



Ouagadougou - Koudougou - Dédougou - Bobo-Dioulasso (OKDB): Economic resilience and agri-food system in the Hauts-Bassins region (Burkina Faso)

Context: Vulnerable agri-food systems

Agri-food systems in Burkina Faso are subject to the consequences of complex crises, including the climate crisis, the Covid-19 pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the security crisis. These crises have caused market disruptions and impacted the agri-food sector.

As a result, people are faced with the unavailability of food products in sufficient quantity and quality. The agro-sylvo-pastoral sector employs 86% of the Burkinabe population and represents about 20% of GDP (PNIASP 2021-2025). The vulnerability of agri-food systems therefore also exacerbates the economic vulnerability of populations. Committing to ecologically and economically viable agriculture is an obvious necessity.

Developing the resilience of populations through the strengthening of agri-food systems and management systems for agro-sylvo-pastoral areas is a key approach to meet the challenges. Agroecology and good land governance are central concepts for the transformation of agricultural and food systems.

This action is anchored in the Burkina Faso country component of the Soil Protection and Rehabilitation Programme (ProSol), implemented by GIZ. Its overall objective is to contribute to strengthening the resilience of populations affected by the security crisis in Burkina Faso.

Title of the action	Ouagadougou - Koudougou - Dédougou - Bobo-Dioulasso (OKDB): Economic resilience and agri-food system in the Hauts-Bassins region
Constituents	The European Commission and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Executing Agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Supervisory body	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Resources and Fisheries (MARAH)
Zone d'intervention	Province of Houet (Hauts-Bassins)
Overall duration	12/2023 – 11/2026
Financial envelope	€8.7 million, of which €8 million is funded by the European Union

The approach: building resilience

Building the resilience of individuals and communities is a key response to protracted and predictable crises. This action focuses on investing in sustainable and inclusive agriculture to improve food and nutrition security, preserve natural resources, diversify incomes and create jobs.

- ✓ **Specific objective:** *The enhanced performance of agri-food systems and management systems for agro-sylvo-pastoral areas contributes to increasing the resilience of populations in the Hauts-Bassins region.*

The project contributes to the implementation of the National Strategy for Soil Restoration, Conservation and Recovery (SNRCRS) (2020 - 2024) and the National Strategy for the Development of Agroecology (SN-AE) (2022-2026). It is aligned with the "Stabilization and Development Action Plan 2023-2025".

Areas of intervention:

Transformation of agro-sylvo-pastoral practices:

The objective is to integrate agroecological measures for the protection and rehabilitation of climate-smart soils into agro-sylvo-pastoral practices. All measures are implemented according to the multi-stakeholder "land first" approach. Strengthening land tenure security limits investment risks, ensuring local ownership and sustainability of the measures implemented.

- **Expected results:** *6,500 hectares of agro-sylvo-pastoral areas are rehabilitated or protected in collaboration with 5,500 rural farmers, 500 peri-urban farmers and 400 young rural entrepreneurs in the production of agroecological inputs. These measures increase agricultural incomes by 10%.*

Sustainable and participatory management of agroforestry ecosystems:

In the landscape of the province of Houet, agroforestry ecosystems provide vital ecosystem services for people while playing a key role in achieving ecological sustainability. This

axis aims to strengthen their sustainable and participatory management. The success factors are the participatory development of local land charters, the construction of agro-sylvo-pastoral infrastructures that facilitate their sustainable exploitation (such as cattle tracks) and the promotion of entrepreneurship to diversify income and create jobs. The action focuses in particular on the sustainable exploitation of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) as well as the establishment and management of village nurseries.

- **Expected results:** *1,000 hectares of community forests are rehabilitated or protected in a participatory and inclusive way. 80% have local management committees, whose members are made up of at least 20% women.*

Agri-food processing and marketing:

The processing and marketing of agri-food products is critical to the performance of agri-food systems. This axis aims to strengthen them through a Value Added Chain (VAC) approach with a market orientation. The priority sectors for action are maize, cowpeas, soybeans, vegetables (market gardening), fodder plants and non-timber forest products (NTFPs). This set of crops promotes food and nutrition security, livestock feed, diversified income generation and improved soil fertility.

- **Expected results:** *the construction of 8 processing or marketing infrastructures, the promotion of entrepreneurship, the creation of sustainable business links and the promotion of trades related to community forests, allow 200 SMEs or cooperatives to increase the average volume of products marketed by 10% and to create 350 additional jobs.*

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Project	OKDB: Economic and System Resilience agri-food in the Hauts-Bassins region 01 BP1485 Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso T: +226 25 43 35 97 https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/129677.html	Update	June 2024, Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)
Contact	Andrea Schalla, andrea.schalla@giz.de - Project Manager		