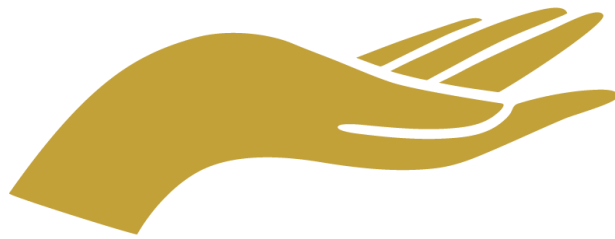


Dissem Inn



Presentation note – Dissemination of
innovation in the Sahel region (DISSEM-INN)

CROSS-CUTTING ANIMATION TO DeSIRA PROJECTS

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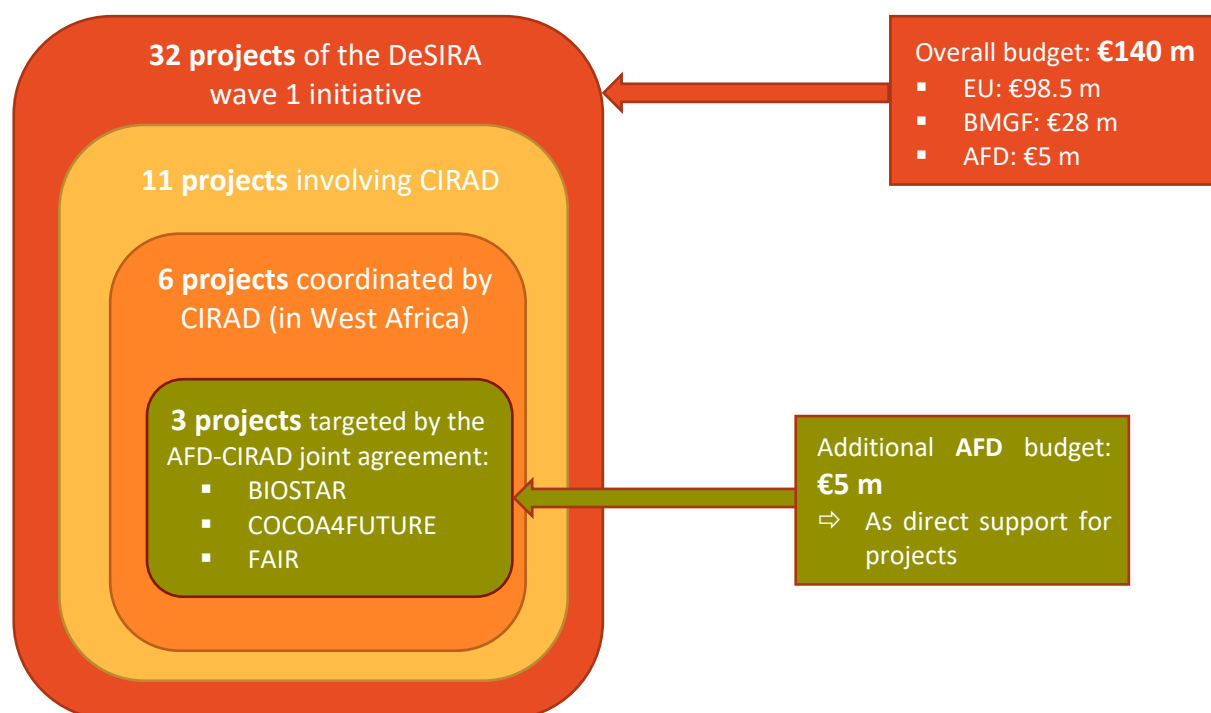
Contextual elements

The joint AFD-CIRAD commitment to the DeSIRA initiative

The first wave of the **DeSIRA programme**, a European initiative launched by DG INTPA (formerly DEVCO) at the One Planet Summit in Paris in 2017, includes a set of 32 projects aimed at promoting innovation in the transition of agriculture and food systems to more climate resilient models. It is the subject of a global envelope of approximately €140 m, mainly financed by the EU and the BMGF. France, through **AFD**, has contributed **€5 m** to this budget.

- Across the whole DeSIRA programme, **CIRAD** is involved in **11 projects**, in other words a third of the projects selected for this first 2018 wave. This commitment is particularly strong in West Africa, where CIRAD is **coordinating six flagship projects** in the fields of agroecology, agroforestry, animal health and bioenergy: **FAIR, IRRINN, COCOA4FUTURE, LIDISKI** and **BIOSTAR**.
- This specific interest in West Africa is shared by **AFD**, which has chosen to finance an **additional budget of €5 m** (bringing its overall commitment to DeSIRA to €10 m).
- By mutual agreement with CIRAD, the aim of this additional budget is to provide **direct support to three of the six flagship projects** coordinated by CIRAD in West Africa, namely FAIR, COCOA4FUTURE and BIOSTAR (see Figure 1 below).

