



CATALOG OF TOOLS, MECHANISMS, AND INITIATIVES FOR REDUCING GENDER INEQUALITIES IN LAND TENURE IN SENEGAL




GENDER GAP
ANALYSIS PART 2
2024

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

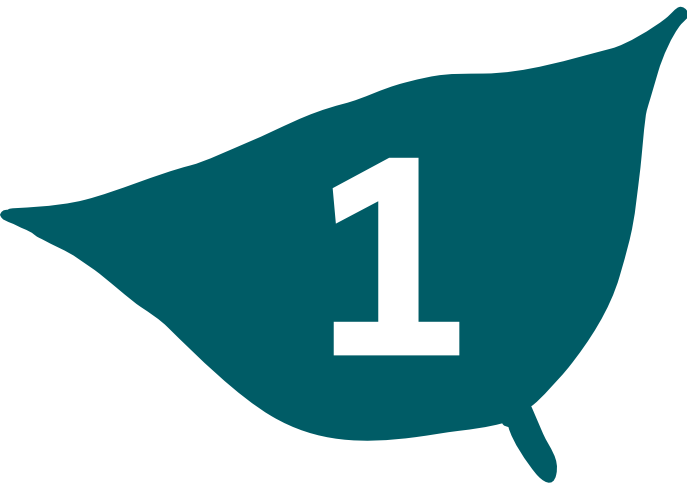


AFD	French Development Agency (Agence Française de Développement)
AJS	Association of Senegalese Lawyers (Association des Juristes Sénégalaises)
ANFF	National Alliance for Women and Land (Alliance Nationale Femme et Foncière)
APEFAM	Support for the Promotion of Family Farms in Matam Region
ASAMM	Food Security Improvement and Marketing Support Project in Matam region
BOAD	West African Development Bank (Banque Ouest-Africaine de développement)
CDE	expanded land commission (<i>commission domaniales élargies</i>)
CNCR	National Council for Consultation and Cooperation of Rural People (Conseil National de Concertation et de Coopération des Ruraux)
COSPE	Cooperation for the Development of Emerging Countries (Coopération pour le développement des pays émergents)
CSO	civil society organization
CSR	corporate social responsibility
ENDA Pronat	Environment Development Action for the Natural Protection of Land (Environnement Développement Action pour la Protection Naturelle des Terroirs)
GIE	economic interest group (<i>groupement d'intérêt économique de</i>)
GPF	women's promotion groups (<i>groupement de promotion féminine</i>)
HLP	housing, land, and property
IDRC	International Development Research Center
IED Afrique	Innovation Environment Development Africa (Innovations Environnement Développement Afrique)

IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
IPAR	Agricultural and Rural Prospective Initiative Initiative (Prospective Agricole et Rural)
LSLA	large-scale land acquisition
MASAE	Ministère de l'Agriculture, de la Souveraineté Alimentaire et de l'Élevage (Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Livestock)
MCA	Millennium Challenge Account
MSE	micro and small enterprise
NGO	non-governmental organization
NDL	National Domain Law
POAS	Land Use and Allocation Plan (Les Plans d'Occupation et d'Affectation des Sols)
SAED	National Society for the Development and Exploitation of the Land of the Senegal River Delta (Société D'Aménagement et d'Exploitation des Terres du Delta du Fleuve Sénégal)
WPG	women's promotion group







INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background to the Catalog

Secure access to housing, land, and property (HLP) is essential for development. Land rights are fundamental to supporting livelihoods, food security, and asset building, while women's HLP rights can generate not only economic benefits (land value, improved agricultural productivity, access to credit etc.), but social benefits, such as improved bargaining power within the household and community.

According to national statistics, women in Senegal account for 70 percent of the rural working population.¹ Furthermore, women are significant contributors to agricultural production, specifically subsistence crops.² Yet only 6 percent of them own farmland and just 2.5 percent own housing.³

Despite a generally favorable legal framework and the fact that Senegalese women are significant users of land,⁴ access to land and control over it remains a major challenge for Senegalese women.

