



**AVRDC**

**The World Vegetable Center**

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

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## **1. Overall objectives**

- 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.

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

During this reporting period, the director of the Malian Association of Awakening Sustainable Development (AMEDD) visited AVRDC Bamako Station and discussed the workplan for activities in April 2014. Intervention areas in the Sikasso region were defined. Subawards for the following partners; Helen Keller International (HKI), Malian Association of Awakening Sustainable Development (AMEDD), Nutrition Division (ND) and Institut d'Economie Rurale (IER) were finalized and signed.

## **3. Key activities and events during the reporting period**

- AVRDC is finalizing 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).
- AVRDC is producing 1,200 vegetable seed kits in Samanko. During the reporting period, okra, pepper and African eggplant are in fruiting stage while tomato is in harvesting stage. Amaranth is in flowering stage and onion in bulbification stage.
- AVRDC has completed the hiring process of the Food and Nutrition Specialist position to be posted in Bamako, Mali. The candidate will join the AVRDC office in Bamako on 1 May 2014.
- The Nutrition Division of the Ministry of Health of Mali is developing the training manuals on healthy diet, basic nutrition and health practices.

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

- Planning and implementing of eight training activities for farmers from Kadiolo, Koutiala, and training courses at Bougouni, Yanfolila districts of Sikasso region on food preparation and nutritional awareness.
- Food and Nutrition specialist will be on board in Bamako, Mali.
- Allocation of the budget to the different partners.
- Ongoing activities including training, seed production and development of training modules.