



**AVRDC**

**The World Vegetable Center**

## **Improving Vegetable Production and Consumption in Mali, Phase II**

### **Brief Monthly Report (1 – 31 August 2013)**

Title: Improving Vegetable Production and Consumption in Mali, Phase II

Author: Dr. Albert Rouamba (review by Dr. Victor Afari-Sefa)

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Annelie Öberg  
Grants & Partnership Development  
Tel: +886-6-583-7801 ext. 130  
Email: [annelie.oberg@worldveg.org](mailto:annelie.oberg@worldveg.org)  
[www.avrdc.org](http://www.avrdc.org)

## **1. Introduction**

This brief Feed the Future (FtF) monthly report outlines the main activities / provide highlights of major events or achievements in the project “Improving Vegetable Production and Consumption in Mali (Sikasso), Phase II in compliance with USAID requirements.

## **2. Current and up-coming consultations/visitors**

During this reporting period, we have received the visit of a team from ACCELERATED ECONOMIC GROWTH of USAID Mali Mission composed of Oumarou Camara and Aminata Diarra respectively the Monitoring and Evaluation officer and the mission Environmental officer on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2013 in two of our demonstration sites: Molobala and Soukourani. The objective of the visit was for the visitors to review and evaluate data collection tools used by AVRDC field agents and to verify data and discuss data quality and environmental compliance. After this important visit, the following major achievements have been reached:

- Data collection tools have been shared and will serve as background document to the sites and to be compiled by the regional antenna of Sikasso.
- Environmental compliance is a requirement for all USAID funded projects, so, the EMMP was provided with the project work plan. Emphasis is on training aimed to make and use plant extracts and other local products to control pests and diseases. Specifically in Molobala and other locations where the garden is close to a water body, it is required all treatment to control pests and diseases be accomplished with natural products in order to avoid water pollution.

## **3. Current key activities and events of the reporting period**

### **3.1 Key activities**

Like several agro-ecological zones in Mali, the project implementation areas experienced a severe drought at the beginning of the season, which delayed the implementation of the field experiments, notably vegetable sowing and the transplanting dates. Nevertheless, the vegetable varietal trials and best practices demonstration plots for the 2013 rainy season production are implemented not only in the project hub sites but also in the satellite villages. This allows us to practice with recipients, participative performance assessment of new vegetable varieties and at the same time having sufficient productions to apply postharvest techniques, processing and cooking demonstrations. Now, we may notice the end of sowing for all vegetable species, the pursuing of weeding and fertilizing for some of them and starting the harvest mainly of okra. Tomato, eggplants and hot pepper are flowering. The main monitoring activities are as follow:

- Monitoring demonstration tests in the hubs and the satellites villages
- Monitoring varietal trials in the hubs and the satellites villages
- Establishment of windbreaks in the demonstration plots
- Investigations to evaluate the application of new technologies or management practices by project recipients

- Monitoring of the construction of facilities for input storage for vegetable production and for training
- Monitoring of environmental mitigation activities

### 3.2 Events

Training sessions were given such as:

- The project field technicians and Paje Nieta volunteers attended training on GPS unit usage. This session was organized by Paje Nieta, an NGO funded by USAID.
- Seven (7) farmer groups, four (4) woman groups, three (3) private enterprises (2 traders and 1 manufacturer) and three (3) seed producer cooperatives representatives participated to a training on skills of production management, cooperative strengthening and marketing techniques in Bougouni and Koutiala.

## 4. Upcoming activities and events of the forthcoming reporting period

### 4.1 Activities

The key activities for the up-coming period are the same like those of the current period. It's still raining and the vegetable activities of cold-dry season cannot be undertaken. Indigenous vegetable production is generally undertaken by women who utilize plots of at most 1000 m<sup>2</sup>.

### 4.2 Events

Regarding field events, nothing concrete is planned for the forthcoming season