



Farmer centered multi stakeholder platforms for agroecological innovations and markets: insights from Burkina Faso and Senegal

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Background

- Local multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) regained interest among development actors as mechanisms to stimulate collaboration towards fostering local innovation and supporting agroecological markets.
- Yet their outcomes remain mixed, particularly in terms of addressing farmers' vital interests and priorities.

Objectives



- Strengthening MSP's farmer-centeredness for local innovation and marketing of agroecological products
 - Describe current MSPs structure and functioning
 - Analyse MSP's members knowledge and practice of participatory innovation development approach (PID)
 - Analyse the factors influencing MSP performance

Methods and Data



Study sites

- Reo and Korsimoro Districts (Burkina Faso)
- Thiès and Podor Departments (Senegal)



Data collection and analysis

- June- August 2025
- 20 interviews with farmer innovators in each country
- 3 focus groups involving about twenty actors from research and extension services in each country
- National stakeholder workshop in each country
- Qualitative content analysis



Fig. 1 Group photo with farmer innovators in Korsimoro, Burkina Faso



Fig. 2 National stakeholder's workshop in Burkina Faso

Results

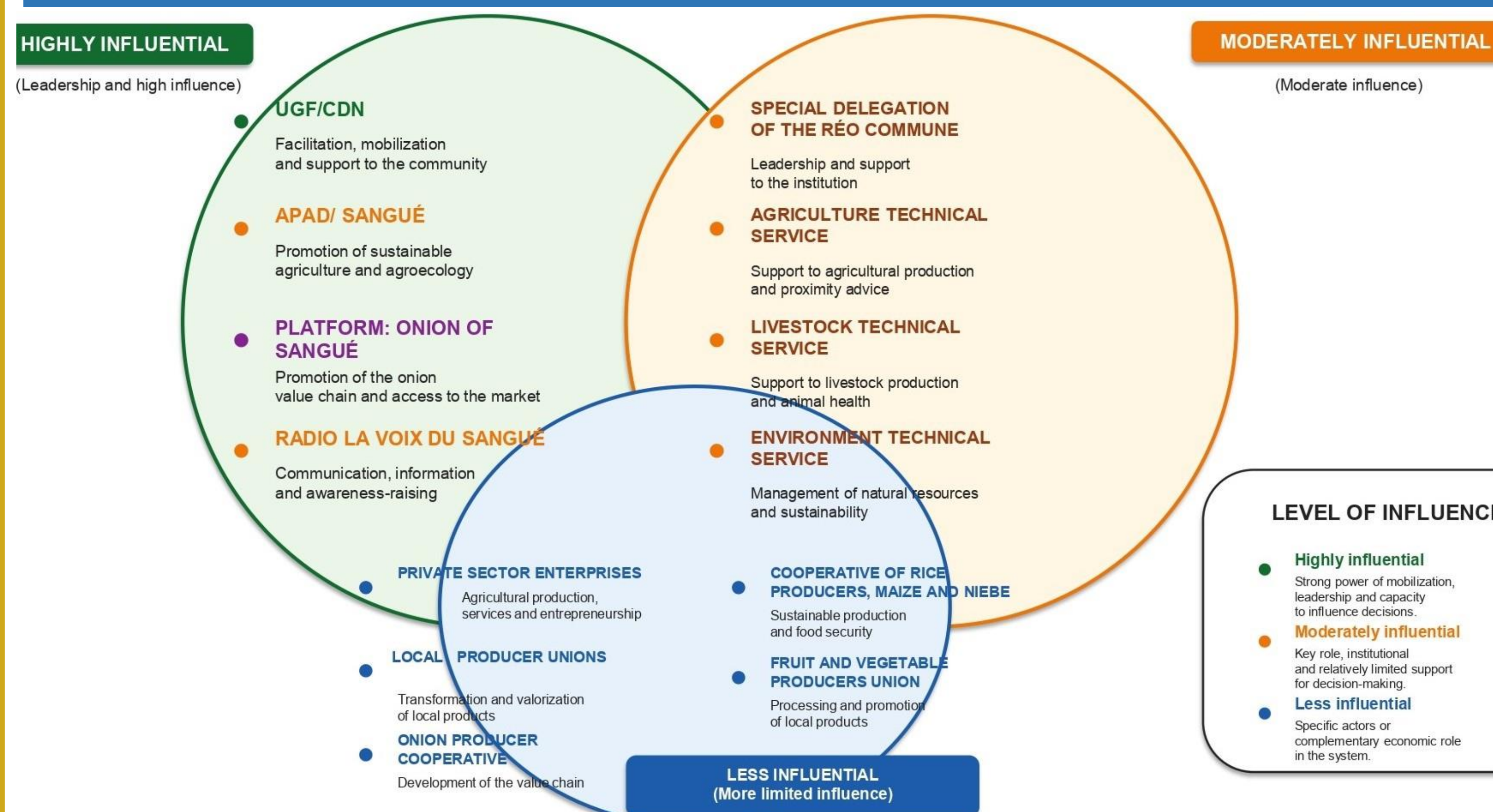


Fig. 3 Venn diagram of local MSP in Reo district, Burkina Faso

MSP members experience and practice with PID

- 100 agroecological or local innovations (LI) identified and documented into catalogue for agricultural water management
- 20 PID or farmer-led research processes undertaken for testing or improvement LI
- Limited focus on marketing issues and models
- Farmers capacity strengthened
- Farmers increased self-confidence through peer exchanges, dissemination and radio broadcasts

Key factors influencing MSP performance

Factors	Explanation
Territorial anchoring and organizational level	Municipal-level organization enhances coordination, frequency of interactions, and responsiveness to farmers' needs.
Knowledge and resources available from previous projects	Strong PID skills and MSP facilitation among partners contribute to farmer-centered innovation processes and strengthen farmers' confidence
Diversity and inclusion of value-chain actors	- The absence of downstream private actors limits market access and commercialization - Local radios support dissemination - Local governments support PID institutionalization

MSP structure and functioning

- MSPs connect farmer innovators with diverse support organizations
- Absence of private sector actors and start-ups with digital marketing skills and services
- MSP's with operational challenges regarding regularity and consistency
- Farmers' innovators' network still weakly influential

Conclusion and policy implications

- MSP performance requires stronger territorial anchoring, broader inclusion of downstream private sector actors, and better integration of marketing dimensions.
- Strengthening farmer centeredness—linking technical innovation with market opportunities—combined with stakeholders' enthusiasm for collaborative PID processes, appears essential for advancing agroecological transitions in the Sahel.

CONTACT INFORMATION



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Strengthening multi-stakeholder platforms for local innovation and sustainable agroecological markets in the Sahel

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