

PRESS RELEASE 01

Issued 8 March 2021 for immediate use

3 pages including notes



www.sustainsahel.net

SustainSahel to focus on good practices to integrate crops, shrubs, and livestock to improve rural livelihoods in Western Sahel

The overall goal of the EU-funded SustainSahel project is to promote practices which enhance soil quality and yields, build resilience towards climate change, and contribute to food security and better livelihoods.

With 18 partners from 10 African and European countries, the project coordinated by FiBL- Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, Switzerland - is funded under Horizon 2020, the European Union's framework programme for research and innovation.

Harun Cicek of the Department of International Cooperation at FiBL and Coordinator of SustainSahel explains: "Systematic integration of crops, shrubs and livestock (CSL) together with organic and conservation agriculture practices, such as mulching crop residues and reduced tillage, have significant potential to enhance soils, yields and build resilience. For dryland regions such as the Sahel which provide food for millions of people, significant yield increases between 100 and 800% are achievable by introducing, for example, woody perennials in arable fields to improve soil and water availability."

Working in partnership with farmer organisations and advisory services together with farming communities, SustainSahel will build on existing knowledge and related projects to establish seven farm study sites in Senegal, Burkina Faso, and Mali to validate existing and enable novel practices to emerge. The local actors involved with milk, meat, grain, cotton, and other regional value chains will be closely involved at all stages including at the seven Innovation Platforms where 'grass roots' issues will be identified, and solutions discussed.

"Women are shaping Western Sahel and savannah production systems," continues Harun Cicek, "and are key to ensuring that the SustainSahel project not only generates the new knowledge needed for transformation but also have a significant role in ensuring that knowledge is utilised. Women will take leadership roles in demonstration and piloting activities, workshops and focus groups, with the farmer-to-farmer training videos to be produced will help narrow the knowledge gap between men and women as well as between youth and elders."

The 5-year project is designed to contribute to achieving many of the UN's Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) - SDGs 2, 13 & 15 by developing and supporting implementation of practices to improve soil water capture/holding capacity and organic matter content; increasing productivity through optimised crops, shrubs, livestock (CSL) integration, and climate mitigation. Through capacity and partnership development, networking and a multi-actor approach enhancing the conditions for innovation, Sustain Sahel will also contribute to SDGs 1, 5, 16 & 17.



“The project’s overall aim is to boost the resilience and sustainable intensification potential of agricultural production systems in West Africa,” concludes Harun Cicek, “and support fruitful co-operation across the Sahel as well as between African and European institutions.”

Full project details are available on the project website www.sustainsahel.net. Follow news and release of images on the project’s social media channels <https://www.sustainsahel.net/communications.html>.

Ends/ Notes follow

Selection of photos available: request high resolution copies, full captions & copyright information



Protecting saplings is essential & time intensive



Trees provide shade as well as produce



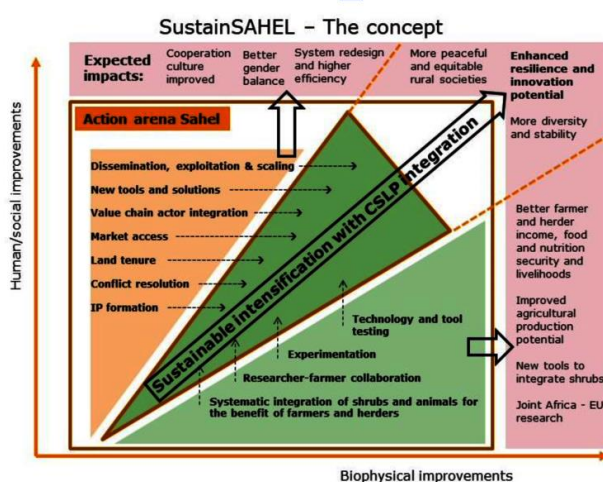
Soil degradation results in low yields



Baobab trees with harvested cropland beneath

Notes to Editors:

1. Further information regarding the project including requests for interviews with the project team and photos available for publication contact Minerva Communications UK at sustainsahel@minervacomms.net - +44 (0) 1264 326427 +44(0)7887-714957
2. This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 sustainable food security programme. Project No: 861974 under call H2020-SFS-2019-2
3. The SustainSahel Concept



Notes continue over -



4. SustainSahel Partners – full details available on project website
<https://www.sustainsahel.net/partners.html>
- AA - Access Agriculture, Belgium/ Benin
AFAAS - African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services, Burkina Faso
AOPP - Association of Professional Farmer Organisations, Mali
CIRAD - French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development, France
CPF - The Peasant Confederation of Faso, Burkina Faso
CSE - Ecological Monitoring Centre, Senegal
CNCR - National Council for Consultation and Rural Cooperation, Senegal
FiBL - Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, Switzerland (Coordinator)
INERA - Institute of Environment and Agricultural Research, Burkina Faso
IER - Institute of Rural Economy, Mali
IITA - International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Kenya
IPR/IFRA - Rural Polytechnic Institute, Mali
ISRA - Senegalese Institute of Agricultural Research, Senegal
IRD - French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development, France
MIN – Minerva Communications Ltd, United Kingdom
UNB - Nazi BONI University, Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso
UHOH - University of Hohenheim, Germany
UNI KASSEL - University of Kassel, Germany
5. Social media links:
- <https://twitter.com/SustainSahelEU>
 - <https://www.instagram.com/sustainsaheleu/>
 - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/sustain-sahel-eu/>
 - <https://www.researchgate.net/project/SustainSAHEL>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/sustainsaheleu/>

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