



Strengthening farmers' organizations to develop sustainable livelihoods in Niger

Proposal Document



Niger, September 2021



GAFSP Call for Proposals: Producer Organization Proposal Template

Section 1: Basic Data

a. Project Name	Strengthening farmers' organizations to develop sustainable livelihoods in Niger	
b. Country and Region	Niger, Tillaberi and Dosso	
c. Producer Organization (PO)	Name: Fédération des Unions de Groupements Paysans du Niger (FUGPN-Mooriben) / Fédération des Unions des Sociétés Coopératives du Niger (since February 2021)	
	Address: 244 Rue du Béli Quartier plateau - Niamey Niger Postal address: BP 553 Niamey.	
	Registration	Yes (include date and location of registration) 1) Arrêté n°044 /MAG/EL/DPOR/GER of 14 th April 1993 (Ordonnance n° 96-067 of 9 November 1996, governing rural cooperatives) 2) Arrêté n° 0011/ACNI 15 th February 2021 (OHADA Uniform Act)
	PO website or link to annual report	www.mooriben-niger.org
	Primary Activities of PO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for agricultural and animal production (technical advice / purchase of inputs) - Promotion of agroecology - Support for storage and processing - Support to marketing - Agroforestry - Support for organizational advice - Empowerment of women and youth
Type of target farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small-scale farmers (rainfed and irrigated crops), men and women, organized. - Seed multipliers - Fish farmers (Aquaculture) - Processors of agri-food products 	
d. PO Mission Statement	<p>The Federation aims to improve the living conditions of farmers through the increase of agro-sylvo-pastoral and halieutic productivity, the diversification of sources of income and capacity building in order to ensure food security and social peace.</p> <p>The mission of the Federation is formulated around priority themes: income, food security, food sovereignty, the co-construction of local inter-actor solutions, communication, gender and the organizational and institutional development of the Unions and the Federation.</p>	
e. PO Focal Person (for this project)	Name: Mahamadou Sanoussi Hassane Title : Executive Director Email : sanoussi_mooriben@yahoo.fr	
f. SE Focal Person	Name: MAIGA, Attaher Title : FAO Representative in Niger Email : Attaher.Maiga@fao.org	
g. Total GAFSP Grant Funding Requested (refer to Annex 1 – Project Budget Table)	Amount Requested: 2 707 000 USD	
h. Estimated project start and end date (May/2022 – May/2025):		
i. Preferred Supervising Entity (Select only one)	<input type="checkbox"/> African Development Bank (AfDB)	

<input type="checkbox"/> Asian Development Bank (ADB) <input type="checkbox"/> International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) <input type="checkbox"/> Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) <input type="checkbox"/> World Bank (WB) <input type="checkbox"/> World Food Programme (WFP)
j. Has the PO previously received a GAFSP Missing Middle Initiative grant? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please complete <i>Annex 4</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Section 2. Project Description (weighting 35%)

2.1 Project Development Objective

The objective of the project is to improve the income, food security and nutrition of the populations of the Dosso and Tillabéri regions of Niger by strengthening producer organizations (POs) and their members, with an emphasis on women and youth as drivers of economic and social development.

2.2. Provide a clear description of the proposed project.

Agriculture is a key sector of the Nigerien economy, providing both wealth (nearly 40% of GDP) and employment (80% of the active population), and on which the food and nutritional security of a country subject to major climatic hazards depends.

In a context of natural resources under strong pressure due, among other things, to demographic factors (a population growth rate of 3,9% countrywide, with 2,7% in the region of Dosso and 3,2% in the region of Tillabéri), continued degradation of productive capital (especially land), and recurring drought and floods, highlight the crucial importance of investments in sustainable and resilient production practices (agro-ecology, climate-smart agriculture CSA).

The communes of intervention of the project are: Falwel, Loga, Fabidji and Karakara in the Dosso region and Téra, Torodi, Karma, Kourthey in the Tillabéri region, which are communes where farmers' organizations have a strong presence.

The development of grassroots producers' organizations (PBOs) and their unions (second-level organizations that bring together PBOs) offers opportunities for small farmers, particularly women, who have great difficulty accessing credit and markets.

There is a need to strengthen the capacity of PBOs, and to make them compliant with the Uniform Cooperative Societies Act which is in line with the new legislation in force in Niger and, at the same time, an opportunity to do so through their federal structure Mooriben, which is already compliant and has started this process with its members. Through this project, Mooriben will make unions and PBOs sustainable partners to work in profitable value chains and with the private sector for the benefit of their smallholder members.

The project comes in a context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has led to an increase in the price of agricultural inputs and foodstuffs through its impact on mobility and markets, and to a strong decapitalization of livestock.

To increase the income of small-scale producers and achieve economic sustainability, the project will use a value chain approach. Currently in Niger, the approach to developing value chains for agroforestry and fisheries products tends to focus on production links, without considering other links. This has not allowed Niger to ensure an adequate and growing transformation of its agriculture towards a more diversified coverage of food needs, professionalization of actors and the creation of decent jobs for women and youth in particular. The value chain approach makes it possible to take into account all these links.

This project will carry out activities with a particular focus on capacity building related to responsible investment in agriculture and food systems, which includes improving farmers' organizations' access to value chains and financing. In particular, Mooriben will help strengthen farmers' capacities to invest and

benefit from investments, and to manage and undertake sustainable and resilient income-generating activities. To this end, the project will bring innovative technologies and an inclusive approach, and will seek to support quality food system products that are competitive in local and national markets. Furthermore, it will seek to create and support employment for women, particularly young girls who are experiencing high migration to large urban centers.

The design, implementation and monitoring of project activities will be based on a participatory and inclusive approach. The project will involve community participation beyond the members of the PBOs with certain actions, notably related to the environment and nutrition, through the participation of school management committees, for greater impact.

Specific commodity chains were pre-identified during regional workshops in Dosso and Tillabéri, using a participatory approach, taking into account the agro-ecological potential and the initiatives of the Unions (the development of a business plan is already underway in some Unions, such as Maddaben), around which the project's interventions will be focused. These are the fish farming sector; the seed sector (cereals and vegetables); and improved flours (based on local rainfed production), as well as diversification and income-generating activities such as market gardening, breeding and fattening livestock, etc. These interventions should be carried out according to a market-oriented value chain approach to guarantee profitable outlets for the actors involved, while also integrating production practices that are adapted to climate change

The impact of COVID-19 in the intervention areas has been felt mainly at the market level, with limited transactions due mainly to mobility restrictions.

The project is structured around 3 components:

Component 1. Organizational strengthening of the Unions and POs members of the Mooriben federation in Dosso and Tillabéri.

In Component 1, the project seeks to strengthen the capacity of POs so that they can help their members integrate the various linkages in the value chains, with respect for transparency, inclusion and participation, particularly of women.

Output 1.1. PBOs comply with the Uniform Act on Cooperative Societies (OHADA), by strengthening their legal, financial and organizational capacities

Activity 1.1.1. Support for establishing an organizational, financial and economic reference situation of the targeted PBOs (300), based on a participatory diagnosis.

This diagnosis will be preceded by a training of Union/PBO facilitators (currently 23, including 8 women) in the intervention zone.

Activity 1.1.2. Support grassroots PBOs to comply with the OHADA act, and strengthen the members of 504 PBOs (members of 8 unions) on the rules and operational principles of farmers' organizations.

These PBOs are already constituted, but the new legislation of the country, in accordance with OHADA, requires them to provide new elements, particularly related to their economic activities. Mooriben has already supported the eight (8) unions targeted in this proposal, and 204 PBOs in the regions that their files are currently in conformity. Mooriben seeks to support the rest of interested PBO among the 300 remaining members to conform with the OHADA requirements.

Activity 1.1.3. Capacity building of technicians and board members of unions and the federation on their roles and responsibilities.

Output 1.2. Unions and PBOs apply good economic and financial management

The project will enable Mooriben to strengthen all participating POs through a series of modules that will include a core curriculum on organizational management, leadership, governance, negotiations, financial management, accounting and communications. The training modules will be delivered through on-site training sessions in participating villages, which will last up to half a day. These trainings will ideally be

scheduled over a period of three to six months and will take into consideration the needs and commitments of the participants, with particular attention paid to the availability of women.

Activity 1.2.1. Strengthening the economic and financial management of grassroots POs, unions and the Mooriben Federation;

Activity 1.2.2. Strengthening the leadership, advocacy and negotiation skills of 400 people, including 300 women.

Activity 1.2.3. Finalizing of the three-year operational plan of Mooriben 2022-2024 (currently being designed with Mooriben's own funds) and design of the operational plans of the 8 unions

Activity 1.2.4. Develop peer learning through exchange trips between unions

Output 1.3: The gender approach and social inclusion are known and applied within POs member

Activity 1.3.1. Capacity building for POs on gender responsive approaches

Under this activity, the project will develop training materials in local languages based on gender sensitive materials from FAO and other partners, and prepare simple gender sensitive manuals. Training of Trainers (ToT) will be conducted at the regional/national level, while training of PO leaders and members will be conducted at the union and/or community level.

Activity 1.3.2. Capacity building for non-violent conflict management related to natural resource access and management

Activity 1.3.3. Capacity building of members on how to take into account the social inclusion of people with disabilities in development actions

Component 2. The Producers' organizations (Unions and PBOs) develop resilient and adapted value chains to improve food and nutritional security in the intervention communes

During the preparation workshops for this proposal, Mooriben and PO members, pre-identified several value chains, involving the private sector, such as fish farming, market gardening, the seed chain, and fortified flours.

Through this project, Mooriben will help each Union/PO to identify its own value chain initiative to undertake as an organization using the FAO inclusive value chain development approach, or to improve initiatives currently being implemented by Unions or POs, particularly those focused on technological innovation and improving market access. Special attention will be given to women and youth who have fewer opportunities to access productive assets.

Mooriben wants to highlight that nutritional education will be transversal to all activities implemented within the framework of the project, taking advantage of the organization's positive experiences in particular on the producing and selling of fortified flours at the local level, for young children and pregnant and lactating women, and also in the long term for all family members, and in through product diversification and transformation.

The project will also work on procedures for compliance with relevant certification or regulatory systems, as well as Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) to improve access to responsible and resilient value chains. PBOs initiatives may also include the production of adapted (certified) improved seeds, requested by local and national producers or the provision of mechanization services, which have already been identified as priority areas by the target organizations.

Output 2.1. The Unions accompany their organized PBOs members in the development of their business plans, with a view to ensuring their empowerment, access to markets and economic viability.

Activity 2.1.1. Conduct market studies at local, regional and national levels (pre-identified examples of value chains: fish farming; improved flours; sesame; cowpeas)

Activity 2.1.2. Development/revision of business plans at the level of Unions and PBOs (already initiated in some Unions with support from the Mooriben Federation)

As part of these activities, support to start an entrepreneurial initiative or enter into a partnership with a selected value chain actor will be provided to: (i) assess buyer-seller relationships and standards applied in partnerships; (ii) apply the knowledge imparted through capacity building; and (ii) assess the technical feasibility of an income-generating activity and the economic viability.

Activity 2.1.3. Creation of a revolving fund to finance PBO initiatives, in particular those managed by women (after analysis of their business plan).

The revolving fund will be managed by Mooriben, based on their experience and in accordance with the procedures and regulation of FAO revolving funds. The credit amounts will range from 2 000 USD to 20 000 USD per PBO. The project intends to make these credits available to at least 45 PBOs over the 3 years of the project. Repayment plans will be established according to criteria of profitability, number and type of jobs created, etc. The mechanism will be based on the experience of livestock breeding “*élevage naisseur*”¹ already put in place by Mooriben and certain unions with loan mechanisms and the establishment of a Credit Committee, and interest rates of 15% over 9 months. Some initiatives that might require a stronger investment in equipment, could receive equipment directly (activity 2.3.1)

Activity 2.1.4. Creation of solidarity-based micro-credit systems or Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs), especially among women's groups

For the PBOs that would not have access to working capital by revolving fund, either because their entrepreneurial initiative is not sufficiently structured or because the required amounts are low, or because only individual members of the PBOs want to undertake an IGA, tools inspired in the VSLAs will be encouraged as a learning process for a later access to formal micro-credit systems.

Output 2.2. Producers' organizations provide their members with access to innovative and resilient production techniques that enable them to improve their productivity.

