

<b>Programme Number:</b>	To be determined
<b>Geographical Coverage:</b>	Niger
<b>Department ID:</b>	To be determined
<b>Programme Title:</b>	Empowering women through a Climate-resilient agriculture
<b>Thematic area:</b>	DRF 2: Women, especially those living in poverty and vulnerability are economically empowered and enabled to reap the benefits of development
<b>Alignment:</b>	SDGs, PDES, Initiative 3N, Agricultural policy of Niger, National Gender Policy, Niger's rural code
<b>Start date:</b>	To be determined
<b>Duration:</b>	5 years (2017-2021)
<b>Implementing Partners:</b>	Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, Ministry of Agriculture, Initiative 3 N (les Nigériens Nourrisent les Nigériennes), Ministry of Commerce, FAO, WFP, Local NGOs (CONGAFEN), <i>ONG DIKO, ONG ADL, etc.</i>
<b>Coverage/regions/:</b>	Maradi, Dosso, Tahoua and Tillabéri (Total population: 13,883,548)
<b>Municipal councils:</b>	Falwal, Yelou, Gaya and Sokorbé (Dosso region); Aguié, Tchadoua, Tessaoua, Ourafane and Majirgui (Maradi region); Karma, Hamdallaye, Kourtheye, Tillabéri and Gotheye (Tillabéri region); Ourno, Tamaske, Ibohamane, Kalfou and Bangui (Tahoua region)
<b>Funds:</b>	
<b>Non-Core Funds (total) \$</b>	
<b>Sources:</b>	Open Society Foundation (OSF); Donors; Private Sector/financial institutions
<b>Amount (USD):</b>	7,391,898
Direct beneficiaries	25,000 women farmers (31% of the female farming population)
Indirect beneficiaries	175,000 persons
<b>Signatures:</b>	UN Women Implementing partners

## 1. Executive Summary

Niger is a landlocked Sahelian country with a surface area of 1,267,000 sq.km. It has an estimated population of 19.1 million inhabitants<sup>1</sup> with 79%<sup>2</sup> of the population living in the rural areas. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country is estimated at 3,905.136 billion FCFA<sup>3</sup> with a per capita income of 228,900 FCFA and an annual economic growth of 3.5%. The primary sector is the major sector contributing 39.5 %<sup>4</sup> to the country's GDP; closely followed by the tertiary sector 41% and the secondary sector (19.5%). The agricultural sector continues to be the most important sector in the Nigerien economy, as it accounts for 25% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), 80% of the labor force and generates about 14.2% of foreign exchange earnings. Even though women play a critical role in agricultural production in Niger, comprising nearly 70% of the agricultural labour, producing in some cases up to 70% of the household food especially in regions like Maradi and performing at least 50% of all agricultural tasks, they face several constraints. Women's agricultural productivity per hectare remains lower than that of men. Systematic gender inequalities in agricultural production continue to persist, mostly due to differences in: (i) access to and use of agricultural inputs, including improved technologies; (ii) land tenure security and related investments in land; (iii) market and credit access; (iv) human and physical capital; and (v) informal institutional constraints affecting farm/plot management.

To mitigate the afore-mentioned constraints that are exacerbated by the negative effects of climate change in Niger, the “Empowering women through a Climate-resilient agriculture” programme proposes a holistic approach to overcome the existing obstacles. The programme is expected to contribute to the country's achievement of seventeen (17) of the Sustainable Development Goals: Eradicating poverty; fighting against hunger; gender equality; use of renewable energies; innovation and infrastructure; reducing inequalities; combating climate change, protecting terrestrial flora & fauna; peace, justice, and building partnerships to achieve global objectives (figure 1).

Figure 1: Co-development benefits of addressing the gender gap for climate-resilient agriculture

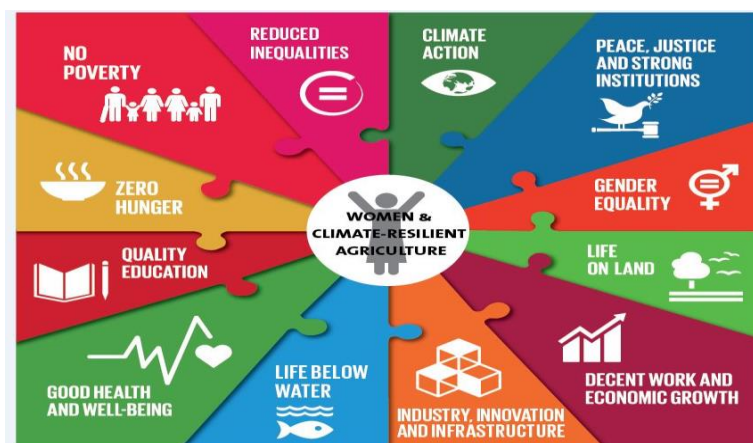
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<sup>1</sup> Institut National de Statistique : Niger en chiffres 2016

<sup>2</sup> Institut National de la statistique- Annuaire Statistiques 2016

<sup>3</sup> Initiative 3 N en 2012

<sup>4</sup> Institut National de la Statistique – Annuaire Statistiques 2016



Efforts to address gender differences in climate resilient agricultural productivity could result in tremendous productivity gains. It is estimated that if the gender gap in agricultural productivity in Niger is closed, there would be an increase in crop yield between 10% to 30% per annum and a GDP increase of about 0.25% yearly. This would translate into a financial gain of approximately 17 million USD per year, an amount which can lift over 25,000 Nigeriens out of poverty. The implementation of the proposed Empowering Women through a Climate-resilient Agriculture Programme is therefore strategic as it will have positive impacts on the income and livelihoods of women farmers as well as female headed households.

The five-year Climate Resilient Agriculture Programme will be implemented in four regions namely Maradi, Tahoua, Dosso and Tillabéri. These regions have a total population of 13,883,548<sup>5</sup> inhabitants (women form 50.2%) and makes up to 72.6% of the total population in Niger. A total of 25, 000 women farmers (about 31% of female farmers in Niger) will benefit from the programme in the next 5 years. These women will be supported to produce and export 3 main crops (niebé, onions and sesame) to other countries especially the ECOWAS countries. Out of the 25,000 targeted women, 10,000 women will be supported in the production and export of niebé, 10,000 will be supported in the production and commercialization of onion and 5,000 will receive support for the production and export of sesame not only to ECOWAS countries but to European countries. The choice of crops was influenced by the following criteria: profitability, exports potential, yields/ha, quantities produced, amount of money brought into the country and requirements for the cultivation of the crops.

The regions and council areas were also selected based on 4 factors namely: 1) the possibility of growing the selected crops in the region. Only 30% of the country's surface area is arable as shown in the diagram below; 2) the ability of women to control their farm produce and revenues; 3) the threat and negative effects of climate change, and 4) the high poverty levels of women in selected regions.

<sup>5</sup> INS Niger en chiffres 2016



Cropland Use Indicator, drawn from Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) data, for period 1986-1988.

Scale is: 1= 70% - 100% Crop coverage: 2= 50% - 70% Crop coverage: 3= 30% - 50% Crop coverage: 4= 5% - 30% Crop coverage: 5= 0% - 5% Crop coverage.

Though agriculture is the backbone of the livelihood of the population living in the rural areas (nearly 80%), it is faced by the negative effects of climatic change in regions having arable land. Persistent droughts and floods in these regions are eroding assets, leaving people, especially women more vulnerable to disasters. Since most Nigerien depend on rain-fed agriculture, the region's frequent droughts have led to poor harvests, death of livestock and regular food shortages. Chronic food and nutritional insecurity touch between 11 to 25%<sup>6</sup> of Nigeriens (between 2,035,000 to 4,625,000 Nigeriens) annually. In general, only 6 out of 10 households can meet their food needs for 3 months in a year. According to FAO, chronic food insecurity and infectious diseases caused by floods have led to Niger having the highest rates of malnutrition and mortality in the World. Being a Sahel country, rainfall varies from 20 mm in the Bilma desert and 200 mm in the other northern areas to 600 mm in the southwest starting from May to September though with spatial and time variations each year.

The four pillars of the programme are:

1. **Supporting reforms for women farmers' greater access to and control over land:** Niger developed a rural code that recognized the difficulties of women in acquiring and controlling land. The government showed in this document its willingness to ensure that women have increased access to land. The programme will therefore play a key role in advocating for the rural code to be implemented and for women's representation in land management committees (commission foncière communal et départementale); supporting the capacity building of state institutions responsible for land surveying, land titling, registration and distribution; and supporting the development of gender sensitive land registration systems. UN Women will work to ensure that such efforts are institutionalized by lobbying for the appointment of gender focal persons in different state departments responsible for land management. At community level, the programme will support efforts to sensitize traditional chiefs and religious leaders as well as other local leaders and

<sup>6</sup> Cadre Stratégique de l'Initiative 3 N en 2012

government officials on mainstreaming gender in land governance. The targeted communities will be equipped with tools to protect women's rights to land, support assessments of how the customary complaint system can be made gender-sensitive, supporting awareness-raising and facilitating access to information for women, men and communities about existing land related legislation and policies. Moreover, UN Women will strengthen the partnership already developed with FAO within the framework of the UN joint programme on accelerating the economic empowerment of women.

- 2. Improved women farmers' productivity and resilience to climate change:** The programme will focus on increasing women's access to climate-resilient productive assets, technologies and skills to improve productivity and reduce the labor intensity of agricultural activities for women. UN Women will build on its existing partnerships with research institutions such as International Research Center for Development (IRD), INRAN, International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), and International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) to develop and upscale production of high value/yielding seeds and to link women farmers to extension services, to increase their crop productivity and quality for the market.

