



# FEED THE FUTURE

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

## THE USAID YIDGIRI ACTIVITY

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Implemented by Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture (CNFA)

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## Acronym List

<b>AGRODIA</b>	National Association of Wholesalers and Retailers of Agricultural Inputs
<b>AE</b>	Auxiliaires d'élevage
<b>AGRHYMET</b>	Agriculture, Hydrology, Meteorology Research Center
<b>AMEA</b>	Agribusiness Market Ecosystem Alliance
<b>AMELP</b>	Activity Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan
<b>ANES-B</b>	Association Nationale des Entreprises Semencieres du Burkina Faso
<b>ASF</b>	Animal Sourced Foods
<b>A2N</b>	Nodde Nooto (A2N)
<b>B2B</b>	Business-to-Business
<b>BDSP</b>	Business Development Service Provider
<b>CAP</b>	Centre Agricole Polyvalent
<b>CFA</b>	Communaute Financiere Africaine or "African Financial Community"
<b>CIPA</b>	Credit for Agricultural Production Intensification
<b>CILSS</b>	Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
<b>CMA</b>	Centre de Mécanisation Agricole
<b>CNFA</b>	Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture
<b>COGES</b>	Market Management Committees
<b>COP</b>	Chief of Party
<b>CORAF</b>	Conseil ouest et Centre Africain pour la Recherche et le Développement Agricoles
<b>CPI</b>	Capacity Performance Index
<b>CRA</b>	Regional Chambers of Agriculture
<b>DCA</b>	Development Credit Authority
<b>DCOP</b>	Deputy Chief of Party
<b>DFA</b>	Director of Finance and Administration
<b>DFSA</b>	Food Security Development Activity
<b>DGSV</b>	General Directorate of Veterinary Services
<b>DGPV</b>	Direction Générale de la Protection des Végétaux
<b>DQA</b>	Data Quality Assessments
<b>ECOWAS</b>	Economic Community of West African States
<b>EMMP</b>	Environmental Mitigation Monitoring Plan
<b>ENSA</b>	Ecole Nationale de Santé Animale

<b>FBO</b>	Field-Based Organization
<b>FCP-BF</b>	Fédération des Caisses Populaires du Burkina Faso
<b>FSC</b>	
<b>FEWSNET</b>	Farm Service Center
<b>F2F</b>	Famine Early Warning Systems Network
<b>GA</b>	Farmer-to-Farmer General Assembly
<b>GIZ</b>	German Corporation for International Cooperation
<b>GoBF</b>	Government of Burkina Faso
<b>GRAD</b>	Groupe de Recherche et d'Action pour le Développement
<b>INERA</b>	Institute for the Environment and Agricultural Research
<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communication Technology
<b>IDP</b>	Internally Displaced Person
<b>IEE</b>	Initial Environmental Examination
<b>IGA</b>	Income Generating Activity
<b>IR</b>	Intermediate Result
<b>ISFM</b>	Integrated Soil Fertility Management
<b>IRSAT</b>	Institut de Recherche en Sciences Appliquées et Technologies
<b>LOP</b>	Life of Project
<b>MAAD</b>	Ministère de l'Agriculture et des Aménagements Hydro-agricoles
<b>MDA</b>	Maison de l'Aviculture
<b>MDD-W</b>	Minimum Dietary Diversity-Women
<b>MEL</b>	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
<b>MFI</b>	Microfinance Institution
<b>MCD</b>	Doctor of Health District
<b>MELP</b>	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan
<b>MoHD</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Hydro-agricultural Development
<b>MoU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>M&amp;NPA</b>	Market and Nutrition Pathways Assessment
<b>M&amp;NP-AMP</b>	Market and Nutrition Pathways Adaptive Management Plan
<b>NBF</b>	Norme du Burkina Faso
<b>NESP</b>	National Economic and Social Development Plan
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Government Organization
<b>NPE</b>	Non-Permissive Environment
<b>ONV</b>	National Order of Veterinarians
<b>OFSP</b>	Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato
<b>OHADA</b>	Organisation pour l'Harmonisation en Afrique du Droit des Affaires/Organisation for the Harmonization of Business Law

	in Africa
<b>PAIRED</b>	Partnership for Agricultural Research, Education and Development
<b>PERSUAP</b>	Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan
<b>POPICS</b>	Producer Organization Purdue Improved Crop Storage
<b>REGIS-AG</b>	Resilience and Economic Growth in the Sahel – Accelerated Growth
<b>REGIS-ER</b>	Resilience and Economic Growth in the Sahel – Enhanced Resilience
<b>ReCom</b>	Relais Communautaire
<b>RFA</b>	Request for Application
<b>RISE</b>	Resilience in the Sahel Enhanced
<b>RSAP</b>	Réseau de Santé Animale de Proximité Social Analysis and Action
<b>SAA</b>	Social Analysis and Action
<b>SBC</b>	Social and Behavior Change
<b>SCC</b>	Sahel Collaboration Communication
<b>SIM</b>	Market Systems Information
<b>SONAGESS</b>	Société Nationale de Gestion des Stocks de Sécurité Alimentaire du Burkina Faso
<b>SMART</b>	Specific, Measurable, Action-oriented, Realistic, Time-framed
<b>SME</b>	Small and Medium Enterprise
<b>TOR</b>	Terms of Reference
<b>UPCPN-S</b>	Provincial Union of Co-operatives of Cowpea Producers of Sanmatenga
<b>UNPSB</b>	Union Nationale des Producteurs de Semences du Burkina
<b>USG</b>	United States Government
<b>VIIM</b>	Life in Moore language
<b>VSLA</b>	Village Savings and Loan Associations
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Program
<b>WRA</b>	Women of Reproductive Age
<b>YWERI</b>	Youth and Women Entrepreneurship and Rural Innovation
<b>ZOI</b>	Zone of Influence

## I. Program Description

The five-year United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Yidgiri Activity is designed to strengthen food market systems, sustainably increase household incomes, and improve the nutritional status of women and children in the Centre-Nord, Sahel, and East regions of Burkina Faso. Officially launched on February 17, 2020, USAID Yidgiri is implemented by Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture (CNFA) and consortium partners *Association Nodde Nooto* (A2N), *Groupe de Recherche et d'Action pour le Developpement* (GRAD), and CARE. Yidgiri, which means “grow” in the Mòoré language, reflects the activity’s goal to increase household incomes and improve nutrition.

Focusing on the cowpea, small ruminants and poultry value chains, interventions will address barriers and constraints to progress across the broader food market system, while also integrating strategies to promote the consumption of nutritious, safe foods. USAID Yidgiri aims to strengthen resilience and improve the inclusivity of food market systems by building individual and institutional capacities among agricultural actors in Burkina Faso. To achieve this goal, Yidgiri will implement interventions across the following mutually reinforcing intermediate results (IR) areas:

- IR1: Enhanced performance of commodity market systems;
- IR 2: Increased utilization of quality inputs and services;
- IR 3: Increased local consumption of nutritious, safe foods.

As a major cross-cutting intervention area, Yidgiri will also address barriers to market participation for women and youth through functional literacy training and entrepreneurship training programs. Interventions will also work with communities to encourage women, youth entrepreneurs and leaders.

As a key part of the second phase of USAID’s Regional Resilience in the Sahel Enhanced (RISE) Project, the USAID Yidgiri activity implementation directly contributes to achieving RISE II’s Objective 2 - Increase and sustain economic well-being. It also contributes indirectly to meeting Objectives 1, 3, 4 and 5 - enhancing social and ecological risk management systems, improved nutritional outcomes, enhancing governance of institutions and organizations, and enhancing the social, economic, and political agency of women and youth.

## II. Strategic Collaboration

Introducing USAID Yidgiri to and consulting with other RISE II implementing partners and stakeholders on possible areas of synergy were a major focus for the leadership during the Refine and Implement period. As a result, MOUs and formal collaborations were signed and established with strategic organizations that have common or shared objectives. During FY21, Yidgiri will continue to strengthen these linkages and coordinate efforts with USAID and non-USAID funded programs in Burkina Faso for efficient implementation and greater impact.

### II.1. RISE II Initiative Implementing Partners

The table shows RISE II strategic implementation partners and areas of collaboration in FY21.

Table 1: Yidgiri key USAID partners and geographic areas of collaboration

Partner	Area of synergy	Geographic focus
TEV/Winrock	Joint development/implementation of livestock market revenue – sharing and investment plans (COGES & mayors)	3 regions
	Joint support to COGES and communes for improved management of drinking water stations in market places	
	Weather information sharing through Yidgiri – supported M-FARM platform	3 regions
	Joint field monitoring of common activities	3 regions
VIMPlus/ACDI/VOCA /ASTER	Dissemination of improved agricultural technologies/best practices	Centre – Nord
	Coordination of agricultural input (fertilizer) supply	Centre – Nord
	Joint field monitoring of common activities	Centre – Nord
NewPath	Sales of affordable mobile phones (AMPs) and internet connectivity (kiosks)	3 regions
	Digital information sharing (weather, agricultural extension advisory services, market information, Digital Financial Services (DFS))	3 regions
SCC/Breakthrough ACTION/ VIMPlus/USAID PREPARE	Development, adaptation of SBC tools ( ie <i>marketing and promotional activities to increase demand and sales for Yidgiri-promoted foods</i> ie rollout of sensitization campaigns (i.e. radiobroadcast, TV, community gatherings, etc.). Support the process of aligning nutrition and SBC activities with VIMplus and Mercy Corps. Share platforms for SBC/ nutrition-sensitization.	3 regions
Youth Connect, VIMPlus,	Facilitation of access to incentive financing for young rural entrepreneurs	3 regions



Palladium/CATALYZE		
SCC/Breakthrough ACTION/ VIMPlus/TEV	Joint ongoing implementation of COVID – 19 protective measures during activities/joint development of new COVID-19 response as applicable	3 regions
CATALYZE/Palladium	Facilitation of value chain actors’ access to incentive agricultural financing model	3 regions

## II.2. Collaboration with Local Actors

The involvement of local actors in Yidgiri interventions is essential for successful impact and sustainability. The table below shows other strategic implementation partners and areas of collaboration in FY21.

Table 2: Yidgiri key partners and geographic areas of collaboration

Partner	Area of synergy	Geographic focus
Ministry of Agriculture and Hydro-agricultural Development (MoHD)	Support the review/implementation the action plan the National Agricultural Input Subsidy Program (E-voucher)	3 regions
Regional directorates of the MoHD	Dissemination/upscaling of improved agricultural technologies/best practices through the network of agro-dealers and young entrepreneurs (YWERI program)	3 regions
Regional directorates of the Ministry of Livestock	Strengthening of veterinary inputs/services distribution networks for improved animal husbandry/health	3 regions
Regional directorates of the Ministry of youth and entrepreneurship and employment promotion	Working together on key steps of the Youth and Women Entrepreneurship and Rural Innovation (YWERI) program cycle (evaluation of startup projects, funds leveraging, field monitoring)	3 regions
Regional directorates	Joint sensitization/awareness creation for increased use/consumption of local, healthy	3 regions

of health	foods	
USADF	Working capital mobilization for youth and women – led agribusinesses	3 regions
VETAGRI	Rollout of Yidgiri -supported Youth and Women entrepreneurship and Rural Innovation (YWERI) program	Centre – Nord
	Promotion of improved animal husbandry/health techniques through the network of private vets and young entrepreneurs (YWERI) program	Centre – Nord
Other large veterinary inputs importers/distributor	Rollout of Yidgiri -supported Youth and Women entrepreneurship and Rural Innovation (YWERI) program	Sahel and East
	Promotion of agricultural inputs and extension advisory services networks through agro-dealers and young entrepreneurs (YWERI program)	Sahel and East
INERA	Promotion of improved agricultural technologies and best practices for increased crop yields	3 regions
Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)	Working collaboratively on agricultural input regulatory framework (Regional and national levels)	
AGRODIA	Facilitation of farmers’ organizations to agricultural input (fertilizer, seeds)	3 regions
Selected youth associations at province and commune levels	Rollout of Yidgiri -supported Youth and Women entrepreneurship and Rural Innovation (YWERI) program	3 regions
ENSA - Ecole Nationale de Sante Animale	Rollout of Yidgiri -supported Youth and Women entrepreneurship and Rural Innovation (YWERI) program	3 regions
CAP - Centre Agricole Polyvalent	Rollout of Yidgiri -supported Youth and Women entrepreneurship and Rural Innovation	3 regions

de Matroukou	(YWERI) program	
CMA - Centre de Mécanisation Agricole	Rollout of Yidgiri -supported Youth and Women entrepreneurship and Rural Innovation (YWERI) program	3 regions
Fédération des Caisses Populaires du Burkina Faso (FCP-BF)	Facilitation of value chain actors' access to credit and cash transfer	3 regions
Fédération des Caisses Populaires du Burkina Faso (FCP-BF)	Pilot the FCP-FB Village Saving and Lending Groups to promote women' decision making about and access to credit	3 regions

### III. Adaptative Management

#### Overview of adaptive management approach

Yidgiri prioritizes adaptive management – the ability to closely monitor situations and adjust interventions. Yidgiri will use data/information to adaptively manage interventions for effectiveness and impact:

- Performance indicator data/information will be tracked to measure progress towards the expected results at all levels of the results framework.
- The Market and Nutrition Pathways and Adaptive Management Plan will be used for ongoing monitoring of proposed indicators to measure progress along nutrition sensitive pathways and inform revisions.
- Conflict sensitivity approach will allow for immediate adjustments of existing program activities to quickly mitigate the impact of a crisis. This adaptive management approach is particularly appropriate in unpredictable environments where it is difficult to predict outcomes, results or future scenarios with any certainty.

To be effective in unpredictable environments and efficiently track progress, Yidgiri plans to integrate the conflict sensitivity approach into its monitoring, evaluation and learning system to continuously monitor and map the contextual risks of the targeted communes and adjust implementation approaches and learning methodologies during the course of implementation. Both data/information gathered through conflict sensitivity approach and monitoring, evaluation and learning system will be used during internal quarterly pause and reflect workshops to review progress, learn lessons and adjust subsequent quarter activities.

In addition, Yidgiri will organize the same pause and reflect workshop on an annual basis (ideally in early October) gathering other USAID, the government of Burkina Faso (GoBF) and

private sector partners (see table 1 and 2 above) to share results/challenges and plan for subsequent fiscal year.

Exchanges with Sahel Collaboration and Communication Activity (SCC) initiated during the Refine and Implement period will help develop appropriate tools for risk analysis.

This approach is acutely important given the current security context in Burkina Faso. The country experienced its first terrorist attacks in 2015. The recurrence of terrorist attacks has resulted in a steadily increasing number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) towards urban and peri-urban areas in several regions of the country, including USAID Yidgiri's intervention area (mainly Centre-Nord, Sahel, and East) in search of security since 2016 and continuing to the present day. Households have been forced to flee their homes due to the violence, abandoning their livelihoods, assets, shelter, and production capital. The situation has worsened given the COVID-19 outbreak. The GoBF has taken strong but necessary preventive measures, including closing borders (including strategic inter-regional livestock trade corridors) and markets, prohibiting gatherings, promoting physical distancing, and generally restricting people's movement.

Officially launched in February 2020, the USAID Yidgiri Activity is being implemented in the context of multiple complex, protracted crises. Therefore, this FY21 work Plan proposes activities and implementation strategies which in most parts are an adaptive management approach to the multiple crises in the country. In particular, outcomes of the Yidgiri staff virtual meetings and subsequent communications with USAID/Burkina Faso Mission, as well as RISE II implementing partners, lessons learned by the team over the past years of REGIS-AG implementation, findings of the assessments conducted during the Refine and Implement period (Possible impact of insecurity and COVID – 19 on the dynamics of Yidgiri target value chains and markets (USAID Yidgiri, June/July 2020), USAID Yidgiri baseline study (September/October 2020), USAID Yidgiri Market & Nutrition Pathways Assessment (September/October 2020) have contributed to informing this work plan. Across all program areas, adaptive and innovative activities are proposed. These include:

- Establishment of three union-operated Farm Service Centers (FSCs) in Centre-Nord : In line with the GoBF's National Economic and Social Development Plan (NESP), Yidgiri will support the establishment of three union-operated FSCs (one for each value chain) in FY21 as part of a pilot initiative. FSCs will be another avenue through which unions can provide services to their members and play an increasingly important role in the market system. FSC's will facilitate sustainable access by smallholders farmers to agricultural inputs and services (crop seeds, fertilizers, finance, agro-equipment rental and advisory services) through increased business linkages with service providers such as AGRODIA, VETAGRI, Caisses Populaires – BF. Yidgiri anticipates that most of input and service provision will also be facilitated/supplied by community – based service providers (young entrepreneurs, union leaders, etc.), as well as CBSPs supported by other RISE II partners (for instance, the network of APS – the Agents Prestataires de Services put in place by REGIS – ER) which is part of Yidgiri's strategy to ensure its technical assistance to the three intervention regions, including insecure areas (local service providers know their communities better than anyone else) (see IR1, Activity 1.1.1.4);

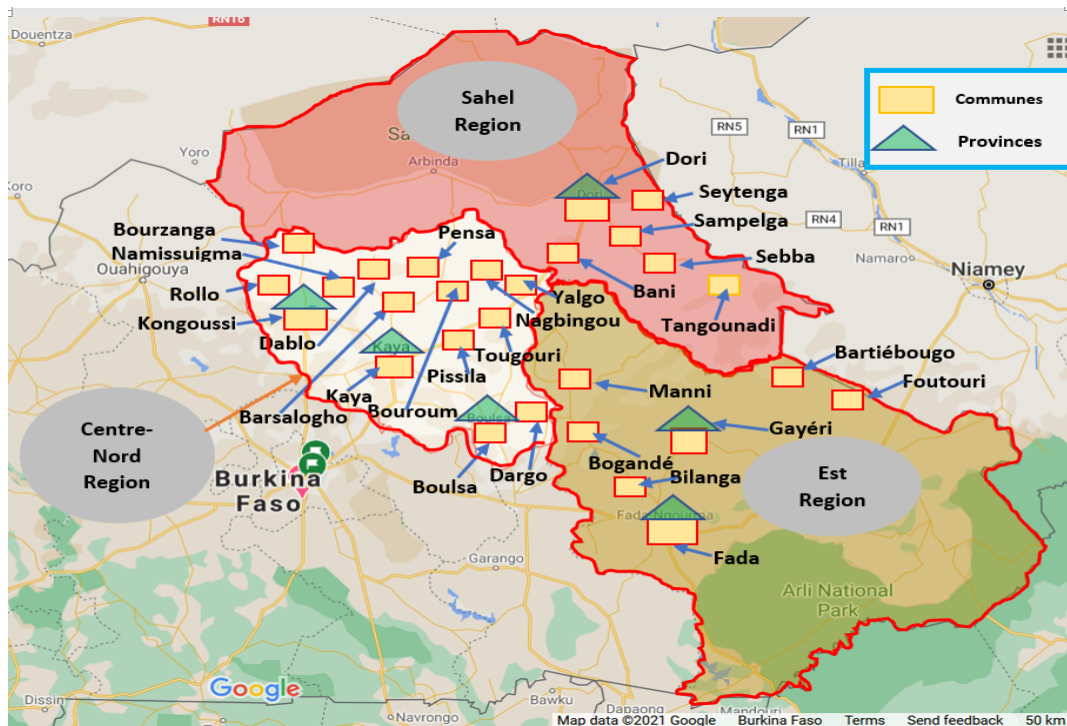
- Integration of conflict sensitivity approach (“Do no harm’) throughout activities implementation across intervention areas;
- Promotion of virtual trade fairs and online business transactions through digital platforms: in addition to facilitating the organization of presidential trade fairs and marketplace sales, Yidgiri will support the promotion of virtual trade fairs, online sales and mobile money transfer along the length of target value chains through digital platforms as response to the double crisis of insecurity and COVID – 19 pandemic (See IR 1, Activity 1.1.2.4 and 1.1.2.5);
- Rollout the M-FARM electronic platform: in collaboration with GRAD - its sub-awardee, Yidgiri will synchronize the M-FARM with the AMPs being promoted by NewPath to disseminate three sets of information to smallholder farmers and other value chain actors. These include 1) market information (price and stocks of agricultural inputs/outputs), 2) agricultural extension advisory services and, 3) weather information (see IR3, Activity 2.3.2.1).
- Youth and Women Entrepreneurship and Rural Innovation (YWERI) training program: as part of its youth and women engagement strategy, USAID Yidgiri will launch the YWERI training program, a four-month apprenticeship designed for graduate and non-graduate Burkinabe youth (male and female, aged 15-29) willing to start rural agribusiness projects to contribute to improving the livelihoods of their communities in our three target regions. The objective of the YWERI is to equip them with business mindset and on the job technical experience and training in order to establish community – based agribusiness enterprises and provide the much-needed auxiliary services along various segments of the targeted value chains (described further under IR 4.1). YWERI will also serve as a platform for nutrition training and gender sensitization. Yidgiri will roll this program out in collaboration with other RISE II and GoBF partners (see table 1 and 2 for further detail).
- Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning: Based on the continuous changing context in Burkina Faso, Yidgiri will track and report progress on program activities through the performance of five key functions:
  - Monitoring – to routinely track and report on activities and outputs of the activity;
  - Evaluation – to assess implementation approaches for improving the attainment of outcomes;
  - Accountability – to ensure that activities are implemented, and services delivered meet the highest quality standards and clients’ satisfaction is achieved;
  - Learning – to provide the opportunity for staff to determine what is (or is now) working and what lessons can be learned and adopted to improve implementation;

- Reporting – to provide accurate and timely data to stakeholders, especially USAID.

These five functions underpin Yidgiri’s strategic approach to monitoring, evaluation and learning. The MEL team will continue to ensure that reported data on Yidgiri’s performance and impact meet USAID’s data quality standards for validity, integrity, precision, reliability and timeliness.

As part of its adaptive management approach in this context of multiple complex, protracted crises, Yidgiri will, in FY21 mainly deploy most of activities and innovations in the Centre – Nord Region on a pilot basis to learn lessons and adjust intervention strategies for further scaling up to the two other regions. However, selective activities will be carried out during this fiscal year in the Sahel and Est Regions to ensure stock taking of REGIS – AG achievements and testing of some development hypotheses. The map below highlights key provinces and communes targeted for activities implementation in FY 21.

Burkina Faso map – Yidgiri key intervention provinces and communes (FY 21):



## Overview of conflict sensitivity approach

Conflict sensitivity is the ability of an organization to understand the context in which they operate, understand the interaction between their intervention and the context, and act upon the understanding of this interaction, in order to avoid negative impacts and maximize positive impacts.

### Yidgiri Commitment Statement:

The USAID Yidgiri Activity is committed to integrating the practice of conflict sensitivity into all stages of the program cycle because:

*We understand that development interventions are not neutral. We know that any project set in a conflict-prone context will inevitably have an impact on the peace and conflict environment—positive or negative, direct or indirect, intentional or unintentional,<sup>1</sup> and,*

*We understand that conflict sensitivity can support project planning and implementation to be more attuned and responsive to the dynamic, conflict-affected contexts of intervention and that this can enable more effective project planning and implementation in these environments.*

Our approach to conflict sensitivity is based on the following four core commitments and undertakings:

- Building staff capacity in conflict sensitivity;
- Developing and testing a context analysis;
- The integration of conflict sensitivity into project operations and the workplan;
- The integration of conflict sensitivity into shock contingency planning.

