



African Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Program (GCCASP)

Niger Workshop Proceeding
Report

**A program of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency in
collaboration with the Government of Niger**

With the support of the Norwegian Government

14 to 15 July, 2014

Table of Contents

CONTEXT AND OPENING CEREMONY	2
RECAPITULATION OF GCCASP PROGRAM (NEPAD).....	4
Challenges - GCCASP Program (NEPAD)	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Components - GCCASP Program (NEPAD)	
National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA - Resilience)	4
Other actions implemented nationwide	5
Lessons learnt.....	5
Recommendations	6
RECAP OF 3N INITIATIVE PROGRAM.....	6
Axes of 3N Initiative Program.....	7
Components of the 2014 - 2015 Acceleration Plan	7
GROUP DISCUSSIONS.....	7
SYNTHESIS OF MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	8
Questions and Contributions.....	8
Main conclusions	9
Main recommendations.....	9
ANNEXES.....	10
Annex I : Results of Group Discussion work	11
Annex II : Program and work schedule	18
Annex III : Distribution of participants into Groups.....	19
Annex IV : Speeches.....	20
Annex V : List of participants	27

CONTEXT AND OPENING CEREMONY

From 14 to 15 July 2014, the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) in collaboration with the « Guri Vie Meilleure Foundation » and the High Commission at the 3N Initiative, co-organised the restitution workshop on the study entitled "Gender, Climate Change, and Agriculture Support Program" in Committee Room 4 of the Niamey Conference Centre. About sixty (60) participants from Niamey and different parts of Niger were in attendance, among whom forty-five (45) stayed back for the discussions (see Annex V for list of participants).

The opening ceremony was chaired by Dr Abdoulrazak Boukari, the Representative of the High Commissioner at 3N Initiative, in the presence of Mr Ibrahim Gourouza Magai, representing NEPAD, a representative of « Guri Vie Meilleure Foundation », the Secretary General of the Niamey region and many other invitees and participants.

The aim of the workshop was to validate the study on the implementation of the African Initiative for Intelligent Agriculture in face of Climate Change (AIC).

In the opening speeches delivered by representatives of the 3N Initiative Program, the Secretary General at the Niamey Governor's office, as well as the Representative of NEPAD, all three made it a point to reiterate the importance of this topic, as one whose stakes have global ramifications.

Through his opening address, the Representative of the High commissioner of the 3N Initiative harped on the fact that in spite of the huge load of responsibilities borne by women, especially with respect to household chores, raising the children and other social constraints including numerous cases of discrimination based on sex, women are still the first victims of the deterioration of our agricultural production system. And the consequence of this situation is portrayed by chronic deficits in food products, accompanied by a corollary known as food and nutritional insecurity.

In Niger 26% of pregnant and breastfeeding women suffer from global acute malnutrition, while 4 out of 10 children suffer from chronic malnutrition. It was therefore in a bid to tackle the main causes of food and nutritional insecurity that, while

fielding appropriate responses to situations of emergency and economic uncertainty that the bulk of the Nigerien population (particularly women and children) is grappling with, that the Government of Niger urged by President Issoufou Mahamadou, and under the leadership of Prime Minister Brigi Rafini adopted the 3N Strategic Framework document entitled “Nigériens Nourish Nigériens”, on 18 April, 2012.

The essential place reserved to agriculture in Niger (80% contribution to GDP) and the active involvement of the Nigerien woman in different links of the supply chain of agriculture, have caused constraints of the agricultural systems related to climate change to have a tremendous impact on the vulnerable nature of the latter.

The fight for poverty alleviation and climate change should be strengthened and wedged to complement each other, since at continental level, agriculture is at the cross roads of strategic stakes which could become sustainable sources of job creation, particularly through a transformation that should enable the country go beyond the threshold of subsistence agriculture.

