

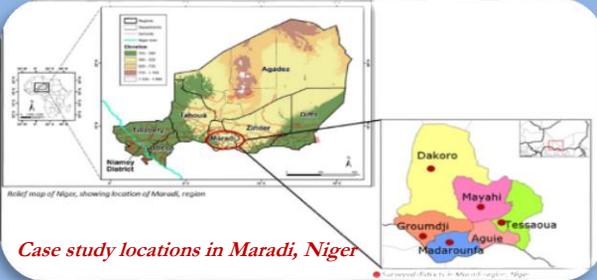
Farmers' perception of the effects of interactive training and on-farm testing of Seedball technology for enhancing adoption – Maradi region, Niger.

Background

- Meeting global food needs in the 21st century requires doubling world food production by 2050
- Integrating sustainable practices in smallholder agriculture is crucial to address this issue, especially in SSA where growing food insecurity remains a top priority.
- One such practice is the **Seedball technology (ST)**: an affordable innovation using local materials to improve seedling growth.
- Within a US-aid SMIL project, a series of interactive training and experiments on ST have been conducted across Maradi (Niger)

Objectives

To evaluate Farmers' perception of the effects of this training particularly with regard to: yield returns, labour cost, financial cost, Labour burden for men vs. women, and Number of training received versus expected

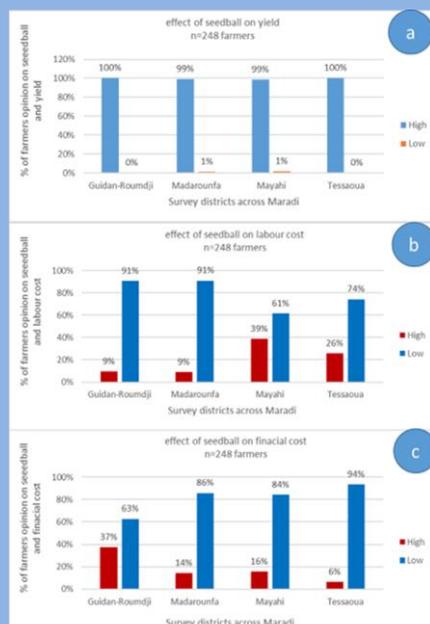


Findings and discussion

- Interactive training created space for awareness and a broader understanding of the purpose and the functioning of the technology.
- Farmers revealed a positive perception of the effect of technology especially by acknowledging:
 - ❖ positive yield returns,
 - ❖ reduced labour burden,
 - ❖ lower financial cost, and
 - ❖ readiness to recommend technology to peers,
- Farmers favoured 2-3 training sessions for a proper understanding of the technology as opposed to the one-time training received
 - ❖ an expectation that varied across the 05 districts

Methodological approach:

- Survey using a structured questionnaire integrated in a mobile app
- 489 farmers surveyed across 5 districts in Maradi



Conclusions and recommendations

- positive perception on ST and entire training process
- Trainings have raised awareness on purpose and functioning of ST
- Comprehension of seedball technology differ across the different districts Maradi- hence need for targeted training beyond 01 training session.
- Skeptical farmers are anticipating effects of the technology on early adopters before making a decision
- Farmers recommend the need for producing and selling ST at cheaper rates
- A request to engage the local mass media in seedball promotion campaigns

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