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**Food System Institutional Mapping and Capacity Assessment in Niger**

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## ABSTRACT

Niger faces rampant food insecurity, malnutrition, and environmental degradation. The transformation of food systems to tackle such challenges hinges on the capacity and effectiveness of institutional frameworks. To analyze the status, challenges, and strengths of Niger's food system, a mapping and capacity needs assessment was conducted at three levels—enabling environment, institutional, and individual. Based on the assessment, leadership concerns on strategic guidance were observed at the policy process level, with major issues such as the incidence of corruption, infrastructure constraints, and lack of reliable data availability. At the institutional level, lack of an interconnected network and mutual accountability, resource and funding constraints, and high staff turnover have adversely impacted overall institutional performance. Availability of reliable data evidence is limited or absent due to weak monitoring and evaluation systems and decentralized capacity, lack of sufficient local support, transparency issues in strategy development, and selection bias. At the individual level, there is a need to improve technical capacity on analytical thinking, quantitative and qualitative research tools, and the dissemination of communication, outreach, and information. Despite the climate change-related challenges in the country, there is less focus on environmental management, adaptation, and advanced technology implementation. The underrepresentation of key areas such as socio-cultural dynamics, governance, social protection, and cross-sectoral collaboration indicates a potential lack of integration in policymaking and implementation. Overall, there is an urgent need to reallocate resources to enhance the focus on underrepresented yet critical food systems areas, enhance inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral collaboration to ensure a more integrated approach to food systems management, and incorporate social inclusion and equity considerations. Forward-looking strategies should be developed that anticipate and respond to emerging challenges such as demographic shifts, globalization effects, and technological changes.

**Keywords:** Capacity, assessment, institutions, Niger, enabling environment, organizational capacity, individual capacity, food systems

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## 1. Introduction

Niger, a landlocked country in West Africa, faces persistent and severe food and nutrition insecurity. The nation's food system is under significant strain due to a combination of environmental degradation, climate variability, and socio-political instability. These intertwined challenges have created a fragile food landscape, where large segments of the population suffer from chronic undernourishment and malnutrition. Addressing these issues requires a transformative approach that not only enhances food availability and access but also strengthens institutional and human capacities to support systemic change.

Niger consistently ranks among the countries with the highest levels of food insecurity. According to the Global Hunger Index (GHI), the country often scores in the “alarming” category, reflecting widespread undernourishment, child wasting, stunting, and mortality (Global Hunger Index, 2023). Around 2.5 million people in Niger are food insecure each year, with the number rising significantly during the lean season (Fewsnet, 2022). This situation is exacerbated by poor dietary diversity, limited access to essential micronutrients, and inadequate knowledge of nutritional practices, especially among women and caregivers.

The Sahel region, including Niger, is particularly vulnerable to climate change. Increasing desertification, recurrent droughts, and erratic rainfall patterns have undermined agricultural productivity and disrupted traditional farming cycles (Herrmann & Tappan, 2013). The lack of consecutive rainy seasons results in crop losses and diminished pastureland for livestock, which is a critical livelihood source for many rural communities. Moreover, land degradation—driven by overgrazing, deforestation, and soil erosion—has led to the loss of fertile topsoil and declining yields, further straining the food system (USGS, 2009).

Political instability compounds environmental challenges. Niger has experienced multiple coups and governance disruptions, which weaken institutional frameworks, hinder effective policy implementation, and reduce investments in agricultural development. Insecurity in border regions, particularly due to insurgencies, has displaced populations, limited market access, and constrained humanitarian assistance, creating localized food crises.

In this context, a mapping and capacity needs assessment was conducted to analyze the status, challenges, and strengths of Niger’s food system. This paper documents the results of the institutional mapping and capacity needs assessment as well as recommendations that emerged from this exercise. The assessment was conducted at three levels—enabling environment, institutional, and individual—under five food systems domains (described below).

Table 1.1: Food Systems Domains

i) Environmental health and biodiversity
ii) Climate adaptation and mitigation
iii) Gender equality, youth, and social inclusion
iv) Poverty reduction, livelihoods, and jobs
v) Nutrition, health, and food security

Under each domain, institutions (see list in Annex 1) further identified the food components to which they are aligned. The components are listed in Table 1.2.

Table 1.2: Food Systems Components

i)	Inputs access
ii)	Production (primary)
iii)	Processing
iv)	Packaging
v)	Distribution and retailing
vi)	Consumption
vii)	Food availability
viii)	Access to food (affordability)
ix)	Nutritional value
x)	Food safety
xi)	Water
xii)	Weather
xiii)	Gas emission
xiv)	Land and soil
xv)	Pollution
xvi)	Trade
xvii)	Income growth and distribution
xviii)	Demographic shifts
xix)	Leadership and governance
xx)	Socio-cultural context
xxi)	Social protection
xxii)	Energy
xxiii)	Science and technology
xxiv)	Investment
xxv)	Equity
xxvi)	Other

In the complex interplay of factors that shape food systems, institutions emerge as crucial entities whose roles and functions significantly impact the outcomes related to food security, nutrition, sustainability, and equity. Analyzing these institutions in terms of their capacities to meet their goals and objectives, provides deep insights that are fundamental to both understanding and effectively managing food systems transformation at various levels—from local communities to global networks.

Institutions, whether formal, such as governmental bodies and international agencies, or informal, such as local community practices and norms, dictate the dynamics of food systems. They set the rules, enforce policies, and foster the cultural context in which food systems operate. By examining these institutions, researchers and policymakers can pinpoint where interventions may be most needed and what actions could lead to enhanced resilience and effectiveness in food systems. For instance, Brouwer, McDermott, and Ruben (2020) highlight how food systems approaches such as supply, mid-stream, demand, and systemic approaches can improve practical insights into the transitions in diets and sustainable resource use, thereby offering entry points for transformation that can address systemic challenges.

Analyzing institutions also sheds light on the trade-offs and synergies between different objectives within food systems, such as balancing multiple objectives of environmental sustainability with economic viability and social equity. Understanding these trade-offs is essential for developing strategic interventions that promote more sustainable and equitable food systems. Ruben, Verhagen, and Plaisier (2018) discuss the

importance of institutional roles in leveraging food system adaptation and managing transformations, emphasizing the critical system interfaces that must be considered to achieve a balanced approach.

Institutions are also pivotal in the formulation and implementation of effective policies aimed at improving food safety, nutritional outcomes, and overall public health. Kanter et al. (2015) provide a framework that helps policymakers understand the key relationships among agriculture, food systems, nutrition, and public health, thereby informing more effective policy interventions. Such frameworks are also useful to analyze the capacity gaps at various levels. Manlosa et al. (2022) underscore the importance of understanding how institutions can influence food systems transformations in a way that mitigates risks and promotes equitable outcomes, especially in the Global South.

Lastly, effective technical, managerial, and governance capacities, for example, facilitated by robust institutional analysis, can ensure that various components of food systems are transformative and inclusive and that their benefits are equitably distributed. Institutions are the scaffolding that supports the mechanisms of inclusion, participation, and benefit sharing within food systems. The role of institutions in enhancing the inclusivity and responsiveness of food systems is critical especially in contexts where risks of exclusion and inequality are high (Alarcón et al., 2021).

Analyzing institutions within food systems and assessing their capacities for delivering on their strategic objectives and goals are practical approaches that inform and enhance the governance, sustainability, and equity of food systems. Such analysis is indispensable for designing interventions that address the multifaceted challenges facing food systems in the 21st century.

## 2. Data collection

Data collection activities for the study began in July 2023. During the initial phase, secondary data collection was conducted. An exhaustive list of actors in Niger's agrifood system was compiled by consulting the websites of organizations such as the FAO, World Bank, UNICEF, the National Institute of Statistics, and relevant government ministries. Documents published by institutions and individual researchers in the field were also reviewed. Information about the types of organizations and their areas of intervention was gathered. Additionally, data were collected on specific policies, programs, and strategies related to the agrifood sector.

To carry out primary data collection, five (5) data collection agents were mobilized. For the more extensive primary data collection phase, a total of 35 agents were deployed. These included 9 supervisors, 21 field interviewers, 3 field coordinators, 1 data manager, and 1 project manager. The teams were regionally distributed as follows:

- Agadez, Diffa, and Zinder: Three teams of four members each
- Maradi, Tahoua, Tillabéri, and Dosso: Four teams of three members each
- Urban district of Niamey: Two teams of three members each

To ensure efficient oversight, three field coordinators were assigned, each responsible for supervising three teams. A dedicated data manager oversaw quality assurance throughout the data collection process. Based on the list of actors compiled through documentary and secondary data collection processes, key stakeholders were identified in the agrifood sector across all departments and regional capitals. The field teams conducted interviews with the identified stakeholders. However, there were certain departments where accessibility was challenging due to various reasons including insecurity and were therefore excluded from field visits. To support team mobility and logistical needs, vehicles with drivers were provided for each team for the duration of the mission.

Table 2.1 below presents the number of interviews conducted during data collection in the regions according to each area of intervention. The majority of the interviewed actors are in the fields of nutrition, health, and food security.

Table 2.1: Area of intervention by region

Intervention areas	Agadez	Dosso	Tahoua	Tillabéri	C.U. Niamey	Total
Nutrition, health, and food security						
No	14	17	8	1	17	93
Yes	21	15	56	42	39	246
Total	<b>35</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>64</b>	43	<b>56</b>	<b>339</b>
Poverty reduction, livelihoods, and jobs						
No	9	13	20	19	19	120
Yes	26	19	44	24	37	219
Total	<b>35</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>64</b>	43	<b>56</b>	<b>339</b>
Gender equality, youth, and social inclusion						
No	25	23	47	35	20	238
Yes	10	9	17	8	36	101
Total	<b>35</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>64</b>	43	<b>56</b>	<b>339</b>
Climate adaptation and mitigation						
No	31	28	55	29	34	275
Yes	4	4	9	14	22	64
Total	<b>35</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>64</b>	43	<b>56</b>	<b>339</b>
Environmental health and biodiversity						
No	26	31	57	39	33	279
Yes	9	1	7	4	23	60
Total	<b>35</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>64</b>	43	<b>56</b>	<b>339</b>

Some of the challenges encountered during the data collection process include technical difficulties and access to key stakeholders. In Niamey, scheduling interviews often required multiple attempts to secure approval from senior officials within organizations. Once initial authorization was granted, a second appointment had to be arranged with the designated respondent, adding to delays.

Gaining access to state institutions such as ministries and international organizations proved even more complex due to the country's transitional political situation. In several cases, key contacts were either unavailable or unknown, making it difficult to establish communication. However, existing professional networks sometimes facilitated entry into these institutions.

Physical accessibility to certain departments also presented challenges. Road closures, deteriorated infrastructure, and difficult terrain—such as sandy paths and narrowed roads—limited mobility in remote areas. Teams navigated these regions with caution and, in some instances, enlisted local guides to help circumvent obstacles. Furthermore, residual insecurity remained a concern, particularly in the Bermo department, where reports of attacks contributed to the overall risk landscape.

Despite these challenges, the data collection process was executed successfully. The commitment, professionalism, and adaptability demonstrated by supervisors, coordinators, and investigators were instrumental in the smooth progression of this critical phase of the study. Their collective efforts ensured that high-quality data were gathered, even in the face of complex field realities.

### 3. Descriptive analysis

An examination of the distribution of institutions involved in food systems activities across Niger reveals a marked regional disparity, warranting both critical analysis and strategic attention. Among the 338 institutions surveyed, there is a notable concentration of institutional presence in certain regions, particularly Tahoua and the Urban Community of Niamey, contrasted by a significantly lower institutional presence in areas such as Diffa and Agadez (Table 3.1).

Tahoua registers the highest proportion, with 18.93 percent of institutions located there. This substantial figure likely reflects concentrated engagement with agricultural development and food security initiatives. The region’s specific environmental conditions, agricultural potential, or socioeconomic vulnerabilities may be key drivers behind this dense institutional footprint. Such a presence may also suggest that Tahoua is a focal point for both intervention and investment in food systems, either because of heightened need or favorable conditions for development.

The capital, C.U. Niamey, follows with 16.57 percent of institutions. While also a significant share, this concentration appears more reflective of administrative centralization than regional food systems demand. As the political and bureaucratic hub of Niger, Niamey naturally attracts government bodies, NGOs, and international agencies involved in policy formulation and national-level coordination. Thus, its institutional density likely stems from logistical and operational centrality rather than from direct agricultural or nutritional imperatives.

This uneven distribution points to an important dynamic: institutional presence may not always align with regional needs. Understanding whether this pattern reflects effectiveness, oversight, or imbalance will be crucial for shaping more equitable and targeted food systems interventions across the country.

Table 3.1: Institutions by region

<b>Region</b>	<b>Number of institutions</b>
Agadez	34 (10%)
Diffa	30 (8.9%)
Dosso	32 (9.5%)
Maradi	36 (10.6%)
Tahoua	64 (18.9%)
Tillabéri	43 (12.7%)
Zinder	43 (12.7%)
C.U.Niamey	56 (16.6%)

Source: Capacity needs assessment survey results

At the opposite end of the distribution spectrum, the regions of Agadez and Diffa are significantly underrepresented, hosting only 10.06 percent and 8.88 percent of institutions, respectively. This limited presence may stem from a combination of geographic remoteness, lower levels of economic development, and persistent security concerns—all of which pose challenges to establishing and sustaining food systems institutions. These low figures raise important concerns about the adequacy of institutional support and resource distribution in areas already marked by systemic vulnerabilities. The implications for this uneven

landscape are far-reaching. First, there is a pressing need for more equitable resource allocation. Ensuring that underrepresented regions receive focused investment and institutional support is essential to strengthening their food systems and addressing disparities in food security and agricultural capacity.

