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Resilience and Economic Growth in the Sahel – Accelerated Growth (REGIS-AG) Quarterly Report (FY16/Q2)



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The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

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I. Overview

Over the course of the reporting period of Quarter 2, FY2016, REGIS-AG experienced a change in leadership with the previous Chief of Party Paul DeLuco departing and the arrival of interim Chief of Party Georges Dimithe. Under his leadership, REGIS-AG activities proceeded according to the FY16 Work Plan with encouraging results and greater staff cohesion.

In collaboration with our partners, REGIS-AG accomplished the following highlights this quarter:

- In collaboration with RISE partners, capacity building of cowpea processors was conducted with 126 cowpea trainers and 130 female producers were trained
- 36 participants were trained on bio-safety in animal health for those working in poultry breeding.
- REGIS-AG, REGIS-ER and the GoN implemented the vaccination campaign in Tillabery where 12,600,000 vaccine doses were administered by 180 vaccinators.
- Training of trainers on improved cowpea storage was conducted for 77 participants from the ViM, REGIS-ER and PROFILE projects demonstrating the use and benefits of PICS bags.
- 50 AEs received refresher trainings on animal health monitoring for small ruminants and poultry.
- Opening of 18 literacy centers in Burkina Faso and the groundwork was completed to open 25 in Niger (to be opened in Quarter 3). Forty-three supervisors were identified to train a total of 1,290 students sourced from RISE partners' producer groups with whom REGIS-AG works with.
- Forty-nine BDS providers were identified and capacity building plans have been developed.
- Launched the following assessments: 1) Assessment on the constraints for transforming producer groups into GIEs; 2) the study on the legal structure and laws surrounding private sector investment in land; 3) the study on formal taxes that impede the free movement of agricultural products; 4) study on the profitability of warrantage; 5) study on the supply and distribution systems of agricultural input products and specifically PICS bags, including the GPS mapping of these actors.

Staffing

During the reporting period, REGIS-AG had the following staff approved and/or mobilized:

- CNFA Key personnel staff member Shola Ajibola, Niamey-based Finance and Operations Director/DCOP started in January 2016 to replace the former F&O Director/DCOP George Peterson.
 - In Niger, the Financial Services Specialist Haboubacar Issaka Sabo and the Zinder Regional Manager Fati Amadou were approved and in Burkina Faso, the Financial Services Specialist Jean-Luc Zampou and two drivers Sory Soubatron and Sana Abel Nikiema were approved.
 - Also approved during the reporting period was HQ-based Program Coordinator Tana Assoa Adou who replaced former staff member Odia Cisse.
- Subcontractor SNV had two staff members approved – Bachir Issa, Niger-based Component 5 Lead: Enabling Environment Advisor and Dalia Emara, DC-based Senior Program Manager.
- Subcontractor CRS had one staff member approved – Value Chain Governance Specialist, Niger
- Subcontractor A2N had four part-time staff members approved – Executive Director, MEL Officer, Administrative Assistant, and Accountant

2. Status of Activities, Components 1-5

2.1 Component 1: Identify Opportunities through Value Chain and End-Market Analysis

During the reporting period, CNFA identified a short-term consultant to provide support to revise the Value Chain studies and End Market Analyses. These revised reports were submitted on February 8, 2016 for USAID review. Comments from USAID were received back on March 18th and CNFA is again working with the short-term consultant to revise the reports. These revised reports will be resubmitted in Quarter 3.

2.2 Component 2: Strengthen Vertical and Horizontal Value Chain Linkages and Relationships in Selected Value Chains

A. Cowpea Value Chain

Activity 2.1 Carry out comparative analysis of existing forms of producer organizations

Activity 2.1.1 Conduct initial analyses of main barriers and obstacles in Burkina and Niger to upgrading producer organizations to GIEs or Cooperatives within each value chain.

Burkina Faso

The identification of the needs and obstacles for economic interest groups was completed in December in Quarter 1. The draft report detailing the results of the assessment, including significant input from partners and the Regional Directorates of the Agriculture and Water Resources, will be finalized during Quarter 3. The results of this assessment will serve as the guide for interventions with the producer groups throughout the life of the project, with periodic reassessment as needed.