For the representative of NEPAD, the fight against poverty and that for resilience in face of climate change should be strengthened on both fronts and led to complete each other. Adaptation measures should take into account the impact of climate change on the poor and the most fragile, particularly women farmers, since this scourge is already a great threat to security. Local markets are the main and the most dynamic outlets for producers; the African food market will be multiplied by three (3) before 2030 and should represent more than 1000 billion dollars. To be effective and long lasting, efforts towards intensifying this sector should as a priority be geared towards household farmers, while farmers’ associations should play a bigger role in streamlining the value chain.

RECAP OF GCCASP/ NEPAD PROGRAM

The *Gender Climate Change Agriculture Support Programme* (GCCASP – *Programme d'Appui au Genre, au Changement Climatique et à l'Agriculture*) under NEPAD which covers four countries as beneficiaries (Malawi, Cameroon, Niger and Rwanda) on funding by the Norwegian Agency for Development (NORAD), sets out mainly to (i) render women and youths autonomous against nefarious effects, and (ii) strengthen resilience and the adaption capacity for women and youths:

- involvement of women in the decision-making process;
- access to factors of production ;
- access to land ;
- access to markets ;
- access to information on climate change;
- insufficient capacity, skills and technology in production techniques;
- low organization level of women cooperatives;
- poor access to loans.

Components of the GCCASP (NEPAD) program

- Reduction of the institutional gap ;
- Supporting and strengthening activities of small scale women farmers;
- Creation and strengthening of women platforms;
- Investment in and introduction of innovative practices.

In light of these 4 components, a number of actions were defined and special emphasis was laid on capacity building of the GCCASP Program, to render its activities more efficient and sustainable.

To this end, the following topics were retained for training women and youths:

- Training on sustainable farming practices;
- Peer training;
- Experience-sharing;
- Training on climate change.

RESULTS OF STUDY

National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA)

The aim of the National Adaptation Plan of Action is to work towards attenuating the negative effects of climate change on the most vulnerable parts of the population, with a view to achieving sustainable development and poverty alleviation in Niger.

The NAPA Niger document gives an overview on the contents of priority actions to be carried out to address the most urgent and pressing adaptation needs and concerns to be able to cope with the negative effects of climate change.

As part of this study, a number of adaptation options were identified, namely:

- Introducing forage species among cattle rearers
- promoting livestock food banks
- rehabilitating bowls in irrigational farming irrigated crops
- diversifying and intensifying irrigated crops
- promoting market gardening and suburban farming
- promoting income generating activities and setting up cooperatives
- harnessing water
- generating and disseminating agro-meteorological data
- creating cereal banks
- contributing in the fight against sensitive climate related diseases
- developing CES/RDS actions to foster agricultural, forest and pastoral growth
- Extension of animal and plant species that are most adapted to climate conditions
- Protecting banks and reinstating sandy pools
- building technical, financial and organizational capacities of rural farmers

Other actions launched nationwide

Other projects and programs launched in Niger as part of adaptations to climate change, are as follows:

1. Implementation of NAPA priority actions to strengthen resilience and adaptation; capacity in the agricultural sector in face of climate change;
2. African Adaptation Program, National component ;
3. Adaptation Learning Program (ALP) Care –Niger;
4. Climate Resilience Steering Program (PPCR);
5. Strengthening resilience towards climate change in the agricultural sector to back food security in Niger through modern irrigation techniques;
6. Global Alliance Against Climate Change (AMCC);
7. Drafting the 3rd National communication paper;
8. Implementing PANA, the National Adaptation Programme for the Agriculture Sector Resilience to Climate Change

Lessons learnt

Lessons drawn from implementing programs and projects to develop adaptation and resilience capacities of communities to face climate change in Niger are as follows:

- the mastery by farmers of certain farming techniques such as micro dose and the fertilizer fund contribution;
- the activity is well accepted by the farmers who displayed much enthusiasm;

- the learning of new techniques by the farmers;
- the highest productivity of introduced varieties as opposed to local ones;
- the new varieties introduced are more precocious than the local ones ;
- the contribution of the fertilizers in micro doses (three fingers) brings about a good vegetative growth of the plants ;
- the fungicides protect the seedlings from rodents, termites and parasites ;
- the thinning to three plants brings about the best tillers;
- the density of the seedlings at 1m X 1m is a method of maximizing production;
- the task of recovering land contributes in maintaining some valid arms of the village; but to also make some arable land glaze, which explains an increase in the surface area that can be cultivated, increase herbaceous shrub cover and uncultivated soils;
- the increase in revenue of households enables them to cover fixed expenses; but also enables them to save and plough back into Income generating activities (AGRs)
- the mastery of techniques to reclaim land by the villagers ;
- a sense of awareness among the population as they face the nefarious effects of climate change and its impact on the environment.

