

Scaling livestock productivity packages through multi-stakeholder platforms



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Contents

Acknowledgements.....	2
Outcome	3
Partners.....	4
Why did we do this research?.....	4
Evidence	5
Next steps	5
References	6

Acknowledgements

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Outcome

Government and development programs adopt multi-stakeholder platforms (MSP) to scale innovations in the livestock value chain

The Government of Mali, with funding from the World Bank, has conducted the Livestock Sector Development Support Project (PADEL-M) from 2019 to 2024. PADEL-M focuses on the Livestock/Meat, Milk and Poultry and Aquaculture/Fish sectors. The program used MSPs to scale technical innovations in the target areas. Based on this result, the Government of Mali (National Directorate of Veterinary Services), programs financed by the World Bank (Projet d'Appui au Développement du Secteur de l'Élevage (PADEL-M) and Projet Régional d'Appui au Pastoralisme au Sahel (PRAPS)) has since then integrated the participatory approach to livestock vaccination using MSPs. The MSPs serve as a platform for implementing, monitoring and evaluating the livestock vaccination campaign. Around 30 MSPs have been set up and strengthened.

In order to support the scaling up of MSPs in the agricultural sector, the Government of Mali, through PADEL-M, has opted in the Annual Work and Budget Program (PTBA) 2023 for the establishment of fifteen (15) innovation platforms in animal and aquaculture production with the support of ILRI in order to overcome the shortcomings of the support of the Farmer Field Schools (CEP) that had been installed. At the end of 2023, the fifteen (15) Multi-stakeholder platforms in animal and aquaculture production, including six (06) in poultry farming, five (05) in aquaculture and four (04) in fattening, have been set up. Thus, since the end of 2023, these MSPs have enabled all the players in a sector to evolve as a network to contribute, on the one hand, to amplifying the endogenous dynamics of exchanges and valorization of information within the group to promote mutual learning, and to establish a framework for the convergence of actions around common operational objectives, on the other hand. These MSPs have since been inspired by SAPLING innovation packages in order to boost the productivity of animal and aquaculture production.

In Central and Northern Mali, Feed the Future (FtF) – Sugu Yiriwa, prioritized projects whose market constraints and challenges are continuously discussed within the MSP to benefit from financing from the innovation fund. The objective was to improve market systems in the Delta area. Two financial tools were used. The first, to support agri-food processing companies working in the field of marketing nutrient-dense food products and support the scaling up of the best performing companies/enterprises and the second, to help market actors address the challenges and constraints that have been identified by the MSP, during their regular meetings in the different regions of the Delta area.

Just like Sugu Yiriwa in the delta zone, Sene Yiriwa has MSPs in livestock farming are an interesting opportunity. On the one hand, it allows to connect the different stakeholders of the public as well as the private sector of animal health, animal production with producers without forgetting the agro dealers who constitute an important part of the architecture of the MSP.

Scaling business model on *Brachiaria* seed and fodders marketing through private sector in Mali

Through the MSPs set up in Farakala by ILRI, several institutions have been inspired by the innovation model promoting the private sector. Indeed, partners such as AGRI Sahel Sarl, FtF Mali Sugu Yiriwa, FtF Mali Sene Yiriwa, PADEL-M have in one way or another adopted the innovation relating to the marketing of fodder and seeds.

After being certified by the IER's Laboratoire des semences (LABOSEM), the MSPs have since 2021 contracted with AGRI Sahel Sarl, a Malian company specializing in the purchase and promotion of seeds in general and fodder. Thus, in 2023, the MSP sold to AGRI Sahel Sarl, 4.1 tons of brachiaria seeds for a monetary value of USD 41,000. In Mali, AGRI Sahel occupies a prominent place in the supply of fodder seeds to various agricultural and livestock programs, one of the most important of which is PADEL M.

Indeed, FtF Mali Sugu Yiriwa South Zone, in order to boost animal production in its intervention area, has promoted brachiaria. Thus, during the fattening training that it organized, the MSP of Farakala was asked to share

its experience in the field of production and marketing of fodder and *Brachiaria* seed. This sharing of experience has enabled Sugu Yiriwa beneficiaries to produce and market *Brachiaria*. In addition, to promote the marketing of *Brachiaria* seed, *Brachiaria* seed producers in the Sikasso cercle have been invited to take part in the 2022 and 2023 agricultural input and livestock and poultry feed fairs.

During the year 2023, FtF-Sugu Yiriwa facilitated the connection between *brachiaria* seed producers and agro dealers in its intervention area. A total of 545 kilograms of *brachiaria* seed were acquired by individual producers and/or organized in cooperatives. The main objective of this facilitation by Sugu Yiriwa was to promote the cultivation and sale of nutritious feed for livestock.

Partners

The MSP steering committee links producers to buyers and oversee the collection, storage, preservation and sale of *Brachiaria* seeds. Buyers include individual livestock farmers, farmer cooperatives and agri-dealers. AgriSahel, a private agri-dealer, is the largest contractor. Furthermore, the Institute of Rural Economy (IER) through the Seed Laboratory (LABOSEM) encourages and supports livestock producers to become certified seed producers.

