



# Climate information services for increased resilience and productivity in Senegal (CINSERE)

Annual Performance Report –  
USAID/CINSERE Activity  
(Apr 01st – Sept 30th 2016)

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## Acronyms

ANACIM	Agence National de l'Aviation Civile et de la Météorologie
CBO	Congressional Budget Office
CCAFS	Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security
CINSERE	Climate Information Service for Increased resilience in Senegal
SIC	Climate Information Service
CLPA	Comité Local de la Pêche Artisanale
COMFISH	Collaborative Management for a Sustainable Fisheries Future in Senegal
COP	Chief of Party
COR	Contracting Officer Representative
ERA	Education, Research and Agriculture
FtF	Feed the Future
ICRISAT	International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MWG	Groupe de Travail Multidisciplinaire
Naatal Mbay	Projet d'appui aux chaines de valeur céréalière
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
SMS	Short Message Service
TIC	Technologie de l'Information et de la Communication
TOR	Terms of Reference
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
Yaajeende	Agriculture and nutrition for food security Activity

# 1. Acknowledgement toward USAID/Senegal Mission

This 2016 annual report of the USAID/CINSERE activity was made possible through support provided by USAID/Senegal Mission to ICRISAT/CCAFS. The opinions expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of USAID.

## 2. Summary presentation of USAID/CINSERE

USAID/CINSERE is three-year project (2016 – 2019) funded by USAID/Senegal and implemented by ICRISAT/CCAFS in collaboration with ANACIM. USAID/CINSERE aims to increase the access and use of climate information services (CIS) to generate better decision-making in the face of climate change and climate variability. The main beneficiaries of USAID/CINSERE are stakeholders living in the zone of influence of USAID/Naatal Mbay, USAID/COMFISH, USAID/Yaajeende and USAID/ERA. These four Activities have invested significant resources in creating and strengthening local agriculture and fishing groups, and institutions. The goal of USAID/CINSERE is to increase the resilience and productivity of targeted Senegalese farming, fishing and pastoralist communities, including members of both sexes, in the FtF Zone of Influence, in the face of climate variability and change, through the improved provision, communication, and use of climate information and services. This goal will be achieved through (i) building national level capacity in producing and delivering and using CIS and (ii) developing a sustainable framework for scaling-up CIS use.

## 3. Executive Summary of the achievements

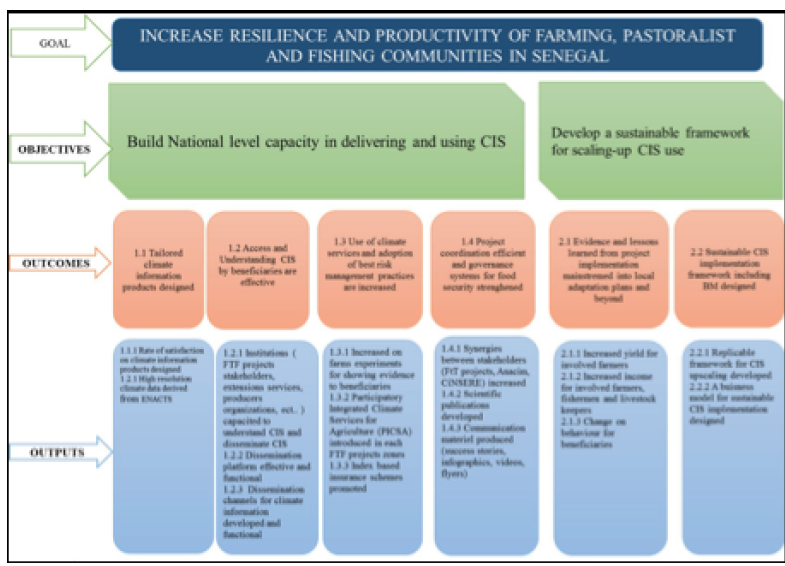
During this first year (Apr 01st – Sept 30th 2016), the USAID/CINSERE activity has been technically launched through a workshop that gathered key stakeholders of the project. This allowed assessing the specific needs in Climate Information Services (CIS) of the 4 Feed the Future (FtF) projects and the possible communication channels that could be used to disseminate the information to benefit farmers, pastoralists and fisher folks. Also, the Advisory Committee of the project has been formally setup during its first meeting concomitantly organised with the official launching ceremony with attendance of high level authorities (HEM Ambassador of USA, Secretary General of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Equipment and of Ministry of Tourism and Aviation Transport). A roadmap for the Advisory Committee's activities has been developed, in line with the timeline of USAID work planning and reporting for projects. The recruitment of the project staff (Project Coordinator, M&E Specialist and Climatologist) is now completed and the contract between ICRISAT/CCAFS and ANACIM has been signed. This allowed to capacitate ANACIM to start developing and communicating tailored and salient CIS in support of farms', fisheries' and pastoralists' communities, including members of both sexes, in their management decision making. The above actions allowed to roll out the planned ground activities for the rainy season 2016. The main achievements in the ground include 1) the setup of 17 local multi-disciplinary working