Figure 1 – Articulation of the AFD-CIRAD commitment to the DeSIRAs

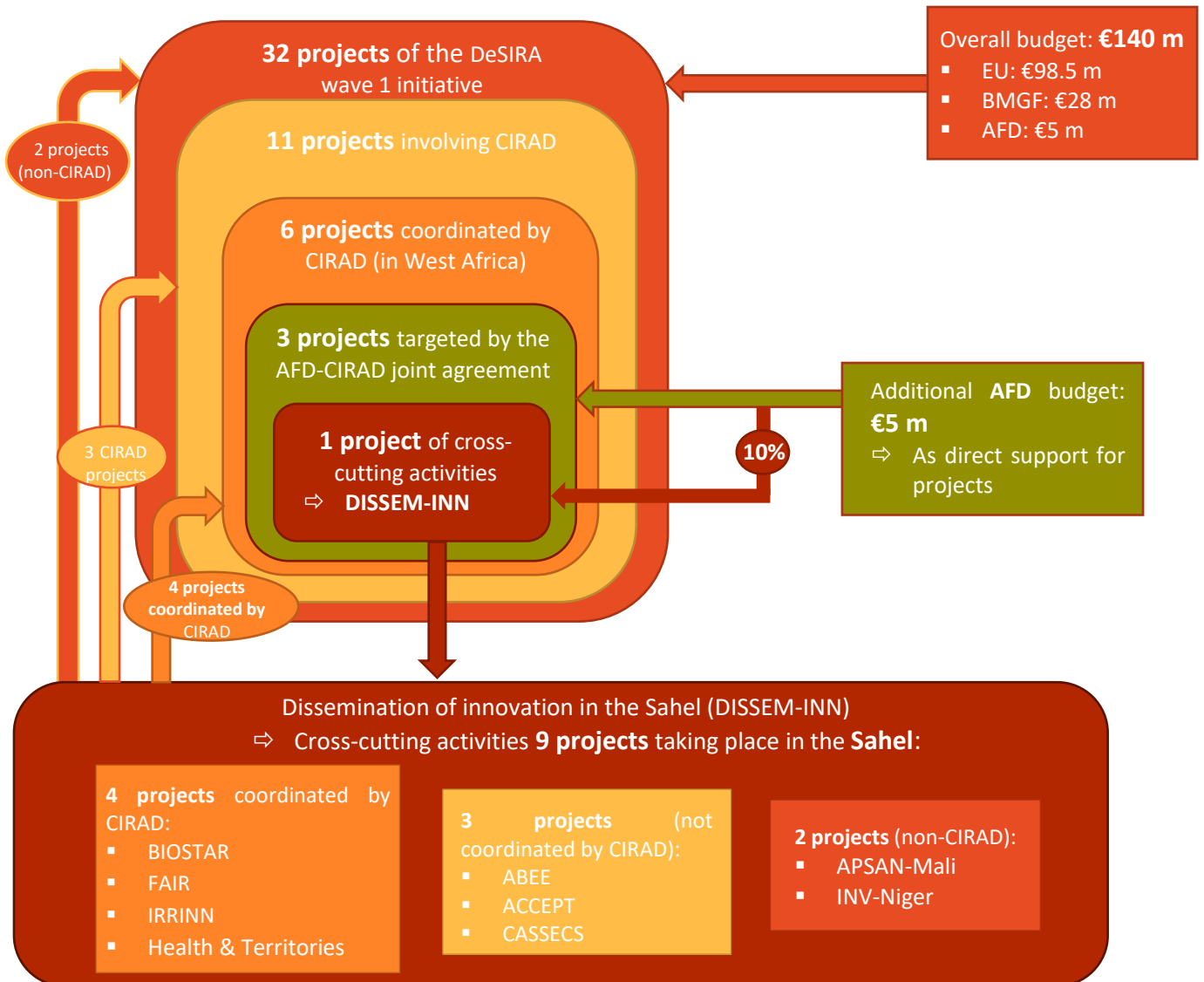


Focus on the Sahel: the launch of the DISSEM-INN project

In addition to a joint interest in West Africa, CIRAD and AFD, both MEAE operators, share the strategic orientation framework established by CICIP, which in its last statement, confirmed a renewed commitment to the Sahel zone. CIRAD integrated this provision into its own Contract of Objectives, as did AFD, through the adoption of its regional strategy, "*Grand Sahel 2020-2024*".

AFD decided to allocate **10% of the €5 m additional direct support** for the three projects selected by mutual agreement with CIRAD to **cross-cutting activities** covered by a separate, independently managed project entitled "*Dissemination of innovation in the Sahel region (DISSEM-INN)*". The aim of this project is to capitalize on knowledge relating to the innovation dissemination experience and practices developed within **nine DeSIRA projects** taking place in the **Sahel** (see Figure 2 below).