Activity 2.2.1. Building capacities of agricultural producers, through Unions and PBOs, to protect, recover and improve their productive assets

Sub-activity 2.2.1.1 Recovery and development of 400 hectares of degraded land and their provision to 400 youth (girls and boys);

Through techniques such as zaï², degraded land will be recovered for young people who do not have their own land. The development of the glacis can be done according to different techniques of SWC/DRS³: stone cordons, filtering dikes, zaï, contribution of organic matter (manure and composting), and mulching, assisted natural regeneration.

The provision of rehabilitated lands will result in a land title of at least 10 years issued by the land commissions (COFOB⁴) for young people.

These labor-intensive works will also bring some incomes to the participants, who will be able to use part of it for the creation of VSLA and the financing of their productive activity. The cost of recovery of degraded lands includes the labor (through cash for work), the training of SWC/DRS techniques and the technical follow-up, with the participation of the Ministries of Environment and Agriculture. (The unit costs can be found in the annex 1).

Sub-activity 2.2.1.2. Establishment of forest/fruit plant nurseries that will be used for the recovery of degraded lands

Sub-activity 2.2.1.3. Protection of family land farms against water and wind erosion through ANR and reforestation with forest seedlings

¹ [https://Temoignage_elevage_naisseur Mooriben](https://Temoignage_elevage_naisseur_Mooriben)

² Zaï is a farming technique to dig pits (20-30 cm long and deep and 90 cm apart) in the soil during the pre-season to catch water and concentrate compost

³ SWC/DRS Soil and Water Conservation/Defence and Restoration of Soil (*Conservation des eaux et des sols/Défense et Restauration des sols CES/DRS*)

⁴ COFOB: *Commission Foncière de Base* (Village-level land titling agency)

Sub-activity 2.2.1.4. Capacity building on natural risk management (drought and floods) and adaptation to climate change

Activity 2.2.2. Development of more resilient and profitable agriculture and fish farming, through climate-smart agriculture and agroecology and the integration of new technologies, for a better integration of food value chains

Production support will take into account climate-sensitive good practices, in particular to manage drought and flood risks. During the design of this proposal, several activities have been identified, however a deeper analysis will be made before financing production activities, taking into account the technical, economic and environmental sustainability in each intervention area.

In fish farming, several actions are pre-identified by the member unions and their PBOs: Rehabilitation of the Karma Union's fish fry production ponds, including securing; mowing of ponds; construction of ponds for commercial fish farming; stocking of permanent and semi-permanent ponds; capacity building on fish farming techniques and equipment; support for rice-fish farming; solar fish farms

Agricultural production: support for the reinforcement of the stocks of agricultural input banks (BI); capacity building of producers on organic fertilizers and pesticides production techniques (composting, Bokashi, organic pesticides); support for harnessed cultivation units (UCA); rehabilitation of two pilot centers in Gobery and Falwel for multidisciplinary agricultural learning for young people, including those with disabilities; support for the production of cash crops (groundnut, cowpea and sesame)

Herd caprine/ ovine reconstitution: setting up kits for breeding and fattening (this will be done through the working capital, through a nine-month loan); monitoring and support of the health status of the animals by the communal livestock service; rehabilitation of 2 *Banques Aliment de Bétail* (BAB) in the Potole union in Torodi and the Hareyben union in Téra and creation of six new BABs in the 6 other communes (Falwel, Loga, Karakara, Gobéri, Karma and Kourthey). This activity, which is primarily carried out by women, will also provide manure to improve the fertility of agricultural land.

Activity 2.2.3 Capacity building of the seed chain PBOs in Falwel (Dosso) and Tera (Tillabéri)

The Maddaben Union has 150 seed multipliers, 10% of whom are women, and market millet and cowpea seeds, but despite the national overall demand, its market access is not developing sufficiently, despite the Mooriben sales points and the marketing efforts of women with the dissemination of the offer by community radios or seed fairs. The following needs have been identified by the multipliers: strengthening storage capacities; access to institutional markets (through tenders); certification of a greater number of producers/plots; and ensuring better seeds quality and develop linkages with PO requesting seeds.

Output 2.3. Farmers' organizations have access to innovative and resilient processing techniques that enable them to improve their productivity and quality.

Activity 2.3.1. Support for the processing activities of the FOs in the agrifood value chains, integrating new technologies.

The envisaged processing activities will be evaluated in a first phase, taking into account their technical, economic and environmental viability. However, during the exchanges for the design of this proposal, some examples have been pre-identified:

- ✓ Fortified flours: technical capacity building for the processing of fortified flours (cereals, legumes, sesame) and cookies (sesame processing); support for the characterization and certification of flours; involvement of research for the formulation of fortified flours with an adequate nutritional composition and the process of their certification (University of Tillabéri, INRAN and CIRAD); support for adequate equipment and packaging; use of clean technologies (solar)
- ✓ Groundnut and sesame processing: creation of groundnut and sesame processing units managed by women; training on groundnut and sesame processing techniques; marketing (based on the market study and the business plan)
- ✓ Other processing initiatives: parboiled rice; vegetable processing.

Output 2.4. Unions and PBOs increase their markets

Activity 2.4.1. Support to the marketing of PBOs and Unions

- ✓ Training on marketing and market monitoring
- ✓ Organization of seed and processed product fairs
- ✓ Sales promotion
- ✓ Establishment of working capital for the benefit of fish wholesalers, women and girls.
- ✓ Preparation and negotiation of sales contracts with the private sector

Activity 2.4.2 Promotion/facilitation/strengthening of commercial partnerships between POs and the private sector

Strengthen the capacities of the unions and the Mooriben federation on institutional markets: response to institutional calls for tenders.

Output 2.5. Unions and PBOs have access to diversified sources of financing

Activity 2.5.1. Promote the diversification of external financing for PBOs and Unions

- ✓ Mapping of financial actors
- ✓ The PBOs and Unions diversify their sources of financing
- ✓ Placement of guarantee funds with MFIs in favor of small and medium-sized women's enterprises.

Output 2.6 Nutritional levels are improved in the 16 villages where life gardens, irrigated perimeters, are set up.

Activity 2.6.1. Establish living gardens in 16 villages (2 villages per intervention commune).

This activity will be set up with the support of CBM⁵ (Christian Blind Mission), and in partnership with a National Organization for People with Disabilities *Fédération Nigérienne des Personnes Handicapées* (FNPH). The "living gardens" are irrigated perimeters of about 1 hectare, where families with members with disabilities will produce market garden products for self-consumption and for sale, to improve the living conditions and nutrition of people with disabilities, who have very little possibility of finding dignified employment. The gardens will be divided into ten subplots, nine for households with disabled people and one for the village school.

The project will assist in the development of market opportunities for these life gardens, in particular the supply of fortified flour processing units and the company "Les Pots du Sahel" specializing in the processing of market garden products (such as organic squash into jam). The project will encourage the establishment of commercial agreements with this company, as a pilot experience, which will also serve as a relay for the sale of all processed products in Niamey (see: <https://Letter Pots du Sahel>).

The location of the living gardens will be according to criteria agreed upon by the different partners, taking into account primarily, the availability of water and land. The irrigation system will be based on solar pumping and an adapted irrigation network design.

The project will promote agroecology in vegetable production and will provide advisory support to the beneficiaries of the Gardens of Life through the Imaan Research Center (private partner <https://Imaan Research>) for transdisciplinary research support, with agro ecological production.

The participation of the students will allow education in agroecology and nutrition, as well as improve and diversify the meals of the schoolchildren in their families, or the school canteen in the case of Loga.

Activity 2.6.2. Nutritional education for participating households in the living gardens and schools in the villages concerned.

In parallel to the setting up of the living gardens (market gardens), training in nutrition education will be carried out for the participating households and also the community structures linked to the schools will be involved, with the creation of hygiene and nutrition clubs. In these trainings related to market garden production and food diversification, the promotion of fortified flours (which are produced by POs) for

⁵ CBM *Christoffel Blindenmission*: <https://www.cbm.org/>

consumption at the household level will also be done.

Component 3: Coordination, monitoring and capitalization of the project

Output 3.1. Visibility and capitalization of project actions

Activity 3.1.1 Elaboration of scientific publications on the project results (University of Tillabéri, INRAN, CIRAD and Imaan Research)

Activity 3.1.2. Conduct a study on the impact of agro-ecological practices on the restoration of biodiversity and agrosystems (Mooriben, Research and Imaan Research)

Activity 3.1.3: Identify and develop good practice sheets from project actions

Activity 3.1.4. Improve Mooriben visibility : publication on its website, RECA website and social networks

Output 3.2. Coordination, management and monitoring of the project are ensured

Activity 3.2.1. Coordination at central and regional levels

Activity 3.2.2. Administrative and financial management of the project

Activity 3.2.3. Monitoring and evaluation system (establishment of baseline and endline, etc.) and joint FAO-Mooriben monitoring missions to the field

Activity 3.2.4. Communication

Activity 4.2.5. Mid-term and final evaluations

2.3. Elaborate on the target population and the targeting strategy for the project?

During the ordinary General Assembly held on June 26, 2021, the 87 delegates of 29 organizations present targeted the geographical area and the Unions (OP) for the realization of the project on the basis of the following criteria: i) the degree of anchorage of the Federation in this region of Niger as the OP grantee of the proposal; for the Unions : ii) their membership in the Mooriben network; iii) their organizational performance and compliance with the OHADA law, iv) their potential in terms of agricultural and animal production and their experience in processing, v) their discipline in observing the safety measures against Covid, vi) their regularity in the payment of contributions and repayment of credits, vii) the participation of women in the POs, viii) their willingness to participate in the development of the project and in its execution, if selected.

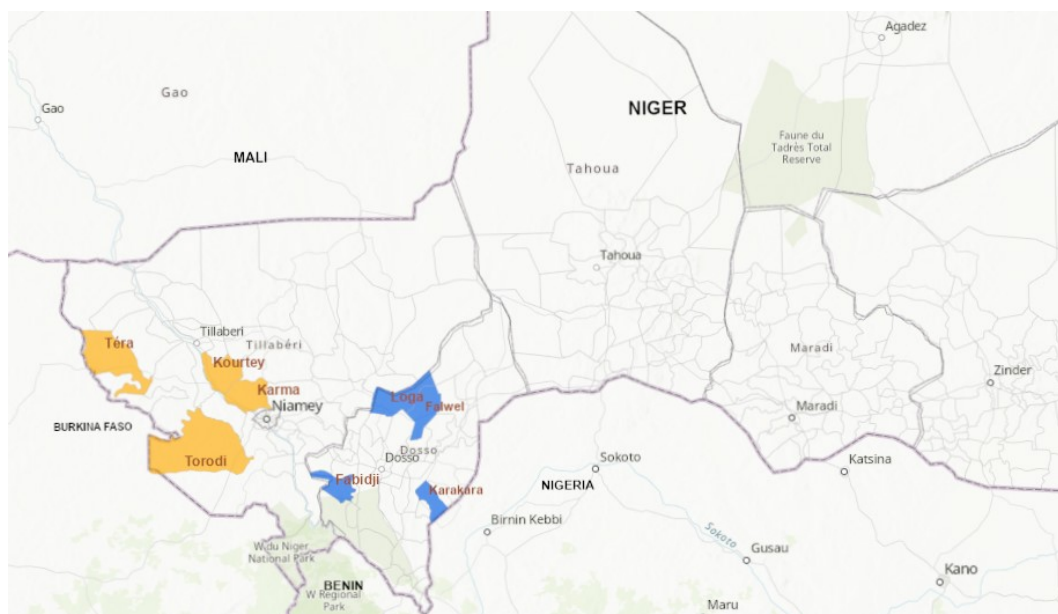
The choice of direct beneficiaries will be made on the basis of consensual criteria established between the unions concerned, the local authorities, the deconcentrated technical services of the ministries, and the supervising entity for each of the activities. This process aims to involve all the actors in the field and thus ensure transparency. In general, the main beneficiaries are organized small-scale farmers, both men and women, with the following characteristics: food crop farmers - rainfed or market gardeners - with an average of 0,5 ha (higher average for seed multipliers); fish farmers in Tillabéri; vulnerable groups in the target zone, in particular women, young people and people with disabilities, who are organized and want to undertake an income-generating initiative.

Women and girls will be at least 74% of the beneficiaries of the project's actions, in order to face their situation of vulnerability and the fact that they usually remain on the margins of the decision-making processes, which leads to the insufficient consideration of their specific needs. Moreover, Mooriben is convinced that it is unimaginable and impossible to achieve development without the active participation of women in social and economic life. In the eight (8) unions concerned, women's organizations are more numerous, followed by mixed organizations and men are in the minority.

