



FACT SHEET

Resilience and Economic Growth in the Sahel – Accelerated Growth (REGIS – AG)



PHOTO: CNFA

A woman sells homemade cowpea flour at a trade fair in Niamey, Niger

Goal:

REGIS-AG works to increase the incomes of vulnerable household in marginal agricultural and agro-pastoral zones in Niger and Burkina Faso through the transformation of selected, high-potential value chains.

Life of Program:

February 2015 – February 2020

Total USAID Funding:

\$ 34,390,909

Geographic Focus:

Chronically vulnerable areas of Burkina and Niger, including Tillabéri, Maradi, and Zinder regions in Niger; and Séno, Yagha, Komondjari, Gnagna, Namentenga, Sanmatenga, Bam, and Loroum provinces in Burkina Faso

Implementing Partner:

CNFA



BACKGROUND

As a result of long-term and large-scale humanitarian emergencies in the Sahel, USAID recognized that continuing to treat these recurrent crises as acute emergencies is extremely costly and does not effectively address the underlying causes. Thus, USAID's Resilience in the Sahel Enhanced (RISE) initiative has realigned existing and new humanitarian and development assistance efforts to strengthen resilience in agro-pastoral and marginal agriculture livelihood zones of the Sahel. USAID is reducing chronic vulnerability by increasing economic well-being, strengthening institutions and governance, and improving health and nutrition status. REGIS-AG is one of the RISE initiative's three key projects that work to end the vicious cycle of crisis and help the Sahel's most vulnerable population stay firmly on the path to development.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

REGIS-AG is working to translate improved value chain performance for cowpea, small ruminants and poultry into incomes for vulnerable populations by:

- Identifying opportunities to improve targeted market systems and ensuring the poor's ability to access and compete in markets
- Improving post-production market systems including storage, aggregation, processing, transport, marketing and related services that are poorly developed in many agricultural and livestock value chains and are an important potential source of employment and income
- Increasing access to inputs and support services that will enable men and women in vulnerable households to make the investments needed to participate successfully in promising value chains
- Increasing access to finance, innovation, and private sector investment which will broaden and deepen markets without causing disruptions
- Improving the enabling environment to provide incentives and reduce risks for households to invest in new technologies and/or practices

EXPECTED RESULTS

REGIS-AG's expected results are tied to the project's main objectives:

- Strengthened vertical and horizontal value chain linkages and relationships in selected value chains
- Strengthened input supply and other supporting services and improved smallholder and agro-pastoralist access to these interconnected markets
- Increased innovation and private-sector investment
- Improved environment for local and regional private sector investment

KEY ACTIVITIES

REGIS-AG's main activities include:

- Organizing cowpea, poultry and small ruminant market fairs
- Developing marketing platforms and promoting competitiveness in end markets
- Promoting women's economic empowerment and expanded role in the market
- Creating market linkage networks for producer groups
- Strengthening coordination of stakeholders in the three value chains
- Training agro-dealers in business management and input application
- Training project participants, particularly women, in functional literacy
- Training veterinary workers and vaccinators in business management and service provision