### **Building staff capacity in conflict sensitivity:**

All Yidgiri program staff and partners have received basic conflict sensitivity training focused on what conflict sensitivity is, why it matters, and how to do it. The core team has received additional coaching to reinforce their learning and nurture a culture of analysis within the project that prioritizes understanding the context within the Yidgiri zones of intervention: understanding the interaction between the context and the intervention and being responsive based on this understanding.

Challenge: Conflict Sensitivity requires new ways of thinking and working that are beyond the expertise of staff and that may be counter-intuitive to conventional approaches to value chain development. Reinforcements to this learning have been integrated into the workplan to assure that staff do not resort to a business-as-usual approach.

### **Developing and testing a context analysis:**

With the support of the Conflict Sensitivity Advisor, the Yidgiri core team has developed a basic context analysis derived from the following processes:

- weekly participatory working sessions from August to October 2020 for collective;
- exploration and reflection focus on questions crafted to help identify potential conflict sensitivity issues/concerns related to the implementation of Yidgiri Activity;
- small group exercises conducted at the Work planning Workshop for 40+ Yidgiri staff and partners were organized around carefully crafted questions to explore and investigate specific conflict sensitivity issues/concerns related to the cultural context, the three value chains and issues connected to the regulatory environment.

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<sup>1</sup> Kenneth Bush (1998) A Measure of Peace: Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment of Development Projects in Zones of Conflict

Further activities have been planned to expand, deepen and continually update the context analysis:

- a conflict sensitivity practice has been integrated into all future analysis (such as the analysis of barriers that limit marginalized groups' access to unions and producer organizations.);
- the project Work Plan includes a Political Economy Assessment for each of the three value chains targeted in the Yidgiri Activity, which will include a conflict sensitivity exercise and inform the existing context analysis;
- periodic staff reflection and updating of the analysis has been integrated into the workplan.

Challenge 1: These activities have been designed to fit the realities of the project during the COVID pandemic where a full context analysis was unfeasible. The Yidgiri core staff understand that these activities represent a minimum of what would be needed to produce a full context analysis. Given Yidgiri's commitment to conflict sensitivity, efforts will be made to foster cultural analysis throughout the life of the program. This, combined with specific activities built into the Work Plan, will compensate for initial limitations and substantially benefit the project's success.

Challenge 2: The current context analysis is limited to the knowledge, experience and perceptions of Yidgiri core staff, some input from partners and secondary research/data. Conflict situations are inherently confusing because they are comprised of the multiple perspectives of diverse stakeholders. Therefore, a context analysis that is not informed by perspectives of diverse stakeholders will inevitably contain blind spots and unconscious biases. The project team will make a conscious effort to build on this analysis by systematically adding the perspectives and experiences of different stakeholders as they work to uncover their own biases and systematically test assumptions.

See Annex 2 for more details on the integration of conflict sensitivity into the Yidgiri's operations and program design.

## **IV. Activities planned for FY21**

### **Intermediate Result 1: Enhanced performance of commodity market systems**

#### *Expected outcomes/indicator targets for FY21*

1. EG.3.1-14: Value of new USG commitments and private sector investment leveraged by the USG to support food security and nutrition: \$30,000 \$US;
2. Average value of net income for smallholder farmers and agribusinesses [Custom]: \$820 (Outcome);
3. A-WEAI (Outcome)



- 3a.A-WEAI Production Domain: Percentage of women reporting that they provide input in productive decisions (age): 78.2%;
  - 3b A-WEAI Resource Domain: Percentage of women who have access to and make decisions on credit (age, value chain): 21.1%;
  - 3c A-WEAI Income Domain: Percentage of women who report having control over their income (type of household, age, value chain): 76.3%;
  - 3d A-WEAI Leadership Domain: Percentage of women who are active members of community groups: 70%;
4. EG.3.2-26: Value of annual sales of farms and firms receiving USG assistance (province, type of product or service, type of producer/firm, sex, age): \$1,500, 000;
  5. EG.3-2 12: Number of individuals participating in USG food security programs: 3,271;
  6. Number of full-time equivalent jobs supported (full-time, part-time, and seasonal) [Custom]: 40
  7. Number of business plans developed, validated, and funded (phase of development, location) [Custom]: 97;
8. EG 3.2-27 Value of agriculture-related financing accessed as a result of USG assistance: \$73,400;
  9. EG.3.2-24: Number of individuals in the agriculture system who have applied improved management practices or technologies with USG assistance: 3,488;
  10. Number of individuals who have received USG-supported, short-term agricultural-sector productivity or food security training [Custom]: 4,627;
  11. RESIL-1: Number of host-government or community-derived risk management plans formally proposed, adopted, implemented, or institutionalized with USG assistance: 1.
  12. CBLD-9: Percent of USG-assisted organizations with improved performance: 10%

## ***IR 1 implementation strategy for FY21***

### **Sub IR 1.1 Strengthened Market Systems**

As part of strengthening the performance of market systems, Yidgiri will build on REGIS-AG's approach by working to strengthen and promote three specific types of market opportunities: business clusters of enterprises; trade fairs during Tabaski; and linking industrial and institutional buyers with producers' unions. In addition to these three types of opportunities and as a program adaptation to the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic and increasing insecurity, Yidgiri will support the promotion of digital platforms to strengthen commercial and financial transactions among farmers' unions and other actors operating along the various segments of the targeted value chains.

Unions like the Provincial Union of Cowpea Producers of Sanmatenga already provide a diverse set of services to members, particularly facilitating aggregated farm input purchases and product sales. Under the Yidgiri strategy, unions will become a permanent, local resource for improved production and marketing development for producer organizations. Unions have expressed a strong interest in providing services, and Yidgiri will build their capacity to assume these new roles, such as providing technical extension and advisory services with integrated nutrition training and gender sensitization for member producer's organizations as well as facilitating access to credit and warrantage. Assessments of the unions carried out during the Refine and Implement period Recommended the following priority areas for Yidgiri support so that the unions can provide improved and sustainable services to their members: administrative and financial management (i.e. establishment or improvement of procedures) to

ensure improved management of input supplies, access to market information, identifying commercial sale opportunities, and the organization of the marketing of members' agricultural products.

### *Intervention 1.1.1 Business Clusters*

#### **Activity 1.1.1.1. Improve the performance of 14 existing clusters**

In the business cluster model, Yidgiri will facilitate the development business linkages by holding business-to-business (B2B) workshops where buyers and sellers in the target value chains can engage in dialogue and set buying and selling intentions. This platform will be supported by beneficiary support plans that focused on removing constraints that may limit the success of the transaction.

REGIS-AG facilitated the creation of 29 clusters to build business transactions among actors operating in the same locality on given segments of target value chains to take advantage of product sales and purchasing opportunities. The monitoring of clusters' transactions during Yidgiri's first six (6) months showed that 14 of them did not conclude satisfactory business transactions for the following reasons: appropriate record keeping, non – respect of contractual commitments by the buyers. To reverse this trend and provide customized support, Yidgiri will organize workshops to assess their performance in Quarter 1 of FY21 in order to further strengthen their capacity. Training for capacity building will be conducted by Yidgiri's staff in secure areas and BDSPs in insecure zones in Quarters 2 and 3. Wherever possible, in insecure zones where it is unsafe for Yidgiri staff to travel, Yidgiri will engage BDSPs from the region who are already providing community-based services in these areas. Yidgiri will use services of technicians of public partners (regional directorates), ReComs and YWERI interns. Training modules will include financial education, negotiation and marketing, fundamentals of entrepreneurship, group governance or organizational development 250 POs for all value chains. Training specific to the cowpea value chain will include hygiene of product processing and presentation of processed cowpea products, Market development for value chain products, Improvement and intensification of cowpea production operations. For the poultry value chain, training will include poultry health (recognition of signs of disease, factors influencing the spread of disease plan of prophylaxis), importance of ensuring the safety of poultry habitats, importance of better feeds for poultry, poultry farming (hygiene, biosecurity, and animal health), as well as promotion of egg marketing through rural markets to facilitate access to households (see IR3, 3.2.1.2). Yidgiri will draw on the University of Florida FTF Innovation Lab's "One Egg per Day" program for sensitization and training of POs and households, using their training modules (through functional literacy center and other fora). Training on the small ruminants value chain will focus on commercial fattening, importance of better feeds for small ruminants, small ruminants farming (hygiene, biosecurity, and animal health).

### **Activity 1.1.1.2. Establish 4 clusters in the new areas**

Yidgiri will work in close collaboration with the leaders of farmers' unions to identify and set up new clusters particularly in the new areas such as the provinces of Bam and Namantenga, selected due to their proximity to existing project areas which allows for regular assistance from our Boulsa and Kongoussi field offices. The establishment of clusters will follow the following steps in Quarter 2:

- (i) the organization of the B2B day;
- (ii) the diagnosis of each member actor of the established cluster and;
- (iii) the support of the actors in the elaboration of a simplified business plan (support plan).

The above-mentioned activities, as well as the establishment of 4 clusters will be carried out in quarter 2 in new areas within which 48 farmers' organizations will operate. At least 48 business plans will be developed and submitted to financial institutions for financing. Like the above activity, data from the new clusters will be collected by ReComs and the YWERI participants while placed with host organizations (internship).

### **Activity 1.1.1.3. Promote marketing of Moringa products**

Based on investigation of the acceptability of moringa among target households (see 3.2.1.1), Yidgiri will conduct a rapid assessment with market actors (mainly retailers and processors) to better understand the supply chain of raw materials (moringa leaves) and distribution network of moringa processed products (dried leaves, moringa flour, moringa tea, etc.) in the third quarter of FY21. In light of the findings of the rapid market assessment, Yidgiri will launch promotional activities around Moringa products marketing in rural markets in late quarter four/early FY 22.

### **Activity 1.1.1.4. Support the establishment of Union-run Farm Service Centers (FSCs)**

Union-led FSCs will be another avenue through which unions can provide services to their members and play an increasingly important role in the market system. FSC's will facilitate sustainable smallholder farmer access to agricultural inputs and services (crop seeds, fertilizers, veterinary commodities/services, finance, agro-equipment rental and advisory services, etc.) through union leaders, young entrepreneurs (YWERI training program) and other business development service providers. FSCs are intended to provide the following benefits to agricultural value chain actors:

- Farmers' organizations – increased farming activities (i.e. correct fertilizer application, ploughing, planting, harvesting, threshing) for improved crop production/yields;
- All value chain actors – establishment of exclusive purchase/supply contracts between actors.
- Farm service support providers – increased agro-equipment rental services and good agronomic practices to smallholder farmers for improved crop production/yields;
- Agro-dealers/private vets – increased supply of agricultural inputs (including veterinary inputs) and good agronomic practices through provision of improved crop seeds

varieties, fertilizers, etc. and extension advisory services to smallholder farmers for improved crop production/yields;

- Unions, their members and other value chain actors – FSCs will facilitate access to information related to the supply of agricultural inputs and outputs (prices, availability of stocks) and the demand (directory of potential clients historical sales)

As part of feasibility analysis for the establishment of these FSCs, the Yidgiri MEL team and/or local consultants will conduct a rapid need assessment survey in the first quarter of FY21 with demand and supply actors to collect/analyze data on value chain potential (number of farmers, hectares under cultivation, cattle, agricultural input/service needs (farming equipment, crop seeds, fertilizers, credit), crop/animal production estimates, volumes and prices of agricultural outputs/services, etc.

In FY21, Yidgiri will pilot the establishment of three union-led FSCs (one representing each value chain). Specifically, Yidgiri will identify unions through a call for proposals (quarter 3) and award in-kind grants for equipment (i.e. hatchery equipment, thresher machines, etc.) and/or agricultural inputs (quarter 4). Among other eligibility requirements, the union will be required to have existing infrastructure (i.e. warehouses, storefront) in place to be considered. A full list of eligibility criteria and selection/evaluation criteria will be based on CNFA's experience establishing FSCs globally. This criteria will be included in the call for proposals (see Intervention 4.2. Administration of Yidgiri Small Grant Fund).

Grants for Union-operated FCS will be awarded to be situated within major production/trade hubs in the Centre-Nord Region in FY21. In addition, online on Union per value chain will be selected (i.e. the three unions will represent Poultry, Small Ruminant, Cowpea farmers). Additional eligibility criteria will include: 1) must have received prior Yidgiri technical assistance and/or activity interventions; 2) must have a documented business strategy in place, and 3) have a clear plan for how the cost of maintenance and spare parts will be covered or how financial resources will be generated to acquire additional equipment. Further analysis and review of proposals will finalize this selection for the first round of in-kind grants to Unions. The FSCs will be established in close collaboration with the union leaders and the Regional Directorates of the MoAAH and the Ministry of Livestock to confirm the production/trade hubs.

The Yidgiri program team, in collaboration with the MEL team will quarterly collect these sets of demand/supply – side data for onward processing and posting on digital platforms (see 1.1.2.3 and 1.1.2.3) in addition to the regular dissemination of market information via M-FARM platform. The Yidgiri team will use data from this ongoing monitoring, and lessons learned from the first grant making cycle, to assess the feasibility of scaling up this activity to other regions and unions in future years.

### ***Intervention 1.1.2 Commodity Fairs***

REGIS-AG's results indicated that trade fairs are relevant sales tools that enable small ruminant farmers, poultry farmers, and other actors within these two value-chain to generate considerable incomes during the holiday periods of the New Year and the Tabaski festivals. As an integral part of its sustainability strategy, REGIS-AG involved the Regional Chambers of Agriculture (CRA) - a body through which all the rural agricultural sector stakeholders were involved in the organization of agricultural commodity trade fairs.

However, a rapid assessment of the CRAs revealed that they would have difficulties in taking the leadership in the organization of trade fairs due to limited resources. Faced with this situation, Yidgiri opted to empower the small ruminant and poultry value chain unions to take the lead in organizing the fairs in collaboration with the regional chambers of agriculture and the Regional Councils. As an adaptation to the context of insecurity and the COVID -19 pandemic, Yidgiri considers two approaches to the organization of fairs: face-to-face fairs and virtual fairs.

#### **Activity 1.1.2.1. Elaborate a sustainable mechanism for the unions' leadership of trade fair organization**

During this fiscal year, the Yidgiri team will empower unions to lead the organization of trade fairs in collaboration with the CRA and Regional Councils. Unions will organize the fairs on behalf of their member organizations. In turn, these member organizations will pay commissions on the profit made to the unions, ensuring the financial sustainability of trade fairs. Participation in fairs is open to union members, non-members, and market actors. During the Refine and Implement period, the Yidgiri team organized consultations with six provincial unions on the possibility of putting in place mechanisms adapted to ensure sustainable the trade fairs organizations by the unions while taking into account the context of insecurity and the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, the Yidgiri team held discussion with PO representatives who expressed their willingness to pay fees associated with the implementation of fairs. The mechanism for such fees has not yet been developed.

To do so, in Quarter 2 of FY21, Yidgiri will organize a five-day workshop in Kaya with the leads of the unions of the three value chains to select adapted mechanisms, including the mechanism for the payment of fees. This workshop will be held in collaboration with its partner, the Federation des Caisses Populaires. At the end of this workshop, Yidgiri will facilitate the organization of three general assemblies (one per value chain) by the unions. Each general assembly will discuss and validate the selected mechanisms, and plan for the Tabaski fair that will take place in Quarter 3. These general assemblies will meet at the beginning of Quarter 3.

#### **Activity 1.1.2.2 Facilitate the organization of two small ruminant fairs**

Subject to improvement in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, Yidgiri plans to support, in close collaboration with two provincial small ruminant unions in Sanmentenga and Namentenga, the organization of small ruminant trade fairs during the upcoming Tabaski Festival in these provinces in Quarter 3.

Yidgiri team, leaders of the unions and ReComs will be mobilized to collect data on all transactions (volume and value) made during the fair. At the end of this event, Yidgiri will organize a workshop that brings together the leaders of each union involved to take stock and reflect on lessons learned. Both at the outset and throughout the organization of fairs, Yidgiri will coordinate closely with local authorities (mayors, FDS, and governors) to get the most up to date information on the security situation and establish recommended security precautions.

#### **Activity 1.1.2.3 Promote online business transactions**

To better adapt the implementation of activities for FY21 and beyond, Yidgiri conducted a number of studies during its Refine and Implement period, including the Survey on the Possible Impact of COVID and Insecurity on Value Chain Dynamics and Target Markets (USAID Yidgiri,

July 2020). There is renewed interest among value chain actors in using digital sales platforms as a strategy to adapt to the restrictive measures to limit the spread of COVID and the closure of markets due to growing insecurity. For FY21, Yidgiri will utilize digital platforms to strengthen commercial transactions between unions and targeted value chain actors, including traders and institutional/ industrial buyers. To ensure internet connectivity, Yidgiri will ensure the online platforms are connected to the solar powered kiosks promoted by NEWPath. Currently there are two kiosks in Kaya for the provincial union of small ruminants and poultry and one kiosk in Niangado for the provincial union of Niébe. As part of its expansion plan, Yidgiri will jointly support the promotion of these devices with NewPath in selected provinces of the three regions.

During Quarter 3, Yidgiri will use its in-kind grant mechanism to procure three (3) computers with an online sales platform to unions on a pilot basis. The three unions receiving the computers will be the recipients of Yidgiri FSC grants, and the computers and software will be a part of this in-kind grant package. The unions will be selected as part of the grant making process. Yidgiri will hire a web design/IT consultant to create a simple marketplace website and train selected young members of beneficiary unions on the management of the website. Sellers (i.e. unions producer organizations, agribusinesses) will be able to post products and services for sale. Buyers can respond to the seller directly via email, phone, or WhatsApp to negotiate the sale. The promotion of online business transactions for farmers' unions will constitute a real business opportunity for young entrepreneurs as part of a youth and women's engagement strategy.

As an adaptation to the COVID-19 pandemic and insecurity, and as an alternative to in-person fairs, Yidgiri may promote online business transactions for small ruminant sales in the third quarter to coincide with the Tabaski festival. This decision and promotion strategy will be made based on the severity of the COVID-19 and insecurity situation at the time.

#### **Activity 1.1.2.4 Develop strategies and plans that increase the use of digital financial services along the length of value chains**

The gender gap between men and women is 16.8 percent for bank account ownership and 18.1 percent for mobile money<sup>2</sup>. This is evidenced by the Yidgiri's baseline study report (September/October 2020) which revealed that only 16% of women make decisions about and have access to rural financing (credit). Women and girls have even lower access to finance and digital financial services. During the Refine and Implement period, Yidgiri consulted with its partner financial institutions such as the Caisses Populaires on possible collaborations to facilitate access of beneficiary farmer' unions and other value actors to credit and to increase the use of digital financial services along the entirety of the target value chains. As a result, an MOU was signed with the Caisses Populaires with the objective of working together to adapt their financial products and services to the needs of actors (mainly SHFs), including promotion of their mobile money model in Yidgiri's intervention areas.

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<sup>2</sup> U.S. Agency for International Development. (2020, September 30). *Assessing the Gender Gap in Access to Digital Financial Services in Burkina Faso*. Retrieved from Agrilinks: <https://www.agrilinks.org/post/assessing-gender-gap-access-digital-financial-services-burkina-faso>

Yidgiri will explore the feasibility of several ways to promote access to digital financial services among program participants. Potential areas to be explored further include: a needs assessment conducted jointly by Yidgiri and unions for targeted value chain actors; training/refresher training on entrepreneurship for youth graduating from Yidgiri's YWERI program (described further under IR 4.1); inclusion of training modules on digital financial service as part of functional literacy training (this will also be considered as part of union leaders' training) and; identifying new potential cash points across the intervention area.

In Q1 and Q2 of FY21, Yidgiri will gather evidence on the potential benefits and feasibility of promoting the Caisses Populaires's mobile money transfer model, with a particular attention to increasing access to and the use of mobile money by men and women farmers and other agribusinesses operating along various segments of target value chains.

Concurrently, Yidgiri will build greater trust in and acceptance of mobile money and expand its use by farmers, agribusinesses, and other stakeholders by continuing to coordinate closely with NewPath in FY21. Newpath is promoting access to digital information in rural areas through a mobile phone initiative, which offers more affordable and flexible payment plans and built-in access to digital financial services applications. On a pilot basis, Yidgiri field staff will promote awareness about Newpath's affordable mobile phones and solar powered charging kiosks in the three regions. In addition, Yidgiri will collaborate with the Palladium CATALYZE Activity to promote their incentive agricultural financing model across the three regions (see STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS). Sub IR 1.5 Stimulating and Leveraging Financial Services discusses further how Yidgiri will improve access to financial services among its program participants.

### ***Intervention 1.1.3 Industrial and Institutional Buyers***

Business clusters and trade fairs provided a good basis for strengthening business linkages among different players in value chains under REGIS-AG. However, the rapid assessment of REGIS-AG supported POs' during the Refine and Implement period , showed they have not taken full advantage of existing business opportunities, such as sales to the municipalities, the World Food Program (WFP), the National Food Security Stock Management Company (SONAGESS), and the mining sites, due the lack of coordination within the farmers' unions, between unions, and with other value chain actors. Therefore, Yidgiri proposes the activities below in FY 2021.

#### **Activity 1.1.3.1. Set up five innovation forums for cowpeas, small ruminants and poultry**

Yidgiri will set up five innovation forums to bring together Yidgiri actors, promote business-led innovation, and act on identified opportunities to strengthen business relations. These innovation forums will build off the success of REGIS-AG cluster B2B linkages that bring together producers, traders and buyers to discuss expectations, quality standards, and negotiate the frequency and value of sales. Yidgiri innovation forums will take this model and: 1) be inclusive of a diverse range of stakeholders – including producers, traders, processors, financial institutions, research institutions, and unions – at the provincial level; 2) address the lack of coordination within the farmers' unions; 3) offer a forum for brainstorming and acting on opportunities for business growth; 4) prioritize nutrition as a topic, including facilitating conversation about innovative food processing technologies, value addition to nutritional products, and nutrition-forward marketing to consumers. Forums will be established by value chain: two in the cowpea value chain; two in the small ruminant value chain; and one in the poultry value chain.



The establishment of these forums will require the organization of three provincial information/awareness creation workshops on the requirements and benefits of these forums. These workshops will be held in Kaya, Boulsa and Kongoussi during the Quarter 2.

## **Sub IR 1.2 Improved Livestock Markets System Structure and Governance**

Yidgiri will play a facilitating role in improving the structure and governance of livestock market systems by assisting the Livestock Market Management Committees (COGES) to develop a revenue-sharing and investment plans that meet the needs of public and private sector stakeholders and creates resilience in market operations.

### *Intervention 1.2.1 Small Ruminant Marketplaces*

Yidgiri will support the development and implementation of action plans for five livestock markets supported by REGIS-AG and identify seven new livestock markets in the Centre-Nord region (Communes of Boulsa, Tougouri, Kaya, Kongoussi for livestock market and Kaya, Boulsa, Kongoussi for poultry market) to benefit from its assistance (for instance the development of action plans and a revenue-sharing and investment plans).