Recommendations

Some recommendations were put forward:

- Introducing agricultural inputs in good time ;
- Stepping up the process of organizing farmers into cooperative groups ;
- Opening shops for inputs to ensure availability, guarantee accessibility and secure proximity of fertilizers for the population;
- Putting in place land commissions (COFOB), providing training and accompanying support for such, in a bid to secure and secure title deeds of these achievements ;
 - Capacity building for local management structures of projects; (management committees, farmers' cooperatives, etc....), in order to make them more operational and equipped to take better ownership of any action by the population, and lastly;
- Synergy.

RECAP OF 3N INITIATIVE PROGRAM

Dr Boukary Abdoulrazak, 3NI Technical Adviser, took upon himself to present the major challenges, assets and opportunities of agriculture in Niger, before dwelling on the 3NI strategy which is the manifestation of the political will for a green revolution in Niger, geared at improving the resilience of socioeconomic groups particularly through (i) its five strategic axes, and (ii) its 2014-2015 Acceleration Plan and its seven components.

3NI Program Axes

- Axis 1 : Increase and diversify agro-sylvo-pastoral and fish products;
- Axis 2 : Regularly supply rural and urban markets with agricultural and; agro-alimentary products;
- Axis 3 : Scale up the resilience of the populations in face of food crises and catastrophes;
- Axis 4 : Improve the nutritional contents of Nigeriens;
- Axis 5 : Create a conducive environment

Components of the 2014- 2015 Acceleration Plan

- 1st Component : Putting in place a platform of integrated services :The Farmer' House;
- 2nd Component : Harnessing water supply for agro-sylvo-pastoral and fish products;
- 3rd Component : Increasing and diversifying animal products;
- 4th Component : Restoring and protecting land and water resources through HIMO and Income generation activities;
- 5th Component : Improving nutrition ;
- 6th Component : Conserving, processing and marketing agro-sylvo-pastoral and fish products
- 7th Component : Carrying out sensitization, animation and communication.

GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Group discussions which took place during the second day, unfolded within three groups, each dealing with a specific topic. Activities during Day 2, were geared at critically analysing proposed areas of intervention and related activities described under each of the priority intervention areas. Given the present development context of Niger, and the activities identified, the aim was to enrich the report with best practices in gender and climate change.

That is how Group I explored the 1st and 2nd components on (i) reducing the workload of women farmers and (ii) capacity building and institutional development respectively.

Group II in turn focused on the 3rd and 4th components and listed priority areas of

intervention in Niger, namely (i) reducing the work costs borne by rural women farmers; (ii) capacity building and institutional development; (iii) improving access to key factor of production such as land, loans, water, equipment, inputs for rural farmers, and (iv) increasing the involvement of women farmers in managing natural resources.

Lastly, discussion Group III focused on (i) identifying the main actors involved in each component, (ii) defining appropriate roles for each key sector and (iii) discussing the putting in place of national partnership platforms (PP).

All the outcomes of the discussion groups can be found in Annex I and the members of the respective groups in Annex III.

SUMMARY OF MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Questions and Contributions

A few pertinent questions fueled discussions during the group work:

- What correlation can we establish between demographic growth and production?
- How many communes are there in Niger? 255 or 266?
- Does the 3N Initiative take into account the existence of a value chain of agricultural products?
- What link can we establish between climate change and value chains?
- What prospects are there for the 3N Initiative in 2015?
- Why is the 3N Initiative the supervisory institution of this program?

