



Care International in Mali

**Delta Agricultural Development Project
(DAD)**

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**Semestrial Report
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Sustainable Economic Growth Strategic Objective
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List of Acronyms

SLACAER:	Local Support Service for Development and Rural Equipment
SLRC:	Local Regulation and Control Service
CRRRA:	Regional Centre of Agricultural Research
SANREM:	Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management
AG:	General Assembly
SOGEMAT:	General Goods company
CSV:	Forage of Food Credit
ORM:	Mopti Rice Authority
MJT:	Musow ka Jigiya Ton
AIV:	Inter-village Association
DG:	Democratic Governance
OC:	Community Organization
HACA:	African Horizon for Construction and Development
LABOSEM:	Seed Laboratory
SSN-S:	National Segou Seed Service
AER:	Rice Farmers' Association
CDV:	Village Development Committee

I. INTRODUCTION

The Delta Agricultural Development Project (DAD) is one of four projects of the consolidated « Household Livelihood Security and Institutional Capacity Building Program in Mopti Region and Macina District ». This program, funded by a cooperative agreement (Award # 624-A-00-97-00087-03) with USAID, began in October 1997.

The DAD project supports the development of rice plains in the inland Delta of the Niger River. Its overall objective is:

To improve the livelihood security of 6000 households in the districts of Djenné, Mopti, Macina, and Tenenkou through increased agricultural production and the capacity building of inter-village producers' organizations by the year 2002.

In order to reach this objective, the project's logframe focuses on the following three intermediate objectives:

The basic needs of 600 farming households will be met through increased rice production of 15,000 tons over 30,000 hectares of developed plains.

At least ten inter-village producer organizations will have the technical capacity to manage their developed lands and meet the needs of their members.

Inter-village rice producer organizations will manage their developed lands in a democratic, transparent, and sustainable manner for the benefit of their members.

This report covers the period of January through June 2002. Important activities included:

- 1) The monitoring of savings and credit activities (MJT)
- 2) Experimentation with food credit (CSV)
- 3) The reconstruction of the Tomboflafourantiè work on the Djiguiné site.
- 4) Local dialogue and resolution of the Syn conflict.
- 5) Institutional strengthening of the 4 inter-village associations.
- 6) Development of the project document for the extension phase.
- 7) Extension of the production program for improved seeds.
- 8) Collection of data from the 2001-2002 agricultural season.

Another important event during this period was the development of CARE's Mopti regional strategy and the consequent regionalization of the sub-offices of Djenne and Koro.

In the context of rice commercialisation, 253 women out of 723 of the 22 savings and credit groups (MJT) supervised by the project are trading in rice as an income generating activity through savings mobilization. In addition, two groups have been conducting a food credit activity with the financial support of the Decentralized Financial Service (Kondo Jigima).

All the infrastructures aimed at consolidating developed sites are currently completed and operational.

The harvest of the 2000-2001 season has exceeded by 356% that of 1997(baseline year), in spite of a slight drop from the previous season (2000-2001). Three of the 4 inter-village associations ensure self-governance and safe management. The local production mechanisms of improved seeds are functional at the 4 sites. The Syn inter-village association, through constructive dialogue among the various actors concerned, was able to resolve a potentially divisive conflict.

II. ECONOMIC GROWTH INDICATORS OF THE SEG STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE OF USAID-MALI

This section presents the status of economic growth indicators agreed upon with USAID's Sustainable Economic Growth (SEG) Strategic Objective Team. These results are compared to the baseline data collected at the beginning of the project.

The following table provides the level of these indicators from 1997 (baseline data) to 2002. The data in the last two columns represent the results of the 2001-2002 campaign.