Civil society organizations (CSOs) working in the field have consistently noted that women do not have equal access to or control over land compared to men.

In practice, social and religious norms continue to play an important role in gender relations, particularly where land is concerned: most Senegalese women gain access to land or housing through a male relative, with the security of their rights dependent on maintaining a relationship with their husband, brother, father, and/or sons. If this relationship is fractured in some way (e.g. divorce, death) women can find themselves in a tenuous situation regarding land access.

Several tools, mechanisms, and initiatives aimed at dealing with these constraints have been implemented in Senegal. For example, some women use women's promotion groups to secure land in their name or the name of their group,

- 1 Senegal, Ministry for Family and Women's Entrepreneurship. 2016. "Stratégie nationale d'équité et d'égalité de genre 2 (SNEEG 2)". [National strategy for gender equality and equity 2].
- 2 Khaïry Coulibaly-Tandian, O. et al. 2021. *Rapport de capitalisation : promotion d'une gouvernance foncière inclusive par l'amélioration des droits fonciers des femmes au Sénégal : dans le Bassin arachidier, les Niayes et la Vallée du Fleuve Sénégal*. IPAR.
- 3 Gaddis, I., R. Lahoti, and W. Li. 2018. *Gender Gaps in Property Ownership in Sub-Saharan Africa*. Washington, DC: World Bank Group.
- 4 Equitable access to land is recognized in Senegal's 2001 Constitution.

taking men out of the equation. Other initiatives focus on sensitizing men to raise their awareness of the importance of women’s land access, while also educating women.

1.2. Purpose and Organization of this Catalog

The aim of this Catalog is to document and analyze the tools developed and implemented by various land tenure stakeholders in Senegal, including public authorities, CSOs, communities, and development partners. These tools aim to reduce gender inequalities affecting rural HLP access. A total of 15 initiatives were identified and analyzed, each of which uses one or more specific tools.

Section 2 of the Catalog provides an overview and categorization of the tools identified, divided into two main categories:

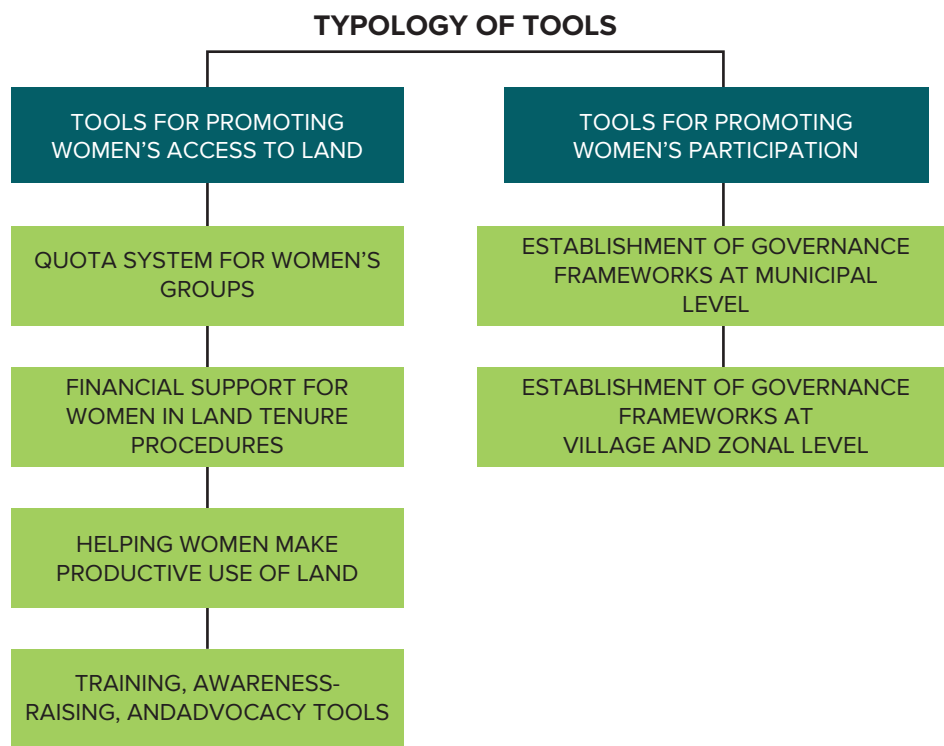
- i. Tools to promote women’s access to land.
- ii. Tools to promote women’s participation in land governance.