In Niger

Based on the initial literature review an action plan has been developed for this analysis which will take place in April and May, with the governance advisor taking the lead. One of the important issues to analyze is commercial viability of GIEs in the long-run as one World Bank trade study on Niger concluded that “..as a legal structure, a GIE’s principal objective is to provide a platform for facilitating collaboration between its members, not for making profits. Nor does it provide an appropriate legal base for obtaining bank financing”. The action plan will include the analysis required for sub- activity 2.1.2 below.

Activity 2.1.2 Conduct analyses in Niger and Burkina Faso of income potential for different sized producer organizations, including GIEs and Cooperatives, within each chain

The terms of reference for these studies have been drafted and are currently in the review and validation process to refine the objectives, targets and anticipated results. The activity will take place in both countries in Quarter 3.

Activity 2.2 Plan and Implement cowpea market fairs and meetings

Burkina Faso

REGIS-AG hosted a meeting with the Pissila county union who gathered 140 people, 80% of women for a cowpea coordination meeting. At this meeting, the constraints limiting the conversion of producer groups to GIEs were discussed as well as the capacity of the union members related to the marketing of cowpea. The main difficulties encountered by the union concern the availability of inputs, lack of knowledge of mechanisms related to business development, and poor quality warehouses. A plan to strengthen the capacity of the union of Pissila with putting special emphasis on the commercialization and development of trade relations is being developed. The same approach is being used to strengthen the Provincial Union of Cowpea Producers of the Province of Sanmatenga (Kaya).

Activity 2.3 Develop and expand the activities of marketing platforms

Burkina Faso

Initial meetings were held with the decentralized technical services unit in charge of Agriculture in Manni and the departmental union for Seytenga County. Discussions are ongoing to promote the functionality of this platform.

Activity 2.4 Conduct feasibility studies on processing

Niger

REGIS-AG met with Purdue University's "Food Processing Business Incubation Center" (FPBIC) to develop a concept paper for establishing and expand food processing businesses, in partnership with INRAN. The Purdue FPBIC is a facility equipped with entrepreneurship-scale food processing equipment targeted to demand-driven products. The FPBIC provides the following services: 1) training on technical processing skills, 2) optimization of products through research and development, 3) market analysis and business skills support for entrepreneurs, and 4) linkages to other actors in the supply chain. The component 2 advisor and the niebe value chain coordinator met with INRAN's key advisor in this activity and together toured the AGORA bakery that is working on products using local ingredients in breads and pastries.

Activity 2.5 Promote Competitiveness in end markets

Activity 2.5.1 Train Cowpea producers in Niger and Burkina Faso on good production practices for export

Burkina Faso

The principal action in support of this activity this quarter was the development and finalization of the terms of reference for a training of trainers on good practices for the production of new and improved cowpea varieties. The terms of reference were submitted to INERA so that they provide a financial offer to provide this service. The trainings in the different centers are expected to be implemented in the upcoming quarter (April – June).

Niger

After validation of the terms of reference related to this activity, a training of trainers was developed and delivered to 126 participants including 17 women from the regions of Maradi, Zinder and Tillaberi. Priority was given to trainers from DFAP and REGIS-ER to promote the synergistic push-pull approach between the market oriented REGIS-AG and the production focused REGIS-ER and DFAPs. These agents were also joined by the technical staff from the Ministry for Agriculture, Regional Chambers of Agriculture (CRA),

NGOs, members the APPSN, service providers (BDS) and seed producers. The training topics include awareness of the benefits of quality and certified seeds, mastering storage techniques, and the cowpea value chain. Trainers trained are provided with the materials to conduct trainings for producers.

Activity 2.5.5 Support operation of cowpea outlets in Niger in collaboration with PRODEX, PASADEM, etc.

REGIS-AG visited the projects PASADEM/PRODAF, PRODEX, CIMA, and PASAM-TAI to determine the available warehouses in the zones of intervention for cowpea storage. The number of the warehouses available in Maradi, Tillabéri, and Zinder were: 68 cowpea warehouses, 313 grain banks, 76 input shops, and 932 public sector agro-input sales points at the commune-level. PRODEX is willing to work with REGIS-AG in promoting the use of these warehouses for cowpea marketing.

