

« COMMUNITIES REGREEN THE SAHEL » PROGRAMME (CRS)

Senegal – Niger – Burkina Faso



Impact of the CRS-DOB programme (2018–2025)

ANALYTICAL REPORT

Synthesis and recommendations for advocacy purposes

André BAKOA

Statistical Engineer | Socio-economist
International Consultant | Evaluation Expert
Tel: + 226 70228742 | 78831045
E-mail: andrebakoa@yahoo.fr

July 2026

Contents

Acronyms and abbreviations	3
Executive summary	4
1. Background and purpose of the report	5
2. Methodology	6
3. Programme results against the five indicators	7
4. Prioritised key messages	7
5. Evidence of impact by dimension	9
5.1. Land restoration and ecological resilience	9
5.2. Livelihoods and food security	10
5.3. Social cohesion and local governance	11
5.4. Cross-cutting dimensions: gender, inclusion, sustainability and efficiency	12
6. Regional comparative analysis: convergences and divergences	13
6.1. Strong convergences	13
6.2. Contrasting results requiring nuance	14
6.3. Insufficient data	14
7. Anchoring in national, regional and international frameworks	15
7.1. In Burkina Faso	15
7.2. In Niger	15
7.3. In Senegal	16
7.4. Regional and international frameworks	16
7.5. Synthesis: matrix of policy anchoring by country	17
8. Limiting factors and lessons learned	17
8.1. Limiting factors	17
8.2. Main lessons learned	18
9. Strategic recommendations for advocacy	18
9.1. Recommendations to donors	19
9.2. Recommendations to public decision-makers	19
9.3. Recommendations to local authorities	20
9.4. Recommendations to farmers and local organisations	20
10. Conclusion and implications for public policy and future financing	21
Bibliography	22
Documents made available by the CRS consortium:	22
Policy and strategic frameworks drawn upon:	22

Acronyms and abbreviations

Acronym / Abbreviation	Meaning
AFR100	African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (target of 100 million hectares)
CDN	Nationally Determined Contribution (Contribution Déterminée au niveau National)
CNULCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
CS-GDT	National Strategic Investment Framework for Sustainable Land Management in Niger
CRS	Communities Regreen the Sahel
FIES	Food Insecurity Experience Scale
GDT	Sustainable Land Management
MBR	MBR Association (Nigerien partner: georeferencing, tree density and diversity), which became a member of the consortium
MOD13Q1	MODIS satellite product used to extract the NDVI index (250 m resolution)
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution (English equivalent of CDN, used interchangeably in the text)
NDVI	Normalized Difference Vegetation Index
OCDE/CAD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development / Development Assistance Committee
ONG	Non-Governmental Organisation
PFNL	Non-Timber Forest Products
PIPD	Ten-Year Priority Investment Plan of the Great Green Wall Initiative for the Sahara and the Sahel
RNA	Assisted Natural Regeneration
SNRCRS	National Strategy for Soil Restoration, Conservation and Recovery in Burkina Faso
SPONG	Permanent Secretariat of NGOs (Burkina Faso — monitoring system for RNA plots)

Executive summary

Since 2018, the « Communities Regreen the Sahel » programme (CRS), led by Both ENDS and national consortia in Senegal, Niger and Burkina Faso, has built on Assisted Natural Regeneration (RNA), an endogenous and low-cost response to the degradation of the Sahel's drylands. With a cumulative budget of 7.32 million euros (2017-2025), the programme has mobilised rural communities around a common objective: **to restore tree cover while consolidating livelihoods, food security and local governance of natural resources.**

By the end of the second half of 2025, 152,145 hectares had been regreened (105 % of the target), 103,343 producers had been trained in RNA (120 %) and 74,604 of them had durably adopted it (103 %). Four of the programme's five indicators therefore exceed their target; only the village committees indicator falls slightly short (97 %), attributable to security reasons external to the programme in Burkina Faso and Niger rather than to a design flaw.

These quantified results are accompanied by well-established effects across the four dimensions examined in this report. In biophysical terms, tree density has more than doubled in Niger (from 35-40 to 75-90 trees/ha between 2019 and 2023), and satellite analysis (NDVI) shows progressive and significant greening in all three countries. In Senegal, field surveys further reveal a gradual, though still partial, improvement in soil organic matter (17.8 % of plots showing abundant humus) and in soil water-retention capacity, particularly among the producers most experienced in RNA.

From a socio-economic perspective, 94.6 % of the producers surveyed report an increase in income and 91.3 % an improvement in their food security. On the social and institutional level, RNA is perceived positively by 90.7 % of respondents with regard to relations between farmers, and the programme has contributed to structuring policy advances: a national RNA decree in Niger (2020), a new Forestry Code in Senegal, and integration into communal development plans in Burkina Faso.

These achievements are nevertheless marked by limitations that credible advocacy cannot pass over in silence: female inclusion that is real but unfinished (women convert the practice into economic gains less effectively), a near-total absence of data on young people (although emerging initiatives, such as the involvement of 180 schoolteachers in disseminating RNA in Niger, point to promising avenues), agropastoral tensions that persist locally (63 % negative perceptions of relations with transhumant herders in Senegal), and land tenure security, which remains the most critical factor limiting the sustainability of the model, particularly for internally displaced people in Burkina Faso.

The model also displays high economic efficiency: €48.14 per hectare restored, €70.88 per producer trained and €98.18 per farmer having adopted the practices. A high degree of beneficiary autonomy is also observed (69.5 % of producers receive no external financial support). These characteristics make it a data-verified restoration option, replicable at regional scale and aligned with national climate commitments, notably the contribution of 40,000 hectares to Senegal's NDC 3.0 target (99,621 ha by 2030). This alignment extends beyond Senegal alone, since the CRS model fits directly into the architecture of national sustainable land management frameworks (Burkina Faso's CDN, Niger's Strategic Investment Framework for GDT, Burkina Faso's National Strategy for Soil Restoration, Conservation and Recovery) and into the regional and international arrangements that oversee them (Great Green Wall Initiative, AFR100, 2018-2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification).

This report, prepared according to the previously defined methodology (inventory of sources, cross-cutting thematic analysis, synthesis and prioritisation, formulation of recommendations, validation), sets out recommendations differentiated by category of actor (donors, public decision-makers, local authorities, local organisations), explicitly linked to the evidence underpinning them and to existing policy frameworks (Great Green Wall, AFR100, CDN, CNULCD, CS-GDT, SNRCRS).

1. Background and purpose of the report

Sahelian agriculture is essentially rain-fed and extensive, and highly exposed to climatic hazards. Family farms, averaging around two hectares in size, supply more than 90 % of the region's food needs and constitute the main source of income for 70 to 80 % of the population. It is in this context of advanced land degradation, growing pressure on natural resources and structural vulnerability of agropastoral systems that the CRS programme was launched in 2018 by Both ENDS and its partners. Its stated ambition is to halt and reverse the degradation process in the drylands of Senegal, Niger and Burkina Faso, building on Assisted Natural Regeneration (RNA). RNA is an endogenous, low-cost, farmer-led technique that is now internationally recognised.