Recognizing that markets can be vulnerable to violent attacks, both at the outset and throughout implementation of activities associated with livestock markets, Yidgiri will coordinate closely with local authorities (mayors, FDS, and governors) to get the most up to date information on the security situation and establish recommended security precautions. Yidgiri will also build the resilience of market management committees to adapt to and operate within the volatile environment.

#### **Activity 1.2.1.1 Participatory development of action plans with existing COGES in collaboration with TEV**

Part of key findings of the market survey (Possible impact of insecurity and COVID – 19 on the dynamics of target value chains and markets) carried out by the Yidgiri team during the Refine and Implement period include considerable revenue losses by livestock market actors, municipalities and the COGES due to COVID-19. The survey findings also include a lack of water stations in most livestock marketplaces and the COGES's limited management capacity of the existing ones.

In light of these findings, the Yidgiri team initiated work sessions with TerreEauVie team and identified possible areas of collaboration for a joint support to the COGES and mayors.

During FY21, Yidgiri will continue this collaboration with TerresEauVie a joint implementation of the following activities during Quarters 2, 3, and 4:

Conduct the performance evaluation of five existing livestock markets: Barsalgho, Pissila, Yalgo (Centre – Nord), Manni (Est) and Dori (Sahel) with five action plans. The choice of these markets was guided by two essential aspects: (i) the markets must be located in a municipality where a DFSA project operates in order to develop synergies; and (ii) the following market characteristics that can facilitate the implementation of project activities:

- Number of animals presented in the markets (mainly small and large ruminants)
- Accessibility of the market;



- Level of market security (safety);
- Existence of a market association or a market management committee;
- Existence of a livestock market monitoring system or its supervision by an agent from the Regional Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Livestock.

The evaluation of these markets will focus on aspects such as governance, business management skills, access to and mobilization of credit and other financial resources, as well as their utilization.

Yidgiri and TerresEauVie will support the beneficiary communes and COGES in the implementation of these 5 action plans in order to improve revenue management to facilitate investments. Joint activities include:

- Support the COGES and mayors to finalize the participatory development of five livestock market revenue-sharing and investment plans (Quarters 2 and 3) that were initiated under REGIS-AG;
- Support the COGES and mayors in the implementation of five livestock market revenue-sharing and investment plans (Quarters 3 and 4); Build the capacity of the COGES and mayors for a better management of water stations in livestock marketplaces (Quarters 3 and 4).

#### **Activity 1.2.1.2 Identify seven new livestock markets in Centre - Nord Region**

In addition to the five livestock markets supported by REGIS-AG, Yidgiri will select seven new markets in each of the three provinces of the Centre-Nord Region including four small ruminants and three poultry markets that will be supported based on the REGIS-AG's co-management approach. This process will be led by the BDS and Capacity Development Specialist. The new markets will be selected in the second quarter using the following criteria: the number of small ruminant heads, the level of revenue per municipality, the level of market governance, the level of actors' commitment to accepting reforms of their livestock market management.

#### **Activity 1.2.1.3. Train COGES of the seven new livestock markets on the co-management curricula**

In the second quarter, Yidgiri will use the services of a local consultant to update the training plan and two training curricula for the COGES which were developed under REGIS-AG. These training materials will build on those produced for REGIS-AG and take into consideration training materials from other non-government organizations (NGOs), including a module for training livestock market COGES and another module for poultry market COGES. Organizational issues, simplified accounting management system, assets depreciation, etc. will be prominent in the training curricula for both types of markets (poultry and small ruminants).

The local consultant will hold a training of trainers session in Quarter 2 for the Yidgiri staff members who, in their turn will train 84 members of the seven new COGES on the two training curricula in Quarters 2 and 3. The 84 trained members will impart the training to other members (third level of cascade training) of their respective committees.

## **Sub IR 1.3 Enhanced Capacity of Market System Actors**

Yidgiri will strengthen the capacity of key market players – farmer’s unions and agribusinesses in the three regions (Centre-Nord, East and Sahel). The activity will use a targeting approach that reflects the specific context of insecurity as well as the capacities and aspirations of market actors in each region. Yidgiri will continuously monitor and map the contextual risks of the targeted communes using the five-level ranking system in programming in insecure areas, adjusting implementation approaches and learning methodologies accordingly. Exchanges with SCC initiated during the Refine and Implement period will help develop appropriate tools for risk analysis.

### ***Intervention 1.3.1 Capacity Building of POs and SMEs through BDSPs.***

#### **Activity 1.3.1.1. Train five BDSPs on financial education and business negotiation**

Part of key findings of the diagnostics of 21 communal and provincial unions, small and medium enterprises (processors and traders etc.) conducted by Yidgiri during its Refine and Implement period identified capacity building needs ranging from organizational capacity building to advocacy and ultimately financial education, market access and business negotiation.

To address these gaps, Yidgiri will, in Quarter 2 develop the training curricula and tools on needed modules such as financial education, agricultural input/output market access, business negotiation techniques. The Yidgiri team will draw from or use Agribusiness and Market Ecosystem Alliance (AMEA) materials directly where feasible. In Quarter 3 and based on these modules, Yidgiri will hold training of trainers workshops in the Kaya office for five representatives of BDSP to ensure the training to other value chain actors. In addition to the YWERI participants, Yidgiri will use services of the 17 BDSPs identified and strengthened during REGIS-AG where feasible. In new areas of operation, such as Bam, new BDSPs will be identified as needed.

#### **Activity 1.3.1.2 BDSPs train value chain actors**

In the third and fourth quarters, Yidgiri will support the organization of training workshops, for the five trained representatives of BDSPs (see Activity 1.3.1.1) to deploy training on the same modules for 21 unions leaders, 20 processors and 50 other agribusiness managers in the three regions of intervention. The trained leaders will train, in turn, more than 400 other members of their respective organizations.

### ***Intervention 1.3.2 Strengthen the capacity of farmer’s unions to provide services to member organizations***

#### **Activity 1.3.2.1. Support five unions at province level to develop and implement procedure manuals**

Following the organizational capacity assessment of the provincial and communal unions, one of the shortcomings noted was the lack of a formal procedure manual in all the unions. In order to improve this situation, Yidgiri will hire a consultant to support the development of a simplified procedure manual that will provide a formal framework for operations and administrative procedures. The implementation of this manual will improve the unions working environment for more transparency in their management practices, thus contributing to

increased trust of their member organizations. The procedure manual will be completed in the Quarter 2 and training of union leaders will start in Quarter 3.

#### **Activity 1.3.2.2 Train 30 union leaders in simplified accounting management**

In Quarters 3 and 4, following the completion of the procedure manual, Yidgiri will facilitate support the organization of training workshops by the trained BDSPs and/or the young entrepreneurs (YWERI program) for 30 union leaders on simplified accounting for key inventory, cash, and bank management operations and allow them switch from paperwork to computerized business management. In their turn, the trained leaders will train 30 leaders (10 females) of their members organizations with assistance from BDSPs and/or the young entrepreneurs.

#### **Activity 1.3.2.3. Facilitate exclusive cowpea seed supply/purchase deals between seed cooperatives and seed companies**

In Quarters 3 and 4, Yidgiri will facilitate business linkages between the cowpea seed cooperatives members of target unions and the seed companies through the development/signing of exclusive supply/purchase contracts of cowpea seeds. Within the framework of these exclusive contracts, the seed companies will provide the basic seed and other inputs to the seed cooperatives to ensure production and supply of quality seed to their clients.

#### **Activity 1.3.2.4. Support union member organizations to comply with the OHADA Cooperative Law**

A prerequisite for the performance of a farmers' organizations is their legal existence. However, the requisite date of January 31, 2020 had been communicated to all farmers' organizations in Burkina Faso to comply with the OHADA Cooperative Law. However, many of them are yet to meet this legal compliance regulatory provision. In the second quarter, Yidgiri will provide support to 110 grassroots POs from 15 unions in the Centre – Nord, East and Sahel regions to comply with this regulatory framework to operate legally. The support will consist of organizing workshops gathering representatives of target organizations to develop their legal documents as per the OHADA Cooperative Law requirements.

#### **Activity 1.3.2.5 Recruit agricultural technicians for five producers' unions**

To provide quality services to their member organizations (for instance, provision of agricultural inputs, sales of agricultural outputs, negotiation of business deals), unions need qualified human resources to support them to fully assume their tasks with a high degree of professionalism. In view of the expected roles of the unions and the high expectation of their member organizations, Yidgiri will strengthen the technical capacities of the unions through the recruitment of technicians and/or placement of young entrepreneurs (YWERI program), funded through the grants program, to advise and support them in this new role for the first two years. As a result of their capacity building by Yidgiri, the unions are expected to contribute to paying for these services, moving forward in the subsequent years. Part of Yidgiri's exit strategy, unions will be requested to cover 50% of the costs in year 3 and the full cost from the fourth year. This support will start in the second quarter to coincide with the launching of the first cohort of the YWERI training program (CC 1 for detailed activities).

#### **Activity 1.3.2.6. Provide technical advice and market information to unions**

Yidgiri will provide capacity building support to unions, according to their individual needs assessment, which may include: administrative and financial management; market research; organization of group purchases of agricultural inputs; and nutrition training to -sensitize marketing of agricultural outputs, particularly for the benefit of POs involved in business clusters. This support will be provided by the Yidgiri team, YWERI program, and other service providers.

Moreover, inFY21, Yidgiri will support the development of three union-led FSCs with a technical assistance package (including an in-kind matching grant) focused on the recommendations from an initial assessment.

#### **Activity 1.3.2.7. Train 45 Union leaders on business negotiation techniques**

The diagnostics of 21 communal and provincial unions conducted the Yidgiri team during the Refine and Implement period revealed the lack of a procedures manual, limited knowledge of the statutory texts by member organizations, limited capacity of leaders to negotiate business deals with buyers and financial institutions, etc.). Yidgiri will, during the second quarter of this fiscal year, train 45 union leaders (including 10 women) on business negotiation techniques. The training will strengthen the unions' business negotiation capacities with institutional and industrial buyers on behalf of their member organizations. Yidgiri will support six (6) unions in the development of administrative and financial procedure manuals to improve the management of their organizations.

#### ***Intervention 1.3.3 Improve capacity of unions to include women, youth, and vulnerable populations***

Yidgiri will analyze the constraints that limit membership access of marginalized groups (i.e. women, youth, IDPs, vulnerable members within hosts communities) to producer unions and member organizations. Based on the outcomes of this analysis, Yidgiri will identify and initiate activities to promote the participation of marginalized groups in the producer organizations and actively facilitate their inclusion in union activities. The Yidgiri-supported functional literacy program, which prioritizes women and youth participation, will improve their capacity to participate in union and their member organization activities.

#### **Activity 1.3.3.1 Conduct a rapid assessment of unions on the barriers towards the inclusion of vulnerable people**

The unions' diagnostics pointed out that fewer youth, women and vulnerable people are involved in the unions' activities. In order to better understand the factors that exclude these categories of people, Yidgiri will, in the second quarter conduct a quick survey with representative sample target groups to better understand this situation and adjust its implementation strategy to address these barriers. In addition, Yidgiri will implement the Social Analysis and Action tool to gain a more in-depth understanding of the social dynamics that contribute to exclusion of vulnerable groups, and elicit solutions.

#### **Activity 1.3.3.2 Raise awareness among union leaders to improve inclusion of women and vulnerable groups**

Yidgiri will hold a restitution workshop in the third quarter to share the results of the rapid diagnostics with the stakeholders and implement CARE's Social Analysis and Action tool using results from the barrier analysis. SAA addresses the social, economic, and cultural factors that

influence agriculture practices, livelihoods, nutrition, gender inequality, and development. SAA-FNS is a community-based approach that facilitates dialogue, enabling critical thinking and reflection about how social conditions perpetuate food and nutrition insecurity and development challenges. This workshop will bring together about 40 participants including 30 union leaders. It will be an avenue for sensitizing the leaders of the unions on integrating the vulnerable groups into their activities. As part of the Yidgiri SBC strategy and drawing on the outputs of SAA and in collaboration with SCC, Yidgiri will develop tools, messages, and sensitization campaigns during Quarter 4 aiming to address barriers and improve conditions for the inclusion of women and youth in Unions.

### ***Intervention 1.3.4 Risk management planning at the grass roots level***

#### **Activities 1.3.4.1 Develop risk management plans at commune level**

In addition to its contingency plan (ACP) for a timely monitoring and response to the outbreaks of insecurity, climate and socioeconomic shocks, Yidgiri will conduct a pilot to develop and implement a risk management plan in one commune in FY21. The risk management plan will include an early warning system to produce and disseminate timely information through SMS messages, voice messages, WhatApps, etc. to about 5,000 target population via NewPath's AMPs and M-FARM electronic platform. The pilot will take place in Quarter 3 in the Centre-Nord region (commune to be identified). This will include an early warning system to produce and disseminate timely information through SMS messages, voice messages, WhatApps, etc. to about 5,000 target population via NewPath's AMPs and M-FARM electronic platform.

Yidgiri will use the services of a consultant to produce tools for identifying risks, assessing their likelihood, and developing prevention and response strategies. Collaboration with Mercy Corps' SCC will draw on the experiences of other USAID partners to build a methodological guideline for the production of tools and the training of actors on community risk management in the target commune. Yidgiri staff, ReComs and young interns (YWERI program) will collect data on context indicator for a regular monitoring of possible risks.

## **Sub IR 1.4 Enhanced Individual Capacities**

### ***Intervention 1.4.1 Functional Literacy***

Literacy skills – including reading, numeracy, financial literacy, and nutritional literacy – are fundamental to enhancing the ability of individuals to participate in business, organizational and household decision-making processes. The literacy program conducted by REGIS-AG, which focused on developing literacy and numeracy skills, also aimed to improve women's value chain skills and business confidence to develop social capital, contribute to building strong producer organizations, and use productive assets to generate income. To build on these results, Yidgiri will implement a comprehensive union-led literacy program to promote the emergence of rural entrepreneurs in targeted value chains. As Yidgiri focuses its assistance on building the unions' technical, business and governance skills to sustainably offer quality services to member organizations, their involvement in literacy training program will ensure sustainability beyond Yidgiri. The union will develop and coordinate income-generating activities around the literacy centers. These revenue-generating activities will be identified according to the potential of the area (for example production of eggs and poultry, market

gardening) using a nutrition-sensitive lens. These activities will ensure the pedagogical strengthening of learners and the use of income from these activities to ensure the operation of literacy centers.

In year 2 and 3, Yidgiri will pay the salaries of trainers mobilized by local “operators” (functional literacy service providers) who are in the data base of the Direction Régionale de l’Education Primaire, Préscolaire et Non-formelle (DREPPNF). To do this, Yidgiri will sign a tripartite MOUs including the DREPPNF and the functional literacy service providers with the following objectives:

- DREPPNF – will 1) ensure training of trainers, monitor, and evaluate learners and, 3) deliver attendance certificates.
- Local functional literacy service providers – identify/mobilize trainers for the training of participants and provide needed training materials
- Yidgiri will 1) Facilitate unions’ involvement, pay salaries for the trainers, 2) ensure monitoring and evaluation of the training sessions and 3) promote income generating activities around literacy centers for sustainability of the program.

The language of instruction for literacy/reading include 1) Mooré and French (Centre – Nord Region), fulfuldé and French (Sahel Region). The choice of these languages align with national priorities in the new functional literacy framework called “Formule enchainée 3). It enables participants connect to the market systems because 1) they can read and write in at least two language that are mostly spoken in market places. Yidgiri also plans to promote income generating activities by participants as part of the training program.

#### **Activity 1.4.1.1 Open 20 new literacy centers**

Yidgiri will support the establishment of 20 new literacy centers in the second and third quarters of FY21 in collaboration with the Regional Directorates of Basic Education and National Languages Promotion, the municipalities, the Comites Villageois de Developpement (CVDs) and the union leaders for the benefit of union member organizations. Relevant criteria will be jointly developed for the selection of sites to host the centers, for the choice of center promoters and for the recruitment of 20 facilitators and 3 literacy center supervisors to ensure appropriate operations of the centers. In collaboration with the Regional Directorates of Basic Education and National Languages Promotion (RDBENLP), Yidgiri will use the training modules developed by REGIS–AG. After literacy basic trainings, Yidgiri will develop revised value chain - specific training modules (for instance, sheep fattening, eggs production/marketing, hygiene requirements), including nutritional literacy modules developed by partner CARE, for use across literacy centers. Yidgiri will add a module on nutrition and gender for a portion of the literacy trainees in FY21 to test and adapt the module as needed for the full rollout of the module to all literacy trainees.

The facilitators and supervisors will be trained beforehand by the Regional Directorates of Basic Education and National Languages Promotion on these modules for them to train participants

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<sup>3</sup> Formule enchainée : C’est une formule dès l’an 1 combine l’alphabétisation initiale (40 jours) et la formation complémentaire (24 jours) de base pour accélérer la formation. En an2, va suivre l’alphabétisation, Apprentissage du Français Fondamental, Fonctionnel (A3F) et enfin en an2 suivra la formation technique spécifique.

in turn. Training of trainers in literacy will be included in the YWERI training program for the young participants to seize business opportunities in the literacy sector.

As a result of their capacity building, the union leaders are expected to play a leadership role in the management of the literacy centers to ensure sustainability beyond the life of Yidgiri. Overall, 600 persons (500 women) will be trained through the literacy program in FY21.

#### **Activity 1.4.1.2. Open 10 former literacy centers**

REGIS-AG has trained more than 1000 POs members on the different phases of functional literacy (functional literacy and basic French). Following the first phase, participants were trained on value chain - specific modules. While all learners participated in post-test evaluations at the end of their literacy training cycle, REGIS-AG did not conduct an evaluation on the impact of literacy training on market outcomes. As part of activities for opening the 10 former centers, Yidgiri will, in collaboration with the RDBENLP conduct a rapid assessment of the participants' knowledge and application of specific modules imparted to them in the second and third quarters. The rapid assessment of former participants will include both literacy and numeracy skills.

In the Quarter 2 of FY21, Yidgiri will strengthen 10 existing literacy centers to train at least 200 farmers (150 women) on the specific modules throughout the fiscal year.

#### ***Intervention 1.4.2 Scaling and sustainability for functional literacy***

##### **Activity 1.4.2.1 Facilitate partnership with the Regional Directorates of Basic Education and National Languages Promotion**

The literacy centers are struggling to operate with financial autonomy. Equipment and supplies required for literacy programs need to be purchased annually (in most cases). To ensure the sustainability and renewal of the literacy centers, Yidgiri will empower the commune-level union leaders to play a leadership role in the supervision of functional literacy centers. To this end, Yidgiri will coordinate and facilitate tripartite MOUs with the union leaders and the Regional Directorates of Basic Education and National Languages Promotion in the second quarter of FY21.

The MOUs will constitute a framework for an efficient implementation of literacy centers with clear roles and responsibilities of each party in the management of the centers.

#### ***Intervention 1.4.3 Conduct research to demonstrate link between literacy education and market success.***

##### **Activity 1.4.3.1. Conduct a study on the impact of literacy on market outcomes**

To better inform our programming with regard to the literacy training program for subsequent years, Yidgiri will commission IPA to conduct a research to demonstrate the link between literacy education and market outcomes across the three regions of intervention with focus on the centers supported by REGIS – AG. During the Refine and Implement period, CNFA consulted with IPA to develop a research methodology to cover both USAID Yalwa (Niger) and USAID Yidgiri (Burkina Faso). IPA will complete the methodology in Quarter 2 of FY21 for submission to USAID for approval and additional feedback.

### ***Intervention 1.4.4. Entrepreneurship Marketplaces and Grants in targeted VCs***

Please refer to Interventions 4.1: Youth and Women Entrepreneurship and Rural Innovation (YWERI) and Intervention 4.2. Administration of Yidgiri Small Grant Fund for additional detail.

### **Sub IR 1.5 Financial Services Stimulated and Leveraged**

As part of lessons learned over the past years of REGIS – AG implementation, most of the beneficiaries were faced with working capital challenges thus limiting their ability to expand or start new businesses. These include:

- High upfront costs: The majority of smallholder farmers, agro-dealers, processors, etc. cannot access the initial investment needed to afford farm mechanization support equipment/services, agricultural inputs/advisory services and processing operation needs,
- Mismatch between the smallholder farmers' needs and timelines and the current financial services and products:
  - The amount of the loans offered by local financial institutions to the borrowers (for instance, farmers) is often insufficient to cover the cost of needed farming activities;
  - The repayment schedules offered by the financial institutions are not aligned with the cycle of farming activities;
  - For most agricultural value chain actors, taking out loans is difficult because of the cumbersome application processes.

To address these challenges, Yidgiri will use the small grants to leverage investment, attract commercial finance, and enable its beneficiaries to expand businesses or start new ones, while at the same time improve performance and mitigating risk. In addition to disbursing the small grants (short-term), Yidgiri will work with its strategic partner financial institutions (for instance, the Caisses Populaires of Burkina Faso, and the USAID CATALYZE Activity) to resolve current issues, such as mismatch between animal/crop production and loan cycles and high upfront cost of loan, with accessing working capital.

On the supply side of financial services and products, Yidgiri will provide technical assistance to adapt financial products and services to the needs of target value chain actors, using CNFA's financial models and promoting the digital financial services developed by the Caisses Populaires. Yidgiri's partnership with Palladium's USAID CATALYZE Activity will also result in attracting their incentive agricultural financing model for the target value chain actors.

To ensure the sustainability of investments in equipment, Yidgiri will involve microfinance organizations in the profitability study of the equipment that will be set up on a pilot basis through grants (described in Activity 4.4.7). If the study reveals that the equipment is profitable, the MFIs will develop a financial product adapted to these types of equipment for access by small producers.

On the demand side, Yidgiri will work through the unions and other agribusinesses to facilitate their understanding of financing tools and their benefits, loan application processes, participatory development of business plans (including Yidgiri staff, financial institutions' staff and unions and other agribusiness leaders), as well as management and monitoring of loans disbursed.



### *Intervention 1.5.1 Strengthen the capacity of FSPs to finance the targeted value chains*

#### **Activity 1.5.1.1. Strengthen the knowledge of 15 financial institution officers**

Yidgiri will train 15 officers of partner financial institutions and credit unions, particularly in the Centre – Nord and the Sahel regions on the value chain – specific financing needs. In addition to the theoretical training, the officers will be actively involved in the participatory development of unions and young entrepreneurs' business plans and loan applications to speed up the process of loan processing once applications are received. The training of officers will be carried out in Quarter 2 of FY21 while the participatory development of business plans will be conducted throughout the fiscal year.

### *Intervention 1.5.2 Strengthen the capacity of FSPs to finance warrantage services*

Yidgiri will draw on REGIS-AG's experience to continue warrantage while searching for the best voices to reduce operating costs. Given that the Unions do not have experience in third party holding of stocks, Yidgiri will continue community warrantage and offer the unions the opportunity to exchange on third party holding and Coris bank's experience in private warehouse management.

#### **Activity 1.5.2.1. Continue to conduct the warrantage of POs at the village level**

The POs involved in warrantage during REGIS-AG allowed members to sell the products, especially cowpea, at remunerative prices. Yidgiri will support the POs to conduct warrantage at the village level. To do so, Yidgiri will facilitate the organization of awareness-raising meetings on warrantage and will support the POs involved through training and stock building. As usual, MFIs will be heavily involved in this process. Yidgiri for this year hopes to stock 18 stores with a warrantage credit of US\$142,857. The staff will be strongly involved in the follow-up of the activity until the collection of the loans. The monitoring of the impact of the credit in the income generating activities will also be monitored.