The programme will also promote women farmers' access to irrigation and other climate smart agricultural technologies and innovations through capital investment financed by financial institutions. Irrigation will cushion women farmers against the risks of climate change and variability and ultimately enhance food security by offering them an opportunity to engage in agriculture all year round. Some of the irrigation technologies being used by some of the UN Women partners, and beneficial to women farmers are drip irrigation, use of treble pumps, and central pivot irrigation systems, a technology that assists farmers to use water efficiently and improve productivity in the face of drought.

- 3. Implement initiatives that promote women's access to financing:** The programme will build on the efforts that UN Women Niger has already made with the private sector, especially with the banks, to develop more specific credit products that women entrepreneurs can benefit from. Among these are: the ASUSU, MECREF, Capital Finance, etc. The leasing government institution known as Central d'Approvisionnement en Intrants et Matériels Agricoles (CAIMA) and the national centers to produce innovative agricultural tools will be very instrumental in providing in kind credit in the form of farm inputs, tools and materials. The programme will ensure that women farmers have access to the guarantee fund for the purchase of productive assets. The programme will also focus on promoting agriculture insurance such as all- risk crop insurance, multi-

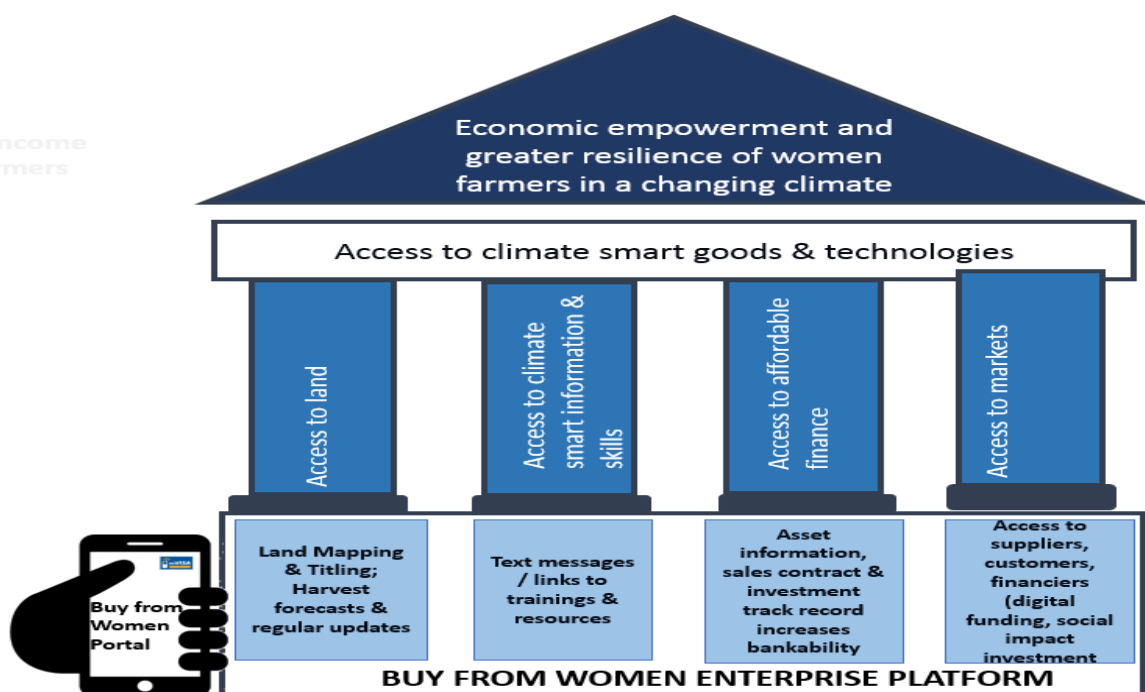
risk crop insurance and others. Other environmental related insurance packages that are tailored to women farmers needs and aspirations will also be explored and promoted to mitigate the risks of loss due to climate change related disasters.

- 4. Supporting women farmers to move up the agricultural value chain:** The programme will further build on the partnership that UN Women currently has with World Food Programme (WFP)'s Purchase for Progress (P4P) to create quotas for women producers to market their products. Using the UN Women buyfromwomen platform, the programme will also link women producer groups markets in the ECOWAS countries for onions and beans(niébé) to enterprises like the Société de Transformation Agricole (STA) and to chain stores in Spain (for Sesame) so that they have a ready market to supply their products to. When the women have the capacity to produce for the market, they will be able to move beyond subsistence agriculture into commercial and high-value agriculture and become more diversified producers who are competitive in both local and global agricultural markets. Efforts would be made to enhance the conservation, preservation and transformation of the selected crops to avoid distress selling.

### **Programme implementation arrangement and budget**

New information & communication technology (ICTs) will be systematically leveraged to facilitate the implementation and scaling up of programme results within and across countries in a highly cost-effective manner. Notably, UN Women will adapt and use its mobile platform, "BuyfromWomen", which has the capacity to link farmers to information, markets and finance by providing a 360 view of their business. Figure 2 summarizes the various digital solutions provided by "Buyfromwomen" to support project implementation.

Figure 2: Digital solutions provided by the "Buyfromwomen" platform



The platform will be deployed as a One Stop Shop for farmers. The platform will link farmers' groups to seed producers, input suppliers, technology providers and reliable extension services so that they are able to increase the productivity of their crops. In addition, the platform should increase access of women farmers to low cost debt financing to purchase agriculture inputs and technologies. The platform will help them build an economic identity and investment track record that can be appraised by financial intermediaries. It could also facilitate the implementation of land reforms by mapping the plots of land farmed by women and digitally record land titles. Furthermore, it will provide a strong evidence base on the comparative effectiveness of different policy measures to close the gender gap in agriculture.

The total cost of implementing this programme is estimated at \$ 7,391,898. It will be funded based on resources mobilized with technical and financial support from partners.

## 2. Constraints

Women play an important role in agricultural production in Niger and provide a clear opportunity for the uptake of climate resilient agricultural practices. Women's low agricultural productivity relative to men is contributing heavily to the underperformance of the sector. This is in part because women, who represent a crucial resource in agriculture and the rural economy through their roles as farmers, laborers and entrepreneurs, almost everywhere face more severe constraints than men in accessing productive resources. These constraints are closely linked with the following issues:

- Access to land and land tenure security

- Access to finance and other funding mechanisms
- Access to inputs and extension services
- Effects of climate change on agricultural productivity
- Participation in agricultural value chains and markets

## **1. Constraints related to access to land and land tenure security:**

Insecure land tenure is one of the most critical disincentives preventing women from investing in climate resilient agriculture related activities. This can be attributed to two main reasons: it weakens women's control over natural resources (especially land), and it denies them the necessary collateral to access investment capital. Furthermore, in Niger like in many other countries, limited access to and control over land is one of the major challenges that women face in accessing agricultural extension services, which is a key component of practicing climate resilient agriculture and engaging in contract farming. In Niger, an estimated 2 million<sup>7</sup> smallholders cultivate under customary tenure, cultivating about 11 million hectares<sup>8</sup> and producing about 80 percent of Niger's net food and 10 percent of its exports. About 25 per cent of the smallholder households cultivate less than 0.5 hectares of land and 55 percent cultivate less than 1 hectare. Women, especially widows, are the main victims of agricultural related property-grabbing including land, farm implements and inputs. They endure discriminatory attitudes and practices that favour a male-dominated land tenure system.

## **2. Constraints related to access to finance and other funding mechanisms:**

One key challenge facing women farmers in Niger is their inability to access the credit needed to procure improved agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, seeds and other technologies to increase yields. The challenge stems from the fact that rural financial programmes are largely designed, crafted and implemented with the male head of household as the intended client and fail to recognize that women are active, productive and engaged economic agents with their own financial needs and constraints. In Niger like many other countries, creating a bank account in a formal financial institution is the first and most important step towards achieving financial inclusion. Yet only, 3% of Nigeriens hold bank accounts in a formal financial institution, and most of these accounts are owned by men. Women also have much less access to credit (17.5% of demand met compared to 27.4%<sup>9</sup> met for men).

Women and men inclusive face challenges in accessing financing tools. Oftentimes these challenges are related to insufficient documentation, physical access, cost and financial

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<sup>7</sup> INS : Annuaire statistique - 2014

<sup>8</sup> Editions Belle Afrique : Bilan diagnostique et perspective sur les politiques et stratégies environnementales

<sup>9</sup> PDES IMF country report 2013



literacy. However, for women these challenges are often times doubled or tripled. Many rural women have never accessed any form of micro credit or cash loan.

### **3. Constraints related to access to inputs and extension services:**

The department in charge of supporting cooperatives and peasant organizations is mandated to provide agricultural extension services in the country. However, government-led extension services have failed to effectively reach women farmers due to a number of reasons. Firstly, extension officers work more with men due to the fact that men are the ones considered to be farmers because of their ownership of land. The modes of communication and structure of extension service delivery are not favourable to women who have low literacy levels and time poverty due to competing domestic activities that take up a vast amount of their time. Extension services are predominantly delivered by men, and therefore cannot easily access women. Limited access to extension services has resulted in women using lower levels of agricultural inputs, including limited use of improved seeds, inorganic fertilizer and extension services, relative to men. As a result, men see larger improvements in yield, even when they apply the same amounts of inorganic fertilizer as women, suggesting that women may use inferior quality fertilizer, apply it incorrectly or use it at the wrong time. Moreover, women being poorer than men are unable to buy farm inputs or pay for extension services.