These two categories are further divided into sub-categories (Figure 1).

Section 3 provides a brief summing up of the findings presented.

Section 4 consists of 15 individual fact sheets presenting each of the analyzed initiatives in detail.

Figure 1 Typology of Tools for Promoting Women’s Land Rights



Source: IED-IPAR-MED 2023.

1.3. Methodological Approach

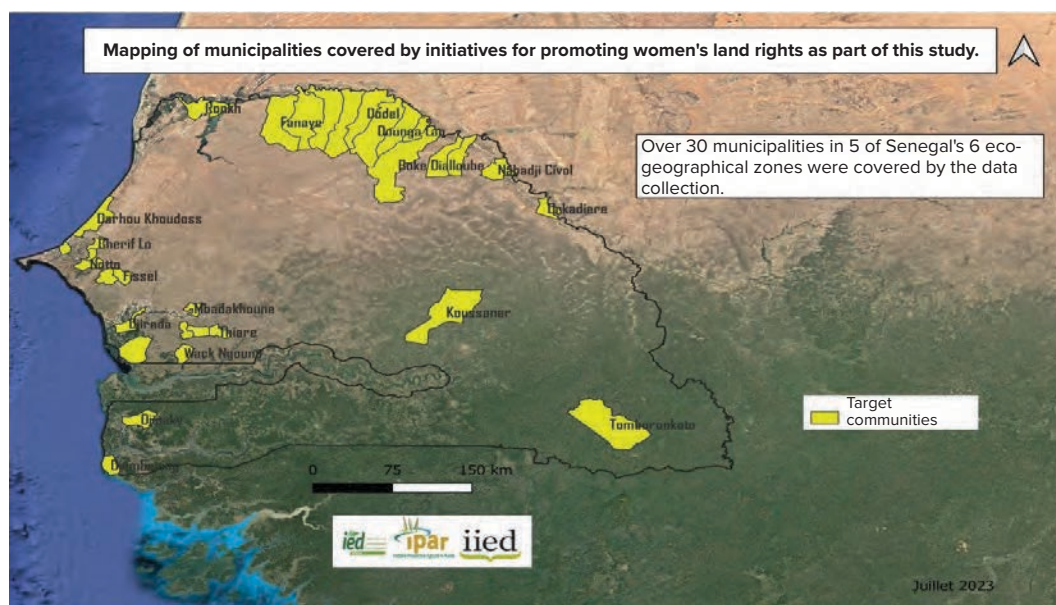
Identification and analysis of the initiatives listed in this Catalog was based on two distinct data collection methods:

- i. Qualitative data collection conducted in five municipalities as part of a study on gender inequalities in HLP carried out by IED Afrique and IPAR.⁵ This method identified a total of 10 initiatives.
- ii. Distribution of an online form to the various actors working on the topic of women's HLP, with a view to identifying and analyzing other initiatives across Senegal. This method identified five additional initiatives.

Data on the initiatives were collected through individual interviews and focus groups conducted with beneficiaries of the projects and initiatives. Emphasis was placed on gaining the perspectives of the women themselves. This work enabled an in-depth assessment of the proposed tools and mechanisms, including spotlighting any limitations or weaknesses, while formulating recommendations for scaling up. Information on the identified initiatives was supplied by the responsible organizations and institutions, with available documentation on specific initiatives also analyzed.

