



AVRDC

The World Vegetable Center

Improving Nutrient Supplies and Diet Diversity with Vegetables in Mali, Phase I

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Objective

- Enhanced knowledge among especially women of the importance of healthy diets, especially for children of 6-23 months and under five years in the target region.
- Increased skills among women in vegetable food production and processing in the target region.
- Increased use of nutritious and seasonally available vegetables in household diets (diet diversification) and conservation in the target region.

Project target region: Sikasso region of Mali

Key activities and events of the reporting period:

1. Terms of reference of the new position “Specialist – Food and Nutrition” were developed and posted on the AVRDC website. The position will be based at AVRDC-Mali, and the person will coordinate and implement the nutrition research activities.
2. The Project Planning Workshop was scheduled for 14-15 December 2013 in Bamako. A draft program was developed and shared for feedback and discussion. Project partners, according to the proposal, were contacted to check on their availability.
3. Studies of the nutrition situation and vegetable production and consumption in Sikasso, and a training course on food preparation and nutritional awareness in the Sikasso region, planned under USAID-Mali-Production and Consumption Project, were conducted. The information generated from these studies was linked with the current Project and will be shared in the Project Planning Workshop.

Current and up-coming consultations/visitors:

1. Project partners, including the Division of Nutrition, HKI (Helen Keller International), Plan International, UNICEF, IER Food Technology Institute, USAID-Mali, AMEDD-Mali (Mali Association of Awakening on Sustainable Development), and Project Consultants on nutrition situation analysis and vegetable production and consumption were contacted and will be invited to the Project Planning Workshop in December.
2. Dr. Ray-Yu Yang (Nutritionist) and Dr. Usha Palaniswamy (Project Manager- Vegetables Go to School) from AVRDC-Taiwan will visit the project sites in Sikasso before the Project Workshop. Dr. Yang will work with Project team (AVRDC and all project partners) to develop a joint project workplan for 2014.

Upcoming activities and events

1. Researchers from AVRDC-Taiwan visited project sites in Sikasso region, 12-13 December 2013.
2. Project Planning Workshop is held on 14-15 Dec 2013 in Massaley Hotel, Bamako.
3. Partner participatory joint workplan, individual partner workplan and research contracts between AVRDC and project partners based on the agreed partner workplan will be developed. The detailed activities, protocols, timeline, deliverables and targets, responsibilities will be identified and stated in the contract.
4. Training of Trainers course on food preparation and nutritional awareness will be held at the projects in the Sikasso region.