Over its first two phases (2017-2025), the programme targeted three structuring results: a total regreened area of 141,043 hectares across the three countries; a more favourable policy environment and budgets allocated to RNA; and improved producer access to means of production and to markets. Five indicators were used to measure this progress: **the number of hectares regreened, the number of active communes, the number of village committees established, the number of producers trained and the number of producers having adopted RNA.**

This report responds to the terms of reference of the study commissioned by Both ENDS: to produce an analytical report and a policy brief demonstrating the impact of the CRS-DOB programme (2018-2025) and formulating advocacy recommendations aimed at policymakers, donors and other key stakeholders.

The exercise drew on a very rich and varied body of documentation. It brings together the evaluation reports of phase 1 (2020) and phase 2 (July 2024, Groundswell International), the final report of the second half of 2025 (Both ENDS), the consolidated regional impact analysis (June 2026), NDVI geospatial data, six KoboToolbox field databases, a final perception survey conducted among producers, and the detailed national reports for Senegal (IED Afrique, March 2026) and Niger (narrative report DOB/CRESA, January-December 2023). To these are added the main national and regional policy and strategic frameworks within which RNA is situated. These include Burkina Faso's Nationally Determined Contribution, Burkina Faso's National Strategy for Soil Restoration, Conservation and Recovery (SNRCRS, 2020-2024), Niger's National Strategic Investment Framework for Sustainable Land Management (CS-GDT, 2015-2029), the Ten-Year Priority Investment Plan of the Great Green Wall Initiative (PIPD, 2021-2030) and the 2018-2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (CNULCD).

It followed the five steps below: collection and inventory of sources, cross-cutting thematic analysis, synthesis and prioritisation, formulation of recommendations, and cross-validation by the country teams and the advocacy leads. It covers the four required dimensions: biophysical impact, socio-economic impact, social impact and institutional impact, as well as the cross-cutting criteria of gender, inclusion, sustainability and efficiency.

In line with the methodological framing adopted, the work therefore consisted above all in consolidating, arbitrating and prioritising existing data, not in collecting primary data.

2. Methodology

The preparation of this report followed the five steps of the methodological approach validated with the consortium: (1) collection and inventory of sources, with the construction of a traceability grid (source, country, year, type of data, indicator, reliability); (2) cross-cutting thematic analysis taking up the four impact dimensions of the regional study (biophysical, socio-economic, social, institutional) and the cross-cutting gender/inclusion/sustainability axis, with a comparative table by country for each dimension; (3) synthesis and prioritisation of a limited number of key messages supported by the most solid evidence; (4) formulation of recommendations structured by category of actor and

cross-referenced with existing policy frameworks; (5) cross-validation by the country teams and the advocacy leads.

The regional impact study on which this report draws itself combined four sources: the synthesis of the phase 1 and phase 2 evaluations; the processing and cleaning of six KoboToolBox databases; a spatial analysis of greening using the NDVI index, used as a proxy in the absence of standardised quantified biophysical measurements; and the final perception survey. The evaluation is based on the OECD-DAC criteria, namely relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability/replicability and coherence, supplemented by two cross-cutting criteria: partnership (gender and environment) and lessons learned.

This approach has strengths in terms of robustness: triangulation between field observations, producer perceptions and the diversity of observatory sites reinforces the validity of the conclusions. It also has limitations, transparently flagged in the source study and taken up in this report, in the spirit of advocacy that gains credibility by acknowledging its own margins of uncertainty: a predominant reliance on qualitative methods and purposive sampling, which limits statistical power and the generalisation of results; the use of NDVI as a proxy for regreening in the absence of direct biophysical measurements; a near-total absence of data on young people (under 25) in the survey sample; and the absence of harmonised cost data allowing fine-grained and systematic comparison between countries.

The table below summarises the indicators co-developed with the country teams to document each of the four impact dimensions.

Table 1: Indicators of the four impact dimensions

Dimension	Indicators common to the 3 countries	Complementary indicators	Source
Biophysical	Type of RNA practised; constraints; area regreened; fodder available	Soil health; climate impact; indirect regreening	Survey + Kobo + NDVI
Socio-economic	Motivation for adoption; training; income; product valorisation	Production; food security; value chains	Evaluations + final survey
Social and institutional	Community action; collective affiliation; access to extension services; land tenure	Inclusion of women/young people; conflict resolution; policy advances	Synthesis of evaluations + survey

3. Programme results against the five indicators

By the end of the second half of 2025, the programme shows a largely positive record by country: four of the five indicators exceed their overall target, with achievement rates ranging from 97 % to 120 %. The table below consolidates the cumulative 2018-2025 results by country.

Indicators	Niger	Burkina Faso	Senegal	Total 3 countries
Area regreened (cumulative ha)	72,483 (106 %)	39,666 (103 %)	39,996 (105 %)	152,145 (105 %)
Communes involved	9 (90 %)	31 (107 %)	12 (100 %)	52 (102 %)
Village committees established/strengthened	183 (92 %)	446 (98 %)	227 (100 %)	856 (97 %)
Producers trained in RNA	60,199 (133 %)	27,089 (104 %)	16,055 (107 %)	103,343 (120 %)
Producers having adopted RNA	39,117 (102 %)	20,738 (103 %)	14,749 (104 %)	74,604 (103 %)

The regreened area reached 105 % at the overall level. The result in Burkina Faso (39,666 ha, 103 %) is particularly notable because it was achieved in a context of persistent insecurity, marked by the withdrawal of two consortium members and by movement restrictions. The only indicator falling short overall, that of village committees (97 %), is directly explained by exogenous security factors in Burkina Faso and Niger, notably villages that became inaccessible and committees that ceased to function.

The largest overachievement concerns training in Niger (133 %, i.e. 60,199 producers trained against a target of 45,098), driven by a powerful peer-to-peer diffusion effect: 154 active peer trainers across the 9 intervention communes, and a mobilisation that made it possible to train 4,607 additional farmers in a single semester. Niger's narrative report highlights an innovation complementing this diffusion dynamic: from 2023, the programme involved village schoolteachers in raising awareness of RNA and disseminating the national decree, on the basis of the observation that members of the village committees responsible for maintaining the databases sometimes have little schooling or leave their village. One hundred and eighty (180) schoolteachers were thus mobilised across seven communes (Kiéché, Matankari, Dankassari, Alléla, Bazaga, Tajaé, Bagaroua), opening a concrete avenue for anchoring RNA in school teaching and for beginning to document the inclusion of young people empirically, which is currently absent from the final survey data.

The adoption indicator (74,604 producers, 103 %) carries particular weight because it measures a durable change in practices and not mere participation: in Senegal, 92 % of the producers trained became active adopters, which illustrates strong training-to-adoption conversion effectiveness.