The initiatives identified were in over 30 municipalities distributed across five of Senegal's six eco-geographical zones: the Niayes; the Senegal River Valley; Casamance; the Groundnut Basin; and Eastern Senegal (Map 1).

Map 1 Map of Municipalities Where Documented Initiatives Have Been Implemented



⁵ This research was carried out to produce this Catalog and the Land Rights and Gender Inequality in Senegal: Gender Gap Analysis Report, 2024.

The documented initiatives benefited either women's groups accessing land collectively or individual women, with the data collected indicating that over 20,000 women in total benefited. In particular, the land programs of the Société D'Aménagement et d'Exploitation des terres du Delta du Fleuve Sénégal (SAED) (Senegal River Delta Land Development and Exploitation Company) in Matam region reached **14,523 women** across 87 groups (Box 1).

Box 1 Collective Access Through Women's Promotion Groups (WPGs): An Alternative Strategy

As a strategy for overcoming socio-cultural constraints, collective access through WPGs has undeniably helped improve women's land rights, particularly for certain groups in the Senegal River Delta, where the phenomenon is more dynamic. Surveys carried out by IPAR⁶ show that this collective access has led to, among other benefits, a 59 percent improvement in women's and households' incomes, a 54 percent improvement in women's access to land, and a 36 percent increase in knowledge of good farming practices. Although WPGs have helped promote women's access to land and strengthened their participation in decision-making processes, they should not be seen as a panacea. Land acquired through WPGs is generally considered to be of poor quality and limited size. WPGs need more support from governments and NGOs if they are to become genuine spaces for empowerment: this includes strengthening their political and economic influence and recognizing WPGs as key players in development.

⁶ IPAR CNCR. 2021. *Promotion d'une gouvernance foncière inclusive par l'amélioration des droits fonciers des femmes au Sénégal, Synthèse comparative des résultats clés de l'étude de base.*



ANALYTICAL REVIEW BY TOOL CATEGORY

The 15 initiatives listed have been classified into two main categories: 1) promoting women's access to land; and 2) promoting women's participation in land governance.

2.1. Promoting Women's Access to Land

The tools for promoting women's access to land encompass four main approaches:

- i. An integrated approach based on a multiplicity of complementary activities, aimed at overcoming socio-cultural constraints (Tool 1)
- ii. A more targeted approach based on a quota system (Tool 2)
- iii. Two targeted approaches based on financial incentives (Tools 3 and 4).

These tools should be viewed as complementary rather than as alternatives.

