



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

Niger National Desk Review

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**List of Acronyms:**

CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Developement
CNEDD	National Council for Environment
CONGAFEN	General Confederation of women's associations
DEP	Planning and studies directorates
ECOWAP	ECOWAS common agriculture policy
ECOWAS	Economic Comunity for West Afriacn States
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
i3N or "3N Initiative"	Nigeriens feed themseves
ISC	Inter-ministerial Steering Committee
NAIP	National Agricultural Investment Plan
	National Programm for Adaptation to climate change Adapation
NAPA	Plan
NGO	Non gouvernemental Organizations
NGP	National Gender Policy
OPA	Professionannal Agricultural Organization
PNEDD	National Environmental Plan for Sustainable Development
PRS	Powery Reduction Stratégy
RDS	Rural Developpement Stratgy
SE/DRS	Executive Secretary of the Rural Development Strategy
TFP	Technical and Finacial Partners

## **1. Introduction.**

In Niger and elsewhere in some developing countries, women represent more than half of the population (50.15%) and contribute a large proportion to the agricultural GDP. The level of women's contribution to GDP, moreover unclear, because of the overlap between so-called productive activities and household activities, could be increased significantly if the role of women in the planning process and decision is differently considered and whether concrete actions of support are designed and implemented for women.

The need to think differently about women's place in the national economy in general and in agriculture in particular, comes in every programs speech and in policy statements. This is what motivated the design and endorsement in 2007 of the National Gender Policy with the overall objectives (i) establish an institutional, socio-cultural, legal and economic environment conducive to achieving equity and equality of gender in Niger and (ii) ensure the effective integration of gender as a variable in all stages of the studies and research process on the socio-economic conditions of the populations, analysis, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development programs and the mainstreaming of the needs gender-related interventions in areas of activities in terms of objectives, strategies and actions.

The same applies for the consideration of climate change which recently become, one of the most widely discussed topics in both political circles and amongst experts. The adoption by Niger in 1998 of the Environmental National Plan for a Sustainable Development (PNEDD) and the Program of National Adaptation to Climate Change in 2006, results from this dynamic.

More broadly, the challenges posed by the impact of poverty on the national economy, food insecurity and vulnerability to climate change have motivated the development and adoption of a range of national and sectoral policies. The issue is whether the policies and strategies of rural development that the country has given itself, both in the context of national initiatives in the context of regional integration processes, accurately reflect the enthusiasm for these two issues.

The overall objective of this present work is to make a critical analysis of key policy documents and strategies of the rural sector in relation to gender, in relation to climate change and to examine how the inevitable overlaps between the dimensions gender and climate change are taken into account. But prior to this analysis, it is convenient to set some

useful benchmarks guiding to a better understanding of the socio-economic context of Niger.

## **2. Niger in brief**

Niger has an area of 1,267,000 km<sup>2</sup>. It shares borders with Algeria to the north, Libya and Chad to the east, Nigeria and Benin to the south, Burkina Faso and Mali to the west. It is a landlocked country whose nearest sea outlet is 700 km.

### **2.1 Economic Performance**

After several years of turbulence related to political and social instability, the Nigerien economy began a phase of growth which covered the decade 2000-2010. During this period, the average rate of growth of the Nigerian economy amounted to nearly 3.8% of GDP (Ministry of Planning, 2011). The main driver of this growth is the agricultural sector which unfortunately is often struck by the phenomenon of drought. Thus, between 2000 and 2010 the relative share of agriculture in the GDP amounted to a 42.2% exceeding the contribution of the tertiary sector which stood at 40%. The share of the agricultural sector is distributed as follows: 25% for the sub-sector of agriculture, 12% for livestock and about 4.5% for forestry and fisheries. During the period 2006-2010, the value added of agriculture sub-sectors, livestock and fisheries grew by an average of 9.5%, 2.1% and 6.3% respectively.

### **2.2 Poverty**

Niger is one of the group of least developed countries (LDCs). Ranked 177 out of 178 countries according to the UNDP report on development, poverty is endemic. The Human Poverty Index (HPI) is 64.4% (UNDP, 2005). The evaluation carried out within the framework of the preparation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) reveals that two-thirds of Niger's populations live below the poverty line. A third of Niger's population is extremely poor. The same report indicates that rural poverty suffered most severely. In fact, 90% of poor Nigeriens live in rural areas. The disaggregation of poverty by gender shows that women are more vulnerable to poverty than men because three out of four poor people are women. This high prevalence of poverty is also confirmed by the approach under the conditions of existence. However, depending on the poverty profile prepared by the INS after the use of data from various surveys on household living conditions, reduce poverty marginally from 63% in 1990 to 62.1% in 2005 and 59.5% in 2008 (ENBC, 2008).