### **4. Effects of climate change on agricultural productivity:**

Niger is particularly prone to adverse climatic hazards including seasonal droughts, and occasional intense rainfall, and floods. As the country's agricultural sector is based mostly on small rain-fed farms, yields are reduced by droughts and floods and low use of agricultural inputs. Droughts and floods have increased in frequency, intensity and magnitude over the past 20 years and are the leading cause of chronic food insecurity, endemic in many parts of the country. The World Bank estimates that on average, droughts cause GDP losses of almost 1 percent every year. Climate change affects food availability, access, and the much broader issue of food stability. Niger happens to be one of the 12 countries most vulnerable to adverse effects of climate change in the world, with very low resilience to climate change (World Bank 2010). The country has already experienced nearly 1°C increase in mean annual temperature, and a 1.5 to 5°C increase is expected by 2090s. Inter and intra-annual precipitation is highly variable and predicted to become more so under the impacts of climate change. The impacts of climate change are likely to have a significant negative impact on an already food insecure nation.

## **5. Constraints related to women's participation in agricultural value chains and markets:**

Women in Niger tend to be less integrated in value chains than men. Their lack of mobility and thus lack of access to markets, as well as social norms, impede their interaction with value chain actors. Women are often excluded in horizontal linkages (relationships within one stage of the chain, e.g. within one organization, group of producers or self-helping groups) as well as in vertical linkages (relationships with actors of the value chain stages below and above, e.g. with buyers and suppliers). Women who participate in value chains are more likely to manage work and income from productions with low-cost equipment, due to unequal access to capital and property.

Additionally, although agricultural commercialization continues to create new market opportunities, this market is very difficult for poorer women producers, processors and traders to access because of their inability to meet stringent product and delivery requirements. Most women do not have requisite skills and knowledge of product packaging and marketing and hence their participation is limited to the lowest nodes of the value chain.

## **3. Programme Rationale**

### **3.1 Agriculture as the main pillar for economic growth in Niger**

The agriculture, forestry, and livestock sectors represent the country's primary source of economic activity as it supports about 80 percent of the population in terms of food and employment. The sector accounts for 25% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and generates about 14.2% of foreign exchange earnings. Studies show that income growth generated by agriculture is up to four times more effective in reducing poverty than growth in any other sector. Investments in the agriculture sector are also strategic in addressing gender inequalities, as women make up 70 percent of the agricultural workforce in Niger.

The choice of beans locally (called niebé), onions and sesame has been influenced by: 1) the commercial value and the quantities exported yearly (beans and onions brought nearly 5 billion<sup>10</sup> FCFA and 32 billion FCFA respectively to the country in 2015 and sesame brought 360 million in 2013); 2) high rate of local consumption and their nutritional value; 3) the capacity of beans and sesame to fertilize soils thereby improving soil fertility and reducing the amount of money used to purchase chemical fertilizer; 4) their adaptability to the local climates and possible changes in rainfall (climate resilient) and 5) the possibility of using the remains beans and sesame to feed small ruminants whose

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<sup>10</sup> INS annuaire statistiques 2016

dung will be used to fertilize women's farms. Analyses carried out have shown that women will benefit from the beans (niébè), onions and sesame value chains because at the end of the value chain, women control the revenues made through the sales of these crops.

Considering the roles that women play in the production and commercialization of these 3 crops enabling them to generate income to provide food to their households, their deficits always have negative implications on the livelihoods of women and their households especially female headed households who make up to 32% of the households in Niger (873,142 female households out of a total of 2,728,571 households).

Though climate resilient agriculture is the best strategy for the majority of Nigeriens to escape poverty; the common agriculture practiced is rain fed agriculture which is dependent on natural factors, reasons for which some farmers are turning towards irrigation. Other factors include difficulties associated with the weak structure of marketing channels, inadequate storage facilities, and limited ability to process agricultural products.

Apart from these crops, the Niger government is currently putting in place programmes to diversify agricultural production to achieve food security, nutrition and incomes among rural farmers.

### **3.2 The need to address the adverse effects of climate change on agricultural productivity**

Niger is becoming increasingly vulnerable to poor harvests due to effects of climate change, namely floods and droughts. Due to climate change rainfall has become erratic and the country is experiencing a rise in temperature. In the last 30 years, the country has been hit by 10 droughts and a series of 9 floods. This has led experts of the 3N Initiative to conclude that Niger will face recurrent crises every 3 years due to climatic change. Financial costs to handle these crises by the country are estimated at 200 billion FCFA. Persistent droughts and floods in these regions are eroding assets, leaving people, especially women more vulnerable to disasters. Consequently, in many parts of the country, the crop varieties and species currently grown by farmers cannot tolerate these stresses and shocks, with resultant losses in productivity, and potentially negative consequences for food security and incomes, in an already food insecure nation.

### **3.3 The need to tackle nutrition and food insecurity at household and national level**

Due to climate variability and the resultant low agricultural productivity, Niger continues to rely on food imports and food aid with an estimated 40 percent of the country's population unable to satisfy its caloric needs of 2,200 kilocalories per day and 55 percent

of rural population suffering from chronic food insecurity. Chronic food and nutritional insecurity touch between 11% to 25%<sup>11</sup> of Nigeriens (between 2,035,000 to 4,625,000 Nigeriens) annually. In general, only 6 out of 10 households can meet their food needs for 3 months in a year. According to FAO, chronic food insecurity and infectious diseases caused by floods have led to Niger having the highest rates of malnutrition and mortality in the World. As a result of chronic food and nutritional insecurity many communities have resorted to the use of various coping strategies to obtain food, including selling of assets and rural urban migration especially youths. By also focusing on legume production, this programme will contribute towards the diversification of cropping systems in Niger, allowing women and their households to achieve food security, nutrition, and incomes, while ensuring the sustainable use and restoration of soil fertility. The promotion of legumes under the Climate Resilient Agriculture Programme will also contribute to the government's agenda of moving Nigeriens from poverty and hunger through resilience building initiatives.

### **3.4 The need to reduce the feminization of poverty in the selected regions**

Nearly half of the population (48.2%)<sup>12</sup> is poor despite government's efforts to reduce the percentage of persons living below the poverty threshold of 1 USD/day registered in the last decade. Over 59% of households are poor and the rate of unemployment for women is higher (25% as against 11.8% for men). The two most recent poverty profiles also indicated that poverty affects rural areas more than urban areas, and is more pronounced among the female population. In addition, the phenomenon of poverty takes on an endemic dimension in the regions where the programme will be implemented. Nearly half of the populations in these regions are poor: Tahoua (57.8%)<sup>13</sup>; Maradi (52.9%); Dosso (52.9%) and Tillaberry (47.7%). The female face of poverty and inequality in Niger is particularly obvious in per capita consumption, which was less than 45 percent in households headed by women since 2008 and fewer job opportunities (27.4% access although women represent more than 50 percent of the active population). So in general, women are poorer than men due to low employment rates and limited access to factors of production.

### **3.5 The need to empower women farmers and build their resilience against the negative effects of climate change**

In Niger, women are traditionally the pillar of food security and nutrition, making sure that their families have enough to eat even when times are tough and harvests fail. Women

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<sup>11</sup> Cadre Stratégique de l'Initiative 3 N en 2012

<sup>12</sup> INS : Niger en Chiffre 2014

<sup>13</sup> INS : Annuaire statistique 2014

produce different types of crops like beans, groundnuts, millet and sorghum which could be sold for profit and provide an excellent source of nutrition and income. However, climate change, in the form of more extreme weather, less predictable seasons or severe heat and drought, have serious implications on women and their households since they rely on agriculture for their survival.

Unless the specific challenges that women and other vulnerable groups meet in increasing agricultural productivity are resolved and their resilience to climatic shocks is built, rural women farmers will continue to be trapped in the vicious circle of poverty and food insecurity. In order to build women's resilience to climatic shocks, the programme will tackle some of the issues that limit women's agricultural productivity.

#### **4 Strategy and Expected Results**

UN Women will implement a flagship programme on climate resilient agriculture in Niger, with the overall goal of ensuring that women farmers are economically empowered and resilient in a changing climate. The "Women's access to land and productive resources for a climate change resilient agriculture" programme is aligned with UN Women's Strategic Plan, "Women, especially the poorest and most excluded, are economically empowered and benefit from development."

The programme is also aligned to the National Agriculture Policy. The theory of change is based on the premise that: 'If women farmers in Niger realize rights to land and secure land tenure; (2) if they have equal access to productive resources, information, training, services and technologies for sustainable farming; (3) if they attain the financial capacity to invest; and participate fully in value chains and markets; then (4) they will be economically empowered and resilient in a changing climate; because (5) the root causes and drivers of gender gaps in agriculture will have been removed'.

**The programme will focus on the following key outcomes and outputs<sup>14</sup>:**

##### **Outcome 1: Women's access to land and land tenure security are improved**

The focus will be to remove barriers to women's rights to access to land and to assist in the implementation of the rural code. This outcome also seeks to strengthen the voice and decision-making capacity of women farmers so that the security of women's land tenure is increased.

##### **Output 1.1; Gender-responsive land laws, policies and frameworks developed and implemented for women's access to land**

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<sup>14</sup> A comprehensive theory of change is provided as Annex 1

Niger developed its rural code in 1993 and put in place an institutional framework that will facilitate access to land, ensure land tenure security and help government manage land matters in the country. For the implementation of this rural code, the government created a permanent secretariat in Niamey, regional representations, departmental and community based commissions to govern land acquisition and tenure at all levels. The Ministry of agriculture has the responsibility of coordinating the framework. This programme will closely work with the Ministry of agriculture and provide technical and financial support for the mainstreaming of gender into the rural code. It will also use the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the context of national Food Security, to promote women's access to land. The guidelines will be used to build capacity of CSOs to lobby for gender responsive management and governance of land by duty bearers, while at the same time building the capacity of land management officers and traditional leaders to use the guidelines to ensure gender responsive governance and management of land. Furthermore, the programme will also build capacity of the planning and budgeting officers in the ministry of Lands to ensure that gender related activities within the land law are properly funded and implemented.

