



“The OUAGADOUGOU DECLARATION” BY THE FRANCO-AFRICAN RESEARCH SECTOR IN SUPPORT OF THE SAHEL ALLIANCE INITIATIVE

We, the heads of the national agricultural research systems of the G5 Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad), of Senegal, and of the African and European partner research organizations who attended the meeting in Ouagadougou from 19 to 21 September 2018, organized by the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique et Technologique (CNRST) of Burkina Faso and by CIRAD on the topic “Contribution of agricultural research in partnership to achieving the rural development and food security goals set within the framework of the Sahel Alliance”,

PREAMBLE

Whereas the sustainable economic, social and environmental development of the Sahel has long been a major issue for the countries concerned and for the international community, particularly Europe,

Whereas this issue has become more pressing over the past decade marked by the exacerbation of the security situation due to the activities of several terrorist groups in the Sahel,

Whereas a security solution is currently being implemented in the form of a military alliance between the G5 Sahel countries, backed by the international community,

Whereas this solution alone will not be sufficient, and convinced of the importance of supporting it through increased economic and social development efforts to benefit all population groups, notably young people and women in the Sahel, and provide them with the means to build a safe and secure future for themselves,

Whereas in response to this challenge, France and Germany launched a joint initiative on 13 July 2017, the Sahel Alliance, which is aimed at fostering the coordination and efficiency of the main development aid donors operating in the Sahel,

Whereas the Sahel Alliance was rapidly backed by the main multilateral players (World Bank, African Development Bank, United Nations Development Programme), and by the European Union, and that several priority sectors have been identified to this end, notably youth employability and education, rural development, agriculture and food security, energy and climate, governance, decentralization, and basic services and security,



Whereas a general cooperation agreement was signed on 5 February 2018 between the G5 Sahel and CILSS regarding the latter's role in the implementation of priority investment projects in the Sahel,

Whereas the Agence française de développement is responsible, on behalf of France, for implementing the initiative and serving as its temporary secretariat,

We, the heads of the national agricultural research systems of the G5 Sahel countries, together with the heads of the agricultural research structures of Senegal, of African cooperation institutions (ECOWAS, CILSS, WECARD, WASCAL) and of European partners (CIRAD, IRD), recognize that this initiative must facilitate a response not only to the current rural development issues faced by the countries in the region, but also to future challenges triggered by strong population growth and the substantial impact of climate change,

State that, by virtue of the results already obtained and the lessons learned from past failures, the extensive experience acquired by scientific institutions through strong, longstanding partnerships places them in a position to undertake ambitious operations and upscale collective investment in favour of the region's agricultural and rural development,

Are convinced that as a result, it is necessary to invent new operating methodologies and tools based on the active collaboration between researchers, policymakers, economic actors and local people in building together the solutions required in terms of technical and social innovations,

Also insist on the fact that while the existing scientific and technical knowledge and the rural people's know-how lead to partial solutions which must be rolled out on a much larger scale, much remain to be invented ,

Stress that research and innovation efforts focusing on the most pressing issues must be stepped up, in close liaison with professional and nongovernmental organizations, technical and financial partners, the private sector and policymakers,

Confirm the determination of each of our institutions to make the collective and lasting contribution required of science towards achieving the agricultural and rural development ambitions upheld by the Sahel Alliance,

OUR COMMITMENT

This declaration marks our commitment to:

- Conduct an initial joint analysis, based on our shared, scientifically documented knowledge of the issues related to our areas of expertise;



- Identify the issues requiring high priority in terms of scientific investment, innovation and development support in the coming years;
- Found an open coalition to serve as the scientific and technical backbone of the Sahel Alliance, thus providing the Alliance with the means to respond, in the short as well as in the long term, to the social, economic and technical demands of agricultural and rural development for the benefit of rural populations.

OUR PRIORITIES

To support agricultural and rural development in the Sahel, research must focus its efforts on the following topics:

- Support to territorial development

Building, together with the various stakeholders concerned, including professional and nongovernmental organizations, the inclusive innovation systems that foster the transitions required within agricultural and agrifood systems, the jobs creation (notably for women and young people), and the operations aimed at reducing conflicts linked to migration and movements and at ensuring equal access to land.

- Ecological intensification of all value chains, from production to consumption

Promoting agro-ecological management of production systems, fostering integrated crop-livestock farming, reducing postharvest losses and developing food processing techniques aimed at building sustainable value chains and targeting markets that generate greater added value.

- Development of hydro-agricultural schemes and of irrigated crops

Boosting agricultural production by means of integrated water resource management, taking account of climate issues, and supporting the co-construction of new water governance methods, for all types of irrigated systems and accounting for opportunities for trans-border cooperation.

- Pastoralism and animal health

Promoting sustainable livestock production systems resilient to climate change and developing a One Health approach to protect animal health for the benefit of the human population.

- Agriculture and climate change

Adapting farming systems and practices to climate change forecasts, taking care to minimize greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and helping farmers in the Sahel access climate finance.



- Management of habitats and natural resources

Adopting sustainable management methods and restoring soils, forest, wildlife and fish resources, and biodiversity, notably in degraded zones (including those caused by mining), keeping a watchful eye on climate change (carbon, mitigation) and allowing for the various ways in which those resources are used (materials, fodder, food, biomass energy).

- Deployment of sustainable food systems capable of guaranteeing food and nutrition security

Promoting agricultural processing that tally with needs and cultural preferences, are sustainable and accessible, provide jobs (particularly for young people and women in both rural and urban areas) and income, and contribute to a healthy, balanced diet.

- Contributing to strengthen the capacities of the stakeholders and to consolidate the research, the innovation support and the agricultural and rural training institutions

Strengthening the capacities of scientific institutions, of professional and nongovernmental organizations and of other agricultural development stakeholders, and developing and modernizing professional training by using research outputs to boost and promote work opportunities in rural areas.

Signed in Ouagadougou on 19 September 2018

Signatories

For CNRADA Habibou GUEYE	For INRAN Illiassou MOSSI MAIGA
For IER Amadou KODIO	For ISRA Mbaye DIOP
For ITRAD Koye DJONDANG	For CILSS Mohamed Abdellahi EBBE



For CNRST Roger Charles Honorat NEBIE	For CORAF Abdou TENKOUANO
For INERA Hamidou TRAORE	For Cirad Michel EDDI
For CNRA Habsatou Amirou BOUKARY	For WASCAL Moumini SAVADOGO

Observers

For AFD Christian FUSILLIER
For IRD Dominique DUMET