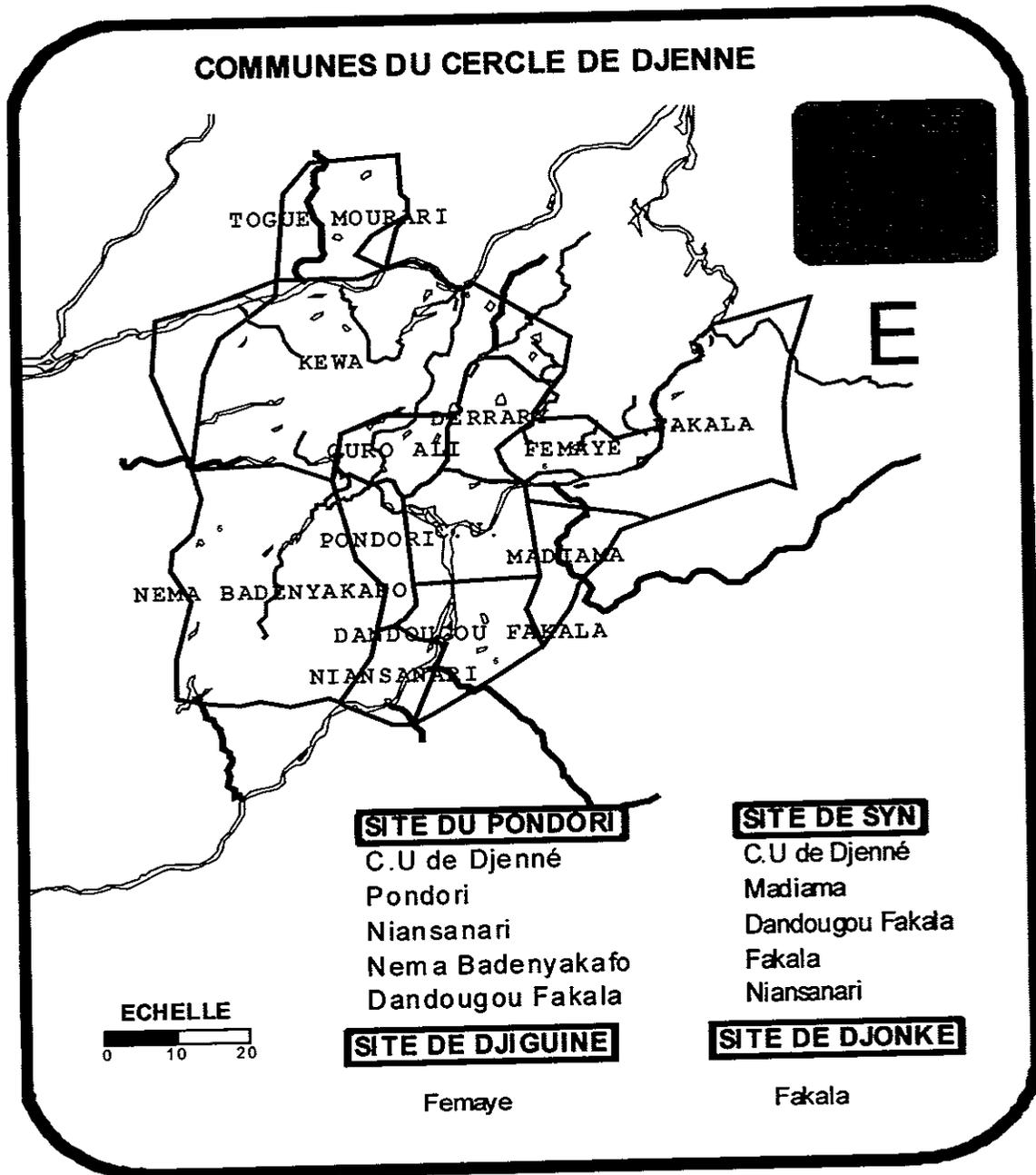
ANALYTIC TABLE OF SEG INDICATORS

Result	Performance Indicator	Baseline 1997		CY 1999		CY 2000		CY 2001		Life of Project (CY 2002)
		Initial Estimation	Survey Results	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	
Vol. Of sustainable rice production Increased	Total area cultivated In rice (ha)	27,270	28,231	28,190	48,376.9	29,090	49,695	30,000	49,793.9	30,000
	New area in Production (ha) cumulative	0	0	910	16,850	1,820	18,167	2,780	18,265.9	2,730
	Average yield per Hectare (T/ha)	1.0	0.539	1.16	0.836	1.32	2.275	1.48	1.922	1.5
	Total Production (T)	27,270	1,186 15,216	32,700	16,309.6	38,899	113,056	44,400	84,894	45,009
	Area with improved Seed (ha) cumulative	0	0	500	513	1,750	1,758	5,250	6,327.2	9,750
	Area under improved Production (ha) cumulative	0	0	10,000	13,064	20,000	24,954	30,000	31,293.2	30,000
Value of rice Production Increased	Value of rice Produced (millions of CFA)	3,409	179 1,902	4,094	2,039	4,794	14,132	5,586	10,612	5,620
	Revenue per hectare (FCFA)	NA	63,375	NA	104,516	NA	284,375	NA	213,118	NA
	Revenue per person (FCFA)	NA	34,033	NA	42,130	NA	263,455	NA	198,611	NA
	Revenue per household (FCFA)	NA	389,287	NA	463,439	NA	1,844,186	NA	1,390,279	NA

Please note the following:

1. Of the 49,793.9 ha cultivated (planted) with rice, 44,166.27 ha were actually harvested. The non harvested difference (5,627.63 ha) is due to an early withdrawal of flood waters at Djiguine and in the Pondori. One must add to this the submersion of certain plots of the Pondori following the overflow of the Niger river observed in September 2001. These two phenomena also account for the lower average yield from 2.275 in 2000 to 1.922 kg/ha in 2001. The realization of the Tombolafourantie work at Djiguine will make it possible to avoid similar production drops in the future.
2. Total production is estimated on the basis of cropped areas, and of the average yield over the four plains, i.e., $44,166.27 \times 1.922 = 84,894$ tons of paddy rice. This production dropped compared to the 2000 campaign for the same reasons described above.
3. The increase in improved seed surface area is partly due to an increase in the exchanges carried out between direct beneficiaries of the seeds and the numerous seekers who have not been reached by the project. As a matter of fact, a survey conducted in January 2002 of cross farmer exchanges of seed producers in the four sites has revealed that an area of 4,128.2 ha were covered thanks to seed donations made by direct beneficiaries of improved seeds, after each harvest from 1999 through 2001.
4. Production value is determined on the basis of the average price of FCFA 125 /Kg of paddy, 7,633 farming households on the 4 sites, and an average of 7 persons per farming household.

Map of Djenné District :



The map above shows Djenne District and the water supply network across its twelve communes.

III. PROGRESS TOWARDS OBJECTIVES

In this section, the assessment of activities planned by the project will be presented for the period of January through June 2002, as well as the results recorded according to the performance indicators by intermediate objective.

3.1 EVALUATION OF DAD PROJECT ACTIVITIES (January - June 2002)

The following table presents the state of implementation of planned activities from January through June 2002 :

EVALUATION OF THE DAD ACTION PLAN FROM JANUARY THROUGH JUNE 2002

Activities Planned	Activities completed	Ecarts
Finalization of consolidation works		
A. Tomboflafourantiè work		
A1. Transport of local material by communities : sand, stones, gravel	1-Transport of sand (20 truck loads), gravel (18 truckloads), stones (30 truckloads) through the Djiguiné IVA	
A2. Analysis of the SADI supply and signing of the CPS for the monitoring of finalization work	Analysis of supply and signing of monitoring contract with the SADI consulting firm	
3. Verification of topographic data and production of the implementation plan for the work.	Production of 5 implementation plans for the work	
5. Cement and iron purchase	Cement and iron supply	
6. Hiring of masons and signing of CPS	Hiring of a technical provider (mason) and signing of CPS pour implementation	
7. Mass search	Mass search	
8. Construction work involving elevation	Construction work involving elevation	
9. Confection of the crossing paving stone ("dalle")	Construction of the crossing paving stone	
10. Confection of the connecting dike	Construction of the connecting dike	
B. Niala Work		
B.1 Transport of local materials by the communities : sand and gravel	Transport of 10 truckloads of sand, 15 of gravel through the Pondori IVA	
B.2 Démolition of existing pile heads ("têtes de pile")	Démolition of 06 heads of pile	
B.3 Evacuation of water from the "radier"	Construction of small dikes upstream and downstream of the work Draining of waters from both sides of the work through pumping	
B. 4 Pouring concrete for the new pile heads	Construction of 06 molds and concrete making for the 6 piles	
B.5 Installation of gates	Installation of 5 gates	
B.6 Installation of sluices	Installation of 05 sluices	
C. Finalization of small works		
C.1 Transport of local material by the communities : sand, gravel, and rubble stones	Transport of 15 truckloads of stones, 8 truckloads of sand, and 5 truckloads of gravel through the Pondori IVA	
C.2 Repair work	Repair work on 5 small works	
D.		
The dike of the out of plot belt		
1. Consultation meeting on the continuation of the Syn works	Organisation of a constructive dialogue workshop on conflict around the work	

