



**Enhancing prosperity
of women and youth
in the SAHEL
through climate
resilient agriculture
and rural livelihoods**



Visionary note

OUR VISION

Productive agricultural systems that ensure food security and nutrition of the Sahelian people; stimulate economic growth, generate income, and create jobs for women and youth; preserve and protect biodiversity for its ecosystem services the environment; resilient to climate change and to wider to shocks and stressors, and; that maintain social cohesion, and contribute to peace and stability in the Sahel.

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

To transform the rural livelihoods and economies of the region whilst ensuring foundational food security and nutrition outcomes, the programme will target the agricultural sector, including crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry; and support the role of women and youth smallholder farmers. This will be done partly by accelerating the use of renewable energy in the storage and transformation of agricultural products and the delivery of the products to the markets. More specifically, by investing into:

1

Sustainable access to land focusing on land rights, sustainable land management including, water, and dissemination of climate adaptation practices for agricultural production. This includes:

- Land use rights for women and youth focusing on land tenure.
- Increase productivity of crops, livestock, fisheries through improved access to equipment/material, inputs, and innovative technology.
- Diversify production, preserve agrobiodiversity and seed security.
- Prevent and reverse land degradation, desertification, and preserve ecosystems, including through sustainable agrosylvo-pastoral systems and the use of multifunctional trees.
- More efficient irrigated agriculture, water harvesting.
- Improve access to information for the producers, including weather/climate information.
- Improve access to education and training for the producers.
- Improve access to new technologies in the rural areas.
- Support research and development of local solutions and technologies in agricultural production.
- Promote community-based participatory approaches.



Crédit photo: Romel Jacinto

2

Efficient and diversified value chains for improved transformation and delivery of competitive agricultural products. This includes:

- Reduce post-harvest loss and better use of by-products.
- Increase the utilization of renewable energy and energy efficiency in all stages along value chains.
- Boost the use of appropriate technologies in transformation, storage, transport/retail processes.
- Enhance access to markets, information, knowledge and ITC technology along value chains.
- Improve norms, supply chain traceability, and international consumption standards.

3

Efficient and diversified value chains for improved transformation and delivery of competitive agricultural products. This includes:

- Effective Early Warning/Early Action Systems and risk reduction solutions.
- Improve access to risk transfer services and insurance schemes.
- Boost access to credit and financing solutions.
- Adequate regulations, policies and legislation and development of incentive mechanisms.
- Development of hedging and increase investments.

As predominantly smallholder farmers, the initiative will support women's groups and cooperatives of farmers and youth entrepreneurs using ICT and renewable energy as enablers, in creating value, and creating business volume for trade and access to the booming African market. Emphasis will be put on supporting the development of agricultural and trade policies and instruments that will create a more secure and enabling environment favorable to smallholder farming and ensuring a fair and predictable price to their production.



SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURE IN THE SAHEL

Figure 1: Contribution of Agriculture sector to the GDP of countries in the Sahel, 2017