Activity 2.6.1 Strengthen organizational capacity of 2 processors in Niger and 1 in Burkina Faso to meet international grades and standards

Niger

REGIS-AG developed and implemented the training of cowpea processors on international cowpea quality norms and standards and technologies available for producing processed cowpea products (i.e., flour for dan watche, nutritional flour, bérroua/wasa wasa and spaghetti). The 130 beneficiaries of this training were women who were also selected in partnership with DFAP projects, with participation from: twenty-two women and one man in Maradi, twenty women in Zinder, and also twenty women in Tillabéri. During the event, a VIP group from USAID had the opportunity to participate to the training session in Maradi and discussed with women processors about processing, the outcomes of the training, and markets.

B. Small Ruminants Value Chain

Activity 2.7 Organize sheep and goat fairs

Activity 2.7.1 Work with “colleges, i.e. inter professional organizations such as the regional filiere Betail Viande Cuirs et Peaux (IP BVCP), and in coordination with partners such as REGIS-ER and DFAPs, and expand the participation of women in market events

Niger

In Niger, the SNV team has developed three training modules to be included into the Strategic Orientation Plan (POS) for the inter-professional organizations. These modules covered the construction process for the inter-professional Betail Viande Cuirs et Peaux (IP BVCP) livestock, meat, hides, and skins; the role of the inter-professional organization in the development and promotion of livestock, meat, hides, and skins in Niger; and the Strategic Orientation Plan for sustainable development of livestock, meat, hides, and skins in Niger.

Activity 2.8.1 Prepare and broadcast messages in Niger and Burkina to sensitize male agropastoralists about importance and economic potential to women's participation in value-added projects based on VC methodology

Burkina Faso

The terms of reference were developed during the reporting period and the messages will be developed and disseminated during Quarter 3.

Niger

In Niger, in collaboration with REGIS-ER and the Ministry of Population, Promotion of Women, and Protection of Children organized an 3-day awareness campaign for 75 members (both men and women) of 3 producer organizations (villages of Dadin-Kowa, Diota, and Daourawa) located in the commune of Garagoumsa in Zinder. The workshop began on March 8, 2016 «International Women's Day» to emphasize the importance of increasing women's participation in the economy - not only in Niger but worldwide. The first day focused on the difficulties women face in participating in the market activities, whether for fattening animals or processing grains and beans in their households. The 2nd day consisted of breakout groups – women separated from men. The 3rd day, groups presented the key points discussed, acknowledging what constraints women faced and accepting the need for men to accept a great role for women in commerce and the financial affairs of their households.

Activity 2.9 Training in cheese and dairy marketing

Activity 2.9.1: Conduct feasibility studies in Niger and Burkina, and, where viable, facilitate access to credit for women's groups for goat milk and cheese production

REGIS-AG developed and finalized the terms of reference for the assessment of the production, marketing and consumption of dry cheese made from goat's milk in the major end markets in the REGIS-AG zones in Burkina Faso and Niger. Previous sector studies have focused on improving production and conservation of dairy products but did not address market-related aspects. This activity will begin in May with the feasibility study which will include the design of a program for technical and marketing training for small-scale women processors.

Activity 2.11 Implement market linkage networks for producer groups

Sub activity 2.11.1: Organize exchange meetings in Niger between GIE / producer groups and networks of collectors / processors of by-products from small ruminants

Niger

In Niger, the Livestock and Dairy Market Access specialist developed the terms of reference for the establishment of a multi stakeholder's platform for the GIE/producer groups and the network of collectors/processors of small ruminants by products. The ToR covers the following: understanding the different relationships between producers and processors of by products; creating synergies between both actors; and encouraging the creation of a sustainable network for better market access.