groups (MWGs) in 8 regions covered by Naatal Mbay and Yaajeende projects; (2) training of key stakeholders that will disseminate CIS within each of the FtF projects (Stakeholders from government, NGOs, CBOs, private sector, etc.); (3) Dissemination of CIS to benefit farmers, fisher folks and pastoralists.

#### 4. Background of the planned activities for the reporting period

The USAID/CINSERE results framework (Figure 1) describes how the project’s activities, outcomes and objectives lead to achieving the overall goal of the project.



According to the 2016 work plan, the following five activities were planned to take place during 2016:

**Activity 2016 1.1.1** – Design phase, needs assessment, communication channels, and baseline. Specifically, this activity seeks to:

- Identify existing and completed climate services initiatives by the FtF projects actors in Senegal, (including government, NGOs, CBOs, etc.); as well as existing climate services tools and products
- Identify key stakeholders that are providing climate services for agriculture and food security in Senegal (including contact information)
- Inventory indigenous knowledge on bioclimatic indicators
- Identify current and potential communication channels/strategies to reach farmers, fisher folks and pastoralists, including (extension, radio, mobile phone, etc.)

- Comprehensively identify priority climate service products and tools to be implemented through the project
- Determine challenges, opportunities, research gaps and opportunities for scaling up climate services tools and products
- Identify climate Service projects with strong gender and social inclusion aspects, either on-going in Senegal or elsewhere but relevant in the FtF projects context
- Organise a launching workshop to present the results of the desk review and project with all stakeholders

**Activity 2016 1.2.1** – Develop climate information products based on users’ demand:

- Review potential synergies with previous, ongoing, and planned projects that are relevant in terms of climate data analysis, tool development, or seasonal forecasting
- Initiate and incorporate results from in-depth beneficiaries’ participatory processes to facilitate the design of climate services
- Create improved climatic databases and modeling that could generate more accurate and downscaled CIS
- Develop priority climate service products and tools to be implemented through the project
- Fine-tune and mainstream indigenous knowledge on bioclimatic indicators into the decision making process by beneficiaries

**Activity 2016 2.1.1** – Adapting stakeholder organizations into local multidisciplinary working groups and training them to understanding, construe, and communicate effectively CIS to their fellows:

- Identify existing and potential structures for climate services in the zone of influence of the FtF projects
- Analyze and agree with the FtF projects Managers (A/CORs and COPs) on the relevant project structures that could be adapted to play a CIS relaying role
- Explore mechanisms for synergies among different local organizations from the FtF projects (private and public)
- Identify for each project, men, women and youth stakeholders involved in the FtF projects to be potentially included in the CIS local working groups

**Activity 2016 2.2.1** – Deliver climate information services to beneficiaries of the FtF projects:

- Train selected stakeholders (Activity 2.1.1) on operating modes/rules of the local Multidisciplinary Working Groups (MWGs) that will be put in place.
- Train the FtF projects stakeholders (esp. local working groups) to (1) understanding climate jargon, (2) construe climate information, and (3) communicate effectively CIS to their targeted project beneficiaries
- Capacitate ANACIM, rural radios networks, e-platforms, TIC-Mbay, mobile phone companies for effective technology-based communication to reach larger beneficiaries from the FtF zone of influence

**Activity 2016 4.2.1** – Setting up of the climate service steering committee and building of project governance structure. The specific objectives were to:

- Create an operational climate service advisory committee, which will eventually serve as a long term sustainable governance body for climate services; and render effective the role of this Committee as a common data and information management Platform and for developing protocols to communicating locally-generated climate information up to higher levels
- Insure sustainability through participation of relevant local authorities and build awareness of the committee
- Strengthen the project governance structure with relevant staffing (Project coordinator and M&E specialist, climatologist)

