



Photo by: World Bank/Mali

INTEGRATED ACTIVITY: DEPLOYING VEGETABLE TECHNOLOGIES TO OVERCOME MALNUTRITION AND POVERTY IN MALI

The “Deploying Improved Vegetable Technologies to Overcome Malnutrition and Poverty in Mali” project conducts joint activities to build the capacity of smallholder farm gardens. The program, implemented by the World Vegetable Center, is active in Mopti, Sikasso, and Timbuktu regions and combines Feed the Future; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene; and Nutrition activities to holistically improve food security, health and economic growth.

IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY

This integrated project addresses the two overarching goals of the US Government’s Feed the Future (FTF) Presidential Initiative – reducing the rates of poverty and malnutrition – in developing nations across the world. The project works with small scale women gardeners and their families, organized around best practice hubs and vegetable technology immersion clusters, designed for fast track dissemination of market-attractive and nutrient-rich vegetable varieties and associated technologies. These centers teach women and their families how to grow more and better quality vegetables to turn their gardening activities into thriving enterprises. A strong agricultural sector is necessary for Mali to grow, and helping small producers and women will help the country as a whole.

PROJECT GOALS

Over the 3-year, 2014-2016 life cycle, the project will:

- Benefit 35,000 smallholder gardeners directly through increased knowledge and access to materials.
- Train 14,000 women, men, and community health workers in improved health practices.
- Increase the value of vegetable sales within the focus regions by \$150 million.

HEALTHY FAMILIES, HEALTHY INCOMES

In addition to agriculture production and business development, the centers created by this program are used as centers for health and nutrition related activities, ranging from the physical provision of improved water sources to behavior change communications on hygiene and other health improving practices.

USAID/MALI’S STRATEGY

USAID/Mali’s Accelerated Economic Growth Office supports the Feed the Future Presidential Initiative under its Country Development and Cooperation Strategy. USAID/Mali’s Feed the Future strategy focuses on the three key agricultural value chains: millet/sorghum; rice; and livestock; while also being concerned with nutrition.

The USAID/Mali Health Office goal is to sustain the improvements of health through increased use of high impact health services and healthy behaviors. Focus falls under programming in three areas: 1) integrated, community level health services; 2) social and behavior change communication; and 3) health systems strengthening. Based on the conditions and epidemiology in Mali, the interventions are: maternal, neonatal, and child health; family planning and reproductive health; malaria; infectious disease; nutrition, water, and sanitation.