

Niger - Climate Resilient Agriculture

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Overview

Identification

COUNTRY

Niger

EVALUATION TITLE

Climate Resilient Agriculture

EVALUATION TYPE

Independent Evaluation

ID NUMBER

DDI-ner-socialimpact-2021

Version

VERSION DESCRIPTION

Anonymized dataset for public distribution

Overview

ABSTRACT

This evaluation design reflects discussions with MCC's Evaluation Management Committee (EMC) in November 2020 and reflects the committee's request to forego baseline data collection. For the grant facility evaluation, the design includes a mixed-methods approach combining quantitative and qualitative data to provide a nuanced understanding of the successes and challenges of these investments. The ICRIPs evaluation will be primarily qualitative, though some secondary quantitative data will be used for triangulation.

Grant Facility Evaluation Questions:

Sub-Activity Objective: How and to what extent have household and organizational incomes changed as a result of the activity?

Sub-Activity Outcomes: How and to what extent were the project outcomes achieved?

Grant Implementation: How and to what extent were the individual grants implemented as planned?

Facility Implementation: How and to what extent was the facility as a whole implemented as planned?

ICRIPs Evaluation Questions:

Sub-Activity Objective: How and to what extent have household incomes and food security changed as a result of the activity?

Sub-Activity Outcomes: How and to what extent were the project outcomes achieved?

Sub-ICRIP Implementation: How and to what extent were the individual sub-ICRIPs implemented as planned?

ICRIPs Sub-activity Implementation: How and to what extent was the ICRIPs activity as a whole implemented as planned?

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

Other (Performance Evaluation)

UNITS OF ANALYSIS

Individuals, households, community, enterprise, other.

TOPICS

Topic	Vocabulary	URI
Agriculture	Agriculture and Irrigation	

KEYWORDS

Agriculture, Climate, Resilience

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Intended CRA Activity beneficiaries are agro-pastoralist and farmer households in targeted communes whose incomes are expected to increase as a result of Activity interventions. These include integrated agricultural practice investments, improvements in the utilization rate of selected and drought-tolerant seeds, rehabilitation and development of new, small-scale irrigation schemes, reclamation of agro-pastoral degraded land, protection of agricultural soils and watersheds from erosion, and productive asset funding for farmers and agribusinesses. The Activity focuses specifically on those in rural regions because of low bank penetration and agricultural lending rates in those areas.

Grant Facility

The Activity aims to adequately distribute grants across targeted geographies by awarding at least one grant (of any size) in each of the 16 ICRIPs eligible communes. The facility windows will also provide grants to cooperatives and producer groups in two additional large-scale irrigation perimeter Dosso region communes, Tanda and Gaya, bringing the total targeted commune number to 18. CRA grants will award a minimum of two grants in Tanda and Gaya each so cooperatives and producer groups in the IMAP communes can access financing for productive projects during and after the restructuring of water cooperatives into Water User Associations.

ICRIPs

ICRIPs is estimated to support 25,736 individual beneficiaries (3,217 households) in 16 targeted communes across four regions.

UNIVERSE

CRA Grantee Survey

The sampling units are grantees who received a grant under the grant facility.

Grant Facility Key Informant Interviews

Key informant interviews are qualitative, in-depth interviews of a non-random selection of people chosen for their knowledge of the CRA grant facility, the implementation of the grants, and/or the activity's results.

ICRIPs Key Informant Interviews

Key informant interviews are qualitative, in-depth interviews of a non-random selection of people chosen for their knowledge of the ICRIPs, their implementation, and/or their results.

Producers and Sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR(S)

Name	Affiliation
Social Impact, Inc.	

FUNDING

Name	Abbreviation	Role
Millennium Challenge Corporation	MCC	

Metadata Production

METADATA PRODUCED BY

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
Millennium Challenge Corporation	MCC		Review of Metadata
Social Impact, Inc.	SI		Independent Evaluator

DATE OF METADATA PRODUCTION

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DDI DOCUMENT VERSION

Version 1.0 (April 2021)

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MCC Compact and Program

COMPACT OR THRESHOLD

Niger Compact

PROGRAM

The Government of Niger (GoN) and MCC signed a Compact Agreement on July 29, 2016 to recognize MCC's provision of a US \$437 million grant to the Government. The five-year Compact entered into force on January 26, 2018 and will end in January 2023. The Compact's stated goal is to increase rural incomes by improving the sustainable productive use of natural resources for agricultural production and improve trade and market access for agricultural products. The Compact consists of two projects: the Irrigation and Market Access Project (IMAP) and the Climate-Resilient Communities Project (CRC). The CRC Project consists of two activities: the Regional Project in Support of Pastoralism in the Sahel (PRAPS) and the CRA Activity. PRAPS focuses on livestock development, while the CRA Activity concentrates primarily on agricultural development. This evaluation focuses on the CRA Activity.