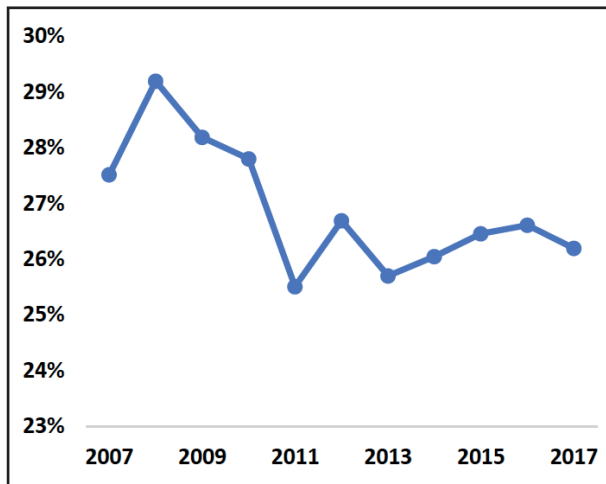


Figure 2: Percentage of employment by the Agriculture sector in the Sahel, 2017

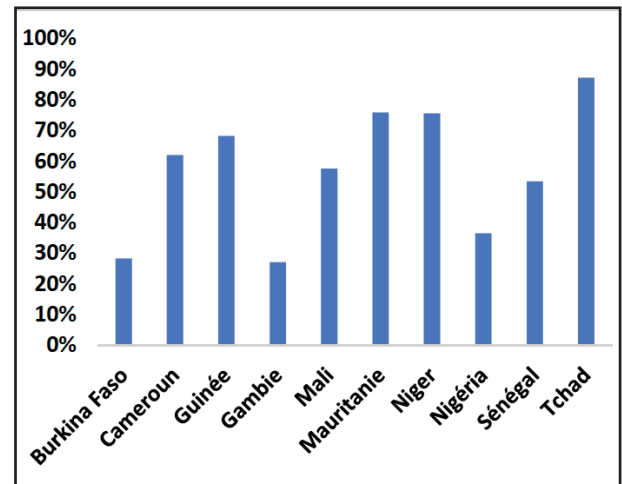


Figure 3: Percentage of vulnerable populations employed by the Agriculture sector

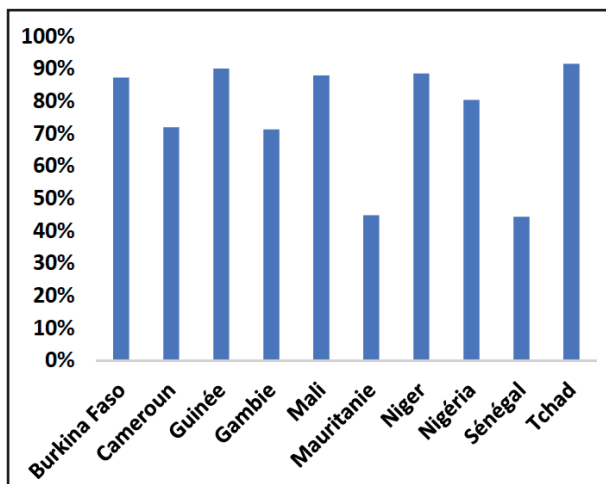
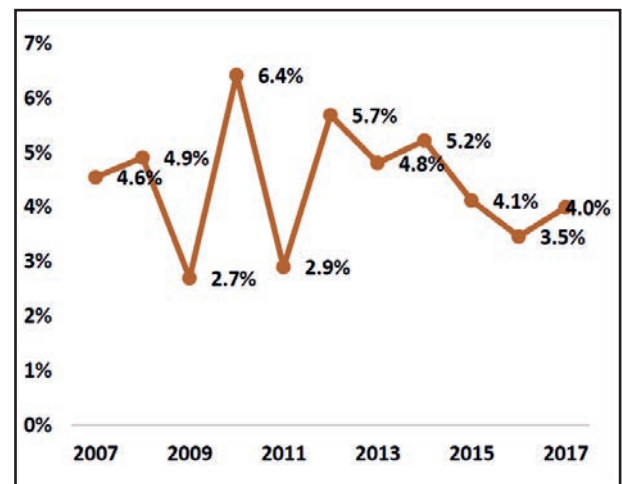


Figure 4: GDP growth trends as a consequence of climate change in the Sahel



Source: World Bank 2017

FRAMING SOLUTIONS THROUGH A STRATEGIC REGIONAL APPROACH AND SYNERGIES WITH KEY PARTNERS

The UN Support Plan for the Sahel is designed so support governments and to offer leadership and coordination to foster partnerships and alliances between different stakeholders, notably governments, international actors, private sector, and the civil society, in harnessing the opportunities to build a prosperous and peaceful Sahel. In that regard, the approach is aligned and building upon existing regional and cross-border institutional frameworks.

Moreover, the programme will strive to create synergies with ongoing programmes led by Member States and international partners.

In the meantime, the action of the UN system as a whole will be consolidated with higher integration, coherence and complementarity in the initiatives led by the different UN entities. This will be done through improved coordination mechanisms and joint programming.

To complement this regional wide approach, the initiative will also focus on Cross-border cooperation specific areas which have similar biophysical and socio-economic attributes, within national boundaries of two or more countries.

For more information, please contact the Office of the Special Adviser for the Sahel: rossigno@unhcr.org or Ishmael.dodoo@undp.org