4. Prioritised key messages

In line with step 3 of the methodology (synthesis and prioritisation), eight key messages were selected from the full body of available evidence, on the basis of their solidity, their consistency across countries and their persuasive value for non-expert decision-makers. Each message sets out a quantified finding, its interpretation and its implication for action.

N o.	Quantified finding	Interpretation	Implication for action
1	152,145 ha regreened (105 % of the target); 74,604 producers adopting (103 %).	The simultaneous overachievement of the two most significant indicators shows that RNA is no longer an experimental practice but an already consolidated change of scale: territorial reach is accompanied by real ownership among producers, not merely by superficial diffusion.	RNA works at scale: it warrants scaling up regionally rather than renewal within the same perimeter.
2	94.6 % of producers report an increase in income; 91.3 % report better food security.	The near-unanimity and the homogeneity of these results across countries indicate that the economic and food benefit is the main driver of adoption, more so than environmental conviction: it is the direct material interest, verifiable from the first years of practice, that explains the spontaneous diffusion of RNA.	The economic argument, not the environmental one, must remain at the heart of advocacy and of diffusion strategies.
3	Cost of €48.14/ha regreened, compared with comparable initiatives that are more costly and less sustainable.	This low unit cost stems from the very nature of the technique: RNA makes use of the spontaneous regeneration of stumps and seeds already present in the soil rather than tree planting, which explains both its budgetary efficiency and its rapid replicability without external inputs.	RNA constitutes a high-return investment for donors, to be favoured over high-input plantations.
4	69.5 % of producers receive no external financial support; average duration of practice of 12.1 years in Burkina Faso.	Financial autonomy and the persistence of the practice over more than a decade signal durable ownership rather than adoption tied to project funding: RNA has taken root as a self-sustaining agricultural norm, which distinguishes it from subsidy-dependent practices that stop when the	Community ownership is the main guarantee of sustainability and justifies multi-year transition financing

N o.	Quantified finding	Interpretation	Implication for action
		funding does.	rather than continuous assistance.
5	RNA decree in Niger (2020), Forestry Code in Senegal, communal plans in Burkina Faso; these advances fit within pre-existing national frameworks (CS-GDT Niger, SNRCRS Burkina Faso, CDN).	These advances, of a different nature in each country (presidential decree, legislative reform, communal planning), show that advocacy operates through distinct institutional channels rather than through uniform reform: each country has found its own political entry point, which reflects a real but still fragmented influence of the programme.	Isolated policy gains must be consolidated within the national budgetary instruments already in place rather than remain stand-alone measures.
6	Land tenure security: right to sell land ranging from 5.4 % (Senegal) to 81.5 % (Niger); more than a million displaced people without title in Burkina Faso.	The considerable gap between national land tenure regimes shows that the sustainability of RNA depends less on the technique itself than on the institutional context in which it is practised: where tenure is secure (Niger), adoption consolidates more easily; where it is not (displaced people in Burkina Faso), even a proven practice remains fragile.	Securing land tenure is the most critical condition for the sustainability of the model and must be a stand-alone advocacy priority.
7	Forestry Code cited by 31.1 % of producers as the main regulatory obstacle.	The convergence of this finding across the three countries indicates that this is a structural constraint of a legal nature, and not a problem linked to local capacities or to producer practices: as long as forestry legislation does not explicitly recognise farmers' rights over on-farm trees, RNA adoption will remain held back regardless of training efforts.	Reform of the forestry regulatory framework is the single most cost-effective institutional lever for removing a cross-cutting blockage.
8	Public financing for land restoration remains structurally volatile (Burkina Faso: from 75.6 to 48.0 billion CFA francs between 2018 and 2020 for the national irrigation and land development programme alone) and Niger itself describes the cost of GDT as « exorbitant » in relation to the resources mobilised.	This volatility, documented independently of the CRS programme in the countries' own strategic frameworks, shows that states structurally struggle to secure stable budgetary resources for sustainable land management: it confirms that the value of the CRS model lies precisely in its ability to function without depending on these erratic public financing flows.	The low unit cost and financial autonomy of the CRS model make it a weighty argument for directing part of national climate and land financing towards the community-based approach rather than towards capital-intensive schemes.

5. Evidence of impact by dimension

In line with the logic of advocacy construction, the evidence is organised below by dimension (biophysical, socio-economic, social and institutional) and then supplemented by the cross-cutting dimensions of gender, inclusion and sustainability. Each quantified finding is accompanied by its interpretation and its implication for action.

5.1. Land restoration and ecological resilience

The densification of tree cover represents the best-established biophysical result of the programme, with remarkable convergence between the three countries despite different measurement methods. In Niger, observatory data show tree density rising from 35-40 to 75-90 trees per hectare between 2019 and 2023, as well as species diversity rising from 6-9 to 12-15 per hectare, with 5 to 7 new

species identified thanks to the input of animal manure and the return of wildlife. In Burkina Faso, SPONG monitoring (2025) records plots exceeding 100 trees per hectare with high species diversity. In Senegal, finally, the Mbayène observatory registers density rising from 13.6 to 18 trees per hectare, and NDVI analysis (Sentinel-2, 2018–2025) attests to the progression of vegetation cover.

Spatial analysis using the vegetation index (NDVI, MOD13Q1 product) provides independent and objective evidence of this greening: the trend modelled by simple linear regression is upward in all three countries, more pronounced in the rainy season than in the dry season. This is a signal consistent with a progressive restoration of the productive capacity of soils, which are better structured and better able to retain water. The widening gap between dry-season and rainy-season values further suggests an increase in perennial woody biomass, a sign of maturation of the tree cover. Figures 1 and 2 below illustrate these findings.

Figure 1: Trend in NDVI evolution (MOD13Q1 product) in the dry season and the rainy season in the intervention zones (2016/2017–2024/2025).

