

CLIMAGRO END OF PROJECT REPORT FOR BURKINA FASO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The USAID WA-WASH is a program funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The Program focuses its interventions mainly on water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) in three countries in West Africa. It is also active in the areas of food security and climate change to address the challenges resulting from the increased vulnerability of rural communities. In collaboration with the General Directorate for Meteorology (DGM) of the Burkina Faso Ministry of Environment, USAID WA-WASH implemented the Rural Communities Resilience Project (CLIMAGRO in French). The objective of this collaborative project is to help farmers in 10 villages from the Centre, Centre-Ouest, and Boucle du Mouhoun regions of Burkina Faso adapt better and be more resilient to climate change and increase their production in a sustainable way. CLIMAGRO consists in packaging the agrometeorological data in daily bulletins, disseminating the bulletins through community radio stations, and helping farmers make use of the data to improve their agricultural practices. Several activities were conducted as part of this project including: (1) community awareness raising; (2) assessment of communities' climate information needs; (3) training sessions in each village; (4) training of two rainfall observers/data collectors in each village; (5) identification of local radios, dissemination of agrometeorological information, holding of monthly meetings of agrometeorological technicians and farmers in each village, and writing of an evaluation report summarizing lessons learned and prospects.

The awareness-raising missions were carried out in April 2014 in each of the 10 intervention communities of the project (Yaro, Moko, Oullo, Nana, Koukouldi, Tiogo-Mossi, Ouégléga, Koudiéré, Tama, and Vipalogho). The objective was to assess the communities' needs and knowledge regarding the use of agrometeorological information and to get comments and input from them about the project's objectives and approach. The communities also identified possible radio stations for the broadcasting of weather and agrometeorological information as part of the project. Overall, the communities welcomed the ideas presented and expressed their strong interest in the project.

The training sessions were conducted in the Boucle du Mouhoun (Yaro, Moko, Oullo, and Nana) from May 29 to June 8, 2014; in the Centre-Ouest communities (Koukouldi and Tiogo-Mossi) from June 2 to 5, 2014; and in the Centre (Ouégléga, Koudiéré, Tama, and Vipalogho) from June 16 to 24, 2014. The training was conducted by experts from the Directorate General of Meteorology with support from the USAID WA-WASH's Climate Change Coordinator. The training sessions were held to allow farmers to have a good understanding of resilience building through the use of climate and weather information. The sessions were also meant to enable participants to better apprehend the concepts of climatology, meteorology, and agrometeorology. The target audience was the farmers, the breeders as well as the agricultural, livestock, environmental, and local radio technicians contacted for the dissemination of agrometeorological information. The topics covered included: climatology and climatic constraints, climate change and variability, weather and climate forecasts, agrometeorological products and usefulness, climate change adaptation strategies, rain gauge importance and use.

Overall 1,181 farmers attended the training sessions in the 10 villages including 249 in the Centre-Ouest (104 in Koukouldi and 145 in Tiogo Mossi); 445 in the Boucle du Mouhoun (105 in Yaro, 134 in Moko, 99 in Oullo, and 107 in Nana), and 487 in the Centre region (88 in Tama, 164 in Ouégléga, 109 in Koudiéré, and 126 in Vipalogho). Additionally, rain gauge installation missions were conducted in Bagassi, Ouri, Kona, Ténado, and Koudougou from July 14 to 22, 2014 and in Komki-Ipala and Tanghin-Dassouri on July 24-31, 2014 to install the rain gauges and train at least one person per post to ensure proper reading of the devices. Despite the difficulties in choosing the installation site for the rain gauge, due to wandering animals and sometimes excessive vegetation, two direct reading (without test tube) SPIEA pluviometers were

installed in each town. These rain gauges will provide useful data for the production of agrometeorological bulletins and products by the DGM even after the project completion. The production of meteorological bulletins for the sites concerned is carried out by the specialists of the agrometeorological and climatic department of the DGM. Within the framework of the project three specialists were identified to work per region.

For a greater number of community members to listen to the agrometeorological bulletins on radio stations, the programs are broadcasted in local language at hours chosen in consultation with the producers, generally between 6.00 pm and 7.00 pm. Depending on the programs of each radio, some hours of the day are taken for rebroadcasting. The radios chosen for broadcasting contracts are: “Voix des Balé” of Boromo and “Salaki” of Dédougou in the Boucle du Mouhoun; “Voix du Sanguié” of Réo and “Palabre” of Koudougou in the Centre-Ouest; “Savane FM” of Ouagadougou in the Centre region.

Follow up missions were conducted to assess communities’ practices and evaluate the implementation and integration of the practices recommended during training sessions and through agrometeorological bulletins. These missions also aimed at evaluating the state of pasture and water points, assessing the animal health situation, disseminating the seasonal forecasts and the agrometeorological activities, collecting rainfall data over the past period for the sites having rain gauges. These were missions to evaluate the effective application and integration of climate and agrometeorological information in agricultural activities by producers trained through field observations.

The technical aspects of this project have been sufficiently mastered and have allowed a positive assessment of the target communities. As a result, communities are now listening to the radios to get useful agrometeorological information for their agricultural activities. Additionally, most of the community radio stations that participated in the project are committed to continuing the broadcasting of these programs as the audience still asks for these services. With regard to the positive results, the DGM will continue to provide climate and agrometeorological information to rural communities to contribute to increased resilience in the face of climate change.

This is the executive summary of a November 2014 report. The full report is available (in French) upon request via our website. For more details about our program activities and other reports please visit <http://wawash.fiu.edu/>.

This publication was funded by the people of the United States through the Agency for International Development (USAID) within the framework of the West Africa Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (USAID WA-WASH) Program. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States Agency for International Development of the United States Government.