Activities Planned	Activities Implemented	Ecarts
2. Service order and resumption of works	Service order to HACA to finalize the dike Additional studies carried out by the ORM Hiring a contractor to carry out the new work	
II Experimentation of food credit		
1. Choice of Pondori experimental village.	Choice of the Djiguine IVA and the Yebe Village Association to experiment CSV	
2. Survey on the evolution of the price of rice in the markets of Djenne, Taga, Sofara, Mougna, and Yebe	Development of market monitoring tools Establishment and training of market monitoring teams	
3. Estimation of the quantity of rice to be stored	100 bags of improved rice stored in Yebe 60 bags stored in Djiguine	
4. Analysis of the situation and decision making about the carrying out of the activity	Start-up of activity at Djiguine and Yebe	
5. Finalisation of the convention with Kondo Jigima	Development and signing of convention with Kondo Jigima for the funding of 3 products	
6. Monitoring of stock collection in both sites		
7. Development of agreements / Specific Agreement and By-laws : Pondori, Djiguine.	Development of specific protocol between CARE and the other two structures Development of by-laws	
8. Setting up of management committees	Setting up of both management committees	
9. Formation of management committees	Training of 20 persons on CSVs techniques	
10. Networking with the SFD	Linking the two structures with Kondo Jigima	
III MJT Program		
1. Evaluation of the intensive phase of the Savings/Credit groups.	Evaluation of the 22 groups	
2. Advisory support of the Macina team	Visit of the AC team at Macina	
3. Monitoring of groups	Monitoring of the 22 groups	
IV Institutional Strengthening		
1. Workshop to revise the AER strategic plans.	Revision of the 04 plans	

3.2 NARRATIVE OF RESULTS BY INTERMEDIATE OBJECTIVE

Intermediate Objective 1

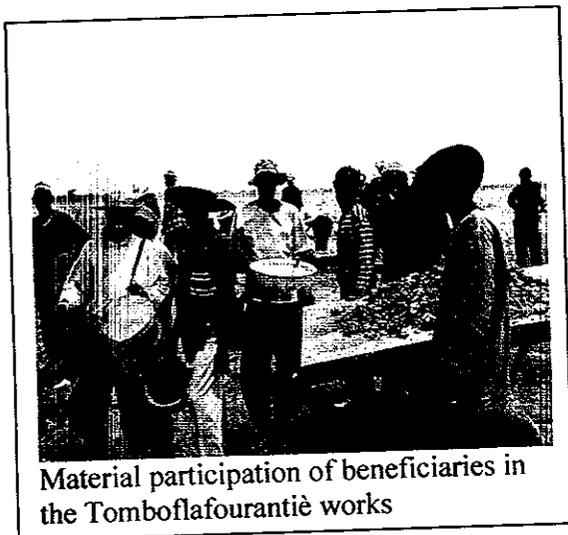
The basic needs of 6000 farming households will be met through increased rice production by 15 000 tons over 30 000 hectares of developed plains.

The activities related to this objective will essentially focus on the reconstruction of the Tomboflafourantiè work, the final reception of the Pondori and Niala works, and the finalization of the Syn works.

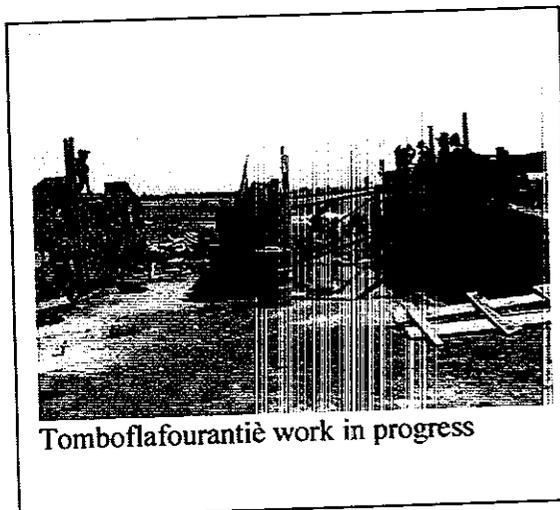
1. The reconstruction of the Tomboflafourantiè work and finalization of the winnowing works at Niala

The new Tomboflafourantiè work (Djiguine site), which was built in replacement of the former one which was too low (and was thus unable to retain the flood waters in the plots north of the plain) was completed in May 2002. This work, which was 1.7m high with two « passes batardées » with dike construction on either side was achieved with the quite crucial physical participation of the beneficiaries. In the future it will help retain the flood waters in the northern part of the plain, where an early withdrawal had been noted during the previous season.

The Niala work in the Pondori plain, whose sluice gate installation work had been halted the previous year because of the rainy season, was also completed during that period. The work consisted of the demolition of 6 heads of piles, their reconstruction with armed concrete, and the installation of 5 sluices gates over 5 of the 9 passes of the work. At this level also, the beneficiaries have participated in the work through supplying local material and non qualified manpower. The installation of sluice gates will help facilitate the closing and opening of passes.



Material participation of beneficiaries in the Tomboflafourantiè works



Tomboflafourantiè work in progress

The final receptions :

The final reception of the development works of the plains of Syn and Pondori, as well as the Niala works were carried out. In addition to IVA officials, there also were representatives of the government, technical services (SALCAEER and SLRC), and the elected officials of the various communes of Djenne District at the different receptions.

2. The continuation of the works on the Syn "hors casier" area

These works, which had been stopped in July 2001 because of the rainy season, started in June 2002 with the same company. This involved the realization of a two pass work with « batardeaux » and the realization of 800 meters of dikes. The work is scheduled to be completed at the end of August 02.

Intermediate Objective 2 :

At least ten inter-village producer organizations will have the technical capacity to manage developed lands and meet the needs of their members .

Three main activities have marked this intermediate objective :

1. Results of the 2000- 2001 season

For the third year in a row, rice producers participating in the DAD project have had a significantly better harvest compared to the baseline: the average yield is 1.922 tons per hectare for the campaign which has just been completed, which is almost four times as high as the 0.539 tons per hectare that producers had obtained prior to the DAD project. With a price of 125 F per kilo of rice, the average household in the DAD zone has increased its income to 1,390, 252 F compared with 389,286 F in 1997 (baseline year) .

1.1 The production of developed plains.

Table A : Results of the 2001-2002 Agricultural Season : A comparison across the four sites :

		Pondori	Djiguiné	Syn	Djonké	Total or Average
Volume	Rice cultivated area (ha)	38456.87	475.7	3 582	1651.7	44166.27
	Yield (t/ha)	1.93	2.07	1.87	1.81	1.92
	Production (t)	74221.75	984.69	6698.34	2989.57	84894.35
	Area planted with improved seeds	4307.58	317.28	925.38	776.46	6326.7
	Areas used with improved techniques	27582.96	440.68	2367.46	902.10	31293.20
Valeur	Production value (million FCFA)	9277718.75	123087.37	837292.5	373697.1	10611793.7
	Revenue per hectare	241250	258747	233750	226249	240269
	Revenue/household	1647029.77	526014.4	587573.6	1007269.8	1390252
	Price of the kg of paddy rice(F CFA)	125	125	125	125	125
Households		5633	234	1425	371	7633

The technique of yield squares was used to measure yield and production. The placement of yield squares for estimating rice production was achieved by the project team at the level of 81 households over a sample of 87.

In each village, the measurement committees (technical VDC teams) also set up squares over 10 plots at the level of their individual villages.

Over each lot four squares of 25 square meters were placed (i.e., 100 square meters per plot). Overall, the estimation bore on 401, compared with 424 plots planned for the entire plains area.