#### **Output 1.2 Land registry institutions and land governance systems are in place to promote women's access to land**

The programme will closely work with related ministries involved with land management and municipal councils to ensure that the terms of references for the establishment of these committees are gender responsive and promote inclusion and participation of women in those committees at all levels. The programme will also ensure that tools used for titling, and registration of land are gender sensitive and that monitoring and evaluation systems use gender disaggregated data at all levels. The programme will also ensure that all reporting systems are able to provide information on progress on the implementation of the land law and land management system are able to bring out challenges in relation to women's access to land.

#### **Output 1.3 Strengthened agency and voice of women farmers to engage in relevant land policy and decision-making processes**

The programme will continue to work with women groups to mentor them and ensure that their lobbying and advocacy skills are strengthened. The programme will also promote South –South learning and sharing of experiences with other countries. The programme will not only strengthen advocacy capacity of these women groups but will also ensure that such practices help identify gaps in land governance policies and processes for further review. The programme will continue to use media campaigns and edutainment

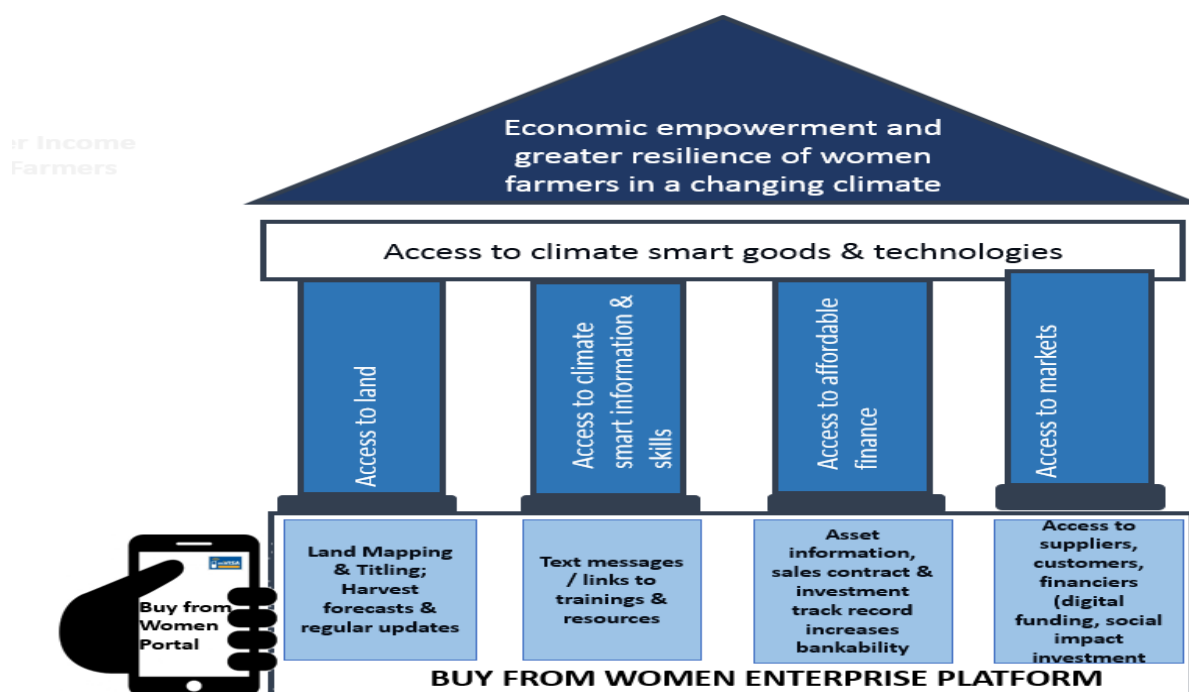
initiatives to expose weaknesses in law and practice and to ensure that implementation of the new land law benefits all gender categories in society in terms of access to land.

## Outcome 2 – Women have access to information and innovative technologies.

### Output 2.1: Deployment of digital platform to strengthen relationships between stakeholders in the value chains

The impact of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in improving the competitiveness of the agriculture value chains is very promising. Notably, growth and penetration of mobile ICT in rural areas (especially mobile phones) offer new opportunities to enable farmers to join the formal market and thus increase household incomes in vulnerable communities.

UN Women has developed a mobile platform called "BuyfromWomen" which allows to link farmers to information, markets, and finance, by providing a 360 view of their business. In close consultation with women farmers and supply chain actors, the platform will be adapted to the specific requirements of Niger. Based on an in-depth market and partner analysis, a minimum viable product will be co-created with all stakeholders and then scaled up. The platform will also be able to provide a forecast of marketable surplus expected based on the size of the land and information provided by women farmers. BuyfromWomen also has the potential to be linked to block chain technology and investment platforms for social impact to increase funding opportunities.



### Output 2.2 Innovative agricultural technologies are disseminated

The growth and penetration of mobile ICT in rural areas (especially mobile phones), and innovations in the electronic media to support education and training (e-learning), also represent new opportunities to increase development of human and social capital. Interventions will promote the "culture" of the use of ICT through the "e-learning" as well as skills development. Capacity building will target three levels: institutional, local and individual.

At the institutional level, the focus will be on how partners use ICT to improve the production and the collective sharing of content, such as social media training opportunities. Locally, our goal is to empower communities through applications demand-driven, user-friendly and integrated. At the individual level, the project will strengthen the capacity of farmers to adopt and use these applications to agriculture.

Meteorological data adapted to climate change will be disseminated and popularized through computer systems involved in supporting the agricultural sector.

### **Output 2.3 Improved access to extension service for women farmers**

In Niger women face numerous challenges to access agricultural extension services. The extension officer to farmer ratio of 1: 950 households means that the country has very few extension officers to reach out to rural farmers. In this case big commercial farmers are prioritised at the expense of small holder farmers who produce the bulk of food consumed in the country. The programme will therefore work to increase extension personnel by training additional lead farmers.

Female leading farmers will be chosen from hard working rural farmers and who are exemplary in terms of productivity. These lead farmers will be trained and become trainer of trainers and will closely work with women producer groups in terms of transferring skills and technologies. Most of the lead farmers to be trained will be women to ensure that cultural barriers to accessing male extension officers by women is reduced. The programme will continue to work with the Department of Agriculture Extension Services to develop radio programmes, use yellow Mobile Van and other ICT platforms to increase women's access to agricultural extension information.

The programme will also closely work with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resource Management, metrological department to provide farmers with weather information in simplified terms so that they can effectively use this information to plan their agricultural work. It is hoped that such information will be strategic in terms of helping farmers to make decisions regarding planting, type of crops, and so on.

### **Outcome 3 – Women Farmers' increased access to financing mechanisms**



Another barrier to the growth of women's income through entrepreneurial or farming activities is women's limited access to business management capacity and access to financing. As such, the focus of this outcome area is to increase women's access to affordable and appropriate financing services and products, business skills and agriculture insurance, to enhance their participation in agricultural supply chains.

### **Output 3.1 A credit line is set up to provide funding to women farmers living in the programme intervention areas**

Under the Women's Economic Empowerment Principles (WEPs) UN Women will foster the partnership with financial institutions to establish specific credit lines for women farmers. The programme will build on these efforts to link women producer groups and associations to these credit lines. The credit lines will support potential high value crops and business niches that are profitable for women producer groups. Capacity building and mentorship will be provided to women producer groups to manage these credit lines and to profit from them.

The programme will also work with the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the and Child Protection to lobby for more financial facilities to assist women that are ready to grow their cooperatives and enterprises. More dialogue will be undertaken with other development partners and financial institutions such as the African Development Bank through its African Guarantee Fund, on how specific credit lines can be developed for women farmers with specific agricultural enterprises.

### **Output 3.2: Women's financial literacy skills are strengthened**

The programme will closely work with Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the and Child Protection and competent NGOs to provide financial literacy programmes to rural women farmers. These programmes will be teaching women about business enterprise development.

The programme will link up with such on-going programmes to explore entry points to provide financial literacy to women farmers. The modules that are currently used for capacity building in this area will be translated into local languages so that they can be used even in rural areas. Financial literacy education will be an integral part of the programme to ensure that women farmers are continuously mentored to effectively manage finances for their businesses ventures. The programme will also ensure that the modules are tailor made to the different activities that women farmers are involved in.

### **Output 3.3: Agricultural insurance tailored to women farmers' needs are developed and promoted**

The programme will work with different companies and micro finance institutions like Capital finance, ASUSU to upscale the implementation of Weather Index Based crop insurance for women farmers.

Other insurance modalities such as crop insurance, all-risk crop insurance, multi-risk crop insurance and specific crop insurance would be the major focus. The programme will also work with UNDP and UNEP to explore other environmental related insurance packages that are tailored to women farmers' needs and aspirations, so that they can benefit from them and strengthen their resilience against climatic shocks.

#### **Outcome 4 - Access to markets and value-added activities**

##### **Output 4.1: Sales contracts are promoted to secure more opportunities for women**

The programme will build on the partnership that UN Women currently holds with WFP on Purchase for Progress (P4P) within the framework of the joint UN rural women's economic empowerment programme to secure quotas for women producers to market their products. The P4P with WFP links school feeding within the municipal councils. It targets women members of farmers' organizations and children using school canteens in 22 villages in the municipality of Falwel. The process of preparing purchases begins in September after harvests and before the return to school in October each year. The programme will tap into the government's initiative of organizing producer groups to commercialize their agricultural products through contractual arrangement coordinated by the government.

