

eMag of climate action in Africa

**#7 Agriculture, Food and
Reforestation**
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Press review

Jean Marie Takoulev

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Jean Marie Takoulev, Editor-in-chief of Afrik21, gives an overview of the latest news on agriculture and forest management on the African continent.



What can we learn from the COP15 on Desertification and the news of the sector, especially in Côte d'Ivoire?

Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire), which hosted COP15, is the leading producer of cocoa, whose production is the cause of the largest deforestation on the African continent. This situation is alarming, at a time when the effects of climate change, such as droughts, are becoming increasingly worrying. At the end of the event, participants set the goal of restoring 1 billion hectares degraded lands by 2030.

In addition, several multinationals such as Nestlé have promised to act in favor of the Ivorian forest cover as part of the Abidjan Initiative

To ensure sustainable cocoa production, the Ivorian government announced the launch of an agroforestry project supported by the FAO and the United Nations Global Environment Facility. The GEF is also funding a large-scale land restoration and reforestation program launched earlier this year in Zimbabwe, a country well-known for its rich biodiversity.

What is the latest news in the sector outside the COP15 Desertification?

Numerous projects are being implemented throughout Africa to strengthen the resilience of agricultural systems and food security in the face of drought.

- MOROCCO: World Bank lends €163 million for drought-resilient agriculture

Morocco is facing an unprecedented drought. This is why the country is seeking to develop desalination plant (Agadir) in order to meet its drinking water and irrigation needs for crops?

- SOMALIA: Stockholm releases \$2 million for drought resilient agriculture

Somalia is not receiving the same attention from the major development banks. The last funding obtained was granted by Sweden via the FAO.

- UGANDA: UNDP and COMESA boost climate-smart agriculture



News : Climate-biodiversity demonstrator project on corridors in Guinea



Anne Raimat, Biodiversity Director at Climate Chance was in Abidjan for the COP15 on Desertification. She presents the messages carried by Climate Chance during the event and introduces the notion of ecological connectivity which is at the heart of Climate Chance's Biodiversity projects.

What are the messages brought by Climate Chance in Abidjan?

We were surprised that the issue of cities is not a big subject of the COP on Desertification. However, in Africa as in Europe, the relationship between the urban and rural worlds is fundamental. In 2050, more than 60% of the population will live in cities and the urban sprawl will have important consequences: land artificialisation which increases drought and aridity, reduction of agricultural land, water supply, energy and food for cities at the expense of peripheral territories.

At Climate Chance, we believe that it is necessary to establish a dialogue between the urban and rural territories in order to build common solutions.

We are advocating to decrease the gap between the three COPs (Climate, Biodiversity and Desertification) whose subjects are strongly linked. The COP on Desertification remains little publicized and has few resources.

What is ecological connectivity?

Since January 2022, I have been working on a project related to biodiversity corridors in order to promote dialogue between stakeholders and to connect climate and biodiversity issues.

On the one hand, we observed that the protection of biodiversity has positive effects on ecosystems, the climate, the economy, and populations. On the other hand, the migration of animals is hindered by anthropic activities (like agriculture). The confinement of animals in reserves impoverishes biodiversity and many of them continue to migrate. Corridors therefore take on their full meaning. This is a cross-cutting subject that must be at the heart of the debates about : planning, reforestation, agriculture, water, compensation, local development, etc.

What is the Guinea Biodiversity Corridor Demonstrator Project?

An international coalition will be launched in late 2022. We are working on a biodiversity corridor that goes from the North to the South of the country. The steps:

- Map the corridors, taking into account the current mining projects on the ground to divide the territory into different project territories.
- Organize governance and develop specific actions.
- Converge donor funding by using certification.

Best practice:

The cooperation project

DEDURAM in Guinea-Bissau

Guillaume Babin introduces an extract of the film De Guérande à Bissau, paroles de producteurs (From Guérande to Bissau, producers' words) directed by Nicolas Ploumpidis and Alexandre Berger for the project Sustainable Development of Mangrove Agriculture (DEDURAM), a cooperation project between the salt workers of Guérande and the Guinean salt workers and farmers which takes place in Guinea-Bissau



What are the objectives of UNIVERS-SEL ?