The participation of people with disabilities is guided by the concern for social inclusion and protection (see Mooriben's national strategy for social inclusion, component 6).

The participation of schools and school-age children is mainly aimed at preparing them for life in a responsible and sustainable management of the environment and nutritional status.

Carte 1. Communes d'intervention



The total population of the intervention communes is 735 600 people (270 400 in Dosso and 465 200 in Tillabéri), of which 50,3% are women. The main direct target will be the members of the POs and their families. Normally, each member of the Mooriben Unions represents one household (rarely are two members of the same household registered). Thus, the direct beneficiaries would be 9 900 members of grassroots producers' organizations, whom corresponds to a household of small-scale producers of the GAFSP project interventions (74% women), representing approximately 69 000 people⁶.

Table 1. Members of the Mooriben Federation's organizations in the project's target communes.

Comunes	Unions	PBO	Villages with presence	Number of members			Targeted number		Total
				Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Direct beneficiary
Falwel	Maddaben	69	49	1.475	1.692	3.167	590	1.100	1.690
Loga	Lakalkaney	70	30	679	1.638	2.317	272	1.065	1.336
Fabidji	Alhéri	75	40	1.389	1.549	2.938	556	1.007	1.562
Karakara	Guimchiki	44	32	1.159	977	2.136	464	635	1.099
Tera	Harey Ban	41	18	935	1.238	2.173	374	805	1.179
Torodi	Potal	35	11	40	984	1.024	16	640	656
Karma	Margou	61	20	348	830	1.178	139	540	679
Kourtey	Wafakey	109	52	349	2.430	2.779	140	1.580	1.719
Total		504	252	6.374	11.338	17.712	2.550	7.370	9.919
% on total members							40%	65%	56%
% Men and Women							26%	74%	100%

Source : Mooriben, 2021

Representatives and managers of Producers' organizations, cooperatives, women's organizations and youth organizations, organizations for people with disability will also benefit.

⁶ Households in Niger have an average of 7 members

The total number of direct beneficiaries, including the population of the communes, institutional executives and representatives of organizations, should reach approximately 71 000 people.

In the value chain strengthening activities, youth (at least 30%) and women (at least 75% youth and adult women) will be particularly targeted.

The indirect beneficiaries will be other members of the POs who will benefit from the learning and strengthening of their organizations and the remaining population of the targeted communes who will benefit from new opportunities on the local markets

2.4 Describe major obstacles to smallholder and related small business development in the food and agriculture sectors in the project area.

According to a recent political economy analysis of the-food system in Niger⁷ conducted by FAO as part of the Agri-Invest Program, most foodstuffs in Niger are traded on informal markets. Trade on the cash market is widespread and contract farming is rare. Retail food marketing channels are inadequate or use food from these markets. Due to lack of enforcement, the food system is not affected by food safety or health standards and regulations. This project aims to develop the market for processed products, applying food and health standards, in particular the production of fortified flours, the processing of market garden products and peanuts and sesame (fortified cookies). The project will need to conduct in-depth market studies on these processed products.

The supply and market gaps targeted by the project activities, such as the supply of adapted and certified seeds, fortified flours and fingerlings for fish farming, were also present before the advent of COVID-19. In particular, after the heavy floods of 2020, losses in fish farming occurred added demand to the already growing demand for fish fingerlings in recent years.

The main obstacles to the development of small businesses or POs are

- Lack of financing (public and private) for agricultural activities, or with very high interest rates for the few existing agricultural financing institutions
- Limited access of women and youth to productive assets
- Insufficient agricultural advice;
- Insufficient market information for small producers;
- The infrastructure of the agricultural sector is fragile and systems to minimize food losses are weak⁸.
- Inadequate adapted equipment for processing;
- Poor product presentation/packaging design and cost;
- Lack of scientific evidence of product quality (laboratory analysis of composition);
- Low public appreciation of locally processed products at the expense of imported products.

Many of these problems are structural or systemic but have also been further aggravated by the effects of climate change on natural resources and, since 2020, by the Covid-19⁹ pandemic and related containment measures, particularly as a result of the limitation of people's movements and consequently of materials and equipment.

2.5 Describe proposed linkages between POs and private sector actors.

Mooriben by this project will initially work to support women producers and processors through a grant for capacity building and equipment, and revolving credit to provide capital to grassroots farmers' organizations (PBOs) and maximize the number of beneficiaries. Once the PBOs comply with all the legal and administrative requirements (in compliance with OHADA), the project will accompany them in the development and implementation of their business plans and their connection with FISAN (*Fonds*

⁷ *Étude de cadrage du système agroalimentaire au Niger* <http://www.fao.org/3/cb3742fr/cb3742fr.pdf>

⁸ Niger scores 21 on the Agricultural Infrastructure Index, compared to 48 globally.

⁹ Niger. Moyens d'existence agricoles et sécurité alimentaire dans le cadre de la COVID-19: rapport de suivi, mai 2021. <http://www.fao.org/3/cb4622fr/cb4622fr.pdf>

d'Investissement pour la Sécurité Alimentaire et Nutritionnelle), financing institutions such as BAGRI (*Banque Agricole du Niger*) or micro-finance institutions.

Other non-financial private actors with whom the project intends to work are research institutes INRAN and CIRAD (see commitment letters: <https://Letter CIRAD> and <https://Letter INRAN Niger>) and the Boubakar Bâ University of Tillabéri (<https:// University of Tillaberi Commitment letter>), in particular on the nutritional value of fortified flours and agroecology; suppliers of agricultural inputs; traders of primary and processed products; and companies such as ETC (*Entreprise de Transformation de Céréales*) and MISOLA.

The RECA Réseau des Chambres d'Agriculture du Niger, duquel Mooriben est membre sera aussi associé au projet (<https://lettre engagement RECA>).

2.6 Describe expected results of this project and how they will be measured at output, outcome, and impact levels.

Result 1. Mooriben's member organizations -unions and PBOs- have good governance.

Output 1.1. PBOs comply with the Uniform Act on Cooperative Societies (OHADA) by building their legal and organizational capacities.

Output 1.2. Unions and PBOs apply sound economic and financial management

Output 1.3: The gender approach and social inclusion are known and applied by PO member and reflected in the Union strategic plans

Result 2: Agricultural productivity, processing and market access of smallholders, especially women, who are members of POs are improved

Output 2.1. The Unions accompany their organized PBO members in the development of their business plans, with a view to ensuring their empowerment, access to markets and economic viability.

Output 2.2. Producers' organizations provide their members with access to innovative and resilient production techniques that enable them to improve their productivity.

Output 2.3. Producers' organizations have access to innovative and resilient processing knowledge, which enables them to improve their productivity and quality.

Output 2.4. Unions and PBO increase their markets

Output 2.5. Unions and PBO access diversified sources of financing

Output 2.6 Nutritional levels are improved in the 16 villages where living gardens, irrigated perimeters, are established.

Result 3. Project coordination, monitoring and capitalization are ensured

Output 3.1. Visibility and capitalization of project actions

Output 3.2. Coordination, management and monitoring of the project are ensured

In annex 2, you will find the matrix of results indicators.

2.7 What evidence is there that the proposed approach and activities will successfully address the issues identified?

For a long time, and especially in the last five years, Mooriben has implemented several initiatives that have given good results in some of its member unions, and indicate that Mooriben will be able to build on this experience and scale up support for other unions:

i) Guarantee funds accessible to the unions, which have allowed them to collect sufficient volume of

cereals to provide access to sell to the national food security programs, and to the local purchase programs of the WFP or school canteens.

ii) Also, certain practices such as *warrantage*¹⁰, or the Mooriben breeding program (IGA for women) have shown good results in terms of profitability, at the same time as they have had an impact on other agricultural productions of the family farm through the production of organic manure.

iii) In Loga, the Union de Falwel started a fortified flour production unit five years ago, and by 2021 its production volume had increased fivefold. Demand continues to grow, although their capacity only covers the local market, and they only sell to the retail market (pregnant women, households buying for their children). The raw material is available, and PO members are at the same time suppliers of the raw material. The demand for fortified flours is increasing and several private companies such as Société MISOLA (millet, sorghum, milk) or the *Entreprise de Transformation de Céréale* ETC, have contacted the Union to take an interest in the products offered. Similarly, UNICEF has already begun to take an interest in their products, which is why the project's support will not only increase their supply of raw materials and therefore their production, but will also enable them to meet their quality and hygiene requirements.

iv) Also fish farming by poisoning ponds (*empoisonnement des mares*) is in increasing demand, and the Union of Wafakey in Kourtey has experience in the production of fingerlings, although it has suffered damage during the heavy floods of 2020. The capital to "build back better" will allow them to be more resilient to natural shocks, which are becoming more recurrent due to climate change, and to increase their production capacity to meet the growing national demand supported by aquaculture development initiatives.

v) Processing products will add value, while avoiding losses of some perishable products as experienced during the COVID-19 mobility restrictions that have severely limited markets.

2.8 In summary, why should GAFSP provide grant funding to the proposed project?

The proposed activities are an expression of the demands of Mooriben members in the project area. Indeed, its needs are derived from the ten-year strategic plan 2016-2025 reviewed following a mid-term evaluation after the first three years of implementation. This evaluation also highlighted several good practices that will be taken up by this project in order to scale them up (such as the use of working capital for livestock breeding, or *warrantage*), but also other innovative initiatives that create jobs and fill a food need in the country. Finally, the actors in the field (town halls, decentralized technical services of the ministries, producers and processors, civil society, private sector, etc.) present at the regional workshops in Dosso and Tillabéri all recognized and confirmed the problems identified and the solutions proposed in this project to remedy them. The POs participating in the project already exist and are anchored in their communities, and although they still need to be strengthened, they already constitute the Mooriben network, which allows them to have easier access to certain tools such as guarantee funds, advisory support or networking with other partners (possible suppliers or buyers). The response constituted by the activities of the proposed Component 2, targeting the production-processing-marketing links, addresses the integration of farmers, through their POs, into the markets in a Nigerien context, where access to the financial system is very limited in the agri-food sector. This proposal not only addresses market integration, but is also based on making production more resilient to climate change, and providing employment opportunities for women (who are the majority in agri-food processing). The project also aims to bring innovations, especially in the production of fortified flours from local products, with good nutritional quality -established with the collaboration of research centers-, and with a potential market in a country with high malnutrition rates.

¹⁰ Warrantage: French word commonly used in West Africa, describes the inventory credit system (normally called the warehouse receipt system, or WRS, in English). POs have used 'smallholder' warrantage for several years. In this storage system, farmers keep part of their harvest in their own stores secured by two locks. One key is held by the farmers, while the second is held by the microfinance institution, with no third party involved. Warrantage allows both access to credit for income-generating activities and adequate grain storage, thereby contributing to the better preservation of crops, as well as better household management of food and money.

Finally, the activities promoted in this project allow the creation of jobs for women and youth people, the most vulnerable groups, and also to supply local markets, having their food nearby, and therefore, limiting their mobility to urban centers in search of work or food, which has been shown to be necessary in the case of crises such as those produced by the COVID-19 or insecurity.

Section 3. Context for the Proposed Project (weighting 20%) (suggested 2-3 pages)

3.1 Describe the state of the agriculture and food system in the project area, including any current and future pressures on the sector (e.g., climate risks). Describe any impacts and disruptions caused by COVID-19, particularly impacts in project activity areas and on the target populations.

Niger is a vast country of 1 267 000 km², two-thirds of which is near-desert, with a population of about 24 million in 2020. The project will operate in two of the country's eight regions, Dosso and Tillabéri, with respective areas of 31 000 km² for Dosso (or 2,45% of the national territory) and 97 251 km² for Tillabéri (7.6% of the territory). The informal sector is estimated to represent between 60 and 70 percent of GDP¹¹. The agricultural population in the two intervention regions is estimated at 4 958 935 people (or 31,46 percent of the country's agricultural population, estimated at 15 760 738 people¹²), including 2 450 356 women. The labor force used in agriculture in all the target communes is mainly made up of family labor.

