



Strengthening agro-pastoral systems and household incomes in the Sahel

Pro-ARIDES is helping rural communities in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger build more resilient agro-pastoral systems. Working with governments, civil society, research institutions, and local organisations, the programme connects climate-resilient production, inclusive markets, sustainable natural resource management, and stronger local governance to improve food security and household incomes, with the goal of directly reaching 2.1 million people by 2030.

Challenge and opportunity

[Up to 40% of the world's land](#) is degraded, threatening food security, biodiversity, and rural livelihoods. In Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, climate shocks, insecurity, and growing pressure on land, water, and pasture weaken agro-pastoral systems and household incomes. Restoring productive landscapes offers an opportunity to strengthen food production, reduce resource-related tensions, and expand economic opportunities. But restoration alone is not enough: lasting progress depends on healthier ecosystems supporting secure livelihoods and on communities having the institutions, resource rights, and market opportunities to sustain both.

Our approach

For many agricultural, pastoral, and agro-pastoral households in the Sahel, increasing production is only part of the challenge. Limited access to finance and markets, land, water, and pasture, and weak influence over local decisions prevent production and higher yields from translating into better food security and incomes. Pro-ARIDES works with governments, technical services, producer organisations, research institutions, civil society, and local partners to address these barriers by:

- Connecting agricultural and pastoral production with food security, economic inclusion, local governance, and sustainable natural resource management.
- Supporting households to adopt climate-resilient agro-pastoral practices and diversify their production and income-generating activities.
- Strengthening agro-pastoral household links to financial services and markets.
- Building the capacity of local organisations and government to promote the meaningful participation of women and young people in decision-making.
- Improving public institutions' planning, accountability, and resource governance.

Pro-ARIDES advances the following SDGs:



Project snapshot



Project

Agri-Food Programme for Integrated Resilience and Economic Development in the Sahel (Pro-ARIDES)



Countries

Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger



Duration

2021-2030 (Phase I: 2021-2025 | Phase II: 2026-2030)



Value

EUR 125 million

Funding partners

Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Implementation partners

SNV (lead), CARE Netherlands, WUR, KIT, and 23 local partners

Building momentum

Since its inception, Pro-ARIDES has worked across 953 villages and 71 municipalities in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger. Over the years, the programme has had a positive impact, contributing to the achievement of the partnership's goals and vision for change. These include:

- More than 867,000 people improved their production systems and livelihoods.
- 35% of households diversified production, 72% diversified income sources, and 67% increased net income.
- More than 3,600 local organisations strengthened their governance capacity; women and young people now hold key positions in 91% of them.
- 68% of municipalities held annual citizen consultations, while accountability and transparency have improved in 65%.
- Phase I of Pro-ARIDES has improved the lives of 142,677 households, achieving 101% of its target.

Looking ahead

Building on Phase I results, Pro-ARIDES will consolidate proven models, expand to 77 communes, and reach 256,400 additional households, bringing the programme closer to its goal of reaching 2.1 million people by 2030. Institutionalised services, resource-governance mechanisms, and local accountability are expected to sustain progress beyond the programme.

About SNV

SNV is a global development partner rooted in and working across Africa and Asia. With 60 years of experience and over 90% of our team coming from and working within the countries where we operate, our mission is to strengthen capacities and catalyse partnerships that transform agri-food, energy and water systems to enable sustainable and more equitable lives for all.

Contact SNV's Pro-ARIDES project team

Jean de Matha Ouedraogo, Project Manager, SNV in Niger
niger@snv.org