Second, the current distribution calls for more nuanced policy development. Stakeholders, including government agencies and development partners, must assess whether institutional concentrations genuinely reflect regional needs. Where discrepancies exist, strategic adjustments should be made to ensure a fairer alignment of institutional presence with local vulnerabilities. Additionally, further research is warranted to explore the underlying drivers of institutional distribution. Variables such as population density, infrastructure quality, economic activity, and logistical accessibility likely play a significant role. A clearer understanding of these dynamics will enable more targeted and effective interventions.

Finally, regions with a higher concentration of institutions—such as Tahoua and Niamey—could be leveraged as hubs for knowledge exchange and resource-sharing. Establishing inter-regional networks and collaboration platforms may promote the dissemination of best practices, innovations, and lessons learned, thereby enhancing the national response to food systems challenges. This analysis not only illustrates the current state of institutional involvement across Niger but also underscores critical opportunities for improvement. Achieving balanced and sustainable progress in the country's food systems will require a strategic, evidence-based, and regionally sensitive approach moving forward.

### 3.1. Institutions by food systems domains/impact areas

The distribution of institutions involved in food systems activities in Niger (Table 3.2), as indicated by the shares in various impact areas, provides a revealing glimpse into the priorities and potential gaps in the country's food systems strategy. The highest share of institutions, at 72 percent of the total, is focused on nutrition, health, and food security. This priority is not surprising given the critical importance of these areas in ensuring the well-being and sustainability of food systems. The significant focus here likely reflects the acute challenges Niger faces regarding malnutrition and food insecurity. This concentration underscores ongoing efforts to improve access to nutritious food and enhance the health outcomes of the population.

Following closely, 64 percent of institutions are engaged in poverty reduction, livelihoods, and jobs. This focus is crucial for Niger, where economic challenges and high poverty rates necessitate sustained efforts to boost economic development through agricultural and food systems endeavors. Institutions in this area are likely working towards enhancing agricultural productivity, creating market opportunities, and improving income stability for communities, which are essential for overall economic resilience.

The engagement of 30 percent of institutions in gender equality, youth, and social inclusion indicates a growing recognition of the need to address these cross-cutting issues. Promoting inclusivity in food systems can lead to more equitable and sustainable outcomes, ensuring that all segments of the population, especially women and youth, are empowered and have equal opportunities to contribute to and benefit from food systems activities.

The involvement of 19 percent of institutions in climate adaptation and mitigation reflects an awareness of the impacts of climate change on agriculture and food security. However, given Niger's vulnerability to climate-related issues such as drought and desertification, this area might be under-prioritized. Increasing the focus here could strengthen the resilience of food systems against climate variability and enhance long-term sustainability.

Environmental health and biodiversity receives the least focus (17%), suggesting there may be a significant gap in addressing the environmental dimensions of food systems. Given the importance of maintaining ecosystem health for sustainable agricultural practices, this area may require greater emphasis.

Strengthening efforts in this domain could help preserve biodiversity, enhance soil health, and ensure the sustainability of natural resources crucial for food production.

Table 3.2: Institutions by domain

<b>Domain</b>	<b>Proportion of institutions</b>
Nutrition, health, and food security	0.72
Poverty reduction, livelihoods, and jobs	0.64
Gender equality, youth, and social inclusion	0.30
Climate adaptation and mitigation	0.19
Environmental health and biodiversity	0.17

Source: Capacity needs assessment survey results

The current distribution of institutional focus areas in Niger's food systems underscores the importance of maintaining a balanced and comprehensive approach. While the prioritization of nutrition, health, and poverty reduction is both necessary and justified, there is a pressing need to elevate attention to climate adaptation, environmental health, and biodiversity. A more balanced allocation of institutional efforts would not only address immediate challenges but also strengthen the long-term resilience and sustainability of food systems. Underrepresented areas such as climate resilience and environmental stewardship require enhanced support and resource investment. Targeted initiatives in these domains—especially those leveraging innovative technologies and sustainable practices—could play a pivotal role in confronting Niger's climate vulnerabilities and ecological pressures. Moreover, the integration of strategies across multiple sectors holds promise for more holistic outcomes. For instance, programs that simultaneously address poverty alleviation and environmental conservation may generate synergistic benefits and foster resilient livelihoods while protecting vital natural resources. Ultimately, while the current institutional priorities align with urgent needs, this moment presents an opportunity to reassess and realign focus. Doing so will be essential not only for meeting immediate goals but also for laying a stronger, more sustainable foundation for the future of Niger's food systems.

### 3.2. Institutions by role

The distribution of institutional roles in Niger's food systems (Table 3.3) illustrates a wide range of engagement across key functional areas, though the level of emphasis varies considerably. This distribution reflects not only current national priorities but also highlights areas where further attention and investment may be necessary.

A substantial majority of institutions (75%) are concentrated on supporting agriculture and food security. This dominant focus is both expected and appropriate, given agriculture's central role in Niger's economy and the persistent challenges of food insecurity. The emphasis reflects a strategic commitment to improving agricultural productivity, ensuring food availability, and enhancing access to nutrition—critical components for achieving socioeconomic stability.

Other significant areas of institutional involvement include food governance (47%) and natural resource management (38%). These roles are essential in building sustainable systems. Effective food governance ensures equitable policy implementation and resource allocation, while responsible natural resource

management is vital for preserving the country’s fragile ecosystems and ensuring long-term agricultural viability.

Moderate institutional engagement is seen in climate change adaptation (26%) and capacity building (22%). While these figures suggest some recognition of their importance, the level of involvement may not yet match the urgency of the challenges they address. Climate variability continues to pose a serious threat to agriculture and food systems, and without broader institutional commitment, resilience may remain limited. Similarly, capacity building, which is vital to equip stakeholders with the knowledge and tools needed to adapt and innovate, requires stronger emphasis to support system-wide transformation.

At the lower end of the distribution, only a small proportion of institutions focus on combating malnutrition, environmental education, and biodiversity protection—each representing around 12 percent or less. These areas are nonetheless critical. Neglecting them risks undermining the holistic functioning of food systems. Addressing malnutrition is not only a health priority but also a social and economic one, while environmental education and biodiversity preservation are foundational to long-term sustainability.

In sum, while the current distribution of roles demonstrates a robust response to agricultural and food security needs, there is a clear opportunity—and necessity—to broaden institutional engagement. A more balanced approach that strengthens underrepresented areas would support the development of a truly integrated and resilient food system in Niger.

Table 3.3: Institutions by role

<b>Role</b>	<b>Proportion of institutions</b>
Support for agriculture and food security	0.75
Managing natural resources	0.38
Combating malnutrition	0.12
Food information systems	0.15
Capacity building	0.22
Support for food governance	0.47
Environmental education	0.12
Protecting biodiversity	0.10
Climate change adaptation	0.26
Collaboration with other ministries	0.07
Regulation and compliance	0.12

Source: Capacity needs assessment survey results

The minimal focus on collaboration with other ministries, at only 7 percent, suggests a potential silo effect where food systems activities might not be effectively integrated with other national development

initiatives. Enhancing inter-ministerial collaboration could foster more holistic and effective policies and programs that address the multi-dimensional challenges of food systems.

The current distribution of institutional roles highlights the importance of reassessing priorities to achieve a more balanced and integrated food systems approach in Niger. While the strong focus on agriculture and food security is both justified and necessary, it must be complemented by greater attention to underrepresented yet vital areas such as malnutrition, environmental education, and biodiversity preservation. These components are essential for ensuring long-term sustainability and health outcomes. Moreover, enhancing cross-sectoral collaboration—particularly with ministries beyond agriculture—could foster more holistic and coordinated interventions, allowing for synergies across sectors such as health, environment, education, and infrastructure. This kind of integrated effort is likely to yield more resilient and inclusive outcomes. Strengthening the institutional focus on climate adaptation, environmental awareness, and biodiversity is also critical, given the growing environmental pressures facing the country. By building climate resilience and promoting sustainable resource management, Niger can better safeguard its food systems against future shocks. Overall, while current institutional engagement demonstrates commitment in key areas, there remains a significant opportunity to broaden the scope and depth of focus. A strategic expansion into interconnected domains will be essential for creating a food system that is not only productive but also resilient, inclusive, and environmentally sound.

### 3.3. Institutions by food component

The distribution of institutions involved in food systems activities in Niger, as outlined in Table 3.4, offers a comprehensive view of where institutional efforts are concentrated and where critical gaps remain. This analysis provides valuable insight into both the strengths and shortcomings of current strategies aimed at addressing the complexities of food systems across the country.

The findings reveal a strong institutional focus on primary production (54%), food processing (49%), and access to agricultural inputs (43%). These components form the backbone of the food system, and their prominence reflects ongoing efforts to enhance agricultural productivity, improve processing infrastructure, and ensure that farmers have access to essential resources such as seeds, fertilizers, and tools. These priorities are closely aligned with national food security goals, aiming to boost output and overall efficiency. Similarly, significant engagement in trade (46%) and food safety (43%) underscores the importance of developing well-regulated markets and ensuring the safety and quality of food products, which are essential for consumer protection and economic growth.

Nearly half of the institutions are also engaged in food consumption (48%) and distribution and retailing (40%), pointing to attention on the downstream elements of the food supply chain. These activities are vital for ensuring that food reaches consumers in an equitable and efficient manner and that consumption patterns are shaped to promote health and sustainability. While nutritional value (35%) and affordability (26%) receive moderate attention, these areas are fundamental to the accessibility of quality diets, especially for vulnerable populations.

In contrast, environmental components of the food system are notably underrepresented. Institutional focus on critical areas such as water (14%), land and soil (17%), gas emissions (4%), and pollution (9%) remains limited. This is a concerning gap, given the central role that environmental health plays in the sustainability of agricultural practices and the resilience of food systems. The minimal emphasis on weather-related factors (3%), energy (2%), and science and technology (7%) suggests that emerging challenges—such as climate variability, renewable energy needs, and innovation—are not yet being adequately addressed within the institutional landscape.

Equally important yet less emphasized are the socioeconomic and policy dimensions of food systems, including leadership and governance, social protection, and investment. These areas are critical for enabling structural reforms and supporting inclusive, long-term development. Without stronger institutional engagement in these domains, broader systemic change may remain out of reach.

In sum, while institutional engagement in core areas of food production and access is strong, the relatively low focus on environmental, technological, and governance-related components points to an opportunity—and an imperative—to rebalance efforts. A more integrated and forward-looking approach will be essential for building a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable food system in Niger.

Table 3.4: Institutions by food systems component

<b>Food components</b>	<b>Proportion of institutions</b>
Inputs access	0.43
Production (primary)	0.54
Processing	0.49
Packaging	0.20
Distribution and retailing	0.40
Consumption	0.48
Food availability	0.24
Access to food (affordability)	0.26
Nutritional value	0.35
Food safety	0.43
Water	0.14
Weather	0.03
Gas emission	0.04
Land and soil	0.17
Pollution	0.09
Trade	0.46
Income growth and distribution	0.09
Demographic shifts	0.04
Leadership and Governance	0.12
Socio-cultural context	0.11
Social protection	0.19
Energy	0.02
Science and technology	0.07
Investment	0.14
Equity	0.14
Other (specify)	0.06

Source: Capacity needs assessment survey results

The analysis underscores several important implications for the future development of Niger’s food systems. First, limited institutional attention to environmental and technological components may significantly constrain efforts to build resilience and sustainability. Enhancing engagement in these areas could unlock the potential of emerging technologies while promoting better environmental stewardship—both of which are essential in the face of accelerating climate risks and resource degradation. Moreover, while the current emphasis on production and food safety addresses urgent needs, a more balanced approach is required to meet longer-term objectives. Issues such as environmental conservation, climate adaptation, and natural resource management must be more fully integrated into institutional strategies. A holistic approach that incorporates social, economic, and environmental dimensions is also vital. Strengthening components such as social protection, governance, and targeted investment would support a more equitable and comprehensive food systems transformation. Additionally, institutions must remain agile in responding to emerging challenges, including demographic shifts, climate variability, and increasing energy demands. Anticipating and preparing for these stressors will be key to maintaining food systems stability in the years ahead. Overall, while Niger’s food systems activities demonstrate considerable engagement in core sectors, there is a clear opportunity—and need—to broaden the institutional scope to ensure the development of a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable food system.

#### 4. Capacity needs assessment

Below is a brief description of the three capacity levels—enabling environment, organizational, and individual—under which this assessment was conducted.

##### Enabling environment

The analysis of the enabling policy environment focused on obtaining information about the nature of systems level leadership and strategic guidance as well as available communication channels and coordination mechanisms. Existing strengths and areas for improvement at the policy level were identified. The targeted actors included government, civil society, private sector, donors and development partners, and research institutions, among others.