For the period March-May 2021, 522 717 people in Tillabéri would be in a food crisis situation (phase 3 to 5 of the *Cadre Harmonisé*) and 80 414 people in Dosso, and the projection for June-August 2021 shows an increase to 535 103 (17% of the region's population) and 134 874 (5% of the population of Dosso). More information is available at <https://www.food-security.net/datas/niger/>. Among the project's target communes, those with the most food insecure households are Falwel and Loga in Dosso, and Torodi and Téra in Tillabéri.

In all of these communes, the environment is marked by a climatic regime characterized by variable rainfall ranging from 597 mm to 722 mm that is unevenly distributed in time and space, and high temperatures that tend to accentuate its aridity. In these communes, climate change is causing a significant reduction in the length of the wet season, with unfavorable and sometimes disastrous consequences on agropastoral and fodder production, which are at the root of recurring food and pastoral crises.

There is a critical problem of land denudation, particularly in the communes of the Tillabéri region, and the proliferation of invasive plants, in addition to a drastic drop in the fertility of the soil in cultivated areas, due to the silting up of the soil. Cereal crops are the main production of the populations, who grow millet, cowpeas and sorghum in order of importance, but also crops that occupy less space, such as rice, fonio and sesame. Average yields are generally low, at 350-450 kg/ha for cereal crops, while forage yields in pastoral enclaves rarely exceed 600 kg of dry matter per hectare.

The reasons for the low and fluctuating crop yields in the different communes include factors such as: (i) the low level of land fertilization; (ii) the reduction of fallow land and the extension of cropland by clearing marginal land, which favors their degradation by water and wind erosion and compromises the sustainability of their exploitation; (iii) the low technological level of current production systems; (iv) the low level of irrigation.

Animal production is showing a downward trend due to the degradation of the bromatological value of pastures under the combined effect of the desertification process, the animal load and anthropic actions on the environment. However, for a large proportion of pastoral households, they remain the only source of food and income. They currently provide 40 liters of milk and 9 kg of meat per year per person. Livestock feeding and water availability are acute issues, due to the type of extensive livestock farming, which is vulnerable par excellence to climatic shocks and to the possible existence of local pastures, the weak network and the inadequacy of water points, the difficulties of water extraction in areas where the

¹¹ Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2020; Aboubacar, 2017

¹² Final Report of the 2020 Crop Year

level of aquifer catchment is very deep (more than 60 m), the lowering of the water table, and the low level of maintenance of the works. Animal health also remains a major concern despite the beginning of the privatization of the veterinary profession.

Tillabéri and Dosso have many small irrigated perimeters and fish ponds along the Niger River and its tributaries that were damaged by the heavy floods of 2020, causing not only the loss of production but also damage to infrastructure and the loss of seed production for the following season.

In this context, since March 2020 with the first positive case of COVID-19, and with 5,741 confirmed cases and 196 deaths in the country as of August 20, 2021, Niger and the agricultural producers, particularly in the targeted communes, are experiencing a very critical situation. The restrictive measures imposed by the Government to curb the transmission of the disease have negatively impacted their already precarious living conditions, and they have also been confronted with the heavy floods during the 2020 winter season. The prohibition of regrouping and the closure of borders, especially land borders (Benin on the Dosso side and Burkina Faso and Mali on the Tillabéri side), have had a negative impact on the socio-economic life of the populations in these areas.

Specifically, the reduction in mobility, due to the restrictive measures taken by the government to mitigate the spread of the pandemic in the country, has had an impact on the prices of agricultural inputs and foodstuffs, resulting in a deterioration of the food and nutritional situation, particularly in the targeted areas, where products from Mali and Benin, such as rice, maize and cassava flour, were arriving in Tillabéri and Dosso respectively. Job losses and unusual difficulties in accessing seeds and other agricultural inputs led to a reduction in the area under cultivation and a decrease in production and household income. The exceptional difficulties in marketing their production due to: (i) high transport costs; (ii) lower prices for local products due to a drop in demand linked to the absence of the usual traders who buy following the isolation of the city of Niamey and the closure of land borders; and (iv) lower prices for animals, which had also restricted cross-border passage corridors.

Furthermore, for many of these households, these unusual marketing difficulties have resulted in the loss of a large portion of sales, especially of perishable products. Production of off-season crops, fruits, vegetables, and fodder has been hampered by a variety of factors (including lack of mobile labor) and reduced access to inputs, which may have led to shortages of some food items. Containment measures, for example, have also affected the supply of fresh vegetables in cities like Niamey.

In addition to the soaring prices of basic necessities, travel restrictions have halted the delivery of technical and, above all, food and nutritional assistance mobilized by the government and its technical and financial partners throughout the country, particularly in Tillabéri, due to the growing insecurity in the region, mainly in the border areas with Mali and Burkina Faso by the incursion of terrorist groups.

In April 2021, a good level of food supplies resumed, but with an average increase in cereal prices compared to the same period in 2020 and to the average for the past five years, and a continued improvement in animal prices, which had been adversely affected by the pandemic, with terms of trade that were slightly favorable to livestock farmers who bought cereals.

For a significant proportion of households, a nutritious diet with a variety of foods is unaffordable, representing up to 209 percent of average food expenditure (FAO et al., 2020). This proportion varies across regions, reflecting not only different income levels, but also inequality in access to food due to limited supply.

3.2 How will the proposed project address medium- to long-term COVID-19 response and recovery of the agriculture and food sectors in a changing climate and support the principle of 'building back better'?

The analysis of the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on food security, carried out in March 2020 by the National Food Crisis Prevention and Management System (DNP-GCA) through the Early Warning System Coordination Unit (CC/SAP), identified 5,6 million food insecure people, including (i) 2,7 million people

who are severely food insecure, and, (ii) 2,9 million people belonging to socio-economic strata whose main source of income is affected by the impact of COVID-19.

A study in the West African region highlights the importance of putting the informal economy and local actors and initiatives at the center of response strategies, increasing synergy and coordination in the face of multiple crises, accelerating continental integration and reaffirming the centrality of food systems¹³.

The importance of developing local markets and local and regional supply networks to be more resilient in the event of crises, not only pandemics but also security crises (which prevent movement, as is increasingly the case in some areas of Tillabéri), or floods, was highlighted. Also, the ability to have processing facilities that allow not only to add value, but in case of crisis not to depend only on the sale of raw material, sometimes perishable, which may not find an outlet, while creating local jobs.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the work of the network and the Mooriben Federation had to introduce different working mechanisms.

On the one hand the following measures: i) Mooriben has suspended all meetings (General Assembly postponed until June 2021, quarterly meetings of the Board of Directors cancelled); ii) the face-to-face training and field monitoring missions cancelled until the restrictions are removed; (iii) Mooriben's executive team has instituted telecommuting and in case of need to meet, the staff is reduced to a minimum, (iv) awareness programs on Mooriben's eight community radios on barrier actions, (v) provision of material related to hygiene that the pandemic requires (bib, hydro-alcoholized water, hand-washing device etc.).

In order to attenuate the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mooriben Federation conducted a diagnosis in its network on the impact of the pandemic and particularly on the 384 cereal banks it has. Following this diagnosis, the following measures have been taken:

- Replenishment of cereal banks that were destocked during the pandemic before the lean season and their reinforcement in capacity to provide services;
- Strengthening of income-generating activities such as livestock breeding and processing of agricultural products
- Provision of seeds and inputs (fertilizers, pesticides etc...)
- Establishment of 4 living gardens for 40 households with disabled people
- More agricultural advice to boost production

Based on these measures, Mooriben, through the project, will promote agroecology and climate-smart agricultural practices, which increase the resilience of family farms to external crises. Also, the pandemic has highlighted the need to develop processing, especially of perishable products that have suffered greatly from mobility restrictions.

3.3 What are the linkages between the proposed project activities and the strategic priorities that are relevant for the involved PO(s)?

All the proposed activities are in line with the strategic priorities of the Federation's Ten-Year Strategic Plan 2016-2025:

The activities foreseen in component 1 of the project contribute to the achievement of specific objective 6 of the ten-year strategic plan: to strengthen the human capital of Mooriben members, by enabling each one to acquire and produce knowledge for their own development and more globally for the agricultural and rural development of Niger; and 7: to renovate the structure, governance, procedures and tools of Mooriben in order to enable the organization to implement its 2016-2025 Strategic Plan by progressing towards autonomy and viability

¹³ <https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/when-a-global-virus-confronts-local-realities-coronavirus-covid-19-in-west-africa-8af7f692/>

Component 2 corresponds to strategic objectives 1 Create the conditions for the development of productive and professional family farming in Mooriben's intervention areas, by strengthening skills and access to markets and services; and in so doing, enable farmers and their families to earn a decent income from their activity; and SO 2 Contribute, in a context of climate change, to the preservation of the agricultural environment by promoting agroecological practices and the fight against invasive plants; and SO 4 : Promote the installation of young people in agriculture in Mooriben's intervention zones, and in so doing contribute to the renewal of family farming

It is however notable that the gender do not appear directly as strategic axes and that through this project, Mooriben aims at better integrating the different components of family farms in order to move towards a more inclusive rural society.

3.4 Are the proposed project activities aligned with national priorities (the country's agriculture and food security strategies, national COVID-19 Response Plan, or other approved development plans) and are any linkages to government programs proposed?

The project activities are aligned with the country's Inclusive Development and Growth Strategy (SDCI - Niger 2035), and the Economic and Social Development Plan (PDES) 2017-2021, which are the reference frameworks for development interventions in the country. The Sustainable Food Security and Agricultural Development component of the SDCI-Niger 2035, which is the 3N initiative "Nigeriens Feed Nigeriens", is the sectoral policy around which the project's components are structured, in this case 3 of the 5 global effects of the 3NI, namely global effect 1 : Agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries production are increased; general effect 3: improvement of the resilience of populations to climate change, crises and disasters and general effect 4: the nutritional status of Nigeriens is improved.

Pending a new PDES, the project is currently aligned with Program 6 "Food Security and Sustainable Agricultural Development", with the sub-programs: 6.6. Strengthening the resilience to food insecurity of the most vulnerable to shocks and crises; 6.5. Empowerment of rural women; 6.1. Development of irrigated and rainfed production; and Program 10. Sustainable management of land, water, and biodiversity.

Niger took the opportunity to present to the world its declaration for sustainable food systems by 2030, as a result of exchanges and discussions from multi-stakeholder consultations held during the months of May to August 2021, at the regional and central levels. The declaration is available in the link https://pnin-niger.org/web/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Declaration-du-Niger-pour-le-Pre-Sommet_SA_Complete.pdf. It highlights the need to develop sustainable value chains (particularly in the processing and marketing areas), professionalization of actors, and job creation for women and youth, as well as land degradation issues.

The summary note of the consultations on food systems in Niger, with the participation of the United Nations System and the Government, indicates some priority paths towards sustainable and nutrition-sensitive food systems by 2030: promoting priority value chains for food products with high nutritional and commercial potential, while ensuring environmental protection. Among these chains: the fruit and vegetable value chain must be developed with strong political commitment and predictable financing and investments over time, while favoring short supply channels and lower prices (more local production, marketing and processing than imports); the value chain for legumes, particularly cowpeas, is developing with strong potential that must be further supported to maximize the impact on nutrition and smallholder incomes. Ongoing efforts to process cowpeas and enrich them with micronutrients will be continued as production improves; the fish value chain must be strengthened and promoted; the dry cereal value chains, including millet and sorghum, are the basis of Niger's diet (...). Value addition through processing, marketing and improvement of nutritional quality through fortification is underway on a small scale and will be further promoted. The note also identifies as a priority the strengthening of research and innovation for sustainable food systems, innovative technologies for smallholders, and the promotion and strengthening of agricultural extension and advisory support. All of these priorities are consistent with this project proposal.