Further, through dialogues with the private sector, the programme will identify specific firms and companies to explore opportunities to join the buyfromwomen platform and sign contracts with women producers so that they have ready market to supply their products.

The preferred implementation route is to select farmers organized into cooperatives. This allows buyers to reduce their transaction costs as they negotiate future delivery contracts with organized groups and not individual farmers and allows women farmers to strengthen their collective bargaining power.

With the futures delivery contracts, major buyers would specify minimum floor prices, deadlines and quality specifications, so that farmers can plan beyond the farm gate. These contracts have a catalytic effect on the value chain for women farmers' access to extension services, quality inputs, finance and post-harvest handling services.

Information recorded through the platform also enable farmers to establish economic identity and access to financing to diversify their activities in the future.

##### **Output 4.2: Women's capacities in selling, branding, certification, marketing, and packaging are reinforced**

High post-harvest losses (sometimes up to 30%) have made food security and income poverty reduction difficult to achieve at the household level.

The programme will also focus on building capacity of women producer groups in processing, grading, branding, certification and packaging to ensure that their products are attractive and competitive at both local and global markets. By closely working with the Niger Ministry of Commerce to produce training materials, and train women on marketing, packaging, labeling, conducting market surveys and seeking out new market outlets. This will allow women to produce in compliance with buyers' standards.

The programme will assist in increasing the visibility of their value added products (beans and sesame) through buyfromwomen platform and appropriate advertising, including production of labels indicating that the product was developed by women producers and competitive packaging.

The women farmers will also participate in national and international trade fairs especially agriculture fairs. By attending, the women will be able to promote their products and create contractual relationships.

## 5 Results and Resources Framework

Strategic Statements	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Means of verification
<b>Program Objective:</b> 25,000 Women Farmers in Malawi are Economically Empowered and Resilient in a Changing Climate by 2021	• # of women farmers with access to resilient agricultural techniques	0	25,000	Integrated Household Surveys from NSO.
	• % women farmers with access to land	0	50%	
	• % women farmers with access to financing mechanisms	TBD	100%	Programme evaluation report.
<b>IMPLEMENTATION</b>				
<b>Outcome 1:</b> <b>Women's Access to Land and Land Tenure Security are improved</b>	• % increase in number of women in the targeted districts holding land certificates/title deeds.	TBD	50%	Agricultural Census, and FAO data
	• Number of measures implemented to protect women's land rights	0	1	Programme evaluation reports.

<b>Output 1.1:</b> Gender-Responsive Land Laws, Policies and Frameworks are developed and implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># gender sensitive land policies enacted</li> </ul>	0	2	Parliamentary reports
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># gender sensitive policies in place &amp; implemented</li> </ul>	0	1	Evaluation reports
<b>Output 1.2.</b> Land Registry Institutions and Land Governance Systems are in Place to Promote Women's Access to Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>% of women who able to access land registry services at all levels</li> </ul>	TBD	50%	Mission Reports, Programme Evaluation Reports
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>% of local authorities that promote women's access to land</li> </ul>	TBD	50%	
<b>Output 1.3</b> Strengthened Agency and Voice of Women Farmers to Engage in Relevant Land Policy and Decision-Making Processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># women involved in advocacy forums on land issues at all levels</li> </ul>	0	25,000	Baseline Report, Programme Evaluation Report
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>% representation of women in land management committees</li> </ul>	0	50%	
<b>Outcome 2: Women Farmers have Access to Information and innovative Technologies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>% increase in agricultural productivity for women smallholder farmers</li> </ul>	0	30% Increase	World Bank Reports on Closing the Gender Gap.  Evaluation reports
<b>Output 2.1:</b> Deployment of digital platform to strengthen relationships between stakeholders in the value chains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>% of women farmers on the platform</li> </ul>	0	80%	Evaluation report (mid-term and final evaluation of the project)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buyfromwomen platform deployed</li> </ul>	0	1	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># contractual buying relationships signed</li> </ul>	0	10	
<b>Output 2.2:</b> Innovative agricultural technologies are disseminated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>% women adopting new technologies for skills development</li> </ul>	0	80%	Baseline survey report, Evaluation reports
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># women in targeted districts accessing agriculture information through mobile.</li> </ul>	0	25,000	

<b>Output 2.3:</b> Improved Access to Extension Service for Women Farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of women farmers accessing extension services</li> <li>• % women lead farmers who are extension agents</li> </ul>	TBD  TBD	100%  50%	Programme Study Reports
<b>Outcome 3: Women Farmers' increased access to financing mechanisms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # women farmers in the intervention areas who had access to funding for the crop season</li> </ul>	0	25,000	Evaluation report (mid-term and final evaluation of the project)
<b>Output 3.1:</b> A credit line is set up to provide funding to women farmers living in the programme intervention areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1.2 M credit line dedicated to women farmers</li> </ul>	0%	100%	Programme Evaluation Reports
<b>Output 3.2:</b> Women's financial literacy skills are strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # women farmers trained in financial education</li> </ul>	0	25,000	# women farmers trained in basic financial education
<b>Output 3.3:</b> Agricultural insurance tailored to women farmer's needs are developed and promoted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % women beneficiaries of the support program in target areas who buy agricultural insurance</li> </ul>	0	100%	Evaluation report (mid-term and final evaluation of the project)
<b>Outcome 4 - Access to markets and value-added activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % women farmers selling through contractual relationships</li> </ul>	0	50%	

<b>Output 4.1:</b> Sales contracts are promoted to secure more opportunities for women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of women cooperatives selling crops through the buyfromwomen platform</li> </ul>	0	50%	Evaluation report (mid-term and final evaluation of the project) Partners' semi-annual report on procurement contracts
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of women participating in the WFP Purchase for Progress programme</li> </ul>	0	12,500	
<b>Output 4.2:</b> Women's capacities in selling, branding, certification, labeling, marketing, and packaging are reinforced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training material developed in local languages on marketing, packaging, labeling and standards</li> </ul>	0	1	Evaluation report (mid-term and final evaluation of the project)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % women farmers in the programme intervention areas who attend national trade fairs</li> </ul>	TBD	50%	

## 6. Partnership and management arrangements

### 6.2 Partnerships

UN Women in Niger has a strong country presence and established networks of local and national partners. Activities will be implemented in partnership with other UN Agencies, NGOs, government officials and policy-makers, traditional and customary authorities, civil society organizations (CSOs), multilateral and regional development banks, academia, national financial institutions and commercial and agricultural banks, private sector companies, media and women's producer groups and co-operatives. The programme will leverage on existing interventions and expertise in the country, as it endeavours to transform women from producing for livelihood/food security to higher productivity, value addition, commercialization and markets. This will also serve as a sustainability mechanism, as these partners have the potential to institutionalize the initiatives in their current operations and future programming. Below is a table outlining key partnerships that will be leveraged for this programme:

Outcome area	Key interventions of the program	Partners
Women's land tenure security is increased	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disseminate new land laws,</li> <li>• Advocacy on gaps in the laws,</li> <li>• Provide technical and advisory support in the review and development of social profiles at district level, monitoring of new law)</li> <li>• Gender analysis of tools and systems for registration,</li> <li>• Capacity strengthening of land registry institutions, increase women's awareness on land registration application procedures,</li> <li>• Engage communities, building capacity of community committees including traditional and religious leaders,</li> <li>• Disseminate information on land laws at grassroots level</li> <li>• Conduct dialogues on social and customary barriers to land, promote men and boys' engagement, (leadership training and mentorship, awareness on land laws, south to south exchange, media/edutainment campaigns; advocacy with policy makers)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Local NGOs under CONGAFEN and permanent secretariat of the Rural Code, NGO DIKO and ADL as well as faith based organisations:</b> Key in the dissemination of the rural code, advocacy on gender related gaps in the law, monitoring the implementation of the new land law, advocacy on cultural barriers to accessing land by women.</li> <li>• <b>Local Land Committees under Traditional leadership/Municipal Councils:</b> Key in the implementation of the new law.</li> <li>• <b>Ministry in charge of Interior and decentralisation:</b> key partner in the review and development of social profiles at district level.</li> <li>• <b>FAO:</b> Key partner in technical analysis of policies and laws, including the use of Voluntary Guidelines on Tenure of Land to be used by land committee on management and governance of land.</li> <li>• <b>Local NGOs and Associations:</b> Advocacy, information and capacity building activities for women on newly introduced rural land management measures and mechanisms</li> </ul>
Women smallholder productivity increased and physical burden of agricultural work reduced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase proportion of women with access to appropriate technologies and innovations (machinery, storage methods, improved seeds, fertilizers, pest control), stocktaking of existing technologies and support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Airtel and Orange:</b> Key in providing mobile based platforms for dissemination of relevant agri-related information to farmers.</li> <li>• Central d'Approvisionnement en Intrants et Matériels Agricoles-<b>CAIMA</b></li> </ul>

Outcome area	Key interventions of the program	Partners
	<p>dissemination, support to research institutions and innovators to develop and roll-out appropriate technologies, promotion of ICT-based technologies).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve production methods, conservation agriculture, soil restoration, organic manure, tree planting, wetland conservation, post-harvest methods;</li> <li>• Improve access to food and nutrition information for women and adolescent girls through mobile technologies)</li> </ul>	<p>The leasing government institution will be very instrumental in the acquisition of farm inputs and materials</p> <p><b>CIAT:</b> Key partner in developing, prototyping and disseminating technologies to rural farmers including 3D technologies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural extension services (DAES):</b> Key in disseminating the technologies and providing technical and regulatory support</li> <li>• <b>FAO:</b> Key partner on Farmer Field School and Farmer Business School for nutrition and increased food production</li> <li>• <b>CONGAFEN:</b> Key to community mobilization, Household approaches to adoption of good agronomic practices.</li> <li>• <b>Community Radios, the network of Journalists(REJEA) and other Media:</b> Disseminate information on weather, climate change and other strategic data to farmers through edutainment initiatives</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase proportion of trained women extension workers, support strengthening network of lead farmers and field agents</li> <li>• Use of ICT and mobile-based platforms to strengthen extension support including provision of timely weather and climate information, early warning systems and market information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Airtel and Orange:</b> Key in the development of mobile based platforms for disseminating information to women farmers</li> <li>• <b>Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Extension services (DAES);</b> key in training of women extension officers and lead farmers.</li> <li>• <b>Department of weather and climate change;</b> key partner in accessing weather related</li> </ul>



