



Food and Agriculture
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Strengthening resilience and socio-economic benefits through people-centered approaches to enhance livelihood opportunities

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Introduction of the Project



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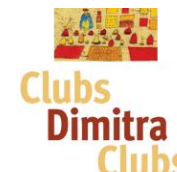
Climate Resilience Project: Mainstreaming ecosystembased approaches to climateresilient rural livelihoods in vulnerable rural areas through the Farmer Field School methodology

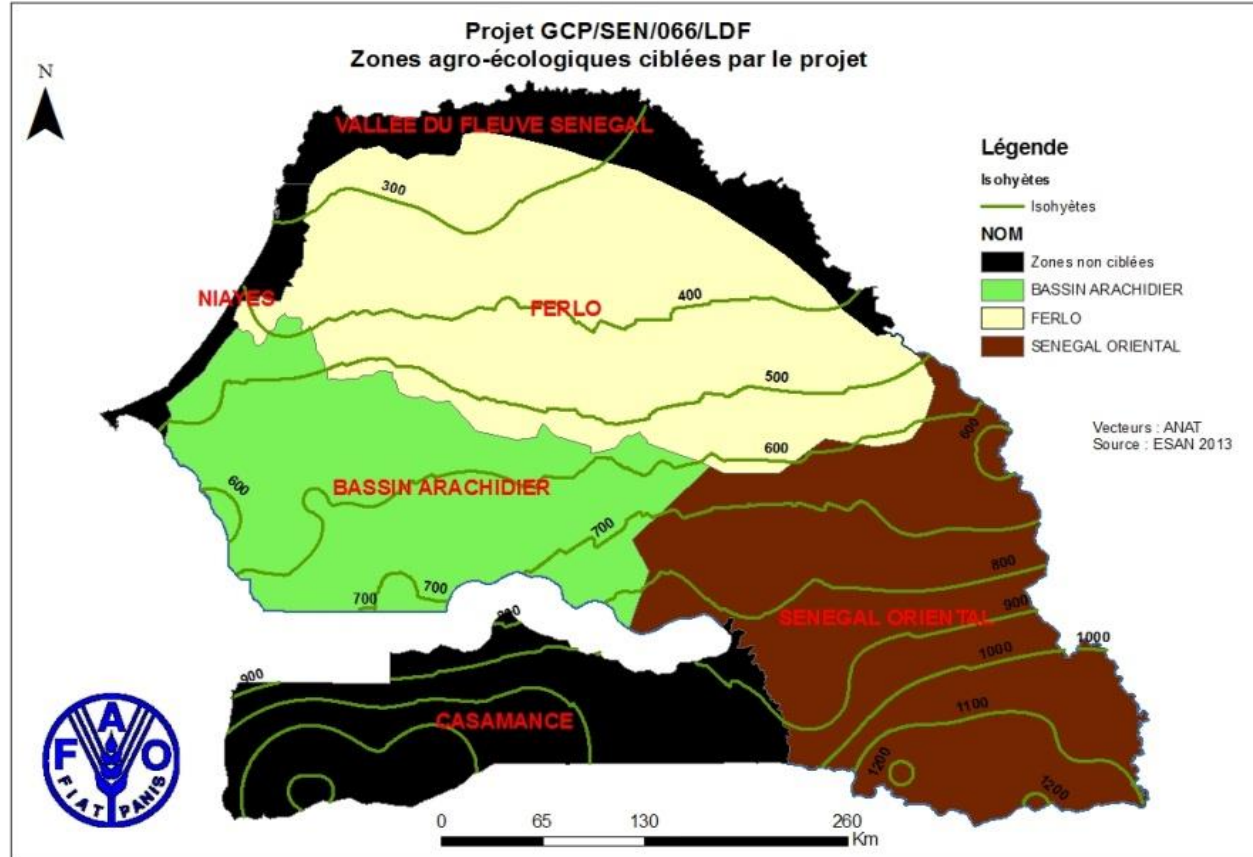
Funding: GEF 2016-2021 (6.2 M GEF; 24.6 M cofin.)