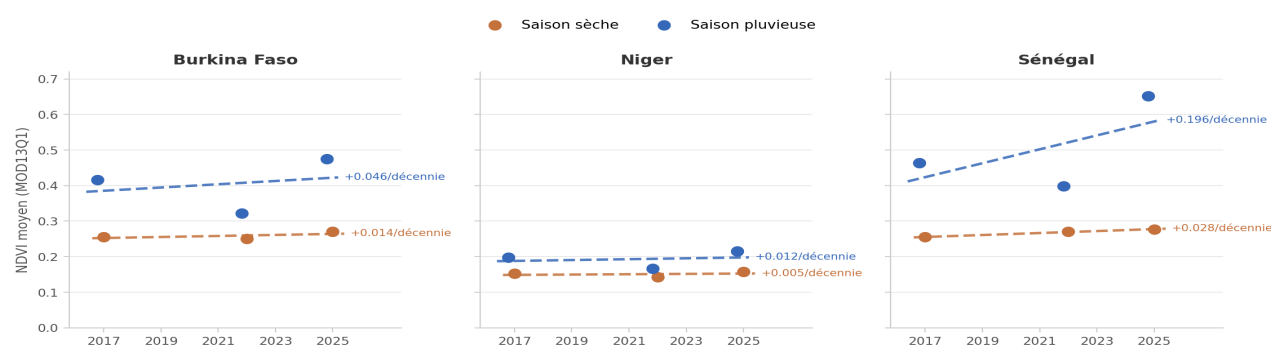
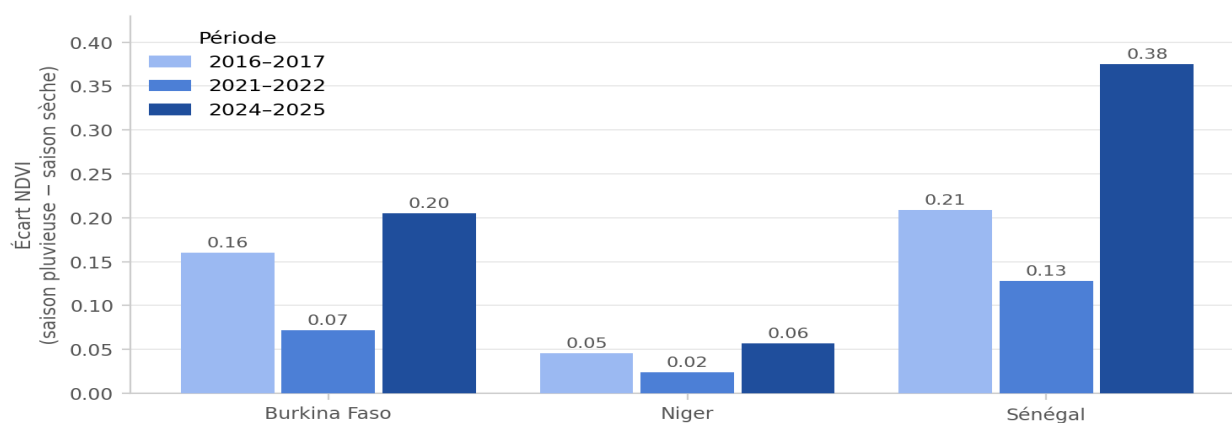


Figure 2: Widening of the seasonal NDVI gap (rainy season – dry season) between 2016/2017 and 2024/2025, an indirect indicator of the increase in perennial woody biomass.



The results on soil health reinforce this reading. The assessment conducted using the qualitative method inspired by SOCLA (soil structure, compaction, organic residues, organic matter, water retention, cover, erosion, invertebrate activity) highlights a slightly positive relationship between the length of time RNA has been practised and the soil health score: the lowest scores become rarer among producers who have practised RNA for more than 15 to 20 years, even though, for the same duration of practice, variability remains high (soil type, rainfall, associated cropping practices, grazing pressure). Field observations conducted in Senegal (December 2025 surveys) converge: the plots of producers experienced in RNA show the highest proportions of decomposing organic residues and of brown soils with humus present (51.1 % of the sample, and 17.8 % of soils with abundant humus), reflecting a progressive accumulation of organic matter favourable to biological activity and fertility, while water-retention capacity, though improving, remains intermediate. Based on a qualitative indicator and a limited sample (257 plots documented), these results must be interpreted with

caution: they suggest a real but gradual contribution of RNA to the restoration of soil health, the quantification of which would require standardised biophysical measurements.

On biodiversity and fodder, the three countries report converging trends: in Senegal, 97.9 % of the households surveyed report increased biodiversity and 94.4 % better fodder availability. The dynamic is identical in Niger and Burkina Faso: fodder production is among the benefits of RNA most frequently cited by producers (94.6 % of respondents in Niger and 93.1 % in Burkina Faso) and the monitoring reports confirm increased fodder availability there, driven by the densification of tree cover (from 35–40 to 75–90 trees/ha between 2019 and 2023 in Niger; plots exceeding 100 trees/ha in Burkina Faso).

These biophysical benefits are not, however, uniform: two structural constraints limit their consolidation. Insecurity, in Burkina Faso and Niger, physically restricts access to sites and weakens the surveillance committees responsible for preventing illegal cutting. Land pressure, in Senegal, complicates the assessment of land degradation neutrality: cultivated areas in Mbayène rose from 6,800 to 7,800 hectares between 2018 and 2023.

5.2. Livelihoods and food security

The final perception survey reveals generally high access to RNA training and to extension services, but with marked differences between countries, presented in the following table.

Indicator	Burkina Faso	Niger	Senegal	Total
Share of respondents with access to RNA training	74.4 %	94.4 %	97.8 %	85.5 %
Share of respondents with access to extension services	45.2 %	98.9 %	69.0 %	65.8 %
Share of respondents whose income has increased since RNA	93.8 %	97.5 %	94.6 %	94.6 %

The impact on incomes is the most important and most homogeneous socio-economic result across countries: 94.6 % of respondents report an increase in income since practising RNA, with very homogeneous values from one country to another (Burkina Faso 93.8 %, Niger 97.5 %, Senegal 94.6 %). The dominant driver is, by far, the increase in yields of crops under RNA, cited by 99.1 % of those whose incomes rose, ahead of the sale of non-timber forest products (PFNL, 55.7 %) and the sale of firewood (51.4 %) derived from sanitary tree pruning, thinning and deadwood. Senegalese data specify this mechanism: the increase in yield remains the leading reason cited (50.3 % of respondents), but the collection and sale of firewood (24.0 %) and of PFNL (23.4 %) rise markedly with the length of practice, reflecting a progressive diversification of income sources as RNA consolidates rather than a rapid shift.

Yields progress significantly from the third year of practice onwards, and experienced practitioners (five years and more) show yields in Senegal that are 50 % above the average. The perception of income stability there is clearly positive (79.2 % of respondents judging their income « higher » or « much higher »), and no highly experienced RNA producer reports a fall in income, evidence of the economic maturity of the model.

Food security follows an equally positive trajectory: 91.3 % of respondents report that their food security changed favourably after adopting RNA. Simplified food distress indicators (FIES scale) point in the same direction in Niger and Senegal (less than 3 % fearing a lack of food), but reveal a marked contrast with Burkina Faso (78.6 % fearing a shortage), which reflects the impact of insecurity and population displacement more than that of RNA itself. This nuance is essential in order not to overestimate the reach of the programme in that particular context.

The economic structuring of the value chains arising from RNA shows distinct but complementary national profiles: Niger adds value to non-timber forest products through the HIMMA federations (pods of *Piliostigma reticulatum*, oil of *Balanites aegyptiaca*), whose support covered six of the nine intervention communes in 2023 (capacity building for communal federations, support for the development of business plans, participation in local, regional and national fairs). Burkina Faso relies on partner NGOs for processing and cooperative marketing. Senegal builds on women's cooperatives (balanites oil, baobab powder) and improved cookstoves, which cut wood consumption by 50 % and create dual economic and environmental value.

