These key informants were identified based on their position to the decision making process: officials in the central administration are involved in designing national policy documents, while the decentralized officials are responsible for applying the adopted policies. This questionnaire worked very well with all key informants, except for few time constraints.

4.3 The focus groups discussions

In prelude to the focus group discussion, an informal one was organized with farmers' associations in Ouahigouya (CCAFS site) and Tenkodogo. An attempt was made to discuss similar themes that were used for the key informant interview. This questionnaire was found inappropriate for focus groups discussion at farmer level. A checklist of themes was then used to investigate some aspects of the perception about the application of gender-based approach to national adaptation programme of actions in the field. An appropriate focus group material is being developed to effectively implement this method at the farmers' level.

5. Analysis of Findings

Important insights have been gained from the literature review aimed at identifying and analyzing the differential effects of the current climate change related policies on men's and women's adaptive capacity and their respective livelihood resources in Burkina Faso. In

addition, the collected data from the interview of key informants and the informal discussion with farmers' association have been essential in triangulating the effectiveness of the application of gender-balanced approaches in national policies and programmes in the field.

These important findings are being analyzed to draw answers to the research questions. In fact, the literature review revealed that the impacts of climate change differ across gender in Burkina Faso..

The level of integration of gender-based differential adaptation strategies appears to be very low. In fact, literature review triangulated with the interviews of key informants and the informal discussion with farmers' associations suggest that there is no clear differentiation between men and women when designing national adaptation programme of actions (Burkina Faso, 2007). Although the document indicated that "gender aspects" was among the selection criteria, the selected priority projects did not clearly show how gender issues were implemented. Consequently, during the implementation of some NAPA projects, the mainstreaming of gender aspects is largely dependent of the project implementing team and not mandatory. Moreover, Oxfam (2011) argued that most of the NAPA's priority projects are gender-biased and does not look at the role of women. More analysis is needed to confirm this finding.

Some gaps in policy design and implementation are being analyzed. For example, it appears from the review of the NAPA that there was no gender specialist in the expert team. Likewise, it is not clear whether the applied methodology was built around gender approach. This information needs to be cross-checked with field data on the implementation process of the priority NAPA projects in Ouahigouya (CCAFS site) and Tenkodogo.

6. Conclusion

Overall good progress has been made towards achieving the project objectives. The work plan has so far been followed. Therefore, in the last six months, no major constraints to meeting the project' objectives has been highlighted. The next six months will be used to completing the analysis of the collected data and reporting, pursuing household level data collection and analysis, and completing the formal focus group discuss at community levels.

The following activities are planned for the next six months:

Activity 2.1: Develop a technical guideline to operationalise gender-balanced approach into the climate related policy in Burkina Faso

Activity 2.2: Contextualize legal framework to operationalise gender-balanced approach into climate related policy for agriculture and food security

Activity 3.1: Publish divulgation and scientific articles in newspapers and scientific journals

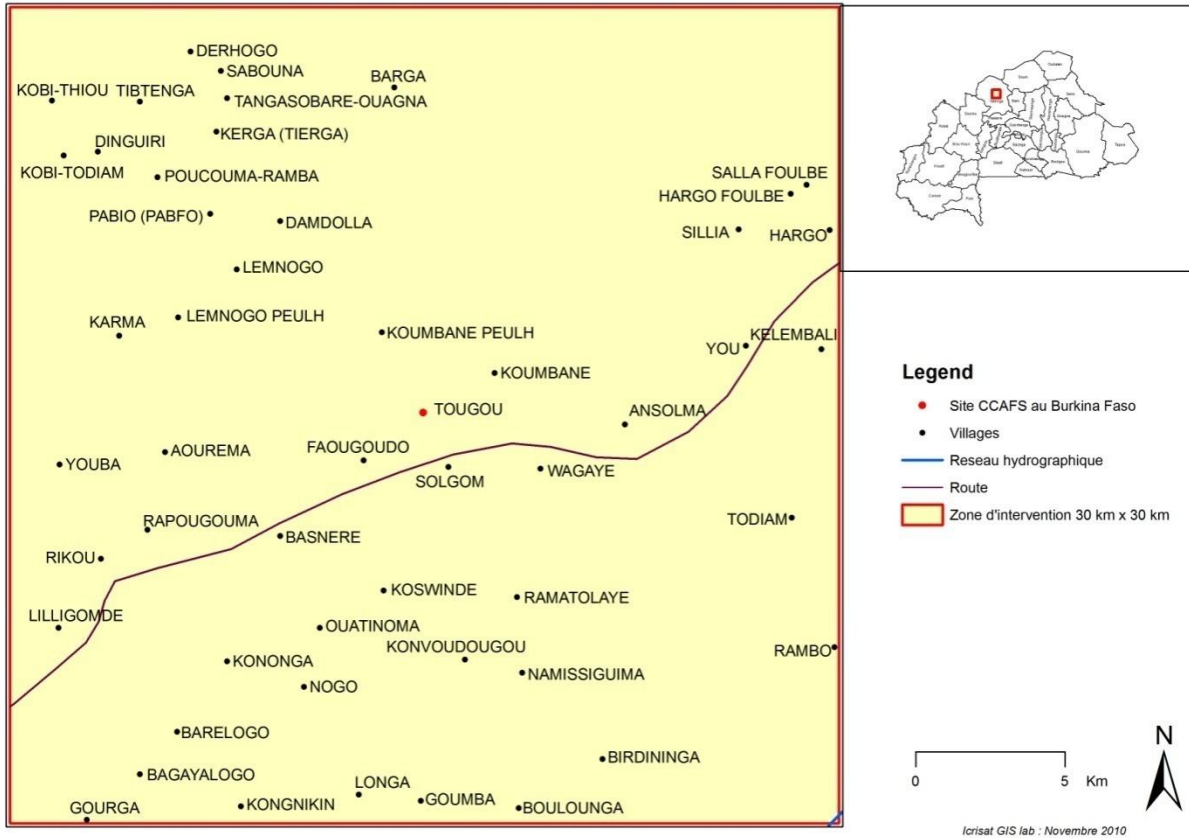
Activity 3.2: Write a research report to be submitted to the donor.