### **2.3 Food Insecurity**

In Niger, the risk of food insecurity is high. During the past 40 years, the country has experienced several episodes of famine, the most serious are those of 1973-1974, 1983-1984, 2005 and 2011. Recurrence of food insecurity in the country is due to a very strong dependence on rain-fed agriculture in a country where droughts are frequent. The analysis

of available data shows that Niger is at risk of being confronted with drought every three years with severe grain shortages and many consequences on the food situation. Thus, according to the results of the joint investigation of vulnerability on food insecurity of households conducted in November 2011, almost 9% of Nigeriens representing 1,324,435 people are severely food insecure and 4,134,436, or 26.4 % are moderately food insecure in November 2011.

In total, during the year, 5,458,871 people are on food insecurity in Niger. It should also be noted that 3,622,956 people or 23.1% are at risk. This situation is the result of poor crop at the end of 2011. The situation of acute poverty that people live in exacerbates vulnerability to household food insecurity.

#### **2.4 Women and Agriculture in Niger**

Agriculture is the main occupation of Niger people living in rural sedentary, semi-nomadic and nomadic. According to the results of the last General Agricultural and Livestock Census (RGAC) conducted in 2004, the agricultural sector employs 11.3% of farm households headed by men and 7.9% of households headed by women in the agricultural sector. Women are present in many activities related to agriculture since food preparation until the work of plowing and even some post-harvest activities.

The main obstacle facing women farmers is the lack of access to agricultural land. Indeed, in Niger, inheritance is the main gateway to the land ownership. Whereas, succession to agricultural land is subject to three categories of rights, including Islamic law, modern law and customary law. Islamic law recognizes the possibility for women to inherit but gives a share to the female heirs against two to male heirs. However, there is lack of awareness as regard to this provision by women, especially in rural areas, because they are generally excluded from the inheritance of land which is considered to be the exclusive male heirs. Modern law in Niger recognizes men and women the same share of inheritance whether for land or other property left for inheritance. The pure customary law meanwhile puts great emphasis on the patriarchal system. In this system, girls do not inherit from their father and women do not inherit from their husbands (INS, UNICEF, 2008). However, women may have rights of use or exploitation land. Out of the 73,345 ha of irrigated land identified in RGAC in 2004, only 3041 ha (4%) are operated by women. Other difficulties faced by women farmers relate to access to inputs, access to agricultural technologies in a socio-cultural environment conducive to all forms of discrimination and exclusion against women.

#### **2.5 The global vulnerability of Niger to climate variability and climate change**

The geographical position of Niger in desert and semi-desert area predisposes it to a very high vulnerability to climate change. The results of the evaluation of vulnerability reveal that

all agro-ecological zones of the country are highly threatened by the negative impacts of climate change. Desert areas are obviously the most vulnerable areas to climate change. The droughts and famines they cause, the extreme temperatures hit so hard all regions of the country. Only the south seems better to withstand the impact of these phenomena. Regarding the occupational groups in the country, herders (15.09%), women and youth (13.20%), and farmers are considered the most vulnerable groups (CNEDD, 2005). Concerning the sector of activities, it is agriculture that is most affected by the negative impacts of climate change. Indeed, it is generally accepted that phenomena such as floods or droughts exert their most pernicious effects on agricultural activities through crop destruction and degradation of cropland.

But these phenomena do not spare livestock activities by causing the loss of grazing due to droughts. In 2010, it is estimated that drought had caused the decimation of half Nigerien livestock while in 1984 the losses following the first year of drought corresponded to the disappearance of 33% of goats and 35% sheep. (CNEDD, 2003).