##### Organizational level

The analysis here focused on the role of institutions and various organizational capacity dimensions (operations, strategy development and revision, motivation, analysis, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), among others) along the food systems value chain. The analysis also covered the institutions’ perspectives on the existing needs for improving the systems, including issues, constraints, and challenges faced in their efforts to improve effective functioning.

##### Individual level

The individual-level analysis focused on individuals who are directly involved in the food systems policy processes and implementation in terms of their proficiency levels for i) information generation and use; ii) conceptualizing problems and potential solutions; iii) research and development; and iv) communication, outreach, and information dissemination. The results included identifying existing gaps and capacity as well as ways to improve performance levels. Table 4.1 presents the key aspects and indicators which were analyzed under the three levels of capacity.

Table 4.1: Key aspects analyzed under the three levels of capacity

Level	Indicators
Enabling environment	1. Leadership is responsive, inspiring, and sensitive.

	<p>2. Leaders of the policy process organizations provide appropriate strategic guidance.</p>
<p>Organizational</p>	<p><i>Operational capacity</i></p> <p>3. Vision, mission, and strategies are regularly discussed within your organisation.</p> <p>4. Organization has clear operational plans to carry out its mandate and objectives, which all members/staff fully understand.</p> <p>5. Staff are able to implement your organization's operational plans.</p> <p>6. Organization delivers its planned outputs in a timely fashion</p> <p>7. Organization has mechanisms in place to verify that its services meet client, stakeholder, or beneficiary needs.</p> <p><i>Strategy development</i></p> <p>8. Policies/strategies are developed through a participatory and consultative process with multiple opportunities to obtain stakeholder and public input that yields evidence-based solutions.</p> <p>9. The policy/strategy making process is transparent and evidence-based, and reflects country’s food system vulnerabilities and ways to transform.</p> <p><i>Strategy revision</i></p> <p>10. There is sufficient decentralization of power to ensure strategies can be immediately adapted or revised as needed to fit local contexts.</p> <p>11. There is capacity to develop policy strategy revisions based on the effects of shocks on the food production systems.</p> <p><i>Institutional motivation</i></p> <p>12. Member or staff turnover in your organization is relatively low.</p> <p>13. Members and staff of your organization have the necessary skills to use evidence for strategic analysis and other policy-related work.</p> <p>14. Appropriate incentives are in place to sustain member/staff motivation. Incentives could be financial, nonfinancial, awards, recognition, gaining prestige, ability to influence policies, and so forth.</p> <p>15. There is adequate funding from multiple sources to cover the cost of operations.</p> <p>16. There is strong capacity for communications and sharing research findings with state agencies, farmers, the private sector, and others.</p> <p><i>Analysis</i></p> <p>17. There is a linked network of private, public, nonprofit, and academic researchers, which your organization is a part of, that hold each other accountable for unbiased evidence generation in your sector.</p> <p>18. There is strong interdisciplinary research connections (e.g., agriculture, nutrition, environment).</p> <p><i>Implementation</i></p> <p>19. Ensure effective implementation at the grassroots level, there is strong decentralized capacity and clear communication channels between administrative levels.</p> <p>20. Capable and adaptable extension system, local NGO support, and private sector for sector specific support</p>

	<p><i>M&amp;E</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>21. M&amp;E data on policy outputs and outcomes that are integrated with national statistical collection system; evaluation as a mandatory component of policymaking.</li> <li>22. Data is collected to both predict and monitor food systems-related shocks or threats.</li> <li>23. M&amp;E of production process, from farmer to consumer, is integrated into the agricultural research system.</li> <li>24. Sector reviews are performed, and other research evidence is collected to effectively assess the effects of delivered products and services (outcomes) for future strategy making.</li> <li>25. Activities, outputs, outcomes, and performance markers are effectively assessed through M&amp;E activities to address programs and policies related to food systems transformation.</li> <li>26. Internal management and evaluation of your organization stimulates frequent critical reflection that results in learning from mistakes.</li> <li>27. Members/staff of your organization feel free to come up with ideas for implementation of food systems transformation.</li> <li>28. Your organization has an effective system to stay in touch with general trends and developments related to food systems.</li> <li>29. Your organization is effective in being open and responsive to its actors and the general public.</li> </ol>
Individual	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30. Capacity for information generation and use (survey design, enumeration, data processing, statistical analysis of survey indicators, price and market data analysis, predictors of potential shocks, food production, nutrition content, food waste).</li> <li>31. Capacity for conceptualizing problems and potential solutions (knowledge and awareness of potential shocks to different value chain segments and extent of risk in food production; training on issues related to food, nutrition, agriculture, and related areas, such as climate change, conflict, disaster management; risk analysis and contingency planning).</li> <li>32. Capacity for research and development (economic analysis, modeling, cost-benefit analysis, community studies, focus group discussions; market trend analysis, ex ante evaluations; technical agricultural and environmental research capacity, encouragement of farm-level innovation, assessments of indigenous coping strategies).</li> <li>33. Capacity for communication, outreach, and information dissemination (communication capacity to discuss new policies and quickly address potential problems; policy memos, radio reports, and so on; capacity to create information channels to efficiently disseminate early warning information, food prices, market data; capacity to create information channels to efficiently disseminate early warning information, food prices, market data).</li> </ol>

Source: Authors' illustration.

5. Assessment results

5.1. Enabling environment

At the policy systems level, strong and effective leadership is a fundamental driver of food systems transformation. In Niger, evidence suggests that the government has made meaningful progress in providing responsive leadership, particularly in addressing food systems challenges. Across various domains, a majority of institutions perceive national leadership as responsive, engaged, and capable of inspiring positive change. Notable strengths include a sustained commitment to food security, the promotion of innovation and sustainable agricultural practices, and active engagement with local stakeholders and civil society actors (Figure 1a). These elements have collectively contributed to a strong food systems leadership foundation.

However, perceptions of strategic leadership are more mixed. Between one-quarter and one-third of institutions surveyed across all domains reported that strategic guidance at the policy level is either weak or lacking (Figure 1b). Several systemic challenges help explain this concern. Persistent reliance on food aid, limited access to agricultural education, underdeveloped infrastructure, and Niger’s acute vulnerability to climate change all place pressure on leadership capacities. In addition, institutional fragility and conflict continue to disrupt food production and distribution systems. Compounding these structural barriers are governance issues such as corruption and a lack of reliable data, both of which impede effective analysis and evidence-based policymaking. These limitations suggest that while leadership in Niger's food systems shows promise, particularly in responsiveness, there is a critical need to strengthen its strategic depth and institutional support to drive transformative and sustainable change.

Figure 1a

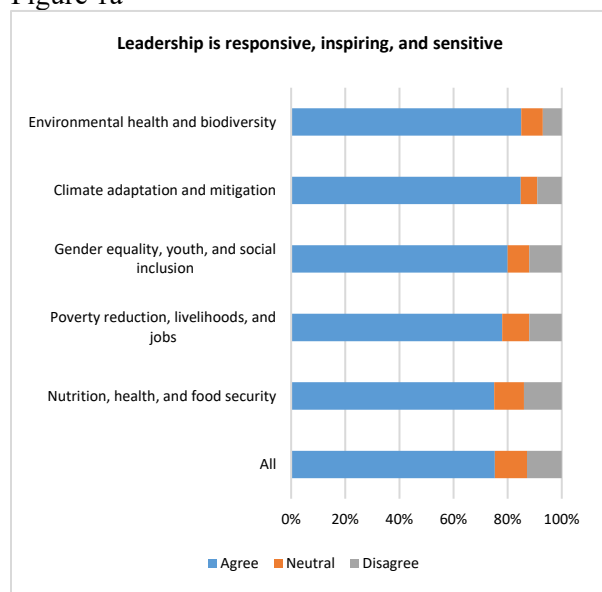
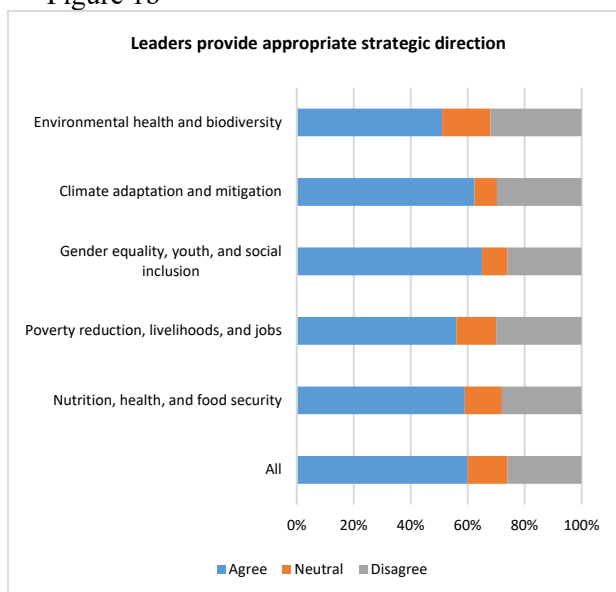


Figure 1b



Source: Capacity needs assessment survey results.

## 5.2. Organizational Capacity

Organizational capacity was analyzed under various dimensions. Overall, on many of the key indicators across the food systems domains, majority of respondents agree that there is sufficient capacity. But lack of coordination within the network, weaknesses in the monitoring and evaluation systems, and regional differences and resource constraints are a few major capacity challenges identified at this level. One example is strategy development, which has enabled a better understanding of the real problems and needs of the populations through informed decision making and long-term planning. By contributing to new and innovative ideas, it has enhanced the transparency and accountability of decision-makers and helped in building consensus amongst stakeholders. But challenges remain. Below, we discuss the findings for the major dimensions of organizational capacity (see Table 3.4 for list of dimensions).

*Operational capacity*

From figure 2a and 2b it is evident that, in most institutions, vision, mission, and strategies are discussed regularly with staff, and there are clear operational plans and objectives. However, the proportion of respondents who agree that staff can implement these operational plans is lower (Figure 2c). This highlights the need to provide organizational trainings to staff on how to effectively implement operational strategies. Under the nutrition, health, and food security and poverty reduction, livelihoods, and jobs domains, a higher proportion of institutions disagree that the organization has available mechanisms to verify that stakeholder needs are being met (Figure 2d). Similarly, over 20 percent of the institutions in domains of nutrition, health, and food security; gender equality, youth, and social inclusion; and poverty reduction, livelihoods, and jobs, respectively, do not agree that their organizations deliver the expected results in time, indicating operational delays (Figure 2e).