Burkina Faso

During Quarter 2, the REGIS-AG team in Burkina Faso identified small ruminant producer organizations in order to organize meetings for the next quarter. The survey identified 522 small ruminant producer groups of which 130, REGIS-AG will support. Coordination meetings with processors

Activity 2.13 Improve business environment for livestock markets and slaughter houses

Niger

REGIS-AG revisited the new private slaughterhouse SONIPEV in Niamey and offered its assistance to link SONIPEV the slaughterhouse with farmers' organizations focusing on small ruminants. The slaughterhouse recently opened and is the first modern, medium-sized slaughterhouse and livestock market in Niamey that can buy small ruminants from REGIS-AG producer groups. SONIPEV is looking for export markets in the region and the Middle East and needs help with identifying buyers. REGIS-AG and SONIPEV agreed to develop a PPP agreement to formalize a working relationship that defines the roles and responsibilities of each organization with the goal of expanding access to markets for agropastoralists.

C. Poultry Value Chain

2.14 Strengthen poultry associations

Sub activity 2.14.2 Improve marketing channels for poultry through (A) identifying someone in charge of marketing in each producer group; (B) linking producers to trained collectors in 1 market event in each country

In order to promote the sale of poultry health and monitoring products, sensitization workshops were held with poultry groups to identify those responsible to sell poultry products within groups in order to better market the products and improve the overall supply to these groups. These awareness campaigns have identified 13 and 21 people in the Sahel region of Burkina Faso and Niger Tillaberi respectively who developed writing and reading abilities that enable them to serve as the input supply manager for these poultry groups. These awareness workshops continue in other target areas of the project in both countries.

Sub activity 2.14.5 Provide training to 3 producer groups in each country in hygiene, processing, and storage.

Niger

REGIS-AG developed two training modules on: (i) hygiene of poultry slaughterhouses and good practices, (ii) processing. Three (3) training courses on the above topics were organized for groups of 3 Tillaberi, Maradi and Zinder. In total 84 participant involved in the processing of poultry including 22 women have benefited from this training.

2.15 Train poultry value chain stakeholders on biosecurity

Niger

In Niger, a training on biosafety was held from January 18-20, 2016 in the Tillaberi region. This training aimed to train actors of the poultry value chain on biosecurity and how to prevent and minimize the risk of spreading avian disease in Niger. In total 36 actors (traders and processors) including 5 women participated in this training. The topics covered during the training were: (i) the spread of disease between farms and markets; (ii) identification of biosecurity risks; (iii) participatory monitoring and biosecurity of HPAI; (iv) risk factors and (v) control and prevention.

Activity 2.16.1 Develop marketing strategy for eggs, especially guinea fowl eggs which are seasonal.

In Burkina Faso and Niger, as part of the implementation of this activity, the terms of reference were developed for the development of an innovative and sustainable strategy for the marketing of local eggs, in particular guinea fowl eggs. The activity will be carried out in the next reporting period.

2.3 Component 3: Strengthen Input Supply and Other Supporting Services and Improve Smallholder and Agro-Pastoralist Access to these Interconnected Markets

Cowpea Value Chain

Activity 3.1 Identification of input providers / agrodealers

Burkina Faso

As a follow up to the agrodealer identification exercise completed, the REGIS-AG team mobilized agents to collect the GPS coordinates and demographic information on the identified businesses. This survey collected information on 145 input suppliers, 185 feed suppliers, and 26 PICS bag suppliers. The mapping will assist the team to triangulate targeted beneficiary groups with input suppliers.

Activity 3.2 Provide business management and technical training to agrodealers

In Burkina Faso and Niger, after identifying the needs of agrodealers, ToRs have been prepared to hire a consultant who will support REGIS-AG to develop a agrodealers capacity building plan. The recruitment of the consultant will be through a competitive mechanism as mentioned with the procedures in the procurement procedures manual. The capacity development training will take regional legislation into account and will be developed together to ensure consistency. The identification of the consultant will be finalized and the trainings will commence in the third quarter for FY16.