Figure 2 – Share of the DISSEM-INN budget in the overall funding of the DeSIRA initiative



- The first common characteristic of these DeSIRA projects is their geographical proximity (see Figure 3 below), since they all take place in the Sahel region and therefore target relatively similar ecological zones and types of agriculture.
- For this reason, they share common challenges, including: very high population growth, extreme poverty (approximately 50% of the population), high climate risks (a sharp increase in temperatures combined with soil degradation, which could reduce agriculture yields by 50%), and an increase in violent conflicts.¹

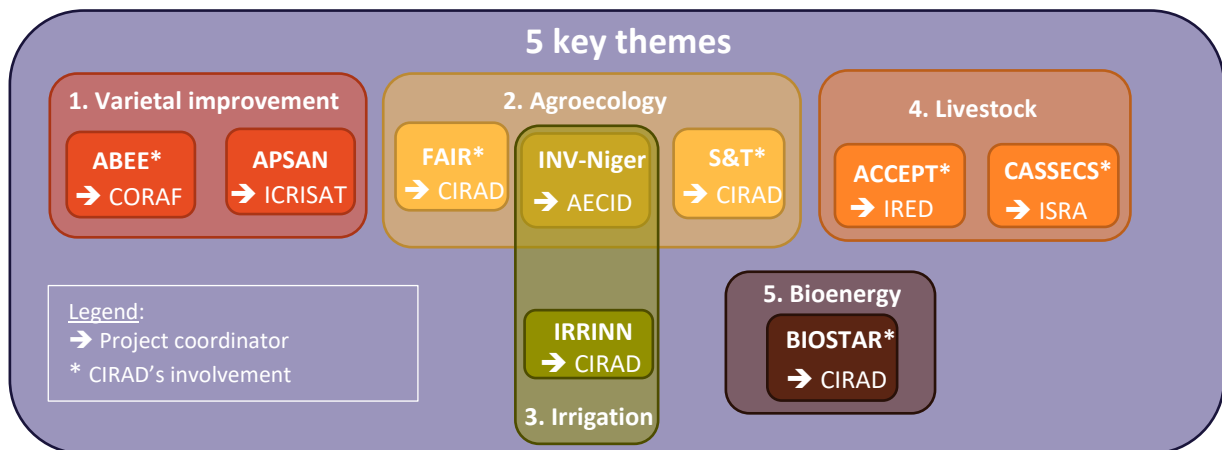
Figure 3 - Geographical distribution of the nine DeSIRA projects concerned

Project / Country	ABEE	ACCEPT	APSAN-Mali	BIOSTAR	CASSECS	FAIR	INV-Niger	IRRINN	H&T
Senegal	X			X	X	X			X
Mauritania					X				
Mali			X	X	X	X			
Burkina Faso	X			X	X	X		X	
Niger	X			X	X		X		
Chad		X			X				
Benin									X

Legend: X = includes experimental sites | X = dissemination activities only

- The projects are also characterised by the fact that they address Sahelian issues by focusing on sustainable agriculture and food security. They are therefore grouped around five key themes (see Figure 4 below) to pursue their common goal: varietal improvement, agroecology, livestock, bioenergy, and irrigation.

Figure 4 – Thematic distribution of the nine DeSIRA projects involved



¹ CHATAIGNER Jean-Marc, CHEVALIER Clémence, « Enjeux de paix et de développement : comment sortir le Sahel de la trappe à pauvreté ? », Annales des Mines - Réalités industrielles, 2019/3 (August 2019), p. 29-37. DOI : 10.3917/rindu1.193.0029. URL : <https://www.cairn-int.info/revue-realites-industrielles-2019-3-page-29.htm>