Figure 2a

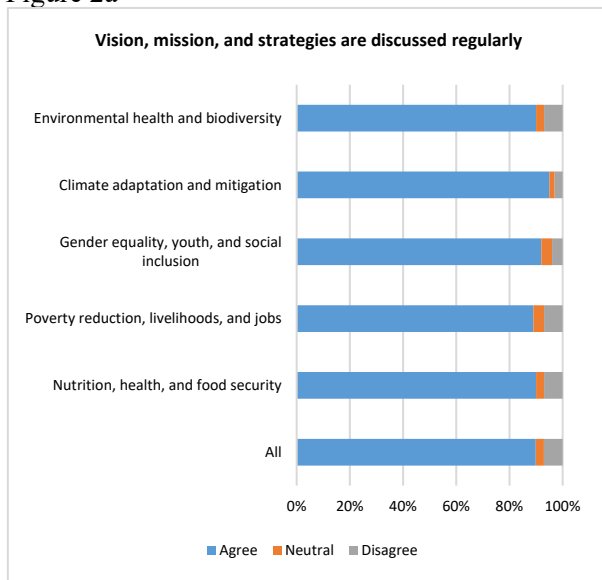


Figure 2b

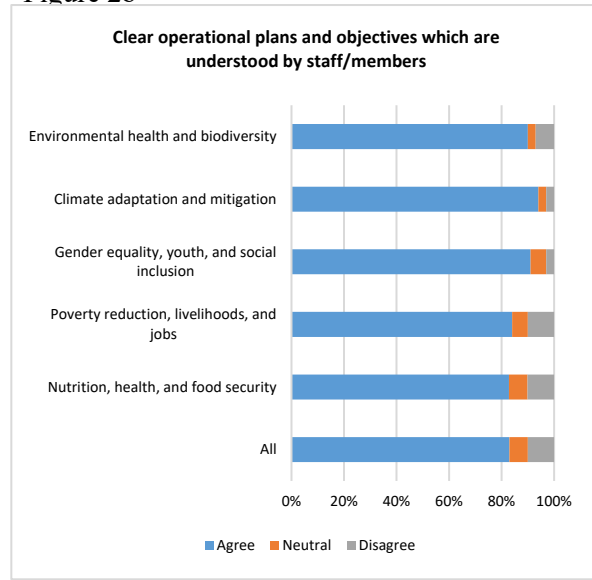


Figure 2c

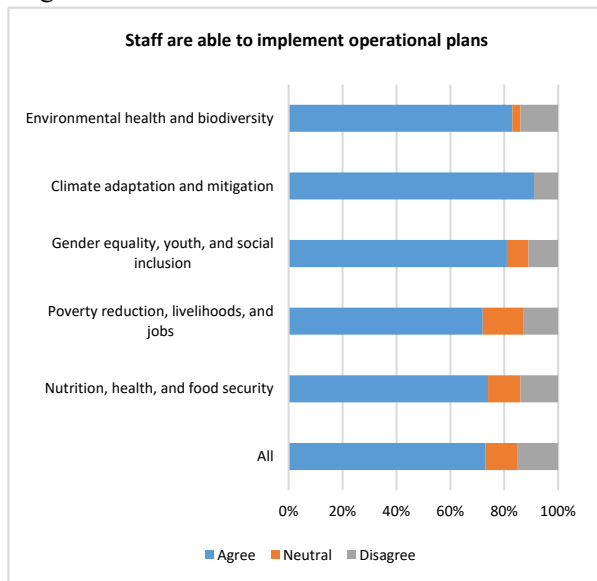


Figure 2d

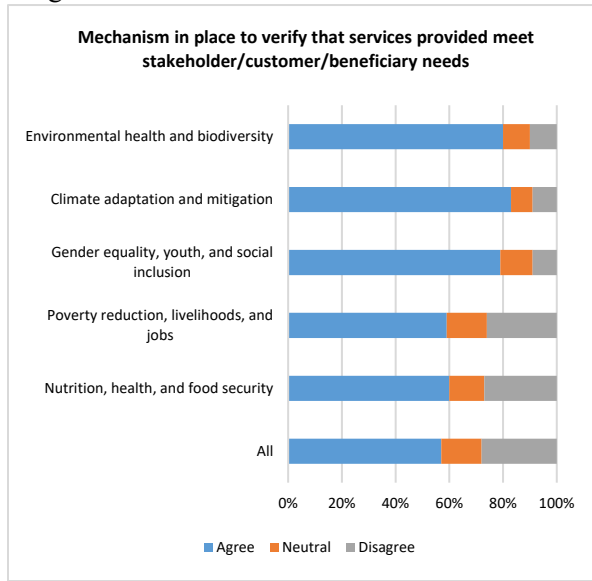
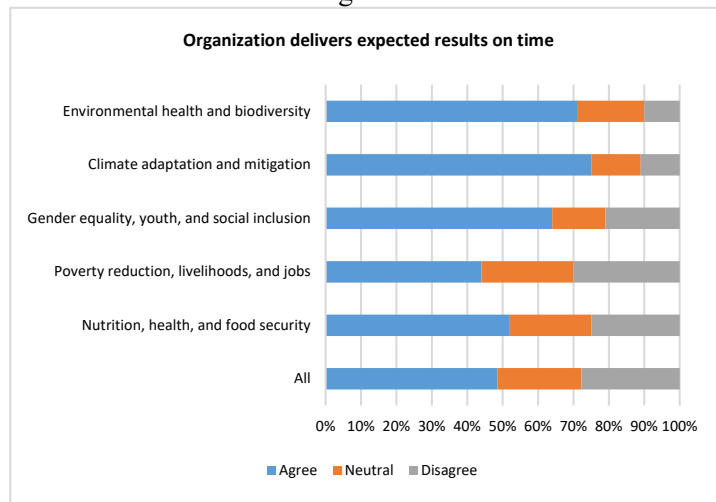


Figure 2e



Source: Capacity needs assessment survey results.

*Strategy development*

Overall, 60 percent of the institutions surveyed agree that policies and strategies are developed through a participatory and consultative process with multiple opportunities to obtain stakeholder and public input that yields evidence-based solutions (Figure 3a). But only 49 percent find the policy/strategy development process to be transparent and evidence-based, which might have an impact on the vulnerabilities of the country's food system (Figure 3b). Lack of transparency is attributed to high overall costs of strategy development, instances of influence by certain powerful interest groups seeking to manipulate results, and lack of effective negotiation and communication skills among certain stakeholders. Additionally, there is difficulty in communicating and disseminating results and decisions to stakeholders, leading to misunderstandings and dissatisfaction.

Figure 3a

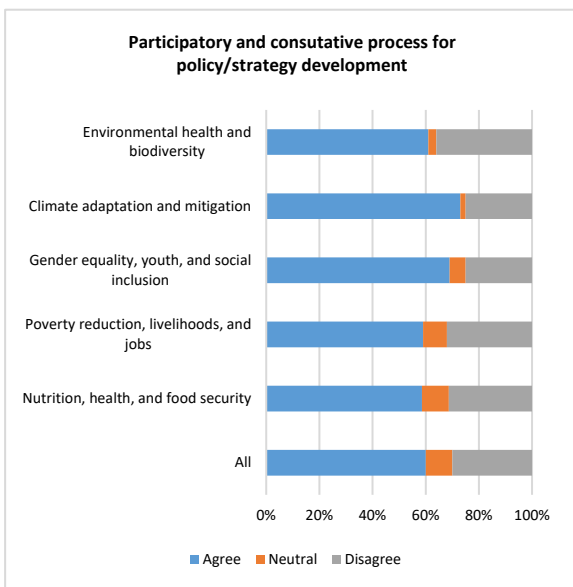
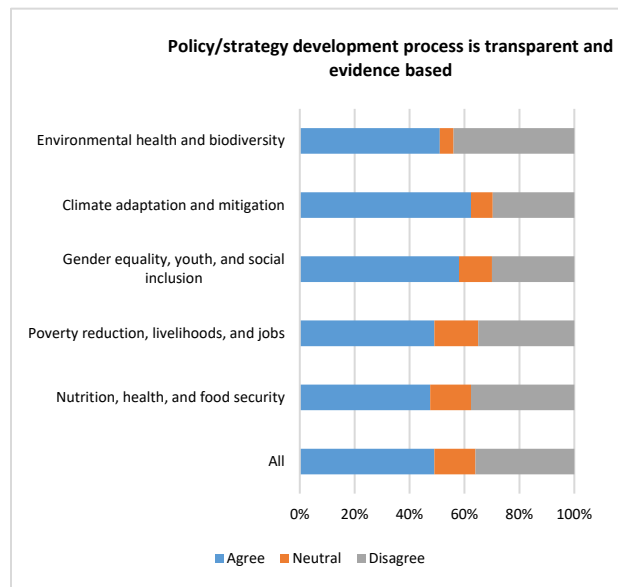


Figure 3b



Source: Capacity needs assessment survey results.

*Strategy revision*

Among the food systems domains, climate adaptation and mitigation has the highest proportion of respondents who agree that there is strong decentralized capacity to revise strategies based on the local context (Figure 4a). For the remaining domains, nearly a quarter of respondents feel that decentralization is insufficient for strategy revision purposes. Lack of financial, technical, and human resources and absence of mechanisms to properly monitor and evaluate policy and program implementation are reported as reasons for the capacity gap. In comparison to capacity for decentralized power, more respondents across domains agree that there is capacity to develop revisions of policy strategies based on the effects of shocks on food production systems—65 percent of respondents in the climate adaptation and mitigation and gender equality, youth, and social inclusion domains agreed to having this capacity (Figure 4b).

Figure 4a

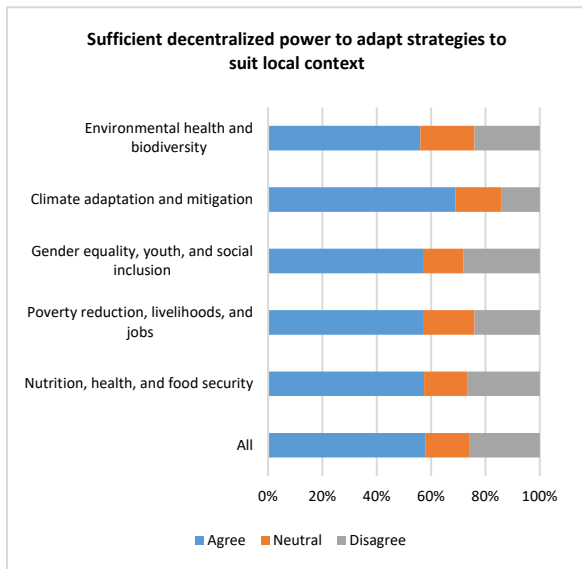
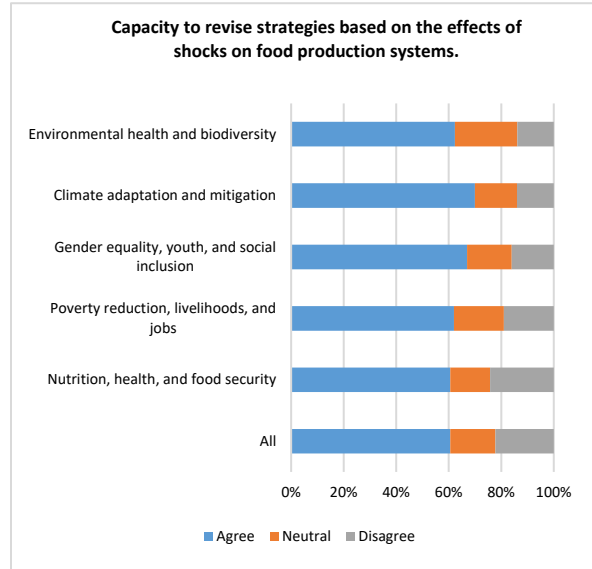


Figure 4b



Source: Capacity needs assessment survey results.

*Institutional motivation*

Across the food systems domains, nearly one-third of the institutions surveyed have a high turnover of staff or members (Figure 5a). Respondents cited the complexity of incentive systems coupled with excessive focus on rewards, and potential for unfairness by the employer as some of the reasons for the high turnover rate. A majority of the respondents agree that appropriate incentives improve institutional staff performance and help achieve organizational goals. Although, tied to the issue of high staff turnover, nearly 25 percent of the organizations do not have appropriate incentives in place to support member or staff motivation (Figure 5c). Funding is another major concern for over 40 percent of the organizations. For example, 58 percent of the organizations under the environmental health and biodiversity domain do not have sufficient funding from multiple sources to cover their cost of operations (Figure 5d). Among all the domains, the poverty reduction, livelihoods, and jobs domain has the highest proportion of institutions where members or staff have weak or negligible skills to use reliable data for strategic analysis and communicate and share results with stakeholders (Figure 5b and 5e).

Figure 5a

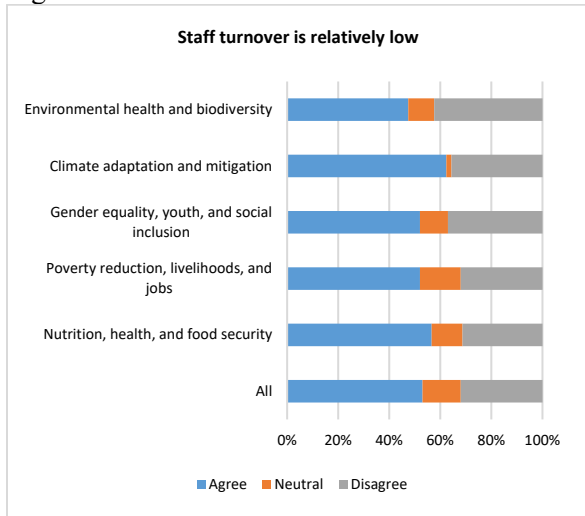


Figure 5b

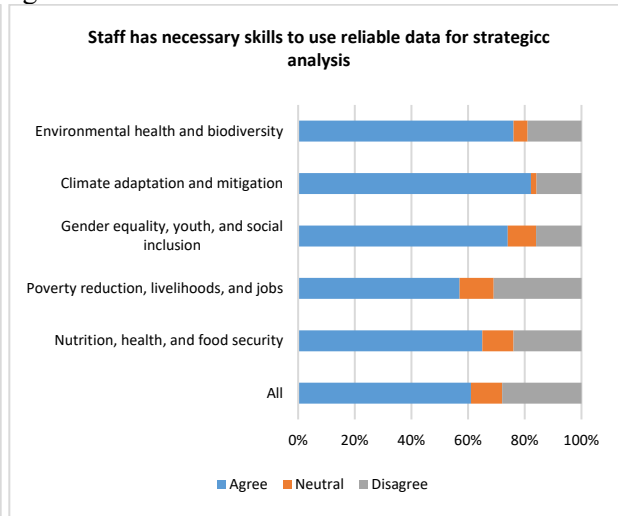


Figure 5c

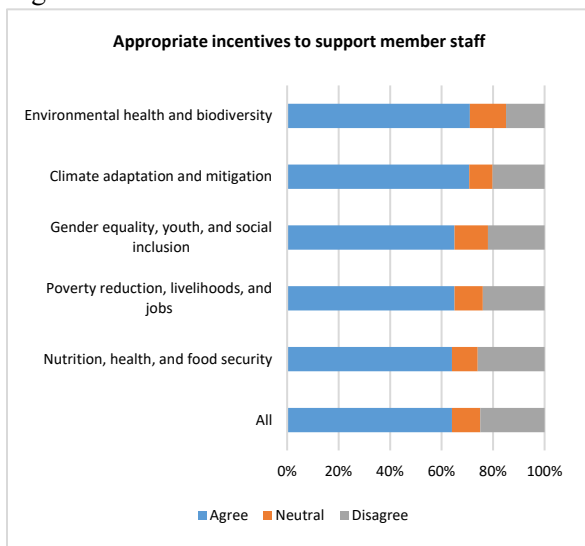


Figure 5d

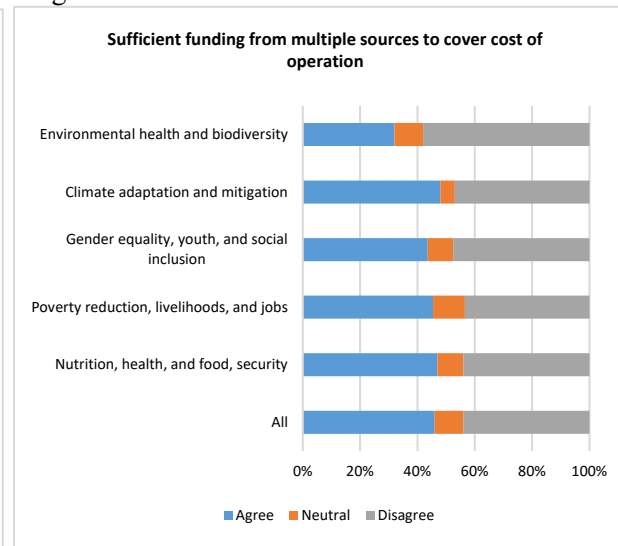
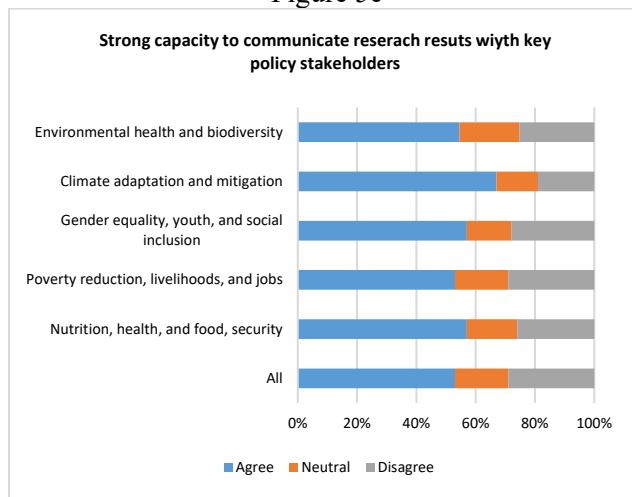


Figure 5e



Source: Capacity needs assessment survey results.