The main contributions were as follows:

- Foster greater access to land, credit and markets for women ;

- Sensitize women to register and get patents for their innovations;
- Do budget projections, taking into account gender.

Main conclusions

- The workshop was attended by over fifty participants from different strata of society from the capital and the regions ;
- Participants were enlightened on the context and experiences related to the GCCA discussion topics through many and diverse presentations;
- The logic of intervention that was proposed was adopted with its components and objectives, even if the contribution of the 1st component in its global objective does not seem obvious;
- Proposals of activities contained in the draft program were equally analysed and the quasi totality of them were found relevant, while some were found baseless in their formulation;
- Proposals for other actions necessary for the achievement of other set goals were also formulated;
- Draft amendments for actions were mainly directed towards targeting categories of beneficiaries, mainly women, youths and disabled persons;
- Different categories of stakeholders involved in implementing this program were identified and their roles defined;
- However, the levels and modalities of their collaboration have not been sufficiently developed;
- As well as the depth of their existence and/or the need to put in place efficient partnership platforms for implementing the program.

Main recommendations

In order to finalise the file of the program and ensure its effective launching, participants came up with the following recommendations:

1. Regarding the State:

- i. Launch a review of legislation governing access by women and youths to natural resources, particularly land, and make sure such is widely disseminated.
- ii. Channel BAGRI funding towards farmers and women farmers in

particular, and thereby make it a farmers' bank indeed.

2. Make a consequential gesture in response to the funding program, as well as some advocacy towards mobilizing strategic partners.

3. Regarding NEPAD :

- i. Initiate discussions with 3NI High Commissioner and the technical ministries in order to identify specific actors of the coordinating and steering structure.
- ii. Ensure that funding of the project is available in a reasonably short time.

ANNEXES

Annex I : Outcomes of Discussion Groups

Group I: Reminder on the terms of references : Validation and amendment of the 1st and 2nd components

Components	Objectives	Activities
1 st Component : Reducing the workload of women farmers	Reduce the number and weight of tasks assigned to women to allow them devote more time to more enriching activities and their personal development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Providing abundant and quality material to women groups to alleviate their domestic tasks (ADT), such as threshers, shellers grain mills, cattle and donkey cart, mule hoes, plows, spare parts , 2. Equipping women groups with multifunctional platforms : acquisition of many and quality tools, maintenance, spare parts, training (grinding machines, shellers, threshers alternators, community lighting and individual living quarters, distribution of potable water, battery chargers, cell phone chargers, solar panels, making multi-nutritional blocks etc.....) 3. Acquisitions or equipment related to the distribution of renewable energy such as improved wood stoves or gaz cookers or rice balls ovens 4. Vulgarisation of renewable energy in urban and rural areas 5. Vulgarisation of rapid but not fastidious access technologies to potable water (solar pump, MAEP, modern pumps)
2 nd Component : Capacity building and institutional development	Strengthen the institutional and organizational framework	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthening technical and financial capacities or even the logistics of focal units such as those of ministries involved in rural development (agriculture, animal breeding, environment, hydraulics, in charge of women promotion and child protection) 2. Identifying and diagnosing the functionality of existing women's groups : a group, union, federation, network (available provisional national inventory of women groups (15 848) at

		<p>MP/PF/PE : June 2013)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Creation and/or revamping of existing women groups 4. Capacity building of women's groups, those in existence as associative groups and in management 5. Capacity building for women's groups on the conservation, processing and marketing of agro-sylvo-pastoral products 6. Implementing adaptation measures to activities in relation to climate change, including constraints and the needs of women farmers (agriculture, animal breeding, environment) 7. Conception and implementation of sensitization modules of women farmers on legal documents (rural code, religious laws) for greater access to arable land 8. Institution and extension of listening club activities in intervention zones of the program
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Group II: 3rd & 4th COMPONENTS

3rd Component: Improve rural farmers' access to main factors of production such as land, loans, water, equipment and inputs.