Activity 3.5 Establish relationships with PICS sacks suppliers and agrodealers to develop distribution networks in the local areas

Sub-activity 3.5.3 Sensitize producer groups and association in focal areas to use of PICS sacks

Burkina Faso

REGIS-AG has strengthened the capacity of 77 trainers, including 20 women on the use of PICS bags. Participants included program officers from the REGIS-ER, ViM, and Faso projects, leaders of farmers' organizations and officials in charge of Agriculture. The training was both theoretical and practical with bagging demonstrations by the participants. Topics discussed during this training focused among other things: (i) good practices of cowpea production, (ii) the importance of drying, (iii) the use of PICS bags and (iv) the benefits of group sales. Theoretical training was supplemented by practical training in the use of PICS bags on the ground.

Activity 3.7 Strengthen private veterinarians

Sub activity 3.7.2 Select private veterinarians (VP) for partnerships and sign agreements with them

Burkina Faso

During the reporting period, an memorandum of understanding was signed between the Ministry of Livestock, REGIS-AG and various private veterinarians (VP) of the area of intervention.

Niger

An agreement between the Ministry of Livestock, REGIS-AG and the private veterinarian for Tillaberi was signed during the second quarter. For Mirriah, the recruitment notice for a Private Veterinarian launched last quarter and a candidate has been recruited. The collaboration agreement is being prepared and will be signed after the approval of the Ministry in charge of Livestock Futures in the next reporting period.

Activity 3.9.2 SVPP train existing networks of AE and VVV (31/AE; 30/VVV)

Burkina Faso

A refresher training session was delivered to 15 VVV from March 9-11, 2016 in Kaya. This session brought together 15 VVV formed by ViM, REGIS-ER and PROFILE. The trained AE and VVVs will be placed under the responsibility of the private veterinarian installed Kaya and the Regional Animal Health Network (RSAP) advocated by REGIS-AG. For this first session, three (3) modules of a total of 10 have been delivered and focused on: (i) poultry farming, (ii) veterinary drugs and their application, (iii) roles, functions and limitations of the auxiliary farming. The other modules will be planned according to the learner's retainment capacity. The training session hosted the visit of a large delegation of USAID (USAID RESILIENCE Leadership Council Visit, March 11 & 12, 2016). The USAID mission was particularly interested in the level of synergy of actions between REGIS-AG and three (03) projects partners Vim, REGIS ER, and PROFILE operating in the North Central region.

Niger

In Mirriah, 27 AEs were identified in collaboration with Mercy Corps, REGIS-ER and ICRC to be part of the AMPS system. AE identification process continues in areas of Magaria and Madarounfa for these two departments.

Activity 3.10 Develop Animal Health Charter

Sub activity 3.10.1 Preparation and signing of a cooperation agreement and support with ONVN

In Burkina Faso, exchange meetings were held with the National College of Veterinarians of Burkina Faso (ONV-BF) and the Collective of Private Veterinarians of Burkina Faso (BF-COVEP). The objective of these meetings was to reach a partnership agreement between the two structures and REGIS-AG. ONV-BF and BF-COVEP have started to prepare a partnership document that will specify the axes of collaboration. One important focus of the protocol concerns the organization of veterinarian's day in Burkina Faso.

Sub activity 3.11.1 Organize and carry out AE refresher sessions

Burkina Faso

A refresher session was held for twenty AEs in Dori and covered the following topics: veterinary drugs, roles, functions and limitations of AEs were reviewed. Practical sessions on the vaccination of poultry were also conducted under the supervision of the private veterinarian of the area. During this session, a critical assessment of the actions of AE as well as the difficulties encountered was completed and issues were addressed.

Sub activity 3.11.2. Organize and carry out retraining sessions for chicken vaccinators (VVV)

Burkina Faso

A refresher session for fifteen VVVs, of which two were women, was held in Bogandé in the Eastern Region. The content of this refresher course was focused on a review of the practice in poultry rearing and the two first modules of the AE training on the roles, functions and limitations of the AE and the concepts on veterinary drugs.

Activity 3.16 Expand/shre prophylaxis schedules

Sub-activity 3.16.1. Promote availability of vaccines (Pestivac and I2) through agreement with LABOCEL.