### Analysis

There are strong interdisciplinary research connections for approximately 68 percent of the survey respondents (Figure 6a). Despite this, in four out of five domains, more than 50 percent of respondents feel that there is a poorly linked network (private, public, nonprofit, and academic researchers including their organization), or complete lack thereof, that holds each other accountable for unbiased evidence generation (Figure 6b). This may lead to duplication of effort, loss of resources, and lack of alignment with common goals.

Many of the institutions stated that this is a consequence of limited research funding. Indeed, researchers within the network have unequal resources, particularly in terms of access to research infrastructure, funding, and equipment. Some researchers need additional training in collaboration, scientific communication, and project management. Researchers working in remote areas face challenges related to geographic isolation, difficult travel, and the costs associated with face-to-face meetings.

Figure 6a

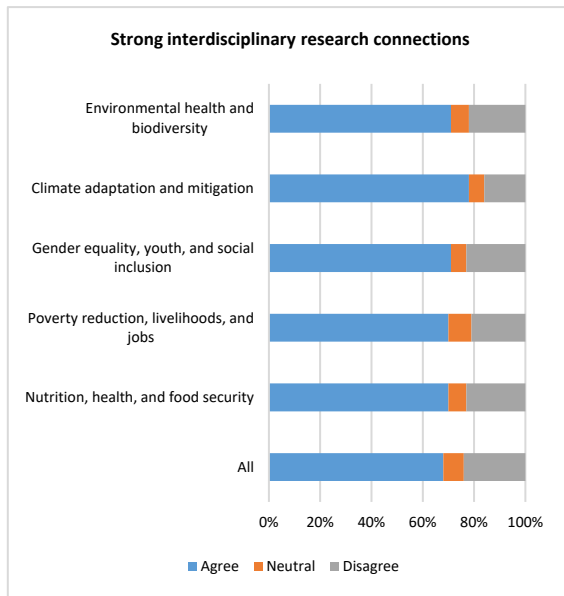
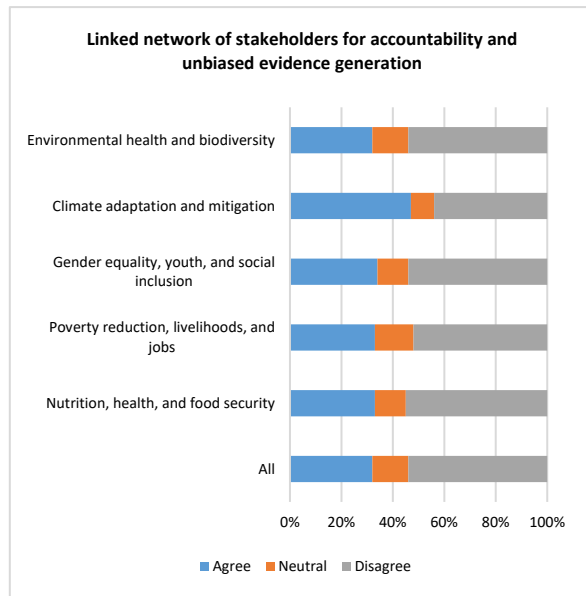


Figure 6b



Source: Capacity needs assessment survey results.

### Implementation

Decentralized capacity enables policies and programs to implement policies based on the specific needs of local communities. It promotes more efficient management of local resources and balanced development, providing local authorities the flexibility to react quickly to changing community needs. In Niger, the decentralized capacity necessary to ensure effective implementation at the local level is weak or absent—at least 25 percent of institutions across all the domains (Figure 7a). This can be attributed in part to the resource constraints—financial, technical, and human—and the absence of functioning monitoring and evaluation systems.

Sector-specific support from the local extension system can help reduce regional inequalities by investing in disadvantaged areas through policies specific to the local community's needs. But 28 percent of the institutions do not have the access to extension systems and support from NGOs and the private sector at the local level needed to be effective and adaptable. This ties back to the discussion on challenges with decentralized capacity and communication channels (Figure 7b).

Figure 7a

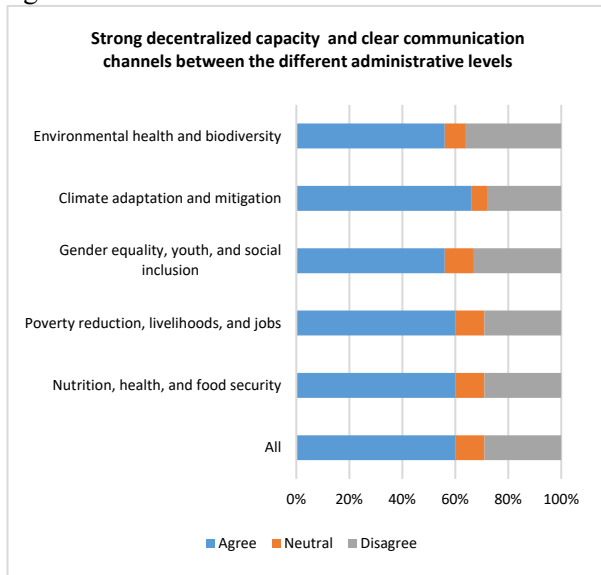
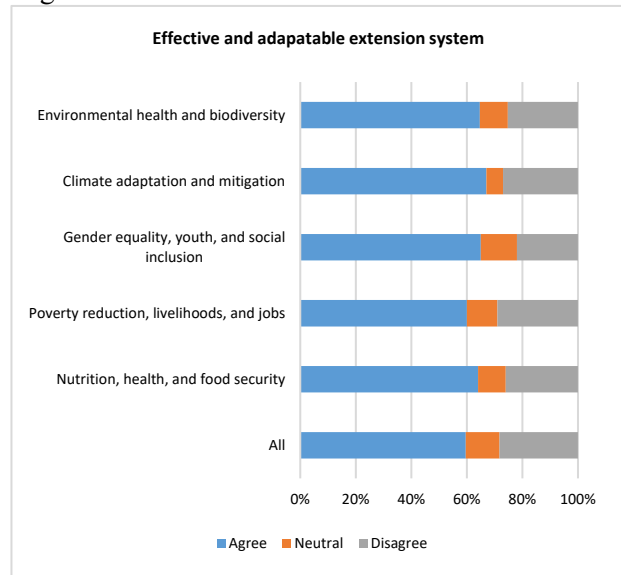


Figure 7b



Source: Capacity needs assessment survey results.

### *M&E*

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of key drivers and their food systems outcomes is critical for sustainable and inclusive transformation. Respondents emphasize and agree on the critical role of M&E systems. Integration of M&E results into the agricultural research systems and statistical systems is also considered important (Figure 8a and 8c) because their data help predict and monitor shocks and threats (Figure 8b). However, many of the organizations are not carrying out appropriate sectoral reviews to evaluate outcomes and develop future strategies (Figure 8d). Nearly 24 percent of the respondents do not find their organizations effectively evaluating critical elements, that is, activities, outputs, outcomes, and performance indicators (Figure 8e), through M&E.

A significantly high share of the respondents agree that their respective organizations are responsive to stakeholders and the general public (Figure 8i). Institutions undertake frequent critical reflection through internal management and evaluation (Figure 8f). Respondents indicate that operating M&E systems at the organizational level is a complex and demanding process in terms of resources, time, and coordination for many institutions in Niger. Difficulty in obtaining quality data and reliable evidence and selection bias continue to be critical issues. In the absence of appropriate technical skills, as is the case for many institutions in the food system, M&E results are unreliable.