Areas of wildlife, flora and fisheries are not spared. Torrential rains, floods and river floods they cause are accompanied, indeed, by loss of woody and herbaceous plant species. They also cause the premature death of certain species while inducing a weak development of fodder species. Strong winds cause the most damage to forests, vegetation and soils. Estimated damage to forest resources following the droughts of 1968-1973, 1977-1985 and 2004 is about 338,180 ha (NCA, 2003)

### **3. Assessment of policy documents and strategies in relation to Gender and Climate Change**

Since the proclamation of the year 1975 as International Year for women by the United Nations, Niger has undertaken various initiatives with a view to mainstreaming the gender dimension in policy making. With awareness of the acceleration of climate change, the same effort is being deployed. Also, strategy papers in various fields have been developed. In addition, institutional mechanisms have been installed and a legal arsenal has been adopted to facilitate the achievement of government's objectives in terms of gender and climate change.

#### **3.1 The Rural Development Strategy and the National Agricultural Investment Plan**

Like all countries in West Africa, Niger has engaged since October 2006 in the process of implementing the agenda of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the Common Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP), as part of national



efforts to promote agricultural development and economic growth. This process is part of the implementation of the Accelerated Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (SDRP) and the Rural Development Strategy (RDS). It should be noted that Niger has a Rural Development Strategy since 2003, as a Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS)

The roundtable, held from September 29 to 30, 2009, resulted in the signing of the National Charter ECOWAP/CAADP Niger (Compact), which establishes a framework for partnership between the Niger government and development partners in the implementation National Plan for Agricultural Investment (NIPA). The Charter also states that the NIPA will fit entirely in the RDS which is a melting pot of all development interventions in the agricultural sector at the country level.

The Rural Development Strategy for the Niger overall objective is to "reduce the incidence of rural poverty from 66% to 52% by 2015 by creating the conditions for Sustainable Economic and Social Development to ensure Food Security of and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources."

The Rural Development Strategy (RDS) is available under the three strategic axes: (i) Promote Rural Access to Economic Opportunities for Creating Conditions for Sustainable Growth in Rural Areas, (ii) Preventing Risks, Enhance Food Security and Managing Sustainable Natural Resources for Securing Populations Living Conditions, (iii) Building the Capacity of Public Institutions and Rural Organizations to Improve the Management of Rural Sector.

Equity and gender is a crosscutting concern with respect to each of the twenty three (23) SDR programs. The instruction and the implementation of these must always take into account the real needs of women and involve them in the activities to be undertaken. It will exceed the vision that led to the definition of individual components specific to women, to bring practical gender approach in all actions taken.

NIPA being an emanation of the SDR did not derogate from this rule. Of the 17 activity groups chosen by the NIPA that arise from CAADP pillars, only the further study on gender and HIV-AIDS was gender-specific. Other actions chosen do not involve separation but largely female component. Like the RDS, NIPA makes a transversal treatment; requiring great care in implementation, monitoring and evaluation of actions.

Among objectives of RDS, the issue of climate change and resilience to climate change does not appear explicitly. However, during its development, there was a strong awareness of the strong vulnerability of the Nigerien economy to recurrent droughts and desertification and

the need to limit natural risks on production. Also, the second strategic axis indicates the importance of (i) limiting as much as possible, the dependence of production systems vis-à-vis climate hazards, (ii) halting the overexploitation of natural resources, which while jeopardizing the sustainability of production systems, compromise increase opportunities, (iii) to secure the living conditions of households, reducing the risk of occurrence of food crises by improving sanitary conditions of access to water and food. NIPA, like all SDR assets is transferred to the 3N Initiative since the adoption of the latter.

### **3.2 The 3N Initiative**

The 3N Initiative verbatim "Nigériens feed Nigériens" is an integrated food security program adopted by Niger in June 2012 aiming at "contributing in protecting Niger populations against hunger and malnutrition and ensure the conditions for full participation in national production and to improve their income." To achieve this goal, the initiative aims at "strengthening the capacity of national food production, Supply and resilience to food crises and natural disasters".

The 3N Initiative is built around five strategic axes corresponding to the expected overall effects of investments and actions. These are (i) the growth and diversification of agro-forestry-pastoral and fisheries, (ii) Regular supply of rural and urban markets in agricultural and food products (iii) Improve the resilience of populations to climate change, crises and disasters (iv) Improving the nutritional status of Nigériens (v) Animation, Initiative Coordination and 3N momentum of reforms. These five strategic axes are translated into five strategic programs (SP), twelve operational programs and institutional arrangements.

The approach recommended for the implementation of the 3N Initiative is based on a participatory and inclusive approach that will obey five guiding principles, namely (i) the concentration of actions, (ii) targeting of support, (iii) taking into account gender, (iv) sustainability of the productive base, (v) mobilization and empowerment of stakeholders.