Goal: Ensure access to factors of production for rural farmers, so as to increase revenue from productivity and from the farms of rural women.

- 1) Open micro credit facilities in the interest of women's groups so as to enable them purchase farm land individually and collectively and foster the acquisition of inputs and the development of land for forage and fish production.
- 2) Revamp the role of BAGI for access to credits for farmers, women and youths in particular.
- 3) In collaboration with traditional authorities, put in place local legal mechanisms to make sure that women's groups have access to land reclaimed by women or women's groups.
- 4) Conduct a nationwide survey and identify best practices in women's access to agro-sylvo-pastoral land, water and other resources and conception mechanisms to adapt and spread them through intervention areas of the program.
- 5) Creation and / or strengthening of markets of inputs (agriculture and animal breeding) for women and youths.
- 6) Training and refreshal courses for managers of shops for inputs owned by women farmers, in the use of inputs while respecting the environment.
- 7) Creation of a support fund for micro enterprises run by women and youths involved in conservation, processing, marketing, storage and access to markets.
- 8) Training actors in the value chain of managing enterprises and best practices to secure added value.
- 9) Support in harnessing business partnerships with collectors (warehouse receipt system) and public and private enterprises in marketing these food products.
- 10) Sensitization and innovation for processed goods and protecting them under a patent.
- 11) Sensitization on the Existence of the African Organization on Intellectual Property (OAPI) and the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- 12) Put in place a mechanism for the award of contracts and ensure capacity building for stakeholders in the industry.
- 13) Putting in place a rolling fund to start women's groups, to cover fuel and maintenance costs.

4th COMPONENT: STRENGTHENING THE INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN FARMERS AND YOUTHS IN MANAGING BIOTIC NATURAL RESOURCES.

Goal: Draw the best practices generated by communities as a whole and women in particular, in order to place women at the centre of efforts to conserve and preserve the production base.

- 1) Putting in place mixed discussion groups (Listening Clubs; fada) for brainstorming and sharing on rural dynamics and climate change. These groups endogenously identify constraints and draft small scale action plans in light of their perceptions on climate change and their adaptation experiences.
- 2) Putting in place actions for land recovery, protection and regeneration (CES/DRS).
- 3) Creation of nurseries for women (forest and fruit plants).
- 4) Putting in place a partnership with institutions and projects specialised in marketing agro-sylvo-pastoral and (fish) seedlings.
- 5) The use of Early Warning Mechanisms to broadcast meteorological data through close communication systems (mobile telephony; community radio).
- 6) Sensitization on best practices in the management of biotic natural resources.

Group III: Identifying stakeholders and defining their roles, identifying potential partners

1 Institutionalizing 3NI Program

2 Partners' platforms

3 Scientific and technical committee

4 Management unit in charge of implementing the program

Actors /partners	Roles
State : Ministries in charge of (Energy, Environment, Water Resources, Women's Affairs, Community Development, Industrial development, Decentralization, Agriculture, Health, Animal Breeding, Finances, Research Institutes).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- approval of strategic plan,- follow-up and Evaluation,- strategic orientation of the program,- drafting a communication strategy- defining a strategy for the mobilization of financial and technical resources- coordinating partners- distribution of resources- support in training and counselling- drafting and adopting legal instruments
CSO : relevant civil society organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- guidance

Actors /partners	Roles
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocacy, mobilization of additional resources - Follow-up and Evaluation
Beneficiaries (women, youths and disabled persons)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -
Local authorities,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Follow-up and Evaluation - Resource mobilization
Traditional authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prevention of land conflicts - Access to land
TFP or donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financial and technical support - Resource mobilization
Private partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Service Provision - Financial support

Annex II : Program and Work schedule

Program of Day 1 - Monday, 14 July 2014

- Opening ceremony of workshop
- Introduction of participants
- Sharing the Workshop program
- Presenting the 3NI
- Summary of GCCSP (NEPAD) Program
- GCCSP Program : Phases / Methods and Process
- Presenting results of the Niger study
- Overview of on-going projects and lessons learnt
- Dispositions institutionnelles pour la mise en œuvre NEPAD

