



RESEARCH  
PROGRAM ON  
Dryland Systems

July 2015

# Six monthly progress report on Gender preferred dual purpose crops in Maradi, Niger

Food security and better livelihoods  
for rural dryland communities

**Topic:** Gendered preferred dual purpose crops in Maradi, Niger

**Objective:** Understand gender preferred local dual purpose crops in mixed farming systems

**Research questions**

What are the crop germplasm available in these villages, and which varieties are preferred for why what and by whom?

The **specific objectives** of the work are:

1. Analyze the social, environmental and economic dynamics of the local agrosystems in link with crop-livestock integration;
2. Describe the agrobiodiversity of the main dual purpose crops, including related aspects of farmers' knowledge, preferences and practices;
3. To test the performance for grain and fodder yield of farmer preferred varieties under farmer conditions through laboratory analysis.
4. Establish a participatory identification of local constraints, needs and opportunities to improve crops and livestock resilience in the local agrosystems.

**Research hypotheses**

For an effective use of local knowledge, gender preferences and science-based understanding of gender practice can increase food and fodder thereby improving well-being and food security

**Progress till July 2015**

In the Kano-Katsina-Maradi action transect, two villages Mili and Gourjia of Gazaoua circle of district Maradi, Niger were selected for the study.

**1. Mission on selection of farmers for the farmer trials on dual purpose crops for human food and livestock feed was conducted**

<p>May 2015</p>	<p>Contacts with farmers and local authorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dr Sapna Jarial(ICRISAT)</li> <li>○</li> <li>○</li> <li>○ Dr Abdoul-Aziz Saïdou(University of Maradi)</li> <li>○ Idrissa At (University of Maradi)</li> <li>○ Sani Nafi ( Director Agriculture ' Gazaoua)</li> </ul>	<p>Done</p>
<p>June – July 2015</p>	<p>General protocol of work and choice of students</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dr Abdoul-Aziz Saïdou</li> <li>○ Dr Sapna Jarial</li> </ul>	<p>Done</p>

A mission was undertaken in Maradi for possible collaboration with University of Maradi.

Further a joint mission was undertaken for Mili and Gourgia for establishing contact with farmers and local authorities on May 9<sup>th</sup> to May 12<sup>th</sup> 2015 for field testing the methodology and ascertaining farmers decisions on crops for coming season.

A student was selected for the dual purpose research work.

Non –financial partnership contract is underway between University of Maradi and ICRISAT.

## **2. Methodology developed for undertaking the study**

A methodology on conducting the gender preferred dual purpose crops using socio-economic and gender analysis and other participatory methodologies was prepared (Attached as separate file).

## **3. Training of enumerators on methodology:**

Two enumerators for the study were recruited. Training was provided to the Senior Research Officer at Niamey in 26th June 2015. On Maradi, two enumerators were trained on the methodology for two days on 26th and 27th July 2015. The training was on the tools used in the socio-economic and gender analysis. The team was trained on how to use tools used in participative surveys. The team comprised of one woman and two men with background on one agro-ecology and agronomy. The enumerators were trained in how to act as a team and how to facilitate focus groups in rural areas. The enumerators were also trained on the use of GPS device. (The power point presentation attached as separate file).

## **Lessons and Challenges'**

Uncertainty in release of funds is a major issue for getting the work started on the ground.

## **Way Forward:**

1. The gender preference study has started in the field from last week of July and will continue for next one month and one week.
2. Training will be given on how to collect agronomic data and samples for laboratory analysis from the farmers fields.





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