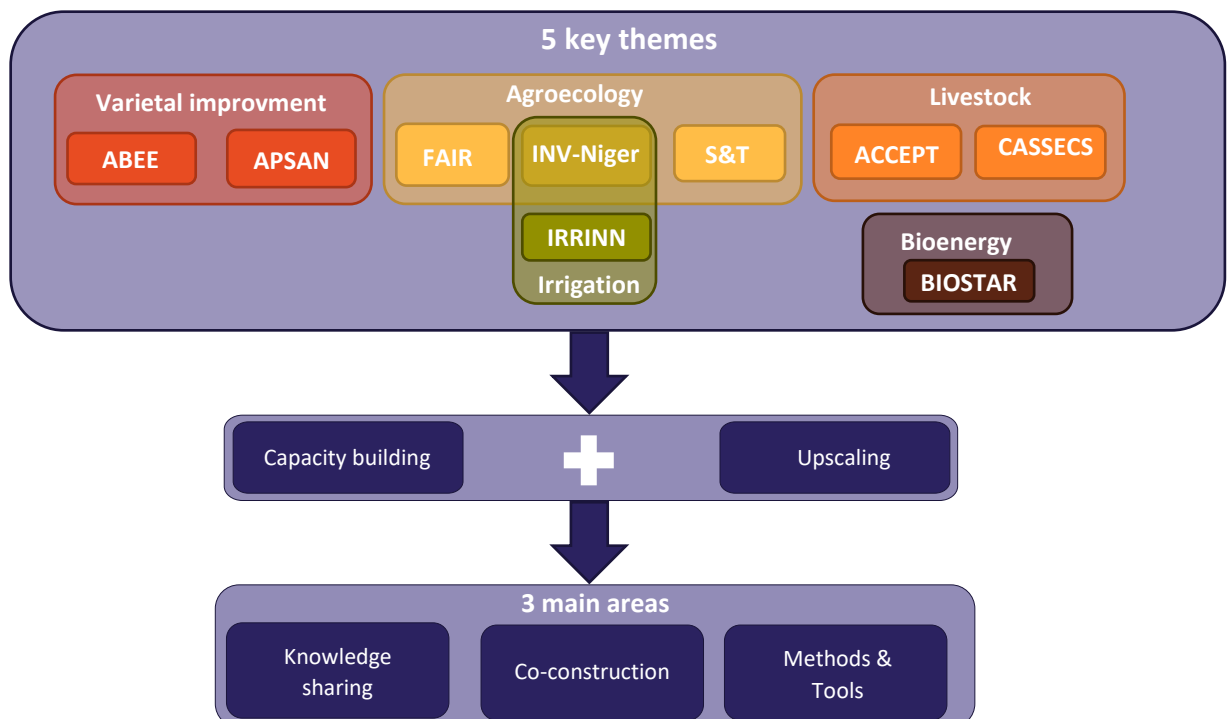
The DISSEM-INN project in principle: focus on innovation dissemination methods from a cross-cutting point of view

Objectives pursued

Based on all nine DeSIRA projects concerned by its activities, the DISSEM-INN project pursues **two main objectives**:

1. To facilitate the capitalisation and **valorisation of knowledge / practices** generated by the projects in terms of the production and dissemination of innovations:
 - Indeed, because of their geographical proximity and the challenges they share, the DeSIRA projects concerned pursue the common objective of reinforcing farmers' and pastoralists' resilience to climate change. To this end, the projects focus their research activities on the five key themes mentioned above, based on which they will be able to easily share their **main achievements and the methods** used to disseminate their innovations and ensure their adoption.
2. To **collectively reflect on the upscaling of innovations** through the development of coherent advocacy strategies at the Sahelian country and sub-regional levels:
 - Beyond their research activities, these projects also have similarities in the approach chosen in terms of stakeholder capacity building to provide them with support in the emergence of innovations and to develop an enabling environment for their larger scale dissemination. These support processes concern three areas:
 - Co-construction (of the project's goals, its impact path and its monitoring-evaluation process);
 - Knowledge sharing (data dissemination, training, advocacy);
 - Support for methods (recommendations, tools, foresight studies).

Figure 5 - Common impact path to the nine DeSIRA projects concerned



Activities planned

To achieve its two main objectives, the DISSEM-INN project timeline includes three major activities (see Figure 7 below):

- **Method sharing** (regional exchange workshop): this first activity brought together the representatives (leaders and focal points) of the nine projects involved in DISSEM-INN so that they could **exchange on their first research results and strategies envisaged to implement and promote the innovations produced** for their dissemination and adoption. Its main objective was to better understand the meaning given by these projects to the notion of "**development smart innovation**" through **three dimensions**:
 - as a *concept* in support of the project's operation (envisaged approach, theoretical framework)
 - as a field *approach* (methodologies implemented)
 - as *outcomes* (technical, organisational, institutional)

→ This workshop pursued the achievement of the first expected outcome of the DISSEM-INN project, i.e. to ensure "*the participants in the DeSIRA projects concerned will have **shared knowledge of the approaches, outcomes and lessons** of the other DeSIRA projects, enabling them to reflect on their own approaches*".
- **Support for advocacy actions** (three national workshops): this second activity will take place in each country where at least three DeSIRAs are operating, namely: **Senegal, Burkina Faso and Niger**.

Figure 6 - Geographical distribution of the three national advocacy support workshops

Project / Country	ABEE	ACCEPT	APSAN-Mali	BIOSTAR	CASSECS	FAIR	INV-Niger	IRRINN	H&T
Senegal	X			X	X	X			X
Mauritania					X				
Mali			X	X	X	X			
Burkina Faso	X			X	X	X		X	
Niger	X			X	X		X		
Chad		X			X				
Benin									X

These national workshops plan to focus more on the strategies implemented by the projects to **create favourable institutional conditions for the deployment of their innovations over larger areas**, and thus to be able to follow up on the results obtained. During each workshop, exchanges will be open to the various actors involved in the innovation processes (research institutions, producers, professional organisations, agricultural advisory institutions, ministries, specialized public services of administrations and local authorities, NGOs, private sector, etc.).

