

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	10362
Project Name:	Resilient, productive and sustainable landscapes in Mali's Kayes Region
Countr(ies):	Mali
Implementing Agency:	FAO

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. OVERVIEW	3
A. Description	3
B. Ratings and Disbursements	3
C. Key Dates	4
II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES	4
A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities	4
B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities	5
C. Stakeholder Engagement	5
D. Gender Equality	7
E. Knowledge Management	7
III: MINOR AMENDMENTS	9
IV: GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES	9
V. ANNEX	12

I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Resilient, productive and sustainable landscapes in Mali's Kayes Region

Country

Mali

GEF ID

10362

Implementing Agency

FAO

Executing Entity

Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Environment, Sanitation and Sustainable Development

Trust Fund

MTF

Project Type

FSP

PIR Submission

9/15/2025

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2025 , 1st PIR

Objective

Project Objective: Through the implementation of an agroecological transition approach, promote innovations in governance, production and finance in order to reduce the vulnerability of the small-holder agro-sylvo-pastoral food systems and livelihoods, reversing land degradation and halting the loss of globally significant biodiversity in fragile landscapes of the Kayes region

Indicators:

- (i) Characterisation of Agroecological Transition (CAET) score. Target: Average CAET score of a least 70% in the target circles (areas with a CAET score of 70% and above are deemed to be advanced in the agroecological transition)
- (ii) Area of production land under improved and climate-resilient management. Target: 160,000 ha under SLM, including: - 10,000 ha under climate-resilient management with efficient water management techniques implemented (e.g. zai) - 30,000 ha showing increased land productivity - 25,000 ha directly benefiting biodiversity
- (iii) Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender. Target: 200,120 (50% women)
- (iv) Household Dietary Diversity Score (DDS) disaggregated by commune and type of household (e.g. men-led vs. woman-led household for example). Target: At least 20% increase in average household DDS score in the target circles

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Moderately Satisfactory

Development Objective

Moderately Satisfactory

Overall risk

Moderate Risk

Project Financing 7,481,000.00	Cumulative Disbursement 921,704.16
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C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval 12/6/2022	Agency Approval 6/27/2021
Implementation Start 1/1/2024	First Disbursement 5/31/2024
Expected MTR	Actual MTR
Expected Completion 3/31/2028	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

The activities carried out were:

Holding of the 1st workshop of the project's co-financing partners;

The organization of the workshop for the development of the APFS/CEAP training curriculum;

National and local supervision missions of the APFS activities in the 03 project intervention regions;

The continuation of training for market gardeners through the 135 APFS in the various intervention zones;

The training of 150 facilitators on the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) approach in the three regions;

The training of 23 facilitators, including 03 supervisors, on the Dimitra Community Listening Club approach in Bamako (single center) in addition to the members of the management unit;

The training of 16 surveyors and 06 supervisors on data collection tools related to the consultation of horticulture stakeholders (diagnosis) in the 03 regions;

The participation of the MEL Assistant in the regional capacity building workshop on monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems for farmer field school programs (FFS) in Cotonou, Benin;

The continuation of training on the Tompro software, the entry and registration of accounting documents in the software;

The production and dissemination of 02 articles related to VSLAs and 01 on community listening clubs.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

The delay in signing the partnership agreements between the FAO and the implementing partners (AEDD and DGEF);

Regarding the first difficulty, rapprochements were made by the PMU-PRPD/DNA between the Ministry of the Environment, Sanitation and Sustainable Development (Supervisory authority of the Implementing Partners (PTE) AEDD and DGEF) in order to expedite the finalization of the contracts. After the signing of the two contracts, the PMU held information and orientation meetings with the focal points of the PTEs to facilitate the planning of activities included in the different contracts. They were accompanied in the development of the terms of reference for the first activities. Unfortunately, only the DGEF was able to have funds available for the implementation of the activities. In the case of the AEDD, an error was made in the transmission of the bank details (Provisions have been made to remedy this).

The unavailability of the purchase option for the acquisition of the Delfino plow for the restoration of 10,000 ha.

