

# Sorghum & Millet Compact

## Food security for the Sahel



The Sorghum & Millet compact is one of the nine value chains of the African Development Bank (AfDB)-funded Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) initiative. TAAT includes sorghum & millet, maize, cassava, rice, beans, wheat, Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato (OFSP), aquaculture and livestock and six Enabler Compacts, namely Youth, Water Management, Soil Fertility, Policy, Capacity Development and Fall Army Worm (FAW) control.



**M**ore than 160 million Africans are food insecure and malnourished, making Africa the most food-insecure region in the world. Sorghum and pearl millet are the main staple food crops in this zone, especially in Sahelian countries. However, yields of these crops are low due to various constraints including poor or lack of access to seeds of improved cultivars, fertilizer and other farm inputs, inappropriate agronomic practices, inherent poor soils, lack of commercialization and extreme weather events.

To address these constraints, AfDB under the Bank's 'Feed Africa Initiative' initiated TAAT to significantly raise agricultural productivity through the deployment of proven food production technologies to tens of millions of African farmers.



## About TAAT

The Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) is a knowledge and innovation-based response to the recognized need for scaling up proven technologies across Africa. It is a key priority of the African Development Bank for the agricultural transformation agenda, also known as 'Feed Africa Strategy'. TAAT aims at boosting productivity and carves the pathway to make Africa self-sufficient in key commodities. The goal of this program is to feed 150 million people, take 100 million people out of poverty and restore 190 million hectares to productive land. It leverages technologies in nine commodity value chains/compacts and six Enabler compacts in 35 African countries.

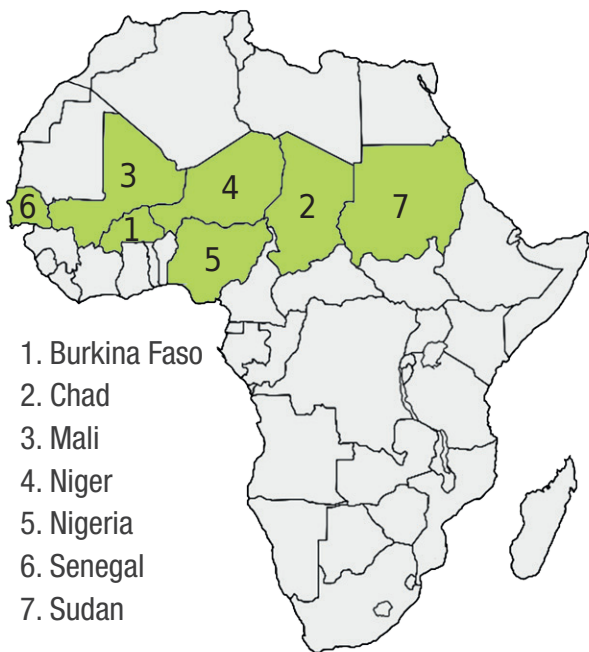




## Key objective

To improve food and nutrition security as well as livelihoods of farm households in seven Sahelian countries through sustainable intensification and improved profitability of millet and sorghum.

## Target countries



## Specific objectives

- Improve the food and nutrition security of smallholder families, especially of women and children
- Increase the sustainable use of improved varieties and good agronomic practices
- Increase smallholder farmers' income, and create innovative jobs for youth in the rural sector
- Increase value chain efficiency through the reduction of post-harvest losses, increase produce quality, aggregation, traceability and transformation in sorghum and millet value chains
- Enhance crop-livestock integration through the increased production and consumption of sorghum and millet stover.

## Approach

- Combining the best genotypes with “best bet” agronomic practices while building the capacity to overcome the challenge of low productivity in sorghum and millet.
- Using digital tools to lower transaction costs and to develop market opportunities that unlock unlimited market potential.
- Intensification of crop-livestock integration.
- Mechanization to reduce drudgery in smallholder agriculture.
- Championing market linkages, seeds and other input markets through sensitization, capacity building, Innovation platforms (IPs) and linkages with the private sector, especially the youth.
- A demand-driven and holistic value chain approach to enhance efficient seed distribution, efficient marketing and reduce post-harvest losses.





## Pathways to upscaling

- Creating an enabling environment to increase millet and sorghum productivity and production
- Development of Regional Technology Delivery Infrastructure (RTDI)
- Deployment of Appropriate Technology (DAT)
- Capacity deployment activities
- Key policy interventions.



## Monitoring & evaluation

- Farm and aggregate level baseline study focusing on knowledge, management technologies/ practices, production levels and resource use.
- Leveraging advanced ICT-based monitoring and evaluation platforms.



## Gender integration and social inclusion

- Access to options to enable diversification of food production systems for women and female and male youth.
- Facilitate greater and equal participation of male and female farmer's in variety selection and sale of seed packets to create awareness and demand for new seed.
- Provide customized training for individual women and youth farmers and farmer cooperatives to produce and market seeds.
- Provide new market linkages or expand existing ones and provide skills for value addition in processing and packaging to enhance sustainable smallholder farmers' incomes and create innovative jobs for youth in the rural sector.



## Partners

The Sorghum & Millet Compact is being implemented in seven countries by a consortium of actors involving Community-based Organizations/farmer groups, the private sector, international institutions ICRISAT (Lead), International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF), Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA); International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Institut de l'Environnement et des Recherches Agricoles (INERA, Burkina Faso), Institut d'Economie Rurale (IER, Mali), Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique du Niger (INRAN, Niger), Institute for Agricultural Research, (IAR, Nigeria), National Agricultural Extension and Research Liaison Services (NAERLS, Nigeria) and Centre for Dryland Agriculture-Bayero University Kano (CDA-BUK, Nigeria), l'Institut Sénégalais de Recherches Agricole (ISRA, Senegal), Agricultural Research Corporation (ARC, Sudan) and Institut Tchadien de Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (ITRAD, Chad) and government agencies.

## Donor

African Development Bank (AfDB)

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