This multi-stakeholder consultation in the form of a "**science-policy interface**" will enable projects dealing with various themes within a same country to pool their achievements in terms of innovation dissemination and adoption. This knowledge pooling will inform a cross-cutting reflection on a transdisciplinary strategy for potential advocacy actions at the national level, with a view to scaling up innovations.

- These workshops pursue the achievement of the second expected outcome of the DISSEM-INN project, i.e. "*in each country where at least three projects are underway, a **discussion** will be launched **on actionable innovation processes** based on the outcomes of the DeSIRA projects concerned*".

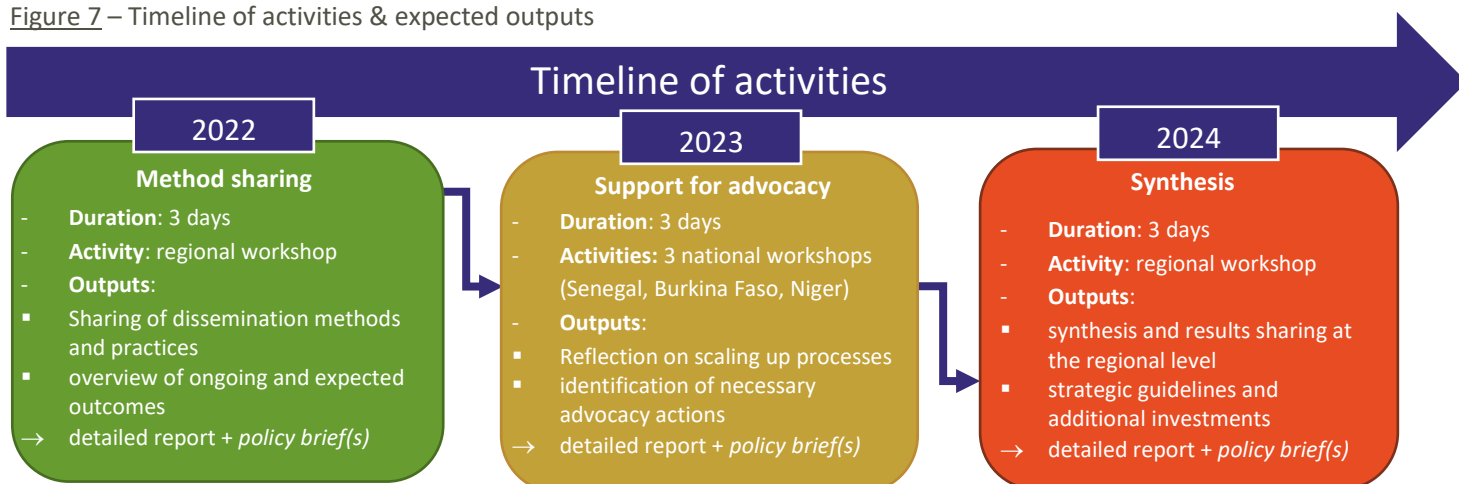
- **Synthesis** (regional review workshop): this third activity will take place over three days with all the representatives of the DeSIRA projects concerned in order to exchange on the results generated by the projects and to produce an overall synthesis.

This final "synthesis" workshop will be held to give visibility to the results of previous workshops and to capitalize on the cross-cutting contents that emerged. This regional and global knowledge, established through a co-construction process at several institutional levels, will shed light on the levers that could support the larger scale deployment of the innovations produced within the nine DeSIRA projects concerned.

This **multi-stakeholder consultation** in the form of a "*science-policy interface*" will enable projects dealing with various themes in the sub-region to pool their achievements in terms of innovation dissemination and adoption and to bring together a wide range of actors. This experience pooling will enable them to **collectively reflect on** pathways to create an institutional environment that is favorable to **innovation deployment in the Sahel** and to guide potential complementary investments.

→ This workshop pursues the achievement of the third expected outcome of the DISSEM-INN project, i.e. "*beyond the participants in the DeSIRA projects concerned, a wider range of institutional actors from research, development and civil society in the Sahel region will have access to the knowledge produced by this regular dialogue on innovation in easily accessible and understandable formats*".

