



## **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**

During this reporting period, we kept in touch with Helen Keller International (HKI), Malian Association of Awakening Sustainable Development (AMEDD) Nutrition Division (ND) and Institut d'Economie Rurale (IER) and discussed about future collaboration. Following these exchanges, agreements of collaboration with these partners were sent to AVRDC Headquarters for finalization in compliance with USAID requirements.

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

- Revising 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 vegetable seed kits at Samanko
- Interviewed candidates for the Food and Nutrition Specialist position to be posted at Bamako, Mali; a job offer has been made to one of the interviewed candidates. The key responsibilities of the Food and Nutrition Specialist are as follows:
  1. Conduct dietary and nutrition assessments to support development of nutrition-specific/sensitive agricultural interventions for improving household diet and nutrition especially for women and children;
  2. Conduct research on issues associated with increasing consumption of vegetables, food and nutrition, quality of fresh and processed vegetables, dietary quality and dietary diversity;
  3. Develop and implement community based initiatives to increase awareness on linkages between health, food and nutrition, with emphasis on consumption of safe and nutritious vegetables and dietary diversity;
  4. Contribute to develop and implement monitoring and evaluation plans, sampling and study design, and analytical protocols for nutrition-specific/sensitive agricultural interventions;
  5. Develop, maintain and strengthen partnerships for research and development in food and nutrition, postharvest and gender aspects in the region;
  6. Prepare technical reports, publications, and presentations;
  7. Undertake any other work as assigned by the supervisor.

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

- Planning and implementing 8 training activities for farmers from Kadiolo, Koutiala, Bougouni, Yanfolila districts of Sikasso region on food preparation and nutritional awareness
- Food and Nutrition specialist hiring and posting in Bamako
- Development of subcontracts with partners of the project after USAID Washington approval and allocation of budgets
- Partners will start their activities right after contracts signed