Over the entire plains area, farmers lost the production of 5,627.63 ha, i.e., 11%, of cultivated areas during the season. This reduction concerns only Pondori and Djiguine over areas covered with development. However, the farmers at Syn and Djonke have increased their rice farming areas by 550.60 ha with the completion of the development of their plains.

1.1 Area Measurement

Table B : Comparison of cultivated and harvested areas by site

Sites	Areas used(in ha)	Areas harvested (ha)	Gap	%
Pondori	44527	38456.87	-6070.13	-14%
Djiguiné	583.8	475.7	-108.1	-19%
Djonké	1397.9	1651.7	253.8	18%
Syn	3285.2	3582	296.8	18%
Total	49793.9	44166.27	-5627.63	-11%

At the sites of Syn and Djonke, all cultivated areas have been harvested; moreover there was an increase of 258.8 ha, i.e., 18% over those of the last campaign. Such increases are due to the positive effect of developments. As a matter of fact, the presence of infrastructures has reassured producers who consequently made new clearings.

On the Pondori and Djiguine plains, with the weak level of floods in the Bani river, 6,178,23 ha out of the 45 110,8 ha were not harvested. These plots set up on the highlands of the plains have not received enough water.

The realization of the Tombouffourantiè work will help avoid such problems on the Djiguine site in the future.

2. The management and maintenance of hydro-agricultural infrastructures

Once more, in the course of the period, the communities benefiting from the infrastructures through their management structures have shown a sense of responsibility and have shown their capacity to manage the infrastructures and activities at project withdrawal. Thus:

The pursuit of consolidation works on the sites of Pondori and Djiguine with the physical contribution of the community through the provision of local material and non qualified manpower has been a major concern to associations. The maintenance of the "batardeaux" at the level of the 4 sites was another of their tasks over the period.

On the Djiguine site: the Tombaflafouratie work fully completed was realized under state control, with a strong participation of the community estimated at 30% of the costs of the works.

At Pondori: the Niala work has been completed, the sluice gates have been installed, the work on the small breaches is also 100 % complete. Here too, community participation has been outstanding, about 20% through the provision of local material and non qualified manpower.

An animation session was held in a general assembly with the Pondori structure in order to evaluate community participation in the completion works at Niala and the breaches. The conclusion was that 23% of villages have not effectively participated in the works (# of persons supplied par day and late). The leaders of the organization who were called on in the face of this situation proposed the following measures:

-Villages not participating in the works according to the pre-established plan will face sanctions.

-Every time a village provides manpower, the delegates of that village must be in the workplace as team leaders.

-Village chiefs will insist more on the participation of the village and enforcement of sanctions.

Maintenance activities focused on the "batardeaux" at Niala and Djenné-Djéra 2.

On the Syn site : after the workshop on conflict management, additional studies on the plain outside the « casier » were carried out with the collaboration of the topographic team of the ORM « see intermediate objective 3 for a discussion of this conflict and its resolution "

For the conduct of this study, all the various parties involved in the conflict have participated (the « casier » and « hors casier » management committees of Syn, the town-hall, village chiefs, ORM, and CARE).

From the results of this study, it appears that the first work achieved by CARE is located in an ideal setting (i.e., the lowest part of the site). In this respect, the dike in no way hampers the irrigation of the "casier". However, the study, for the sake of reinforcing the cohesion within the community, keeps the digging of canals upstream and downstream the dike or the construction of additional works in order to improve the water supply in the plain. Two variants are proposed for the construction of additional works.

- building a work with 3 passes of 3 m each

- or build two works, one with 2 passes of 2 m each, and the other with a 3 m pass.

After the discussion of results, in a participatory manner these two proposals were analysed and the community has chosen to construct a 3 pass work. The option of works under local government control has been adopted for the supply of local material and non qualified manpower.

At Djonke, the SOGEMAT enterprise is still awaited in order to operate the corrections over the dike prior to final reception.

3. The promotion of improved seeds

In order to ensure a permanent channel of improved seed supplies, the project has conducted a certain number of activities :

a) The provision of quality seeds :

A new agronomic diagnosis was carried out with rice farmer organizations in order to understand and list the improved varieties of rice which may be cultivated in addition to the three varieties already existing. On the basis of this diagnosis, the new varieties requested by farmers are : BH2, BG-90-2, and C74.

Total provision involves 63,040 tons for the season. This supply will be a renewal of seeds from the first season in the Pondori and in Djiguine, and completes that of Syn and Djonke. The requests made at the level of the national seed service have been met, and all seeds have been distributed to farmers.

b) Seed production :

The intensification of local production of select seeds will be carried out by 35 volunteer farmers engaged in the multiplication of seeds (including the 18 previously involved in programming). The 35 farmers, with a provision of 26.5ha, have received the training on seed technology.

c) The monitoring of reimbursement of seed credits :

For this activity, the project put a great emphasis on the internal evaluation of the three years of supplying organizations with improved seeds in order to position itself in the process of skills transfer to inter-village organizations. Thus at the level of all IVA meetings were organized with the various structure components (IVA, VDC, committee for the measurement of areas and infrastructure management committees).

The situation per site is as follows :

A Djiguinè : At the conclusion of three years of supplying, the structure has benefited 220.5 bags, i.e., 17.640 tons of selected rice seeds. In spite of the difficulties experienced during the first season (1999) with the exceptional water level which had provoked the drowning of certain plots, the IVA was able to reimburse the entire loan and constitute on its behalf 162 bags in interest on the loan.

At Djonke : The assessment of the situation showed that the reimbursement of seeds granted was realized fully but the recovery of interest for the organization was very slow (Only 7 bags out of a total of 131 bags planned). Evidently support in reinforcing the capacity of mobilization of internal resources will be necessary for this group. These reimbursement activities show that the difficulties experienced are :

- Inadequate storage space both for seeds and for reimbursed credit
- Difficulties in the negotiation between producers and IVA.

In order to address these difficulties, the bureau of the association has made a proposal which was adopted by the GA. The proposal stipulates that all reimbursements should be made at the end of the 02-03 agricultural season. To that effect, creditors have two options: one bag will be reimbursed with 1.5 bag of improved seed and 2 bags for reimbursements in local varieties.

At Syn : there are two systems for reimbursing seed credit, a first system reimbursing in kind 1.5 bag against one bag at harvest and the other system which reimburses in cash. But both systems aim at constituting a stock of 50% of the total quantity of seeds given. For the two seasons, the structure has had 162.5 bags of improved seeds for the benefit of the association. The reimbursement carried out is 115.5 bags, i.e., 72%. Three villages have not been able to reimburse their loans. After an analysis of their situation, the organization decided to use part of the interest in order to reimburse the loans of these villages.