Figure 8a

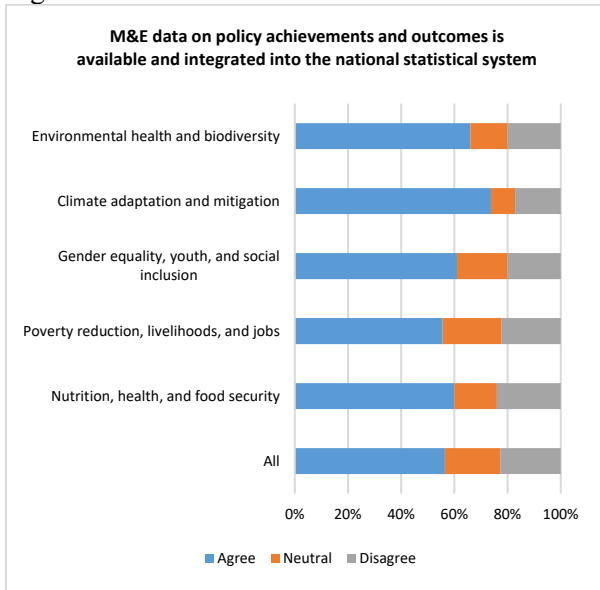


Figure 8b

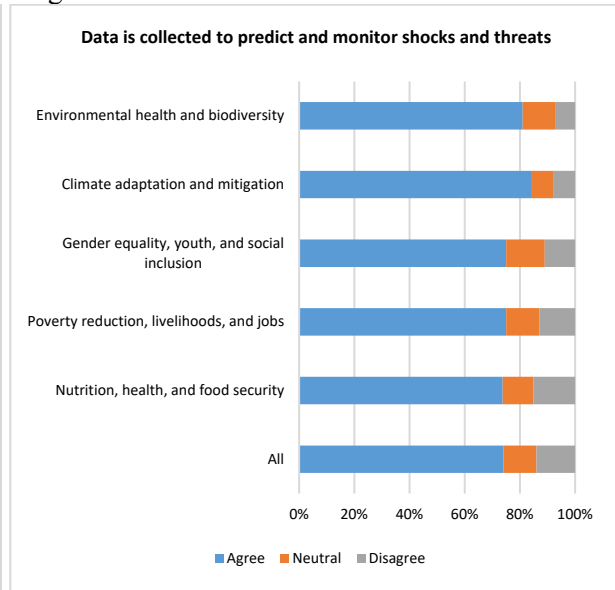


Figure 8c

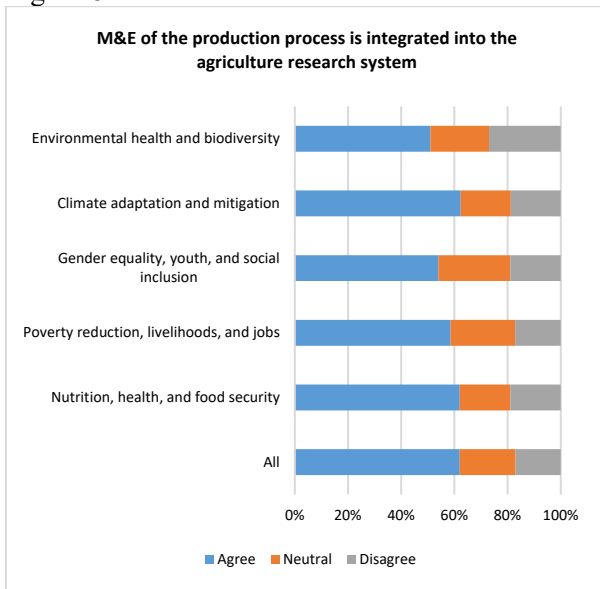


Figure 8d

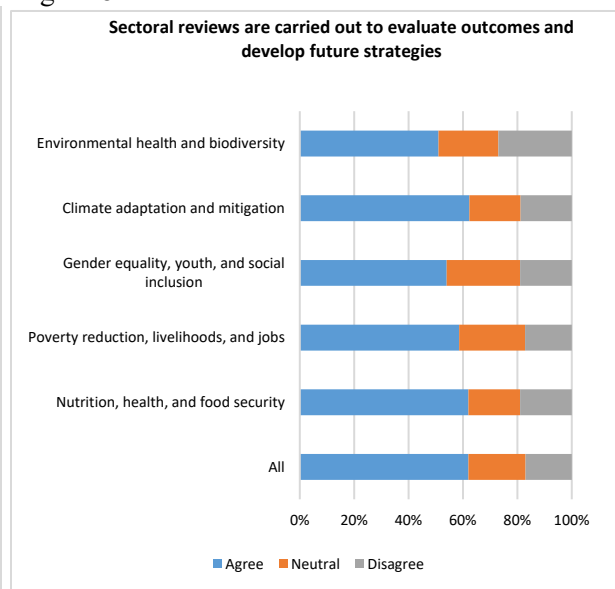


Figure 8e

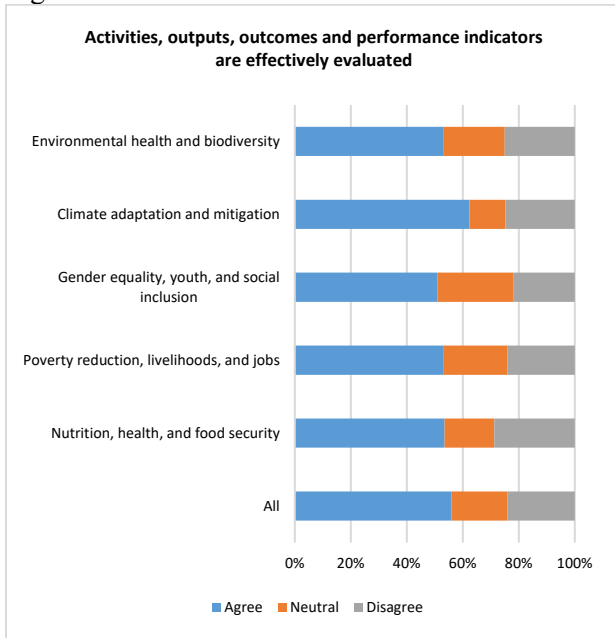


Figure 8f

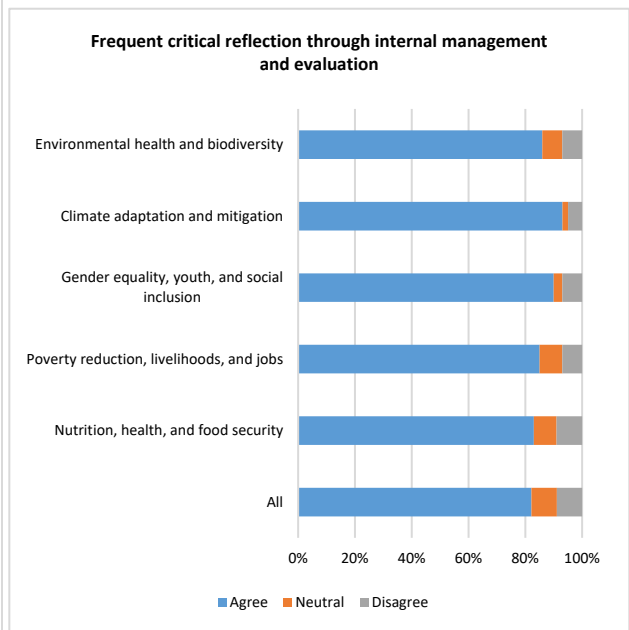


Figure 8g

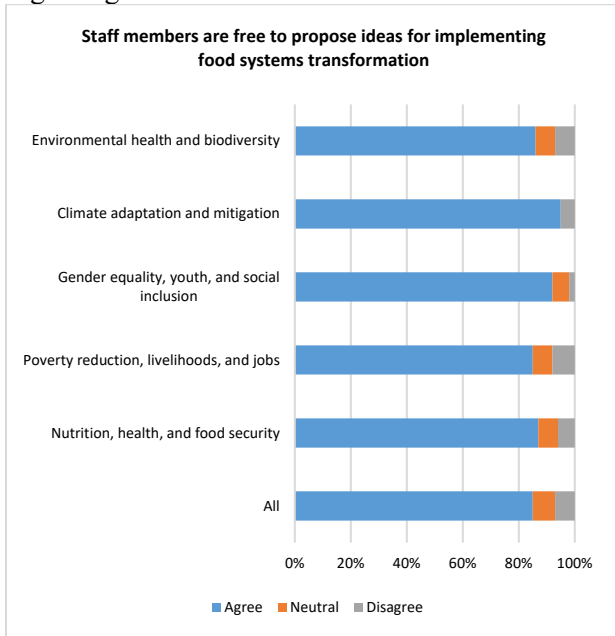


Figure 8h

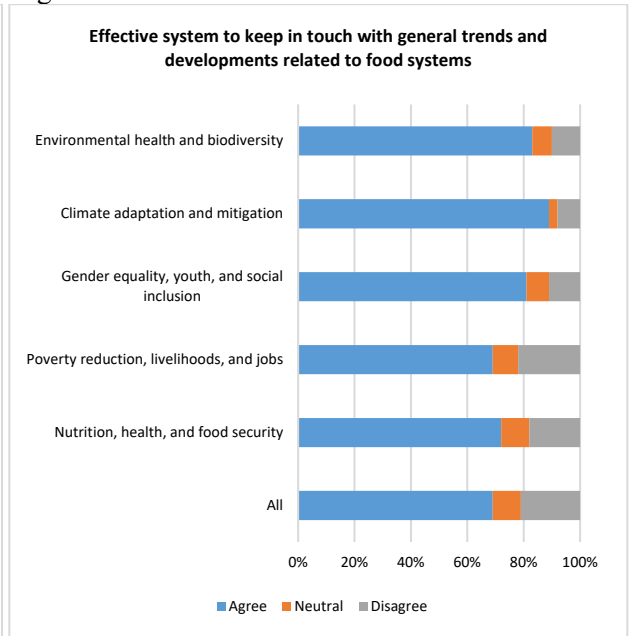
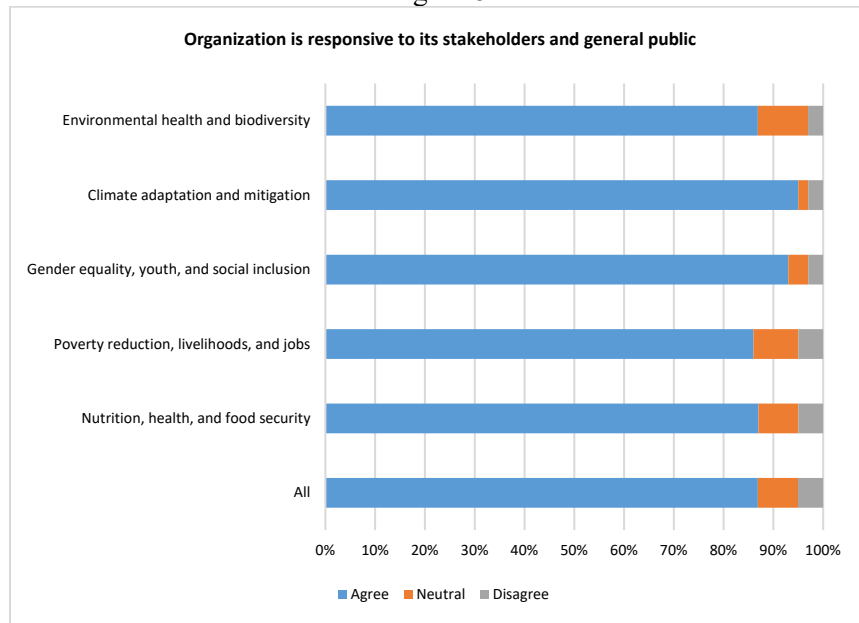


Figure 8i



Source: Capacity needs assessment survey results.

### 5.3. Individual Capacity

Here, too, there are differences across the five food systems domains in individual capacity in terms of proficiency levels in various dimensions. For example, the proportion of respondents with ‘advanced’ proficiency is lower in two of the domains—nutrition, health, and food security and poverty reduction, livelihoods, and jobs—compared to the other three (Figures 9a–9d).

Figure 9a

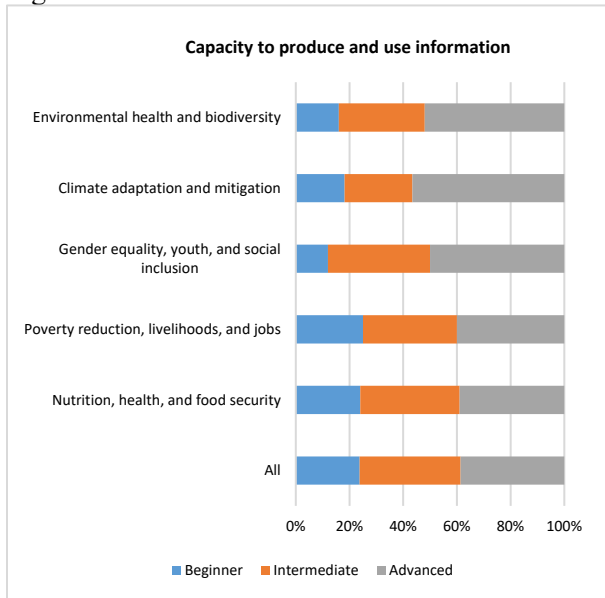


Figure 9b

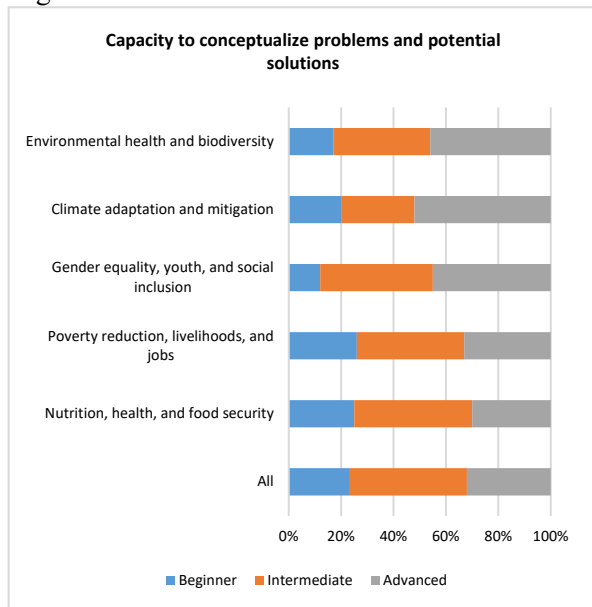


Figure 9c

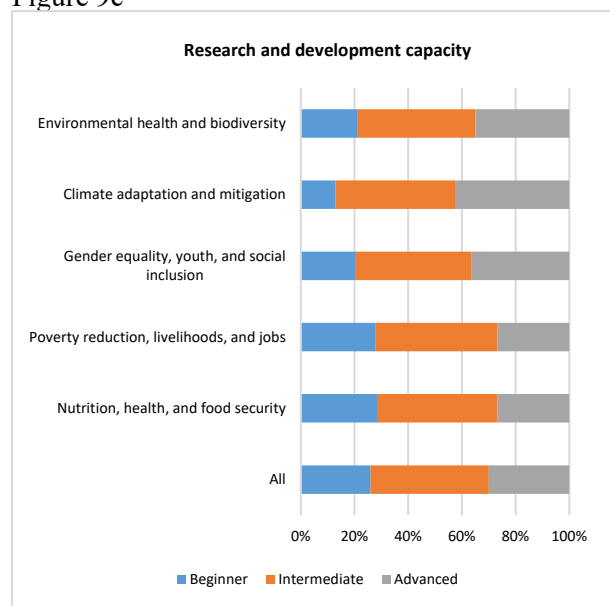
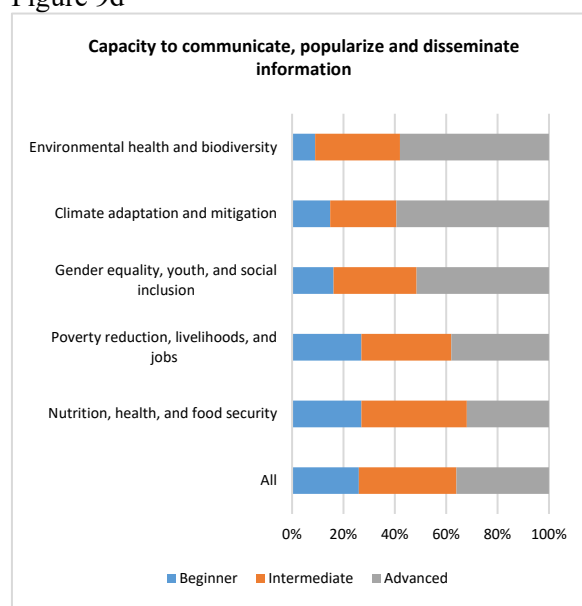


Figure 9d



Source: Capacity needs assessment survey results.

## 6. Recommendations

Based on the analysis, several key recommendations to strengthen capacity across different levels of Niger’s food systems emerge.