Figure 7 – Timeline of activities & expected outputs



The DISSEM-INN project in practice: a cross-cutting scientific community to facilitate experience sharing at the regional level

The distribution of roles in the project management

The DISSEM-INN project is operationalized through the involvement of three groups of actors (see figure below, p. 8), each of which will have a predefined role to play in its deployment:

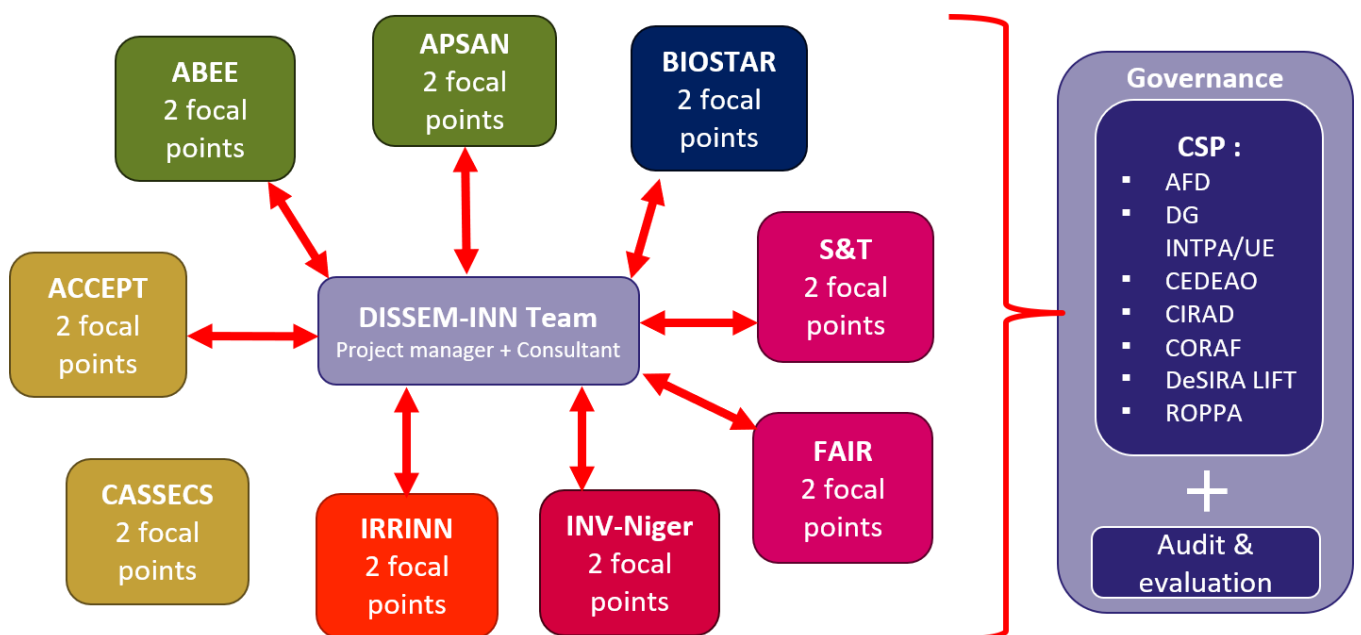
- The **coordination** team: DISSEM-INN is led by a project manager based at *the Centre de Recherches Agricoles (CRA/ISRA)* in Saint Louis (Senegal), who works in tandem with a consultant seconded by CIRAD's West Africa Regional Office (RO) to support the project, based in Dakar (Senegal).
 - This coordination team is in charge of the **organisation of the three principal activities** scheduled in the DISSEM-INN timeline.
 - The team is also in charge of **drafting the cross-cutting outputs**, including the reports and policy briefs summarising the exchanges and results of each meeting.

- The **focal points**: the coordination team relies on a **pair** of clearly identified representatives **for each of the nine DeSIRA projects** concerned, in order to have all the representatives available during the various workshops and to facilitate the dissemination of information.
 - These nine pairs are **regularly consulted** by the coordination team to prepare the activities, validate the cross-cutting outputs or ensure a simple follow-up of the projects, for information purposes.
 - The focal points are expected to **participate in the different activities** organized by the coordination team.
 - Each pair is responsible for **disseminating the information and outputs** from the workshops to **their project team**.

- The project **governance**:
 - ❖ The Project Monitoring Committee (**PMC**): this committee is made up of the main organisations involved in the funding and implementation of the DeSIRA initiative and the DISSEM-INN project (**AFD, CIRAD, DG INTPA, LIFT**), as well as regional structures involved in agricultural transition issues in the Sahel (**ECOWAS, CORAF, ROPPA**) and representatives of CIRAD departments associated with the project.
 - The committee **monitors the timeline**, meeting at the end of each of the three major sessions scheduled in order to find out about the results of the exchanges and to give its opinion on the next stages of the roadmap.
 - The committee also contributes to the **dissemination of the results** obtained and discusses their implications.

 - ❖ An external consultancy firm is responsible for **auditing and evaluating** the project once it is completed.

Figure 8 – Actor distribution in the project management



Goals and benefits

Through the organisation of the workshops and other ancillary activities, the coordination team has set two cross-cutting objectives that transcend the framework defined by the project agenda, namely:



Collective intelligence: the sessions organized by the coordination team will **be opportunities for the** focal points to exchange, so that they can **compare** the processes underway in **concrete innovation situations** within their respective projects. They will thus be able to benefit from the **comparison of theoretical and technical points of view** to establish a **critical self-reflection**, taking account of the different contexts and scales.