At the Pondori : Because of the great diversity of villages at the level of this site, the evaluation of the seed situation focused on the previous campaign. The organization received 14.240 tons of improved seeds, i.e., 178 bags. The current reimbursement is 182 bags (capital plus interest) presented at the meeting marking the end of the organization's campaign held at Woko, where 20 site villages were present. A committee was set up to address the status of the others who were not present at the meeting. This committee had already worked on the same issue the previous year.

Also the structure has been selling since last year the in-kind interests earned by the organization. The major difficulty underscored by the Pondori structure for recovering seeds is the inadequacy of storage warehouses in villages. The lack of space at Gomitogo (home office of the organization) to receive all the seeds makes the organization proceed on to storages in villages under the control of VDCs. If such delegates are not present at the meeting, communication becomes very difficult and heavily influences organizational performance. To make a commission tour 35 villages is not beneficial for the organization. Other factors influenced the recovery of seeds in the Pondori, particularly in the areas of Kandara, Kouima and Woko, which were largely affected by the low levels of water.

In conclusion, as far as the campaigns to supply improved seeds are concerned, they have made possible a great increase of production and productivity of developed lands; those associations that are aware of the fact that a sustainable production chain of such seeds is indispensable, have all set up a production and local distribution system.

4. Advising Producers :

This has focused essentially on training in agricultural production techniques:

Awareness-building of farmers for the use of farms according to the agricultural calendar and improved farming techniques, practical animation sessions on the technical procedures, the use of fertilizers, the fight against wild rice. For the farming calendar, local radio programs are planned in order to inform rice farmers on the evolution of the water level, rainfall levels, the evolution of crops, the characteristics of varieties, as well as the necessity to introduce new varieties able to meet the requirements of highlands.

5. Advising on rice marketing :

To ensure a good revenue to producers and saleswomen in the intervention area, the project has initiated, in addition to women's savings and credit (MJT), the experimentation of a trading system called Food Storage Credit (CSV) for two groups. During that period, the project ensured the monitoring and advice for the sound operation of such activities.

5.1 Women's Savings and Credit (MJT)

Based on systematic monitoring, one notes the following results :

- The 22 groups include 723 members of whom 35% invest their credit into rice trading.
- 21 out of 22 of the groups are in a development phase following the results of the evaluations of the intensive phase. Only one group has not been evaluated.
- Local capacity development through the training of 22 female group animators capable of animating the groups
- Mobilization of local savings for an amount of FCFA 2,958,075
- Granting credit in the amount of FCFA 2,565,525 to 391 women
- Mobilization of a social fund in the amount of FCFA 231,925

A survey on the level of education of group members has shown that the great majority of group members are unable to read or write in French or in local languages. Given that financial resources are becoming more and more available, credit and reimbursement are made with interest rates and schedules of reimbursement, which are all complex activities for memorization, hence the project has planned to teach women literacy skills in the various groups.



In March-April 2002 The project sponsored some inter-group exchange visits to bring into contact the various groups and create a forum of discussion and resolution of common problems. In certain groups the impact of such visits may already be observed. For example:

◆The Guidjowel 1 group has instituted mandatory credit for all members although the approach does not make credit mandatory. According to the women, all members are required to conduct an income generating activity in order to protect the group against non-payment of savings in the future. A woman who does not conduct an economic activity only digs into her stock of grain to pay for savings; if she finds herself in a non-payment situation, this might bring about difficulties within the group; in addition, every member must contribute to the development of the group through the payment of interest.

◆The Poromani group has experienced an increase in the number of credit beneficiaries from 16 to 24. Since then, the members are respecting credit reimbursement schedules and save on a regular basis. **One of the principal lessons drawn from the visits is the relation established among the groups of a single area and the spirit of competition stimulated among them.** Such savings and credit activity has brought about a lot of emulation in the area, through not only the reinforcement of social cohesion but also and above all the increased financial capacity of the members of the group for the achievement of their income generating activities through credit. As a matter of fact, women have easy access to credit when they are members of a savings and credit group. Here they feel secure. As illustrated by the words of Madame Pama, a member of the Gornitogo group: **«Before the MJT approach, we approached several persons in order to obtain credit. We often had to explain our problems to**

these individuals for credit which was not often forthcoming. But with the MJT approach, credit is within our reach. We feel much more secure; it is also our savings that generated this".

Madame Fatouma Traore who is a member of the Dèbenna group, states : « before MJT I marketed rice but with my family's money. The benefit would accrue to the family. With MJT, I took a FCFA 10,000 loan that I used to buy paddy rice. The sale of this rice after shelling brought me FCFA 6,000 in one month. I added it to the FCFA 10,000 credit which served to buy paddy rice. The sale of such rice after shelling brought me FCFA 6,000 in one month. I added it to the FCFA 10,000, which enabled me to buy 3 bags that I will soon be marketing". .

5.2 Food Storage Credit (CSV)

In order to help producers sell their production at competitive and profitable prices, the project has experimented the Food Storage Approach (please see 2001 DAD Annual Report).

Credit storage involves the use of grain stock (corn, rice, peanuts, etc.) as collateral to obtain loans from micro-finance institutions or from commercial banks. The farmers who are participating in this operation thus speculate on their production, i.e., store their productions between harvest and the hungry stopgap period ("la soudure") when prices reach their highest level. The loans secured on the basis of stocks of cereal crops help them face their cash needs. The loans obtained may be invested in domestic consumer goods or be invested in income generating activities.

Farmers decide at the end of the operation to sell their products in order to reimburse the loan and meet other needs or buy back their products for home consumption. Farmers who decide to sell their products earn profit and those who decide to buy back save money, as their products become less expensive than if they bought on the open market.

The Yebe village associations and the Djiguine IVA chose to experiment using the rice production in developed plains. Thus the two associations, as a result of voluntary participation, have obtained the necessary information and training for activity start-up. After the setting up and formation of the management committee for individual associations, the members have collected stocks of 100 bags of rice for the Yebe association and 49 rice bags for the Djiguine IVA. The project negotiated and received from the Kondo Jigima financial institution an agreement to finance the activity. A FCFA 525,000 loan contracted by the Yebe VA has permitted the latter to pay 70% of a stock of 100 bags. The Djiguine IVA started the activity on the basis of a loan granted using the improved seed funds. Each one of the two structures is affiliated to the Kondo Jigima financial institution. A formal agreement links them to CARE in this pilot activity.

The management committees follow the evolution of rice prices over five local markets using a data collection tool designed for that purpose. At Yebe, the price expected by members for the sale of the stock is FCFA 140 per kilo. The loan contracted with Kondo Jigima must be reimbursed after the sale of the stock by the end of September 2002.

