



# Local Dissemination of crop-shrub/tree-livestock management practices in the Sahel for resilient livelihoods



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## Introduction

In the West African Sahel land degradation and soil erosion severely affect more than 80% of range-/farmlands.

The project SustainSahel seeks to **enhance the resilience of farming systems** through the transdisciplinary study and dissemination of appropriate **crop-shrub/tree-livestock management practices** at seven sites in **Mali, Senegal and Burkina Faso**.

A baseline survey, conducted at the beginning of the project, identified a **lack of information on practices and access to training** as the two main constraints for the uptake of agroforestry practices.

To **improve the adoption of innovative practices**, a multi-stakeholder dissemination strategy was developed, utilizing **diverse communication channels** for the targeted stakeholders.

## Activities

- Coaching of local extension officers
- **Farmer field days** in the on-station and on-farm trials organized by farmers' organizations and research institutions
- Cascading Approach: Engagement of **lead farmers** (30-40 per site) in the **dissemination events** that in turn share the knowledge in their villages
- Diffusion of learning materials using
  - **learning videos** shared via Bluetooth
  - **radio** campaigns
  - **visual posters** for literate farmers
  - **manuals** for extension officers

## First Results

The first nine out of a total of 36 dissemination events took place between May and June 2022. The events counted a total of 816 participants, mainly local farmers, but also extension officers, researchers, students, traditional leaders, members of SustainSahel's innovation platforms, and representatives of farmers' organizations.

## Concluding remarks

- Starting the dissemination already in a very early phase of the project is expected to **increase the acceptance** of the shared technologies and **improve** possibilities for **adoption** and upscaling. Moreover, it provides farmers a **space to constantly exchange and give feedback**.
- The **socio-economic impact** of the activities will be rigorously **assessed at two sites**, based on a randomized controlled trial.



Fig. 1: Cascading Approach for the local dissemination.

## Objectives of the dissemination strategy

- To disseminate appropriate crop-shrub/tree-livestock management practices.
- To combine **local and scientific knowledge**
- To **empower smallholder farmers** to become the **owners** and disseminators of the practices themselves by constantly involving and exchanging lead farmers and other partners.
- **Promoting transformation** via a solution-orientated approach



Fig. 2: Promoting local food at a dissemination event.



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Find out more at:  
[www.sustainsahel.net](http://www.sustainsahel.net)



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