Outcome area	Key interventions of the program	Partners
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of edutainment platforms to disseminate relevant agricultural information</li> <li>• Policy research and advocacy to quantify and value women's unpaid care work in agricultural productive systems including time use and household surveys, dissemination of survey findings and implementation of recommendations, male and boys' engagement, community dialogues on women's unpaid care work)</li> </ul>	<p>information and disseminating to farmers</p>
<p>Opportunities for women farmers to move up the agricultural value chain promoted</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote financial literacy for women farmers, micro-finance, savings and loan groups, mobile banking, agency banking, crowd funding platforms, seed capital, awareness on crop insurance, sensitization/dialogue with financial institutions to develop gender responsive products and services for women farmers)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ministry of Industry and Trade:</b> Training and registration of producer groups into cooperatives</li> <li>• <b>Ministry of agriculture, Ministry in charge of gender:</b> Training producer groups in financial literacy</li> <li>• <b>Banks:</b> Developing gender responsive products and services for women and providing rural women farmers with finance, loans and credits. Some of the financial institutions that will be targeted include FDH, National Bank and NED bank.</li> <li>• <b>Oxfam:</b> Key partner in raising awareness on crop insurance</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity development of women farmers on business skills, promotion of household approach, vocational training, capacity development for women farmers on using new technologies and applying local and indigenous knowledge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ministry of professional training:</b> Very instrumental in professional training</li> <li>• <b>CONGAFEN and local NGOs:</b> Popularizing the household approaches.</li> <li>• <b>Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child</b></li> </ul>

Outcome area	Key interventions of the program	Partners
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake market studies, promote fair trade, link private companies with women small holders and producer groups, promote private sector commitment through WEPs, promote gender-sensitive public procurement, support to women in informal cross-border trade, support to women to access local and international markets in high potential value chains e.g. high value vegetables and oil-seeds.</li> <li>• Support women's leadership and participation in producer groups and cooperatives, promote use of digital technology to connect farmers, increase access to machinery and technologies to move from production to aggregation, processing and distribution, storage facilities and training)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Protection, NGO DIKO, NGO ADL, etc.:</b> Supporting women's capacity building, their basic education and literacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ministry of Industry and trade:</b> Developing regulatory tools and frameworks for linking women to national and international markets, providing training of cooperatives on marketing, packaging, labelling (organic products, fair trade) and marketing channels</li> <li>• <b>Agence de Régulation des Marchés Publics(ARMP) :</b> Promote gender-sensitive public procurement</li> <li>• <b>Niger Chambers of Commerce, Agriculture and Industry:</b> Linking women to local markets, registration for their participation in trade fair, Promotion of WEPs to its membership</li> <li>• <b>Processors:</b> The programme will work with STA and PRODEX for the transformation and sales of the products</li> <li>• <b>WFP:</b> Linking rural women farmers to markets through Patient Procurement Platform (PPP)</li> <li>• <b>Niger Stock Exchange (MSE) and the Chambers of Agriculture:</b> gender equality events</li> <li>• <b>Action Aid International:</b> Mobilizing women through women's forum in terms of motivating them to join producer groups and cooperatives</li> </ul>

### **6.3 Partnership and Management Arrangements**

UN Women will be responsible for the overall implementation and management of the programme. In close collaboration with other key UN partners, Government Ministries and other relevant stakeholders. A Programme Management Unit (PMU) headed by a programme coordinator will be set up to manage the programme. The programme coordinator will be supported by a team composed of:

- An expert on land governance
- An Agronomist to manage agricultural productivity in the face of climate change
- A Monitoring and Evaluation officer
- A programme Assistant and
- A finance Assistant

A steering committee and a technical committee comprising of implementing partners' representatives will be set up. The steering committee will be providing guidance to the programme team/technical committee on the implementation of activities. To the extent possible, UN Women will use this flagship programme as the basis for engagement with Government and other development partners on Gender and Agriculture programming and will push for the integration of the proposed key outcomes and outputs in the design of other programmes. UN Women will organize regular interagency and multi-stakeholder forums to build synergies, ensure coordination, and review progress in the implementation of activities including sharing of relevant experiences and good practices that could be scaled up or replicated. Among the proposed organizations likely to be part of the steering committee are;

- The Ministry of Agriculture and animal husbandry;
- Ministry of Interior;
- Ministry of women's empowerment and child protection;
- Development partners such as the World bank and the African Development
- Local NGOs implementing partners such as CONGAFEN, DIKO, ADL, etc.
- UN Agencies, such as FAO, WFP, UNDP
- The private sector like Airtel and Orang
- Research Institutions such as CIAT and ICRISAT.

### **6.4 Financial Management**

UN Women will be responsible for arrangement of fund management services, including:

- Receipt, administration and management of donor contributions
- Transfer of funds approved to Partner Organizations
- Consolidation of statements and reports, based on submissions provided by programme partners

- Synthesis and consolidation of the individual annual narrative and financial progress reports submitted partner organizations for submission to donors.

## 6.5 Monitoring, Evaluation and learning

A comprehensive Performance Monitoring Framework (PMF) will be developed within the first quarter of programme implementation and will form an integral part of the programme. The PMF will highlight all performance indicators, data sources, collection methods and the frequency of data collection, responsible actors, baselines and targets for each result. This PMF will result from collaboration with key programme partners and with technical support from the monitoring and evaluation section of UN Women. Five levels/ areas of M&E will be included in the PMF: (1) monitoring of activities, (2) financial monitoring, (3) progress on programme management, (4) annual programme review, (5) mid-term and final evaluation (s). Information from monitoring will inform the process of programme implementation, while the evaluation will give lessons for future programme development and implementation.

The PMF will also be informed by a comprehensive baseline analysis which will be conducted of the multi-faceted situation of women farmers and the various other stakeholders and development actors involved, including “who is doing what” across the outcome areas. This process is intended to contribute to the development of a country-specific strategy and work plan to address the gender gap in agriculture and will also support improved data and statistics on women’s access to secure land tenure,<sup>15</sup> productivity and labour time, access to financial services and loans, and participation in agricultural extension services and cooperatives (including in alignment with the SDGs) in order to track and assess progress and results.

**Table: Monitoring and Evaluation Framework**

<b>Types of M&amp;E</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Areas of M&amp;E</b>
<b>Monitoring of activities</b>	Quarterly/ Semi-Annual	Outcome, output, and implemented activities
<b>Financial management</b>	Monthly	Financial commitment, funds disbursement, financial allocation vis-à-vis to delivery targets
<b>Progress on programme management</b>	Quarterly/ Annual A schedule proposed by the donor requirements	Progress of the programme in terms of activity implementation

<sup>15</sup> According to Doss (2015), “There exist virtually no recent, comparable, nationally representative data across African countries that contain information on women’s landownership and control or management...Rigorous, well-defined, and contextually relevant measurement of gender disparities in ownership and control of land, implemented in population-representative surveys that are embedded within countries’ statistical systems, will be essential to future efforts to reduce gender gaps in bundles of rights associated with landownership.”

<b>Programme review</b>	Annually	Review of activities, deliverables, targets and adjustments or adaptation needed. This will be done at country level involving all the programme's staff and implementing partners, selected government officials from relevant ministries and relevant staff of UN Women
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## 6.5 Communication, Advocacy, Knowledge Management and Networking

UN Women will develop a comprehensive communication strategy to streamline the information, key messages and policy positions, and offer guidance on:

- How partner organizations will communicate on the programme
- How to influence the UN's programming agenda and the donor community to prioritize support to climate resilient agriculture using the knowledge generated through the programme
- How to conduct gender sensitive participatory communication for the district and community level activities.
- How to document business cases and best practices, and package the knowledge for the general public. Also social media platforms such as Face book and Twitter could be used as very effective communication and advocacy tools to engage the wider public through news' updates, threads of discussions and pictures.

Beyond the communication strategy, the programme will include a strong knowledge management component to ensure that information about the project, experiences and lessons learnt will be shared among all relevant stakeholders. This also includes the setting up of a community of practice on gender and climate resilient agriculture.