Niger

REGIS-AG and REGIS-ER have pooled their resources to support the Ministry of Livestock's vaccination campaign that provides free vaccines against Newcastle disease in the regions of Zinder and Maradi through existing SVPP. Both projects, for 15 days on average mobilized 180 vaccinators who have administered 698,850 doses of the I2 vaccine in the regions of Maradi and Zinder.

Sub activity 3.16.3 Organize information and awareness sessions on respect for prophylaxis plans through community radio stations and networks SVPP

An awareness campaign was organized to promote the importance of vaccination against Newcastle disease and respect for the prophylaxis schedule for producers. This awareness was built through community radio stations and joint missions composed of teams of REGIS-AG, the SVPP networks and state technical services in the departments of Guidan roumji, Dakoro, Mirriah and Magaria.

2.4 Component 4: Increase Access to Finance, Innovation, and Private Sector Investment

Activity 4.1 Provide training in functional literacy to project participants, particularly women

Sub activity 4.1.2: Identify appropriate center for literacy training

Burkina Faso

After assessing the locations of producer groups in need of literacy training and the distances between them, REGIS-AG selected and opened 18 literacy centers in the Sahel, North Central and East. Each center is equipped materials and training materials (guides to the literacy, reading books, writing and calculation) to facilitate the assimilation of the course learners.

Niger

In the same manner, the REGIS-AG team in Niger has identified 25 literacy centers that will be opened after the training of facilitators scheduled for April 2016.

Sub activity 4.1.3: Identify beneficiaries (450/Niger; 520/Burkina Faso), and evaluate training needs

Eighteen literacy teachers, including 5 supervisors were trained in adult learning methods in preparation for the functional literacy activities. After 10 days of training, each literacy teacher currently oversees 30 students, with a total of 540 learners taking literacy classes.

In Niger, the terms of reference specifying the objectives and expected results of the training of 25 literacy teachers / supervisors have been developed and validated. The training will take place during the month of April. After the training, each coach will supervise 30 beneficiaries, a total of 750 learners.

Activity 4.2 Reinforce capacity of local service providers to offer Business Development Services (BDS)

Identification of service providers in Burkina Faso and Niger respectively identified 32 to 17 potential service providers (BDS) that have been selected to assist REGIS-AG in the implementation of business development activities for producer groups, processors, input suppliers and other value chain actors supported by REGIS-AG. The selected BDS providers were assessed for the various gaps and constraints that they face and as a result, REGIS-AG is developing capacity building plans.

Activity 4.3 Connect project participants with MFI's to apply for warehouse receipts credit and/or other financial services

In Burkina Faso and Niger, REGIS-AG will undertake an evaluation of the various mechanisms of warrantage practiced in the project area. The ToRs to determine profitability, strengths and weaknesses and the role of each player in each type of players in each warrantage mechanism were developed during the reporting period. The study will be completed in Quarter 3.

Activity 4.5 Identify different financial institutions and funding opportunities

Sub activity 4.5.1 Identify all GoN and GoB, donor, and private sector financing to support investment opportunities; produce report of available agricultural financial mechanisms and products in Niger and Burkina with specific investment criteria

During the reporting period, REGIS-AG developed the terms of reference to capture all the financing opportunities for three target channels of the project in the project area. After validation of the ToR, this activity will be an all project database, programs and financial institutions that fund activities related to the three value chains. The activity will be implemented in the next reporting period.

Sub activity 4.5.3 Sign MOU's with MFI's and banks with DCA agreements

Niger

Several meetings were held with Asusu and ECOBANK discussing the financing of the project beneficiaries activities. With Asusu, a partnership agreement is being finalized as part of the financing of activities of the beneficiaries. With ECOBANK, nothing formal has yet been established and exchanges are continuing into the next reporting period.

4.5 Component 5 – Improve the enabling environment for local and regional private sector investment

Activity 5.1 Conduct study on laws governing private investment in land and agriculture.

