

SCALING-UP CLIMATE-SMART AGROFORESTRY TECHNOLOGIES IN MALI (SMAT-SCALING)

The low adoption rates of promising climate-smart agroforestry technologies in the context of climate change is a significant hindrance to a sustainable agricultural intensification in Mali. As a result, degraded and infertile soils are continuously used with insufficient replenishment. Addressing these constraints in rural areas of Mali requires participatory, innovative approaches that bring together all development stakeholders, including smallholder farmers and local communities, to adopt context-adapted proven and appropriate agroforestry practices.

The Feed the Future Mali SmAT-Scaling project is part of USAID/Mali's efforts to address the constraints to adoption of proven agroforestry techniques – improving resilience, reducing poverty and malnutrition through diversified livelihoods and diets. The five-year project is implemented by the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) in partnership with Agha Khan Foundation (AKF) Catholic Relief Services (CRS), World Vision Mali (WV), ICCO-Cooperation, *Mali Biocarburant SA* (MBSA), and the field support of *Directions d'Agricultures* (DRA) *Directions des Eaux et Forêts* (DREF) and *Institut d'Economie Rurale* (IER) in the regions of Mopti, Sikasso, Timbuktu. The SmAT-Scaling Project's main objective is to enhance access to and use of tree-based climate-smart technologies (including fodder) through effective scaling-up of already-developed and proven climate-smart technologies and improved market access, in order to increase food and nutritional security, as well as build resilience of farming systems in the Feed the Future zones of Mali, primarily in Sikasso, Mopti, and Timbuktu. The public-private partnerships included in this project also work in the areas of Koulikoro and Ouessébougou.



Men and women nursery entrepreneurs in RRC in Signe CRS village – Sikasso, Mali. Photo credit: Djalal A. Arinloye (ICRAF)

The project will help over 200,000 Malian farmers apply improved technologies and management practices; assist over 40,000 beneficiaries implement risk-reducing actions to improve resilience to climate change, expand the use of improved technology and management on over 47,000 hectares and work through public-private partnerships with two main private sector companies to increase production of 8 million new *Jatropha* trees for biofuels and connect over 12,000 rural women to the organic Shea market for cosmetics.

Project Goals

The SmAT-Scaling project aims to enhance access to and use of tree-based climate-smart technologies through effective scaling-up of proven agroforestry technologies and improved market access, in order to increase food and nutritional security as well as build resilience of farming systems.

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More specifically, the project vision is to:

- Support participatory prioritization of agroforestry practices from existing options, taking into account community's specific socio-economic, cultural and environmental context; and co-design and co-implement village-based extension approaches to scale-up and out of the selected practices;
- Promote improved tree seeds/seedlings production and delivery systems within and among pilot sites and disseminate improved agroforestry practices;
- Develop diversified market opportunities for tree products with high nutritional and economic value, including commercialization of priority agroforestry products such as fruit trees, and fodder for livestock, that contribute significantly to rural livelihoods;
- Create awareness and improve rural communities' consumption of nutritious, tree-based products including fruits and tree-based leafy vegetables for improved food and nutritional security;
- Disseminate tree-based, climate-smart agriculture options and improve awareness among policy makers and development actors for a widespread adoption of tree-based system innovations;
- Strengthen the capacity of stakeholders including rural poor communities for better adaptation to climate extremes and disasters and set up innovation platforms for knowledge sharing (including local knowledge) and co-learning;
- Promote public private partnerships (PPPs) for high market potential tree product value chains (e.g. Shea, beeswax, Jatropha, and other potential tree products).

Contact Information

- USAID:Mali:
 - Web: www.usaid.gov/mali
 - Tel: +223.2070.2300
 - Email: Bamakoinfo@usaid.gov
 - Twitter: @USAIDMali
- SmAT-Scaling Activity:
 - Chief of Party: Djatal Arinloye
 - Tel: +223 20709200/75193623
 - Email: a.arinloye@cgiar.org

Shea and Beeswax PPPs with Olvea Burkina Faso

The goal of these PPPs is to contribute to overall project goals of increased food security, sustainable income, gender equality, and resilience, mainly in the Sikasso region and parts of Koulikoro. This will be accomplished by collaboration with processors of Shea butter and beeswax for cosmetics, most significantly with the private company Olvea, which has a processing factory in Burkina Faso. This will increase incomes of rural-based shea and beeswax harvesters and producers, their socio-economic well-being, and resilience against external shocks. This PPP will increase incomes of 12,000 rural women Shea harvesters and processors by 75 percent; strengthen the financial, management, and governance of 25 women shea nut and butter cooperatives; improve the quality of shea products such as nut and butter to comply with standards as those elaborated by the Global Shea Alliance (GSA) and American Shea Butter Institute (ASBI); increase food security and socio-economic resilience of households for 12,000 rural women Shea harvesters and processors; enhance gender equality in the Sikasso and Koulikoro regions to empower women to voice their concerns through their agencies (women's groups and associations), reduce soil erosion and increase fertility.

Jatropha Seed Biofuel PPP with Mali Biocarburant, SA (MBSA)

The goal of this PPPs is to diversify incomes for over 7,000 farmers, mostly women, through collaboration with the private company MBSA. Through this partnership, Jatropha nuts are sourced from project beneficiaries and pressed into oil and oil is converted into soap or into biodiesel and glycerin. The glycerin is also converted into soap. The press cake is digested into biogas, compost, and liquid fertilizer, while the biogas is converted into electricity or used as heating fuel. Jatropha is a shrub that is inter-cropped with traditional cereals and thus the PPP also contributes to overall project goals of increased food security, sustainable income, gender equality, and resilience. As part of the project, an additional 8 million trees will be planted in Sikasso, Ouelessebouyou, and Koulikoro.