More specifically, the goal will be to:

- characterize the innovation processes by identifying the conditions for their realisation (potential obstacles) and clarifying the necessary support methods;
- specify the role of the networks of actors or institutional spheres that influence these processes at the different levels in order to develop strategies that benefit from these territorial dynamics.

The pursuit of this first objective can generate positive effects on the practices of DeSIRA members in the daily management of their projects through the **enrichment by peers** (and with partners) that these exchanges induce:

- This helps to increase the efficiency of practices by improving the methodological approach to innovation systems and leveraging know-how.
- It also takes advantage of potential synergies between the various initiatives and makes it possible to pool efforts in the planning of upscaling.



A resources space: in its role as a “*facilitator of information circulation*”, the coordination team is responsible for collecting or **relaying materials of common interest** to the focal points, who can in return transmit documents deemed useful for their counterparts. More specifically, the role of the coordination team will contribute to:

- formalising the exchange of “**good practices**” resulting from the workshops in the form of contents that are easy to access and mobilize as needed (such as the summary reports or policy briefs);
- enhancing these resources by ensuring the **connection with** the different focal points and the **platforms for exchange** on the innovation developed and/or mobilized within the projects.



The pursuit of this second objective underpins the creation of **platforms for exchange on innovation dissemination methods** at the regional level, which will be implemented through a digital tool and will thus constitute a useful knowledge base available to the focal points. The focal points and others members of their project team will be able to find the deliverables produced by the coordination team there, and will be able to enrich it through their own publications.

- In the long term, it is hoped that this interdisciplinary **scientific community** built around a digital platform will be structured and perpetuated in order to foster **mutual support** between partners, whether they wish to be directly advised by their peers or rather to seek regional expertise and/or contextualized analyses.



Glossary of acronyms

ABEE: a DeSIRA project entitled “*West Africa Breeding Networks and Extension Empowerment*”, led by CORAF. Its global objective is to contribute to the sustainable increase in agricultural productivity and the resilience of smallholder farmers in the face of population growth, economic vulnerability and climate change.

ACCEPT: a DeSIRA project entitled “*Adapting access to agro-pastoral resources in the context of mobility and climate change, for pastoral farming in Chad*”, led by the Institut de Recherches en Élevage pour le Développement (IRED - Livestock Research Institute for Development) in Chad, with the global objective of contributing to increasing the resilience of pastoralists and agro-pastoralists to climate change (CC), by adapting access to agro-pastoral resources in the context of mobility and climate change, and by co-designing innovations for pastoralists and agro-pastoralists in Chad.

AECID: the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation is a public body under the aegis of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, via the State Secretariat for International Cooperation and Latin America. AECID is responsible for the design, implementation and management of development cooperation projects and programmes.

AFD: Groupe Agence Française de Développement (AFD - French Development Agency) is a public establishment that implements France’s policy on development and international solidarity in a range of different fields (climate, biodiversity, peace, education, urban planning, health and governance).

APSAN: a DeSIRA project entitled “*Enhancing crop productivity and climate resilience for food and nutrition security in Mali*”, led by the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-arid Tropics (ICRISAT), with the global objective of contributing to sustainably increasing crop productivity and farmers’ income in the context of climate change.

BIOSTAR: a DeSIRA project entitled “*Sustainable bioenergy for small agri-food enterprises in rural West Africa*”, led by CIRAD, with the global objective of promoting the sustainable development of food processing SMEs in rural areas thanks to innovation in sustainable bioenergy and the optimization of food processing.

BMGF: the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation: an American philanthropic foundation set up in January 2000. At the global level, its main objectives are to improve healthcare and to reduce extreme poverty, while in the United States, the main aim of the foundation is to increase access to education and to information technologies.

CASSECS: a DeSIRA project entitled “*Carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emissions in (agro)sylvopastoral ecosystems in the Sahelian CILSS states*”, led by the Institut Sénégalais de Recherche Agricole (ISRA - Senegalese Agricultural Research Institute), with the global objective of improving the assessment of the carbon footprint of Sahelian agro-sylvopastoral ecosystems in order to better quantify their impacts on climate change for the development of livestock policies adapted to the Sahel, strengthen the capacities of actors involved and support changes in practices and policies.

CICID: Comité Interministériel de la Coopération Internationale et du Développement (CICID - Interministerial Committee for International Cooperation and Development): a French government body chaired by the Prime Minister, tasked with defining the methods for implementing France’s official development assistance (ODA). It sets guidelines relating to the objectives and procedures of international cooperation and official development assistance policy, in all of its bilateral and multilateral components.

CIRAD : the Agricultural Research Centre for International Development: a French organisation founded as a public establishment (EPIC), under the joint authority of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation and the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. It supports French science diplomacy operations through the construction of knowledge and solutions to invent resilient agricultural systems in a more sustainable and inclusive world.