The development of these value chains is nevertheless described overall as « very modest » by the impact study, more advanced in Niger than in the other two countries — a sign of economic diversification potential that remains largely untapped.

5.3. Social cohesion and local governance

RNA is perceived as having a largely positive effect on relations between farmers: 90.7 % of respondents report a positive impact in this respect, with perfect consistency in Niger and Senegal (100 %) and a more moderate figure in Burkina Faso (77 %). The Senegalese survey corroborates this result at a very similar level (95.6 %). Local conflict-resolution mechanisms exist for the majority of types of dispute (88 to 93 % overall coverage), with, however, a point of fragility in Senegal, where only 74.7 % of respondents report the existence of a mechanism between farmers.

Regarding agropastoral relations, the situation is more complex: this is the best-documented point of social vigilance in the programme. In Niger, the impact is perceived as positive by 100 % of respondents for both sedentary and transhumant herders. This exceptional result is attributed to close collaboration with the regional councils. In Senegal, the picture is reversed: 63 % of respondents perceive a negative impact of RNA on relations with transhumant herders, and 64 % of households report being affected by agropastoral conflicts. In Senegal's densely populated groundnut basin, RNA appears to exacerbate rather than ease tensions linked to the expansion of cultivated land. Burkina Faso is in an intermediate position, with a majority of « no impact » responses.

At institutional level, the programme has contributed to major and lasting advances. In Niger, a national decree of June 2020, signed by the President, promotes RNA exclusively, a measure directly correlated with the acceleration of training and adoption, and one that follows on from the National Strategic Investment Framework for Sustainable Land Management (CS-GDT), itself linked to the « Nigeriens Feed Nigeriens » initiative (i3N).

In Senegal, the new Forestry Code of 2018 recognises for the first time farmers' rights over on-farm trees (thinning, pruning, collection of deadwood, valorisation of non-timber forest products), but its content remains largely unknown to communities, a brake on its full application. The country has also made an NDC 3.0 commitment targeting 99,621 hectares under RNA by 2030, of which 40,000 hectares are already attributed to the CRS programme.

In Burkina Faso, the integration of RNA into communal development plans constitutes the main institutional lever, although it is weakened by political instability and by communal budgets considered very limited, a fragility corroborated at national level by the high volatility of public financing for land restoration.

Land tenure security remains, in all three countries, the most critical factor limiting the sustainability of the model. Land tenure regimes differ radically: the right to sell a plot is reported by 81.5 % of Nigerien respondents, against only 10.6 % in Burkina Faso and 5.4 % in Senegal. In Burkina Faso, the absence of land titles for internally displaced people, more than a million people in 2020, directly holds back their adoption of RNA. In Senegal, 15.6 % of producers still perceive a risk of losing land linked to the practice. One encouraging signal nevertheless deserves to be highlighted: 77.8 % of the

respondents concerned consider that practising RNA strengthens, rather than weakens, their perceived land tenure security.

5.4. Cross-cutting dimensions: gender, inclusion, sustainability and efficiency

Gender integration is real and structured, particularly in Niger (168 women's groups created in phase 1, bringing together 3,284 members, structured into 32 unions and 2 municipal federations with their own capital of more than 15,000 euros) and in Senegal (women's cooperatives and revolving funds fed by the sale of processed products). The women/men ratio in village committees is highest in Senegal (2 per 5), ahead of Niger (1.25 per 5) and Burkina Faso (1.5 per 5).

This structuring must not, however, mask an inclusion that is still incomplete. Women represent only 20 % of the final survey sample, and they convert the practice of RNA into economic gains less easily than men: their income rose for 88.1 % of them against 96.6 % of men (a gap of 8.5 percentage points), and their food security improved for 83.8 % of them against 95.9 % of men (a gap of 12.1 percentage points). The source reports themselves stress the need to go beyond mere presence on committees in order to achieve real participation in decision-making.

➤ Young people, pastoralists and displaced persons

The inclusion of young people under 25 is not empirically documented: they are almost absent from the survey sample, with the average age of respondents ranging from 41 to 55 years depending on country and gender. This is a measurement gap to be treated as such, and not as evidence of an absence of effect. The involvement, from 2023, of 180 schoolteachers across seven communes in Niger in raising awareness of RNA and disseminating the national decree, combined with the mobilisation of municipal councillors and the establishment of a communal consultation framework on the generalisation of RNA in Matankari, constitutes a first concrete avenue for building, in future, an age-disaggregated monitoring system and an explicit strategy for integrating RNA into school curricula.

The inclusion of pastoralists is, as indicated above, highly contrasting between countries. That of internally displaced people remains hampered by land tenure insecurity, particularly in Burkina Faso.

➤ Sustainability and replicability

The sustainability of the model rests first of all on community ownership: the average duration of RNA practice reaches 12.1 years in Burkina Faso, with medians of 6 to 8 years in Niger and Senegal and extremes of up to 40 years. Training-to-adoption conversion is high (92 % in Senegal), and dependence on external subsidies is low: 69.5 % of producers receive no external financial support, and only 3.2 % declare themselves strongly dependent on it. Two Nigerien local associations trained by the programme (Tchanjin Rayuwa, MBR) have become full members of the consortium, which reflects a solid and durable partnership capacity.

➤ Efficiency

The model, which is low-input and knowledge-intensive, shows a high cost-effectiveness ratio, quantified below.

Unit cost	Niger	Burkina Faso	Senegal	Programme
Per hectare regreened	€29.65	€49.01	€49.07	€48.14
Per producer trained	€35.71	€71.76	€122.23	€70.88
Per RNA adopter	€54.95	€93.74	€133.06	€98.18

Niger constitutes the programme's internal benchmark in terms of cost-efficiency, driven by the peer-to-peer diffusion effect known as the « oil slick » effect and by radio broadcasting (Radio Niyya, Sarraounia, Dallol), which extended the reach of the message beyond the intervention communes

alone. The higher costs observed in Senegal warrant an in-depth causal analysis (context, implementation phase, definitions) before any budgetary arbitration between countries.

6. Regional comparative analysis: convergences and divergences

Comparative analysis of the three countries highlights robust and converging results, contrasting results requiring nuance, and weak signals or insufficient data. This distinction is useful for advocacy that is to remain credible before well-informed decision-makers.

6.1. Strong convergences

- The increase in income (94.6 % on average) and the improvement in food security (91.3 %) are consistently established in all three countries, with inter-country differences of less than 4 points;
- The densification of tree cover is confirmed both by the field observatories and by NDVI spatial analysis, independently of the measurement method chosen by each country;
- Durable community ownership of RNA (village committees, associations that became consortium members in Niger, average duration of practice of more than a decade) applies across all three national contexts;
- Policy advances, although of a different nature in each country (decree in Niger, Forestry Code in Senegal, communal plans in Burkina Faso), all converge towards an increasing institutional anchoring of RNA. These advances are moreover each embedded in a pre-existing national sustainable land management framework (CS-GDT, SNRCRS, CDN) that gives them a durable footing beyond the CRS programme alone.
- The improvement in perceived productivity is confirmed in all three countries: 77.9 % of respondents judge their farm « more productive » or « much more productive » since taking part in the programme.