## 5. Progress during the reporting period under each project components

### 5.1. Activity 2016 1.1.1 – Design phase, needs assessment, communication

A technical launch workshop of the project was organised in Dakar, 19-21 April 2016 through which most of the specific objectives of this activity were achieved thanks to an active and participatory attendance of stakeholders:

- Invited stakeholders became more acquainted with the USAID/CINSERE project through a presentation on the project followed by Q & A.
- Existing initiatives on climate services from the FtF projects and from other projects in Senegal were identified and their representatives invited to the technical workshop to share their experiences.
- Stakeholders from government, NGOs, CBOs, private sector, etc., that should form the relevant structures to disseminate CIS within each of the 4 FtF projects were identified. At this occasion, various climate service products and tools were discussed to explore their possible development and use within the USAID/CINSERE project.
- Current and potential communication channels and strategies to reach farmers, fisher folks and pastoralists, with CIS were also defined.

A workshop report is available to provide detailed information on the workshop outcomes. A blog has been also developed on the workshop (see: Scaling up climate services for increased resilience and productivity in Senegal

œuvre:

It is to note that while an inventory of indigenous knowledge on bioclimatic indicators is not yet developed, a protocol that will ensure a comprehensive inventory of such indigenous knowledge is ready to be implemented in the perspective of each of FtF projects.

## 5.2. Activity 2016 1.2.1 – Develop climate information products based on users’ demand

The specific CIS needs were defined by project stakeholders during the technical workshop. Furthermore, ANACIM pursued in-depth discussions with each the FtF projects managers to fine tune these specific CIS needs. On the basis of these specific needs, ANACIM has designed and developed differentiated CIS for farmers, fisher folks and pastoralists. This includes among others, downscaled seasonal forecasts, daily weather forecast, 10-day weather forecast, onset and end of the rainy season, early warnings about climate and weather extremes. ANACIM also initiated specific tools such as the color chart for early warning and a mobile application that integrates these color chart. Similarly, SMS platforms have been developed to disseminate early warning for extreme events (e.g. flooding, high temperature, thunderstorms) and to allow independent and individual requests of CIS. Partnerships have been developed with mobile phone companies such as TIGO and ORANGE. It is to also note that during the various trainings organized by ANACIM in the regions, the discussions about existing indigenous knowledge (bio-indicators) allow for the mainstreaming these category of knowledge into the decision making of beneficiaries.

## 5.3. Activity 2016 2.1.1 – Adapting stakeholder organizations into local MWGs

One of the key steps was the setup of local multi-disciplinary groups (MWGs) to serve as platforms for analyzing the climate information and providing advisories in the context of their locality. To this end, 17 local MWGs (district-level) were set up in parallel to the trainings organized by ANACIM in collaboration with Naatal Mbay and Yaajeende projects (Table 1). The objectives and operating rules of the MWGs, the members and their respective roles were discussed and clarified. A prefectural decree formally establishing them was requested in a perspective to rendering them sustainable beyond the project period.

**Table 1:** Programs of the trainings organized by ANACIM in the Naatal Mbay and Yaajeende intervention zones.

Dates	Venue
11-16 Jul 2016	Kédougou/Salémata/Saraya
13-18 Jul 2016	Kolda/Vélingara/Médina Yoro Foula
24-31 Jul 2016	Sédhiou/Goudomp/ Bounkiling
24-31 Jul 2016	Ziguinchor/Bignona/Oussouye
14-21 Aug 2016	Kaffrine/Birkilane
14-21 Aug 2016	Kaolack/Nioro/Foundiougne
14-21 Aug 2016	Louga/Meouane/Linguère
14-21 Aug 2016	Malem Hoddar/Koungheul/Koumpentoum
14-21 Aug 2016	Matam/Bakel/Kanel
14-21 Aug 2016	Podor/Dagandj
02-07 Aug 2016	First national MWG trip regions
17-22 Oct 2016	2 <sup>nd</sup> national MWG trip regions

Similarly, nine existing local fisher folk committees (CLPAs) were used as springboards to train and disseminate CIS to fishery communities (Table 2).