Sugu Yiriwa and Sene Yiriwa are a FtF initiative of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Sugu Yiriwa aims to strengthen the resilience of farming and commercial communities in FtF's areas of influence. The approach chosen is market-driven, inclusive, nutrition-sensitive and agriculture-led economic growth.

Sugu Yiriwa - South Zone, will enable market system actors to drive sustainable systemic change, with a strategic focus on vulnerable, gender- and nutrition-sensitive value chains. It is led by Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture (CNFA) in partnership with Mali Agricultural Market Trust (MALIMARK) and Helen Keller International (HKI).

Sènè Yiriwa is a USAID-funded rural support project implemented by a consortium of organizations led by Research Triangle Institute (RTI International) in the Bougouni, Koutiala, and Sikasso regions. The project operates through three components: Strengthening cooperatives to provide inclusive and diversified Agricultural Extension Services (AES) and Nutrition Advisory Services (NAS); engaging Professional organizations (POs) to develop and self-manage extension teams; Increasing and supporting the adoption of climate-smart agriculture (CSA) technologies and practices to help cooperatives develop best-practice extension service packages for sustainable intensification; Improving farmers' decision-making through digital solutions based on field data; digital data collection and services; data sharing and analysis; and data-driven support systems.

Why did we do this research?

The research on using MSPs to scale *Brachiaria* and vaccination in low and middle-income countries, like Mali, is driven by the need to address productivity gaps in the SR sector. SR value chain faces challenges such as high mortality rates, low growth, poor nutrition, lack of breeding programs and disease prevalence, leading to sub-optimal performance. The root causes of SR productivity gaps are identified as seasonal feed shortages and poor forage quality, exacerbated by land degradation due to reduced rainfall, overgrazing, bushfires, drying of lakes, and wind erosion, affecting livestock production. The introduction of *Brachiaria* forage in the Farakala-Sikasso region aims to alleviate feed shortages during the dry season, offering immediate benefits to milk and meat yields. Additionally, *Brachiaria* contributes to livestock health, productivity, nitrogen use efficiency, soil carbon content, soil erosion reduction, and environmental sustainability.

The research envisions an efficient, inclusive and equitable SR value chain, benefiting from co-created innovation packages and MSPs to strengthen linkages among value chain actors. SAPLING, building on previous programs

like the Mali Livestock Scaling Technology Program (MLSTP), aims to disseminate proven livestock technologies and best practices, bridging SR productivity gaps in target regions. Overall, the research seeks to enhance livelihoods, food security, and nutritional needs through technology dissemination and improved institutional arrangements (Dione et al. 2023).

Evidence

"The farmer field schools, a remarkable initiative of PADEL-M, have played a key role in facilitating the exchange of experiences and the harmonization of agricultural practices among beneficiaries. In addition, he said, the establishment of innovation platforms and livestock interprofessions has filled a significant gap in the livestock and fisheries sub-sector. These initiatives have not only structured and professionalized these areas, but have also strengthened links between the different actors, allowing for better coordination and greater efficiency".

Sanoussi Bouya Sylla, President of the Permanent Assembly of Chambers of Agriculture of Mali (APCAM)

"In the Sikasso region, the Platform Multi Actor (PMA) met with the ILRI innovation platform to learn about the operating model of an innovation platform and to exchange with stakeholders in the livestock sector."

Feed-the-Future-Mali-Sugu-Yiriwa-Learning-Dossier-Multi-Actor-PMA-Platforms-July-2024

"The Sene Yiriwa team identified the livestock innovation platforms as an interesting opportunity to improve veterinary services, as well as providing an important networking opportunity and way to link animal producers to feed products, veterinarians, and relevant government services.

Feed the Future Mali Sene Yiriwa Quarterly Progress Report - Fiscal Year 2022 Quarter

"In Niore du Sahel, the region's Poultry Farmers' Innovation Platform was set up this week. Composed of 13 members, it is chaired by Meguewa Coulibaly. According to the organizers, the Platform will identify stakeholders, interests, common problems and opportunities to improve the production, management and marketing of products. It will also facilitate the creation of a link between stakeholders for access to inputs, services, information, knowledge and markets. The meeting was organized by the Mali Livestock Development Support Project (Padel-Mali)."

Niore du Sahel now has a Poultry Farmers' Platform. Bamada.net.

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Next steps

- Put in place a system for quality control of these seeds and support certification.
- Research the effect of feeding *Brachiaria* on animal productivity.
- Training of farmers in forage storage and processing for animal feeds.
- Carry out an impact assessment of the adoption of *Brachiaria* in Mali.
- Other research topics: the link between new variety, profitability and women's empowerment.

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To learn more about this and other Initiatives in the CGIAR Research Portfolio, please visit www.cgiar.org/cgiar-portfolio

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