Program of Day 2 – Tuesday, 15 July 2014

- Recapitulation of Monday 14/07/2014
- Work in Discussion groups (2 working groups)
- Sharing of group work outcomes
- Conclusions / recommendations

Working Hours

- 8:30 – 10:00 Working Session
- 10:00 – 10:30 *Coffee Break / Group picture*
- 10:30 – 13:00 Working Session
- 13 :00 – 14:00 *Lunch Break / Prayer*
- 14:00 – 15:30 Working Session
- 15:30 - 16 :00 *Coffee Break / Prayer*
- 16 :00 – 17 :30 Working Session and close of Business

Annex III : Discussion groups

List of members - Group 1

Mr Halikou Abdou ME/SE/DD
Mr Hamidou Harouna CEDEAO/ cellule
Mr Abdou Nino FENAP
Mr Adamou Abdoulaye CONGAFEN
Mrs Hama Mariama CONGAFEN
Mrs Fouretou Gakoye Foyer Maibigui
Mrs Paraiso Aicha Congafen
Mrs Coujan Genevieve Messan DAEF/MP/PF/PE
Mrs Habi Mamata / DAEF/MP/PF/PE
Mr Adoum Argaye/ ONG AIDD
Mr Barmo Dan IYA /ONG ONDES
Mr Issa Adjil / ME/SU/DD/DGEDD
Mrs Toudjani Saratou

List of members – Group 2

1. Mr Kaldem Ednar FAO
2. Mr Saley Mahamane PFPN
3. Mr Sani Nassirou AREN
4. Mr Sitotaw Barhana GEOSAS
5. Mrs Fade Hadiza DEP/MEL
6. Mrs Madakry Hadiza DRP/PF/PE
7. Mrs Djamila Barke ANJDI
8. Mrs Mamane Yahaya DRP/PF/PE
9. Mrs Tchiari Falmata CONGAFEN
10. Mrs Daouda Khoumaiui ONG Adkoul

List of members - Group 3

1. Salamatou Amadou Daouda/ Chairperson
2. Issoufou Billa Keima
3. Tahirou Adamou
4. Mara Sekou
5. Ali Abdou Bonguere
6. Ayoubu Gara
7. Idrissa Moussa
8. Boubacar Alzouma
9. Iro Mamane
10. Pr Ben Mohamed Abdelki

Issa GarbaTahirou / Rapporteur

Annex IV : Speeches

Address by Mr Boureima Zourkaleini Maïga, Secretary General at the Governor's Office, Niamey, Representing the Governor.

Mr Technical Adviser at the High Commission of the 3N Initiative,

Mr Special Assistant from NEPAD,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Governor who is unavoidably absent, allow me to express sincere gratitude to the High Commissioner at the 3NI and NEPAD for choosing Niamey to host the launching workshop to validate the study on Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture. Through my voice, the people of Niamey wish to salute NEPAD for its role in this initiative and also congratulate the agency for efforts it has unrelentingly deployed at the helm of this Panafrican Institution as it strives for the harmonious development of our continent.

Distinguished Invitees,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The study on Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture, that is spearheaded by the NEPAD Agency and under the guidance of High-Commissioner of the 3N Initiative is only topical in light of climate change that is affecting our industrious farmers and particularly its female population, on a daily basis.

Distinguished Invitees,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you do know, as those who constitute the bulk of our low income rural and urban population, women handle all the household chores, which many of them juggle alongside farming and commercial activities.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Speech by Mr Ibrahim Gourouza Magagi, representing the NEPAD Executive Secretary

Mr Technical Adviser at the High Commission of the 3N Initiative,

Mr Secretary General at the Governor's Office

Distinguished Invitees,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

By your leave, I will begin by extending greetings and apologies from Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki who for reasons beyond his control, had to return to Johannesburg last night. He wishes that our proceedings will be a resounding success and keenly awaits the conclusions of our workshop.

