



AVRDC

The World Vegetable Center

Improving Vegetable Production and Consumption in Mali, Phase II

**USAID FtF Monthly Report
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1. Introduction

This brief monthly Feed the Future (FtF) report describes the current and up-coming activities conducted during the period 1-30 April 2014. It focuses on consultations/visits and major events occurred during the period. It also highlights achievements for the reporting period in the phase II of the project "Improving Vegetable Production and Consumption in Mali (Sikasso)".

2. Current and up-coming consultations/visitors

From 20 to 21st of April, two AVRDC Global Theme Leaders from headquarters in Taiwan, namely: Dr. Peter Hanson (Plant Breeder and Global Theme Leader - Breeding) and Dr. Jaw-Fen Wang (Plant Pathologist and Global Theme Leader - Production) visited activities on vegetables conducted by AVRDC in two Best Practices Hubs (BPHs) located in Sokourani and Molobala) and a vegetable seed multiplication site of an AVRDC contracted seed company in the Yanfolila district. The purpose of the visit was to interact with the AVRDC staff and partners in West and Central Africa region in order to review methodologies and strategies underway and make suggestions for improvement where applicable.

3. Current key activities and events in the reporting period

3.1 Key activities

The current activities carried out during the reporting period are as follows:

- Monitoring on-station and on-farm trials for regeneration of improved technologies in vegetable production as well as seed production and extraction of elite AVRDC legume varieties;
- Continuation of training to expand the project benefits and lessons to other FtF community recipients in the Sikasso region, notably in the Bougouni and Kadiolo districts and around satellite villages of the project hubs;
- Completion of digging wells at Molobala and Sokourani and continuation of the same in Bledougou and Finkolo Ganadougou, this due lack of a local solution;
- Continuation of data collection of field testing of improved varieties in the hubs and for the FtF indicators.

3.2 Events

No special events occurred during the reporting period.

4. Upcoming activities and events of the forthcoming reporting period

4.1 Activities

The proposed key activities for the forthcoming reporting period mainly include:

- Extend dissemination of project benefits and lessons learnt to beneficiaries of other FtF communities in the Sikasso region, notably Bougouni and Kadiolo districts (i.e., training farmers in new technologies for vegetable production such as compost production, effective use of pesticides, seed extraction of fleshy fruits) and around the project hubs;
- Collect yield data from demonstration plots;
- Monitor project activities around the hubs and in Bougouni and Sikasso;
- Collect FtF indicator data on areas under improved technologies or management practices in the areas under the project;
- Set-up and prepare the implementation of multilocational trials on selected vegetables for the forthcoming rainy season;
- Pursue the awareness creation activities on environmental mitigation issues among the project beneficiaries in compliance with USAID requirements.

4.2 Events

No special events are expected in the next thirty days.