At the **enabling environment** level, there is a pressing need to develop a sustainable investment strategy that prioritizes domestic resource mobilization over dependence on international donors. Strengthening transparency and accountability systems is equally essential to reduce corruption and streamline policy formulation and implementation processes. Improving communication channels would ensure more timely and effective strategic guidance at the policy level. Furthermore, advancing physical infrastructure and establishing robust data and knowledge management systems across food systems components and domains would significantly enhance the use of evidence in decision-making processes.

Within **organizational capacity**, operational effectiveness can be improved through targeted management training for staff, enabling them to execute operational strategies efficiently. In line with efforts to strengthen M&E systems, it is also important to develop mechanisms for tracking and communicating stakeholder needs. Regarding strategy development, capacity-building efforts should focus on improving staff skills in policy communication and negotiation. This includes equipping them to communicate research findings effectively, receive feedback, and clarify strategies to diverse stakeholder groups. Institutional processes for strategy formulation should be streamlined and standardized to improve cost-effectiveness, and sufficient financial resources should be allocated to support this work. Public-private partnerships should be fostered to leverage expertise and resources, while transparency frameworks should be reinforced to ensure strategy development is unbiased and protected from the undue influence of powerful interest groups. Stakeholder engagement must be embedded throughout planning, implementation, and evaluation phases.

For **strategy revision**, institutional capacity at the decentralized level must be bolstered to enable adaptation based on local needs. Adequate financial, technical, and human resources are needed to support this process.

A functioning M&E system is essential to assess current strategies and inform future revisions. Periodic sectoral reviews should also be conducted to evaluate existing conditions and anticipate future needs.

**Institutional motivation** plays a critical role in sustaining effective food systems work. Staff development programs should be expanded to actively engage and incentivize personnel, while efforts to mobilize resources must support both staff remuneration and operational costs. Transparent performance evaluation systems should be developed, with regular feedback loops—particularly from departing staff—used to refine incentive structures. Involving staff in strategy development and implementation can further strengthen ownership and motivation.

In terms of **analysis**, improving coordination across programs led by different institutions is vital to avoid duplication of efforts and inefficient use of resources. Researchers would benefit from targeted training in project management, collaborative research, and clear, policy-relevant communication. Equitable access to research infrastructure and equipment must be ensured both within and across institutions. A well-connected network between public and private actors—development partners, research institutions, NGOs, and academia, among others—should be established to promote co-creation and evidence sharing. This can be facilitated through national, regional, and local platforms that promote information exchange and accountability. Additional support should be directed to researchers working in remote areas, enabling their access to local networks and resources for interdisciplinary and integrated research. Mobilizing funds to support evidence-based research remains a priority.

In terms of **implementation**, addressing regional inequalities requires context-specific strategies tailored to local realities. Strengthening access to local extension services, NGOs, and private sector actors is critical to supporting food systems development at the grassroots level.

For **monitoring and evaluation**, the development and enhancement of M&E systems are fundamental. Technical capacity must be built among researchers and enumerators to collect, analyze, and interpret data accurately while linking findings to strategic planning and implementation. To ensure objectivity, accountability mechanisms should be established to minimize bias in data selection and usage. Furthermore, greater investment is needed to support decentralized M&E programs and to integrate their results into agricultural research and statistical systems. This would help ensure that decision-making is informed by the most current and reliable data available.

Finally, at the **individual level**, a comprehensive set of capacity-building trainings should be provided. These should cover survey design, data collection and processing, statistical analysis, market and price trend monitoring, and food production metrics, including nutrition content and food waste. Training should also encompass economic modeling, cost-benefit analysis, community-based research methods such as focus group discussions, and assessments of local coping mechanisms. Staff should be supported in conceptualizing food systems problems and solutions through participatory knowledge-sharing platforms. Additionally, training in policy and research communication will be essential to strengthen outreach and ensure that findings are effectively disseminated to a wide range of stakeholders.

In sum, a multi-tiered approach to capacity building—spanning systemic, organizational, and individual levels—is essential for strengthening food systems in Niger. These recommendations collectively aim to create a resilient, inclusive, and data-driven environment capable of addressing both current challenges and future risks.

## 7. Concluding remarks

The overall conclusion from mapping food systems institutions in Niger shows a concentrated effort in several key areas but also reveals significant disparities and gaps that could affect the long-term sustainability and resilience of the food system. The policy implications of these findings are crucial for guiding effective and equitable food systems transformation in Niger.

There is a strong emphasis on agriculture, food security, and trade-related activities, reflecting a prioritized approach to enhancing production capacities and ensuring food safety. This focus aligns with immediate national needs, given Niger's challenges with food insecurity and economic dependency on agriculture. Less attention is given to critical areas such as environmental management, climate change adaptation, and the deployment of advanced technologies in agriculture. This oversight could undermine efforts to sustain agricultural productivity and food security in the face of environmental degradation and climate change. Key areas such as socio-cultural dynamics, governance, social protection, and cross-sectoral collaboration are underrepresented. This indicates a potential lack of integration in policymaking and implementation, which is essential for addressing the complex, interconnected challenges of modern food systems.

The findings of this report point to several critical policy implications that can help guide the transformation of Niger's food systems. One of the most urgent priorities is the rebalancing of investment across food systems components. While current efforts have been rightly focused on agricultural production and food security, policymakers should consider reallocating resources to better support underrepresented yet essential areas such as environmental health, climate resilience, and the adoption of innovative agricultural technologies. Strengthening investment in these domains is key to ensuring long-term sustainability and mitigating the adverse impacts of climate variability, land degradation, and resource depletion.

In addition to the reallocation of resources, promoting cross-sectoral collaboration is essential. A more integrated approach to food systems governance requires stronger coordination between ministries and agencies responsible for agriculture, health, environment, and economic development. Such collaboration would facilitate the development of unified strategies that address overlapping challenges, leverage synergies, and improve the overall coherence and efficiency of policy interventions.

Equally important is the need to enhance the focus on social inclusion and equity. Policies must prioritize the engagement of youth, the promotion of gender equality, and the inclusion of marginalized populations to ensure that all groups benefit equitably from food systems initiatives. Social inclusion is not only a matter of equity but also contributes to improved food security, economic stability, and long-term social cohesion. Moreover, Niger's food systems must be equipped to adapt to a range of emerging challenges, including demographic shifts, the impacts of globalization, and rapid technological change. Policy frameworks should be flexible and forward-looking, allowing for anticipatory planning and adaptive responses that preserve food systems resilience and competitiveness in an evolving global context.

Based on the survey findings, the report puts forth a comprehensive set of capacity-building recommendations designed to address key institutional and operational challenges. At the policy process level, there is a clear need to develop sustainable domestic funding mechanisms, enhance transparency and accountability systems, and establish more effective knowledge and communication channels. Strengthening these foundational capacities will help ensure that policymaking is evidence-based, participatory, and outcome-oriented.

Organizationally, staff should be equipped with practical skills in operational management, policy communication, negotiation, strategy development, and budgeting. This includes the creation of transparent staff appraisal systems and improved resource mobilization to reduce turnover and boost engagement. A more decentralized approach to strategy development should also be supported, ensuring that local needs

are addressed and local voices included in planning and implementation. An unbiased and transparent strategy development process is critical to mitigating undue influence and promoting integrity in decision-making.

The report also underscores the importance of advancing interdisciplinary and integrated research, including training on research collaboration, project management, and effective communication of scientific findings in accessible formats. Building stronger linkages between public and private actors—including government, civil society, academia, and the private sector—is essential for creating a knowledge ecosystem that fosters innovation, policy relevance, and accountability.

Reducing regional inequalities must remain a priority, and this includes strengthening the presence and effectiveness of local extension services and ensuring that data collection and policy implementation are responsive to local conditions. M&E systems also require significant reinforcement. Technical workshops for researchers, improved resource allocation at decentralized levels, and the establishment of accountability mechanisms for data quality and integrity are essential for generating reliable, actionable insights.

At the individual level, staff must be equipped with advanced technical competencies to support the full cycle of evidence-based policymaking. This includes the design and analysis of surveys, economic modeling, assessment of food production and nutrition content, and the identification of vulnerabilities along the value chain. Furthermore, individuals should be trained in conceptualizing problems and developing innovative solutions, as well as in effective research communication, outreach, and dissemination.

Together, these policy implications and capacity-building measures provide a strategic roadmap for strengthening Niger's food systems. By addressing existing gaps, building institutional resilience, and fostering inclusive and forward-thinking leadership, Niger can lay the groundwork for a food system that is not only productive and efficient but also equitable, sustainable, and responsive to the needs of all its people.

In conclusion, while there is commendable effort in several traditional areas of food systems management in Niger, there is a compelling need for a more holistic, integrated, and future-oriented approach to ensure the sustainability, resilience, and equity of the food system. This approach should particularly focus on enhancing environmental stewardship, adopting innovative technologies, and ensuring inclusivity and effective governance across all levels of food systems activities.

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## ANNEX 1: LIST OF INSTITUTIONS

A NIYA DA KOKARI
ABALAMA MILK AGADEZ
ACHOURA
ACTION CONTRE LA FAIM
ACTION POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT ECONOMIQUE ET SOCIAL DES POPULATIONS ADESP DE KONNI
ADELCO
ADU
AEC
AEPEP
AGENCE KOURI DU BASSIN
AGENCE NATIONALE POUR LA PROMOTION DE E L EMPLOI
AJEEC
AJLCD-GARKUWA
AL MANSOOR LAIT
ANJUD
ANTD
APAISE NIGER
APPADN
AREN
ASSOCIATION DES FEMMES KICHIN KASSA DE GAYA
ASSOCIATION DES FEMMES TRANSFORMATRICE MARTABA MATA DE MALBAZA
ASSOCIATION COOPERATIVE DES JEUNES DYNAMIQUES POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT COMMUNAUTAIRE DU GOROUL
ASSOCIATION COOPERATIVE SIMPLIFIEE SCOSP GNAYZE DE FALMEY
ASSOCIATION DAOUD
ASSOCIATION DE DEFENSE DES DROIT DE L HOMME INCI DA WALA WALA
ASSOCIATION DE LA FEMME GOMNI BANGAY
ASSOCIATION DE TRANSFORMATION DE FROMAGES DIFFA BOSSO
ASSOCIATION DES CULTIVATEURS CBLT
ASSOCIATION DES ELEVEURS DU TENERE D INGALL
ASSOCIATION DES FEMMES ALHERI DE BOUZA
ASSOCIATION DES FEMMES CHANPIONNES
ASSOCIATION DES FEMMES CLUB ZABI SONKA TAHOUA
ASSOCIATION DES FEMMES DE MATAMEY
ASSOCIATION DES FEMMES DOGNAY DE FALMEY
ASSOCIATION DES FEMMES DU NIGER
ASSOCIATION DES FEMMES DU NIGER
ASSOCIATION DES FEMMES DU NIGER
ASSOCIATION DES FEMMES ENTREPRISE DE TRANSFORMATION D ARACHIDES EN HUILES D ARACHIDES

ASSOCIATION DES FEMMES GURI DE KONNI
ASSOCIATION DES FEMMES HADIN KAI MATAN JUNA DE BAGAROUA
ASSOCIATION DES FEMMES HASKE 1 ILLELA
ASSOCIATION DES FEMMES LAFIA
ASSOCIATION DES FEMMES MATA MA SOU DOUBARA DE TCHINTABARADEN
ASSOCIATION DES FEMMES MMD MATA MASU DUBARA
ASSOCIATION DES TRANSFORMATEURS DE VIANDE
ASSOCIATION DONDONKA WANI
ASSOCIATION FEMININ MADOU DE BILMA
ASSOCIATION FEMININE AYI DAMOU DE MADAOUA
ASSOCIATION FEMININE MATTAN DAGA D INGHALL
ASSOCIATION FEMININE TEGUEF AGADEZ
ASSOCIATION KANAFI DE N GOURTI
ASSOCIATION KONGAFEN
ASSOCIATION MARAICHERE FEMININE TAFARKO SABON SALO
ASSOCIATION MATA MASSOU HADOUNKAI
ASSOCIATION MATTA MASSOU KOKARI TCHIRO
ASSOCIATION NAKOWA
ASSOCIATION NIGERIENNE POUR LE BIEN ETRE FAMILIAL ANBEF
ASSOCIATION RAYOUWA
ASSOCIATION RDFN
ASSOCIATIONS DE CONSOMMATEURS
AUTONOMISATION ET BIEN ETRE CONTINU ABC
BA MAI YI SAI ALLAH
BABA SALAM MARADI
BANQUE CEREALES DE BILMA
BAREWO
BELVIE
BOUBOUYE BOULAYE
BOULANGERIE MAROROUA
BOULANGERIE PATISSERIE AICHA
BOUZOU CITY CENTER
CENTRALE D APPROVISIONNEMENT EN ENTRANT ET MATERIEL AGRICOLE CAIMA
CENTRE DE FORMATION ET PROMOTION MUSICALE ELHAJ TAYA
CHAMBRE REGIONALE D AGRICULTURE CRA
CHEZ BOUCHER BOUCHERIE ET POSSONERIE
CLUB UNESCO UAM
CN-RACOM
COLLEGE REGIONALE DES FEMMES PAYSANES
COMPLEXE RAYA ALIMENTATION ET BOULAGERIE
CONGAFEN
CONSOMATEUR
CONSOMATEUR