Mr Technical Adviser at the High Commission of the 3N Initiative,

Mr Secretary General at the Governor's Office,

Distinguished Invitees,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We will never say it enough; it is unacceptable that Africa, the continent which is least guilty of pollution, should be the continent suffering the most from the effects of climate change.

There is no reason why some inhabitants of our planet emit 10 or 20 more times of greenhouse gases than others.

The United Nations Convention on Climate is predicated on a simple principle: a common but differentiated responsibility

The principle of a common responsibility, simply means that each should bear a responsibility; beginning from the major economies.

Equity demands all and sundry to participate in the effort; developed countries should accept constraints that are tighter than those borne by developing countries.

At NEPAD, our message is as follows:

1. Poverty alleviation and the fight against climate change should strengthen and complete one another.
2. Adaptation measures should take into account the impact of climate change on the poor and the most fragile, particularly women farmers.
3. Already, climate change is posing a huge challenge to security. We all admit that the effects of climate change are one of the direct causes of some conflicts.
4. In Africa, we need better coordination among international stakeholders such as: the United Nations, the World Bank, and others, to avoid any duplication of efforts and a consequent waste of energy.

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The year 2014 was named the Year of Agriculture by the African Union.

Last month in Malabo, our Heads of State had a lengthy debate on transforming African agriculture as well as its perspectives.

Let me avail myself of this opportunity to share with you in broad strokes, some elements of this discussion on our Agriculture of tomorrow:

1. Agriculture is at the crossroads of development strategies of the continent.
2. African can develop its agriculture with many jobs created, natural resources protected and high mechanised production.
3. The agricultural sectors can absorb a huge portion of youths that are ushered into the job market and thereby solve part of the problem of unemployed youths which is a social time bomb.
4. The African farmer should do processing in Africa; we should promote agro-industry.
5. Up scaling the resilience of our agricultural systems, should be a priority.
6. Protecting our resources should rank among priority stakes in Africa and the world as a whole.
7. If Africa succeeds in integrating her markets, she can turn her back to dependency and ensure its food security.
8. Local markets are the main and most dynamic outlets for farmers; the African food market will be multiplied by three by 2030. It should be worth more than 1000 billion US dollars.
9. To be efficient and sustainable, intensification efforts should as a priority be geared towards household agriculture.
10. Lastly, farmers' organizations should play a greater role in structuring the value chains.

Distinguished Invitees,

Ladies and gentlemen,

By 2050, Africa will be counting 2 Billion inhabitants, majority of whom will be women and youths. This forecast alone captures the gravity of what we have at stake in terms of agricultural systems; nourishing and enriching Africans and preserving our resources for future generations.

Through its program on Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture, which is the topic of this workshop, NEPAD intends to contribute towards achieving this goal.

This study will not just be another study, for from it will flow a country inclusive program, and concrete projects that will help women farmers in particular, in the field.

I thank you for your kind attention.

Speech by the Technical Adviser at the High Commission for the 3N Initiative

Mr Secretary General at the Governor's Office,

Mr Special Assistant from NEPAD,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In Niger, agriculture is the mainstay of socio-economic activity, since it covers over 80% of the active population of the country and represents more than 42% of our GDP. A considerable portion of this population is made up of women and many studies confirm that they play an active part in different links of the production chain of the agricultural sector (from production, storage, to the processing and marketing of agro-alimentary products).

Unfortunately however, the agricultural production systems are characterised by an extremely fragile nature, in face of climate variations and other anthropological factors, Nigerien households are frequently grappling with risks which erode their resilience. Drought, locust invasions, infectious and parasitic diseases which attack cattle ravagers and plant diseases, floods, wind storms and bushfires, all constitute the risk looming over our animal and plant products. This is further compounded by the negative effects of hazards related to production and market trends which are sometimes worsened by socio-political regional instability that is stirred by armed conflicts, especially in Nigeria, Libya and Mali.