Sub activity 5.1.1 Work with local consultants, conduct studies on laws governing private investments in land, water, and agriculture (1/Niger; 1/Burkina Faso)

This activity is ongoing and the results of the study will be ready in May 2016. In Niger, Agribilan led activity on the synthesis of the main laws governing the operation of the EIG and cooperatives and their translation into Hausa and Zarma. In this interview guides were developed, shared and validated in the presence of project staff and stakeholders chains targeted by REGIS-AG values. Five (5) guides to facilitate the synthesis of key laws and their translation into Hausa and Zarma were presented. Deliverables from this study will be available in late April.

In Burkina Faso, the translation into Moore and Fulfulde will be undertaken after the validation of the ongoing study on the obstacles and barriers restricting the transformation of GIE OP.

Sub activity 5.2.1: Assess feasibility of restructuring livestock markets in Niger

Niger

REGIS-AG Value Chain Advisor led a mission to evaluate the possibilities for restructuring the livestock markets with the participation of the SIM regional livestock officials and the Livestock Marketing Specialist of REGIS-AG. The mission identified 59 markets in Maradi, Tillaberi, and Zinder based on the density of the small ruminants value chain professional organizations. The mission resulted in the pre-selection of 23 markets for a thorough evaluation.

Burkina Faso

As part of the restructuring of markets to cattle, five working sessions were conducted with different stakeholders (municipality, market management committees, traders organizations) involved in the management of livestock markets Seytenga, Dori, Pissila and Manni. This exercise focused on the health monitoring tools of the animals, governance, management committees, efficiency, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of each market. The report is being drafted and will be finalized in May, 2016.

Sub activity 5.2.2: Select markets in each country for inclusive marketing (3/Niger; 1/Burkina Faso) in collaboration with Système d'informations sur les marchés à Bétail

The evaluation report of the previous activity informed the initial development of the selection criteria, which was later amended by the SIM Livestock teams in Zinder, Maradi, and Tillaberi, along with the REGIS-AG teams. Based on this criteria, 9 livestock markets have been selected in: Gada (CR de Dogo), Magaria (CU de Magaria), Koya (CR de Koya) in Zinder; Baleyara (CR de Tagzar), Filingué (CU de Filingué), Torodi (CU de Torodi) in Maradi.

In Burkina Faso, 4 markets were selected: Seytenga, Dori, Pissila, and Manni based on the draft report produced under the previous activity.

Sub activity 5.2.3: Negotiate agreements with 3 municipalities in focal areas in Niger and 1 in Burkina Faso to establish co-management of markets

In Niger, the preparation of contracts for the 9 communes whose markets have been selected is under-way with information being collected through the PDC to mobilize stakeholders in the implementation of the activities.

In Burkina, 5 working sessions were organized with the livestock market management committees of Seytenga, Dor, Manni, and Pissila. During these meetings, actions were discussed to examine the tools used to monitor market flow, govern the committees, and regulate the functioning of markets at Sey-tenga and Pissila.

Sub activity 5.3.2: Support community access to land restored by REGIS-ER; advocate for its allocation to local women's organizations producing Niébé

In Niger and Burkina Faso, the TOR was developed to secure the REGIS-ER restored site path to enable women to produce cowpeas. This work is in conjunction with REGIS-ER officials of land restoration. This activity will continue in April 2016.

Sub activity 5.3.3: Carry out study of official and unofficial road taxes in Niger and Burkina on commercial trucks carrying agricultural commodities

In Burkina Faso, the study has started. Letters were drafted and sent to the key stakeholders for facilitating the process. The team has already met some stakeholders in Ouagadougou and parts of the Sahel (Central North and East). This activity will continue in April 2016.

In Niger, the TOR is currently in development. It was also agreed to create a synthesis of studies that will be supplemented with key stakeholders' interviews on marketing products from the REGIS-AG targeted value chains. The process started with discussions with the potential structures such as the Trade Hub.

Sub activity 5.3.4: Strengthen quality control mechanism for pesticide and fertilizer use through CERRA Maradi, Zinder, and Tillabéri

In Niger, an implementation strategy was developed to track the mechanisms for the quality control of pesticides and fertilizers. This tracker was shared with the lead for component 3. The TORs are being developed. The TORs must be discussed with MA, INRAN, and CERRA in Zinder, Maradi, and Tillabéri to agree on the process and clarify the responsibilities of each stakeholder.