Section 4. Cross-cutting Themes (weighting 20%) (suggested 2-3 pages)

4.1 Does the proposed project address any of the GAFSP priority crosscutting themes?

- Gender and empowerment of women and girls
- Climate resilience
- Improved nutritional outcomes

4.2 Describe how the project will address the identified thematic focus area(s).

Gender and empowerment of women and girls

Specific issues	Activities /solutions	Expected outcomes related to the theme
Poor involvement of women and girls in the decision making of Unions and grassroots organizations, although numerous	Building the capacity of 300 women on leadership and advocacy and negotiation skills; Develop peer-to-peer learning through exchange trips between Unions Train PO on gender sensitive approach and social inclusion	Women and girls are strongly involved in grassroots organizations, and have increased their representation in the Unions and Federation
Poor access to land	Land will be rehabilitated and made available for at least 10 years to young girls and boys (at least 50% girls)	At least 200 girls have access to farmland
Low access to income sources for women and girls	Building the technical capacities of production and transformation Equipment of sustainable initiative presented by the women's OP	Women and girls have access to diversified sources of income
Poor access of women to sources of financing to undertake income-generating activities	Financial literacy training and placement of guarantee funds with MFI (monetary & financial Institution) for women's small and medium enterprises. Women's PBO have access to working capital fund Establishment of VSLA Village Savings and Loan Association	Organized women have tools to better access funding sources

Climate resilience

Specific issues	Activities /solutions	Expected outcomes related to the theme
Fluctuating start of the rainy season Rainy season shortened by at least 4 to 6 weeks Some cereal varieties do not complete their cycle	Climate-smart agriculture; Strengthen the production of adapted seeds and improve the rate of use among producers	Significant improvement in agricultural production
Increased periods of drought, And flooding events	Propose adaptation measures to CC; Climate-smart agriculture; Adapting innovative and economical irrigation systems using solar energy	Adaptation and mitigation measures implemented. Production of more drought-resistant varieties Diversification of production Reduction of production costs
Degradation of cultivable land	Recovery of degraded lands by SWC/DRS (CES/DRS) techniques	Increase in cultivable area Increase in available water through SWH/RSD techniques
Disappearance of plant species	Assisted Natural Regeneration ANR Planting with native species	Reforestation with endangered species
Insufficient fodder	Invasive plant control and fodder seeding;	Increase in fodder production

	Processing agricultural residues for livestock feed	
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Better nutritional results

Main issues	Activities /solutions	Target outcomes related to the theme
Low dietary diversification and use of local food products	Processing of agricultural products into fortified flour; Nutritional education Diversified market garden production	Target populations have a healthy and diversified diet. Behavioral change in eating habits

4.3 Specify how the participation and role of women smallholder producers will be increased in POs and smallholder producer groups as a result of the proposed project

Despite Niger's progress in promoting gender equity, several gaps remain. Niger's Gender Development Index (GDI) is 0,724 (HDI, UNDP 2020). On average, women in Niger have half the schooling years compared to men. The country has a gender inequality index of 0,642, ranking 154th out of 162 countries in the 2020 index. In Niger, only 17 percent of parliamentary seats are held by women, and 4,7 percent of adult women have attained at least a secondary education compared to 9,0 percent of their male counterparts. For every 100 000 live births, 509 women died of pregnancy-related causes; and the adolescent birth rate was 186,5 births per 1 000 women aged 15 to 19. Female labor force participation is 60,6 percent compared to 83,7 percent for men. The impact of COVID-19 is likely to exacerbate these inequalities. As such, the project will not only consider specific activities to mitigate the health and socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on women in the intervention communes (see section 4.2) but also capacity building activities for good governance of the farmers' organizations will be provided on site where the PO is constituted to facilitate women's participation and the training modules will have half-day sessions, taking into account women's availability. Women are the main target of the activities, especially with regard to technical, financial and entrepreneurial capacity building to achieve their empowerment.

Women will be prioritized for leadership training (300 women out of a total of 400 participants) and training on the gender-sensitive work approach will be carried out for all Mooriben and union staff and facilitators, with the aim of introducing affirmative actions' measures in the FOs to motivate women to assert themselves in public debates and fill responsibility positions.

Section 5. Project Implementation, Sustainability and Budget

5.1 What are the risks to achieving the proposed project's objectives and what are the potential negative externalities or spillovers that could result from the proposed project activities and targeting?

Climate change risks and vulnerabilities. The risk of exposure is high. This includes exposure to extreme temperatures, extreme precipitations, droughts and high winds. Given its geographic location, topographical and geological conditions, Niger is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to the risks of natural disasters, climate change and epidemics. Rising temperatures, changes in rainfall, and desertification in the country are leading to food insecurity and resource scarcity, including lack of water availability, which has implications for the nutritional status of the population. In addition, climate change is also exacerbating conflicts, deepening poverty, and disrupting traditional means of survival (i.e., agriculture and livestock). Extreme rainfall in the region has also produced more flooding, which can increase vector-borne and waterborne diseases. Dust storms and other high winds are becoming common in Niger, which can contaminate water supplies and also silt up farmland.

Insufficient involvement of the private sector: The private sector in Niger's food systems is very underdeveloped outside of smallholders. Smallholders participate through their PBOs in identifying their

entrepreneurial initiative.

Risk of worsening insecurity: Deterioration of the security situation, exposing populations and staff to increased threats, preventing access to project sites and/or generating unacceptable protection risks for beneficiaries. This risk is medium in the Tillabéri region. Involvement of partners and local authorities: Political commitment to the resilience building program and government support for the introduction of national vulnerability programs. Geographic focus: The intervention will focus on areas assessed by the UN as safe and secure for beneficiaries and staff. Strict application of UN security procedures and recommendations. The presence of the Mooriben unions in the communes will allow the activities to continue without the need for outside help, which is a major asset.

Implementation risk related to the COVID-19 pandemic: Delays in the implementation of some activities due to an increase in the incidence of the pandemic in the intervention areas. In this case, activities will be rescheduled. Public health barriers due to COVID-19 inhibit specific activities: activities will be planned taking into account the health restrictions put in place by the Government and the UNS with special attention to meetings, workshops and communications, using technological tools whenever possible (virtual platforms) and limiting the number of people.

For more details, see Tables E and F in Appendix 3.

5.2 What are specific design measures that will be incorporated to increase the likelihood of sustainability of the project activities or outcomes?

The maintenance and operation of the equipment installed within the framework of the project will be the responsibility of the PBOs or Union that lead the entrepreneurial initiative. To be sure of the sustainability of these initiatives, business plans will be required prior the actual disbursement of the investment, which will include not only the operating costs, but also the depreciation of the equipment and facilities.

For initiatives exceeding 2 000 USD of investment, the AGRINVEST¹⁴ tool can be used.

Also, the project will do capacity building on the administrative and financial management of the PBOs, as well as organizational (transparency, accountability, organization of work-employment). The PBOs will call on the Revolving fund (*Fonds de roulement*) established by the project, if they do not have the necessary financing to initiate the activity.

Concerning the breeding farm, the funds will be used in the form of revolving funds, which the six-year experience of Mooriben has shown to be viable and profitable. The loan to the union is made for a period of nine months, and then the Union lends to the grassroots POs that through their Credit Committee coordinate the purchase of animals that is done by the choice of the own beneficiaries. This activity is self-managed with the commitment of the beneficiaries who contribute 15% interest (for the 9 months) on the amount received for the continuation (follow-up/support, increase of the operating capital of the Union and the Federation).

The gardens of life will commercialize the surplus of their vegetable production which would allow the constitution of amortizations for the renewal of the irrigation system.

Finally, Mooriben as a federation of farmers' organizations will continue its functions, and will therefore continue its advice and monitoring of activities after the project through its vast network.

5.3 Who has been involved or consulted in the development of the Proposal?

Mooriben and FAO Niger have worked together on the development of this proposal, which started with

¹⁴ Agrinvest: AgrInvest-Food Systems Project – Political analysis of the food system in Niger. Key factors and promising value chains to improve the sustainability of the food system.
<http://www.fao.org/3/cb3742fr/cb3742fr.pdf>

a request for support from the Mooriben General Assembly¹⁵. Throughout the process, numerous stakeholders were consulted, two regional workshops (Tillabéri <https://Atelier Tillaberi> and Dosso <https://Atelier Dosso>) were held, and a final validation workshop was held in Niamey (<https://Atelier Niamey>).

Tableau 1. Consulted and involved stakeholders in developing proposal

Stakeholders	where	
Unions (OP) of Dabari/Sona, Wafakaye/Kourthey, Margou/Kollo, Potal/Torodi and Harey-bane/Téra	Tillabéri and Niamey workshops	04-05 August 31 August
Unions (OP) of Loga, Falwel, Gobéri and Karakara	Dosso and Niamey workshops	28-29 July 31 August
Conseil Régional de Tillabéri	Tillaberi workshop	04-05 August
Directeurs départementaux de l'agriculture de Tillabéri, Kollo ; Torodi et Téra	Tillaberi workshop	04-05 August
University of Tillaberi Boubakar Bâ	Tillaberi workshop	04-05 August
Observatoire droit à l'Alimentation	Tillaberi workshop	04-05 August
Directeurs départementaux de l'élevage de Tillabéri, Kollo ; Torodi et Téra	Tillaberi workshop	04-05 August
Directeurs départementaux de l'environnement de Tillabéri, Kollo ; Torodi et Téra	Tillaberi workshop	04-05 August
Directeurs départementaux de l'aménagement du territoire de Tillabéri, Kollo ; Torodi et Téra	Tillaberi workshop	04-05 August
Mayors of the communes de Kourthey, Karma Torodi and Téra	Tillaberi workshop	04-05 August
Chambre Régionale d'Agriculture de Tillabéri	Tillaberi workshop	04-05 August
FUGPN Mooriben	Tillaberi, Dosso and Niamey workshops Meetings Headquarters and exchanges on line	June-September 2021
FAO	Bureau FAO/ On line exchanges. Tillabéri, Dosso and Niamey workshops	June-September 2021
Conseil Régional de Dosso	Dosso workshop	28-29 July
Chambre Régional d'Agriculture de Dosso	Dosso workshop	28-29 July
Directeurs départementaux de l'agriculture de Loga, Diondiou et Boboye	Dosso workshop	28-29 July
Observatoire droit à l'Alimentation	Dosso workshop	28-29 July
Livestock Departemental Director of Dosso and Tillabéri Loga, Diondiou et Boboye	Dosso workshop	28-29 July
Directeurs départementaux de l'environnement de Loga, Diondiou et Boboye	Dosso workshop	28-29 July
Directeurs départementaux de l'aménagement du territoire de Loga, Diondiou et Boboye	Dosso workshop	28-29 July
Mayors of the communes of Loga, Falwel Fabidji and Karakara	Dosso workshop	28-29 July
Chambre Régionale d'Agriculture de Dosso	Dosso workshop	28-29 July
CIRAD	On line exchanges	August 2021
CBM (NGO)	Meeting in CBM Office in Niamey and on line exchanges	July-September 2021
INRAN	Meeting at the INRAN	11/08/2021
ACRA (NGO)	Meeting in ACRA Office and via email	11/08/2021
ETC Société de Transformation de Céréales (private company)	Meetings at Niamey Validation workshop in Niamey	August 2021 31/08/2021
Imaan Research	Meetings Mooriben - Imaan Research,	July-August 2021
Collège des femmes de la plateforme paysanne	Meetings at the headquarters of the peasant platform	30/07/2021

¹⁵ Procès Verbal de l'Assemblée Générale du 26 juin 2021 (pages 10-11) <https://Assemblée Generale Mooriben Juin2021>

Fédération Nationale des personnes handicapées du Niger	Réunion au siège de de l'Association	12/08/2021
Observatoire droit à l'Alimentation	Meetings at Espace Citoyen à Niamey	23/08/2021
<i>Les Pots du Sahel/Confiture du Sahel</i> . Private company	Meetings at company in Niamey	11/08/2021
MISOLA (Mil, sorgho, lait) : private company interested in fortified flours	Meeting in Niamey	Août 2021
Direction de l'Action Coopérative et de la Promotion des Organismes Ruraux (DAC/POR- MAG)	Validation workshop	31 August
<i>Réseau des Chambres d'Agriculture (RECA)</i>	Meetings July-September 2021 Final validation workshop	July-August 2021

5.4 Provide a description of the PO's structure, including membership, and services offered by the PO.

The history of the Fédération des Unions de Groupements Paysans du Niger (FUGPN), known as "Mooriben", began in 1988 when, on the initiative of IRED (*Innovation et Réseaux pour le Développement*), the first groups were created in the cantons of Téra and Sinder (M'Bida) in the Tillabéri region. Between 1989 and 1990, these groups organized themselves to give birth to the first two unions, although they did not have legal recognition because the political context and legal framework did not allow the creation of peasant organizations outside the cooperative movement established by the State. In 1993, with the advent of democracy and the consecration of individual and collective freedoms, the five unions (Téra, M'Bida, Wanzarbé, Karma and Baro Koira) structured themselves to set up a Federation with a view to obtaining official recognition. Thus, the unions of farmers' groups created the Federation - MOORIBEN - recognized by order N° 44/MAG/EL of April 14, 1993 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. It grew to fifteen (15) unions in 2000 and to twenty-seven (27) in 2010; and today, in 2021, it has twenty-nine (29) unions; one thousand five hundred and forty-one (1541) grassroots groups located in seven hundred and thirty-two (732) administrative villages with a total of fifty-seven thousand six hundred and twenty-four (57 624) members, of which 63,03% are women.