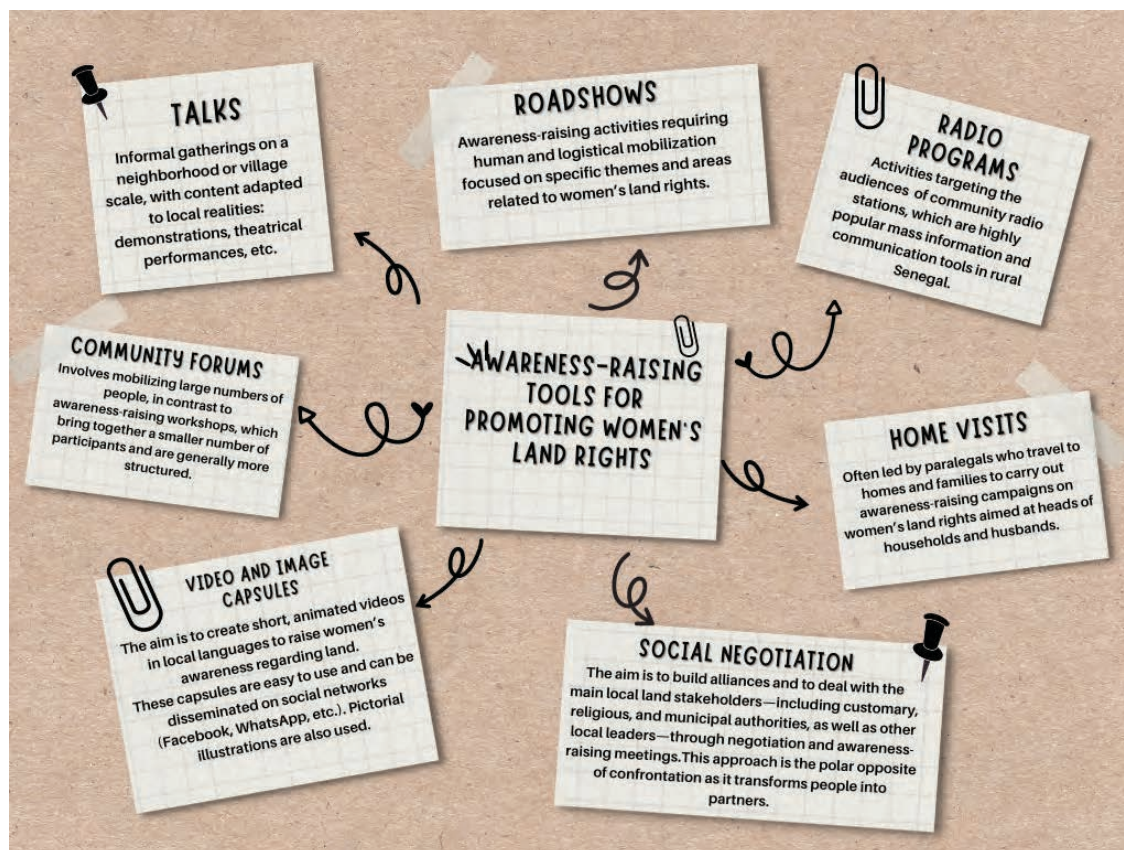
Tool 1: Integrated Capacity Building, Awareness Raising, and Advocacy for Women’s Access to Land

Challenges	Proposed Approach	Results
<p>Socio-cultural constraints and unfamiliarity with administrative or formal procedures for obtaining land certificates.⁷ Illiteracy and low levels of education among the majority of women, which hinders access to information and knowledge of laws and procedures for allocating resources.</p> <p>Research⁸ indicates that customary and socio-cultural practices account for over 60 percent of obstacles to women’s access to agricultural land at the community level.</p>	<p>Integrated approach combining awareness raising (Figure 2), training, and advocacy.</p>	<p>The integrated Training, Awareness Raising, and Advocacy approach has been used as part of numerous projects, with conclusive results in several regions of Senegal.</p> <p>In Matam, awareness-raising caravans have strengthened opinion leaders’ support for recognition of women’s land rights. This has led mayors to facilitate the process of allocating land to women (Sheet 15).</p> <p>In Toubacouta, 327 women have obtained land certificates, along with a better understanding of their rights. A change in men’s attitudes was also observed (Sheet 4).</p> <p>In Ziguinchor, 132 land certificates were awarded to women, including 119 individuals and 13 groups.</p> <p>Additional important results have been achieved in other local authorities as part of similar initiatives.</p>

7 In theory, the land allocation process requires two steps: first, the decision (“*délibération d’affectation*”) by the municipal council to allocate land to the beneficiary; and, second, the issuing of a “*titre d’affectation*”, which certifies and documents the use rights. In many communes, however, the process only appears to involve the first step, with land certificates not usually issued. Furthermore, most land in Senegal’s rural areas falls under the “national domain”, meaning only use rights are allowed.

8 World Bank. Land Rights and Gender Inequality in Senegal: Gender Gap Analysis Report, 2024.

Figure 2 Land-Awareness Strategies and Techniques



Training on Women's Land Rights

Techniques used: Activities are often conducted in the form of local workshops, seminars, or community forums, led by paralegals or land activity leaders.

Topics covered: Legal framework governing land tenure, procedures for accessing land, advocacy techniques, women's political and social leadership, social negotiation techniques, conflict prevention and resolution, etc.