6.2. Contrasting results requiring nuance

- The inclusion of women is real but incomplete, with gaps in conversion into economic gains observed in all three countries (- 8.5 points on income, - 12.1 points on food security), although the forms of structuring differ (groups and federations in Niger, cooperatives and revolving funds in Senegal);
- Agropastoral relations set Niger (100 % positive impact) against Senegal (63 % negative impact on relations with transhumant herders): the same programme produces opposite social effects here depending on local population density and land pressure;
- Access to extension services ranges from 98.9 % in Niger to 45.2 % in Burkina Faso, the latter gap being largely explained by security constraints rather than by programme design;
- Unit costs differ sharply (€29.65 per hectare in Niger against €49.07 in Senegal), which calls for a contextualised reading rather than a raw ranking between countries.

6.3. Insufficient data

- The inclusion of young people is not documented empirically and sufficiently in any of the three countries to draw reliable conclusions, even if the schoolteacher initiative in Niger opens a first avenue to be generalised and evaluated;
- Harmonised cost data remain partial, limiting fine-grained comparability between countries beyond the three available indicators (hectare, farmer trained, adopter);

- The statistical robustness of the relationship between the length of practice and soil health remains weak, inviting caution in the causal interpretation of this link;
- Carbon sequestration, explicitly requested in the terms of reference of the impact study, is not measured in any of the three countries: NDVI remains a proxy for greening, not a measure of carbon stock.

7. Anchoring in national, regional and international frameworks

This section explicitly situates the results of the CRS programme in relation to the main policy and strategic instruments governing land restoration in the Sahel. The objective is twofold: to show that the CRS model is not an isolated initiative but a measurable contribution to commitments already made by states and by regional and international bodies; and to identify, for each framework, the most direct entry point for advocacy differentiated by country and by actor.

7.1. In Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso's Nationally Determined Contribution (CDN) (final version, October 2021) sets greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for 2030 through mitigation and adaptation actions; the 2020 assessment shows an achievement level of 91.37 % for the unconditional mitigation scenario and 89 % for adaptation actions, which reinforced the country's conviction that adaptation financing is itself a vehicle for emission reduction. The CDN also costs, within its portfolio of priority actions, a project on « restoration of ecosystems for the climate change resilience of local communities in the intervention zone of the Great Green Wall in Burkina Faso », with an estimated cost of USD 85 million and a reduction potential of 576.9 GgCO₂eq in 2025, 1,153.9 GgCO₂eq in 2030 and 3,000 GgCO₂eq in 2050. The CRS programme, although financed independently, operates in exactly this technical perimeter (agroforestry and sustainable land management in the GMV zone) and already has, unlike that project still under development, verified results at the scale of tens of thousands of hectares, a decisive asset for its explicit integration into the implementation and monitoring of Burkina Faso's revised CDN.

The National Strategy for Soil Restoration, Conservation and Recovery (SNRCRS 2020-2024) for its part sets a financing objective of 70 % borne by the state and 30 % by technical and financial partners up to 2024, as well as an objective of developing at least three new financial products for CES/DRS (water and soil conservation / soil protection and restoration) and a target credit access rate of 5 %. Yet national financial data highlight strong volatility in public investment in this area: the executed budget of the « Hydro-agricultural development and irrigation » programme alone fell from 75.6 billion CFA francs in 2018 to 55.1 billion in 2019 and then 48.0 billion in 2020, a decline directly attributed by the strategy document to the country's episodes of socio-economic and political instability. In this context of erratic public financing, the cost-effectiveness of the CRS model (€49.01 per hectare regreened in Burkina Faso) constitutes a budgetarily realistic continuity option, which the SNRCRS itself calls for through its second strategic axis on strengthening the capacities of advisory support actors and producers.

7.2. In Niger

The National Strategic Investment Framework for Sustainable Land Management in Niger (CS-GDT, validated in 2010 and updated through to 2029) aims to prioritise, plan and steer public and private investment in sustainable land management, in line with the « Nigeriens Feed Nigeriens » initiative (i3N) and the Economic and Social Development Plan. Its specific objective 2 (« ensuring the sustainability of the productive base of agriculture ») explicitly targets the appropriation, by vulnerable rural populations, of sustainable land management techniques and technologies and the development of climate change adaptation practices, that is to say exactly the mechanism implemented by the CRS programme in Niger (60,199 producers trained, 133 % of the target). The national strategy document itself acknowledges that « the investment cost for GDT appears to be

exorbitant », which reinforces the demonstration value of the CRS model, whose unit cost (€29.65 per hectare regreened in Niger) is far below high-input planting approaches. The presidential decree of June 2020 in favour of RNA should therefore be read as the most recent and most direct operational translation of this strategic investment framework, four years after its formal adoption.

The CS-GDT also identifies a chain of actors (rural producers, communal councils, customary authorities, NGOs, training and research institutions, technical and financial partners) whose roles in advocacy, advisory support and resource mobilisation correspond precisely to the CRS advocacy actor matrix presented in this report, which offers an additional institutional relay for disseminating this report's recommendations among Nigerien structures already in place (GDT Technical Group, regional and departmental support structures).

7.3. In Senegal

Senegal has the policy corpus most explicitly favourable to RNA among the three countries: the 2018 Forestry Code recognises farmers' use rights over on-farm trees, and the NDC 3.0 commitment targets 99,621 hectares under RNA by 2030, of which 40,000 hectares are already counted thanks to the CRS programme, that is 40 % of the national target achieved by a single programme. The Senegalese impact study recommends, in direct coherence with this framework, active dissemination of the content of the 2018 Forestry Code among communities (whose knowledge of it remains limited today), acceleration of land tenure security through the implementation of the provisions of the agro-sylvo-pastoral orientation law relating to local conventions and land certificates, and the strengthening of decentralised extension services (DRDR, IREF) through the National Agricultural Advisory Programme (PNCA). These national recommendations, consistent with those formulated at regional level, show that Senegalese advocacy already has a solid institutional foothold which above all needs to be operationalised rather than built.

7.4. Regional and international frameworks: Great Green Wall, AFR100 and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

At regional level, the Great Green Wall Initiative for the Sahara and the Sahel has since 2021 been underpinned by a Ten-Year Priority Investment Plan (PIPD 2021-2030) which structures the mobilisation of international financing (GMV Carbon Bank, New African Financial Instrument, Adaptation and Resilience Fund) around results-based management and objectively verifiable indicators. The CRS programme, long active within the geographical perimeter of the GMV in Burkina Faso and Niger, has a comparative advantage that is rare for an arrangement of this scale: results that are already verified, disaggregated by country and by indicator, while several of the projects listed in the PIPD are still at the stage of mobilising financing. This finding argues for explicit recognition of the CRS programme as a reference case for the GMV and for strengthened articulation with the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall (APGMV) and the national agencies (ANGMV).