As this activity is seasonal, it will start in December 2020 and end in May 2021 in all regions of the target intervention area of Yidgiri. It will provide access to credit to more than 1,000 people and the diversification of income-generating activities.

#### **Activity 1.5.2.2. Train 18 COGES on the management and conservation of cowpea stocks**

In order to ensure good management and conservation of cowpea stocks, the project team will organize in Kaya the training and retraining of members of 18 SMCs, at a rate of 3 representatives per SMC, i.e. 54 people to be trained. The training will be carried out in Kaya during January 2021. Practical advice for pesticide-free cowpea conservation and exclusive advice on the use of the triple-bottom Purdue Improved Crop Storage (PICS) bag for cowpea conservation will be given.

#### **Activity 1.5.2.3. Organize an exchange meeting on warrantage with a third party holding**

In order to promote understanding of the third-party stock holding mechanism, the project will organize an exchange workshop between union officials and MFIs to discuss other types of warrantage and particularly third-party stock holding. The third-party can be the union or a private sector actor who wants to be involved (storage warehouse building) in the warrantage

mechanism. The lessons learned from these exchanges will help to decide on the approach to be developed for third-party warrantage in the unions in our intervention zones for the future and to set up the milestones for the start of an experiment with the Unions in the Centre-Nord I region. For questions of sensitive conflicts and the search for efficiency, the workshop will be organized in Kaya in November 2020.

## **Intermediate Result 2: Increased utilization of quality inputs and services**

### **Expected outcomes/indicator targets for FY21:**

13. EG.3.1-14: Value of new USG commitments and private sector investment leveraged by the USG to support food security and nutrition: 22,500 \$US;
14. Average value of net income for smallholder farmers and agribusinesses [Custom]: \$820 (Outcome);
15. A-WEAI (Outcome)
  - o 3a.A-WEAI Production Domain: Percentage of women reporting that they provide input in productive decisions (age): 78.2%;
  - o 3b A-WEAI Resource Domain: Percentage of women who have access to and make decisions on credit (age, value chain): 21.1%;
  - o 3c A-WEAI Income Domain: Percentage of women who report having control over their income (type of household, age, value chain): 76.3%;
  - o 3d A-WEAI Leadership Domain: Percentage of women who are active members of community groups: 70%;
16. EG.3.2-26: Value of annual sales of farms and firms receiving USG assistance (province, type of product or service, type of producer/firm, sex, age): \$292.545;
17. EG.3-2: Number of individuals participating in USG food security programs: 17,443;
18. Number of full time equivalent jobs supported (full-time, part-time, and seasonal) (Custom): 95;
19. Number of business plans developed, validated, and funded (phase of development, location) [custom]: 145;
20. Number of individuals who have received USG-supported, short-term agricultural-sector productivity or food security training [Custom]: 17,117;
21. EG.3-10, 11, 12: Yield of targeted agricultural commodities among program participants with USG assistance:
  - a. Cowpea Kg/ha: 700;
  - b. Livestock Head/household: 12;
  - c. Poultry Head/household: 195
22. EG.3.2-7: Number of technologies, practices, and approaches under various phases of research, development, and uptake as a result of USG assistance\* (category of research, phase of development): 13;
23. EG.3.2-24: Number of individuals in the agriculture system who have applied improved management practices or technologies with USG assistance: 13,955;
24. EG 3.2-25: Number of hectares under improved management practices or technologies with USG assistance 11,100;
25. EG.11-6: Number of people using climate information or risk-reducing actions to improve resilience to climate change as supported by USG assistance: 17,443.

### ***IR 2 Implementation Strategy:***

Yidgiri's team will work at input supply system level to reduce costs, improve quality, increase access to, and raise awareness among producers on the effective and efficient use of inputs and agricultural services at farm level. Yidgiri will focus its efforts on the key bottlenecks such

as dual use of cowpea seeds for animal and human food, the marketing of small ruminants, the production of day-old chicks and poultry feed with the aim of improving the overall market system.

On the basis of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) accompanied by annual action plans, Yidgiri will collaborate with INERA, IRSAT and the PAIRED projects (Partnership for Agricultural Research, Education and Development) funded by USAID and EnGRAIS (Enhancing Growth through Regional Agricultural Input Systems) to promote improved technologies for the development of sustainable and nutrition-sensitive agriculture. Potential areas of collaboration will be:

- Support the development of public-private partnerships to increase the supply of basic seeds and reduce certified seeds production challenge;
- Support the advocacy efforts of the private sector and the donors for the implementation of the national action plans for the development of seed sector and for fertilizers quality control;
- Improve access to information on available varieties and their nutritional potential as well as awareness on the use of improved seed varieties (not limited to cowpeas) through nutrition-sensitive extension services provided by the public sector, unions and the main private actors, in particular ASEAN-B, UNPSB and NAFASO.
- Promote improved labor-saving technologies, integrated soil fertility management (ISFM) and available post-harvest management techniques such as the use of PICS bags.

### **Sub IR 2.1: Strengthened the enabling environment for seed and fertilizer**

Increase in agricultural productivity and production for better performance of Burkina Faso's agriculture requires greater use of fertilizers and improved seeds varieties. The use of improved seeds varieties contributes 30 to 40% to the increase in yields and to the resilience of rural populations by adapting activities to the effects of climate change. The diagnosis of the seeds and fertilizers sub-sectors carried out in 2018 highlighted the main shortcomings/constraints to the development of these two sub-sectors and made Recommendations.

With regards to the shortcomings identified, Yidgiri proposes to support the Ministry of Agriculture to implement key activities from the REGIS-AG seed and fertilizer sub-sector action plans during this fiscal year, to improve the legislative and regulatory framework of the seeds and fertilizers sectors, to strengthen the capacities of producer organizations (through unions) in collective inputs procurement and cowpea storage and conservation.

#### ***Intervention 2.1.1 Strengthen the enabling environment in the agricultural input sector***

During FY21, Yidgiri will support the Ministry in charge of Agriculture in the implementation of certain activities of the seed and fertilizer sector action plans that were developed with the support of the REGIS-AG project.

#### **Activity 2.1.1.1. Support the Ministry in charge of agriculture in the organization of a workshop to align the law n ° 010/2006 / AN with the ECOWAS regulations**

Burkina Faso adopted a law on crops seeds and plants in 2006. However, reading this law, the Yidgiri team notes that certain provisions differ from the ECOWAS Regulation c / reg. 4/05/2008 on crops seeds and plants. It is therefore essential to organize a workshop in Kaya in Quarter 2 to bring together 20 experts for a 10-day period. They will propose changes to the national law and align it with ECOWAS regulation c / reg. 4/05/2008.

#### **Activity 2.1.1.2. Support the Ministry in charge of Agriculture in the organization of a validation workshop of the adjusted texts**

To align the ECOWAS fertilizer and seed regulatory framework approved in 2012 with member states' regulatory frameworks, the USAID Regional Mission (Accra, Ghana) funded two five-year regional programs – the fertilizer program implemented by IFDC and the seed program implemented by CORAF from 2012 to 2016. As a result, these two programs facilitated the establishment of national alliances and the technical working groups (ministries in charge of agriculture) in most of ECOWAS member states, including Burkina Faso. The Burkina Faso review the law n ° 010/2006 / AN and its alignment with ECOWAS regulation c / reg. 4/05/2008. As such, Yidgiri will continue this support to the Burkina technical working group by supporting the organization of a validation workshop in Ouagadougou during the second quarter. The workshop will gather 50 actors from the seed sub-sector.

#### **Activity 2.1.1.3. Facilitate the organization of a technical working session for the preparation of regulations and application texts of the seed law**

Burkina Faso's seed law is not consistent with ECOWAS seed law. It is therefore necessary to review and align it with the regulations of the community area. Yidgiri will support the Ministry in charge Agriculture to organize a technical working session for the development of regulations and application texts of the seed law. This working session, which will take place in Quarter 2 in Ouagadougou will bring together 15 experts.

#### **Activity 2.1.1.4. Organize an information / sensitization workshop on legislative and regulatory texts relating to fertilizers in Burkina Faso**

The laws “No. 026-AN / 2007 instituting fertilizer control in Burkina Faso” and “ECOWAS Regulation C / REG.13 / 12/12” regarding fertilizer controls have existed for years, but they are not well known or adhered to by fertilizer wholesalers and retailers. In Quarter 2, to facilitate understanding and application of these laws, Yidgiri will collaborate with the Inputs Directorate of the Ministry in charge of Agriculture in Kaya to organize an awareness raising session on the legislative and regulatory texts relating to fertilizers in Burkina Faso. Wholesalers and input retailer members of AGRODIA operating in Yidgiri's intervention area will be invited to attend. The goal of the awareness creation session is to inform AGRODIA members so that they may operate in accordance with the fertilizer law and ECOWAS regulations. In addition, Yidgiri will support the Directorate of Agricultural Inputs in the preparation and production of posters and brochures to strengthen the awareness of those involved in the marketing of fertilizers in the Yidgiri intervention zones.

#### **Activity 2.1.1.5. Support the Ministry in charge of Agriculture in the finalization of the revised mechanism for the implementation of agricultural inputs subsidy program**

To redress the food situation, which had deteriorated sharply in a national and international context marked by a vertiginous rise in food prices, the government has been working since 2008 to increase national production through intensification actions and diversification of crop

production through the establishment of a subsidy program for agricultural inputs. However, shortcomings in the implementation of this program have been detected over the years. The Ministry in charge of Agriculture is therefore engaged in the development of a revised Mechanism document for the implementation of the subsidy program of agricultural inputs in Burkina Faso. Yidgiri will support the Ministry in finalizing this document through the organization of two working sessions of five days each in Kaya, which will bring together 20 experts in Quarter 3. The finalization of the revised mechanism for the implementation of the agricultural input subsidy program of Burkina Faso will accelerate the implementation of the reform of the electronic distribution system of agricultural inputs through private input distributors (for instance, AGRODIA).

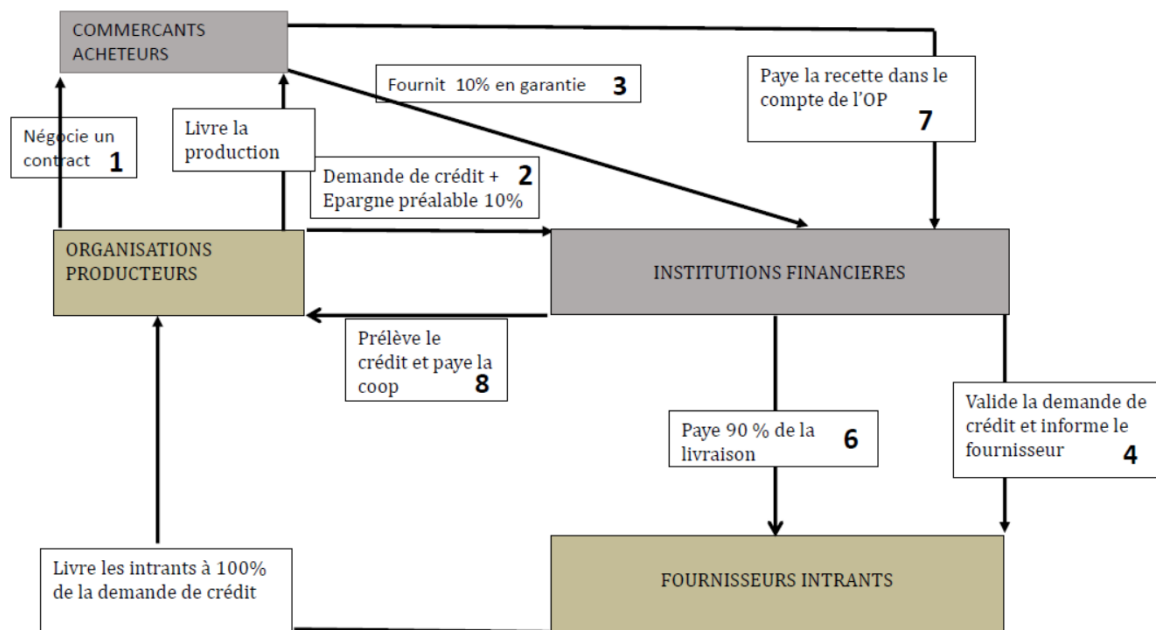
### ***Intervention 2.1.2 Facilitate collective procurement of agro-inputs and cowpea seed***

In Burkina Faso, access to quality agricultural inputs is essential for the growth of the agricultural sector and for food security. Indeed, if the agricultural production of the country is strongly dependent on rainfall amount and distribution it is also strongly influenced by low soil fertility, characterized by a generalized phosphorus deficiency, which severely limits productivity, even with good rainfall. The efficient use of mineral fertilizers and organic manures combined with the use of good cultivars increases agricultural production. However, in Burkina Faso, as in other Sahelian countries, the unavailability of quality inputs at the right time, in the right place, at affordable prices, and in small packages, is one of the main causes of their low use. In addition, demand is dispersed in space which complicates the supply given the lack of organization and coordination of producers.

#### **Activity 2.1.2.1 Validate the Credit for Agricultural Production Intensification (CIPA) mechanism for the cowpea value chain**

The demand for agricultural inputs is quite fragmented within POs, which does not constitute an attraction for agricultural inputs suppliers. To better coordinate the needs for agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, etc.) emanating from POs, USAID Yidgiri has given pride of place to unions in each value chain in coordinating the input needs of its members. Thus, a fertilizer and seed supply mechanism that has been developed by GRAD in other regions of Burkina Faso will be tested in the project intervention area through the three targeted value chains. However, this mechanism will only be successful when all the actors involved in the input supply chain are informed or imbued with the constraints and interests of each actor.

USAID Yidgiri will facilitate the installation of two cowpea multi-actor innovation platforms in Sanmatenga and Namatenga Provinces in February. The Credit for Agricultural Production Intensification (CIPA) fertilizer and seed supply mechanism will be discussed and validated within these platforms before its deployment in the field in February (cf Figure 1). The CIPA mechanism defines: (i) the roles and responsibilities of the different actors involved in the agricultural inputs supply; (ii) the necessary tools for each segment involved; (iii) the innovation platform performance analysis tools. Each innovation platform will include Research institutions, cowpea producers, union officials, agricultural input distributors, microfinance institutions, and transporters. During the platform session the needs in terms of input will be validated, the financial resources to be mobilized by microfinance institutions as well as the conditions for transporting inputs will be discussed.



**Figure 1: CIPA Inputs supply mechanism**

**Activity 2.1.2.2. Produce tools for collecting and aggregating input needs.**

After the validation of the CIPA mechanism by the cowpea value chain actors, the Yidgiri team will develop input needs collection and aggregation tools for POs, communal unions and provincial unions. The expression of input needs will start at the PO level. Each PO member will express his input needs during a general assembly (GA) convened by the President of the PO. The needs validated during this GA will be taken into account in the summary that will be done at the PO level. All the input needs of the POs will then be transmitted to the municipal union of which the PO is a member. The communal union in turn will make a synthesis based on the production history of the PO. Finally, the input needs validated by the communal unions will be transmitted to the provincial unions level for consolidation. All of the inputs synthesized at the provincial level will be discussed at actors' innovation platform session on the one hand to seek funding and on the other hand to identify the input distributors ready to engage in a contractual clause with the union. To facilitate the compilation of data at different levels, USAID Yidgiri will develop data collection sheets in March that will be shared with all unions and member POs.

**Activity 2.1.2.3. Support provincial and municipal unions in preparing business plans (input financing plans)**

After the summary of the needs for agricultural inputs expressed by the member POs in the previous section, each provincial / communal union of each value chain will apply for loan with finance institutions. In this process, the rural finance manager of the project will support the various municipal and provincial unions in setting up bankable business plans (funding request files) to negotiate the financing of agricultural inputs for the benefit of POs members of the unions with finance institutions (i.e. Federation des Caisses Populaires). The support of the rural finance manager is part of the sustainability of the actions of the project, which also aims to strengthen the capacities of provincial and municipal union managers in the preparation of loan application form with finance institutions. A total of 15 inputs financing plans will be developed in by the end of March.

For POs that are not members of the unions, the rural finance manager will support these POs in developing plans for business clusters that will be established in the villages.

#### **Activity 2.1.2.4. Organize two workshops to evaluate the agricultural inputs supply mechanism (CIPA)**

At the end of the cropping season, the project team will organize the assessment of operations related to the agricultural inputs supply for each cowpea union at the provincial level. To facilitate the active participation of actors, the assessment will be done during a workshop which will bring together all the actors of multi-actor innovation platforms (producers, seed companies, input distributors, MFIs, beginners, etc.). During this debriefing workshop, successes and failures will be discussed. Lessons learned will be documented and recommendations will be made in order to prepare successfully for following agricultural season. These two assessment workshops will be organized respectively in Kaya, Boulsa with the provincial cowpea unions in these localities by the end of September.

#### ***Intervention 2.1.3. Improve storage of cowpea for food and seed***

The field trips carried out within the framework of the implementation of REGIS-AG activities showed that certain actors (traders and producers) continue to store their foodstuffs with phostoxin, which is toxic to humans. In order to reverse this trend, and to promote an effective storage methodology, Yidgiri will carry out the following activity.

#### **Activity 2.1.3.1. Train cowpea farmers on the use of PICS bags for cowpea storage**

Yidgiri will train producers and traders on the health and nutritional benefits of storing cowpeas in PICS bags in order to encourage their adoption. In addition to this training, USAID Yidgiri will develop leaflets that will present the health risks associated with consuming cowpeas or other food products preserved with chemicals.

A total of two hundred (200) producer members of Cowpea Unions and traders will be trained on the use of PICS bags for cowpea storage. This capacity building will take place in 4 training sessions including 2 in Kaya, one in Kongoussi and one in Boulsa. These trainings will be organized in collaboration with the Regional Directorate of Agriculture early in late first quarter (December).

### **Sub IR 2.2 Increased Access of Farmers of agricultural inputs and services**

Livestock feed, zotechnical inputs and veterinary services are essential to improve the productivity of both small ruminants and poultry. REGIS-AG has trained 53 small ruminant and 48 poultry POs on livestock feed production and good feeding practices for poultry and small ruminants. It also facilitated the installation of local animal health networks (RSAP) led by private veterinarians and trained animal health auxiliaries which allowed a considerable increase in the productivity / production of poultry and small ruminants in the project area. However, the lack of official recognition of livestock auxiliaries remains a major concern that Yidgiri will deal with. Yidgiri, throughout this fiscal year will intensify its interventions through: (ii) the establishment of a consultation framework between the National Order of Veterinarians of Burkina (ONV) Faso and the General Directorate of Veterinary Services (DGSV) to improve the environment for the practice of private veterinarians with the aim of strengthening producers' access to animal health care and extension services.



### *Intervention 2.2.1 Improve the enabling environment in the animal health service sector*

Yidgiri will continue the collaboration with the ONV and the DGSV undertaken by REGIS-AG to promote reforms that improve the environment for private veterinarians.

#### **Activity 2.2.1.1. Support the establishment of a consultation framework for animal health stakeholders**

In Quarter 2 of FY21, Yidgiri will facilitate the organization of a small workshop in Ouagadougou bringing together about 15 public and private stakeholders in the animal health sector (Order of Veterinarians, Directorate General of Animal Health,) to discuss issues the private veterinarian profession is faced with and propose improvement measures. In addition to this stakeholders' workshop, Yidgiri will support the production of a manual which defines the conditions and modalities for the establishment of private veterinarians and the formalization of the recognition of animal health auxiliaries through the development of a legal instrument.

#### **Activity 2.2.1.2. Support the national order of veterinarians in the development of complementary regulatory texts for the veterinary profession and improvement of the business environment for the private sector**

The law on the code of animal health and veterinary public health were passed in 2015, however the implementing texts which must specify the veterinary profession have not yet been adopted. The Yidgiri project will support the ONV in holding a working session in Ouagadougou in the second quarter with the objective of developing additional regulatory texts for the profession in order to improve the business environment for the private sector. This working session will bring together 20 people.

### *Intervention 2.2.2 Improve poultry productivity*

In Burkina Faso, poultry is produced throughout the country with an annual production estimated at 35 million heads. This production, essentially in traditional mode (village poultry farming), is facing certain difficulties, namely:

- Sanitary constraints, especially at traditional poultry production level with high mortality due to poor farming conditions, particularly in terms of hygiene and veterinary care;
- Technical constraints at all segments level in terms of insufficient professionalism and skills of the actors. Indeed, despite the efforts of the governmental agents and other support and capacity building partners, the application of good practices is not yet systematic;
- Difficulties in accessing financing. With the high mortality in traditional poultry farming and the advent of avian influenza, the poultry sector is now considered to be a very sensitive sector with a high level of risk. Also, the actors find it difficult to be supported by financial institutions. The high inputs cost and the low financial capacity of small actors makes difficult their investments for the development of their production units.

REGIS-AG had strengthened the capacities of poultry farmers on poultry production techniques and supported the establishment of two poultry clusters to facilitate business transactions between poultry farmers and buyers (traders and collectors).

REGIS-AG also promoted guinea fowl production as a pilot business opportunity for young producers in Burkina Faso and Niger. Despite the economic, nutritional, and social importance



of guinea fowl in Burkina Faso, the sector's potential is untapped due to numerous production challenges associated with traditional poultry rearing practices common in rural areas. Guinea Fowl are appreciated by consumers as a source of tasty, tender and healthy meat, in addition to nutritious eggs. Guinea fowl rearing has relatively low feeding costs and the birds are sold at a higher unit price than chicken. There is significant potential for market growth.

In quarter 2 and 3 of this fiscal year, Yidgiri will conduct assessments of the capacity of poultry farmers (application of improved technologies/good farming practices received), the young guinea fowl farmers (efficient use of feeders and waterers procured through REGIS-AG grant) and the two poultry clusters (outcomes of business linkages strengthened between poultry farmers and buyers) supported by REGIS – AG. The findings of these assessments will help Yidgiri to better inform the poultry value chain intervention in FY 21 and beyond.

Yidgiri will also support the organization a multi-stakeholder poultry innovation platform in Kaya in quarter 3 bringing together traders, farmers, traders, private veterinarians, poultry feed sellers, to discuss issues related to financing, animal health and poultry marketing and develop a way forward for delivery of quality services and "win win" business transactions.

#### **Activity 2.2.2.1. Train ReComs and PO extensionists on poultry production techniques and poultry feed production**

As mentioned above, the appropriate poultry production techniques are not yet systematic among poultry producers. This was confirmed by the diagnosis made with the POs and the poultry union during the refining period. This diagnosis clearly showed a need for capacity building of POs on poultry production techniques. Thus, to reach the maximum number of poultry producers, the Yidgiri project proposes to carry out a cascade training. First, 50 ReComs and POs extensionists will be trained in collaboration with the Regional Directorate of Animal Resources of the Centre Nord region. Extensionists work as volunteers for Unions and serve PO's. Unions pay small incentive fees for their services. Priority will be given to young people and women in the choice of ReComs and POs extensionists to be trained. The latter once the training is completed, will train the members of their respective POs. For security issue this training will be organized in kaya in February.