MCC SECTOR

Agriculture and Irrigation (Ag & Irr)

PROGRAM LOGIC

The CRA Activity aims to achieve sustainable increases in productivity and farm incomes in eligible communes by strengthening farmer and agro-pastoralist resiliency to adverse climate impacts. The sub-activities under the CRA Activity include the Integrated Climate Resilient Investment Plans (ICRIPs) Sub-Activity and the CRA Grants Facility Sub-Activity. The latter includes two funding windows: CRA Grants and Private Sector Partnerships (PSP). The theory of change (TOC) for the CRA grant and PSP windows of the grant facility are quite similar and fit within the model depicted above. They both aim to improve productivity and quality as a means of increasing the volumes and values of products sold, with the ultimate intention of increasing the incomes of rural households. Per discussions with MCC, the inclusion of "improved food security" as part of the goal/objective depicted above is more closely related to other activities in the Compact and does not directly apply to the grant facility. There are two key differences between the logic for the CRA grant and PSP grant windows, related to the extent of BDS support services and the role of access to finance. The CRA grant window is open to organizations that are substantially smaller than those eligible under the PSP window. Given their smaller size and expected lower levels of experience and expertise, the BDS services are primarily aimed at the CRA grantees and not the larger and more experienced PSP grantees. On a similar note, access to finance and the investment of additional capital outside the grant is anticipated to play a much larger role for PSP grantees than it is for the smaller CRA grantees. The ICRIPs Sub-Activity program logic has not yet been updated based on the evolutions in the focus of ICRIPs interventions that can be funded by MCC. Thus, some outcomes in the logic (such as "Improved Physical Capital (water, roads, energy)") are no longer wholly accurate. Nonetheless, the overall logic and TOC remains intact. Through training and improvements to natural and public infrastructure, beneficiaries are expected to realize increased productivity and quality of produced products. This is intended to increase overall volumes and values of goods and, ultimately, incomes and food security.

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

CRA Activity beneficiary analysis is expected to be updated following approval of final Round Two CRA grants and the PSP grants. The ICRIPs Sub-Activity is expected to benefit 3,217 households, amounting to 25,736 individual beneficiaries across the targeted communes through small scale irrigation. These figures were calculated by prorating the WB beneficiary numbers for the initial 30 communes where they identified irrigation potential.

Sampling

Study Population

CRA Grantee Survey The sampling units are grantees who received a grant under the grant facility. **Grant Facility Key Informant Interviews** Key informant interviews are qualitative, in-depth interviews of a non-random selection of people chosen for their knowledge of the CRA grant facility, the implementation of the grants, and/or the activity's results. **ICRIPs Key Informant Interviews** Key informant interviews are qualitative, in-depth interviews of a non-random selection of people chosen for their knowledge of the ICRIPs, their implementation, and/or their results.

Sampling Procedure

CRA Grantee Survey

For the specific needs of this survey, the whole population of grantees will be included in the survey. Given the relatively small number of participants and their geographical concentration, including all grantees offers substantial benefits and few drawbacks as the additional cost of interviewing the full population of grantees relative to a sufficient sample is minimal. Surveying the full population will also allow greater ability to disaggregate results between different types of activities and different types of organizations.

Qualitative Data Collection

For the qualitative components of this evaluation, a purposive sampling strategy is proposed, which will maximize learning by ensuring inclusion of respondents representing a wide variety of perspectives (some of which could be missed through a random approach). The evaluation team will collect qualitative data for both the CRA Grants Facility and ICRIPs sub-activities.

Questionnaires

No content available

Data Collection

Data Processing

Other Processing

To ensure logical consistency and coherence, several layers of data transcription and validation techniques will be used. The final, validated data file will be saved in excel and Stata formats. The following validation procedures will be implemented:

Data Entry: Data entry will be performed with a CAPI system to speed-up data information gathering, and to reduce potential errors during the data acquisition and the data transcription processes. Less time will be required for data cleaning and validation. The proposed rules described below will be programmed within the CAPI system.

Single value check: Values of specific variables will be validated for consistencies with the questionnaire structure. For example, data fields will be protected to ensure that the proper data type (categorical, ordinal, and numeric). All categorical, nominal, and ordinal variables such as yes/no questions, regions, communes, and villages will be restricted to predefined value labels. Likewise, effort will be made so that numeric variables such as age are effectively entered as numeric variables. Procedures will be set forth to detect outliers and the questionnaires will be revisited to validate the entered data.

Range and Coherence checks: This type of validation will ensure that variables values are within the expected ranges. For example, variables such as age should not exceed minimum and maximum predetermined values. Data outside these ranges will not be accepted. Skip patterns will also be enforced and validated.

Dry-run Analysis: Preliminary tabulations will be performed to identify hidden inconsistencies in the data set that have not been detected during other methods of data validation. Analyses will be performed progressively, as data entry progresses, to initiate higher level of data validations.

Data Appraisal

No content available