At global level, the 2018-2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (CNULCD) sets two strategic objectives directly relevant to the CRS programme: strategic objective 1 (improving the condition of affected ecosystems, combating desertification and land degradation, promoting sustainable land management and land degradation neutrality), to which the 152,145 hectares regreened and the NDVI progression documented in the three countries respond directly; and strategic objective 2 (improving the living conditions of affected populations), whose expected outcome 2.3 (empowering local populations, particularly women and young people, to act and take part in decision-making processes) directly echoes the inclusion limitations discussed earlier in this report. The CRS programme thus constitutes a national and sub-national reference case for feeding the three countries' voluntary reporting under land degradation neutrality (Land Degradation Neutrality), an advocacy channel that to date remains under-exploited by the consortium.

7.5. Synthesis: matrix of policy anchoring by country

Country	National anchoring framework	Entry point for advocacy
Burkina Faso	CDN (2021-2025); SNRCRS (2020-2024); communal development plans	Link the CRS model to the costed GMV project of the CDN (USD 85m); target the SNRCRS financing objective of 30 % from technical and financial partners
Niger	CS-GDT (2015-2029); presidential RNA decree (2020); i3N Initiative	Have RNA / CRS recognised as a reference for implementing the CS-GDT with the GDT Technical Group and the CNEDD
Senegal	Forestry Code (2018); NDC 3.0; agro-sylvo-pastoral orientation law	Support the dissemination of the Forestry Code and land tenure security through land certificates; make the case for the 40,000 ha already counted in the NDC
Regional / international	Great Green Wall Initiative (PIPD 2021-2030); AFR100; CNULCD Strategic Framework 2018-2030	Position the CRS programme as a verified reference case with the APGMV and feed land degradation neutrality (LDN) reporting

8. Limiting factors and lessons learned

8.1. Limiting factors

Advocacy that ignores its own limitations loses credibility. This section brings together the factors that currently constrain the reach of the programme:

- Land tenure security: this is the main risk weighing on the sustainability of the model; highly unequal land tenure regimes between countries (right to sell land: 81.5 % in Niger against 5.4 % in Senegal), absence of title for more than a million internally displaced people in Burkina Faso;
- Physical insecurity: in Burkina Faso and Niger, insecurity limits access to sites, weakens surveillance committees and explains the only programme target not met (village committees);
- Inequalities in access to extension services: a gap of more than 50 percentage points between Niger (98.9 %) and Burkina Faso (45.2 %) limits the uniformity of the programme's effects;
- Incomplete inclusion of women and near-total absence of data on young people: two cross-cutting limitations that call for strengthened disaggregated monitoring rather than for questioning the model;
- Agropastoral tensions locally exacerbated by RNA itself in densely populated areas, notably the Senegalese groundnut basin;
- An impact measurement framework still based on essentially qualitative methods and purposive sampling, with recourse to NDVI as a proxy in the absence of standardised quantified biophysical measurements.
- Volatility of national public financing for land restoration, attested in Burkina Faso (a 36 % fall in the executed budget of the national hydro-agricultural development programme between 2018 and 2020) and acknowledged by Niger itself, which describes the cost of sustainable land management as « exorbitant » in relation to mobilisable resources: an external risk factor, not attributable to the CRS programme, but one that weighs on the durability of the policy frameworks within which it operates.

8.2. Main lessons learned

- The driver of adoption is the direct economic benefit (yield, fodder, non-timber forest products) and not the environmental argument: diffusion strategies must foreground these tangible and immediate co-benefits;

- Peer-to-peer diffusion and the « oil slick » effect, particularly in Niger, are the programme's most important efficiency levers and warrant dedicated investment. The recent involvement of schoolteachers in this diffusion in Niger further suggests that a similar investment in non-agricultural relays (teachers, customary authorities, community radio) could multiply this effect, including among young people;
- The institutional framework is both the main brake (forestry code, the most cited constraint at 31.1 % at regional level and 27.4 % in Senegal) and the main lever (RNA decree in Niger, itself linked to the CS-GDT): securing farmers' rights over trees is decisive for what follows, and the existing national frameworks (CS-GDT, SNRCRS, CDN) already offer the institutional anchor points needed to carry this reform;
- RNA can exacerbate agropastoral tensions in densely populated contexts; its deployment must be accompanied by concerted management of land tenure and transhumance;
- The inclusion of women cannot be reduced to their presence in decision-making bodies: sex-disaggregated monitoring and targeted arrangements are needed to convert structuring into real gains;
- The chronic volatility of public financing for sustainable land management, attested in the national strategic frameworks themselves, gives added value to the CRS programme's low-cost community model as an option for budgetary continuity, rather than as a mere complement to otherwise unstable public arrangements;
- Finally, the experience of the village committees shows that the collective structuring of communities weighs heavily on the adoption of RNA as well as on its diffusion: it is what turns individual initiatives into a territorial dynamic.

9. Strategic recommendations for advocacy

In line with the logic of advocacy construction, each recommendation below is explicitly linked to evidence established in the preceding sections and, where relevant, to a policy framework to which decision-makers are already committed (national sustainable land management strategies, Nationally Determined Contributions, Great Green Wall, AFR100, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification). The matrix below summarises, for each category of actor, the link between the evidence mobilised and the policy framework of anchoring.

Actor	Evidence mobilised	Policy framework of anchoring
Donors	Cost of €48.14/ha; yields +50 % after 5 years of practice	Climate financing strategies, multi-year donor commitments, Great Green Wall PIPD
Public decision-makers	RNA decree Niger (2020); Forestry Code Senegal; forestry code cited as a brake by 31.1 % of respondents	CDN, CNULCD / Land degradation neutrality, CS-GDT Niger, SNRCRS Burkina Faso
Local authorities	Integration of RNA into communal development plans (Burkina Faso)	Communal development plans, local conventions, Communal and Regional Development Plans (PCD/PRD)
Local organisations	856 village committees; peer-to-peer diffusion (« oil slick » effect, Niger); 180 schoolteachers mobilised	Existing community structures, federations and cooperatives, teacher networks

9.1. Recommendations to donors

- Finance scaling-up on the basis of the demonstrated cost-effectiveness ratio. Favour the bottom-up community approach of RNA (€48.14/ha on average, €29.65/ha in Niger) rather than high-input planting approaches, whose cost and low survival rates are well established

for comparable large regional initiatives, including certain projects still at the financing mobilisation stage under the Great Green Wall PIPD;

- Commit multi-year financing aligned with the time frame of trees. Programme cycles of at least five years: yields progress significantly only from the third year onwards, and experienced practitioners (five years and more) show yields 50 % higher;
- Invest in a structured way in value chains (non-timber forest products, fodder, honey), targeting women's organisations as a priority, whose rate of non-increase in income remains higher than that of men (12 % against 3.4 %);
- Finance from the design stage a harmonised monitoring and evaluation system, equipped with standardised indicators, including carbon sequestered and real income disaggregated by sex and by age, and accessible to local actors;
- Explicitly position the CRS programme as a reference case for the Great Green Wall with the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall and the associated carbon financing mechanisms, in order to facilitate access to larger-scale climate financing instruments.