#### **Activity 2.2.2.2. Produce and distribute extension tools on poultry production**

By the end of Quarter 3, the project will revise and update the REGIS-AG training curriculum on poultry farming techniques that will be used by trainers of poultry POs members across the project regions. The Ministry Charged with Livestock Production will be asked to comment and provide input. Branding will be updated appropriately from REGIS-AG to Yidgiri. Extension training documents will also include sensitization on the nutritional impacts of poultry production (i.e. proper hygiene for bird housing, egg sanitization, the impact of animal feed on a large, healthy bird). The modules will also integrate any identified SBC messaging (please see IR 3.2 for further details). Training documents will be disseminated to Union leaders, union PO Extensionists, member producer organizations (POs), other relevant agribusinesses during Quarter 4.

#### **Activity 2.2.2.3. Monitor the training of the members of POs on poultry production techniques by ReCom and POs extensionists**

After the training of ReComs and POs extensionists, Yidgiri will follow the replication of the training at the PO level or a total of 1,250 farmers (800 females) will be trained in the Quarter 3 and Quarter 4.

#### **Activity 2.2.2.4. Validate poultry inputs (feed and chicks) supply mechanism within the poultry innovation platform**

At the institutional and organizational level, the poultry sector has a professional association (grouping actors in semi-industrial poultry farming) namely the Maison de l'Aviculture (MDA) since 1998. Despite all this, the poultry sector is not yet sufficiently structured, particularly at the level of grassroots players. In addition to the poor organization of poultry actors, they face difficulties in accessing finance, a high mortality rate as well as difficulties in accessing inputs. To overcome these shortcomings, Yidgiri will support the establishment of a multi-stakeholder Innovation Forum (See Activity 1.1.3.1) for the poultry sector in the Sanmatenga province. This platform, which will bring together poultry farmers, traders, financial institutions, collectors and processors, will work to develop mechanisms that will facilitate farmers' access to inputs (feed and chicks), support better structured poultry markets, and address barriers to finance in the sector. The poultry inputs (feed and chicks) supply mechanism will be validated at workshop to be held in Kaya in Quarter 3.

#### **Activity 2.2.2.5. Equip the services delivery center of one poultry producers' provincial union with poultry feed and a day-old chick production units**

In order to facilitate the access of poultry producers to poultry feed and the availability of day-old chicks, Yidgiri will equip the Sanmatenga poultry production union with poultry feed and a day-old chick production unit through the Yidgiri in-kind grant. The unions will employ two young professionals trained in the youth entrepreneurship training program (YWERI) for the management of these units. The Yidgiri staff will support the union in the recruitment of these operators. The microfinance institutions will be involved in the economic analysis of these units. Their involvement in the economic analyzes of this activity aims to allow them to diligently process loan application related to similar initiatives. This activity will be completed by the end of Quarter 3.

#### ***Intervention 2.2.3 Improve small ruminants' productivity***

Burkina Faso is the second largest livestock producer after Mali in the UEMOA zone. However, in terms of meat production, Burkina Faso has an average carcass weight of 110 kg for cattle, 9 kg for sheep and 8 kg for goats. This performance remains below the potential and there is a possibility to improve up to 150 kg per cattle carcass, 15 kg for sheep and 12 kg for goats. This low performance in meat production can be explained by:

- Difficulties in accessing SPAI (high costs, unavailability, etc.);
- Insufficient pasture due to the increasing numbers of domestic animals leading to high pressure on resources;
- The persistence of animal pathologies;
- Insufficient organization and structuring of actors;
- Poor mastery of production and processing techniques, particularly hygiene and quality standards aspects;
- Low access to financing;
- The increase in insecurity in the project area.

Although adapted to environmental conditions, the breeds produced are not very productive because they cannot properly express their genetic potential due to a farming system that is economically inefficient.

In order to improve the availability of low-cost SPAIs to producers, REGIS-AG facilitated business meetings between actors through fairs and clusters. In addition, REGIS-AG has strengthened the capacities of 339 small ruminant producers on fattening, meat processing, quality standard and hygiene. The diagnosis carried out with small ruminant farmers' organizations highlighted the difficulties of accessing livestock feed, especially during the dry and food shortage period.

During this fiscal year, Yidgiri will first work on consolidating the achievements of REGIS-AG, then in a second step will strengthen the capacities of small ruminant producers on fattening techniques. In FY22, Yidgiri will work with INERA to implement interventions focused on improving breeds for small ruminants (i.e. crossbreeding goats).

#### **Activity 2.2.3.1. Organize two validation sessions of input supply mechanisms (feed) through innovation platforms**

Access to feed is a major constraint for the productivity of small ruminants. However, there are no clear mechanisms that allow small ruminant producers to access quality feed under flexible conditions. Yidgiri intends to support the provincial multi-actor innovation platforms that will be set up in Sanmatenga and Seno provinces in the organization of brainstorming sessions for the validation of small ruminants feed supply mechanisms with all the actors in the value chain. The validation of these mechanisms will allow to better organize the supply small ruminants' feeds. These feed supply mechanism validation sessions will be organized in Quarters 2 and 3 of FY21.

#### **Activity 2.2.3.2. Strengthen the capacities of ReCom and POs extensionists on fodder production and sheep fattening techniques**

The diagnoses of the provincial and communal unions of small ruminant producers highlighted a need for capacity building of POs on fodder production and fattening techniques. The Yidgiri project proposes to carry out a cascade training. A total of 100 ReComs and POs extensionists (ie 2 per POs) will be trained in collaboration with the Regional Directorate of Animal Resources of the Centre Nord. Priority will be given to young people and women in the choice of ReComs and POs extensionists to be trained. The training will be held in two sessions, one in Kaya and another in Boulsa in second quarter. Once back in their zones, the ReComs will train the members of their respective POs.

#### **Activity 2.2.3.3. Produce and distribute extension tools on fodder production and sheep fattening**

During the fourth quarter, Yidgiri will support the production training documents on fodder production and sheep fattening techniques which will be used as training material for small ruminant POs members by the ReComs and POs extensionists.

REGIS-AG training tools will be updated, where appropriate, including modules on sheep husbandry/fattening techniques that will be used by trainers of POs members across the project regions. These include:

- Small ruminant breeding systems;
- The criteria for the choice of ruminants for fattening (taking into consideration age, sex, health status, color and condition of the coat, conformation, weight at entry, etc.)
- The standards of construction of sheepfolds;
- Feeding and rationing;
- Operational steps in running a fattening site;
- The operating account.

The updated training tools will be shared with technical services at the Ministry Charged with Livestock Production for review and input. Branding will be updated appropriately from REGIS-AG to Yidgiri.

Extension training documents will also include sensitization on the nutritional impacts of livestock production. The modules will also integrate any identified SBC messaging (please see IR 3.2 for further details). Extension documents will be disseminated to Union leaders, union PO Extensionists, member producer organizations (POs), other relevant agribusinesses by early Quarter 4.

#### **Activity 2.2.3.4. Train POs on fodder production and sheep fattening techniques**

After the training of ReComs and POs extensionists, the Yidgiri project will follow the replication of the training at the PO level. A total of 2,500 producers will be trained (25 producers to be trained per pair of ReCom or POs extensionists). Yidgiri's staff will monitor the training replica in in the third quarter.

#### *Intervention 2.2.4 Improve the availability of quality fodder*

Yidgiri's cowpea expert will promote use of dual-purpose cowpea with special emphasis on fodder production through demonstration tests. In addition to the production, the training will also focus on mowing-storage of natural fodder and storage of cowpea straw. To scale up this practice, Yidgiri will partner with the Water, Security and Resilience activity of Winrock International (WSR) to introduce other fodder species to improve the quality of pastures.

#### **Activity 2.2.4.1. Train of ReComs and POs extensionists on mowing - storage of fodder and storage of cowpea straw**

The diagnoses of the provincial and communal of small ruminant producers' unions highlighted a need for capacity building of POs on fodder mowing - storage techniques and the storage of cowpea straw. The Yidgiri project will carry out a cascade training. A total of 100 ReComs and POs extensionists (i.e. two per POs) will be trained in collaboration with the Regional Directorate of Animal Resources of the Centre-Nord Region. Priority will be given to young people and women in the selection of ReComs and POs extensionists to be trained. The trainings will be held in two sessions, one in Kaya and another in Boulsa in Quarter 4.

#### **Activity 2.2.4.2. Follow-up of replicas of training on mowing - storage of fodder and storage of cowpea straw**

After the training of ReComs and endogenous animators, Yidgiri will follow the replication of the training at the PO level in Quarter 4. A total of 1,250 farmers will benefit from this training

(25 producers to be trained per pair of ReCom and POs extensionists). Yidgiri staff will monitor these training sessions through field trips.

#### **Activity 2.2.4.3. Equip the service delivery centers of two small ruminants provincial unions with two hay making kits**

In order to improve the availability of fodder during the dry season and to promote job creation for young people and women, Yidgiri will support the creation of service delivery centers within the unions. Two unions (Sanmatengo and Seno) will be encouraged to apply for a Yidgiri in-kind grant for hay making kits, which would likely include one baler, one tiller, five sickles, and a chart. Two young people or women will be selected by the unions to lead this fodder processing activity using hay making kits. The management modalities of these units will be discussed by mutual agreement with the unions in order to develop a management manual for these units. The microfinance institutions will be involved in the economic analysis of this activity. Their involvement aims to allow them to efficiently analyze loan applications for similar activities. Unions will submit Yidgiri grant proposals in Quarter 3 and awards are expected to be made in early Quarter 4.

#### **Activity 2.2.4.4. Train the beneficiaries on the use and maintenance of the hay making kits**

Before the production of fodder bales, the young men and women selected will be trained by the Yidgiri team on the use and maintenance of the hay making kit. This training session will be held in Kaya during Quarter 3 and will allow the beneficiaries to deliver quality services to union members while ensuring the sustainability of the equipment.

#### ***Intervention 2.2.5 Increase the delivery of veterinarian services***

In collaboration with the REGIS-ER activity and the Development Food Security Activity (DFSA), REGIS-AG facilitated the establishment of five (5) RSAPs in Burkina Faso, composed of five veterinarians supervising nine veterinary care practices (veterinary outposts managed by livestock technicians) and 105 animal health auxiliaries. In collaboration with USAID's One Health initiative, Yidgiri will strengthen and expand the coverage of RSAPs, facilitating the opening of new veterinary care practices through young entrepreneurs (veterinarians and zootechnicians) graduating from its YWERI training program with the mentorship of veterinarians' and strengthening the roles of animal health auxiliaries in RSAPs. During their internship (placement with value chain actors/mentors), the young veterinarians and zootechnicians will be equipped with Android phones to timely collect and share field information and pictures relating to animal health (for instance disease outbreak) with Yidgiri management for processing and onward sharing with the One Health initiative.

#### **Activity 2.2.5.1. Reinforce the technical capacities of RSAPs through the establishment of three veterinary care clinics linked to the VETAGRI network**

With the aim of bringing veterinary services closer to producers in the project intervention area, Yidgiri will facilitate the extension of the RSAP network piloted by VETAGRI through the opening of 3 veterinary care practices owned by young people during Quarters 2 and 3. The conditions for opening these veterinary care practices will be in accordance with the specifications defined in the youth and women entrepreneurship program.

#### **Activity 2.2.5.2. Conduct refresher training for animal health auxiliaries (AE)**

The REGIS AG project trained 35 AE members of the RSAP of VETAGRI. Yidgiri will organize a refresher session for these 35 AEs in Kaya in Quarter 2 to update their knowledge on the main animal diseases and vaccination protocols. The refresher training will use training modules developed under REGIS-AG.

#### **Activity 2.2.5.3. Identify and train 20 new animal health auxiliaries (AE)**

In order to extend the VETAGRI RSAP to gradually cover the entire Yidgiri intervention area, 20 new animal health auxiliaries will be identified, recruited and trained in partnership with VETAGRI as part of the youth and women entrepreneurship program. The AE training curricula developed within the framework of the REGIS AG project implementation will be used for the training of new recruits. The training session will be held in Kaya in Quarter 2.

The selection criteria for new AEs to be recruited and trained will be clearly defined in collaboration with VETAGRI during Quarter 2 while giving priority to young people and women. The basic criteria for the selection of EAs are as follows:

- (i) to be from the service territory and established in the commune (i.e. family, children, work) to avoid recruiting someone who will not be invested in the community;
- (ii) to be a producer;
- (iii) to be a member of one of the POs;
- (iv) to be between the age of 15-29;
- (v) to be able to read and write;
- (vi) to be available and willing to mobilize at any time to respond to a call in the zone of intervention;
- (vii) to be proposed by the community in a general assembly; and

Additionally, the following were considered a plus:

- (i) knowledge of animal breeding;
- (ii) able to speak a local language;
- (iii) to be a former or current AE; and
- (iv) to have a means of transport (moto).

#### **Activity 2.2.5.4. Equip the 20 new animal health auxiliaries with basic veterinarian kits**

After the recruitment and training of the 20 new animal health auxiliaries, Yidgiri will offer basic veterinary kits to each AE (in-kind matching grants) to support their start-up activities and establish their businesses in their designated community.

Each AE will receive their kit by the end of Quarter 3. These procurements will be completed during in compliance with the Yidgiri cooperative agreement, Yidgiri procurement manual, and specifications defined in the youth entrepreneurship program.

### **Cross cutting objectives under inputs and services**

#### **Sub IR 2.3 Increased access to market and climate information systems**

Continuous cultivation without external input and without fallow has caused soil losses and physical degradation and decline of soil organic matter. This decline in fertility has led to dizzying drops in the productive capacity of the land. To improve the productive capacity of

soils, Yidgiri will promote ISFM technologies for cowpea production in the project intervention communes.

With regards to the insecurity situation in the project intervention area, it was noted that the project beneficiaries left their villages for more secured sites during the Refine and Implement period. Yidgiri has outlined additional measures in its Activity Contingency Plan that may be taken if trigger thresholds are reached and additional funding becomes available.

#### **Activity 2.3.1.1. Establish and monitor demonstration plots**

In order to increase cowpea production yields and facilitate the adoption of good cowpea production practices among producers, the Yidgiri project will collaborate with the Regional Directorate of Agriculture of the Centre Nord region, POs extensionists, AGRODIA and the VIM Plus project, to establish demonstration plots where eight technologies (ISFM practices, soil and water conservation, promotion of seed varieties) will be tested and demonstrated to local producers.

Using lessons learned from the establishment of 84 demonstration plots in FY20, Yidgiri will set-up an additional 130 demonstration sites across the three intervention regions. The day to day monitoring of the demonstration plots will be done by the POs extensionists under the supervision of the agricultural agents and the Yidgiri staff.

#### **Activity 2.3.1.2. Train producers on cowpea production practices and ISFM through the organization of farmers field days**

During the fourth quarter after the establishment of the demonstration tests, two farmers field days will be organized by the POs extensionists on each demonstration plot respectively during the vegetative and the maturity period. A total of 7,800 producers will be trained on cowpea production procedure and ISFM through these farmer field days, (i.e. an average of 60 producers per demonstration test). These field farmer field days will allow producers to compare the different options of integrated soil fertility management.

In addition to these field days per site led by POs extensionists and the demonstrators, field days which will bring together all the actors at the commune and province levels will be organized during the vegetative and maturity phases.

#### **Activity 2.3.1.3. Produce and distribute extension tools on ISFM**

The project will produce 300 extension documents (poster) on cowpea production techniques in the context of ISFM. These posters will be used as training materials for of the training producers' members of POs by the ReComs and POs extensionists in the three intervention regions of the project.

#### **Activity 2.3.1.4. Equip the services delivery center of Provincial Unions with agricultural equipment kits**

The problem of equipment for tillage was underlined during union diagnostics as a major constraint to improving cowpea productivity. Also threshing cowpeas is a bottleneck for producers. Threshing techniques considerably affect the quality of the seed and its storage. In order to improve cowpea production, seeds quality and storage, Yidgiri will support the provincial union of cowpea producers of Sanmatenga by equipping it with agricultural equipment kits composed of one multifunctional thresher, one tiller, one chart, two plows, one

ridger, one harrow and one seed drill. Two of the young people (male and female) from YWERI training program will be placed as interns with the beneficiary union to learn a day – to day operations/management of this equipment. It is expected that these young trainees either setup business to this end or be employed by the union at the end of their internship.

#### **Activity 2.3.1.5. Train operators on the use and maintenance of agricultural equipment**

As part of improving service delivery to their members, Yidgiri will train some YWERI participants and other operators (where possible) on the use and maintenance of the equipment. This training session will be held in Kaya in April and will equip the operators with skills and knowledge to deliver quality services to the union members while ensuring the sustainability of the equipment.

#### ***Intervention 2.3.2. Deploy existing market and climate information systems***

GRAD has valuable experience in Market System Information (SIM) through M-FARM. Based on this experience, a personalized electronic platform for M-FARM will be developed that will register producers, traders and extension agents.

The platform will be linked to all known regional and national data sources, for example AGRHYMET, CILSS (Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel), Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET) etc., and to provide the most relevant information on weather, product prices and early warning systems to PO members.

#### **Activity 2.3.2.1. Reprogram the electronic platform**

GRAD manages an electronic platform called M-FARM. To meet the specific needs of Yidgiri's value chain actors, the platform needs to be configured to account for the specificity of the information that will be disseminated. For this purpose, GRAD will hire a consultant in Quarter 2 with proven experience in this field to support its team in the configuration.

#### **Activity 2.3.2.2. Register producers on the platform's database**

To facilitate the dissemination of information to producers, GRAD will seek the services of data entry operators to build up the database of all producers who are members of the POs benefiting from the project with their telephone numbers. A total of 10,000 producers will be registered in this database during Quarter 2.

#### **Activity 2.3.2.3. Collect information from partners for the platform**

At the beginning of Quarter 2, Yidgiri will sign Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with its partner structures for the sharing of information on the weather, product prices, good agricultural practices, good animal husbandry practices, etc. which will be distributed to producers via the digital platform M-FARM.

#### **Activity 2.3.2.4. Send information through the platform**

With this context of climate change and insecurity with their negative consequences on the mobility of goods and people, the Yidgiri project proposes to use an innovative digital platform that provides coaching to strengthen organizational and financial management, production and facilitate access to financial services and market opportunities in insecure areas on the one hand and on the other hand, provide the most relevant information on weather, trade and early warning systems. The project plans to send to each of the 10,000 producers who will be



registered on the platform at least six messages will be shared with actors (producers, agrodealers, traders) during FY21.

### **Intermediate Result 3: Increased Local Consumption of Nutritious, Safe Food**

*Expected outcomes/indicator targets for FY21:*

1. A-WEAI (Outcome)
  - 3a.A-WEAI Production Domain: Percentage of women reporting that they provide input in productive decisions (age): 78.2%;
  - 3b A-WEAI Resource Domain: Percentage of women who have access to and make decisions on credit (age, value chain): 21.1%;
  - 3c A-WEAI Income Domain: Percentage of women who report having control over their income (type of household, age, value chain): 76.3%;
  - 3d A-WEAI Leadership Domain: Percentage of women who are active members of community groups: 70%;
2. EG.3-2: Number of individuals participating in USG food security programs: 1,090;
3. EG.3.3-10 Percentage of female participants of USG nutrition-sensitive agriculture activities consuming a diet of minimum diversity: NA
4. HL 9.4 Number of individuals receiving nutrition-related professional training: 130;
5. Number of marketplaces with increased sales of a variety of nutritious, safe foods (Province) [Custom]: 0;
6. Number of retailers selling safe, nutritious foods [Custom]: 0

#### **IR 3 Implementation strategy**

Through implementation of its cross-cutting nutrition and SBC strategy, Yidgiri will increase local availability of, demand for, and consumption of nutritious, safe and affordable foods in its regions of intervention. At the core of this approach are the findings of the Markets and Nutrition Pathway Assessment (discussed further below), and an ongoing commitment to learning and adaptive management through pilot testing food processing innovations, monitoring and adapting Social and Behavior Change (SBC) interventions and activities to promote consumption, purchase, and marketing of Yidgiri foods, and identifying the most impactful market and nutrition pathways that lead to improved dietary diversity in target communities.

IR1: *Enhanced Performance of Commodity Market Systems* and IR2: *Increased Utilization of Inputs and Services* will contribute to improved product offering (availability and supply) at the market system level. Illustrative activities include support to young entrepreneurs engaged in guinea fowl businesses, use of PICS bags for cowpea food safety and storage longevity, and incorporation of nutrition sensitization/SBC across training materials and platforms relevant to Yidgiri's target population. The activity's focus is on increasing availability and consumption of locally produced and diverse nutritious foods and food groups driven by demand creation within target communities, market actor sensitization on nutrition, and the expanded presence of women taking leadership positions in POs and unions. As such, interventions will be carried out upstream (production, storage/processing, food to food fortification<sup>4</sup>) and downstream

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<sup>4</sup> Chadare, FJ, Idohou, R, Nago, E, et al. Conventional and food-to-food fortification: An appraisal of past practices and lessons learned. *Food Sci Nutr*. 2019; 7: 2781– 2795. <https://doi.org/10.1002/fsn3.1133>

(marketing/distribution channels, and promotion to households to increase consumption of diverse, nutritious foods) in order to ensure availability of safe, diverse and nutritious foods, especially in remote villages. These activities will be implemented with close collaboration among the technical team; additional detail is included under Sub-IR 3.2. Nutrition training and gender sensitization will be embedded into the training of appropriate groups and platforms across IR1 and IR2. Yidgiri will begin this with literacy training in FY21.

### *3.1 Increase the local availability of nutritious, safe foods.*

The nutrition component of Yidgiri will employ cross-cutting Social Behavior Change (SBC) approaches and tools as well as social marketing/promotion to increase demand for nutritious, healthy and affordable foods among consumers. SBC activities will complement Yidgiri's markets component of empowering private-sector actors to use value-addition, processing, labeling and advertising to increase supply of and demand for products. The SBC strategy will employ tools, like Social Analysis and Action (SAA), to reach men, women, youth with the goal of empowering women (and youth), and to increase the consumption of diverse and nutritious diets in the regions of intervention. The SBC Strategy and activities will be shared with Breakthrough ACTION for input prior to finalization. The target groups for the Yidgiri IR3 include:

1. Women and youth from households benefiting from Yidgiri value chain activities (cowpea, small ruminants, and poultry) in the three regions of intervention;
2. Rural producer organizations, unions, and processors (processing units) of nutritious foods;
3. Food retailers, traders, and vendors in rural markets.

IR3 activities will align with the GoBF policy on Food Security and Nutrition through taking into account the broad strategic directions developed by the Burkina Faso Ministry of Health through the Nutrition Directorate. Operationally, IR3 activities will draw on annual SMART surveys conducted by this decentralized technical service to adapt activities to the context in terms of security, external actors, and changes in dietary diversity and consumption of food groups. IR3 activities take into consideration interventions and activities being conducted by other projects in the region.