UNIVERS-SEL is an NGO which supports the agriculture in two sectors: salt and rice growing of mangrove. The highest level of expertise rests on the volunteers who are producers of salt of Guérande. This expertise makes the relevance and the quality of our projects.

What is the project we saw in the clip?

For each project, we work directly with the farmers to provide technical and organizational solutions to produce more, in a more ecological and less heavy way.

For example, we see in the film a production method that allows us to completely eliminate the use of wood combustion (1 ton of salt usually consumes 3 tons of wood). Solar salt farming allows to reduce by 99% the emission of greenhouse gases.

In terms of rice cultivation, the developments decided upon with the producers make it possible to secure harvests and better manage periods of drought and heavy rainfall.

Where is the project today?

More than 700 producers and over 1000 women salt producers have been trained.

The techniques developed have been used in 3 other salt farming projects and 6 other rice farming projects. This allows the impact of the DEDURAM project to be multiplied.

Watch the film De Guérande à Bissau paroles de producteurs (Vostf) [here](#).



Decentralised cooperation: Urban agriculture in Dakar and Milan

Mrs. Mboji presented the urban agriculture project of micro-gardens carried by the city of Dakar within the framework of its decentralized cooperation agreement with the city of Milan, supported by the FAO.

What is the context of this decentralized cooperation project in Dakar?

Dakar is a megalopolis with an exponential demographic growth and a high density that experiences important migration phenomena. This situation creates a great challenge to feed the inhabitants in a situation where agricultural areas are gradually disappearing. The population of the city faces serious problems of nutrition and poverty.

With the city of Milan and the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the FAO (as technical partner), Dakar has set up a decentralized cooperation project on micro-gardening in order to propose an alternative and sustainable food system.

Italian NGOs helped define the sales strategy and the University of Milan participated in the research to facilitate the organization of micro-gardeners.

The city of Dakar has been managing the project itself since 2010.

What results and benefits have been observed since the creation of the micro-gardens?

The main benefit is the strengthening of the city's agricultural and food resilience.

This was highlighted during the Covid-19 pandemic, of which Dakar was the epicenter in Senegal. Micro-gardening provided a real sustainable agricultural alternative and reduced the negative effects of sanitary measures that prevented people from getting food. Moreover, there is no extra cost and no great distance to travel. This consumption of vegetables has ensured a better quality of life while diversifying the diet of Dakar families.

What is the status of the project today?

We are working on strengthening the sites because the population is very demanding. We are also launching a 3-month training course for the population.

It is a replicable project because this technology is very inexpensive



Best practice:

The FEDIAAC-WCIDFAC project, women and agriculture in Senegal

Fatou Ndoye, Program Officer for Enda Sahel, represents the FEDIAAC-WCIDFAC project (Women committed to the inclusive development and food self-sufficiency of their communities) supported by Enda Sahel, WECF and Dakar.

What is the project FEDIAAC ?

The Senegalese context is marked by the importance of the informal sector in which women play a key role, particularly in the food sector, as well as by a high rate of unemployment, especially among urban youth.

The project aims to contribute to the creation of a resilient food chain by improving women's incomes, supporting the creation of territorial platforms and enabling the equal participation of women. The funding comes from AFD in the framework of post-Covid support.

What are the results of the diagnosis?

- Disappearance of arable land in favor of buildings from 457ha to 56ha since 1966
- Sector with 80% of women
- 75% work in less than 500m2
- Development of tabletop cultivation launched by the city of Dakar
- Development of short cycle cultivation
- 94% of people affected by the Covid-19 crisis
- Majority of women over 30

- Hygiene problems due to small workspace
- Lack of a system for collecting and monitoring accounting data
- Lack of equipment
- Income higher than the Senegalese minimum wage
- Lack of training
- Weak links between the different levels (market gardening, processing and catering)

In concrete terms, what has the project achieved?

- Training of 680 women farmers
- Launch of a certification process allowing young people to obtain a diploma
- Capacity building
- Solar equipment, tables
- Set up of platforms for women producers

Visit WCIDFAC on the [cartography for action](#) !



Next events

Join us on Thursday 30 June 2022

from 1 to 2 pm GMT

for the eMag on Sustainable Mobility and Transport in Africa!



Next in-person event:

Week for Sustainable Mobility and Climate

from October 3 to 7, 2022 in Dakar, Senegal.



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