**Table 2:** Training program for the Local Artisanal Fisheries Councils (CLPA)

N <sup>o</sup>	CLPA	Période	Les formateurs (ANACIM)	Nombre de participants
1	Saint Louis et Gandiol	29 juin-1 juillet	Tidiane Diedhiou alpha Diallo Abdou Mody Ndiaye	80
2	Dakar	12 juillet	Moustapha Kamara	50
3	Bargny et Rufisque	14 juillet	Assane Dème	50
4	Lompoul et Potou	18 au 19 juillet	Leon Mansal alpha Diallo	80
5	Joal et Sindia Sud	25 à 26 juillet	Papa Ngor Ndiaye Tidiane Diehdiou Serigne Ndiaye	40

For the Naatal Mbay and Yaajeende intervention zone, 781 participants were trained, of which 623 (80%) were originating from various community-based organisations members of the project networks. The remaining participants were representing state offices and NGOs (Figure 1). 15% of participants were women. Each training was organized around the following steps:

- Opening by an administrative authority (e.g. prefect or mayor)
- Presentation on climate change/variability and their impacts on natural resources of the locality
- Plenary or focus group discussions on indigenous knowledge
- Presentation on weather forecast and their potential use for risk management in agriculture
- Presentation on seasonal forecast and their potential use for agricultural risk management
- Discussion about mechanisms for accessing CIS and for disseminating CIS to wider population
- Training on the installation, reading, reporting and use of rain gauges by farmers.



**Figure 1 : Répartition des personnes formées**

#### 5.4. Activity 2016 2.2.1 – Deliver climate information services to beneficiaries

In collaboration with Naatal Mbay and Yaajeende projects' Managers (COPs, regional offices), 17 workshops were organized to training stakeholders identified as key players in the CIS dissemination (Lead farmers, technical agents from public and private sectors, representatives of decentralized structures). The topics of these trainings encompassed (1) concepts of climate change and climate variability and the impact of these hazards on agriculture and natural resources, (2) the understanding, interpretation and use of weather and climate information, (3) the use of rain gauges, (4) the collection of information on traditional weather and climate forecasts indicators (indigenous knowledge), (5) the best mechanisms/channels for receiving and disseminating weather and climate information. Local administrative authorities (e.g. prefect) were actively involved in these trainings as well as the media (rural community radios, national public and private media (RTS, Walf, RFM, TFM, etc.).

One of the objectives under this activity was to capacitate ANACIM, rural radios networks, e-platforms, TIC-Mbay, mobile phone companies for effective technology-based communication to reach larger beneficiaries from the FtF zone of influence. To this end, a number of tools and platforms have been developed with relevant partners. This includes (1) the development by ANACIM of a mobile android application that integrates the color chart to the weather forecast shared through SMS; (2) the capacitation of ANACIM website to regularly share the weather bulletins; (3) the partnership developed with the community radios, the TV channels and the newspapers to regularly share the climate information produced by ANACIM. Also, ANACIM is currently partnering with mobile phone companies (Tigo and Orange) to develop a platform (USSD Code) that allow users from the various intervention sub-sectors (Agriculture, livestock, fisheries) to access specific climate information through their mobile phones. Similarly, a voice messaging system is under development with these mobile phone companies.

#### 5.5. Activity 2016 4.2.1 – Creation of climate service steering committee

Two major actions were achieved during this year:  
A first meeting to setup the steering committee was held on July 11th, 2016 in Dakar. This has been a half-day meeting that allowed to formally call on board the identified representatives to act as members of the steering committee. The meeting was also an opportunity to discuss the proposed TORs on the domain of competency and operations of the committee. Discussions around the TORs resulted into suggestions and recommendations from members in term of expected role, competency and road map, all these in line with the USAID own regulations. It is to note that this SC is seen as an operational climate service advisory body. It will also serve as a long term sustainable governance structure for climate services as well as a common data and information management Platform that could develop protocols to communicating locally-generated climate information up to higher levels.

The SC meeting was followed by an official launch ceremony of the USAID/CINSERE project, with the aim to raise awareness of Senegalese authorities on this important project supported by USAID. The ceremony was attended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Equipment several report and blog on both the SC meeting and official launch is underway.



