

Cereal Value Chain (CVC) Activity

Project Overview

Despite its potential for growth in production and marketing, the agricultural sector in Mali faces a number of constraints. A lack of access to finance, inefficient water management, gender inequalities, a complicated regulatory environment, and limited adoption of technologies hamper production and marketing of millet, sorghum and rice – the three cereal value chains targeted by the U.S. Government's Feed the Future Initiative.

The CVC program (2013-2018) uses a market-based approach to generate broad-based economic growth and improve food security for Malian smallholder millet, sorghum and rice farmers. This approach includes teaching farmers business and production skills, supporting the development of cooperatives, and linking these cooperatives with market opportunities. CVC works within the 113 Feed the Future communes in Sikasso, Segou and Mopti, with plans to reinstate programming in Timbuktu as security permits.

Over the life of the project, CVC will benefit 50,000 rural households, bring over 70,000 hectares under improved management practices, mobilize nearly \$13 million in new agricultural loans, and account for \$22 million in incremental sales.

Alignment with USAID/Mali's Strategy

CVC is aligned with the Prosperity and Resilience components of USAID/Mali's Country Development Cooperation Strategy, helping to achieve Mali's Feed the Future target of reaching 300,000 direct beneficiaries, 1.3 million indirect beneficiaries, and reducing poverty and malnutrition by 20% in the zone of influence. CVC supports the Mission's Resilience Development Objective by ensuring that activities are inclusive of vulnerable populations, and focusing on building their resilience to both economic shocks and climate change. This brings CVC fully in line with the Agency's Resilience agenda, providing a transition from humanitarian to development assistance. CVC also supports USAID's gender policy, minimizing gender gaps and ensuring that women have equal access to assets, inputs, and technologies for agricultural growth.

Results to Date

- CVC has brought over 31,000 hectares under new technologies, including improved seed varieties and soil fertility management.
- Over 300 kilometers of live fences were planted, improving soil and water conservation in farmer fields.
- \$1.4 million worth of in-kind loans mobilized with CVC assistance, providing much needed fertilizer to cereal farmers.

For More Information:

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Contour stone bunds promote infiltration, slowdown and dispersion of run-off water. They prevent concentration of water and gully formation. A total of 50 km of contour stone bunds were put in place by producers, thus protecting at least 250 hectares.



A woman farmer is trained in basic numeracy and literacy, a crucial skill for being a successful rural entrepreneur.

"Before, to register cash incomes and expenses, I had to take the books to someone else, but this training has allowed me to do it by myself based on the invoices"

-Mrs. Mariam Dembele of Tinzanadouyou