

## **Research and Innovation Project for Productive, Resilient and Healthy Agro-Pastoral Systems in West Africa (PRISMA)**



### **Purpose of the project**

This project aims to contribute to the agroecological transformation of agro-pastoral systems, adapted to climate change, to make them more productive, more resilient and healthier for animals, humans and the environment.

### **Background**

Livestock farming is the main economic activity of at least 50 million people in the Sahel. It is largely based on the pastoral system and the mobility of livestock in search of adequate fodder, depending on the season. This mobility is a strategy adopted to adapt to the irregular rainfall and cyclical droughts faced by Sahelian countries. However, it is gradually being undermined by the reduction and degradation of grazing areas, and by the increasing difficulty of access for herds to certain southern countries (Benin, Nigeria). Farmers also face a chronic shortage of high-cost feed. This situation is the cause of serious crises for this mode of production, despite being recognised in the Sahel as being ecologically viable and economically profitable, and jeopardizes the livelihood of the people who depend on it. In addition to these challenges, there is the issue of animal health, with the corollary that the transmission of diseases from animals to humans is becoming a public health problem.

### **Theory of change to achieve objectives**

The project seeks to promote greater consideration by stakeholders of the challenges of securing pastoral systems and agro-pastoral development in a context of climate change, by supporting the regional guidelines developed by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and by contributing to the construction of a shared vision of pastoral systems in West Africa. PRISMA aims to produce applied research results. It is based on a participatory and multi-sectoral approach, involving North-South partnerships. It relies on the major mobilisation of local operational structures, both public and private, with a view to the appropriation and exploitation of research results by local stakeholders and political decision-makers who will be able to ensure

up-scaling at national and regional levels. It will also provide useful and complementary contributions to those of various regional research or development projects. Synergies will be created with these projects.

The project has set itself a number of outcomes to be achieved. These are:

- Improved availability and access to pastoral resources through sustainable management practices adapted to climate change, tested by research and implemented by technical and social stakeholders. The project will capitalise on existing initiatives for the restoration and alternative management of pastoral resources. It will evaluate and test carbon credit mechanisms to develop climate change mitigation initiatives in agro-pastoral settings and promote their up-scaling;
- Improved availability of and access to quality livestock feed at regional level, through better production and organisation of distribution. The project will improve the distribution of feed through storage banks. It will strengthen the production of quality feed for livestock and put mechanisms in place to ensure its availability during the lean season through the development of index-based insurance. It will provide technical support to stakeholders for the production of feed and the estimation of exceptional import needs;
- Limitation of human health risks associated with the consumption of local milk through better control of zoonoses in the pastoral livestock sector. The project will provide data on the prevalence of zoonoses, strengthen the capacities of epidemiological surveillance networks, collaboratively diagnose access to epidemiological information for dairy stakeholders and facilitate the co-creation of innovative solutions for the prevention or management of zoonoses within the dairy sector with the stakeholders concerned.
- Ensure coherent consultation with the main influential stakeholders potentially impacted by the Action and initiate dialogue with decision-makers to improve national and regional sectoral policies and strategies for pastoral livestock farming. The project will facilitate consultation between various stakeholders, support policy dialogue, disseminate information produced by the project, raise awareness and provide training for stakeholders, particularly at high-level events.

The implementation of PRISMA activities will produce a number of deliverables, the main ones being: reports capitalising on innovative initiatives, studies on PRISMA topics, decision-making support tools, training modules for masters' degrees in the countries concerned, methodological and good practice guides for stakeholders, innovative solutions and communication products (newsletters, mobile application, etc.).

**Impact trajectory chart (ex ante): outputs, outcomes, impacts.**



## Main activities

Regarding pastoral resource availability, the activities are: analysis and capitalisation of initiatives for restoration and alternative management of pastoral resources; analysis of the relevance and necessary conditions for scaling up carbon credit mechanisms in order to raise the profile of climate change mitigation/alleviation initiatives in agro-pastoral environments; support for the scaling up of innovative practices for the restoration and alternative management of pastoral resources; support for the development of carbon credits in the sustainable management of pastoral resources.