Tools and media used: Training modules, picture booklets, video capsules, land access procedure manuals, etc.

Who are the paralegals and land activity leaders? Paralegals are intermediaries who facilitate capacity-building sessions and help improve local player involvement in governance processes. Paralegals are chosen locally on the basis of education level, willingness to participate, commitment, and—above all—leadership within their locality. They generally have a good command of the local language and socio-cultural realities.

Advocacy for Women’s Land Rights (National and Local)

Advocacy consists of promoting and making visible a topic to ensure policy discussions and actions take it into account. This includes activities aimed mobilizing the general public around an issue. Several advocacy actions have been carried out when it comes to promoting women’s land rights, including mobilizing women’s organizations—notably, the Alliance Nationale Femme et Foncier (ANFF) (National Alliance for Women and Land). Depending on the objectives, these advocacy actions can be carried out at both a local and national level. At the local level, they may be based on endogenous approaches and mechanisms, and carried out in collaboration with customary or municipal authorities. Such actions are generally led by women’s groups, with technical and financial support from CSOs.

Support for Tenure Security

In several cases, CSOs also provide technical support to women in their efforts to secure tenure, particularly in the context of applying for land allocations under the national domain. While some of the analyzed initiatives made only selective use of the above-mentioned instruments, others adopted an integrated approach by implementing them in their entirety.

Perceptions of Efficiency and Sustainability









Initiatives integrating awareness raising, capacity building, and advocacy are based on a holistic response to the issue of women’s access to land, whether family- or community-owned. This method has the advantage of combining several complementary tools and techniques. Here, promoting understanding of the legal framework governing land tenure yields interesting results, as does advocacy aimed at influencing local authorities and other decision-making bodies. Activities focused on gender equality in land matters (targeting both women and men) appear to lead to better results than those targeting women alone. Those that target women alone, may lead to a feeling of marginalization and misunderstanding on the part of men. The role of the mayor and the municipal team in this type of approach is also key. In the commune of Toubacouta (**Sheet 4**), the ease with which deliberations are undertaken is partly due to the commitment and willingness of the mayor, who actively supports securing (registering) land acquired by women.

Lessons and Recommendations

- i. Build the capacity of local civil society players and elected representatives to ensure better ownership and monitoring when it comes to implementation of legislation, particularly provisions relating to the promotion and strengthening of women’s land rights.
- ii. Prioritize a territorial (*terroir*) approach, which enables the involvement of various local social strata, including religious and customary authorities (imam, village chief, notables, landowners), as well as the entire village population (men, women, young, elderly, etc.). This approach takes into account the full local socio-cultural setting, facilitating rapid, lasting ownership of projects and experiences by local populations.

- iii. Incorporate public awareness and capacity-building programs for elected representatives and local communities (in the form of workshops, forums, village meetings, etc.) into municipal budget planning.
- iv. Build synergies and linkages between the various land projects and programs underway (PROCASEF, SEEN SUUF, Stand for Her Land (S4HL), etc.) to ensure effective management of women's land rights. For example, explore how the S4HL advocacy campaign could facilitate systematic land registration for women under PROCASEF.
- v. Continue producing evidence (economic, qualitative, quantitative) on women's access to land and the extent to which current land legislation is currently being applied, thereby providing fuel for advocacy campaigns.
- vi. Build the capacity of local women's organizations in terms of social negotiation techniques, while also building strategic alliances between women's organizations, opinion leaders and stakeholders (customary and religious authorities, etc.).
- vii. Organize meetings bringing together women leaders from Senegal's six agro-ecological zones aimed at developing a common understanding of the S4HL campaign's content. This will enable the drawing up of grassroots-level action plans that take account of each locality's socio-cultural specificity, as well as the formulation of arguments capable of securing the support of local populations.
- viii. Emphasize individual land allocation procedures.