9.2. Recommendations to public decision-makers

- Establish RNA as a priority practice in national policies, with dedicated budget lines, drawing on the arrangements already adopted in the region (Nigerien decree, Senegal's NDC commitment), and explicitly attaching these lines to instruments that are already costed (CS-GDT in Niger, SNRCRS in Burkina Faso, CDN in Burkina Faso), rather than creating new parallel arrangements;
- Reform the forestry code, the constraint most cited by producers (31.1 % at regional level, 27.4 % in Senegal), and actively disseminate its content among communities where it has already been reformed (Senegal, 2018), while opening access to payments for ecosystem services and to carbon markets.
- Accelerate land tenure security, as a priority for displaced people and women, drawing on the instruments already provided for by law (local conventions, land certificates in Senegal) and on the finding that 77.8 % of the producers concerned already perceive RNA as a factor strengthening their land tenure security.
- Strengthen extension services in areas that are poorly covered today, notably Burkina Faso (45.2 % access against 98.9 % in Niger), by mobilising existing national arrangements (National Agricultural Advisory Programme in Senegal, regional and departmental support structures in Niger).
- Create incentive mechanisms for inclusive targeting (tool subsidies, bonuses, regreening competitions) designed to reach women, young people and displaced people, rather than only already-established producers, drawing on relays already mobilised such as teachers in Niger.
- Stabilise public financing for sustainable land management, by meeting the objectives already set by national frameworks (for example the objective of a 30 % contribution from technical and financial partners by 2024 set by Burkina Faso's SNRCRS), in order to reduce the budgetary volatility observed, which currently weakens the programme's institutional gains.

9.3. Recommendations to local authorities

- Integrate RNA into local development plans and their budgets, moving from commitment in principle to effective operationalisation;

- Map interventions in order to avoid duplication, create synergies with other projects and direct resources towards the most degraded areas;
- Formalise local conventions governing uses (cutting, fires, grazing) and securing producers' access to trees and land;
- Put in place local monitoring of regreening (communal observatories) presenting NDVI and socio-economic data in formats accessible to municipal councils and villages;
- Promote concerted frameworks for managing agropastoral conflicts, as a priority in densely populated areas where RNA can exacerbate land tensions, on the model of the communal consultation framework already established in Matankari (Niger).

9.4. Recommendations to farmers and local organisations

- Commit to RNA adoption over the long term (at least five years), by making known the trajectory of benefits, which strengthen markedly with the length of practice;
- Strengthen and institutionalise relay organisations (committees, cooperatives), with a real decision-making place for women and young people, beyond numerical representation alone;
- Support village committees in their diffusion and advocacy role, drawing on the « oil slick » effect which made it possible, in Niger, to far exceed the training target at almost zero marginal cost; and by extending this network of relays to other non-agricultural community actors, along the lines of the schoolteachers already mobilised.
- Diversify incomes derived from RNA on the basis of a value chain analysis (non-timber forest products, processing, fodder, seeds, honey), by consolidating community self-financing mechanisms (revolving funds).

10. Conclusion and implications for public policy and future financing

Eight years after its launch, the CRS programme demonstrates, with a level of evidence rarely achieved for a land restoration initiative in the Sahel, that Assisted Natural Regeneration constitutes a response to dryland degradation that is at once effective, low-cost and sustainable. Achieved in national contexts marked by insecurity, political instability and land pressure, the results (152,145 hectares regreened, more than 103,000 producers trained, nearly 75,000 durable adopters) validate the relevance of the community model promoted since 2018.

For public decision-makers, these results provide tangible evidence of the implementation of their own climate and land commitments: the contribution of 40,000 hectares to Senegal's NDC 3.0 target is the most direct illustration of this, as is the articulation of the Nigerien decree with the CS-GDT or the potential attachment of the model to the costed project of Burkina Faso's CDN in the Great Green Wall zone. The challenge of the coming years is to transform isolated advances (decree, forestry code, communal plans) into national policies endowed with lasting budget lines and attached to the strategic instruments already in place, and to remove the main regulatory brake identified by producers themselves: the forestry code.

For donors, the programme offers a quantified and verifiable cost-effectiveness ratio, a high degree of beneficiary autonomy, and a potential for regional replication directly transferable to other Sahelian restoration initiatives, notably within the framework of the Great Green Wall's Ten-Year Priority Investment Plan, where the CRS programme has a comparative advantage in evidence over projects still in the financing mobilisation phase, provided that sufficiently long cycles are financed to allow the community model to bear fruit, and that investment is made in a harmonised monitoring and evaluation system that fills the current gaps (young people, harmonised costs, quantified biophysical measurements, carbon sequestration).

For all stakeholders, the main value of the CRS programme lies in its ownership by farmers: an endogenous practice, transmitted between peers, including now through non-agricultural community relays such as Niger's schoolteachers, anchored over time, and increasingly recognised by the national, regional and international policy frameworks that today structure the fight against land degradation in the Sahel. It is on this basis, and not on indicator performance alone, that advocacy for the continuation and extension of the model to other Sahelian territories must be built, drawing on the frameworks already in place rather than seeking to create new ones.

Bibliography

Documents made available by the CRS consortium:

- Evaluation report of phase 1 of the CRS programme (2020);
- Evaluation report of phase 2 (July 2024, Peter Gubbels, Groundswell International);
- Final report of the second half of 2025 (1 March 2026, Both ENDS);
- Narrative report Niger, January-December 2023 (DOB/CRESA);
- Impact study report, Senegal (IED Afrique, March 2026);
- Impact analysis of the CRS programme, final regional report (June 2026, Salvaterra);
- Final impact perception survey (n=344 producers, KoboCollect);
- NDVI geospatial data (MOD13Q1 product, MODISTools);
- Table of programme milestones, semester 2, 2025;
- Terms of reference of the CRS programme impact study (Both ENDS, 7 July 2026).

Policy and strategic frameworks drawn upon:

- Nationally Determined Contribution of Burkina Faso (CDN, final version, October 2021).
- National Strategy for Soil Restoration, Conservation and Recovery in Burkina Faso (SNRCRS, 2020-2024).
- National Strategic Investment Framework for Sustainable Land Management in Niger (CS-GDT, 2015-2029).
- Ten-Year Priority Investment Plan of the Great Green Wall Initiative for the Sahara and the Sahel (PIPD, 2021-2030).
- Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, 2018-2030 (decision 7/COP.13), and the associated negotiation guide (COP13, OIF/IFDD, 2017).