Regarding feed availability: the inventory of feed banks with information sharing; the establishment of mechanisms to guarantee the constitution of feed reserves and sales during the lean season; the establishment of index-based insurance with African Risk Capacity to finance access to feed; the study to increase the local production capacity of raw materials for the manufacture of feed; technical support for the production of quality livestock feed, avoiding contamination by aflatoxins; analysis of the needs and procedures for the exceptional import of feed during pastoral crises.

Regarding zoonosis control: the study of the prevalence of brucellosis and tuberculosis in the dairy sector; reinforcing the capacity of technical services for zoonosis surveillance; collaborative diagnosis of dairy sector stakeholder access to epidemiological information; facilitation for the co-creation of innovative solutions for the prevention or management of zoonoses in the dairy sector; and support for stakeholders with the up-scaling of innovative solutions.

Regarding communication: facilitation and organisation of theme-based/technical work groups; organisation of meetings with key players focusing on key areas of the action; dissemination of information and awareness raising among stakeholders; organisation of high level events for sharing, capacity building and discussion of results at regional and international level.

## Organisation

The project is implemented by three agencies, namely, the Belgian development agency (Enabel), the Spanish agency for development cooperation (AECID) and the Luxembourg agency for development cooperation (LuxDev). Each agency is responsible for the implementation of the objectives assigned to it. Thus, Objective 1, addressing the availability of and access to pastoral resources, will be implemented by Enabel and LuxDev, each agency having specific activities. Objective 2, concerning feed availability, will be implemented by AECID. Objective 3, concerning the control of zoonoses and health safety in the milk sector, will be implemented by Enabel. Objective 4 will be implemented jointly by the three agencies to ensure consistency in the achievement of results. The project is coordinated by Enabel.

In addition, the project will set up three theme-based groups linked to the three components (pastoral resource management, livestock feed, prevention and control of zoonoses). Each partner will take the lead in one thematic area. These theme-based groups will provide a forum for discussion of the issues and for sharing research results and innovations.

### **Implementing organisations**

The project will be implemented by the three agencies: Enabel, AECID and LuxDev. The PRISMA advisory body will be the Strategic Orientation Committee (SOC). A Project Coordination Unit (PCU), to be set up by Enabel, will liaise between the three Project Management Units (PMUs) and coordinate PRISMA's actions. The three PMUs (one per agency), are the operational and autonomous units of the Action, which ensure the proper management of the activities implemented by their respective agencies.

### **Project partners**

The Sahel Institute (INSAH)  
University of Liège (ULg)  
Research Institute and National Public Health Institute of Belgium (Sciensano)  
Veterinarians Without Borders, Belgium (VSF-B)  
Environmental Institute for Agricultural Research - Burkina Faso (INERA)  
International Centre for Research and Development on Livestock in the Subhumid Zone (CIRDES)  
Regional Centre for Hydro-agrometeorology, Niger (AGRHYMET)  
Centre for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD)  
Royal Tropical Institute, The Netherlands (KIT)  
Interdisciplinary Centre for Security, Reliability and Trust (SnT) - University of Luxembourg  
National Institute for Research on Agronomy and Environment, France (INRAE)  
University of Paris Dauphine - Forest Economics Laboratory and Chair of Climate Economics  
Plan Foundation Vivo - For nature, climate, and communities  
CO2Logic - Credible Climate Action

### **Other key stakeholders**

ECOWAS, in particular, through the Directorate of Agriculture, the Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food (ARAA, Togo) and the Regional Centre for Animal Health (CRSA, Mali), the Billital Maroobé Network (RBM, Mali), the Support for the Strengthening of Livestock and the Pastoral Economy in the Koulikoro Region (AREPK, Mali), the Livestock Support Programme (PRADEL) and REPO (Niger), the Regional Dialogue and Investment Project for Pastoralism and Transhumance in the Sahel and the Coastal Countries of West Africa (PREDIP), GloNet Sahel, the Sahel Pastoralism Support Project (PRAPS) and other DeSIRA initiatives.

**Location:** Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso

### **Financing and co-financing**

European Union: €6,000,000

AECID: €495,000

**Duration:** 48 months (01.01.2022 - 31.12.2025)