Unlike strategy papers which preceded it, the development of the 3N Initiative occurred in a context where gender and climate change is at the heart of all concerns and where significant progress has been made at national level. The emphasis in the management of climate change is expressed in the fact that 3N Initiative fits into the perspective of optimal use of opportunities and comparative advantages of agricultural and food sectors of Niger to integrate the Nigerien economy in dynamics of competitiveness at regional and even international level in accordance with the principle of solidarity with future generations.

The 3N Initiative document is therefore footprint of this great awareness on the interest of the concept of gender and climate change in Niger. Thus the specific objective of the 3N

Initiative is designed so that strengthening resilience to food crises and natural disasters is set as the starting point for efforts to be made under this initiative. The fourth principle of intervention relating to the preservation of the durability of the base of the productive base also abounds in the same direction.

In relation to gender, the 3N Initiative targets vulnerable households, women, youth, and persons with disability and producer organizations as evidenced by the third principle of intervention. Taking into account the gender dimension appears also in strategic programs, village, community and family kits. Thus it is clearly stated that women in general, women heads of households, in particular, are the priority target groups under programs "Improving forecasting mechanisms and coordination of emergency" and "Prevention of different forms of malnutrition." Concerning service kits, a range of income-generating activities in which women are the main beneficiaries has been programmed. This is the case for instance with gardening activities. This concern is reflected in village kits by programming small irrigation for market gardening and fruit growing and making available plots of 200 to 300 square meters for women. Regarding the results chain of the 3N Initiative, the fourth Specific Programme provides, among other results, securing land access for the most vulnerable groups including women, youth and people with disability. The sixth Strategic Programme also provides monitoring of the proportion of women and young people who have developed new income-generating activities as one of the indicators.

### **3.3 The National Gender Policy (NGP)**

The analysis of the situation in Niger according to gender led to the following key findings: (i) inequality of status and position of women and men in the family and in society, (ii) unequal power economic status of women and men and the feminization of poverty, (iii) unequal enjoyment of rights by women and men and differentiated exercise of their obligations within the family and society (iv) unequal participation of men and women in decision-making bodies at all levels, despite the existence of the quota law, (v) low-impact interventions in favor of fairness and equal access for men and women.

The need to provide answers to issues raised through these observations is the origin of the adoption of the National Gender Policy (NGP) July 31, 2008. NGP is aligned with international, regional and national commitments, Niger has signed, the most important are the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination ' against Women (1979), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel and Degrading treatments (1984), the Millennium Development Goals (2000), the

Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005), the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Right (1981), the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1990), The ECOWAS Gender Policy (2001) The African Union Policy on Gender (22 May 2009), the Accelerated Development and Poverty Reduction (2008-2012), the Constitution of the Seventh Republic (2011).

Through this policy, the Government of Niger hopes to build with all stakeholders, a society without discrimination where men and women, boys and girls have equal opportunities to participate in its development and enjoy the benefits of its growth. GNP has set two objectives (i) establish an institutional, socio-cultural, legal and economic environment for achieving fairness and equality of opportunity between men and women and (ii) ensure the effective integration of gender into policies, plans, programs and projects of development of our country.

NGP is based on four (4) cardinal principles: (i) the gender is transverse and the National Gender Policy is the only frame of reference for all involved in the matter, (ii) the two overall objectives of the NGP are related and their realization requires a synergistic action in the actions of actors identified by the institutional implementation, (iii) the commitments of the players and the acceptance of gender as "eligibility criterion for funding development interventions "and (iv) gender does not mean similarity and its non-fulfillment is an obstacle to national development.

NGP is supported by four (4) strategic axes. The first aims to promote equitable situation and social position of women and men within the family and in the community, the second axis aims to promote fair potential and the position of women and men in the household economy and the market economy, the third axis focuses on issues of human rights, the fourth axis relates to the capacity of intervention of the institutional framework for the implementation of NGP.

Finally, by developing the NGP, Niger confirms its commitment to achieve equity and equality between men and women at all levels. However, experience has shown that too often having a sectoral policy is not sufficient but we should rather ensure the implementation of the NGP in terms of efficiency and effectiveness. As such, the government and its partners must overcome a number of challenges, including the technical and the financial challenge. Indeed, the necessary funds to implement the 10-year Action Plan (2009-2018) of the NGP is estimated at about 96 million U.S. dollars. The technical challenge in turn, is related to the need to develop two strategies namely support an advocacy strategy for resource mobilization and communication strategy to support the implementation of the NGP and make its results visible.