Annexes

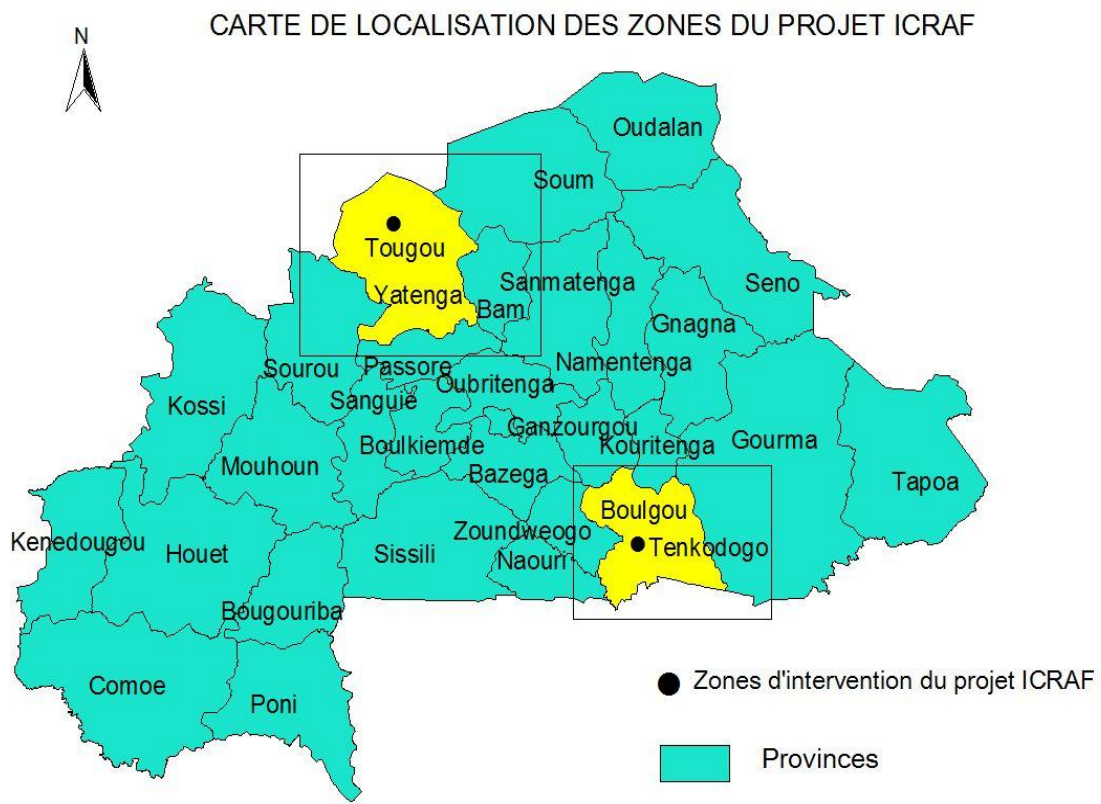
Annex 1: Questionnaire to key informants in administration

1. What is the purpose of your work? What are your activities?
2. What kind of professional relationship do you have with the producers?
3. Do you have different relationships with male farmers and female farmers?
4. What are field works for women and men? Do you think they can perform the same work?
5. In winter, which crops are made by women and those made by men? What about the dry season?
6. What strategies of climate change adaptation?
7. Have you acted in order to guarantee equality between men and women
8. What difficulties you encounter in your speeches?
9. What are the social barriers that may prevent some involvement of the equality Men/women in your response?
10. Do you think that the institutional level there is work to do to kind of involvement?
11. What do you think of access to resources? What about equality with respect to men and women?

Annex 2: The map of Tougou



Annex 3: Map of intervention areas



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Politique Nationale Genre du Burkina Faso 2009

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Déclaration universelle des droits de l'Homme (arts 2 et 7)

Pacte International sur les droits civils et politiques (art 2, 3 et 14)

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