***Flagship Project: 2: Improved Varieties and Hybrids***

***COA: Sorghum-WCA***

**Documentation of performances of at least 10 seed cooperatives in Mali**

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**Objective of the activity**

The objectives were to:

- Evaluate the performance of seed cooperatives in seed production and commercialization

- Identify specific success experiences in order to share them with other seed cooperatives

## Methodology

Seed producer cooperatives involved directly in different projects with ICRISAT and IER in Mali as partners were targeted for this activity. These cooperatives were trained from 2014 to 2016 on seed production techniques, communication tools for seed marketing and internal capacity building of the organization. Information were then collected each year to evaluate the performance of these cooperatives. Workshops and interviews were organized to discuss problems occurring during the seed production, cooperatives management, and organizational progress. Results

From 2015 to 2016, seed sales have increased on average by 77% for the 11 seed cooperatives in the study (Figure1). Nine out the eleven seed cooperatives showed higher quantity of seed sold in 2016 compared to that of 2015. A key result of this activity is the networking of these cooperatives in supplying emergency seeds to various projects involved in food s security For the ULPC (Union Locale des Producteurs de Semences) at Dioila, the cooperative has institutionalized new rules for profit sharing, decision making and information sharing. This internal rules have increased farmers trust in the seed business. Another key element of this success was the commitment of ULPC to produce and sell locally quality seed to farmers. As consequence the Union received a grant to build 4 seed stores close to the farmers. COOPROSEM realized a significant economic progress in 2016 with 2,000 $US of net profit compared to 2015. The cooperative was able to pay all its seed producers members on time. Some seed producers gained more than 1,600$US.

Fig. 1. Sorghum hybrid seed sale by 11 Malian farmers’ cooperatives in 2016 and 2015

**Next step**

Information are being collected on the current weaknesses of cooperatives. Based on the analysis of these information, specific actions have been developed to strengthen the seed cooperatives.

A deeper analysis of the specific performance of cooperatives and the factors of this progress will be analyzed and documented for sharing experience to others seed cooperatives.