Stakeholders mapping, analysis and engagement in Southern Mali

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Key research activities
- Conduct a stakeholder mapping and analysis to identify appropriate actors to be engaged in the R4D platforms
- Set up operational and inclusive R4D platforms
- Assess the potential of R4D platforms in facilitating co-learning and co-evolution through intensive interactions among actors
- Assess the potential of R4D platforms in promoting and improving adoption of improved technologies and practices in Southern Mali

Results and main findings
- Critical actors to be engaged in the R4D platforms in intervention sites identified through network and power analysis approaches
- Baseline measures of the roles of R4D members that can be monitored over time and evaluated for change assessed
- Four R4D operational platforms including two-district levels and two-village levels were established in Koutiala, Bougouni, Floia and M’pessoba.
- Increased interaction, knowledge/information sharing among stakeholders (including farmers, research and development partners) in villages exposed to the R4D platforms (see network map 1)

Implications of the research for generating development outcomes
- Identifying and engaging the right actors in the R4D platforms help to foster co-learning and co-evolution of technical, institutional and organizational innovations
- Intensifying interactions and increasing exposure to integrated knowledge and technologies help small-holder farming households sustainably increase the overall productivity of their farms, and thus their agricultural output, and improve nutrition and welfare especially young children and mothers.

Current partnerships and future engagements for out scaling
- A number of CG partner institutions, NARS, national and international NGOs including AMEDD, AMASSA, MOBIOM, UCPTC, CCPAM, ULCFBV, BACIR, COFPROSOTRANS among others are actually engaged in the R4D platforms within Africa RISING action sites.
- These partnerships can be diversified and strengthened for up/out-scaling purposes