The table below presents the storage credit situation in both structures:

SUMMARY SITUATION OF STORAGE CREDIT

SITE/VILLAGE	VARIETES STORED	QUANTITY OF PADDY RICE STORED		PRICE AT COLLECTION		AMOUNT PAID TO PRODUCERS: 70 % of the stored value (in F CFA)	KONDO JIGIMA LOAN (in F CFA)	INTEREST TO BE PAID (10% of the loan)	REMBOURSEMENT PREVU : CAPITAL +INTERETS (en F CFA)
		In 70 Kg bags	In Kg	F CFA /Bag	F CFA / Kg				
YEBE	Khao Gaewn	100	7 000	7 500	107	525 000	525 000	52 500	577 500
DJIGUINE	Gambiaka	4	280	6 860	98	188 850	188 850	18 885	207 735
	Aliba	45	3 150	5 390	77				
	S/total	49	5 950	-	-				
TOTAL		149	13 950	-	-	713 850	713 850	71 385	785 235

NB : For Djiguinè, this is not a loan as such from Kondo Jigima. The funding stems from funds that the association has reimbursed to CARE under seed loans.

At Djiguine the decision to sell was made in July 2002 by the IVA. As of June 13, 2002, the price per kg was FCFA 130 for local paddy rice and FCFA 160 per kg for improved paddy rice. The purchase prices were respectively FCFA 77 per kg, i.e., FCFA 5390 per 70 kg bag, and FCFA 98 per kg, i.e., FCFA 6860 per 70 kg bag.

Intermediate Objective 3

Inter-village rice producer organizations will have the capacity to manage developed land in a democratic, transparent and sustainable manner for the benefit of their members.

In order to ensure a rational and democratic management of IVA developed sites, the four (4) main activities of the DAD during this period were as follows :

1. Democratic Governance Surveys in Partner Organizations :

Following the discussion of the results of the DG surveys, one gathers that DAD partner COs have made remarkable progress in democratic governance indicators in that all three associations, namely Benkadi of Djiguine, Benkadi of Pondori, and that of the « casier » of Syn are at level 3, i.e., they meet high standards of self-governance indicators and sound management plus civic action, rights and obligations, and resource mobilization. The Bendougou association at Djonke is at level 1, i.e., it meets the sound management requirement but not the democratic self-governance requirement .

Level 3 associations have improved in the mobilization of internal resources thanks to initiatives relative to dues and membership cards; however, efforts must be made in order to develop the capacity to mobilize external resources. In this sense, advisory support is brought to bear on project design and preparation.

2. Advisory support for legalization.

The period was marked by the finalization of the SRIs at Djonke and the quest for certification by the administration. The association requires village-level dues in the amount of FCFA 19,500 to meet its recurrent costs. It must be noted that all villages of the association have met that requirement. Thus, the Bendougou association now has a certificate making it one of the formal associations of Djenne district. This is evidence that a cooperative dynamic is being born through the mobilization of internal resources and a claim for a legitimate and legal identity.

A significant support was extended to the federation of « Benson » associations in the development of their by-laws as well as the creation of administrative files to meet the requirements of certification. The contacts that officials have maintained and still maintain with the project for the certification are evidence of a strong commitment for the formalization of the federation. The federation is a potential intermediary to take over the strengthening of its member associations and also a good framework for the protection of the rights and interests of their members. Close and sustained support by the project over the three (3) remaining months for the project will be provided in order to consolidate these achievements.

3. Workshop on conflict management of the Syn « casier » association

Background of the conflict :

In April 1998, the Syn rice farmers' association, composed of sixteen villages, sent a request to the DAD project for the further development of the « casier », which had been developed and supervised by the Mopti Rice Authority since 1972. Also in 1998, the association, following a general assembly meeting, sent another request for the development of the « hors casier ». They did this because, following the reduction of water levels, there was a reduction in "casier" yields as well as a reduction in farming surface area. This situation led most farmers to exploit "hors casier" land in a lower zone. Following technical studies the results of which were presented in a meeting to association officials, and consultations with Mopti Rice Authority, the works were carried out in the course of the year 2000—specifically, the carrying-out of the work over the main canal of the "casier" as well as the re-digging of the canal. In 2001, further work with a dike on the east side of the "hors casier" was completed. The finalization of this dike is planned for 2002 by the HACA implementation agency. Following a meeting held at the Madiama town hall on September 13, 2001, the farmers of 4 villages of the association mobilized themselves on September 14 to go open eight breaches in the dike in order to speed up the water coming into the "casier". And a ninth breach was created afterwards. One must keep in mind that this association (and the plain itself) cover the communes of Fakala, Madiama, and the urban commune of Djenne.

As a result, certain association leaders have filed a claim, with administrative authorities, against the authors of the damage. They maintain that no cooperative procedure was observed to make the decision and such actions constitute a threat against development programs. This situation has created a conflict among

association leaders and has led to a crisis in the cooperative life. It is therefore necessary for the project to establish the conditions of peaceful conflict resolution.

Conflict management workshop

This workshop brought together all the actors representing the various parties, from the Madiama commune, local administration, ORM, technical services, and CARE. Over two days, the parties, through conflict prevention and management tools, seized the opportunity to express their views on the problem, discuss and propose solutions to the conflict. Two tools were used – negotiation and inter-group conflict resolution (ICR).

The workshop had two intense moments, the reconciliation act through the mutual pardon presentation between the parties and the commitment of partners namely CARE and the association for the finalization of development works with the involvement of the ORM in case studies or additional studies (please refer to the reconciliation verbal statement and action plan).

Beyond the results obtained, this workshop constitutes a valuable training for the association and its local partners (administration and communes) for the reinforcement of conflict prevention and management mechanisms in the area. Because the methodology of this consultation is a practice of concerted management of communal resources. The negotiation tool, if used proactively, helps prevent reaching the open or serious stage of the conflict. The Inter-Group Conflict Resolution (ICR) approach manages the conflict in a participatory manner with all the parties. This workshop is also an application of the training in conflict prevention and management received by the CARE staff and its partner NGOs.

Finally, the lesson learned – Development strategies in a land area generate fewer conflicts when the local administration and territorial communes, in addition to local populations, are involved from the outset at the most grassroots level.

4. The Inter-organizational exchange workshop.

The annual exchange framework among rice farmer associations in Djenne district, the inter-organizational workshop, was held for the 3rd time on June 19 through 21, 2002, in Djenne. The workshop brought together 30 participants (Men) representing six rice farmers' associations, the chamber of agriculture, and technical services in Djenne (SLACAER, SLRC).

The workshop brought together all Benson member associations, namely: the 4 CARE rice farmers' associations (Benkadi of Pondori, Benkadi of Djiguine, Bendougou of Djonke, the Syn "casier" farmers' association) and the two non CARE partner associations: the Bougoula "casier" farmers' association, the Sofara "casier" farmers' association.

The overall objective of the workshop was to consolidate the framework of annual exchanges on institutional strengthening among rice farmers' organizations.