Project partners and stakeholders: FAO, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Equipment (MAER), Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD), Ecological Monitoring Center (CSE), National Agency for Civil Aviation and Meteorology (ANACIM); National Agency for Extension Service (ANCAR); National Fund for Agro-sylvo-pastoral Development (FNDASP); NGOs; 27 Farmer Organizations; 5 cofinancing partners

Objective: strengthen the capacity of agro-sylvo-pastoral sectors in Senegal to face climate change

- **Component 1:** develop adaptation strategies to address climate change (CCA)
- **Component 2:** build capacity on CCA through the Farmer Field School (FFS) approach
- **Component 3:** Integration of CCA strategies into policies and programs





- Sylvo-Pastoral Zone of Ferlo (extensive livestock transhumance)
- Groundnut Basin Area (GBA) (production of millet and groundnuts)
- Eastern Senegal Zone (mining in the North, pastoralism in the South)

Key results

- **560 field schools:** 410 FFS and 150 APFS
- **12,576 farmers trained on CCA** (58 % of women)
- **New FFS curricula on CCA and identification of 52 best practices:** natural resource management and biodiversity restoration (12), animal production (11); agricultural production systems (29)
- **Household incomes and productivity increased up to 20 %** using CCA practices and agrometeorological information
- **503 Dimitra Clubs** (120% of the end-of-project target) in **142 villages** in 11 municipalities; **15,000** clubs' members (51% are women) and **1,000** leaders (60% are women)
- **111 Villages Savings and Loans Associations (AVEC)** for 2,700 beneficiaries (90% women)
- **FFS approach and CCA practices integrated** into National Agency for Extension Service (ANCAR)
- **Creation of the "Climate Resilience Fund" under FNDASP:** 10 resilient sub-projects prepared by Professional Agricultural Organizations funded in the 3 intervention zones
- **Social Impact:** community ownership of agricultural technologies and practices, gender equality and women's leadership, social cohesion, exchanges among communities

Farmer Field Schools

- **Community participatory assessment:** identification of producers' priorities
- **20-25 producers meet once a week** throughout the production season
- **Co-production of the learning process:** training curricula based on farmer needs, context-specific, local knowledge and experience
- **Hands-on based approach :** observation, analysis of agro-ecosystems, experimentation, presentation and discussion
- **Understanding of mechanisms:** economic, ecological, social
- **Flexibility, innovation, ability to adapt to different contexts.** Adaptation of training curricula based on farmer needs and agroecological characteristics of the intervention zones
- **Empowerment of producers** and capacity building to make critical and informed decisions



Dimitra Clubs

Community engagement for
people's empowerment and
gender equality



“I am truly grateful with the Dimitra Clubs. Before I did not use to attend the village meetings. Women were not informed on the issues and activities discussed and carried out by the community. We, the women, did not have the right to speak. Now, thanks to the clubs, we dare to speak in public and give our opinion.”

