

CRS MALI

Purcha\$e for Progre\$\$

World Food Program
Rome, Italy
28 January 2014

How did we view P4P?

- P4P is a project that provides the small producer the capacity to be more resilient and their livelihoods more sustainable.
- We were sceptical about how prepared the women would be to participate more fully in the formal market, especially the demands for better organization and quality of product.



Why did we engage in partnership with WFP?

- CRS and WFP share institutional visions to address food insecurity through livelihoods.
- WFP and CRS began working together in Mali in 1999 on a local food purchase scheme in Mopti Region.
- CRS and WFP have an MOU.



How does P4P reflect our priorities?

P4P supported CRS' food security efforts through its USAID funded Rice Emergency Project, Title II program; USDA funded Food for Education and LRP projects, among others.

Agricultural livelihoods is among the strategic program areas in CRS' Strategic Plan « From Hope to Harvest » (2014-2018).



Cooperative Bodjina Bara

Logo, Bankass Circle, Mopti Region

Year	No. of Producers	Millet Sold (MT)	Cowpeas (MT)
2009-10	181	28.7	NA
2010-11	226	30.0	1.1
2011-12	275	50.0**	1.8
2012-13	239*	30.0	14.1
Total		138.7	17.0
Notes:	* Removal of non-active members by the cooperative ** The cooperative produced 55 MT.		



Members of the new executive committee of the Bodjina Bara Cooperative. Photo : Aminata Fofana de CRS/Mali, le 14/8/13

Key Factors for Success:

- Community leader involvement and support
- Existing presence of NGO and prior engagement with the community
- Linkages to government agriculture and cooperative development services

Impacts

- P4P catalyzed the diversification of economic activities in SILC groups.
- Organization met its commitment even in a severe drought year
- Donkey carts permitted faster distribution of 6,000-7,200 MT of organic fertilizer on 40 ha

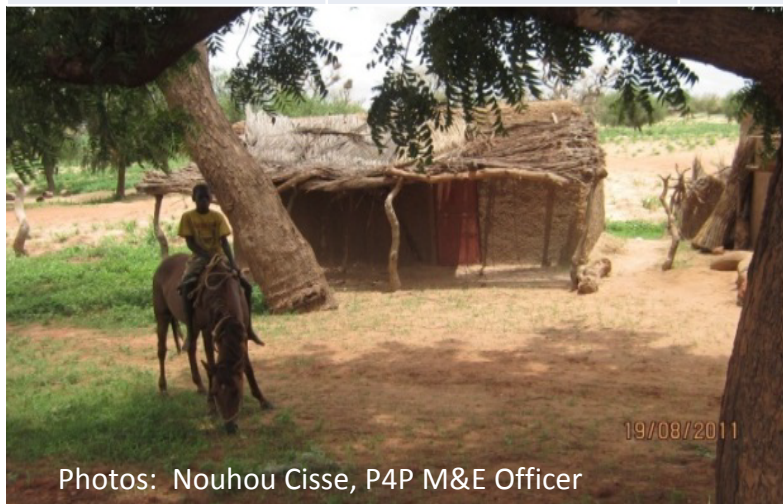


Binta Guindo, Vice-president of the cooperative, purchased two bulls resulting from her participation in P4P.

Photo: Aminata Fofana CRS Mali, 18/6/13

WFP and Other Support

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
CRS mobilization of SILC groups (USDA)	CRS intro of FFS, improved cow pea variety and bulking for sales	CRS strengthening in quality and contracts, advocacy to increase access to land	CRS TA in marketing, negotiations, business plans, equipment management structure, links to Ag inputs	CRS strengthening of cooperative management, and marketing
CRS formation of SILC groups in Cooperatives	WFP 17 pallets	WFP 1 scale	IICEM/USAID 1 warehouse (60 Mt)	WFP 2 donkey carts
	WFP 2 sieves, 2 tarps	WFP 1 warehouse (100 mt)		WFP 1 thresher
	MOA TA improved millet production through FFS	MOA provision of seed & fertilizer to FFS	MOA ongoing TA	MoSD support to new exec committee



Photos: Nouhou Cisse, P4P M&E Officer



Photo: Nouhou Cisse, P4P M&E Officer

Project Specific Challenges

- Gender influence on women's accessibility to resources:
 - Limited access to land
 - Insufficient access to inputs and equipment
- Weak organizational capacity for larger farmer organizations
- Lack of easy, rapid, and accessible market information
- Late WFP payments (up to two months) some years
- Active involvement of partners in data collection and case studies, but no sharing of reports

Lessons Learned

- P4P works best when prior mobilization, organization and training of woman has taken place – CRS' Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC), linkages to MOA extension services.
- Illiterate women can successfully analyze price offerings in the market for better decision-making.

Lessons Learned (con't)



Cooperative management committee in workshop conducted by MOA extension agents on storage of cowpea.

- Purchase contracts lower risks for women's groups: permitting more planning, investment and sense of security.
- Access to rotating credit permits more and faster growth in production.
- P4P offers greater confidence of and options for other sales opportunities.

How do we envision post-pilot P4P?

- Expansion within current CRS zones and elsewhere for greater impact.
- Strengthen farmer organizations capable to participate in calls for bid by the « Office des produits agricoles du Mali » (l'OPAM).
- Use of CRS' Farm Book to allow farmer groups to better plan production and sales.
- Participatory and inclusive M&E system.

How do we envision post-pilot P4P?

- Adopt a gender lens to better maximize HH economic impact.
- Find other ways to ensure timely payment to participants (mobile banks, mobile money, local agents, etc).
- Further develop market structures: commodities exchanges; information systems to diffuse market information more readily; processing centers.

Thank you!