### **Nutritious Foods Targeted by Yidgiri**

Yidgiri has selected five foods to promote, informed by the M&N Pathways Assessment in addition to the three targeted value chains, cowpea, poultry, and small ruminants. Given the constraints of the project, specific foods were then selected based on: 1) potential to increase dietary diversity and reduce nutrition gaps of target households; 2) increase local availability and consumer demand, thereby increasing access/ affordability; 3) marketability and market potential; 4) compatibility with the Yidgiri market-oriented approach.

Foods to promote include moringa, small dried fish, milk products (fresh or processed), guinea fowl/ pulpit chicken eggs and orange-fleshed sweet potato.

### **Benefits of Promoting select foods:**

Moringa

- Highly nutritious, multiple micronutrients, and specifically vitamin A and iron.
- Underutilized in diets, except in urban areas.

- Readily available during the rainy season.
- Moringa can be promoted for wider consumption as one of the best leafy greens for good nutrition and health.
- Moringa has potential to add nutritional value to Yidgiri value chain foods through processing (i.e. processing with cowpea flour) and to be consumed on its own during the lean season by increasing shelf life (i.e. solar drying).

#### Small, dried fish

- Excellent source of calcium, because bones are consumed, as well as protein, iron, and other important nutrients.
- Dried fish can also be pounded and included in porridge for young children and sauces for family meals.
- Other processing techniques can be tested for increased longevity.

#### Milk, milk products

- Complementary to Yidgiri small ruminants VC
- Highly desirable in the target populations.
- Milk from large and small ruminants can be promoted for consumption in the household, based on preference by region (eg goat milk is desirable in many parts of the Sahel, cow milk in Nord and Est).
- Goat milk can be promoted through SBC activities to increase desirability and demand
- Other local processing techniques can be explored to further engage that women/youth who raise and care for large and small ruminants.

#### Guinea fowl eggs/pulpit chicken eggs

- Complementary to Yigiri poultry VC
- Perfect protein and rich in vitamins A, D, and B as well as iron.
- Excellent for complementary feeding of young children.
- Significant potential for market growth.
- Eggs can be promoted as an alternative to meat, which is more expensive.
- REGIS-AG promoted guinea fowl production as a pilot business opportunity for young producers in Burkina Faso and Niger. Despite the economic, nutritional, and social importance of guinea fowl in Burkina faso, the sector's potential is untapped due to numerous production challenges associated with traditional poultry rearing practices common in rural areas. Guinea Fowl are appreciated by consumers as a source of tasty, tender and healthy meat, in addition to nutritious eggs. Guinea fowl rearing has relatively low feeding costs and the birds are sold at a higher unit price than chicken.

#### Orange-flesh sweet potato (OFSP)

- This tuber contains high levels of vitamin A.
- Widely appreciated by consumers
- Fresh product can be promoted for production, purchase and consumption.
- Easily processed for consumption, can test processing techniques that increase storage time.

## **Sub-IR 3.1. Increased understanding of pathways to increase local consumption of nutritious, safe foods**

### ***Intervention 3.1.1. Markets and Nutrition Pathway Assessment (M&NPA) and iterative research***

#### **Activity 3.1.1.1 Submit Markets and Nutrition Pathway Assessment Report**

The Yidgiri team submitted the M&N Pathway Assessment report on November 11. Subject to USAID approval, Yidgiri will revise and re-submit in early March 31 to prepare for follow on activities.

Additional review and validation for the report is described in the following activities.

#### **Activity 3.1.1.2 Organize a validation of the Markets and Nutrition Pathway Assessment results**

Subject to USAID approval, Yidgiri will convene a multi-stakeholder workshop to validate the findings and recommendations of the M&NPA report in Kaya with the 2 other regions represented Quarter 3 of FY21. The final M&NPA report will be shared with stakeholders for validation and sign-off.

The validation workshop will bring together RISE II implementing partners and government actors, including the focal points of the Regional Directorates of Health, Agriculture and Hydraulic Development, Women and Solidarity and Humanitarian Action, and the Department of Nutrition. The final M&NPA report will be submitted to this group for validation and sign-off. Depending on the health situation (COVID-19), this workshop will be either held remotely or in small meetings with each of the stakeholders.

### ***Intervention 3.1.2. Market and Nutrition Pathways Adaptive Management Plan (M&NP-AMP)***

#### **Activity 3.1.2.1: Co-develop Market and Nutrition Pathways Adaptive Management Plan**

Once validated, the Markets & Nutrition Assessment report will provide the basis for the co-development of a Market and Nutrition Pathways Adaptive Management Plan (M&NP-AMP). As a part of the development of the M&NP-AMP, participants will review key results of the M&NPA, the Yidgiri Theory of Change, and FY20 and 21 activities. Participants will also provide input on proposed indicators for monitoring progress (see Activity 3.1.2.3 below).

The M&NP-AMP will be co-developed with relevant stakeholders in the three regions of intervention. Three regional consultation workshops will be held in FY21 Quarter 3 and 4 in Fada for the East Region, Kaya for the Centre-Nord Region and Dori for the Sahel Region. Participating stakeholders are anticipated to include: 1) RISE II implementing partners including TEV, VIMPlus, PREPARE, SCC, 2) PO leadership, and 3) GoBF regional technical services such as the Regional Directorates of Youth and Promotion of Entrepreneurship and most particularly with those stakeholders which have signed MOUs with Yidgiri: the Nutrition Direction, the Regional Directorates of Health, the Regional and Fisheries Resources Directions, as well as the Regional Directorates of Women, and Solidarity and Humanitarian Action. Depending on the health situation (COVID – 19), these regional workshops will be either held remotely or in small meetings with each of the stakeholders.

### **Activity 3.1.2.2: Finalize and Validate Markets & Nutrition Adaptive Management Plan**

Yidgiri will convene a multi-stakeholder review to finalize the M&NP-AMP and facilitate its official validation at the end of Quarter 4 of FY21. Yidgiri will hold working sessions to finalize the M&NP-AMP with partners and government actors (the focal points of the Regional Directorates of Health, Agriculture and Hydraulic Development, Women and Solidarity and Humanitarian Action, and the Department of Nutrition) immediately after the regional workshops to present the results of the M&NP-AMP. Depending on the health situation (COVID – 19), these workshops will be either held remotely or in small meetings where social distancing is possible in ventilated rooms with each of the stakeholders. The final document will be shared for validation and concurrence.

### **Activity 3.1.2.3: Implement M&NP-AMP Monitoring and Reporting Systems**

To assess progress and inform adaptations of the M&NP-AMP, the Yidgiri team will, in FY 21, Quarter 4 develop monitoring and reporting tools for the indicators proposed in the Theory of Change (TOC) to adapt the M&NP-AMP as implementation moves forward.

The TOC developed for Yidgiri will be used as an operational guide to monitor pathways. Periodic review and revision of the TOC will help the team to continuously monitor and refine: 1) which nutrition-sensitive interventions in market systems and value chains most effectively increase access to, availability of, and utilization of nutritious and safe diets year-round; 2) what the most effective means are to drive individual, household, and community consumption of high-quality nutritious and safe diets from Feed the Future market systems and value chain investments; and, 3) how food market penetration and presence affect household access to and affordability of nutritious and safe foods, and the relationship between women's empowerment and youth engagement in market systems and improved dietary diversity.

As part of its integral MEL system (see Intervention 4.4. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning), it is important to note that Yidgiri will carry out the following activities Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 as part of its MEL system (see Intervention 4.4. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning),:

1. Conducting bi-monthly rapid assessments of select small and medium markets (in sentinel sites) serving rural areas to:
2. assess the availability and cost of a wide variety nutritious foods throughout the seasons based on the M&NPA;, and,
3. track price fluctuations of Yidgiri promoted foods and their availability in the markets

### **Sub-IR 3.2. Increased local availability of nutritious, safe foods**

The Yidgiri Baseline Survey included measurement of Minimum Dietary Diversity in Women (MDD-W). The results indicated that milk and milk products, eggs, Vitamin A-rich fruits and vegetables, and animal source foods (meat, poultry, fish)) and dark leafy greens are least in FY21, Yidgiri will promote the local availability of these food groups and foods through the interventions below through a synergic collaboration between IR1 and IR2.

Of note, the percentage of women achieving minimum dietary diversity in Yidgiri intervention areas was unreasonably high in comparison to the national rate of 13.8%<sup>5</sup> MDD-W among women of reproductive age. To confirm this data point, in late FY21/early FY22 Yidgiri will conduct an additional survey of MDD-D with a representative sample of women further explore the feasibility of this high score. In the event that the additional survey reveals that the score is significantly lower, Yidgiri will use these data for the baseline and will revise targets accordingly.

### *Intervention 3.2.1: Increase local food production that can fill nutrient gaps*

The above – mentioned nutrient-rich foods selected for will be further analyzed at the specific segments of value chains to determine key promotional interventions

#### **Activity 3.2.1.1: Conduct a rapid assessment of potential acceptability of moringa products into household's meals**

Moringa leaves and seeds are a highly nutritious food and eaten in many parts of the world. However, it was noted in women's focus group discussions during the M&N Pathway Assessment that very little moringa is consumed in rural areas, because it is not valued as a component of diets in the populations of the three regions of intervention. Some households do consume the leaves as a sauce or add them to other foods.

Alternately, in large urban centers, and especially among well-off households, moringa leaves and seeds are increasingly being incorporated into diets due to an awareness of its nutritional qualities. These households generally buy moringa leaves and seeds commercially in processed form. This means that a market for this food exists in large urban centers, but needs to be promoted for consumption in rural households in the Yidgiri target population.

Yidgiri will conduct a rapid assessment of the acceptability of moringa in t Yidgiri households in the Quarter 3 of FY21. Based on the findings of the rapid assessment, Yidgiri will include activities in the SBC strategy to promote moringa consumption among consumers. .. Retailers will be supported to develop a moringa products distribution network to facilitate access by target households (see IR1, Activity 1.1.1.3).

#### **Activity 3.2.1.2: Conduct SWOT analyses of milk and milk products**

Milk and milk products are being targeted as a nutritious food for promotion in the three regions of intervention and based on preferences (for instance, goat and/or cow) in the 3 regions, A full SWOT analysis will be conducted by a consultant in Quarter 3 / 4 (see Activity 4.4.7. under the MEL section). Goat milk will be promoted in all three regions as a component of the SBC Strategy.

#### **Activity 3.2.1.3 Promote eggs consumption at household level**

REGIS-AG promoted guinea fowl production as a pilot business opportunity for young producers in Burkina Faso and Niger. Despite the economic, nutritional, and social importance of guinea fowl in Burkina Faso, the sector's potential is untapped due to numerous production challenges associated with traditional poultry rearing practices common in rural areas. Guinea Fowl are appreciated by consumers as a source of tasty, tender and healthy meat, in addition to nutritious eggs. After completion of the Yidgiri SBC strategy, Yidgiri will organize sensitization campaigns at households and rural markets levels to promote increased

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<sup>5</sup> MINISTERE DE LA SANTE, SMART Survey 2019

consumption of eggs among children and pregnant women. See IR 2, Activity 2.2.24 and 2.2.25 for promotion of increased production and IR1, Activity 1.1.1.1 for promotion of eggs marketing).

#### **Activity 3.2.1.4. Conduct orange flesh sweet potato value chain assessment**

Orange flesh sweet potatoes have been produced in large quantities in the East region. Investigation of the potential for production in the Sahel and Center Nord will be explored, as well as the extensive distribution network that could be applied to the other two regions the event that this food cannot be grown in these regions. This activity will be integrated with IR 1 and IR 2 activities as needed.

Yidgiri will conduct an orange flesh value chain assessment with focus on key segments including production, processing, marketing as well as consumption among market actors and households in the East region during the growing season (Quarter 4 of FY21) in collaboration with the IR1 and IR2 technical teams. The aim is to explore the feasibility of promoting the production, processing and marketing of the orange flesh sweet potato in East year-round to facilitate household access to this nutritious food. Based on the findings, Yidgiri will promote specific activities in this value chain, where appropriate and possible, in FY22. See further detail in Activity 4.4.7. under the MEL section.

#### **Activity 3.2.1.5. Conduct analysis of Small Dried Fish Distribution Networks**

Small dried fish are an excellent source of calcium because bones are consumed, and they are also a source of animal protein, iron, and other important nutrients. The small dried fish can also be pounded and included in porridge for young children and sauces for the family meal.

Yidgiri plans to conduct an analysis of the distribution networks of small dried fish in early FY 22 (see Activity 4.4.7. under the MEL section). The objective of this analysis is to determine the feasibility of promoting small dried fish in rural markets by understanding its broader distribution channels and capturing impacts on availability, purchase price, methods of preservation, processing and storage in selected production areas and markets in countries of origin (for instance, Ghana, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire) and in Burkina Faso. In preparation for this analysis, Yidgiri will implement the following activities in quarter 4:

- Finalization of TORs
- Recruitment of a local/TCN consultant
- Provision of documentation to the consultant for literature review.

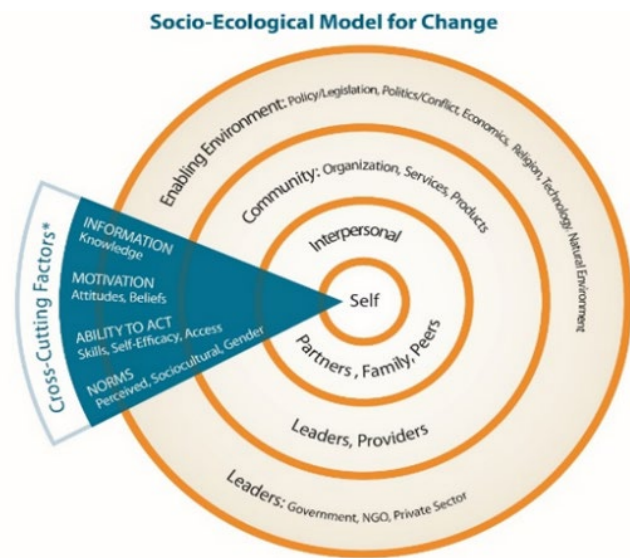
#### ***Intervention 3.2.2: Build capacity of local food retailers to offer a variety of safe nutritious foods***

As noted in the M&NPA, retailers' motivations for expanding the range of nutritious products they sell, in descending order, including: customer demand, profitability, nutrient content, and availability of raw materials. The SBC Strategy and activities will focus not only on increasing consumer demand for nutritious products, but also increasing market actors' awareness of what consumers are looking for. As a component of the SBC strategy, Yidgiri will embed nutrition and gender-sensitive modules into the training of appropriate groups and platforms across IR1 and IR2. In FY21, Yidgiri will focus on introducing a nutrition and gender module into a portion of literacy trainings in FY21.



### Sub-IR 3.3: Increased local demand for nutritious, safe foods

Interventions to increase demand for locally available nutritious and safe foods will be based on the development and implementation of a cross-cutting SBC strategy. Yidiri's cross-cutting and integrated SBC strategy will be grounded on a socio-ecological model (see figure) and adapted to a markets and nutrition context. This theory-based and research-driven model will address the underlying determinants that drive behavior, practices and norm changes across multiple levels.



\*These concepts apply to all levels (people, organizations, and institutions). They were originally developed for the individual level.

SOURCE: Adapted from McKee, Manoncourt, Chin and Carnegie (2000)

The strategy will address the three Yidgiri purpose areas with both common and purpose-specific approaches that

will enhance successful and sustainable adoption of desired behaviors and changes in social norms. SBC activities common across all purpose areas will include CARE's innovative and community-led Social Analysis and Action (SAA) approach.

Yidgiri's SBC Strategy will target not only consumers in the intervention areas, but also rural producer organizations, unions, and processors (processing units) of nutritious foods, food retailers, traders, and vendors in rural markets in terms of their marketing strategies, response to increased consumer demand for diverse and nutritious foods, and integration of nutrition and gender into all trainings and platforms outlined in IRs 1 and 2. Development of the Yidgiri SBC Strategy will be an iterative process that includes research, testing, and tool development. It will be led by the Nutrition Director with CARE technical assistance from the HQ nutrition unit, which includes staff trained in SBC methodologies. A consultant will also be hired to lead research, testing, tool development in Burkina Faso.

As described in more detail below, Yidgiri will develop an SBC strategy that leverages and builds on existing SBC approaches and activities being conducted in Yidgiri's three intervention regions. The SBC strategy will thoroughly integrate the findings of the Markets and Nutrition Pathways Assessment report to adapt its approaches and activities to the needs of specific target groups with an emphasis on women and youth. Moreover, a rapid barrier analysis will be conducted focusing on key aspects of food environment such as availability (at production and market levels), accessibility (financial and physical access by households) and other barriers that limit women's and youth's consumption of nutritious foods to inform the design of SBC strategies. Tailored tools and job aids will be developed or adapted from existing projects, and existing platforms will be identified to implement the SBC strategy. As a component of the SBC strategy, marketing and promotional activities will be developed to increase demand for and sales of nutritious foods in rural markets to enhance marketing activities developed with producers in IR1 and IR2.

General areas of focus will include: 1) the importance of dietary diversity to improve nutrition among women and other household members; 2) improving consumer perceptions of the perceived value of nutritious foods, and specifically Yidgiri-promoted foods linked to decision



making around food purchases; 3) gender equality including family income management, household financial management, women's and youth's increased participation in IGA and market activities; 4) women's workload in the household; and 5) intra-household food consumption. Yidgiri's SBC and Gender specialist will support the training and roll-out of activities among selected platforms.

The SBC Strategy will complement Yidgiri's markets component of engaging private-sector actors to use value-addition, processing, labeling and advertising to increase demand for products. A key component of Yidgiri's SBC approaches and activities will include emphasis on increasing agency of women and young people involved in literacy and YWERI trainings, ReComs, innovation forums, POs and Unions through embedded nutrition training modules and gender sensitization. These modules will address household decision-making, specifically related to decision on what foods to purchase, and what foods from own-production to keep or sell, promoting household purchase and consumption of select nutritious foods, as well as identifying entry points for, and promoting, increased participation by women in market organizations and by youth involved in value chain activities. In addition, Social Analysis and Action will provide the basis for awareness raising among union leaders (see Activity 1.3.3.2 Raise awareness among union leaders to improve inclusion of women and vulnerable groups.

### ***Intervention 3.3.1 Promote household consumption of nutritious foods and food products***

#### **Activity 3.3.1.1 Develop Social and Behavior Change (SBC) strategy, communication platforms and job aids in collaboration with Breakthrough ACTION and SCC**

*Leverage and build on Existing SBC Approaches and Activities in Yidgiri Intervention Areas.* Interventions in IR1 and IR2 have been designed to be nutrition and gender sensitive, and SBC approaches and activities will ensure full integration across sectors. Additionally, Yidgiri will leverage and build on existing activities of VIMPlus and PREPARE, and other projects in the three regions of intervention, as well as government entities, to ensure alignment of goals, approaches and enhanced messaging to include markets and nutrition.

*Sub-activity 3.3.1.1.1 Review VIMPlus and PREPARE community mobilization, implementation and facilitation strategies and platforms* Collaboration with existing platforms and partner activities will decrease overlap and increase impact of Yidgiri's SBC activities. With inputs from the analyses and communication with partners, existing strategies, activities, platforms and groups will be identified for inclusion into the SBC strategy in Quarter 3 and 4.

In addition, these communication platforms can cross-cut sectors to support Yidgiri marketing strategies and promotion of Yidgiri-promoted foods.

Additional partners for exploration include:

- A local NGO Mwangaza Action at the village level to support activities to shift targeted nutrition behaviors and promote involvement of women and young people in decision-making.
- VIMPlus to integrate nutrition-sensitive-markets and Yidgiri-promoted foods messaging into their SBC activities and platforms (Gaspas, Maman Lumieres, etc.)
- Yidgiri Business to Business (B2B) cluster meeting and Innovation Platform work:
  - The platform for men and women (Wumtaaba - agreement)
  - The women-only platform (Vènem- Light)
  - Mixed youth platform (Metba- Builders).

### **Sub-activity: 3.3.1.1.2 Gather Formative Data.**

*Formative Research.* A rapid barrier analysis will be conducted in Quarter 3 to further identify barriers that limit women's and youth's access to market systems, provide more in-depth information on barriers to consumption of Yidgiri - promoted foods, and how these barriers can be addressed and inform the design of SBC strategies to promote inclusive market systems and consumption of nutritious foods.

Both the review and the results of and formative data collection will further inform specific behaviors and norms to target for SBC interventions and activities.

### **Sub-activity: 3.3.1.1.3 Develop SBC Activities, Tools and Job Aids.**

*Activities, Tools and Job Aids.* Based on the findings from the Markets & Nutrition Pathways Assessment, Yidgiri indicator baseline, additional analyses and formative research, discussion with other actors working in the intervention area, and identification of communication platforms, Yidgiri will develop an SBC Strategy, tools and job aids that will be tailored for and applied to each purpose and cross-cutting sectors. Target behaviors and barriers to be addressed among market actors and household members will be selected to focus the activities of the strategy. The SBC Strategy will encourage meaningful engagement of women and youth in all sectors to:

- Improve access to and availability of nutritious foods and livelihoods;
- Motivate optimal behaviors and practices associated improved dietary diversity and adoption of Yidgiri-promoted foods;
- Increase access and control of household income by women and youth;
- Improve knowledge and attitudes among market actors related to increasing availability of nutritious foods – fresh or processed - into rural markets,
- Reduce social barriers to women's and youths' participation in market governance structures and decision making.

The SBC strategy will have a significant gender focus to change behaviors, attitudes, and social norms that negatively impact women and youth through use of the SAA tool and other activities to be defined. The strategy will likely inter-personal contacts, mass-media and community mobilization initiatives, along with specific activities required to address identified barriers to behavior change. The strategy will be cross-cutting, innovative and contextually appropriate. Yidgiri's SBC activities will amplify gender-positive and youth-empowerment behaviors and practices through youth and women's group discussion, campaigns, radio broadcasts, theatre and performances, integration of nutrition and SBC activities into all training materials, mobile technology (text messages), engagement of leadership to promote consumption of nutritious foods, and cooking / processing demonstrations at markets, etc.

Tools and job aids will be developed for Yidgiri necessary to execute the SBC Strategy. Some of the tools and job aids may be adapted from existing projects. All tools and job aids will be tested and refined prior to training and implementation with Yidgiri staff, platforms members, market actors, and households.

The SBC Strategy will also include information on how SBC activities will be further embedded and foundational to the Yidgiri, particularly in terms of impact and sustainability, and how it will be effectively integrated throughout all of Yidgiri's interventions. Examples include:

- Development of nutrition training modules for integration into the training of appropriate groups and platforms across IR1 and IR2 using a markets and nutrition lens, complementing MOH and ViMPlus curricula. Yidgiri will begin this with literacy training in FY21.
- Collaboration with entrepreneurs to help them adapt craft private-sector marketing strategies and tools to promote their new products.
- Establishment of a collaborative relationship, through provincial-level workshops, between market actors and mother leaders (*mamans lumières*) and other community-based health workers so that the messaging will not only inform households about which foods they should eat and why, but also where they can purchase these foods.

Illustrative promotional activities may include demonstration of preparation of local dishes based on the Yidgiri value chain foods and promoted foods, radio games, podium promotion, inter-village caravans, community and market theater, food fairs, and other engaging activities.

*Develop marketing and promotional activities.* As a component of the SBC strategy, Yidgiri will contribute to development of marketing and promotional activities to increase demand and sales for Yidgiri-promoted foods. Marketing and promotional activities will be developed to increase demand for and sales of nutritious foods in rural markets to enhance marketing activities developed with producers in IR1 and IR2. In addition, Yidgiri will include demand creation for purchase and consumption of locally produced foods, in general, and Yidgiri-promoted foods among consumers. Active participation in consultation frameworks and meetings of nutrition clusters (particularly in the nutrition and food safety components) at the national level, as well as in those of THE RISE II partners (SCC, Breakthrough ACTION, ViMPlus, etc.) will help to improve the marketing strategies of each nutritious food in terms of marketing and promotion and according to their specificity.

It is important to note that nutrition and gender-sensitive agricultural market development activities will be implemented under IR 1 and IR2, as an integrated strategy. Interventions in IR1 and IR2 have been designed to be nutrition and gender sensitive. Both at the agricultural production level and in the markets, special attention has been paid to nutritious foods with strong interactions with component 3 activities. For example, nutrition will be highlighted in decision-making about what to produce and what to sell. To ensure close integration across components and avoid siloing technical areas, Yidgiri will strengthen the skills of activity staff through periodic scheduled and on-demand training sessions on fundamentals of nutrition. This may also include the provision of documents such as memory aides to support recall on themes such as nutrition, nutrition-sensitive market systems, etc.

***Activity 3.3.1.2: Validate the Yidgiri SBC Strategy, Tools and Job Aids by the Regional Nutrition Action Plan through three regional workshops***

Validation of the SBC Strategy will be completed through sharing of the document for feedback by regional technical services, and by the groups and other associations of the beneficiaries at the level of the value chains promoted by Yidgiri. Further input will be requested from SCC and Breakthrough ACTION and other RISE II partners. Feedback will be incorporated into the SBC Strategy for final approval by the technical services of Yidgiri's three regions of intervention in Quarter 4 of FY21.

### **Activity 3.3.2.1: Conduct Social Analysis and Action (SAA) with Union Leaders**

Yidgiri SBC approach to influence gender norms around decision making at the household level will include CARE's SAA tool to promote dialogue around gender, power, and social norms and facilitate equitable decision-making related to food purchase and consumption at the household level. Yidgiri will conduct the SAA sessions in Quarter 3 and 4 with 30 target union leaders (IR 1.3.3.2) . The SAA tool will be used further in other groups and platforms, including unions and producer organizations, to encourage women and youth to assume leadership roles and engage in decision making throughout the project.

### ***Intervention 3.3.3 Leverage Sahel Collaboration and Communication (SCC)***

#### **Activity 3.3.1 Participation in SCC's consultation framework**

During the Yidgiri Refine and Implement period, the activity's nutrition team held two exchange meetings with SCC to better understand its objectives and to define modalities of collaboration for SCC with Yidgiri's SBC component. This dynamic will continue throughout program implementation through active participation in the RISE II consultation and through SCC technical support and advice in the development of Yidgiri communication materials and tools. SCC and Breakthrough ACTION will also support the development of the Yidgiri SBC strategy by sharing lessons learned.

## **Section 4: Cross-cutting interventions**

### ***Expected outcomes/indicator targets:***

Below are the expected outcomes of the Yidgiri YWERI implementation in FY21:

1. EG.3.1-14: \$50,000 Value of new USG commitments and private sector investment leveraged by the USG to support food security and nutrition: \$50,000;
2. Number of full-time equivalent jobs supported (full-time, part-time, and seasonal): 50;
3. EG.3.2-27: Value of agriculture-related financing accessed as a result of USG assistance: \$10, 000;
4. Number of individuals who have received USG-supported, short-term agricultural-sector productivity or food security training: 60
5. Custom: Number of business plans developed, validated, and funded (phase of development, location): 60;
6. YOUTH-3 Percentage of participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources who are youth (Province): 10%;
7. GNDR-2: Percentage of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources: 60%.

### **Intervention 4.1 Youth and Women Entrepreneurship and Rural Innovation (YWERI):**

#### ***Implementation strategy***

In FY21 USAID Yidgiri will launch the YWERI Training Program. This is an apprenticeship designed for graduate and non-graduate male and female Burkinabe youth (ages 18-29) who are willing to start rural agribusiness projects to contribute to improving the livelihoods of their communities in the three target regions.

In collaboration with its local partners and resource persons, USAID Yidgiri will launch the first cohort of 50 YWERI in Quarter 2 FY21. Yidgiri targets the following categories of participating youth:

1. Members (male and female) of existing active youth associations;
2. ReComs (male and female) members of Yidgiri beneficiary farmers' unions for provision of fee-based services needed by FBOs for improved organizational/governance capacity and sensitization/awareness creation for community behavior changes such as consumption of nutritious food);
3. Existing community-based informal service providers (for instance, aggregators, mechanics, etc.);
4. Young males and females from our intervention areas (3 regions) who have innovative business plans/startup projects as a result of their enrollment in other youth entrepreneurship training programs (low hanging fruit);
5. Graduates from technical schools such as ENSA - Ecole Nationale de Sante Animale or Centre Agricole Polyvalent (CAP) de Matroukou for provision of fee-based agricultural input and extension advisory services needed by FBOs for improved crop and animal production/health;
6. Graduates from vocational schools such as CMA for provision of fee-based maintenance services of agricultural processing equipment needed by (nutritious) food processors;
7. Graduates from business schools for provision of fee-based services such as simplified accounting, marketing services needed by food processors, farmers' unions, agro-dealers, private vets, as well as sales of affordable mobile phones and management of kiosks promoted by NewPath.

#### **Activity 4.1.1. Assess existing organizations supporting youth/women**

In Quarter 1, Yidgiri will recruit a local consultant to conduct a rapid SWOT assessment of existing public organizations, donor-funded projects, local/international NGOs, vocational training, etc. supporting youth/women in the three intervention areas. Representatives of these institutions headquartered in Ouagadougou<sup>6</sup> will also be interviewed to cross-check field information. The findings of the assessment will inform the design and rollout of YWERI program to ensure youth and women engagement is appropriately adapted to the current context. Yidgiri will also use the findings to strengthen the organizational and managerial capacity of target youth/women – led organizations.

#### **Activity 4.1.2. Engage partners in the development/rollout of YWERI training program**

During its Refine and Implement period, USAID Yidgiri team met with the leaders of public and private organizations supporting youth/women associations in Ouagadougou and in the three regions to introduce the YWERI training program concept and discuss possible synergies in rolling such a program out. These include ENSA - Ecole Nationale de Sante Animale (Ouagadou), CAP - Centre Agricole Polyvalent (Matroukou), CMA - Centre de Mecanisation Agricole, and VITAGRI (Kaya). All leaders present were excited with the Yidgiri concept and willing to participate in the specific steps for a successful rollout of the training program. In Quarter 1, Yidgiri will engage these partners through MOUs for their participation throughout

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<sup>6</sup> At the time of workplan submission, this report was recently submitted by the consultant and is under review by the Yidgiri team.

the program cycle (recruitment, selection, onboarding of candidates, training modules development, training sessions, development of business plans, selection/funding of solid business plans, monitoring and evaluation of startups).

#### **Activity 4.1.3. Develop YWERI training modules**

In Quarter 2 and 3, Yidgiri will conduct a rapid needs assessment with value chain actors (farmers, agro-dealers, private veterinarians, processors, farm mechanization service providers, etc.) operating along various segments (input/service supply, crop/animal health and production, aggregation, storage, processing/packaging, transportation, marketing, etc.) to capture their needs for a fee-based auxiliary service provision. The outcomes of this assessment will inform the choice of training modules and the development of contents by Yidgiri team and partners. A tentative list (to be confirmed by the rapid needs assessment) of modules include entrepreneurship, agricultural input/output market analysis, cost-benefit analysis, budgeting, accounting, business negotiation, crop production, animal health/production, and job ethics. All modules will integrate nutrition training and gender sensitization in order to amplify these topics and reach young people.

#### **Activity 4.1.4. Recruit, select and onboard YWERI candidates (cohort 1&2):**

By equipping the YWERI participants with business mindset and technical skills, Yidgiri expects them to catalyze commercial, market-oriented growth in the Burkinabe agricultural sector through sustainable provision of fee-based auxiliary services to their communities. As such, Yidgiri and its partners will be better equipped to determine relevant profile and selection criteria of potential candidate to ensure transparent process of their recruitment and onboarding., based on 1) understanding of value chain operations in the current prevailing context of the country, 2) the results of the SWOT analysis of existing organizations supporting youth/women and, 3) the findings of the value chain actors' needs assessment. During the second quarter, the team will develop and advertise a request for application (RFA) including the required profile and selection criteria for candidates interested in the YWERI program to apply. The RFA will be posted at the public facilities at province and commune levels.

Yidgiri will set up an evaluation committee including Yidgiri and partners' team members, as well as the leaders of the beneficiary farmers' unions and youth associations to oversee the selection, recruitment and onboarding process of candidates of each cohort during Quarter 2, and report to the Yidgiri COP or his designee for further improvement/adaptation.

#### **Activity 4.1.5. Launch the cohort 1 & 2 of YWERI training program**

Yidgiri will, in collaboration with its partners launch the first and second cohorts of YWERI training program in Quarter 2 and Quarter 4, respectively or a total of 100 trainees (50/cohort). With regards to the required background of candidates (graduates and non – graduates), trainings will be more practical than theoretical and adapted to real-time micro business management. Yidgiri anticipates one month and half residential training in the province/commune of each Agricultural Service Centers.

In addition to its staff, Yidgiri will mobilize resource persons from its partner organizations (in the framework of the MOUs signed) to cover the above-mentioned training modules. To the extent possible, local consultants will also be mobilized to cover specific modules and coach participants for the development of their business plans.

In the framework of its ongoing MoUs with the Regional Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Regional Directorate of the Ministry of Livestock, Yidgiri will host the training sessions at their training facilities at province and commune levels.

Yidgiri will set up an evaluation committee including Yidgiri and partners' team members, as well as the leaders of the beneficiary farmers' unions and youth associations to oversee the rollout of each cohort and report to the Yidgiri COP or his designee for further improvement/adjustment.

#### **Activity 4.1.6. Internship/placement**

After the residential training, the trainees will be placed with the Yidgiri beneficiary enterprises/organizations (FBOs, agro-dealers, private veterinarians/zootechnicians, food processors, partner financial institutions, etc.). The purpose of this placement is to allow them to acquire real-life business management skills from their hosts/mentors. The Yidgiri team during the quarter 4 will continue to provide regular field monitoring of and technical assistance to the trainees to ensure they are effectively learning by doing, gaining real-life skills and experience and providing a range of services (outreach to new clients that increases sales and profits, and day-to-day work that strengthens management or organizational capacity or increases use of quality inputs and improved technologies) for their clients.

Yidgiri, its partners, and local consultants will provide continuous technical assistance to the trainees during placement for the participatory development of their business ideas/plans. As part of their internship/placement activities, Yidgiri will involve youth in community mass sensitization/awareness creation relating to topics such as the benefits of consuming of specific nutritious foods by pregnant women and children, benefits of veterinarian commodities for animal health/productivity, etc. The placement will last about two months.

#### **Activity 4.1.7. Capstone - select innovative business plans/startup projects**

During the fourth quarter, Yidgiri will set up an evaluation committee composed of Yidgiri and partners' team members, the leaders of the beneficiary farmers' unions and youth associations to select solid and innovative business plans/projects for possible funding. The evaluation committee will develop relevant selection criteria to ensure that the youth's business plans/projects are selected fairly and transparently. Yidgiri will first support the selected business plans/projects using its Small Grant Mechanism as a vehicle for introducing innovations, new technologies and business models that, once proven successful in FY21, can be replicated by the entrepreneurs during subsequent years. As such, small grants will be used as collateral, which will increase lenders' willingness to lend to the young entrepreneurs for their innovative startup projects. In addition to partner financial institutions, the Yidgiri team will leverage other funding sources. Innovative business plans/startup projects of each cohort participants will be selected by the evaluation committee through the end of the placement period. Yidgiri anticipates the disbursement of about \$50,000 in grants for youth and women-owned innovative projects in FY21 or about 80% of participants. The remaining 20% whose projects are not selected will receive Yidgiri's continuous assistance to improve their projects that will be added to the following cohorts. All participants will receive Yidgiri's certification of attendance.

### **Activity 4.1.8. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of youth startup projects:**

During third and fourth quarter, in collaboration with its technical and financial partners, Yidgiri will conduct both regular operational monitoring and impact evaluations of the implementation of youth startup projects. The regular operational monitoring will assess aspects relating to technical and financial implementation such as efficient utilization of credit or other funding sources received to remain aware of types of specific assistance needed by young entrepreneurs for improved performance. Yidgiri will also conduct rapid evaluations of individual startup projects to ascertain impacts on their communities for further strategic adjustments.

## **Intervention 4.2. Administration of Yidgiri Small Grant Fund**

### **Activity 4.2.1. Develop Yidgiri Grant Manual**

Yidgiri has a small grant fund of \$240,000 grant fund for the LOP, which will be used: 1) to invest in agribusinesses, producer organizations, and unions; and 2) to leverage additional investment as collateral, which will increase lenders' willingness to lend to actors in the agricultural sector (i.e. reduce risk and increase creditworthiness). These grants will serve as a vehicle for introducing innovations, new technologies, and business models that will improve market systems in the intervention area and can be replicated by entrepreneurs without donor involvement in the future. All Yidgiri grants will require a cost-sharing investment by the grantee in either cash, labor, or assets (more details will be included in call for proposals).

CNFA has an existing Grants Manual template that will be adapted and customized to serve the activity objectives and to reflect the operational parameters of the Yidgiri activity. The Grants Manual outlines the entire grant making process from solicitation, proposal evaluation, grantee selection, award mechanisms, administration, monitoring, and close-out. It outlines the procedures that will be used to administer the grant fund and to ensure that Yidgiri's grants are awarded fairly, transparently and in accordance with USAID and CNFA requirements. The Yidgiri Grants Manual will be finalized with CNFA HQ support in early Quarter 2 FY21.

The implementation of the matching grants will be supplemented by technical assistance provided by Yidgiri and its partners' staff, as well as (in later years) bank loans supported by the USAID/Development Credit Authority (DCA) partner banks, the partner microfinance institutions and funds leveraged from diaspora to support working capital and equipment finance.

### **Activity 4.2.2 Development and release of grant solicitations**

After completion of the Yidgiri Grants Manual in Q2 FY21, several Call for Proposals will be released in Quarter 3 for in-kind grants. Grant agreements will be signed in Quarter 4. The Yidgiri team intends to target the following categories of grant applicants and projects with the first round of solicitations:

1. Unions and agribusinesses investing in agricultural and processing equipment for FSCs or other business activities (i.e. innovative food processing technologies, value addition to nutritional products, marketing/labeling initiatives, hay making kits, day-old chick production unit);
2. YWERI training graduates and women entrepreneurs with business plans;



### 3. Arodealers, veterinarians, AEs with established business plans.

The following set of illustrative selection criteria is based on CNFA's previous experience administering small grant funds for agribusinesses. The eligibility and evaluation criteria will be tailored to each solicitation and designed to ensure the greatest benefit, impact, and sustainability of awards. Preference will be given to grant applications that meet the following criteria:

- Promotes the inclusion of women, the poor, and disadvantaged groups in productive economic initiatives (e.g. owners, managers, beneficiaries);
- Applicant has an established business plan and demonstrated ability to make a cost-sharing or matching investment;
- The commercial viability of the project – that is, profitability within a reasonable time frame and good prospects for long-term growth and sustainability;
- Potential for proposed activity growth and sustainability with private-sector funding (Yidgiri expects that following the initial seed grant, successful enterprises be able to source loans from financial institutions, banks, or microfinance institutions for additional funding and growth);
- Grant activity shows potential to improve the competitiveness of the sector;
- Grant activity shows potential to increase the incomes of households in Yidgiri intervention area.

#### **Activity 4.2.3. Monitoring and evaluation of small grants**

The Yidgiri team will conduct both regular operational monitoring and impact evaluations of the implementation of grants during third and fourth quarters. The regular operational monitoring will assess aspects relating to technical and financial (for instance, achievement of milestones, procurement of in-kind grants, efficient utilization of funds) implementation to alert on the types of specific assistance required by grantees. Yidgiri will also conduct rapid evaluations of individual grants awarded to ascertain impacts on the intended beneficiaries for further strategic adjustments to future calls for grant applications

#### **Intervention 4.3. Environmental Compliance**

##### *Implementation strategy:*

No activity funded under Yidgiri's cooperative agreement, including activities performed by sub-awarded organizations, will be implemented unless an environmental threshold determination is complete, as defined by 22 CFR 216. The RISE II Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) and Yidgiri EMMP cover activities expected to be implemented under Yidgiri. CNFA will implement applicable Environmental Review (ER) checklists using impact assessment tools to screen all Yidgiri FY21 activities (IRs and cross-cutting interventions), including grant applications, youth/women business plans, ensuring that funded projects will result in no adverse environmental impact. All sub-recipients will apply the mitigation measures as specified in the Yidgiri's Environmental Risk Mitigation Monitoring plan (EMMP) as applicable and necessary.

##### *Description of Activities:*

During FY21, Yidgiri staff will provide training to the sub-awardees' staff and unions leaders on environmental risk mitigation measures as provided in the Yidgiri's EMMP developed by

an international expert commissioned by CNFA during the Refine and Implement period. The EMMP has identified aspects of the Yidgiri's program that have the potential for adverse impacts on the human and animal health and environment taking into account the RISEII Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan (PERSUAP),. Activities include:

- Develop training modules on environmental risk mitigation measures during the second and the third quarter;
- Train Yidgiri and sub-awardees' staff, as well as the YWERI participants on environmental risk mitigation and monitoring as part of their assistance in the development of business plans during the second and the third quarter;
- Conduct regular environmental monitoring trips to correct errors and provide feedback where necessary during the third and fourth quarters;

## **Intervention 4.4. Monitoring Evaluation and Learning**

### **Activity 4.4.1 Collect and analyze data**

The Yidgiri MEL team will liaise with technology partners (Newpath, GRAD) to ensure all indicator data collection tools, including mobile technologies and data collection processes, and the performance monitoring portal align with the USAID-approved Activity Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan (AMELP). The MEL team will collect data through KoboCollect for better synchronization with the database which Yidgiri will use to monitor performance indicator data, context indicators and environmental monitoring indicators (found in the ACP and EMMP respectively). The database will allow access of CNFA's field and HQ team members for data review, verification, and analysis.

In addition to the Yidgiri program and MEL team members who will be mobilized for indicator data collection, the community relays (ReCom), the enumerators (trained under REGIS – AG) and the young interns (YWERI training program) will participate in data collection and rapid assessments of farmers' organizations and agribusinesses.

To ensure indicator data quality, Yidgiri program team members, ReComs and enumerators will be trained by the MEL team on mobile data collection techniques using KoboCollect tool as well as USAID's data quality requirements (see 4.4 for more information). With the assistance of Yidgiri's Conflict Sensitivity consultant, key modules of the conflict sensitive approach ("Do no harm") will be incorporated as integral part of the training of the team members participating in the field data collection.

Quantitative data will be reported against indicators targets and qualitative data focused on changes attributable to program activities but not easily quantifiable or not fully captured by a specific indicator will be captured through periodic qualitative assessments and included in the program's quarterly and annual narrative reports. The MEL Director will lead timely indicator data collection, processing and analysis and ensure data quality and compliance with USAID's five data quality standards.

### **Activity 4.4.2. Monitor and evaluate program implementation:**

Monitoring progress and evaluating results are essential to measuring progress impact and adaptive management practices. The Yidgiri MEL team will routinely monitor program performance as a daily process that informs Yidgiri management to determine whether the program implementation is "on track" towards the intended results.

In addition to ongoing monitoring, the MEL team will conduct periodic and annual assessments of program relevance, efficiency and outcomes - both expected and unexpected—in relation to stated objectives for planning and managing decision making. This ongoing monitoring will be carried out at the end of each quarter during the FY21.

The MEL team will conduct progress monitoring and results evaluation as a team effort requiring the active participation of both MEL and program team members involved at all levels of program development and implementation. Such a process emphasizes monitoring and evaluation as positive, strategic program elements to identify, document, and communicate success, as well as providing information on opportunities to improve performance through lessons learned and periodic realignments of activities for a better adaptation of Yidgiri staff and its beneficiaries to the changing challenges and emerging opportunities. This collective responsibility will ensure:

- *Efficiency* – The Program team, USAID/Burkina Faso, partners and beneficiaries will have first-hand knowledge of activities and real-time results in their areas of technical work and are best suited to collect and verify indicator data;
- *Ownership and Sustainability* - Involving the entire implementing team members in the design, validation, implementation, and adaptive management of the work plan will build ownership and of the MEL system by the entire team, as well as key partners.
- *Feedback*. Being part of the data collection and analysis, the program team will have first-hand information on program progress and will communicate feedback which will ultimately be utilized to realign activities as needed and develop the lessons learned for better adaption.

#### **Activity 4.4.3. Learning agenda:**

As part of its overall collaboration, learning and adaptation plan, Yidgiri will convene **annual** stakeholders' workshops in FY21, including USAID/Burkina Faso, RISE II implementing partners and local strategic partners to share and interpret the MEL generated data. The agenda will include:

- Review of each assumption in the Markets and Nutrition Pathway TOC along with the context monitoring findings to determine if the assumption holds true, still is relevant and applicable, and what other critical assumptions may need to be added;
- Discussions of shocks thresholds monitoring, response and recovery activities carried out by Yidgiri and suggestion of possible improvement actions;
- Discussion of findings of ad hoc analyses/assessments on the unintended impacts of Yidgiri activities on all market actors;
- Sharing and discussions of emerging evidence and best practices, lessons learning (Pause and Reflect) to support the Yidgiri's annual TOC review so as to streamline efforts and increase impact through coordination with strategic partners and stakeholders.

The following Yidgiri's learning questions will be used as a guide for discussions to better capitalize on learning and adaptation during the stakeholders' workshops:

- Do gains in literacy contribute to improved market performance?
- Which of the nutrition-sensitive impact pathways identified in the Market and Nutrition Pathways Action Plan and supported by Yidgiri are most successful in increasing the

market availability, affordability, local purchase, and consumption of nutritious, safe foods?

- What are the returns on investment for the Yidgiri agriculture interventions?
- To what extent have the impacts of insecurity, including the increase in the population of some communes from internal displacement, affected the performance of Yidgiri target value chains?
- What opportunities are there for market adaptations and innovations?
- What are the social norms, beliefs, and practices that shape peoples' lives and health?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of existing public and private initiatives that promote youth and women engagement?

In addition to the meetings, information will be widely shared with stakeholders through communications materials, media (including social media) and through the new ICT (for instance, mobile phone accessible applications) that Yidgiri will be adapting and applying.

#### **Activity 4.4.4. Train staff on data collection tools**

To ensure ownership of the monitoring and evaluation system, training activities will be conducted by the monitoring and evaluation team. Yidgiri sub awardees' and ReComs field staff will be trained on data collection tools and on the use of mobile data collection with KoboCollect. This training will allow to validate the tools with the Yidgiri staff and also to better understand the typology of data to be collected to inform the indicators.