The leading team of the project (Dr Oumou-Activity Manager; Dr Robert Zougmore-Chief of Party, Dr Ousmane Ndiaye and Dr Mathieu Ouédraogo-Deputy Chiefs of Party), worked actively to:

- Obligate funds to allow starting the implementation of the project activities
- Initiate the recruitment process of the project staff (Project Coordinator, M&E Specialist). After several rounds of advertisement, a shortlist of candidates has been now developed for both positions and the interviews for final selection will now take place. ANACIM has selected the climatologist that will strengthen ANACIM capacity to generate the climate information and services.
- Develop and sign a contract between ICRISAT and ANACIM to allow the later commence the ground implementation of activities
- Produce a flyer on the USAID/CINSERE project with the support of USAID Communication Unit.
- Initiate procedures to request tax exemption for the project.
- Link up with various projects and initiatives of interest for CIS use in Senegal

## 6. Gender related achievements and how gender is mainstreamed into the activities

Participants in the technical launch workshop, the first steering committee meeting and the various activities implemented in the ground by ANACIM were gender-balanced. It is to also note that the 4 FtF projects with which USAID/CINSERE project will be closely working with, are already integrating in their strategies the promotion of women's empowerment.

## 7. Synergic activities achieved with other partners

At this very start up stage of the project, USAID mission through the Activity Manager is knowledgeable for actively providing guidance and information to the ICRISAT/CCAFS and ANACIM team for the project strict alignment to USAID rules, regulations, reporting, etc. Also, the CINSERE team could easily link up with the 4 FtF projects COPs and A/CORs. This interaction was initiated since the development of the CINSERE proposal phase and has been instrumental to defining project context-specific CIS needs and actors. The CINSERE team also had a chance to meet with the USAID Mission Director, and with the Director of the Economic Growth Office; both Directors expressed their support to this specific climate information- related project and encouraged the team to use the FtF projects as springboards to implement the CINSERE project activities. ANACIM as key implementing partner has been very collaborative in (1) identifying key national partners to be considered for the technical workshop and the steering committee, (2) initiating interactions with the COPs of the 4 FtF projects, and with other relevant initiatives on food security and climate risk management, (3) mobilising national high level decision makers for their attendance at the official launch ceremony. The Activity Manager and COP agreed to organize monthly meetings in order to update each other on progress and to discuss any issue that might have arisen.

## 8. Financial issues & narrative report

ICRISAT/CCAFS benefited from a first obligated amount of funds, which allowed to initiate the contract with ANACIM and to organize the technical launch workshop as well as the steering committee-official launch ceremony. A second obligated funds has been initiated, which will allow to cover the 2016 funding needs as well as those for 2017.

## 9. Problems/Challenges during the reporting period

ICRISAT has not encountered any major problem/challenge during this reporting period. Several introductory meetings with the Activity Manager, the FtF projects A/CORs/COPs and units of USAID Mission (DOC) allowed the CINSERE Team to be aware of requirements but also of opportunities within USAID-Mission. One issue to mention is the slow recruitment process of the project coordinator and the M&E specialist. Indeed, it was only after two rounds of advertisement that satisfactory candidates have been obtained. The two positions are now filled and the new staff are planned to report on duty on or before November 01st 2016. In the meantime, the COP and deputy-COPs are handling the project coordination.

One activity that hasn't been fully implemented is the design and implementation of a robust M&E plan to assess CIS use by beneficiaries (Activity 2016 3.1.1.). The objectives were:

- Develop a full M&E strategy for the CIS activity that builds on existing M&E experience of the FtF projects and the CCAFS experience
- Develop specific M&E surveys for baseline, field tests
- Develop training modules on the survey approach for stakeholders that will be involved in baseline data collection and on field/ground tests and data collection to monitor M&E indicators and initiate the cost-benefits analysis of CIS.
- Train all involved stakeholders on the understanding, use and ground implementation of the various M&E studies.

With the upcoming M&E specialist, the above tasks will be readily initiated and completed for implementation during 2017.

## 10. Success Stories, changes, impacts and testimonies of beneficiaries

It is important to note the great motivation of the project stakeholders during the training sessions organized by ANACIM, translating their positive appreciation for such a project that layers CIS to their respective production activities (Agriculture, livestock, fisheries, education). The following links report success stories during this first year implementation:

- <http://www.lequotidien.sn/index.php/economie/diffusion-et-utilisation-de-l-information-climatique-l-anacim-arme-les-producteurs-agricoles>
- [Scaling up climate services for increased resilience and productivity in Senegal](#)

## 11. Planned activities for next reporting period

The following activities are planned to start during the next reporting period:

**Activity 2016 1.2.1**– Develop climate information products based on users’ demand.

**Activity 2016 2.2.1** – Deliver climate information services to beneficiaries of the FtF projects

**Activity 2016 3.1.1** – Design and implement a robust M&E plan to assess CIS use by beneficiaries

**Activity 2016 4.1.1** – Assessment of the capacity of existing and potential structures for CIS delivery

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