### **3.4 The National Plan for Environment and Sustainable Development**

Niger developed a National Environmental Plan for Sustainable Development (PNEDD). The purpose of this Plan is "to expand the options for development and sustainability of these options for future generations." Its purpose is to "establish conditions conducive to the improvement of food security, finding solution to the crisis of domestic energy, improved sanitary conditions and economic development of the populations."

To achieve these overall objectives, the PNEDD has four additional sub-objectives, namely: (i) ensure a more rational management of natural resources in the fight against desertification by promoting a more holistic approach to the issue, (ii ) integrate environmental concerns in the definition of policies, programs and projects implemented in each of the main areas of development, (iii) encourage involvement, accountability and public participation in the management of resources and their habitat , contribute to the preservation and improvement of their living environment, (iv) promote the development of an effective partnership between stakeholders in the issue of the environment and sustainable development in Niger.

It appears that the overall as well as specific objectives of the gender dimension in connection with the woman farmer are not explicitly brought out. However, as it will be seen further, it is by no means an omission reflecting any lack of interest.

The PNEDD implementation Strategy includes short-term actions that are most urgent to implement, the medium-term actions grouped into priority programs and a range of accompanying measures which are spread over the mid and long term. This implementation strategy also comes through two main themes including natural resource management and capacity building in environment. These two strategic themes give predominant role to the population, particularly youth and women. The PNEDD consists of six programs which are: (i) Biological Diversity Programme, (ii) Water and Sustainable Development Programme (iii) Climate Change and Climate Variability Programme (iv) Urban Environment and Living Environment Programme (v) National Program to Combat Desertification and Natural Resource Management and (vi) Energy and Sustainable Development Programme. These programs are driven by technical committees made up of representatives of government institutions, representatives of research institutions and representatives of civil society. As noted above, the PNEDD includes the National Programme for Adaptation (PANA) and the Pilot Program Resilience to Climate Change. It is through the activities of these two programs of PNEDD that takes into account specifically the needs and priorities of rural women face climate change.

The PNEDD overall approach in relation to gender has its roots in the close relationship that women have with the natural environment because of their actual presence in farming activities and collection of vital resources. This ongoing relationship predisposes, indeed, women with greater sensitivity to changes in the natural environment which is the environment in which they operate. This permanent contact with the environment has fostered in women, some good practices in environmental conservation. From there, the role of women is considered according to a totally different perspective of any approach regarding women as target groups or simple passive recipients. Here, women are no longer confined to specific and restrictive activities but are strength of proposals and implementation.

### **3.5 The National Adaptation Programme (PANA)**

The National Adaptation Programme address the adverse effects of climate change (PANA) was developed by the National Council of Environment for a Sustainable Development (CNEDD) and is part of the implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan on Climate Change and Variability (SN/PACVC) developed, adopted in March 2004. The development and implementation of PANA in Niger are also within the framework of the implementation of the Convention United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that Niger has signed and ratified on 11 June 1992 and 25 July 1995 respectively.

The overall objective of the PANA is to help in mitigating the adverse effects of climate variability and climate change on the most vulnerable populations in the context of sustainable development. Thus fourteen options of adaptation have been identified for the implementation of adaptation measures to help increase agricultural productivity, food security and water availability. These adaptation options were identified during the PANA preparation process, as a priority for players at county, municipal and village levels.

In general, PANA's relationships with the national development objectives are considered in terms of linkages between adaptation measures identified in the PNEED and national development priorities made up by the SRP. Also, the adaptation measures identified in the framework of PANA are consistent with the direction of the PRS, particularly with regard to food security, capacity building, water management, the Struggle against desertification and promoting of income-generating activities.

From a programmatic view, apart from the health sector, all other key areas identified by the PANA come within the agricultural sector. They are agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry, water resources, wildlife, and wetlands. This high level of priority given to the agricultural sector is confirmed in the choice of projects to be implemented when the first project aims to improve the resilience of agriculture to climate changes. If the formulation

of overall and specific objectives does not show explicitly the notion of gender identification and implementation of projects gives a particular importance to this dimension. That is how on the fourteen projects identified, four projects target specifically women. That is the Project Promotion of cattle feed banks that targets women and children malnutrition; support project to the promotion of gardening and peri-urban farming. Concerning the promotion of Income Generating Activities and mutual development project, it already recognizes the rationale, women as particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and made them priority targets for its interventions. It is the same for the project for the Promotion of cereal banks and Extension Project of plant and animal species better adapted to climatic conditions. Finally, a project is specifically devoted to facilitating women's access to credit, which as we know is one of the stakeholders that hinder more the development of women farmers.