COCOA4FUTURE: a DeSIRA project entitled “*Sustainability of production systems and new dynamics in the cocoa sector*”, led by CIRAD, with the global objective of improving the sustainability of cocoa plantations while preserving the environment by adapting cocoa cropping systems to the changing context in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana.

CORAF: the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development: an international non-profit association of national agricultural research systems (NARS) from 23 West and Central African countries. This is the largest of the four sub-regional research organizations (SROs) that are members of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA).

CRA/ISRA: Centre de Recherche Agricoles de St Louis (Saint Louis Agricultural Research Centre): connected to ISRA, the goal of this centre is to contribute to socioeconomic development efforts, through the production of technologies and knowledge and the development of technical innovations to improve the wellbeing of rural populations by increasing their income.

PMC: Project Monitoring Committee: made up of the main institutions that play a prominent role in financing the DeSIRA projects or in agricultural research and development in the Sahel, this committee is responsible for monitoring the agenda, meeting at the end of each of the three major sessions planned in the context of the project in order to find out about the results generated by exchanges and to discuss implications.

DeSIRA: an initiative entitled “*Development Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture*” launched in 2017 during the One Planet Summit and led by the European Commission Directorate General for International Partnerships, with the global objective of boosting innovation in agriculture and the transformation of food systems in partner countries to make them more resilient to the effects of climate change.

DG INTPA: the European Commission Directorate General for International Partnerships (formerly DG DEVCO) is tasked with designing and developing policies on issues of international cooperation and development for the European Union.

DISSEM-INN: a DeSIRA project entitled “*Dissemination of innovations in the Sahel region*”, led by CIRAD and the subject of this paper, with the global objective of facilitating the capitalisation and valorisation of knowledge and practices generated by the projects in terms of the production and dissemination of innovations.

RO: Regional Office West Africa - Dry Zone: CIRAD’s institutional body that manages cooperation activities in terms of research conducted in 11 countries across a range of fields (pastoralism, rural land tenure, ecological intensification, plant pests, forest resources, food security, organic matter recycling, bioenergy, etc.).

EU: European Union: the European Union is a *sui generis* political and economic union of 27 European states that delegate or transfer by treaty the exercise of certain powers to EU bodies.

FAIR-Sahel: a DeSIRA project entitled “*Promoting agroecological intensification of agriculture to boost the resilience of farms in the Sahel*”, led by CIRAD, with the global objective of creating the conditions for small producers in the Sahel to set up innovative technical systems for agroecological intensification (AEI), enabling them to ensure more efficient and sustainable management of resources and to improve their income.

Grupo Tragsa: this group of public companies is a Spanish government instrument aimed at rural development and nature conservation. The group is structured around the parent company, Tragsa, which is responsible for implementing works and services, and the subsidiary, Tragsatec, which is responsible for engineering, consultancy and technical assistance.

ICRISAT/CGIAR: the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-arid Tropics is a non-political, non-profit organization that conducts innovative agricultural research and capacity building for sustainable development with different partners throughout the world. The goal of ICRISAT is to help 600 million poor people to overcome hunger, poverty and environmental degradation in the semi-arid tropics through more efficient agricultural systems.

INV-Niger: a DeSIRA project entitled *“Innovations for the sustainable intensification of resilient irrigated agricultural systems in the face of climate change in Niger”*, led by AECID, with the global objective of contributing to improving the resilience of Nigerien families to climate change, through innovation in irrigated agro-systems. It is implemented by Grupo Tragsa.

IRED: Institut de Recherche en Elevage pour le Développement (Livestock Research Institute for Development): made up of the veterinary and livestock research laboratory, this is a public establishment under the aegis of the Ministry of Livestock.

IRRINN: a DeSIRA project entitled *“Intensifying agricultural production by scaling up innovative and adapted irrigation practices and technologies”*, led by CIRAD, with the global objective of identifying ways to deal with the technical, financial, economic, organizational and institutional constraints that limit the development of small-scale irrigation in Burkina Faso.

ISRA : Institut Sénégalais de Recherche Agricole (Senegalese Agricultural Research Institute): a scientific and technical applied research institute established in 1974 to design, organise and conduct research on the rural sector in Senegal. Its role consists in generating knowledge and appropriate technologies to achieve the objectives of food security, job and wealth creation, and thus the economic, social, scientific and cultural development of the country.

LIDISKI: a DeSIRA project entitled *“Livestock disease surveillance knowledge integration”*, led by CIRAD, with the objective of improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in northern Nigeria.

ROPPA: Network of Farmers’ Organizations and Agricultural Producers of West Africa: an initiative specific to farmers’ organizations and agricultural producers in West Africa. It brings together 13 national farmers’ organizations (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo).