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Capacity building of Multi-Stakeholder Innovation Platform (PIMA) actors in members in community governance, crop calendar construction, and implementation of nature-based solutions

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Table of Contents

1. Introduction
2. Objectives of setting up a multi-stakeholder innovation platform in the sites
- 3.1. Approach to setting up multi-stakeholder innovation platforms:
- 3.2. Modality /operating principles of the platforms
- 3.3. Advantage of Multi-Stakeholder Innovation Platforms
4. Participatory identifications of key constraints by platforms
5. Participatory identifications of topics of debate in during the animation of the platforms
6. Tips for the success and dynamic operation of the platform
7. References
8. Annex1: List of offices set up
9. Some images on the platforms set up by AICCRA-Mali



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1. Introduction

The CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) Mali project Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) is funded by the World Bank for a period of three (3) years. The objective of the AICCRA project is to build the technical, institutional, and human capacity needed to accelerate the large-scale adoption of climate-smart agriculture and climate information services by hundreds of thousands of farmers in Mali. It is implemented in West Africa (Ghana, Mali and Senegal) and Eastern and Southern Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya and Zambia). In Mali, the AICCRA Project is implemented in the regions of Bougouni, Sikasso and Ségou.

As part of the scaling up of climate-smart technologies, the AICCRA project has set up Multi-Stakeholder Innovation Platforms (PIMA) in all AICCRA project intervention sites in Mali. These IPs constitute a framework for consultation allowing communities to identify their own opportunities, constraints, and to consider solutions with the support of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), decentralized technical services and research.

PIMA is a new intervention mechanism in rural areas that emphasizes the participation at the grassroots level of all actors in the value chain at all stages of project implementation. Indeed, research at national and international level has developed high-performance technologies, but for several reasons, the adoption of these technologies remains low. To induce change through a dissemination and mass adoption of technologies, structuring actors within an innovation platform seems to be a better option. As learning about associative life is a long and complex process, it is necessary to set up an ongoing capacity-building program in various areas to allow a dynamic functioning of these platforms in the areas of intervention of the Project.

2. Objectives of setting up a multi-stakeholder innovation platform in the sites

A Multi-Stakeholder Innovation Platform (PIMA) is a space for learning, action and change. This is a group of people (often representing organizations) with different backgrounds, skills and interests: farmers, traders, food processors, researchers, government officials, etc. Members come together to diagnose constraints, identify opportunities, and find ways to achieve their goals. They can design and implement activities as a platform or coordinate activities carried out by individual members (Homann-Kee Tui et al. 2013). It is essentially a question of meeting the expectations of stakeholders and populations. This gives importance to the implementation of a participatory process that highlights the half-keys, opportunities and constraints faced by these actors.

3. Implementation of multi-stakeholder innovation platforms in the sites

Multi-stakeholder Innovation Platforms (PIMA) are the governance bodies for project activities at the project site level. PIMA has a role in popularizing innovations through the establishment



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of farm advisory mechanisms and governance mechanisms for the territory of community management of natural resources. The main objective of the implementation of PIMA under AICCRA is to promote climate-smart technologies to improve farmers' livelihoods in drylands.

The establishment of innovation platforms in Mali brought together all the actors of the different rice value chains in the different sites. In a spirit of interaction and complementarity, this platform aims to ensure the effective participation of all actors in order to achieve the objectives set by the project.

In all the sites, the actors of the innovation platform are concerned two categories of actors: indirect actors and direct actors. The direct actors were producers, input suppliers (agro-dealers, traders, etc.), transporters, processors, exporters and end consumers. The indirect actors were research agents, extension services (technical services, NGOs), microfinance institutions, manufacturers of agricultural packaging/equipment, local elected officials, decision-makers.

For the AICCRA-Mali project, geographically, each platform was grouped by municipalities: Finkolo Ganadougou, Blendio, Klél/Loutana et Sélingué with several villages, hence their name of Communal Innovation Platform (PCI).

ICPs have been set up at communal level so that each project activity has its known respondents within the villages covered by the communal innovation platform. Village assemblies were organized in the capitals of each commune and their villages. The villages were represented by delegates to raise awareness and organize them into thematic groups made up of actors from the value chain. Each group identified its constraints and potentialities and considered solutions for the removal of these constraints.

This step follows the identification and characterization of actors and partners at the site level. The composition of all the bureaux set up took account of representativeness and gender (see list of bureaux in Annex 1). Each **Error! Reference source not found.**

At the institutional level, the ICP as it is structured does not correspond to any legal framework provided by the OHADA law. However, thematic groups by village can be set up as simplified groupings, associations and cooperatives. Its structure begins at the village level and goes up to the communal level.

Each PCI must have at the level of the town hall a communal act to make it legal and operational. The ICP must be the gateway for all interventions concerning the municipality and is involved in the choice of pilot producers, the implementation and the monitoring and evaluation of activities.

4. Approach to installing multi-stakeholder innovation platforms



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PIMA have been set up at the communal level so that each project activity has its known respondents within the villages covered by the communal innovation platform. Thanks to this approach, information on climate-smart technologies will be more quickly brought to the attention of a greater number of beneficiaries.

Village assemblies were organized to raise awareness and organize them into 04 thematic groups so that each actor had the opportunity to join a thematic group of one's choice and thus participate in the activities of the AICCRA project (Photo 1, and 2).



Photo1: Village Assembly with the Finkolo Ganadougou Platform office (October 2022)



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Photo2: Blendio Platform Office (October 2022)

The 04 thematic groups are: Farmers Group (A); breeders group (E); Processors group (T); and Youth and Women's Entrepreneurship Group (J). Each group identified its constraints and potentialities/opportunities and considered solutions for the removal of its constraints.

An assembly to set up the platform is held at the capital of the commune and each village was represented by delegates divided into thematic groups. Some of the delegates may play several roles: for example, a farmer may also be a grain trader; or a trader selling inputs; or a blacksmith, or transporter. But an individual can only fit into one thematic group (Photo 3 and 4).





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Photo 3: Blendio Platform Office Installation (October 2022)



Photo 4: Finkolo Ganadougou Platform office (October 2022)

To these delegates were added the indirect actors that are the agents of the communal technical services; NGO agents; community radio representatives and researchers.

5. Modality/principles of operation of the platforms

The modalities and operating principles of the platforms were presented to the members of the Bureau. The role of representatives of PIMA offices, technical services officers, communities, NGOs, market players was explained. A roadmap has been defined which includes two annual meetings of PIMA members and periodic meetings to define and conduct the project's activities. The two annual meetings were held:

- At the beginning of the year to plan project activities and;
- At the end of the year to evaluate the results obtained and to carry out a new programming.

Bureau members will play an important role in the implementation of the project. They will contribute to the following activities:

- The realization of the inventory;



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6. The choice of experimenters and the follow-up of experiments;

- Participatory evaluation of project activities with a focus on meeting the commitments of project partners.

7. Advantage of Multi-Stakeholder Innovation Platforms

PIMA can have an impact in four ways (Duncan et al. 2013):

- Providing information and resources to PIMA members (where a solution exists)
- Through research (to identify constraints and propose a solution)
- Through negotiation and persuasion (reaching a collective compromise within PIMA)
- Through lobbying and advocacy (targeting other stakeholders or the government).

8. Participatory identification of the main constraints by the platforms

The constraints mentioned by members were as follows:

- Difficulty of access to certified improved rainfed and lowland rice seeds.
- Insufficient training of actors (input distributors, producers, processors, equipment manufacturers).

9. Difficult access to quality fertilizers and pesticides.

- Inadequate ploughing and rice processing equipment.
- Poverty of actors for the purchase of inputs (women, vulnerable groups).
- Difficulties in accessing bank credit.
- High cost of the price per kg of seed
- Poor mastery of the technique of producing certified seed.

10. Participatory identifications of topics of debate in during the animation of the platforms

The main topics of discussion were as follows:

- Better organization of the rice sector in the sites
- Disappearance of certain plant species, in particular certain old varieties
- Mortality of some species due to temperature rise



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- Decline in crop production
- Reduced water availability
- Promotion of climate-resilient technologies, water and soil conservation and restoration techniques (CES/DRS), agroforestry use of drought-resistant or drought-tolerant varieties
- Access to inputs and equipment
- Access to climate information services
- Development of solar-powered irrigation technologies for diversification of income sources
- Development of financing mechanisms
- Entrepreneurship development for youth employment
- Strengthening rice rotation with other diversification options with vegetables and tubers
- Capacity building for seed producers and users
- Capacity building on GEM parboiling techniques

11. Tips for the success and dynamic operation of the platform

The success of IP depends on the right interaction between several factors including:

- Consensus among actors
- Stakeholder interests
- Trust between stakeholders
- Good leadership
- Facilitation competence
- Facilitate and manage perceptions, competing interests, risks, availability and access to resources
- Fairness and timely access to resources, meeting commitments
- Time and availability of individuals and groups (private sector)
- Catalysts and/or champions of change
- Market-driven dissemination pathway
- Provision of reliable information ,
- Stakeholder learning



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- Networking
- Continuous capacity-building in the build-up phase

Références

Duncan A. Le Borgne E. Maute F. Tucker J. (2013) Impact of Innovation Platforms. Innovation platforms practice brief 12. CGIAR publication.

Homann-Kee Tui S. Hendrickx S. Manyawu J. Rao P. Robinson L. (2015) Implementing Innovation Platforms: a guideline for Dryland Systems Research. CGIAR Research Program on Dryland Systems.



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- Annex 1: List of offices set up

Table 1: List of members of the Blendio LDC Bureau

No.	Given and last names	Responsibility	Actor category	Contacts
1	Dramane DIABATE	President	Producer	71 97 50 63
2	Salimata DIARRA	1st Deputy	Producer	
3	Souleymane BALLO	2nd Deputy	Producer	75 09 46 60
4	Tahirou DIALLO	Secretary for Organization	Producer	92 86 56 80
5	Maïmouna SANGARE	Deputy Secretary for Organization	Transforming	
6	Kassoum DIARRA	Administrative Secretary	Producer	76 52 79 16
7	Abdoulaye SANOGO	Information Secretary	Producer	74 89 47 15
8	Issouf TOGOLA	Treasurer	Distrib-Inputs	76 15 10 23
9	Salimatou TOGOLA	Assistant Treasurer	Producer	
10	Oumar DIALLO	External auditor	Distrib-Inputs	95 25 50 04
11	Binta FANE	Secretary for Agriculture	Producer	70 90 39 25
12	Chaka DIABATE	Deputy Secretary for Agriculture	Equipment manufacturer	
13	Yakouba BALLO	Secretary in charge of livestock	Equipment manufacturer	
14	Bakary KONE	Deputy Secretary in charge of livestock	Merchant	
15	Madani DIARRA	Secretary for Transformation	Merchant	77 74 41 25
16	Lassina DIALLO	Deputy Secretary in charge of Transformation	Water use	
17	Adama DIALLO	Secretary for Youth Entrepreneurship	Water use	
18	Barakissa DIABATE	Deputy Secretary in charge of Youth Entrepreneurship	Transforming	
19	Dramane DIALLO	Secretary for Public Information and Communications	Producer	
20	Sétou SANGARE	Secretary for the Advancement of Women	Producer	



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Table 2 : List of members of the Bureau of the Finkolo-ganadougou PMA

No.	Given and last names	Responsibility	Actor category	Contacts
1	Bintou DIARRA	President	Producer	76 73 51 24
2	Karim SANGARE	1st Deputy	Distrib-Input	74 64 48 72
3	Sanata DIALLO	2nd Deputy	Producer	83 49 58 96
4	Waraba BAYOKO	Secretary for Organization	Transforming	83 17 89 75
5	Diarrah SANGARE	Deputy Secretary for Organization	Water user	62 87 22 14
6	CHAT SINGER	Administrative Secretary	Producer	83 93 62 32
7	Bintou DIALLO	Information Secretary	Transforming	94 12 49 31
8	Rokia TOGOLA	General Treasurer	Producer	73 49 98 14
9	Matou SIDIBE	Deputy General Treasurer	Transforming	68 91 16 86
10	Macoro DIARRA	External auditor	Producer	77 15 92 12
11	Oumar TOURE	Secretary for Agriculture	Distrib-Input	76 58 20 09
12	Djibril TRAORE	Deputy Secretary for Agriculture	Equipment manufacturer	90 58 60 19
13	Moussa FANE	Secretary in charge of livestock	Equipment manufacturer	
14	Nana SANGARE	Deputy Secretary in charge of livestock	Transforming	65 81 29 57
15	Mariétou BALLO	Secretary for Transformation	Transforming	67 94 04 42
16	Mawa SANGARE	Deputy Secretary in charge of Transformation	Water user	90 79 17 51
17	Yakouba DIARRA	Secretary for Youth Entrepreneurship	Carrier	76 37 37 63
18	Fousseyni KONE	Deputy Secretary in charge of Youth Entrepreneurship	Carrier	
19	Fatoumata SANGARE	Secretary for Public Information and Communications	Producer	66 83 43 10
20	Kadiatou SANOGO	Secretary for the Advancement of Women	Producer	74 64 48 72



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Table 3: List of members of the LDC Loutana Bureau

N°	Prénoms et noms	Responsabilité	Actor category	Contacts
1	Minata TRAORE	Chairwoman	Transformatrice	
2	Alassane SANGARE	1st Deputy	Distributor-Inputs	
3	Diarrah TRAORE	2nd Deputy	Transforming	74 20 91 19
4	Bintou BERTHE N°2	Secretary for Organization	Transforming	
5	Sanata TRAORE	Deputy Secretary for Organization	Transforming	
6	Bintou BERTHE N°1	Administrative Secretary	Transforming	78 54 24 04
7	Korotoumou SANGARE	Information Secretary	Water User	
8	Awa TRAORE	Treasurer	Producer	
9	Kadiatou DIAMOUTENE	Assistant Treasurer	Producer	
10	Oumou BENGALY	External auditor	Producer	
11	Tiémoko DIAMOUTENE	Secretary for Agriculture	Distributor- Inputs	
12	Karim KONATE	Deputy Secretary for Agriculture	Water User	78 84 32 12
13	Salif SANOGO	Secretary in charge of livestock	Water User	75 16 54 04
14	Aminata TRAORE	Deputy Secretary in charge of livestock	Seller	
15	Mafili BENGALY	Secretary for Transformation	Seller	
16	Fatoumata BERTHE	Deputy Secretary in charge of Transformation	Water User	
17	Diata TRAORE	Secretary for Youth Entrepreneurship	Producer	



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18	Barakissa OUATTARA	Deputy Secretary in charge of Youth Entrepreneurship	Producer	
19	Nassoun DEMBELE	Secretary for Public Information and Communications	Producer	
20	Maminata BENGALY	Secretary for the Advancement of Women	Producer	

- Some images on the platforms set up by AICCRA-Mali



Animation session of the Platform with the AICCRA-IER team in Finkolo Ganadougou (October, 2022)