The results of the workshop included the following:

With regard to self-evaluation, the representatives of individual associations took turns presenting the evaluation of their organization on the basis of nineteen criteria in terms of necessary actions for the viability of an organization. This exercise has enabled organizations to ask questions, discuss activities and results obtained and consequently measure their individual performances comparatively with one another. The presentation of the results of the self evaluation has generated a lot of enthusiasm and established avenues of cooperation between organizations. For example, at the presentation of the Pondori Benkadi, the availability of a stock of 80 bags of improved seeds of rice was announced, and the representatives of Bougoula and Sofara showed their interest in purchasing this stock in order to cover their seed needs.

Participants reflected on the relevance and strategies of resource mobilization. According to Dah Bouare, administrative secretary of the Pondori Benkadi association, « the financial resources are to an organization what blood is to the human body; if it's not there one dies; thus the mobilization of resources is essential for the survival of an organization ». Moctar Traore, administrative secretary of the Syn « casier », concluded that **no organization can reach its objectives without financial resource mobilization**. Thus every organization proposed to conduct a list of activities aimed to improve its financial capacity.

Following the reading of an extract of the pastoral charter, participants had very lively discussions on the problems of transhumance and proposed solutions aimed at avoiding conflicts which cause confrontations every year between farmers and herders. The workshop suggested the holding of inter-village consultations

involving village chiefs, their advisers, representatives of farmers (and herders and fishermen), and the administration.

The group of presidents of the various associations under the aegis of the President of Pondory Benkady, was asked by the attendees to facilitate the discussions and request the prefect to participate in meetings to set the date when animals will enter the "bourgoutières". The project proposes to assist the association in this approach, particularly in providing it with tools and a methodological approach to conducting this sort of civic action.

Finally, the workshop addressed the operation of the « Benso » federation; such exchanges have made it possible to evaluate the activities conducted and make provisions for some future activities. Thus, following two meetings on the development and adoption of statutes and by-laws, the federation, with the support of CARE, has constituted files for certification. The Benso federation has recorded the payment of membership fees by some members. It has exploited a communal farm in the Syn rice "casier". In the near future, the committee has planned to collect the remaining membership fees and to engage files for getting certification. To that effect, one can say that the Federation is developing a strategy of mobilizing internal resources. In addition to these themes the SLACAER and SLRC service managers were invited to present their service and their activities to organizations in order to encourage networking.

IV. CASE STUDIES

SUCCESS STORIES

➤ Mobilization of human and financial resources

Under the implementation of the additional development work in the Djiguine rice plain, the Djiguine Benkadi association has acquired a loan of FCFA 100,000 from the PASACOOOP(Decentralized Financial Service) village fund, in order to purchase a permit to extract rubble stones with the Mane (Timissa commune) village authorities. In addition, the association has shown the capacity to mobilize its members by fully paying for the village manpower for the extraction and transport of the rubble stone, gravel and sand for 30 days. For the same activity, it has provided the non qualified manpower (20 persons per day over 30 days). This mobilization capacity is an act of true partnership in the implementation of development projects to be capitalized in the approaches. The Djiguine Benkadi association continues to take measures aimed at ensuring its financial autonomy through the mobilization of internal resources. In this sense, the association has manufactured and sold 130 membership cards for the price of FCFA 500 per card for 25 committee members, and FCFA 300 per card for 105 regular members. In addition, it is recovering annual contributions of 50 Kg of rice per farmer, to ensure the handling of the operating costs.

➤ The groups have understood the value of saving and perceive it as an alternative for members to break out of the vicious cycle of poverty. For example, the woman secretary of the Pangal group of Djonke Ouro said : « **The day we reached the amount of FCFA 75,000 as our savings, we turned our buckets into drums and danced. To save such a sum of money in such a short period of time makes us believe in the future of the group and in the financial capacities of the group to implement development activities with capital funds.**»

V. DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

In the course of the period, the project faced difficulties including the following:

Unavailability of adequate quantities of improved seed varieties: As in previous seasons, the project needs in selected seeds were not covered by the National Seed Service. As a matter of fact, out of 49 tons necessary, only 6.280 tons were provided by the NSS. In order to bridge the deficit, the project had to resort to other less reliable sources: Mopti Rice Authority area farmers who produce seeds.

Company management of development work: Once again, businesses engaged by the project for development work have not been able to conduct the work in a timely manner. Thus the HACA company which initially seemed relatively creditworthy has had lots of difficulties completing the work in the Syn « Hors Casier » which had begun in 2001. Given this difficult situation, the project decided once again to conduct the realization of the Tomboflafourantie work under administrative control, i.e., supply the materials necessary and contract manpower services with mason specialists.

VI. LESSONS LEARNED / IMPACTS

Lessons and impacts of our interventions include that :

The development of the « Hors Casier » has led to a conflicting situation with serious negative potential consequences; fortunately this has been resolved. However, in the short and medium term, disturbances could occur about the current mode of plot distribution and sale. There will soon be legal issues such as rental, sale, sharecropping at the expense of loaning, lending, and donating. If the mode of access through inheritance can still be useful, it will lead to redistributions within families, of plots for households, for individuals.

Development will also become a crucial issue among users (animal farming and fishing) and the historically recognized beneficiaries.

Vigilance and concerted efforts must be permanent in order to ensure a sustainable use of the plain.

VII COLLABORATION

In the course of the period, the project has had collaborative relations with various actors involved in the development of the district as well as Mopti Region.

As a matter of fact, under the consultations over the Syn conflict, the following services were involved : Mopti Rice Authority, the Local Service of Advice for Development and Rural Equipment (SLACAER), the political and administrative authorities, elected officials and the administration.

The National Seed Service at Segou (SSN-S) and the Seeds Laboratory (LABOSEM) have collaborated with the project on technical aspects of rice farming.

The Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Project (SANREM) and the CRRRA in Mopti, under the management of national resources and institutional strengthening.

The sub-office was pleased to receive a recent visit from USAID's Assistant Administrator for Africa, Constance Newman. This visit was an opportunity to showcase the contributions of the CARE-USAID partnership to Mali's development.

VIII Future Plans/Prospects

In light of the results of the developments and introduction of improved seeds, the project has had a catalyzing effect in Djenne District. To consolidate these achievements, a certain number of activities will be the main focus of the three (3) remaining months of the project. Such consolidation will go include:

- Advice to new seeds producers for the establishment of seed plots.
- The introduction of new adapted seeds to the highlands of developed plains. Such introduction will follow the same path (credit, local production and diffusion by VAS) as the previous one. It will be totally managed by the IVA.
- The development with the AERs of this orientation (use) strategy with the funds of seed credit interests..
- The institutional strengthening of organizations in order to ensure ownership, sustainability of achievements. The phase will be essentially devoted to the training of IVAs in project preparation et funds negotiation, with a special emphasis on conflict resolution and management.
- The monitoring of the experimentation of the Food Storage Credit, with its extension to other structures based on voluntary participation.