## ANNEX 1: Theory of Change

Goal	<b>25,000 Women Farmers in Niger are Economically Empowered and Resilient in a Changing Climate By 2021</b> <i>If women farmers in Niger are able to access land and land tenure security is increased; (2) they have access to information and appropriate agricultural technologies; if (3) they attain the financial capacity to invest; and participate fully in value chains and markets; then (4) they will be economically empowered and resilient in a changing climate; because (5) the root causes and drivers of gender gaps in agriculture will have been removed.</i>			
Outcomes	<b>1. Women's Access to Land and Land Tenure Security are Increased</b>  <i>(If barriers to women's access to land are removed; and if an enabling legislative framework, supported by strong technical capacities are in place and if the agency and decision-making capacity of women farmers is strengthened, then women's land tenure security will increase because discrimination against women to own, control and use land is removed)</i>	<b>2. Women farmers have access to information and appropriate communication technologies</b>  <i>(If women's access to information and appropriate communication technologies, agricultural equipment/machinery, and access to climate resilient productive assets, is improved then their productivity will increase and also the labour intensity of agricultural activities for women will be reduced).</i>	<b>3. Women Farmers' increased access to financing mechanisms</b>  <i>(If women have access to affordable and appropriate financing services and products, markets, business skills and insurance then they will have opportunities to move up the value chain because bigger barriers to their increased productivity will have been removed)</i>	<b>4. Access to markets and value-added activities</b>  <i>(If women have access to skills and capacities to package, label and markets their products, then they will have opportunities to participate in international markets of high value added niches).</i>

Outputs	<p><b>1.1 Gender-responsive land laws, policies and frameworks developed and implemented for women's access to land</b></p> <p><i>(gender-based budgeting, dissemination of new land laws, advocacy on gaps in the laws, monitoring of new law, technical and advisory support in the review and development of social profiles at district level)</i></p>	<p><b>2.1 Deployment of digital platform to strengthen relationships between stakeholders in the value chain</b></p> <p><i>(Increase proportion of women with access to appropriate technologies and innovations (machinery, storage methods, improved seeds, fertilizers, pest control), stocktaking of existing technologies and support dissemination, support to research institutions and innovators to develop and roll-out appropriate technologies, promotion of ICT-based technologies)</i></p>	<p><b>3.1 A credit line is set up to provide funding to women farmers living in the project intervention areas</b></p> <p><i>(e.g. promote financial literacy for women farmers, micro-finance, savings and loan groups, mobile banking, agency banking, crowd funding platforms, seed capital, awareness on crop insurance, sensitization/dialogue with financial institutions to develop gender responsive products and services for women farmers)</i></p>	<p><b>4.1: Sales contracts are promoted to secure more opportunities for women</b></p> <p><i>(Capacity development of women farmers on negotiating contractual relations with large buyers, including private sector, manufacturers, exporters)</i></p>
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	<p><b>1.2 Land registry institutions and land governance systems are in place to promote women's access to land</b></p> <p><i>(gender analysis of tools and systems for registration, capacity strengthening of land registry institutions, increase women's awareness on land registration application procedures)</i></p>	<p><b>2.2 Women's access to innovative and labour saving agricultural technologies is enhanced</b></p> <p><i>(increasing women's access to climate resilient productive assets, technologies and skills to improve productivity and reduce the labour intensity of agricultural activities for women.)</i></p>	<p><b>3.2 Women's basic education and financial literacy skills are strengthened</b></p> <p><i>(Improve women's literacy and financial skills, through holding financial literacy events, going beyond training women how to read and write and provide them with specific skills and information relating to agricultural production, business enterprise development, food processing and nutrition. Continuous mentoring to effectively manage finances for their businesses ventures).</i></p>	<p><b>4.2: Women's capacities in selling, branding, certification, marketing, and packaging are reinforced</b></p> <p><i>(women farmers' capacity to package, label, and seek out new market outlets, capacity to identify needs in terms of equipment to improve the quality of packaging, capacity to increase visibility of their products, capacity to participate in national and international trade fairs)</i></p>
	<p><b>1.3 Social and customary barriers to women's equal land rights and access are removed</b></p> <p><i>(engagement/advocacy with communities, capacity building of community committees including traditional and religious leaders, dissemination and popularizing land laws at grassroots level, community dialogues on social and customary barriers to land, promote men and boys' engagement)</i></p>	<p><b>2.3 Women's access to locally-adapted, high yielding seeds and production equipment is promoted</b></p> <p><i>(Ensuring that women are aware of the importance of using climate resilient productive assets through various extension mediums such as the use of improved seed, conservative agriculture, use of drought resistant crops and varieties etc.)</i></p>	<p><b>3.3 Agricultural insurance tailored to women farmer's needs are developed and promoted</b></p> <p><i>(Support promoting agricultural insurance, such as weather index-based Insurance, explore other environmental related insurance packages that are tailored to women farmers needs and aspirations, so that they can benefit from them and strengthen their resilience against climatic shocks)</i></p>	

	<b>1.4 Strengthened Agency and Voice of Women Farmers to Engage in Relevant Land Policy and Decision-Making Processes</b>  <i>(leadership training and mentorship, awareness on land laws, south to south exchange, media/edutainment campaigns; advocacy with policy makers)</i>	<b>2.4 Improved access to extension service for women farmers</b>  <i>(increase proportion of trained women extension workers, support strengthening network of lead farmers and field agents, use of ICT and mobile-based platforms to strengthen extension support including provision of timely weather and climate information, early warning systems and market information; use of edutainment platforms to disseminate relevant agricultural information)</i>	<b>3.4 Agricultural Insurance Tailored to Women Farmer's Needs are Developed and Promoted</b>  <i>(Support promoting agricultural insurance, such as weather index-based Insurance, explore other environmental related insurance packages that are tailored to women farmers needs and aspirations, so that they can benefit from them and strengthen their resilience against climatic shocks)</i>	
<b>Assumptions</b>	Lack of land is a structural cause of gender inequality- Secure tenure can be individual or collective- Women's secure land tenure is an important collateral for success	Gender gap exists for agricultural practices, information and technologies – New technologies and tools will save women's time and be less physically intensive Political will and supportive social norms to recognize the importance of unpaid care work	Gender gap in women's access to financing markets and in the value chain	Greater access to markets and moving higher in the value chain will increase incomes.
<b>Risks</b>	Social/cultural attitudes and political will on equal land rights, cannot be changed – Equal rights in laws are not translated into practice	Uncertain acceptance of new technologies and practices- women's unpaid domestic and care work reduce time for learning new technologies	Social/cultural/political/trade barriers to women accessing finance and having preferential access to markets	Social/cultural/political/trade barriers to women accessing finance and having preferential access to markets

## ANNEX 2: Budget

Outcome	Output	Activities	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
Outcome 1: Women's access to land and land tenure security are increased	Output 1.1: Gender responsive laws, policies and framework developed and implemented	Design and implement a dissemination plan for the new land act targeting women farmers	50 000	50 000	10 000			110 000
		Conduct gender responsive planning and budgeting trainings for officers in ministry of land agriculture and selected CSOs	50 000	50 000	50 000			150 000
	Output 1.2: Land registry Institution and land governance systems are in place to promote women's access to land	Review and engender terms of references for selecting members of land committees to promote inclusion and participation of women	50 000	50 000				100 000

		Engender tools used for titling and registration of land, and making sure that land management monitoring and evaluation systems collect and use sex disaggregated data	50 000	50 000				100 000
		Use media especially community radios to popularize the engendered documents	30 000	30 000	30 000	30 000	30 000	150 000
	Output 1.3: Strengthened agency and voice of women farmers to engage in relevant and policy and decision making processes	Train and monitor women groups to ensure that their lobby and advocacy skills around land rights are enhanced	50 000	30 000	20 000			100 000

		Promote south-south learning and sharing of experiences with other country on women's access to land	25 000	25 000	25 000			75 000
<b>Subtotal outcome 1</b>			<b>305 000</b>	<b>285 000</b>	<b>135 000</b>	<b>30 000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>755 000</b>
<b>8% indirect support cost</b>			<b>24 400</b>	<b>22 800</b>	<b>10 800</b>	<b>2 400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>60 400</b>
<b>Total outcome 1</b>			<b>329 400</b>	<b>307 800</b>	<b>145 800</b>	<b>32 400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>815 400</b>
Outcome 2: Women have access to information and innovative technologies	Output 2.1: Deployment of the digital platform to strengthen relation between stakeholders in the value chain	Select women cooperatives to be included in the buyfromwomen platform	75 000					75 000
		Deployment of the buyfromwomen platform	525 000					525 000
	Output 2.2: Innovative agricultural technologies are disseminated	Use the platform to disseminate good practices on beans, onions and sesame seed, climate smart technologies and fertilizers	200 000	200 000	200 000	200 000	200 000	1 000 000

	Output 2.3: Improved access to extension service for women farmers	Train lead farmers to mentor other women farmers through their producer groups	40 000	40 000	40 000	40 000	40 000	200 000
		Promote radio; purchase and use green mobile vans to increase women's access to climate resilient agronomical practices	300 000	100 000	100 000	100 000	100 000	700 000
<b>Subtotal outcome 2</b>			<b>1 140 000</b>	<b>340 000</b>	<b>340 000</b>	<b>340 000</b>	<b>340 000</b>	<b>2 500 000</b>
<b>8% indirect support cost</b>			<b>91 200</b>	<b>27 200</b>	<b>27 200</b>	<b>27 200</b>	<b>27 200</b>	<b>200 000</b>
<b>Total outcome 2</b>			<b>1 231 200</b>	<b>367 200</b>	<b>367 200</b>	<b>367 200</b>	<b>367 200</b>	<b>2 700 000</b>
Outcome 3: Women farmers' increased access to financing mechanisms	Output3.1: A credit line is set up to provide funding to women farmers living in the project intervention areas	Select by tender the financial institutions for the implementation of the credit line for women farmers	10 000	10 000				20 000
		Fund 1.2 million credit line for women farmers	600 000	600 000				1 200 000

	Output3.2: Women's financial literacy skills are strengthened	Develop training modules for enhancing financial literacy for women farmers and translate them in local languages accessible with digital technology	100 000	100 000	50 000	50 000		300 000
		Conduct business management and financial literacy for women farmers	100 000	100 000	50 000	50 000		300 000
	Output 3.3: Agricultural insurance tailored to women farmers' needs are developed and promoted 1,000,000	Design and implement a communication campaign to disseminate agric-insurance products to women's farmers	50 000	50 000	50 000	50 000		200 000
		Fund in partnership with private sectors the launch of the specific insurance products for women farmers	300 000	300 000	100 000	50 000	50 000	800 000