Despite their heavy workload, characterised by household chores, bringing up the children and social constraints including many cases of discrimination based on gender, women are the first victims of the deterioration of production in the agricultural system. In fact, the consequences of this situation are reflected through chronic deficits in food products with food and nutritional insecurity as a corollary. It is worthwhile noting that in Niger, 26% of pregnant women and breast feeding mothers, suffer from Acute Global Malnutrition, while 4 out of 10 children suffer from chronic malnutrition.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is therefore in a bid to address the root causes of food and nutritional insecurity, while proposing appropriate responses to pressing needs and economically precarious situations in which a good portion of our population (particularly women and children) is grappling with, that the Government of Niger under the leadership of His Excellency Issoufou MAHAMADOU, President of the Republic, Head of State and the enlightened guidance of Prime Minister, His Excellency Brigi RAFINI adopted 3N Initiative Strategic

document “Nigériens Nourish Nigériens” on 18 April 2012. Conceived from a participatory and inclusive approach, this initiative is articulated around five strategic axes. It sets out to "contribute to protecting Nigerien populations from hunger and malnutrition and guarantee conditions for a full participation in national production and improving their revenue".

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The implementation of the 3N Initiative is unfolding in a context where climate change and gender are at the forefront of discussions among the highest authorities in the country. The 3N Initiative strategic document is therefore naturally inspired by great awareness pertaining to the role of women as the driving force behind the successful implementation of its programs. Furthermore, gender and climate change are taken into consideration and cited as two of the five fundamental principles in the implementation of the 3N Initiative.

In more concrete terms, vulnerable groups and women in particular are identified as priority target beneficiaries of the kits at various levels where « households, villages and communes » are considered as part of "improving resilience mechanisms", and "preventing different forms of malnutrition" programs.

That is how:

- An entire gamut of income generating activities have been planned and rolled out in the interest of women;
- Support to water supply through small scale irrigation where for the most part women are the beneficiaries;
- Kits for small ruminants and poultry in vulnerable households are offered;
- Creation of high labour intensive projects (cash for work, food for work, ...);
- Activities for blanket feeding and nutritional education,
- Etc ...

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The drafting of programs, mobilisation of resources as well as the implementation of different programs and projects under the 3N Initiative warranted the collaboration of numerous technical and financial partners, top most among which you will find NEPAD.

It is therefore the ideal opportunity for me to congratulate and thank NEPAD for the multi-faceted support it has continuously granted Niger and the High Commission of the 3 N Initiative as it executes this program. You will definitely recall that only recently, in collaboration with the HC 3N Initiative, NEPAD and World Bank jointly organized the national workshop on « Managing Agricultural Risks in Niger and the integration of Intelligent Agricultural Climate Instruments in face of Climate Change (AIC) » which took place in Niamey, exactly one month ago (10 to 11 June 2014).

The choice of Niger among the first six countries implementing the African initiative for Intelligent Agriculture in face of Climate Change, as well as the five beneficiary countries of the Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Program which has brought us together on the occasion of this workshop for its validation, is eloquent proof of the unrelenting support NEPAD has displayed towards our country, just in case anyone had cause to entertain any doubts!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I also avail myself of this opportunity to congratulate and warmly thank the « GURI, vie meilleure» Foundation of First Lady Aïssata Issoufou for the tremendous support it has constantly made available in the implementation of the 3N Initiative, through numerous and diverse activities for women across the entire nation. Among the many activities to the credit of the Guri Foundation, permit me to mention the following:

- Support to education / training of women and the girl child;
- Provision of kits to women farmers and brooders (equipment, tillage, improved seeds, fertilizers, pumps, animals...);
- Support to land exploitation;
- Etc ...

Dear participants,

The workshop to which you have been invited, is called upon to work on validating the Study on the Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Program. As I look at the participants here gathered, there is no iota of doubt that the objectives of the workshop will be attained.

I will be remiss if I closed my speech without extending heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed towards the success of this event, namely the technical staff from NEPAD, the High Commission for the 3N Initiative, and the team of national and international consultants.

So, while wishing you a resounding success in your proceedings, I now declare this validation workshop open.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Annex V: List of Participants

Registration sheet

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