

# Blog “Sustainable Land Management in Sub-Saharan Africa: Improving livelihoods through local research”



## INTRODUCTION



Our blog is intended for project staff as well as interested stakeholders from science, policy and practice, to share experiences and mutually learn. It is an opportunity to showcase the multi-faceted nature in which we improve livelihoods and support sustainable land management through local research.

This current blog, prepared by Dr. Hycenth Tim Ndah from the University of Hohenheim, shares key insights and consequent recommendations from a field mission conducted by the regional project **COINS** in May 2024. The full field mission report can be found [here](#).

## STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURAL RESILIENCE IN SENEGAL

### KEY INSIGHTS FROM A FIELD MISSION TO SENEGAL

The **COINS** project, which focuses on sustainable land management and climate risk evaluation, conducted a field mission in Senegal from May 27 to June 2, 2024. Led by the University of Hohenheim (UHOH) and the Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF), in collaboration with local partners, the mission aimed to explore farmers’ coping strategies and risk management practices across the regions of Podor and Dagana

Key findings from this mission revealed the multifaceted challenges faced by smallholder farmers, including climate change, limited financial services, poor infrastructure, and organizational issues. Farmers employ both short-term coping strategies and long-term risk management measures to address these challenges. Regional differences were observed: for instance, in Podor, irrigation issues and fluctuating weather patterns destabilize farming, while in Galoya, limited access to finance hinders investment in

climate-resilient technologies, while in the Dagana region (Kassack area) observed challenges include a shortage of mechanized harvesting equipment and complex relationships between crop farmers and pastoralists

### BASED ON THESE INSIGHTS, SEVERAL RECOMMENDATIONS WERE MADE:

The need to:

- **Implement** programs and initiatives that encourage the adoption of sustainable intensification and land management practices across Senegal and West Africa.
- **Facilitate** access to financial services for farmers, enabling investment in inputs, mechanization, and climate-resilient technologies.
- **Invest** in irrigation infrastructure maintenance, repair, and modernization to ensure reliable water access for farmers.
- **Develop** strategies to improve coordination and collaboration among farmers, government agencies, and other stakeholders to enhance resource management and address infrastructure challenges.
- **Provide** training, subsidies, and access to appropriate machinery to encourage the adoption of SRI, mitigating labour-intensive requirements and reducing costs.



In conclusion, overcoming the challenges faced by smallholder farmers in Senegal requires a multi-pronged approach. By focusing on sustainable practices, financial inclusion, and infrastructure improvements, Senegal can build a more resilient and productive agricultural sector, ensuring food security and economic growth for its rural communities.

### PHOTO

Courtesy of **COINS**

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## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), within the strategy of its platform [Research for Sustainability](#) (Forschung für Nachhaltigkeit, FONa), the **INTERFACES** project works with four regional projects – **COINS**, **DecLaRe**, **InfoRange** and **Minodu** – to strengthen the integration, coherence and reach in the area of sustainable land management.

## MEDIA

Follow us for updates on the research programme on our [website](#) and follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and on [D-Groups](#).

IDOS Newsletter December 2024 - [Official Side Event at COP16 in Riyadh explores Youth's Role in Innovation](#)

## PREVIOUS BLOG CONTRIBUTIONS

[“UNCCD COP16 Side Event: The Role of Youth in Innovation for SLM”](#)

[“Geotools for smallholder farmers”](#)

## LATEST BRIEFING SERIES

1/2024 - [Fostering gender-responsive innovation adoption among smallholder farmers in Africa](#)

## LATEST VIDEOS

[Funding conditions of transdisciplinary research for sustainable development in Africa](#)

[Making Wangatchi: Traditional vs New Approach - Interview with Oroudjo Amina](#)  
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