The vision of the Federation has always been conveyed through its name "Mooriben", which means "Misery is over" in the Zarma or Sonrai language. Mooriben wants to build with its members a professional, sustainable, diversified and autonomous family agriculture, with high economic, social and environmental value. This vision is based on the fact that every person has the right to food and justice. Based on this, the peasant movement is a sure way to defend this right. The peasant says he is fulfilled when he has enough to eat and drink and when his purchasing power and knowledge are satisfactory.

All 29 member unions contribute 91 USD¹⁶ (50 000 FCFA) per year for a total of 2 628 USD (1 450 000 FCFA). Otherwise, the contributions are made in each of the unions and therefore by the 1524 groups that make them up. Each PBO also contributes 27 USD per year (15 000 FCFA) for its Union operation (44 000 USD for the total of unions). There are also contributions for particular programs. Mooriben offers its members: i) agricultural advisory support (at least 2/3 of the time through outreach support by facilitators and radio broadcasts on 16 community radios); ii) financial intermediation for members' access to financing for their production, storage, processing and marketing activities, and small-scale trade (an average of 2 350 member beneficiaries per year); capacity building 750 beneficiaries per year.

Assets of the Mooriben network: Mooriben has its own headquarters at the level of the Federation estimated at a currently value of 717 781 USD (396 000 000 FCFA) and annexes estimated at a value of 280 950 USD (155 000 000 FCFA), two regional branches (Tillabéri and Dosso) with a total value of 46 674 USD (25 750 000 FCFA), 4 Toyota 4x4 vehicles; 25 unions have seats in banco. The Mooriben network has 384 cereal banks, 46 input stores and 25 stores and *warrantage* warehouses. The network has 35 motorcycles. Mooriben's assets are roughly estimated at 1 586 000 USD (875 000 000 FCFA).

Mooriben has 14 employees, including 3 women, 85 endogenous facilitators (23 in the project intervention area, including 8 women) who receive monthly allowances from Mooriben and the unions

¹⁶ Change rate: 1 USD = 551,7 FCFA or XOF, August 2021

in compensation for their time spent in close oversight of producers in their respective unions, and 650 volunteer relay farmers, members at the grassroots level, who will follow up after receiving training from facilitators and supervisors.

Each year, the average amount of members' trade amounts to 3 398 500 USD (1 875 000 000 FCFA) (cereals, vegetables, non-timber forest products, fishery products, large ruminants, small ruminants, poultry, agro-sylvo- pastoral and processed fishery products). Exceptionally, in 2021, the Mooriben Federation sold 1 440 tons of cereals to ECOWAS as part of the constitution of the sub-regional reserve stock for an amount of 725 000 USD (400 000 000 CFA francs).

The unions directly involved in this proposal are eight: Maddaben, Lakalkaney, Alhéri, Guimchiki, Harey Ben, Potal, Margou, Wafakey

Address Mooriben: 244 Rue du Béli quartier Plateau -Niamey, Niger; Tel: +227 20724079.

5.5 Describe the proposed project implementation arrangements.

Mooriben is in charge of the implementation of the activities, with FAO Niger as the supervising entity.

The Mooriben Federation will appoint a project coordinator who will be the Federation's focal point and will form part of the Steering Committee with the supervising entity. The Federation will be the direct interlocutor of the FAO and will coordinate all the staff made available by their unions in the two regions.

The Unions: they are the link between Mooriben and the grassroots PBOs. They provide their staff and facilitators. They will provide all the proximity support through agricultural advice provided by the facilitators. The unions will be responsible for close monitoring of field activities. They are an important link in the monitoring, evaluation and reporting system.

The Producer Based Organizations PBOs: they rely on volunteers among their members who act as a relay between the facilitators of the unions and their own co-members for the monitoring of activities.

FAO will be responsible for technical supervision and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) through its staff based in Niamey and the sub-regional office, with support by sub-regional office in Dakar and HQ if required. Technical experts and expert staff in M&E, communication and knowledge management officer will be part-time on this project.

The Ministry of Agriculture and its decentralized services (Regional Directorates of Dosso and Tillabéri), Departmental Directorates (Loga, Diondiou, Boboye, Tillabéri, Kollo, Torodi and Téra) and communal directorates have a technical monitoring role.

The Ministry of the Environment: their technical services will support training and monitoring for the rehabilitation of degraded land

The Ministry of Livestock: their technical services will monitor the health status of the animals through their communal livestock service.

The mayors: they will participate from the start of the project and will be associated with the targeting and recovery of degraded land.

The COFOBs: the Basic Land Commissions. They are in charge of land tenure at the village level, and will therefore be involved in the regularization of land made available to farmers within the framework of this project.

The RECA *Réseau des Chambres d'Agriculture du Niger*, to which Mooriben belongs, provides its premises as well as advisory support.

5.6 Describe the proposed financial and implementation arrangements between the SE and the PO.

The FAO Representative in Niger will be the Budget Holder of grant received from GAFSP and the FAO representation will provide administrative and operational support to the project.

An Implementation Coordination Unit (ICU) will be responsible to planning, budgeting and monitoring the project-funded activities. The Unit will consist of an FAO Coordinator and a Mooriben Coordinator based in Niamey, with an administrative assistant. Its personnel is dedicated to planning and budgeting the project activities, managing sub-agreements with third implementation partners, technical supervision and quality control, gender equality and social inclusion, and monitoring and evaluation. The ICU core personnel will be supported by a FAO Procurement Specialist, a Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, and an Operation Specialist. Also, the ICU will have support by Mooriben and FAO technical experts, and the decentralized Mooriben and FAO teams at the regional level (Dosso et Tillabéri).

FAO will act as a supervisory entity. Letter/s of Agreement (LoA) will be established with Mooriben according to standard FAO procedures, and on the basis of a jointly program of activities established. Mooriben is the implementing partner.

The revolving fund will follow the FAO procedures.

The public sector (INRAN, decentralized structures of the MAG, the MEL and the Ministry of the Environment, etc.) and the private sector will also be involved according to the skills needed for the effective implementation of the activities. Mooriben will sign direct agreements with other project partners: research institutes, CIRAD or CBM.

The supply of equipment and infrastructure will be acquired through FAO Procurement procedures. FAO will be responsible for the purchase of the vehicle and motorcycles (which will be transferred to Mooriben and the unions) and for the M&E Plan.

As technical and financial supervising entity, FAO technical experts will be associated on a part-time basis to the different activities depending of the requirements expressed by Mooriben and the monitoring of activities. For example, within the framework of the AGRINVEST Initiative, an expert in value chains is also present at FAO Niger and will be able to make the link with the private sector among others; as well as experts in rainfed agriculture, infrastructure, gender, nutrition, livestock, farmers' organizations. Other FAO staff that will be involved are a financial officer, an administrative officer, an operations officer, an operation assistant and an administrative assistant.

Depending on the field of expertise, training workshops, generally training of trainers -the union leaders- will be organized by FAO and Mooriben.

Mooriben will provide the project with a coordinator, a person in charge of monitoring and evaluation, an accountant, a driver, a secretary-cashier, a logistician, 16 facilitators, a guard and 50 volunteer relay farmers. Mooriben and its unions staff and facilitators will be paid directly by the POs

5.7 Present the overall project budget using the *Tables A, B and C in Annex 1.*

The overall project budget is 3 047 000 USD. The total financing solicited from the GAFSP to execute the project components is 2 707 000 USD.

CBM will be a co-financing partner (<https://Letter of intent of co-financing CBM>).

See annex 1 for more details

5.8 PO's readiness

Mooriben and FAO, the supervising entity for this proposal, are a long-time partner. Indeed, from 2006 to 2020 Mooriben has signed and executed 13 Letters of Agreement, the most recent experiences are: in 2018 Mooriben has supervised the establishment of 66 Agropastoral Field Schools (*Champ Ecole Agropastoral*) in the two regions of Dosso and Tillabéri. In 2019, the establishment and animation of 41 rainfed CEAP for the 2019 season and 12 market gardening CEAP during the 2019/2020 season in the Dosso

region; And in 2020, for the establishment and facilitation of 20 rainfed CEAP for the 2020 season in the Dosso region.

Mooriben has the experience of managing funds from FAO related to 13 Letters of Agreement, for a total amount of 125 000 USD; funds from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), from 2000 to 2020: 7 agreements of 3 years each, for a total amount of 4 221 260 €; from SOS Faim Luxembourg from 2006 to 2016 for a total amount 755 800 €; Care International 2 agreements; 3 agreements with Oxfam International from 2006 to 2016; research-action agreements with ICRISAT, and INRAN; IRAM on AFD funding in the framework of the 3 Frontiers Project 3 agreements from 2019 to 2021; ECOWAS: 2020-2022 amounting to 267 000 €; with CIRAD of Montpellier 4 conventions from 2017 to 2021; UDDM University of Maradi; Abdou Moumouni University of Niamey.

Over the past 5 years, the main activities of the Mooriben Federation with external donors are:

Main activities	External donor
Setting up and oversight of CEAPs	FAO
Agricultural advisory	Swiss cooperation, CCFD, Oxfam international, ECOWAS, LUXDEV (Luxembourg Cooperation) IRAM/AFD
Promoting agroecological practices	Swiss cooperation; e CCFD ; CEDEAO ; NEPAD, CARE International) ;
Financial intermediation to facilitate its members' access to credit with the establishment of 2 guarantee funds in 2 financial institutions in Niger	FAO, CCFD SOS Faim Luxembourg
Promotion of agroforestry for the protection of productive potential against water and wind erosion	ECOWAS
Training the youth on value chains (cowpea, peanut, rice and market gardening)	Luxembourg Cooperation
Pisciculture	SWUISAID, Swiss cooperation
Reconstitution of the livestock of the deprived populations	Suiss cooperation ; ECOWAS ; AFD ; NEPAD
Research-action	Icrisat, INRAN, McKnight foundation via CIRAD, Dan Diko Dan koulodo University

In 2021, the Mooriben Federation sold 1 440 tons of cereals to ECOWAS as part of the constitution of the sub-regional reserve stock for an amount of 725 000 USD (400 000 000 F CFA).



Annex 1 – Project Budget Tables

Table A: Summary of Overall Project Funding

Funding Source	Amount (USD)	Has this funding been secured (Yes/No)?
GAFSP grant amount requested	2 707 000	n/a
PO co-financing ¹⁷	75 000	Yes
Other Funding Sources (<i>SE, ODA, international NGOs, etc.</i>)		
- CBM	265 000 (*)	Yes
<i>Add rows as needed</i>		
Total Project Funding	3 047 000	

The amount of CBM funding corresponds to 75 000 € per year. The total amount reflected is calculated with exchange rate of 1 € = 1,179 USD (1 September 2021)

¹⁷ Include financial contributions only. Additional information on financial and in-kind contributions can be described under question B.3.



Table B: Detailed Project Budget (for each component indicate who will administer the funds and manage procurement – SE or PO)

NOTE: FAO is accountable for the use of funds received form GAFSP and will manage and monitor LoAs. FAO will transfer funds to Mooriben following established procedures and according to technical specifications agreed with Mooriben, which will also be responsible for their management.