<b>Subtotal outcome 3</b>			<b>1 160 000</b>	<b>1 160 000</b>	<b>250 000</b>	<b>200 000</b>	<b>50 000</b>	<b>2 820 000</b>
<b>8% indirect support cost</b>			<b>92 800</b>	<b>92 800</b>	<b>20 000</b>	<b>16 000</b>	<b>4 000</b>	<b>225 600</b>
<b>Total outcome 3</b>			<b>1 252 800</b>	<b>1 252 800</b>	<b>270 000</b>	<b>216 000</b>	<b>54 000</b>	<b>3 045 600</b>
Outcome 4: Access to market and value added activities	Output 4.1: Sales contracts are promoted to secure more opportunities for women	Establish contractual relationship WFP and private sector firms for women's producers	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	50 000
		Support women to participate in national and international trade fairs	30 000	30 000	30 000	30 000	30 000	150 000
	Output 4.2: Women's capacities in selling, branding, certification, labelling, marketing and packaging are reinforced	Train women on packaging and labelling and marketing	40 000	40 000	40 000	40 000	40 000	200 000
		Design and implement marketing campaign to increase visibility of the value added products through buyfromwomen platform	40 000	40 000	40 000	40 000	40 000	200 000



Sub-total outcome 4			120 000	120 000	110 000	110 000	110 000	570 000
8% indirect support cost			9 600	9 600	8 800	8 800	8 800	45 600
Total outcome 4			129 600	129 600	118 800	118 800	118 800	615 600

### Total Budget Summary

#### UN Women Niger : Budget Climate Resilient Agriculture(CRA) Flagship Programme Initiative(FPI)

Outcome 1: Women farmers access to land tenure security are increased	755 000
Outcome 2: Women farmers' access to information and innovative technologies	2 500 000
Outcome 3: Women farmers access to financing mechanisms increased	2 820 000
Outcome 4: Women farmers access to markets and value added activities increased	570 000
<b>Total cost of outcomes 1-4</b>	<b>6 645 000</b>
<b>Total Programme Monitoring and Evaluation (3% of total cost)</b>	<b>199 350</b>
<b>Total Programme cost</b>	<b>6 844 350</b>
<b>Direct support cost (GMS-8%)</b>	<b>547 548</b>
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>7 391 898</b>

## ANNEX 4: PROFILE OF LEGUME SECTOR IN NIGER

PARTNER	ROLE
Department of Agricultural Research Services; Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security	Variety development, evaluation and release; production of breeder and foundation seed
ICRISAT	Provide improved beans germplasm/breeding populations; capacity building through training; research on effective methods for technology dissemination
Seed Services Niger	Seed systems support; helping collaborating NGO's and CBOs with quality seed production/ monitoring
Department of Crop production; Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security	Provide guidance in crop production technologies and associated packages
FAO	Capacitate farmer field schools to impart knowledge and skills for increased production on-farm
Farmers	End-users of technologies in terms of high yielding varieties, management practices.
Agro-processors (Export Trading, Grain Traders & Processors Association)	Marketing and value addition
Ministry of Agriculture	Coordination of pigeon pea seed trade to ensure quality delivery

## Annex 5: CRITERIA IN SELECTING CROPS TO BE PRODUCED BY WOMEN

The first criterion used for the identification of the crops that will be supported was the crops commonly grown by women in Niger. There is a clear gender difference in terms of what men and women grow. The choice of crops by women is related to land tenure system. A total of 10 crop were identified namely, millet, beans, groundnuts, rice (not irrigated), onions, okra, sesame, moringa, Irish potatoes and vegetables. A further analysis was carried out based on the following criteria: profitability, exports potential, yields/ha, quantities produced, amount of funds brought into the country and requirements for the cultivation of the crops,

### Analysis :

Crop	Profitability	Exports potential	Control by women	Quantities produced	Amount of funds brought into the country	Requirements for the cultivation of the crops
Millet	Not profitable and mostly grown by men	Not exported	Highly controlled by men. Women work but it is the men who control the resources	Grown mainly for home consumption by women	Not exported	Needs good supply of water
Beans,	Very profitable	Very much exported	It is considered women's crops; it is therefore controlled by women	Grown in large quantities for export	Brings about 5 billion FCFA yearly	Needs much space and is not exigent in terms of water and nutrients because of the action of its nitrogen fixing bacteria in the soil
Groundnuts	Very profitable used to produced many by-products	Not exported in big quantities	It is considered women's crops; it is therefore controlled by women	Grown in large but mostly consumed in Niger	Brings about 5 million FCFA yearly	Not exigent in terms of water and nutrients because of the action of its nitrogen fixing bacteria in the soil
Rice	Not very profitable	Not exported Niger imports rice	It is only the upland rice that can be controlled by women; men	Grown in large but for consumption in Niger	Not exported	Needs much water, nutrients and space

			control the irrigated rice			
Onions	Very profitable	Very much exported	Controllable by women	Grown in large both for consumption in Niger and for exports	Brings at least 7 billion FCFA yearly	Requires much water and storage facilities
Irish potatoes	Profitable	Not produced for export	Controllable by women	Grown for consumption in Niger	Not exported	Needs much extensive fertile soils
Okra	Not very profitable	Not produced for export	Controllable by women	Grown for consumption in Niger	Not exported	Not exigent
Sesame	Very profitable	Very high export potential	Controllable by women	Grown in large quantities mostly for export	Brings at least 500 million FCFA yearly	Not exigent
Moringa	Profitable	Can be exported	Controllable by women	Not grown in large quantities	Not exported	Requires storage
Vegetables	Profitable	Not exported	Controllable by women	Not grown in large quantities	Not exported	Very exigent

## Annex 6: Justification for the regions selected for programme implementation

The five-year Climate Resilient Agriculture Programme will be implemented in four regions with a total population of 13,883,548 inhabitants with women making about 50.3%.

Selected Regions	Total population	Female population	Surface area cultivated and Production			Councils selected	Female population
			Beans (Niebé)	Onions	Sesame		
Dosso	2,459,812	1,243,521)	S: 901,504 ha  P: 341,393 tons		S: 1,831 ha  P: 792 tons	Falwal,	35,129
						Yelou,	41,741
						Gaya	38,943
						Sokorbé	21,712
Maradi	4,160,231	2,094,248	S: 1,065,117 ha  P: 3,037,795 tons	Not selected for the cultivation of onions	S: 35,969 ha  P : 13,603 tons	Agué,	94,053
						Tchadoua,	57,377
						Tessaoua,	106,369
						Ourafane	84,857
						Mojirgui	43,494
Tillabéry	3,280,333	1,652,383	Not selected for the cultivation of Niebe	Data not available	S: 11,548 ha  P: 5,015 tons	Karma	53,547
						Hamdallaye	34,597
						Kouretey	28,070
						Tillaberi	35,379
						Gotheye	54,492
Tahoua	3,983,172	1,997,772	Not selected for the cultivation of Niebe	S: 187,000 ha  P: 525,517 tons	Not selected for the cultivation of Sesame	Ourno,	
						Tamaske,	66,840
						Ibohamane,	53,254
						Kalfou	66,288
						Bangui	84,295

## **Agroécologies**

Le climat du Niger a 3 zones climatiques :

- Soudanienne, 15° Lat. Ouest peu moins 14° Est +600 mm/an
- Sahélienne 200-500 mm/an
- Saharienne très immense seul

Climat est continental et la pluie commence du juin-Septembre. La température moyenne est de 33°C.

Le système agraire du Niger est composé des systèmes distincts suivants :

- Pastoral au nord ;
- Transition au centre avec culture ou dune ;
- Des plaines à l'est ;
- Plateau à l'Ouest ;
- Système de vallée ;
- Des Oasis ;
- Des AHA et
- Des zones péri-urbaines.

## ACRONYMS

<b>ASUSU</b>	: Name of a Micro Finance Enterprise
<b>ARMP</b>	: Agence de Régulation des Marchés Publics
<b>CAIMA</b>	: Central d'Approvisionnement en Intrants et Matériels Agricoles
<b>CIAT</b>	: International Center for Tropical Agriculture
<b>CONGAFEN</b>	: Coordination des ONG et Associations Féminines au Niger
<b>CSOs</b>	: Civil Society Organisations
<b>DRF</b>	: Development Result Framework
<b>ECOWAS</b>	: Economic Community of West African States
<b>FAO</b>	: Food and Agricultural Organization
<b>FCFA</b>	: Francs CFA
<b>GDP</b>	: Gross Development Product
<b>ICT</b>	: Information and Communication Technologies
<b>ICRISAT</b>	: International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
<b>Initiative 3N</b>	: Initiative les Nigériens Nourrissent les Nigériens
<b>INRAN</b>	: Institut National de Recherches Agronomique du Niger
<b>IRD</b>	: International Research Center for Development
<b>MECREF</b>	: Mutuelle d'Épargne de Crédit pour la Femme
<b>NGOs</b>	: Non-Governmental Organisations
<b>ONG</b>	: Organisation Non Gouvernementale
<b>OSF</b>	: Open Society Foundation
<b>PDES</b>	: Programme de Développement Économique et Social
<b>P4P</b>	: Purchase for Progress

<b>PMF</b>	: Performance Monitoring Framework
<b>PRODEX</b>	: Programme de développement des exportations, financement
<b>SDGs</b>	: Sustainable Development Goals
<b>STA</b>	: Société de Transformation Agricole
<b>UNDP</b>	: United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNEP</b>	: United Nation Environment Programme
<b>WFP</b>	: World Food Programme



