

# Unlocking Sustainable Intensification: Farmer Insights from Senegal River Valley



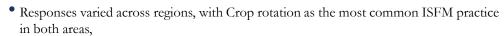
### Background

- Rapid population growth and limited agricultural resources in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) challenge sustainable agricultural productivity.
- Sustainable intensification (SI) practices offer a promising approach to improve food security and livelihoods while reducing environmental degradation.
- The core goal of SI is to boost productivity and efficiency within existing farmland while minimising environmental impacts.
- Practices like Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM) and the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) show promise, but adoption remains limited due to unmet expectations, contextspecific challenges, financial constraints, and perceived shortcomings

#### Methodological approach:

 Data was collected via a standardised questionnaire through a JotBi digital platform from 500 farmers in Podor and Dagana, in the Senegal River Valley

4Findings and discussion



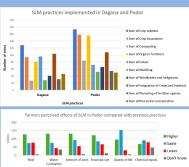
- followed by crop association and organic fertilisers in Podor, and crop-livestock integration in Dagana.
- ISFM in Dagana is linked to higher yields, lower costs, and better quality of life, though water use remains an issue.
- In Podor, ISFM benefits were less apparent, with many farmers reporting no yield or quality-of-life improvements.
- Most farmers received minimal or no SRI training, despite expecting at least three sessions.
- Practices like plant replication and soil drainage are common; however, line seeding and mechanical weeding are rarely used.
- Youth participation in SRI is growing, though they are underrepresented in Farmers' Field Schools.
- Farmers note SRI reduces women's labour but increases men's workload.
- Key barriers to SRI adoption include a lack of equipment, trained labour, and irrigation challenges, and the labour-intensive nature of the practice.

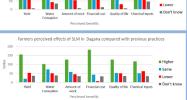
#### **2**Objectives

This study explores the perceptions of small-scale farmers regarding the effects of SI practices, with a particular focus on ISFM and SRI in two regions of northern Senegal.

#### Objectives:

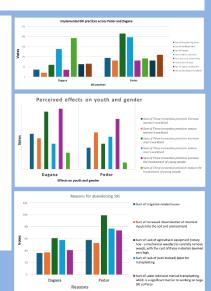
- examines farmers' perception of ISFM and SRI effects on productivity, resource use, production costs and effort, quality of life, and well-being;
- ii. evaluates the gap between the trainings received and expected,
- iii. assesses effects on gender and youths, and
- iv. identifies reasons for dis-adoption and limited scaling





## Conclusions and recommendations

 These findings underscore the need for contextspecific training and interventions to support broader ISFM and SRI adoption in the Senegal River Valley



Hycenth Tim Ndah(1), Johannes Schuler (2), Sidy TOUNKARA (3), Celeste Tchapmi (5), Khadidiatou Faye (5), Javier Miranda (7), Heidi Webber (2), Pierre Sibiry Traoré (4,5), Valerie Graw (8), Frank Thonfeld (6), Jonas Meier (6)