CONSOMMATEUR
CONSOMMATEUR
CONSOMMATEURS
COOPERATIVE AGRICOLE HADIN KAI DE TCHITABARADEN
COOPERATIVE AGRICOLE LAFIYA D ILLELA
COOPERATIVE AGRICOLE
COOPERATIVE AGRICOLE HEMOULANLAN ADERBISANAT
COOPERATIVE AGRICOLE ADALCI DE BOUZA
COOPERATIVE AGRICOLE ALLA YA ROUME YESSOU
COOPERATIVE AGRICOLE AMINTHI DE MALBAZA
COOPERATIVE AGRICOLE ET PASTORALE TAHOUA
COOPERATIVE AGRICOLE IFIRGAN ARLIT
COOPERATIVE AGRICOLE SAHIYA TANADI DE BAGAROUA
COOPERATIVE AGRICOLE SIDJARADO
COOPERATIVE AGRICOLE TAKAITCHI
COOPERATIVE AGRICOLE TAZEDAR
COOPERATIVE AGRICOLE TENET TCHIRO
COOPERATIVE AGRICOLE UNION DAN GOURMOU DE TAHOUA
COOPERATIVE AGRICOLE YAKI DA HAMADA D INGHALL
COOPERATIVE DU PERIMETRE AGRICOLE ALLAH YA TAMAIKEMOU DE KONNI
COOPERATIVE KAFFAYA DE PRODUCTION DU SEL DE BILMA
COOPERATIVE KORSALE
COOPERATIVE KUZARI
COOPERATIVE RIGICOLE DE INDOUNGA 2
COOPERATIVE RIZICOLE DENDI MA ZADA DE GAYA
COOPERATIVE TCHIDNASS
COOPERATIVES NIYYA AGRICOLE DE BILMA
COOPERATIVE AIKI DA GASKIA DE MIRRIAH
COOPERATIVE BONFEREY DE TOULA
CROIX ROUGE NIGERIENNE
CRS
CULTIVATEURS
CVC COMITE DE VEILLE CITOYENE DE GAYA
DAFOCTI
DEMI-E ZINDER
DIRECTION DE LA SANTE PUBLIQUE DE TILLABERI
DIRECTION DEPARTEMENTALE AGRICULTURE D AYAROU
DIRECTION DEPARTEMENTALE DE L AGRICULTURE DE MAGARIA
DIRECTION DEPARTEMENTALE DE L ELEVAGE TCHIRO
DIRECTION REGIONAL HYDROLIQUE DE ZINDER
DIRECTION REGIONALE DE L AGRICULTURE
DISTRICT SANITAIRE DE N GOURTI
ENTREPRISE AGRO ALIMENTAIRE IDETECH

ENTREPRISE ALPHORMA
ENTREPRISE DE PRODUCTION MOURNA LAIT
ESCAE
ETS KOULOUMA MAI MADARA BUSINESS
ETUDE DE HUISSIER DE JUSTICE
FARHANE BUSSINESS
FEDERATION DES UNIONS DE LA FILIERE OIGNONS DE MADAOUA FUFO ALKAWALI DE MADAOUA
FEDERATION DES UNIONS DES SOCIETE COOPERATVE AGADEZ
FEDERATION SAA DE MARADI
FERME BON BATTOU
FNPB
FOYER D APPRENTISSAGE DES REABLITATION NUTRITIONNEL
FSF NIGER
FUGPN MOORIBEN
GADJI MAI KOLIKOLI
GAKASINEY KANBA KA KANBARA
GARI YARA BOREY MA TCARDI SOCIETE COOPERATIVE
GED SERVICES
GOUPEMENT DES CONSOMMATEURS SA ALLAH RANKA DE BOUZA
GOUROUBIO MA ZADA
GOUVERNEMENT FEMME ZAMAN LAHIA
GROUPEMENT DES PRODUCTRICE ALHERY2 DE GOTHEYE KACSOMET
GROUPEMENT AGRICOLE KILLAH
GROUPEMENT ALHERI FALMEY HAOUSSA
GROUPEMENT ALHERY
GROUPEMENT ANFANI
GROUPEMENT BAYIN ALLAH
GROUPEMENT BLOUBLOU AGRICULTEUR
GROUPEMENT BONHAWAY BANE TILKAINA
GROUPEMENT DE CONSOMMATEURS DE DIOUNDIU
GROUPEMENT DE CONSOMMATEURS TATALIN ARZIKI
GROUPEMENT DE FEMME
GROUPEMENT DE FEMME YALWA
GROUPEMENT DE PRODUCTEUR SAI KOUNKAY LABARI D ILLELA
GROUPEMENT DE PRODUCTEUR COMMERCIALISATION DES PRODUITS AGRICOLES ABALAK
GROUPEMENT DE PRODUCTEUR HALASSEY DE DOSSO
GROUPEMENT DE PRODUCTEURS
GROUPEMENT DE TRANSFORMATION DU RIZ SANBON SARI DE GAYA
GROUPEMENT DES CONSOMMATEURS DES PRODUCTION LACALES MUTCHI ALBARKU KARKARA DE KONNI
GROUPEMENT DES CONSOMMATEURS LE LABOUREUR DE BAGAROUA
GROUPEMENT DES PRODUCTEURS AKH IDARANE TCHIRO

GROUPEMENT DES PRODUCTEURS BUNKASSA DE MALBAZA
GROUPEMENT DES PRODUCTEURS FEDERATION DES FEMMES PRODUCTRICES ARTISANES ET TRANSFORMATRICES TCHIGABAN RAYAWAN MATA DE TAHOUA
GROUPEMENT DES PRODUCTEURS GIE TARHERISS AGRI
GROUPEMENT DES PRODUCTEURS KARKARA DE BAGAROUA
GROUPEMENT DES PRODUCTEURS KOUZARI DE KONNI OIGNONS CHOUX MORINGA
GROUPEMENT DES PRODUCTEURS TAIMAKON KARKARA
GROUPEMENT DES PRODUCTEURS ZAMAN LAHIYA DE BOUZA
GROUPEMENT DITCHARSSE
GROUPEMENT DONDONKA WANI
GROUPEMENT FEMININE TOTONI JIDAKAMAT
GROUPEMENT GIRMA
GROUPEMENT GOMNI MATE BOSSEY ZOUGOU GANDA
GROUPEMENT LAKALKANE PRODUCTEUR
GROUPEMENT PRODUCTEURS DE N GOURTI
GROUPEMENT SA KAY
GROUPEMENT TABIBAN TILLKAINA
GROUPEMENT TADRESSE ADERBISANAT
GROUPEMENT TAFARCHI
GROUPEMENT TANADINA
GROUPEMENT WAFKEY
HED TAMAT
HIMA
HIMA SOULOLOU
HINDA KAY DIOUNDOU
HOPITAL DE DISTRICT
HOTEL MANDING
I L S INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS SERVICES
IFTIC
IKRA
INRAN
IRIMI BONGOY GOYE GA NAFA
IRRI NAGARI
JEUNES VOLONTAIRES POUR L ENVIRONNEMENT DU NIGER JVE
JJEDL
KALA KIL SINIYE
KARKARA
KARKARA DIFFA
KICHI
KODIA GA ALLAH
KOMI RABONE KR
KUNDJI FONDO
KUNGIYAR MANOMA KM

LA MAIRIE DE N GUIGMI
LA NIGERIENNE DES EAUX
LA RADIO NIYYA AIKI
LAITERIE FAMMA ADERBISANAT
LALE LALE
LAREWAN MATA
LECP
LES RELAIS DU NIGER HOTEL TARKA TAHOUA
LOUGA BERY
MAAIKATA AIKI DA ILLIMI EST UNE SOURCE DUN AVENIR FRUCTUEUX MAIKAF
MAIRIE
MAIRIE
MAIRIE DE MAGARIA
MAKANA
MALIKA ALIMENTATION
MANGA RIZCOLE
MANGOU
MAR ATOUL MOUJAHIDAT
MAROOBE REEAUX BILLITAL
MATA DAGA DIOUNDIU
MEYETI ALLAH ELEVEUR
MINISTERE DU COMMERCE
MINISTERE DU PLAN
MOUVEMENT DES JEUNES POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT ET L EDUCATIONS CITOYENNE MOJEDEC
NA ALI BIO
ODDC
OFFICE NATIONAL D EDITION ET DE PRESSE ONEP
OJEP
ONG ADKOUL
ONG ADN
ONG AGIR
ONG APED
ONG CADEL
ONG CONCERN WORLD WIDE
ONG CONICOPEM
ONG DEMI-E
ONG EDUCATION UNIVERSELLE
ONG FEDERATION MOUVEMENT POUR LA PAX MPDL DE KONNI
ONG GEDD GAO
ONG IDELA INITIATIVE POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT LOCAL EN AFRIQUE TAHOUA
ONG INITIATIVE POUR UN DEVELOPPEMENT
ONG JAAD

ONG JEUNESSE ENFANCE MIGRATION DEVELOPPEMENT
ONG KARKARA
ONG KAWTAL
ONG LABIZEY HALLASA
ONG ONDES
ONG RAIN FOR THE SAHEL AND SAHARA
ONG SONGES
OP TCHIGABA YANTA
ORGANISATION NIGERIENNE DES EDUCATEURS NOVATEURS ONEN
ORGANISATION DE PRODUCTEUR DE TANOUT HADIN KAI
PALAIS DU GOUT TAKASSANT
PEPINIERE DENTREPRISES INNOVANTES AU NIGER PEPITE
PRODUCTEUR
PRODUCTEUR
PRODUCTEUR ELEVAGE
PROGRAMME DE DEVELOPPEMENT DE LAGRICULTURE FAMILIALE PRODAF
RAHAMA PATISSERIE
RASSEMBLEMENT DEMOCRATIQUE DU NIGER
RAYAR KARAKARA
RDFM RASSEMBLEMENT DEMOCRATIQUE DES FEMMES NIGERIENNE
RDFN
RDFN
REGROUPEMENT DE PRODUCTEUR DES NIGERIENS POUR L EDUCATION LA SANTE L ENVIRONNEMENT DE TCHINTA
REPPAD
RESEAU D APPUI AUX INITIATIVES LOCALES
RESEAU DE FEMMES J B E
RESEAU DES FEMMES RELAI
RESEAU DES PRODUCTEURS DE POMMES TERRE
RESTAURANT AGZARAN MAZARAN AGADEZ
RESTAURANT FARA A
RESTAURANT M K O AGADEZ
RESTAURANT RA5 AIR ABZIN AGADEZ
RIZ DU KOMADOUYOU
ROUMJI TACHI DA KANKAN
SA KAI
SAHELIA- SEM-SAR
SA-KAI
SALIM TRANSPORT DIRECTION REGIONALE MARADI
SAVOUNI SALO DAN TAHOUA
SAWKI AGRO ENTREPRISE DE TRANSFORMATION DES PRODUITS AGRO ALIMENTAIRES
SERVICE COMMUNALE DE L ELEVAGE

SINI ROZO
SNAAN
SOCIETE COOPERATIVE DARZA
SOCIETE COOPERATIVE TAMA DE SAY 2
SOCIETE COOPRATIVE DE TORODI
SOCIETE DE DISTRIBUTION EN GROS DES PRODUITS PHARMACEUTIQUE CONSOMMABLE ET MATERIELS BIO MEDICAUX
SOCIETE DILIA SARL
SONILOGA
SOS-CIVISME
SRMSR DIMOL NIGER
SUPER LINE
SYNACEB
SYNDICAT DES TRANFORTEURS
SYNDICAT DES TRANFORTEURS DE TCHITABARADEN
SYNDICAT DES TRANFORTEURS D ILLELA
SYNDICAT DES TRANSPORTEURS DES MARCHANDISES DE MADAOUA
SYNDICAT DES TRANSPORTEURS DES MARCHANDS DE MALBAZA
SYNDICAT DES TRASPORTEURS VOYAGEURS ET MARCHANDISES
SYNDICATS DES COMMERCENT
TAIMAKON MANOMA
TARMAMOUN ADER
TEDHELE NIGER
TRANING CENTER
TRANSFORMATION AGRO ALIMENTAIRE DE BANIGOUNGOU FALMEY
TSASA KULA
UFPN GATANCI
UNAM SERVICES
UNION BOBOYE MAZADA
UNION BOUNKASSA RAYUWA MATA BRAMA
UNION COOPERATIVE ALBARKA
UNION COOPERATIVE DES MARAICHES DE ZONE DE TABELOT
UNION DE PRODUCTEUR DE FONIO DIOUNDIOU
UNION DES GROUPEMENTS PAYSANS HAREYBANE DE TERA
UNION DES PRODUCTEURS IKMAR D ARLIT
UNION DES SOCIETES COOPERATIVE DE AIR AGADEZ
UNION FEMME TELLE NALHER
UNION HADINKAY AFOLE
UNION LAKALKANE
UNION MARGASSINEY KADEYKOURA AYEROU
UNION NATIONALE DES AVEUGLES DU NIGER UNAN
UNIONS BEDJE
UNIONS BOURYA DE SARGANE

UNIONS TANOUFOUSSE
UNITE DE TRANSFORMATION DE KILICHI GROUPEMENT CHAWA DE MADAOUA
UNIVERSITEABDOUMOUNI
VOLONTAIRES NIGERIENNES POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT
WAFKEY
WATA ENCORE TAHOUA YAOURT

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