Indeed, a mission was carried out in Dakar (Senegal) to discuss with Nardi and his partner Hommes et Terre in order to explore avenues for partnership for service provision. An offer was made for an amount of 180,000 FCFA for the restoration of 01 hectare. This unit cost only allows the restoration of approximately 1,500 ha with the half-moon technology (Delphino plow). Two meetings were held between the PMU-PRPD and the FAO (Mali and Rome) to consider alternatives that will make it possible to improve the level of achievement of the restoration indicator (10,000 ha). A first proposal was made through a technical note developed by the PMU in conjunction with the FAO. This involves combining the service provision of the Delfino plow with other alternative techniques (Mise en defens, rocky cordons, Zaï, RNA, Reforestation, etc.).

Appropriation of the OPIM approach:

This approach is in its first phase of experimentation between the DNA and the FAO. As a result, there have been delays in the processing of the first fund requests, which have impacted the schedule for the implementation of certain activities. However, progress has been made in understanding the OPIM approach and the processing of files is now faster.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

Profile	Stakeholder name	Type of partnership	Progress, results & Challenges on Stakeholder's Engagement
Government Institutions	Ministry of the Environment, Sanitation and Sustainable Development	Ministry of supervision having signed the project document. Partner of the project	Commitment on the designation of the steering committee and the holding of the first session.
	National Directorate of Agriculture	Operational partner (OPA)	Operational partner (OPIM) responsible for the implementation of the project. The major challenge remains the restoration of the 10,000ha initially planned with the acquisition of the Delphino plough.
	Environment and Sustainable Development Agency	Implementing Partner (PdA)	Implementing partner responsible for implementing specific activities of the institutional aspect of the project. The delay is due to a change in the hierarchy at the level of the DGEF.
	General Directorate of Waters and Forests	Implementing Partner (PdA)	Implementing partner responsible for implementing specific activities of the environmental and forestry project.
	Ministry of Agriculture	project partner	Commitment to support DNA
NGOs	AMSD: Malian Association for Solidarity and Development	project partner	In Mali, a GSP for organic products has been developed and implemented by the NGO Malian Association for Solidarity and Development (AMSD). This SGP, called «Local Organic», was developed in accordance with the international standards of organic agricultural raw materials defined in the Codex Alimentarius. AMSD sets up the local Bio label to help producers involved in organic and agroecological production access local and national markets. The support provided by AMSD includes training and awareness sessions for farmers to understand the specifications of local organic farming and disseminate appropriate techniques to meet these specifications. A working session was conducted with AMSD to finalize the collaboration protocol. Said protocol was submitted to the FAO-MLI which gave its ANO. Once the funds for the 1st quarter of year 2 are acquired, it will be necessary to sign the said protocol for the start of activities on the ground.
Private Sector entities	CAMIDE: Support Center for Microfinance and Development (Microfinance & Development Support Centre)	project partner	CAMIDE, a grassroots organisation that sets up a microfinance network (called Benso Jamanu) based in Kayes, has developed a special financial tool to include women in their activities, namely the Yeredeme solidarity groups. This approach was developed as a solution to the limited participation of women in traditional VSA. These groups integrate livelihood development, financial intermediation, women's empowerment and community development. They are characterized by: - peer learning and role model of the group members towards other women in the community; - a bottom-up approach, from the group level to the village (village organization) and the commune (federation); - close ties with local government authorities (at the municipal level). The development of territorial markets is at the heart of the intervention strategy of the proposed project. This objective will be achieved by: (i) partnering with microcredit organizations (e.g. CAMIDE) to support access to loans so that private agripreneurs (including women and youth) can develop sustainable