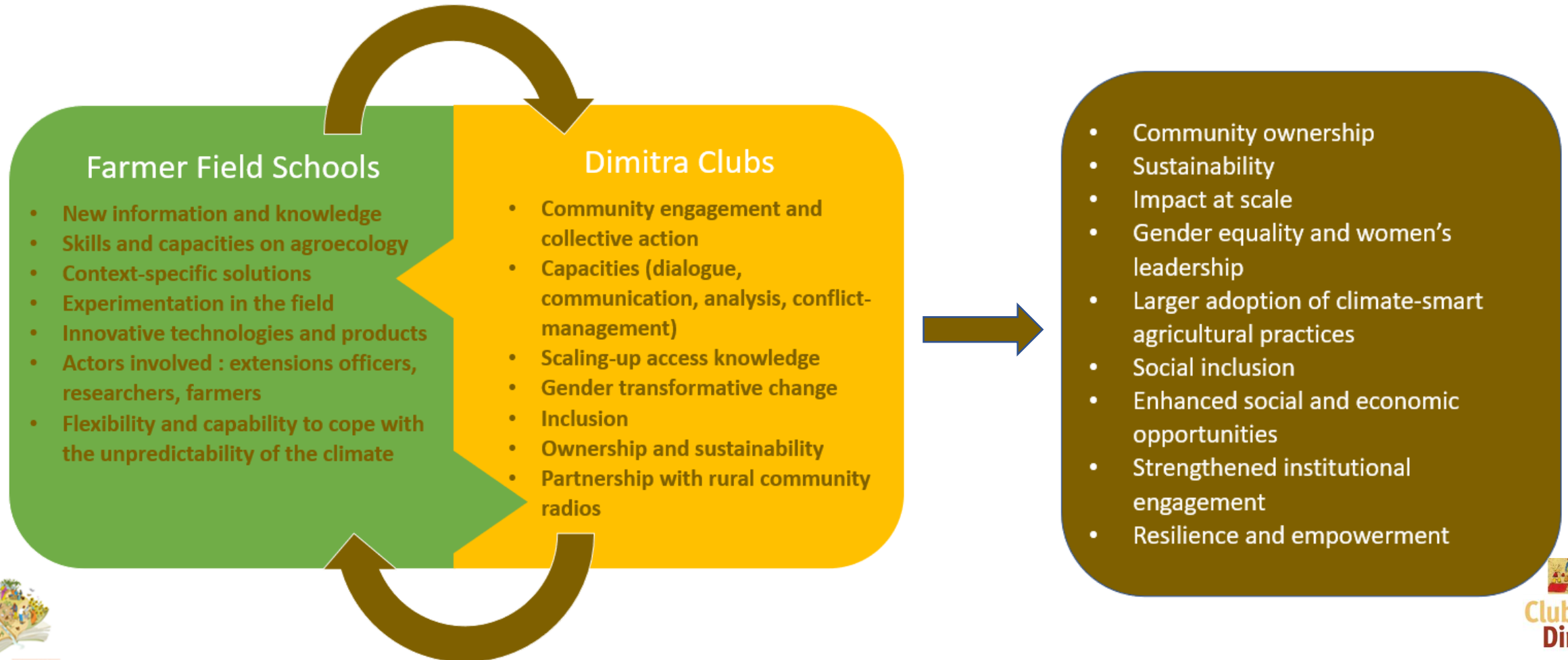
Fatou Ngom, woman member of a Dimitra Club,
village of Kouthia Farindella in Tambacounda,
Senegal



- **A community engagement and gender-transformative model** for self-development and empowerment that places a specific accent on women and girls to effectively participate in village life and local decision-making processes while also engaging men and other key rural actors to achieve transformative change.
- **Implemented in** Burundi, DR Congo, Central African Republic, Ghana, Madagascar, Mali, Niger and Senegal and soon in Malawi, Kenya, Uganda, Cambodia and Ecuador.
- **Added value in climate resilience projects:** community engagement, inclusion, rural people's individual and collective agency; rural women's voice and leadership; ownership; collective action; community dialogue; empowerment.



Farmer Field Schools and Dimitra Clubs: a win-win alliance to enhance resilience and socio-economic benefits in climate adaptation



Challenges

- **Ensure a good understanding of the alliance** at field levels. *Consider capacity development and sensitization sessions and methodological adaptations (e.g., DCs facilitators and FFS facilitators).*
- **Transformative change is a process that requires time.** *Important to scale-up and adapt approaches that have been tested.*

Lessons learnt

- **People-centered approaches** leading to inclusive local engagement and climate action.
- **Integrate a gender perspective** through Gender Transformative approaches.
- **Strong partnership with government agencies** enabling climate mainstreaming and sustainability of outcomes.
- **Effective engagement with CSOs and community radio stations** helping outreach to communities.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S7aWWtDbI5Y>

- **Stepping Stones towards Climate Change Resilient Communities in Rural Senegal**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S7aWWtDbI5Y>
 - **Good Practice: Strengthening Climate Resilience through People-Centered Approaches: Farmer Field Schools and Dimitra Clubs in Senegal**
https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/publications/GEF_GoodPracticesBriefs_Senegal_r2%20%281%29%20%281%29.pdf
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- **Dimitra Clubs website:** <http://www.fao.org/in-action/dimitra-clubs/en/>
 - **Contacts:** Christiane Monsieur, Dimitra Clubs' Programme Coordinator (christiane.monsieur@fao.org); Andrea Sanchez Enciso, Gender and Community Engagement Specialist (andrea.sanchezenciso@fao.org).
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- **Global FFS Platform:** www.fao.org/farmer-field-schools/home-en
 - **Join d-group:** <https://dgroups.org/fao/fieldschools/>
 - **Send an email to the d-group:** fieldschools@dgroups.org