Components	Activities	GAFSP Funding Requested		Other Funding Sources Amount (US\$)
		Amount Requested (US\$)	Fund management and procurement (SE or PO)	
Component 1. Organizational strengthening of the Unions and POs members of the Mooriben federation in Dosso and Tillabéri.	Activity 1.1.1. Support for establishing an organizational, financial and economic reference situation of the targeted PBOs (300), based on a participatory diagnosis.	80 000	FAO/Mooriben	
	Activity 1.1.2. Support to grassroots PBOs to comply with the OHADA act, and strengthening of the members of 504 PBOs (members of 8 unions) on the rules and operational principles of farmers' organizations	37 000	Mooriben	2 000
	Activity 1.1.3. Capacity building of technicians and board members of unions (5 members/ Union) and the Federation Board (12) on their roles and responsibilities.	27 000	FAO/Mooriben	
	Activity 1.2.1. Strengthening the economic and financial management of grassroots POs, unions and the MOORIBEN federation	133 000	FAO/ Mooriben	10 000
	Activity 1.2.2. Strengthening the leadership, advocacy and negotiation skills of 400 people, including 300 women	34 000	Mooriben	
	Activity 1.2.3. Finalizing of the three-year operational plan of Mooriben 2022-2024 (currently being designed with Mooriben's own funds) and design of the operational plans of the 8 unions	33 000	FAO/Mooriben	8 000
	Activity 1.2.4. Develop peer learning through exchange trips between unions	22 000	Mooriben	2 000
	Activity 1.3.1. Capacity building for POs on gender responsive approaches (Mooriben and Unions teams, facilitators, Mooriben Board)	47 000	FAO/Mooriben	
	Activity 1.3.2. Capacity building for non-violent conflict management related to natural resource access and management	47 000	FAO	
	Activity 1.3.3. Capacity building of members on how to take into account the social inclusion of people with disabilities in development actions			24 000
Component 2. The Producers'	Activity 2.1.1. Conduct market studies at local, regional and national levels (pre-identified examples of value chains: fish farming; improved flours; sesame; cowpeas)	32 000	FAO	

organizations (Unions and BPO) develop resilient and adapted value chains to improve food and nutritional security in the intervention communes	Activity 2.1.2. Development/revision of business plans at the level of Unions and PBOs (already initiated in some Unions with support from the Mooriben Federation)	34 000	FAO	2 000
	Activity 2.1.3. Creation of a revolving fund to finance PBO initiatives, in particular those managed by women (after analysis of their business plan).	448 000	FAO/Mooriben	139 000
	Activity 2.1.4. Creation of solidarity-based micro-credit systems or Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs), especially among women's groups	33 000	Mooriben	10 000
	Activity 2.2.1. Building capacities of agricultural producers, through Unions and PBOs, to protect, recover and improve their productive assets Sub-activity 2.2.1.1 Recovery and development of 400 hectares of degraded land and their provision to 400 youth (girls and boys); Sub-activity 2.2.1.2. Establishment of forest/fruit plant nurseries that will be used for the recovery of degraded lands Sub-activity 2.2.1.3. Protection of family land farms against water and wind erosion through ANR and reforestation with forest seedlings Sub-activity 2.2.1.4. Capacity building on natural risk management (drought and floods) and adaptation to climate change	319 000	FAO/Mooriben	
	Activity 2.2.2. Development of more resilient and profitable agriculture and fish farming, through climate-smart agriculture and agroecology and the integration of new technologies, for a better integration of food value chains	388 000	FAO/Mooriben	3 000
	Activity 2.2.3 Capacity building of the seed chain PBOs in Falwel (Dosso) and Tera (Tillabéri)	63 000	FAO/Mooriben	
	Activity 2.3.1. Support to the processing activities of the FOs in the agrifood value chains, integrating new technologies.	58 000	FAO/Mooriben	20 000
	Activity 2.4.1. Support to the marketing of PBOs and Unions	52 000	FAO/Mooriben	
	Activity 2.4.2 Promotion/facilitation/strengthening of commercial partnerships between POs and the private sector	95 000	FAO/Mooriben	
	Activity 2.5.1. Promote the diversification of external financing for PBOs and Unions	56 000	FAO	
	Activity 2.6.1. Establish social inclusive living gardens in 16 villages (2 villages per intervention commune).	117 000	Mooriben	40 000
	Activity 2.6.2. Nutritional education for participating households in the living gardens and schools in the villages concerned	76 000	FAO/Mooriben	



Component 3: Coordination, monitoring and capitalization of the project	Activity 3.1.1 Elaboration of scientific publications on the project results (University of Tillabéri, INRAN, CIRAD and Imaan Research)			13 000
	Activity 3.1.2. Conduct a study on the impact of agro-ecological practices on the restoration of biodiversity and agrosystems (Mooriben, CIRAD and Imaan Research)			15 000
	Activity 3.1.3: Identify and develop good practice sheets from project actions	25 000	FAO	
	Activity 3.1.4. Improve Mooriben visibility: publication on its website, RECA website and social networks	18 000	FAO/MOORIBEN	5 000
	Activity 3.2.1. Coordination at central and regional levels	167 000	FAO/Mooriben	45 000
	Activity 3.2.2. Administrative and financial management of the project	118 000	FAO	
	Activity 3.2.3. Monitoring and evaluation system (establishment of baseline and endline, etc.) and joint FAO-Mooriben monitoring missions to the field	85 000	FAO/Mooriben	
	Activité 3.2.4. Communication	25 000	FAO	2 000
	Activity 3.2.5. Mid-term and final evaluations	38 000	FAO	
TOTAL BUDGET FOR ALL COMPONENTS	2 707 000		340 000	

B.1. Clarify the underlying assumptions for the proposed budget: For example, indicative unit costs for major investments including how derived, training and workshops, program coordination costs, additional budget notes, etc.

Indicative unit costs :

Recovery of degraded land: :

Labor : 240 USD/ha ; daily salary 2,5 USD/man-day according to the standards established by the technical services of the Ministry and the PTF::

- *Banquettes* : 6 banquettes/ha, with 20 800 FCFA/ banquette : 124 000 FCF/ha
- Half-moon *Demi-lune* (DL): 3 DL/HJ ; 1300 FCFA/HJ and 313 DL/ha, 135 650 FCFA/ ha
- Dune fixation 130 000 FCFA/ha for mechanical fixation including the search for materials by the beneficiaries

Assisted Natural Regeneration ARN

- Pour les banquettes : 15 plants/banquette (90 plants/ha) + herbaceous seeding :3Kg of seeds/ha
- Half-moon (*Demi-lune*): 1 plant/DL (313 plants/ha) + herbaceous seeding:3Kg /ha
- Fixation de dune : 400 plants/ha + herbaceous seeding :4 à 5Kg de semences /ha

To these costs must be added training on SWR/DRS techniques and technical monitoring (with the participation of the Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and FAO)

Pond for the production of fish fingerlings for pisciculture

- ✓ Pond recovery including solar pump and securing enclosure : 10 000 USD (5,5 millions de FCFA)
- ✓ Equipment for fish seeding of permanent and semi-permanent ponds, including a tricycle for transporting fish fingerlings to the ponds: 5 000 USD

Market gardening “Jardin de vie” (1 ha):

Irrigation system including solar pump: 2 500 USD

Well or borehole: 5 000-15 000 USD

Training of Trainers:

The trainings will reach an average of 22 people (and maximum 25)

Transport inter regions: 27 USD

Transport residents: 9 USD

Perdiem 27 USD (15 000 FCFA)

Coffee break: 4 USD/ person

Lunch: 7,3 USD/ person

Training room in case (Mooriben has training room in Dosso and Tillabéri, and RECA will provide its training room in Niamey): 180 USD/ day

Livestock family kits

Kits 3 animals with vaccines and deworming: 185 USD/Kit

Fortified flours:

Equipment and unit infrastructure:18-20 000 USD average

Program coordination costs :



FAO staff (Coordination Unit): 71 000 USD
Operation and administrative staff: 64 000 USD
Personnel Mooriben : 25 000 USD
Travel and per diem: 8 000 USD
FAO Technical support service: 10 000 USD
4x4 vehicle for Mooriben to follow up activities in the field: 50 000 USD

M&E:

Base line/ end line: 32 000 USD
Training of baseline surveyors: 5 000 USD
M&E FAO national expert: 2500 USD/month (part-time in the project, 6 months/ 3 years)
Travels: 10 000 USD
Equipment (tablets and other): 10 000 USD

Evaluation, mid-term and final evaluation: 38 000 USD

B.2. Will the PO provide any financial or in-kind contribution to the project?

Federation will contribute in-kind and financial support to the project.

Mooriben's in-kind contributions:

- The Federation's office in Niamey;
- An additional vehicle;
- 8 additional motorcycles;
- Union headquarters and meeting rooms at the OP level for training.

In financial terms, Mooriben will contribute to the project for an amount of 75 000 US dollars that will finance, among others, the payment of salaries (Monitoring and evaluation expert, Executive secretary, Technical operations manager, Relay farmers and 7 facilitators)

Annex 2 – Proposal Stage Results Monitoring Matrix

Table D. GAFSP Tier 1 and Tier 2 Core Indicators

#	Tier 1 impact indicators for all GAFSP projects	Check if Yes
1	Food and nutrition security ▶ Mandatory Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) indicator and optional indicators are Food Consumption Score (FCS), Minimum Dietary Diversity-Woman (MDD-W) and Minimum Dietary Diversity - Children (MDD-C)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Household income	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Crop yield (apply only to those projects with explicit productivity gain goals)	<input type="checkbox"/>
#	Tier 2 indicators for all GAFSP projects, <i>Mandatory Breakdowns</i> [†] (unit) ▶ Indicator notes	
1	Number of beneficiaries reached, gender disaggregated, percentage who have been helped to cope with impact of climate change ^{††} ▶ People receiving benefits from the project. ▶ Disaggregation for gender and those receiving Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA)-specific support.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Land area receiving improved production support, <i>percentage of these that are climate smart</i> (ha) ▶ Area that adopted new inputs/practices, new/rehabilitated irrigation services, land registration, etc. ▶ Disaggregation for climate-smart interventions.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Number of smallholders receiving productivity enhancement support, gender disaggregated, climate-smart agriculture support ▶ Number of end-users who directly participated in project activities. ▶ Includes technology/technique adoptees, water users with improved services, those who had land rights clarified, people offered new financing/risk management services. ▶ Using CSA approaches.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Number of producer-based organizations supported (number) ▶ Relevant associations established or strengthened by project.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Volume of agriculture loans that are outstanding. ▶ Volume of outstanding loans for agriculture and agribusiness in a financial institution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6	Percentage of beneficiaries with secure rights to land, property, and natural resources (percent of total beneficiaries) ^{††} ▶ Measured as those with legal documentation or recognized evidence of tenure and those who perceive their rights are recognized and protected.	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Roads constructed or rehabilitated, percentage resilient to climate risks (km) ▶ All-weather roads built, reopened, rehabilitated, or upgraded by project. ▶ Percentage that are designed to withstand changes in climate.	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Number of post-harvest facilities constructed and/or rehabilitated (number) ▶ Includes markets, agro-processing/storage/quality control facilities.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9	Volume of agricultural production processed by post-harvest facilities established with GAFSP support, <i>by food group</i> (tons) ▶ Tons of total produce processed sorted by 10 major FAO food groups.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10	People benefiting from cash or food-based transfers, <i>gender disaggregated</i> (number of people) ▶ Number of people who benefited from cash or food transfer interventions.	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	People receiving improved nutrition services and products, <i>gender disaggregated, age disaggregated</i> (number of people) ▶ Number of people who received nutrition counseling/education, recipients of Ready-to-use-Therapeutic Foods, bio-fortified foods, and Vitamin A and micronutrient supplements. ▶ Number of people receiving extension support for nutrition-relevant techniques (e.g., homestead gardens, Farmer Field School support, etc.).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12	<i>Direct employment provided; gender disaggregated</i> (full-time equivalent) ▶ Number of direct employees in a client company. ▶ Part time jobs aggregated to full-time equivalent.	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Persons receiving capacity development, <i>gender disaggregated, organization type</i> (number of people) ▶ Agricultural and non-agricultural rural training and capacity building support provided. ▶ Distinguishes between individual producers/household members, civil society organization staff, and government officials.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
14	Number of substantive deliverables on food security processes completed (number) ▶ Measures “soft support” for institutional development provided through discrete deliverables. ▶ Deliverables include policy studies, strategies and plans, best practices, and lessons learned, among others.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Note: The definitions for the Tier 2 indicators can be found on pgs. 24 – 27 of the [GAFSP M&E Plan](#)

Table E. Proposal Stage Results Monitoring Matrix

Impact/ Result/ Output	Indicators ¹⁸	Unit of measurement	Baseline ¹⁹	End-of-project target	Data sources (Data collection instruments)
Indicateurs au niveau du projet					
Improve the income, food security and nutrition of the populations of the Dosso and Tillabéri regions in Niger	I.1. Food and nutrition. Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	Percent %	TBD	TBD	Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) questionnaire
	I.2. Minimum Dietary Diversity-Woman (MDD-W))	% of women with minimum diversity diet	TBD	+20%	Baseline, mid-term and final survey
	I.3. Household income	USD/Household average or FCFA/HH	TBD	+20%	Baseline, mid-term and final survey
Indicateurs au niveau des composantes²⁰					
Component 1					
Result 1. Mooriben's member organizations -unions and PBOs- have good governance.	I.4. Number of producer-based organizations supported (number)	Number	0	512 (504 PBO+8 Unions)	"checklist" tool about the governance of the PO which measures (democracy; transparency; financial management, etc.)
- Output 1.1. PBO comply with the Uniform Act on Cooperative Societies (OHADA) by building their legal and organizational capacities	I.5. Number of producer-based organizations legally established in accordance with OHADA	Number	204	414	Legal compliant records NIF (<i>Numéro d'identification fiscale</i>) ^{of PO}

¹⁸ If any cross-cutting themes were selected in Section 3.1, this table must include some indicators that correspond to the selected theme(s).