It is also worth noting that CARE has been requested by the donor to present a proposal for a 9 month extension at the end of this first phase. This extension will cover the period of October 2002 through June 2003. The contract results and activities planned for this phase are contained in the extension document.

The following action plan presents the various activities of the project which are planned for the period of July through September 2002.

Operational Plan – July through September 2002

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS	QUARTER			OFFICIAL.	ASSIST/COL
			July	August	Sept		
Intermediate Objective 1. The basic needs of 6000 farming households will be secured through increased rice production 15 000 tonnes over 30 000 hectares of developed plains.							
1. At least 30.000 ha are developed and cultivated with rice	1.1 Monitor the VDC teams in the implementation of the agricultural campaign plans	# teams using monitoring tools in data collection	X	X	X	RV DA	Project manager
	1.2 Diffuse the training module on production techniques in submersion rice farming..	# diffused module	X			RV DA et RI	Project manager
Intermediate Objective 2. At least four inter-village producer organizations will have the technical capacity to manage developed land and meet the needs of their members.							
1. A water management system for the 4 developed sites is operational	1.1 Evaluate the management and maintenance system of existing infrastructures	Identified system strengths and weaknesses	X			RV DA	RV RI, AC
	1.2 Assist Cos in improving the monitoring and maintenance plan for infrastructures.	% COs with a monitoring and maintenance plan	X			AC	RV DA, CP
2. The AER/CO draw maximum profit from the sale of their surplus production	2.1 Conduct a study on the impact of MJT activity on the commercialization of rice	Study report			X	RV G/C	Program team
	2.2 Monitor MJT groups in development stage	# action plans	X			RV G/C	Program team
	2.3 Monitor the MJT groups in a maturation stage	# group in maturing stage		X		RV G/C	Program team programme
	2.4 Evaluate the savings and credit campaign	Lessons drawn from the test phase			X	Project manager	Program team

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS	QUARTER			RESPONS.	APPUI/COL.
			July	August	Sept		
	2.5 Identifier les zones d'écoulement du stock de riz du crédit stockage vivrier	# flow markets	X			RV G/C	RV DA, AC
	2.6 Monitor the sale of the food storage credit system	Quantities of cereals sold		X		RV G/C	Program Team
	2.7 Reimburse the loan of the SFD Kondo Djiguima	Amounts reimbursed		X		Project manager	RV G/C, Kondo
	2.8 Pay the returns to the members of the food storage system	Amount received by the clients		X		RV G/C	Program Team
	2.9 Draw the lesson of the food storage credit activity	Result and Lessons learned from the system			X	Project Manager	Program Team
Intermediate objective 3. Inter-village producer organizations will have the capacity to manage developed land in a democratic manner for the benefit of their members.							
1. The 4 DAD partner organizations practice safe management	1.1 Monitor organizations in their self-evaluation	# self-evaluating Cos	X	X		RV RI	Program Team
	1.2 Assist and advise AER/ VDCs in the mobilization of internal resources	# AER/VDCs which mobilizing internal resources	X	X		AC	RVs
	1.3 Organiser une visite d'échange à Niono avec les producteurs de semences améliorées	The best approaches are selected		X		RV DA	AC , OC
2. The 4 AER and village structures have women in decision making bodies	2.1 Animer les AER sur le genre et développement	% AER with female membership in their committees			X	AC	RV RI
	2.2 Former les femmes des bureaux AER en leadership féminin	# women fully playing their role			X	RV RI	Project Manager
3. At least 2 out of 4 Cos mobilise non CARE and non member resources	3.1 Appuyer les AER dans la conception des projets et à la recherche de financement	# AER which have designed a project # projets funded			X	AC	RVs
	3.2 Organiser des rencontres AER et instances communales en vue de leur implication dans la gestion des infrastructures existantes	# communes involved in infrastructure management	X	X		Project Manager	Program Team

IX CONCLUSION

Thanks to increased cereal and fodder production, the DAD project demonstrates that making Djenne District self-sufficient in food is an attainable objective. In the course of this last project year, emphasis will be placed on marketing, management and the maintenance of existing infrastructures.

Future exchanges with other CARE projects operating in the area of development and natural resource management will provide the project with opportunities to maximize and extend its impact. Indeed, the new strategic plan for the Mopti Region (developed in June 2002) puts particular emphasis on continuing infrastructure development while also highlighting the marketing of cereal products. It will represent an ideal framework to maximize project impact and extend it to other districts of Mopti Region. Lessons learned from the present project will be built on in future activities in order to promise similar results over a larger area.

Project achievements remain fragile although significant. Clearly, the implementation of activities linked to the commercialisation and management of communal resources require a relatively long period of time to bear fruit. The extension phase of the project is an opportunity to meet these challenges.

ANNEX : Verbal Statement of Reconciliation



On May 4 and 5, 2002, a workshop was held in Djenne's "Maison du Peuple." The theme of the workshop was conflict management and resolution at the level of the "hors casier" of Syn, particularly concerning the opening of breaches in the dike.

We, participants in the workshop, have agreed on the following :

1. All the parties involved in the conflict have forgiven one another.
2. We have made the commitment to provide all unskilled labor necessary for the carrying-out of works on the dike in the interest of the population in the area.
3. We have committed ourselves to ensuring information flow in all villages involved before the beginning of works.
4. Each village will designate its workers.
5. Any worker who refuses to participate in the works after being designated will have to pay a fine in an amount to be determined. Otherwise his plot will be taken away from him to be given to another person.
6. Everybody is required to respect the above agreements.
7. A monitoring committee will be set up for the oversight and implementation of the agreements.

The Participants .

Djenné, May 05, 2002

Draft plan of action for the joint commission

Actions	Périods	Officials
1.Mutual presentation of pardon	By end of workshop	Workshop Chairman
2. Withdrawal of the complaint from the administration	By /05/02	President of the « casier » association Ibid
3. Sending a letter to CARE with apologies	By 5/05/02	Committee Chairman
4.Setting up of a monitoring committee	By end of workshop	CARE, ORM, Committee, Elected Officials
5.Technical studies for the benefit of the « hors casier » and the « casier	By 5/30/02	CARE, Committee, Elected Officials
6.Construction of other works	By 6/ 30/02	
7.Diffusion of information within the association and among partners	Continuing	Committee Chairman, CARE, ORM, Elected Officials
8.Reinforcement of the management committee « hors casier » broadened to technical services and elected officials	Continuing	Committee Chairman
9.Writing up of report on reconciliation	By end of workshop	Workshop Chairman Committee Chairman
10.Development of « hors casier » statutes and by-laws	By 06/05//02	

NB : The monitoring committee will be composed of the representatives of the structures below :

- ACAER
- Administration
- Communal authorities
- ORM
- CARE Djenné
- Chamber of Agriculture