SENEGAL IN THE AGE OF NEW FERTILIZER FORMULAS – STAKEHOLDERS’ PERCEPTIONS

1. CONTEXT

As part of the implementation of Dundël Suuf activities, nutrient deficiencies of Senegal’s soils were determined throughout the country, resulting in the development of 16 maps. These maps characterize the soil on the basis of their nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, boron, calcium, copper, iron, magnesium, manganese, sodium, sulfur, and zinc content, as well as their organic matter, cation exchange capacity, pH, and texture.

Thus, they are able to show the level of soil fertility compared to the needs of crops.

Following the soil fertility mapping, 16 new fertilizer formulas were developed by the Senegalese Institute of Agronomic Research (ISRA) to be tested on the main crops in the country: millet, rice, and groundnut. These tests are being conducted in 194 plots distributed across the different agroecological zones.

To assess the progress of the tests and to gather the perceptions of producers and the private fertilizer sector on the effects of the new formulas, a guided tour to the Groundnut Basin, Casamance, and eastern Senegal was conducted in October.

Photo 1: Tests of new fertilizer formulas on millet, groundnut, and rice plots in the Groundnut Basin (CNRA of Bambey and Nioro)

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At the end of the visit, the producers expressed their satisfaction and their optimism regarding the new formulas, which will be a means to increase their agricultural production.

II. WHAT THEY SAID...

... about peanut

"The new formula promises better yields compared to the old formula."

Mareme Faye (Bambey - Silane)  
Ibrahima Sané (Koussy 3)  
Daouda Gueye (Bambey Sérère)
Results

... about rice

The plot with the new formula developed faster and matured more than the others. The grains are heavier compared to those grown with the old formula.

Mame Diarra Thiam (Madina gueyene - Nioro)
Boubacar Diedhiou (Niaguiss)
Fatoumata Diaraye Ba (Maire Sinthiou Malem)

... about millet

The plants in the plot with the new formula have more tillers and spikes than those in the plot where the old formula was applied.

Souleymane Diallo (Bambey)
Malang Manga (Séfa)
Lamarana Diallo (Vélingara)