¹⁹ If this is unknown, write TBD (to be determined).

²⁰ Indiquer les indicateurs pouvant clairement représenter, dans la chaîne de résultats, les liens de cause à effet qui résorbent l'écart entre l'état actuel et les objectifs (indicateur de haut niveau souhaité). Idéalement, il y a au moins un indicateur de résultat et le ou les indicateurs de produit correspondants sous chaque composante

Impact/ Result/ Output	Indicators ¹⁸	Unit of measurement	Baseline ¹⁹	End-of-project target	Data sources (Data collection instruments)
- Output 1.2. Unions and PBOs apply sound economic and financial management	I.6. Number of producer-based organizations with financial and economic capacities strengthened	Number	0	300	
- Output 1.3: The gender approach and social inclusion are known and applied by PO member and reflected in the Union strategic plans	I.7. % of leadership positions in POs held by women	%	TBD	50%	Member lists of OP Boards
	I.8.% of women participating as staff or facilitators in POs	%	29%	40%	List of PO staff List of PO facilitators
Component 2					
Result 2: Agricultural productivity, processing and market access of smallholders, especially women, who are members of POs are improved	I.9 Number of smallholders receiving productivity enhancement support, gender disaggregated, climate-smart agriculture support, including technology, water users with improved services, those who had land rights clarified, people offered new financing/risk management services,etc.	Number of people gender and age disaggregated	0	9 900	List of participants for each activity by commune/village
- Output 2.1. The Unions accompany their organized PBOs members in the development of their business plans, with a view to ensuring their empowerment, access to markets and economic viability.	I.10.Number of PO business plans	Number	0	45	Business Plan documents
- Output 2.2. Farmers' organizations	I.11. Number of	Number of people	0	4500	List of participants for each

Impact/ Result/ Output	Indicators ¹⁸	Unit of measurement	Baseline ¹⁹	End-of-project target	Data sources (Data collection instruments)
provide their members with access to innovative and resilient production techniques that enable them to improve their productivity.	smallholders receiving productivity enhancement support, gender disaggregated, climate-smart agriculture support I.12. Land area receiving improved production support, percentage of these that are climate smart (Area that adopted new inputs/practices, new/rehabilitated irrigation services, land registration, etc.)	gender and age disaggregated ha	0	400 ha	activity by commune/village Rehabilitation of degraded lands reports COFOB registration Report of the works of development of irrigated perimeters
- Output 2.3. Farmers' organizations have access to innovative and resilient processing knowledge, which enables them to improve their productivity and quality.	I.13. Volume of agricultural production processed by post-harvest facilities established with GAFSP support, by food group	Tons of total produce processed sorted by 10 major FAO food groups	TBD	+150%	Production register of processed products for each PO involved
- Output 2.4. Unions and PBO increase their markets	I.14. Volume of PBO sales	Tons	TBD	+200% tons	Contracts of sales
- Output 2.5. Unions and PBO access diversified sources of financing	I.15. Volume of outstanding loans for agriculture and agribusiness in a financial institution I.16. Number of PO (unions and PBO) with	USD (or Franc CFA) Number of OP	TBD TBD	+50% +200%	Loan documents

Impact/ Result/ Output	Indicators ¹⁸	Unit of measurement	Baseline ¹⁹	End-of-project target	Data sources (Data collection instruments)
	access to external financing sources				
- Output 2.6 Nutritional levels are improved in the 16 villages where living gardens, irrigated perimeters, are established.	I.17. Number of people who received nutrition counseling/education, recipients of Ready-to-use-Therapeutic Foods, bio-fortified foods.	Number of people gender and age disaggregated	0	1 500 persons	Participant list List of people with a living garden
	I.18. Number of people receiving extension support for nutrition-relevant techniques (e.g., homestead gardens, Farmer Field School support, etc.)..	Number of people gender and age disaggregated	0	TBD	
Component 3					
Result 3. Project coordination, monitoring and capitalization are ensured	I.19. Percentage of beneficiaries "satisfied" or more in the target areas with the services offered by the project	% of beneficiaries Gender disaggregated	0	85%	Beneficiaries satisfaction surveys
- Output 3.1. Visibility and capitalization of project actions	I.20. Number of products relating to best practices and lessons learned	Number	0	At least 4 themes: -Organizational - Climate Smart Agriculture and agroecology - Nutrition - OP financing	Products in its formats (written document; video; phonic radio capsules, etc.)
- Output 3.2. Coordination, management and monitoring of the project are ensured	I.21. Monitoring & Evaluation Plan	Number	0	100% of indicators filled in	Monotoring Matrix Baseline/ endline



Impact/ Result/ Output	Indicators ¹⁸	Unit of measurement	Baseline ¹⁹	End-of-project target	Data sources (Data collection instruments)
	I.22. Surveys done	Number	0	4 (baseline, endline, Mid-term and final evaluation)	Mid term evaluation Final evaluation repots
	I.23 Technical and financial progress reports	Number	0	3 (1 per year)	Progress reports

Annex 3 - Risks and Negative Externalities

F. Describe important potential risks to *achieving the project's development objective(s)* based on the scale, complexity, duration, and magnitude of proposed project activities and operations. Provide an assessment of the likelihood (probability) and risk rating (severity, impact) of the risks, and proposed mitigation measures. Add additional rows to the table for additional risks, if needed.

Table F: Project Risk Assessment

Risk	Likelihood (L, M, H)	Risk rating (L, M, H)	Risk description	Proposed mitigation measures
Technical design²¹: Risk that technical design could affect the project from reaching its objectives	L	L	Stakeholders have proven experience in project design. However, if the data collected and used as a baseline were inaccurate, this could influence the achievement of the performance indicators.	A baseline study is planned to determine the indicators mentioned in TBD and confirm those determined.
Institutional capacity for implementation²²: Risk that there is insufficient capacity to implement the project	L	L	Cumbersome and/or slow administrative and financial procedures Delay in the start of the project Disinterest of the beneficiaries and loss of confidence in the project Mooriben staff don't have gender-sensitive capacities and resources for the design and implementation of inclusive plans; and/or they are not willing to work with gender sensitive approaches	FAO support Mooriben in capacity building to manage the Letter of Agreement and FAO procedures; and with expertise in implementation (nutrition expert, gender expert, CSA expert, etc.) FAO Niger has a gender expert who builds the capacity of Mooriben in gender sensitive CBM supports inclusive activities with people with disabilities
Non-adherence of PBOs to certain activities	L	M	Some PBOs are reluctant to undertake certain activities such as compliance with the new legislation on PBOs (OHADA)	Mooriben has already started this process with 40% of the PBOs of the participating Unions (204 out of 504), so it knows the procedures and how to accompany PBOs in the process. In any case, the process will be started with the largest number of PBOs and already those that are compliant can participate in the development entrepreneurial activities.

²¹ Indicative list of risks to assess: the technical complexity of the project; the extent to which project design is informed by analytical work; adequacy of number of components and subcomponents; past experience in designing and implementing similar operations; whether the design incorporates or relies on untested or unfamiliar technologies and processes; the extent to which project benefits dependent on external factors beyond the scope of the project.

²² Indicative list of risks to assess: the complexity of the institutional arrangements (at central and local levels) such as number of implementing entities involved; geographical spread of project intervention areas and remoteness of these areas; experience of proposed implementing agency with similar scaled projects with international organizations.

G. Describe important potential negative externalities or spillover effects *that could arise from the project implementation* based on the scale, complexity, duration, and magnitude of project activities and operations, as well as an assessment of likelihood (probability) and risk rating (severity, impact) of the risks and proposed mitigation measures. Add additional rows to the table for additional potential negative externalities, if needed.

Table G: Evaluation of Negative Externalities

Potential Negative Externalities	Likelihood (L, M, H)	Risk rating (L,M,H)	Description of potential negative externalities	Proposed mitigation measures
Environmental ²³	M	M	Degradation of cultivable land Siltation Recovery of degraded land Drought or flood	Promotion of ANR Promote agroecological practices Introduction of the CSA technique Disaster risk reduction training The possibility of a temporary suspension of operations due to floods is possible but the work-plan take into account the rain season, and the construction of the infrastructures will be made considering preventive measures against natural risks.
Social ²⁴	L	M	Conflicts over the occupation of land for agricultural purposes	The process will be carried out with the consensus of Majors of communes and basic land commissions (COFOB) in villages Training on natural resource conflict resolution
	L	L	Social exclusion of certain groups for income generating activity (IGA)	To avoid social exclusion of certain groups (women, young people, disabled) for the granting of support to IGA, a participation quota for young people and women is established and activities to strengthen the capacities of vulnerable groups will be developed
Gender	L	L	Male PO members do not approve of women being predominantly beneficiaries and blocking certain activities	Sensitization on gender equity at PO level
COVID-19 Pandemic	M	H	Establishment of a health emergency Containment of populations Delay in the implementation of	Compliance with barrier measures Limitation of face-to-face meetings of the project team

²³ This could include the potential effects on natural resources such as water sources, forests, and protected areas; potential effects on biodiversity; and where appropriate, potential impacts on the climate arising from unchecked anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and short-lived climate pollution (SLCPs).

²⁴ This could include the potential effects on human health and safety; the nature, scale and duration of social effects such as the need for land acquisition and/or involuntary resettlement; potential impacts on, equity, and indigenous peoples; and potential impacts on physical cultural resources.

			project activities	
Insecurity	M (in 2/4 of Tillaberi communes)	H	Limitation of movements Mistrust between communities and monitoring and implementing agents Displacement of populations Abandonment of fields and pastoral areas Delay in project implementation	Scheduling flexibility and responsiveness: Activities can be rescheduled quickly and efficiently depending on security conditions and / or temporarily suspended to allow for in-depth security assessments
	L (other 6 communes)	M		

For Likelihood: L (low probability), M (moderate probability), or H (high probability).

For Risk rating: L (low risk or impact), M (moderate risk or impact), or H (high risk or impact).



Annex 4 - Prior GAFSP Grant(s)

Provide details about each prior GAFSP grant (from the GAFSP Missing Middle Initiative) the PO has received (if applicable). **NOT APPLICABLE**

Project Name	
Country	
Responsible Implementing Entity	
Responsible Supervising Entity	
GAFSP Grant Amount and Amount Disbursed	Total Grant: US\$ Amount Disbursed (date): US\$
Grant Approval Date	
Project Status (active or closed)	
Project Closing Date	
Project Implementation Update <i>(implementation progress, results, challenges, etc.)</i>	
Most recent/last SE Implementation Rating for (i) achieving project objectives and (ii) implementation progress.	
Will the project proposed under this proposal build on or be linked to this prior GAFSP grant? If so, in what way?	

(copy table in case of multiple prior grants)

Annex 5 - Proposal Preparation Team

List the names, titles, organizations and email addresses of the core members of the Proposal preparation team (including private consultants and Supervising Entity staff, if any, who directly contributed to completing the Proposal Template). Do not include individuals who participated in wider consultation meetings or workshops held as part of the preparation of the Proposal; their participation and influence in proposal development will have been described in 5.3.

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Annex 6 – Commitment letters

CBM Christian Blind Mission : <https://Letter of intent of co-financing CBM>

CIRAD : <https://Letter CIRAD>

INRAN Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique du Niger : <https://Letter INRAN Niger>

Université Boubakar Ba de Tillabéri : <https:// University of Tillaberi Commitment letter>

Imaan Research : <https://Imaan Research>

Pots du Sahel : <https://Letter Pots du Sahel>

RECA Réseau des Chambres d’Agriculture du Niger: <https://lettre engagement RECA>