Training on commonly shared indicator data collection will also be conducted for RISE II implementing partners' staff (ViMPlus, TEV, NewPath,) to ensure accurate data submitted to USAID for easy attribution by activity. Training will be conducted on a quarterly basis throughout FY21.

#### **Activity 4.4.5. Train Staff and conduct Data Quality Assessments (DQA):**

In the second quarter of FY21, the Yidgiri M&E team, in collaboration with CNFA HQ MEL team will develop an M&E Field Guide which details the who, what, where, when, and how of data flows for each indicator. The M&E team will hold one training session on internal DQA for Yidgiri staff and sub-awardees' staff, as well as ReComs and enumerators during the Quarter 4 of FY21 to ensure that data collected meet USAID's data quality standard requirements. In the same quarter, the MEL team will carry out an internal DQA in an effort to ensure the reliability of data collected by the field teams.

#### **Activity 4.4.6. External DQA with USAID/Senegal**

The Yidgiri MEL team will provide USAID with requested indicator results supporting documents/information, coordinate site visits and respond to any other requests that may arise in the framework of external DQA by USAID. One external DQA is planned for through the end of the fourth quarter. Following this external DQAs, Yidgiri will report how findings have been addressed to improve indicator data quality, moving forward.

#### **Activity 4.4.7. Conduct special studies/rapid assessments:**

As part of its everyday learning and adaptation process throughout program implementation, Yidgiri will conduct the following studies/assessments in FY21:

- Rapid feasibility study of establishment of FSCs to inform the development of relevant implementation strategies (Quarter 1).

- A SWOT analysis of national and international organizations investing in youth and women entrepreneurship (Quarter 2).
- A SWOT analyses of cow and goat milk and milk products to understand the strengths/weaknesses, opportunities/threats in milk production (availability/quality of raw material), processing, storage and marketing (Quarter 3).
- Update the existing cost-benefit analysis commissioned by USAID for further adaptation to the selected commodities/activities (food processing equipment, farming equipment, youth entrepreneurship incubators, etc.) to determine their profitability and return on investment (Quarter 4).
- Rapid assessment of financial capacity of value chain actors (farmers, agro-dealers, private veterinarians, processors, farm mechanization service providers, etc.) to afford fee-based auxiliary service provision by young entrepreneurs (Quarter 3).
- Rapid barrier analysis to inform development of the SBC Strategy (Quarter 3)
- Bi-monthly rapid market assessments in select markets
- Re-evaluation of MDD-W and other select indicators

### **Intervention 4.5 Communications**

In FY21, Yidgiri will utilize communications efforts to enhance the visibility of program activities and successes to strengthen relationships with USAID, RISE II partners, local partners, beneficiaries and other key stakeholders. This will be done through development/dissemination of communications and informational materials, intermediate results - specific promotional material and success story, mass media sensitization campaigns, etc. Main activities will include:

**Activity 4.5.1** Provide coverage (press releases, local media coverage), branding and other communications support for Yidgiri events/activities including training workshops, technical meetings and conferences, in compliance with the activity Branding Strategy and Marking Plan and in coordination with USAID regarding the security situation.

**Activity 4.5.2** Produce and disseminate program information materials including success stories (1-2 per quarter to be submitted as an annex to each Quarterly Report), fact sheets, etc. to all key Yidgiri partners and stakeholders.

**Activity 4.5.3** Create visibility for the Yidgiri at relevant regional and national conferences through branding and exhibition of activity materials.

**Activity 4.5.4** Create and operate a Facebook page in Quarter 2 that hosts activity successes, expertise and impact using activity-generated photography, videography, graphics and storytelling.

**Activity 4.5.5** Coordinate with Yidgiri Directors to develop best practice toolkits comprising manuals, illustrative posters and charts, matrix, etc. for trainings on products/technologies and develop success stories on achievements (Quarter 2).

**Activity 4.5.6** Produce and broadcast radio education programs (right fertilizer applications and best agronomic practices, best animal husbandry and health, peace keeping talks, market and weather information as business and farming decision making, environmental risks mitigation associated with use of pesticides and other chemicals) on rural radio stations operating across the intervention zone (quarterly basis).

**Activity 4.5.7** Contribute to SBC campaigns to address cultural barriers related to consumption of local nutritious food in collaboration with SCC (quarterly basis).

**Annexes:**

Annex 1: Gantt chart with benchmarks of progress

Annex 2: Integration of conflict sensitivity into the Yidgiri operations and program design

## **Annex 1: Gantt chart with benchmarks of progress**

Please see the attached excel document.



Activity/sub-activity	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21
<b>IR 1. Implementation strategy for FY 2021</b>												
<b>IR 1.1 Market System Strengthening</b>												
<b>Intervention 1.1.1 Business Clusters</b>												
Activity 1.1.1.1. Improve the performance of 14 existing clusters												
Activity 1.1.1.2. Establish 4 clusters in the new areas												
Activity 1.1.1.3. Promote marketing of Moringa product (see 3.2.1.1)												
Activity 1.1.1.4. Support the establishment of Farm Service Centers (FSCs)												
<b>Intervention 1.1.2 Commodity fairs</b>												
Activity 1.1.2.1. Elaborate a sustainable mechanism for the unions' leadership trade fair organization												
Activity 1.1.2.2. Facilitate the organization of two small ruminant fairs												
Activity 1.1.2.3. Promote online business transactions												
Activity 1.1.2.4. Develop strategies and plans that increase the use of digital financial services along the length of value chains												
<b>Intervention 1.1.3 Industrial and Institutional buyers</b>												
Activity 1.1.3.1. Set up 5 innovation platforms for cowpeas, small ruminants and poultry												
<b>Sub IR 1.2 Improving Livestock Markets System Structure and Governance</b>												
<b>Intervention 1.2.1 Small Ruminant Marketplaces</b>												
Activity 1.2.1.1. Participatory development of action plans in collaboration with TEV												
Activity 1.2.1.2. Identify of seven new livestock markets in Centre-Nord Region												
Activity 1.2.1.3. Train COGES of the seven new livestock markets on the co-management curricula												
<b>Intervention 1.2.1 Small ruminant marketplaces</b>												
Activity 1.2.1.1. Diagnosis of 05 former livestock markets and elaboration of support plan												
Activity 1.2.1.2. Identification of seven new livestock markets in Centre - Nord Region												
Activity 1.2.1.3. Training of the COGES of the seven new livestock markets on the co-management curricula												
<b>Sub IR 1.3 Enhancing the Capacity of Market System Actors</b>												
<b>Intervention 1.3.1 Capacity building of producer organizations and SMEs through BDSPs</b>												
Activity 1.3.1.1. Train 5 BDSPs on financial education and business negotiation												
Activity 1.3.1.2. BDSP train value chain actors												
<b>Intervention 1.3.2 Strengthen the capacity of farmer's unions to provide services to member organizations</b>												
Activity 1.3.2.1. Support five unions at province level to develop and implement procedure manuals												
Activity 1.3.2.2. Train Thirty union leaders in simplified accounting management												
Activity 1.3.2.3. Facilitate exclusive cowpea seed supply/purchase deals between seed cooperatives and seed companies												
Activity 1.3.2.4. Support union member organizations to comply with the OHADA Cooperative Law												
Activity 1.3.2.5. Recruit 5 agricultural technicians for 5 producers' unions												
Activity 1.3.2.6. Provide technical advice and market information to unions												
Activity 1.3.2.7. Train 45 Union leaders on business negotiation techniques												
<b>Intervention 1.3.3 Improve capacity of unions to include women, youth, and vulnerable populations.</b>												
Activity 1.3.3.1. Conduct a rapid assessment of unions on the exclusion of vulnerable people												
Activity 1.3.3.2. Raise awareness among union leaders to improve inclusion of women and vulnerable groups using SAA tool												
<b>Intervention 1.3.4 Risk management planning at the grass roots level</b>												
Activity 1.3.4.1. Development of risk management plans at commune level												
<b>Sub IR 1.4 Enhancing Individual Capacities</b>												
<b>Intervention 1.4.1 Functional literacy</b>												
Activity 1.4.1.1. Open 20 new literacy centers												
Activity 1.4.1.2. Open 10 former literacy centers												
<b>Intervention 1.4.2 Scaling and sustainability for functional literacy</b>												
Activity 1.4.2.1. Facilitate partnership with the Regional Directorates of Basic Education and National Languages Promotion												
<b>Intervention 1.4.3 Conduct research to demonstrate link between literacy education and market success</b>												
Activity 1.4.3.1. Conduct a study on the impact of literacy on market access												
<b>Sub IR 1.5 Stimulating and Leveraging Financial Services</b>												
<b>Intervention 1.5.1 Strengthen the capacity of FSPs to finance the targeted value chains</b>												
Activity 1.5.1.1. Strengthen the knowledge of 15 financial institution officers												
Activity 1.5.1.2. Integrate FCB-BF model into the Yidgiri Activity												
<b>Intervention 1.5.2 Strengthen the capacity of FSPs to finance warrantage services</b>												
Activity 1.5.2.1. Continue to conduct the warrantage of POs at the village level												
Activity 1.5.2.2. Training of 18 COGES on the management and conservation of cowpea stocks												
Activity 1.5.2.3. Organize an exchange meeting on warrantage with a third party holding												
<b>Intermediate Result II: Increased Utilization of Quality Inputs and Services</b>												
<b>Sub IR 2.1 Strengthening the Enabling Environment for Seed and Fertilizer</b>												
<b>Intervention 2.1.1 Strengthen the enabling environment in the agricultural input sector</b>												
Activity 2.1.1.1. Support the Ministry in charge of Agriculture in the organization of a workshop to align the law n° 010/2006 / AN with the ECOWAS regulations												
Activity 2.1.1.2. Support the Ministry in charge of Agriculture in the organization of a validation workshop of the adjusted texts												
Activity 2.1.1.3. Facilitate the organization of a technical working session for the preparation of regulations and application texts of the seed law												
Activity 2.1.1.4. Organize an information / sensitization workshop of agrodealers on legislative and regulatory texts relating to fertilizers in Burkina Faso												
Activity 2.1.1.5. Support the Ministry in charge of Agriculture in the Finalization of the revised Mechanism for the implementation of the subsidy programme of agricultural inputs in Burkina Faso												
<b>Intervention 2.1.2 Facilitate collective procurement of cowpea seed</b>												
Activity 2.1.2.1. Validate the CIPA mechanism for the cowpea value chain												
Activity 2.1.2.2. Produce tools for collecting and aggregating input needs.												
Activity 2.1.2.3. Support provincial and municipal unions in preparing business plans (input financing plans)												
Activity 2.1.2.4. Organize 2 workshops to evaluate the agricultural inputs supply mechanism (CIPA)												
<b>Intervention 2.1.3 Improve storage of cowpea for food and seed</b>												
Activity 2.1.3.1. Train cowpea farmers on the use of PICS bags for cowpea storage												
<b>Sub IR 2.2 Livestock related inputs and services</b>												
<b>Intervention 2.2.1. Improve the enabling environment in the animal health service sector</b>												





## Annex 2: Integration of conflict sensitivity into the Yidgiri operations and program design

Activity Operations	Possible impact of activity on context and context on activity (risk and opportunity analysis)	Conflict sensitivity adjustment/re-design) to maximize opportunities and minimize risks)
Start-up phase	<p><u>Opportunity</u> Time to test assumptions and to identify possible issues related to the conflict context. Consultations at this stage are important to create or reinforce buy-in and ownership of the activity by partners, community participants and other relevant actors.</p>	<p>Time invested in capacity building and context analysis has informed the activity workplan and will otherwise serve to ensure the activity's success.</p>
Recruitment	<p><u>Risk</u> Who is recruited and how they are recruited is important from a conflict sensitive perspective. In divided contexts, perceptions of bias, lack of impartiality and association with particular groups or parties to a conflict can easily arise from the way an organization recruits its staff. This may increase tensions, exacerbate existing divisions, diminish trust towards the organization from particular groups and increase security risks for staff.</p>	<p>Yidgiri staff is aware that French language and post-secondary requirements have privileged male and urban elite in staff recruitment. Despite this structural limitation, Yidgiri staff does have sufficient female staff and minority ethnic representation to mitigate perceptions of bias. As a further precaution, staff is committed to exercising cultural sensitivity in all interactions with partners and beneficiaries and has incorporated time and attention to rapport building into the work plan to aid with this purpose.</p>
Procurement policy	<p><u>Risk:</u> Procuring goods mostly from one community and from same segments of that community can</p>	<p>There is be no foreseen procurement in the zones</p>

	reinforce divisions, exacerbate existing tensions and create new ones.	of intervention and therefore this risk will not apply.
Activity Budgets	<u>Opportunity</u> Including a few specific budget lines can help embed conflict sensitivity in activity implementation.	PEA assessments have been included in budget; along with facilitated Conflict Sensitivity reflection exercises.

<b>Activity Design and Planning</b>	<b>Possible impact of activity on context and context on activity (risk and opportunity analysis)</b>	<b>Conflict sensitivity adjustment/re-design) to maximize opportunities and minimize risks)</b>
Activity Workplan Timelines	<u>Risk</u> If conflict sensitivity is not figured prominently in the activity workplan, chances are it will be overlooked and forgotten.	Time and attention for reflection on conflict sensitivity issues has been integrated into the Workplan.
Results Framework	<u>Opportunity</u> The risks and assumptions column of the results framework is a good place to identify areas where an activity might interact with conflict. A strong risks and assumptions section that integrates conflict sensitivity issues will aid effective monitoring and help ensure that flexibility is built into the implementation phase. (Note: if changes to the design are required at a later stage as a result of changes in the context, USAID will be more likely to respond positively if issues were flagged in the design phase as part of the results framework risks and assumptions or risk management planning.)	Issues identified through the conflict analysis have informed activity risks and assumptions. Additional issues will be captured in ongoing analysis and reflection. Where possible, activities designed to mitigate these issues will be added to the risk management planning section of the results framework.

<p>Bringing together diverse market actors and empowering them to develop profitable, enduring relationships.</p>	<p><u>Opportunity</u> Strong, trusted relationships is key to Yidgiri’s success. Yidgiri staff can serve this goal through their professional conduct in the field and through building rapport with activity stakeholders and beneficiaries. This will further help staff understand the realities (constraints and incentives) of the beneficiaries with regards to the activity in order to keep relevant and responsive to needs.</p>	<p>Flexibility has been built into the Work Plan in order that staff can work to balance efficiency with rapport building. (Noting that efficiency often asks us to work faster and rapport building asks us to work slower.) Yidgiri staff is committed to working to understand how activities are engaging actors where there are existing tensions and/or divisions (such as Fulani herders interacting with Mòoré regulating officials).</p>
<p>Expand and diversify market opportunities and linkages in a context of profound divisions and mistrust between various social groups.</p>	<p><u>Risk and Opportunity 1</u> Activities will involve creating opportunities for diverse market actors to interact in close proximity (at fairs, for example). In cases when there is mistrust and animosity between these actors, care must be taken that these activities do not serve to aggravate existing tensions and/or create new ones. Opportunities simultaneously exist to leverage encounters between groups to enhance trust and reduce stereotypes.</p> <p><u>Risk 2</u> Disagreements are often observed between different actors in the value chains. For example, COVID 19 has created disagreements between traders and collectors on the one hand and then between collectors and agricultural</p>	<p>Activities that bring together groups with tensions between them have been identified. Staff is committed to ongoing strategizing of ways to organize events and activities that will avoid negative interactions and promote positive interactions between these groups.</p> <p>Staff is committed to working to understand the different perspectives and interests of all actors in this context and how the activity interventions may be perceived and experienced by a range of stakeholders.</p>

	<p>producers. Because the profit margin has been reduced, large buyers go directly to producers, bypassing collectors. Disgruntled market actors may perceive that Yidgiri activities are benefiting one group over another and reinforcing divisions that contribute to violence.</p>	<p>Staff is furthermore committed to making sure that activities are not perceived to be benefitting one group over another and reinforcing existing or emerging divisions.</p>
<p>Work at the systems level to bring down costs, improve quality, and educate farmers on the most efficient and effective use of inputs and services</p>	<p><u>Risk</u> Weak regulatory laws governing agricultural inputs and the agricultural food sector leads to an active market of unregulated goods and services. Yidgiri activities serve to strengthen actors working in compliance with regulations. This can be perceived as a threat to certain market actors that can exacerbate existing tensions and create new ones.</p>	<p>Yidgiri staff is committed to ongoing analysis that will enable them to understand the unintended impacts of Yidgiri activities on all market actors. They are furthermore committed to looking for correspondences with other social divisions, such as tensions between ethnic groups; and look to identify actors and factors that can mitigate these tensions (such as multi-actor innovation platforms ) and work closely in alliance with these actors to alleviate conflicts.</p>
<p>Integrate women into the market system</p>	<p><u>Risk</u> These mixed gender activities may be perceived by some household and community members as challenging to traditional gender arrangements and norms that may aggravate existing social tensions. This can lead to distrust of the activity's intentions that can produce resistance.</p>	<p>Yidgiri staff is committed to working to understand the perspectives of community and household members that can lead to resistance and push-back; and to strategize ways the activity can foster buy-in at the household and community levels to the gender empowerment component.</p>

<p>Increase access to markets for marginalized groups' access to unions and producer organizations.</p>	<p><u>Risk</u>: Especially in areas with high numbers of IDPs, there will be high probability of distrust between people from different zones that can produce tensions and conflict.</p> <p><u>Risk</u>: Existing fissures and tensions within unions and producer groups organizations due to weak management capacities can have spillover effect for activities.</p>	<p>Yidgiri staff is committed to working to understand the view points and incentives of diverse members of unions and producer organizations and to looking for opportunities to create positive encounters between dominant and marginalized market actors and to inform misperceptions and overcome stereotypes.</p> <p>Yidgiri staff is committed to understanding intragroup dynamics within unions and producer organizations and look for opportunities to mitigate and transform these conflicts.</p>
<p>Strengthening value chains</p>	<p><u>Risk</u> The process of strengthening the value chains will change the status quo in ways that potentially disadvantages certain actors in favor of others. For those that may have been benefitting from the existing status quo, there may be aversion to change that leads to tensions between actors and/or discourages cooperation and collaboration with Yidgiri activities.</p>	<p>Yidgiri staff is committed to working to develop an understanding of how different actors will perceive and experience activities aimed to strengthen the three value chains that are the focus of Yidgiri's Activities. For this, the Workplan includes Political Economy Assessments to be conducted of the three value chains and that will include a conflict sensitivity dimension in the analysis to provide more granular knowledge of the context and the interaction between</p>



		the context and the intervention.
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## Annex 2.1 Yidgiri Guidance Sheet for Conflict Sensitivity in Practice<sup>7</sup>

### 1. Look for and seek to understand factors that divide people (sources of conflict) and factors that connect people (local capacities for social cohesion).

Key questions to ask:

- What are the dividing factors in this situation? What are connecting factors?
- What are the current threats to peace and stability? What are the current supports?
- What are the most dangerous factors in this situation? How dangerous is this Divider?
- What can cause tension to rise in this situation?
- What brings people together in this situation?
- Where do people meet? What do people do together?

Key Issues:

- Dividers and Connectors exist in all contexts, even those that are not explicitly in conflict.
- Dividers and Connectors are not people, they are dynamic factors.
- Teams do analysis work better than individuals.

### 2. Look for patterns of interaction.

Five ways our actions have an effect on conflict:

1. Theft/Diversion: Fueling the conflict with stolen or diverted goods.
2. Market Effects: Changing local markets with an influx of outside goods.
3. Distribution Effects: Distributing goods along the lines of the conflict.
4. Substitution Effects: Replacing existing functioning systems or structures.
5. Legitimizing Effects: Giving legitimacy to a group or leader by working with them.

Note: These have to do with how we store, maintain and distribute the goods we bring into a context. It is important to be aware of the impacts of these effects, and monitor for them consciously and thoughtfully.

Three ways that development actors send messages to communities:

1. Behaviors
2. Messages
3. Implicit Ethical Messages

Note: Activity staff send messages to communities through their behavior, as much as through their words, and their behavior, positive or negative, has consequences for individuals and for organizations. Often, behavior is a more trusted barometer for intentions than what people say. Patterns of behaviors that can send positive or negative messages about an organization's or an individual's intentions fall into four broad categories—respect, accountability, fairness and transparency—that can be useful in identifying how a negative pattern of behavior is having an impact on an organization's program. Negative patterns can undermine an organization's efforts and put staff in danger. Negative behaviors lead to relationships that are antagonistic and untrusting, and can make communities feel humiliated. In extreme cases, violating these principles can lead to violence against an organization or within the community. Transparency cuts across all these patterns of behavior. Being clear and open about your activity and its aims, inviting local people to participate in the process, passing along feedback and concerns reinforces positive patterns of behavior.

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<sup>7</sup> Adapted from KOFF conflict sensitivity factsheet, Swiss Peace ([https://www.swisspeace.ch/fileadmin/user\\_upload/pdf/KOFF/KOFF\\_Documents/KOFF\\_Factsheet\\_Conflictsensitivity.pdf](https://www.swisspeace.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/pdf/KOFF/KOFF_Documents/KOFF_Factsheet_Conflictsensitivity.pdf)) that builds on concepts and lessons from the "Do No Harm Project" CDA Collaborative Learning Projects.

When an activity is closed to critique or criticism from outsiders, this leads to perceptions that an organization does not respect or trust local people, and is not willing to be held accountable for their actions.

	Negative Patterns of Behavior	Positive Patterns of Behavior
<b>Respect</b>	Belligerence/Anger	Calm
	Competition	Collaboration
	Suspicion	Trust
	Indifference	Sensitivity to Local Concerns
<b>Accountability</b>	Powerlessness	Action
	Impunity	Responsibility/Accountability
	Arms and Power	Rule of Law/Nonviolence
<b>Fairness</b>	Different value for different lives	Recognition of value for all lives

T r a n s p a r e n c y

## Annex 2.2 Yidgiri Conflict Sensitivity Observation Sheet

Date:

Activity:

Site/Location:

Yidgiri Team Members Present:

Others present:

Note Taker:

<b>Key sources of division and/or connection</b>

<b>Key sources of tension</b>

### Checklist of activities and/or factors that might have an effect on conflict

Theft/Diversion	<i>Is conflict being fueled through the distribution of stolen or diverted goods?</i>	Yes	No
Market Effects	<i>Is the local market being changed through the influx of outside goods?</i>		
Distribution Effects	<i>Is there a distribution of goods along the lines of the conflict?</i>		
Substitution Effects	<i>Are functioning systems or structures being replaced?</i>		
Legitimization Effects	<i>Is legitimacy being given to a group or leader by working with them?</i>		

### Patterns of Behavior

		Negative Patterns	Positive Patterns	Transparency	
				Y	N
<b>Respect</b>		Belligerence/Anger	←→ Calm		
		Competition	←→ Collaboration		
		Suspicion	←→ Trust		
		Indifference	←→ Sensitivity to Local Concerns		
<b>Account-ability</b>		Powerlessness	←→ Action		
		Impunity	←→ Responsibility/Accountability		
		Arms and Power	←→ Rule of Law/Nonviolence		
<b>Fairness</b>		Different Value for different lives	←→ Recognition of value for all lives		

Comments and Observations

Recommendations