### **3.6 The Economic and Social Development Plan 2012-2015**

Niger has embarked on a process of elaboration and adoption of a Plan of Economic and Social Development for 2012-2015. PDES is designed to serve as unique reference framework for the objectives that the government has set in economic development area. The PDES intends to rely on all past initiatives that have brought conclusive results like the Accelerated Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (SDRP) and the Rural Development Strategy. The goal of PDES is "to ensure better management and efficiency of public policies." To achieve this overall objective, the PDES has nine results, namely (i) the aspirations of citizens for security are met, (ii) equity and equality of citizens to public services are guaranteed, (iii) Democratic and Republican Institutions are credible, (iv) the level of social development has significantly improved, (v) Nigerians provide their food security in a sustainable way, (vi) the strong and sustained economic growth, (vii) youth are integrated into the economic system, (viii) the preservation and management of environmental resources are strengthened, (ix) development management is facilitated. The PDES considers the 3N initiative, as one of the main pillars of its success. Indeed, the third strategic axis on the promotion of food security and sustainable agricultural development said that agriculture is the main vehicle of economic growth in Niger, and thus a reactivation of the sector is likely to contribute to economic growth that creates jobs and wealth. The PDES therefore inherits all the attention on Gender and Climate Change by the 3N initiative. The PDES was adopted on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 and its implementation has already started.

### **3.7 The draft version of the Strategy for Sustainable Development of Livestock**

Since 1992, the strategies implemented in livestock were mainstreamed in the guideline of a comprehensive guidance document for rural development entitled "Guiding Principles of Rural Development Policy for Niger (PDPDR)." Other policies and strategies were then

created in order to strengthen the PDPDR. The most recent reform is one of 2000 made through the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS), with the declension sector, namely (SDR).

The major challenges that Niger is facing in the area of Livestock are productivity increase, production promotion and securing against the vagaries of the weather. In this perspective, the new vision that emerges is “Niger where livestock, by 2035, contributes significantly to food security and nutrition and improve the socio-economic conditions of the population through sustainable management of environment”. This is the purpose attached to the Strategy for a Sustainable Development of Livestock in Niger. The overall objective of this strategy is to develop sustainable farming to contribute in improving the food security and incomes of the population and their resilience to crises and natural disasters”. Its specific objective is to “ensure the emergence of Livestock Production Systems, which shall promote economically and environmentally sustainable management of pastoral resources.”

The strategic policy framework includes (i) Animal Health and hygiene of animal products sustainably insured (ii) the increase, diversification and development of animal production, (iii) the creation of a legal and institutional framework for sustainable development of livestock farming against climatic hazards likely to promote economic and ecological sustainable management of pastoral resources. Healthy and dynamic livestock farming is the creed of the strategy to reduce the vulnerability of the poor rural population. Thus, it shall promote the employment of youth, especially women, while ensuring sustainable use of natural resources. The strategy, with its implementation over a period of twenty three years, a key issue for food security and increase rural incomes in a perspective of sustainable development of animal husbandry.

In accordance with the guidelines set by the PNG, this strategy raises the respect of gender equity as one of its guiding principles for intervention. The Strategy document clearly states that the integration of the gender dimension is not seen in terms of additional activities added for women but rather as a comprehensive approach that takes its origin from the formulation of technical programs. The approach will be to analyze situations from a gender approach to identify and prioritize all female dominant activities. <sup>1</sup>The stakeholders are signatories of the Charter Government (CIP-SDR), the TFP of the rural sector (EU Delegation, leader), farmer organizations (RECA), development NGOs and associations, the private sector and banks (CCIAN), the ECOWAS Commission, the Commission of the African Union / NEPAD.



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[1] The actors which are signatories of the Charter are the Government (CIP-CSD), the TFP of the rural sector (EU Delegation leader), farmers' organizations (RECA), NGOs and development associations, the private sector and banks (CCIAN ), the ECOWAS Commission, the Commission of the African Union / NEPAD.

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