



Community-Based Adaptation FAST FACTS

NIGER

Adapting to climate change with resilient agricultural techniques

Grantee: Contribution à l'Éducation de Base (CEB)

Type of organization: NGO

Number of participants: about 230 households

Location: Roubou Municipality, Dakoro Department, Niger

CBA Contribution: \$23,000 USD

Project Partners: CBOs, Roubou Municipality, ASB Germany (Arbeiter Samariter Bund); Care International

Co-financing: Government of Japan (23,000 USD); in-kind community and municipality contributions

Project Dates: March 2009 – March 2010

BACKGROUND

The Community-Based Adaptation Programme (CBA) is a five-year United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) global initiative funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) within the Small Grants Programme (SGP) delivery mechanism. The UN Volunteers partners with UNDP and GEF/SGP to enhance community mobilization, recognize volunteers' contribution and ensure inclusive participation around the project, as well as to facilitate capacity building of partner NGOs and CBOs. In addition, funding is provided by the Government of Japan, the Government of Switzerland, and AusAID. The CBA's goal is to strengthen the resiliency of communities to address climate change impacts.

In Niger, a CBA project called "Adapting to climate change with resilient agricultural techniques", focuses on three agropastoral communities in the Tarka Valley in Central Niger. The Sahara desert and bordering semi-arid Sahel zone cover approximately 80 percent

of the country's land. A majority of Niger's water resources are concentrated in a small green belt in the south. The Tarka Valley is one of the nation's few remaining fertile areas. The villages of Maïkoulaké, Atoulé and Roubou are in a fragile intermediate eco-zone. Although they are near the Tarka Valley, the villages, which are home to 1,600 people, are at risk as the Sahel expands. The population of these three agropastoral communities depends largely on natural resources for their livelihoods. This leaves them highly vulnerable to natural and economic shocks, as well as climate change.

CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS

Climate change experts expect Niger to experience more variable and erratic rainfall patterns in addition to temperature increases. More frequent droughts and increased water scarcity, combined with unsustainable resource management practices, will accelerate deforestation and desertification. Rainfall has steadily declined since the late 1960s, extending the dry season to nine months. As a result, agropastoral communities have suffered waning crop yields and declining livestock conditions. Poverty has increased, which in turn heightens social tensions. Climate change threatens to trigger an irreversible cycle of poverty and food insecurity in the region.



This experimental plot is part of project efforts to test quick-maturing varieties of pearl-millet, a local staple crop.

LOCAL VOICES

For many years insufficient rain and poor agricultural practices left Moussa Chadou Kané unable to grow enough millet to feed his six children. He supplemented his income by selling firewood. This year, Moussa received training and improved seed varieties from the project, allowing him to grow a modest crop despite low rainfall. Next year, project-provided agricultural tools and fertilizer should help him grow even more. On crop management, Moussa says "I am excited to train others on the techniques learned." Moussa's contribution will help replicate new sustainable agricultural practices locally.

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND ADAPTATION MEASURES

This CBA project aims to develop livelihood practices that will be resilient in the face of climate change. The project is implemented by a local non-governmental organization, CEB, which has experience in both climate change risk reduction and poverty alleviation. The group specializes in community-based development and uses techniques that foster grassroots ownership and local decision-making. The project bolsters the adaptive capacity of local communities through the following activities:



The Maikoulaké community gathers to participate in project formulation. Inclusive community mobilization is an essential part of adaptation projects.

- Promotion of sustainable farming techniques that enhance yields while helping regenerate soil
- Demonstration of quick-maturing varieties of local staple crops and testing of crops in experimental plots
- Training of farmers in techniques that improve soil fertilization, dune fixation, and natural regeneration; encouragement of farmers to further disseminate adaptive techniques by training their peers
- Creation of a community-managed bank of agricultural inputs, such as fertilizers and pesticides, to make farming inputs, techniques, training, and support easily accessible
- Provision of animal-drawn plows and farming inputs to households whose adaptive capacity is lowest so they are able to farm more productively and reduce practices that aggravate deforestation and land degradation, such as wood-cutting and farming on fragile lands

The project will help make the Tarka Valley ecosystem more resilient to climate change, thereby improving food security and livelihood conditions.

FOCUS ON...

Global environmental benefit

The project will promote the use of faster-growing seeds and sustainable farming techniques that will increase soil fertility, reduce wind erosion, and restore degraded land. This will also contribute to food security by helping farmers maintain production in the face of decreasing rainfall.

Community ownership and sustainability

This CBA project builds on local traditions of solidarity and volunteerism (in Niger, "gaya") to ensure community ownership of the project. Short and long term social gains will also emerge. The sustainability of the project will evolve from the sharing of the experiences learned at the regional and national levels.

Policy influence

Lessons learned from the implementation of the project will be integrated into local-level resource management planning and will be shared nationally and internationally to inform policies.

For more information about CBA or CBA projects visit: www.undp-adaptation.org/project/cba

Further information, lessons learned, and experiences gathered from climate change adaptation activities globally can be found at the Adaptation Learning Mechanism: www.adaptationlearning.net