D. Gender Equality

Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe progress and results achieved during this reporting period.
a. Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources	Yes	For year 1 of the project, the quota of 50% women was respected for APFS beneficiaries. As indicated in the project document, at the time of implementation of activities, an in-depth analysis is done to better take gender into account. It is specified to the regional coordinators, responsible for organizing the various training sessions, to take into account the active participation of women. Also, future collaborations with COFOS will ensure gender mainstreaming through the revision of texts, and capacity building of members.
b. Improving women's participation and decision making	Yes	Among the vast majority of people active in agriculture (more than 80 percent at the regional level), women work particularly in rice cultivation and horticulture. It should be noted that Kayes is the region where the share of women responsible for agricultural plots is the highest (30% compared to 20% on national average).
c. generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	Yes	During the identification of master trainers and facilitators, it was recommended to take into account the participation of women. Considering the FAO criteria, the CVs received did not allow for women to be retained at this level. Against for the APFS, dominance is observed by women who are more than 60%. Also in the APFS curriculum, three special modules have been developed (processing of non-wood forest products, nutrition and agricultural entrepreneurship) for women and young people to promote sustainable socio-economic development.
Any other good practices on gender	Yes	Respect of the 50% quota for women among beneficiaries in the implementation of activities. Through the participation of the project's monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) expert in the regional workshop on MEL for the FFS, good practices for integrating gender into monitoring, such as the integration of participatory monitoring tools for activities, the integration of specific indicators concerning gender equality will be integrated as part of the project's MEL. In addition, during the training of master trainers, the project's gender expert was called upon to provide capacity building for better understanding and dissemination of the concept.

E. Knowledge Management

Knowledge management and Learning (KML): Does the project have a KML strategy?	No
If YES, what is the implementation progress? In your answer, please describe how the project is fostering knowledge sharing and learning among stakeholders at national and sub-national level.	
If NO, how does the project identify, collect and document good practices?	For this year, a curriculum on training modules around agroecological techniques and technologies, on soil degradation and restoration has been developed with the implementing partners other structures responsible for rural development (Animal Production, Animal Health, Fisheries, Agronomic Research, etc). The validation is planned for the Q1 of the project's AN2 (Activity budget held by the DGEF) Also, a digital platform (WhatsApp) has been created to network all the facilitators and other key players (master trainers, project coordination). Articles and testimonies are disseminated through the media on good agricultural practices and success stories.
Please list good practices, including key-technical and/or institutional innovations, from the project thus far.	Use of improved seed varieties; Promotion of bio-pesticides; Production and use of liquid compost; Nursery installation techniques; Association and crop rotation;
Communication strategy: Does the project have a communication strategy?	No
Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this fiscal year.	A first draft has been prepared by the Communication Officer and its validation will be done after receipt of the standard FAO template (pending receipt).
Human-interest story: Please share a human-interest story from your project, focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's livelihoods while contributing to achieving the expected Global Environmental Benefits. Please indicate any Socio-economic Co-benefits that were generated by the project. Include at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.	not yet available
Please provide links to related website, social media account	https://chat.whatsapp.com/DoalUcOHDX0GR0CnKZMPt3
	https://www.facebook.com/share/19FCHsRfd9/
Please provide a list of publications, leaflets, video materials, newsletters, or other communications assets published on the web, if any.	not yet available

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	
Components and Cost	Discussions are ongoing to address the increase in the cost of the Delfino plough. It is planned to meet the NGO Hommes et Terres to negotiate the conditions for service provision based on ongoing exchanges of experience with the PAESOL project. This could lead to a review of the restored surface objective planned by the project, to be confirmed.
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	
Executing Entity	
Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	
Safeguards	
Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	Some partners (PDAZAM, PRTD, PAESOL) involved in the restoration of degraded lands were approached for the development of action synergy.
Location of Project Activity	
others	

IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Kouroula_Kita	12.99864667	-9.41437833	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Seketo_Kita	12.99864667	-9.41437833	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Bèrèla_Bendougouba	13.068815	-9.380545	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Sibikili_Kita	13.09634	-9.43092667	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Sadioya Gounfan_Kayes	13.49444667	-11.09842833	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Diamou_Kayes	14.08079964	-11.25417083	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Balandougou_Kayes	14.12809563	-11.24468697	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Lagafia Logo_Kayes	14.32951126	-11.28902961	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Saliambougou Khoulou_Kayes	14.45891136	-11.34656991	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Guémou 2_Nioro	14.54330857	-9.3124769	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Guémou_Nioro	14.55017308	-9.31476948	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Nioro_Tougoune Ouolof_Nioro	15.275219	-9.6233355	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Madonga_Nioro	15.25842834	-9.58153665	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Title
M and E Document	GEFID10362_2025PIR_FAO_Mali