



AVRDC

The World Vegetable Center

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

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Overall objectives

1. 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.
2. Increased skills among women in vegetable food production and processing in the target region.
3. Increased use of nutritious and seasonally available vegetables in household diets (diet diversification) and conservation in the target region.

Current and up-coming consultations/visitors

Dr Peter Hanson and Dr Jaw-Fen Wang, scientists from AVRDC Headquarters visited the AVRDC office in Mali April 20-24, 2014. During their stay, they visited the activities AVRDC implements in the Sikasso region on production and nutrition, met and discussed with some partners, visited the research infrastructures of AVRDC at Samanko station. As outcomes, they attended the preparation of tomato juice demonstration by farmers and visited seed kits production plots.

In terms of up-coming consultations/visitors, it is planned to invite AVRDC local partners to visit the target sites in the Sikasso region where training on food preparation, processing and preservation are carried out as part of the implementation of two USAID funded projects "USAID Mali production" and "Africa Rising". The objectives of this are to review the current activities and strategies, and develop synergistic actions among partners involved in the project "USAID Mali Nutrition".

Key activities and events during the reporting period

- Finalizing of the revision of training modules on nutrition (paw peanut sauce with amaranth, "yassa" sauce, tomato sauce) and developing new training modules (vegetable soup, mashed eggplant and onion).
- Producing of 1200 vegetable seed kits at Samanko: at the end of April, okra and tomato are at drying stage, African eggplant at harvesting stage, pepper at fruiting stage and Amaranth at flowering stage.
- The Food and Nutrition Specialist position to be posted at Bamako, Mali has been completed. The specialist will join the AVRDC office in Bamako on May 1, 2014.
- Pursuing the elaboration of training manuals on healthy diets, basic nutrition and health practices by the Nutrition Division of the Ministry of Health in Mali.
- The partners' contracts were signed and fund transfers are ongoing.
- Pursuing training of trainers (ToT) by Helen Keller International and Association Malienne d'Eveil au Développement Durable in the target sites in Sikasso.

Upcoming activities and events in the forthcoming reporting period

- Pursuing vegetable seed production at Samanko station.
- Production of 1200 pamphlets of nutrition messages.
- Inventory of traditional technologies of food processing with vegetables and recommend methods and products for training course.
- Identification of dietary options with vegetables for improved diets for children of 6-23 months and under five years.
- Development of a training manual package including diet and basic nutrition and health practices.
- Integration of agriculture and nutrition topics in the training schedule and manuals elaboration.
- Conducting Training of trainers (ToT) in the communities for food preparation, processing and nutritional awareness in the Sikasso region.