For further information, see the following fact sheets:

-  **Sheet 3:** Land Security
-  **Sheet 4:** Land Rights and Equal Opportunities
-  **Sheet 5:** Promoting Secure Land Tenure
-  **Sheet 6:** Promoting Inclusive Land Governance by Improving Women's Land Rights
-  **Sheet 7:** Raising Women's Awareness of Land Rights and Sharing the Benefits of Mining Companies
-  **Sheet 9:** Improving and Securing Women's Access to Land for Inclusive Land Governance
-  **Sheet 11:** Support for Land access and Tenure Security for Rural Women
-  **Sheet 12:** Securing Land Tenure Through Land Allocations by Local Administrative Authorities and Promotion of Responsible Land Governance

Tool 2: Access to Land Through a Quota System

Identified Challenges	Proposed Approach	Results obtenus
<p>Women face difficulties to access farmland, particularly in developed areas (according to available data, only 6 percent of women nationwide have access to land).⁹</p> <p>Public land developments are generally distributed to men in their capacity as head of the family or household, to the detriment of women and young people.</p>	<p>A quota of at least 15 percent is allocated to women when plots are redistributed in public land development projects.</p> <p>As part of a new public hydro-agricultural development, a multi-stakeholder selection and validation committee is set up to allocate plots through a household entry system adhering to specific criteria.</p> <p>As a general rule, women benefit from the quota system exclusively through membership of a group.</p>	<p>This mechanism has been integrated into various projects over the past 30 years, in particular those run by SAED (Sheets 2 and 15) and MCA (Sheet 3). As early as 1996, a quota system was applied in the village of Diawar (Diama municipality), where 6.67 percent of the 600 hectares developed were allocated to women as part of the development of the Mboudoum basin (i.e. 40 hectares for the village's WPG).</p> <p>In Kobilou municipality (Matam region), of 700 hectares developed, 40 (5.71 percent) were granted to women, benefiting eight WPGs.</p>

Perceptions of Efficiency and Sustainability

Although the quota system used in public development projects over the past 30 years—particularly in the projects and programs run by SAED in the Senegal River Valley—has contributed to reducing gender inequalities in the agricultural sector by enabling some women to benefit from access to developed land, its effectiveness remains limited. According to data collected in the field, the quota access rate stands at around 5–6 percent and has not increased over the years. This percentage is similar to the rate of women's access to agricultural land at the national level. As such, the mechanism does not guarantee women significant access to land.

Furthermore, the mechanism runs the risk of limiting women's land rights to the pursuit of quotas, rather than strictly applying the constitutional principle of equal access to land for men and women. Quotas thus potentially become a ceiling for women, rather than a floor.¹⁰

According to SAED, application of the quota system in the Senegal River Valley still faces societal resistance, as well as the constant risk of gains being called into question amid a context where women's freedoms are often constrained by their family environment or community demands.

⁹ Illustration of strategies for securing women's land rights in a context of large-scale land acquisition in Senegal, Land Policy Conference, Ndèye Yandé Ndiaye, 2019.

¹⁰ IPAR-CNCR baseline study.


A quota system has also been adopted by some municipal teams concerned with women's access to land. In Mbadakhoune municipality, the mayor (an ANFF member)—in collaboration with village chiefs—backed an initiative to allocate two hectares to the WPG of each village in his municipality. This initiative has been applied in over 90 percent of villages in the municipality.

The quota system was taken up by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Equipment and Food Sovereignty's (MASAE) Circular No. 0989 of June 5, 2018, which provides for at least 15 percent of developments carried out using surface water and 20 percent of developments carried out using groundwater to be allocated to women. The circular goes further, however, by allocating at least 20 percent of subsidized fertilizers, 20 percent of R1-certified rice and groundnut seed, 10 percent of subsidized tractors, 40 percent of funding, and 20 percent of funded agricultural research projects to women, as well as increasing women's representation on decision-making bodies to 20 percent.

Lessons and Recommendations

- i. In order to increase effectiveness of the quota system, implement awareness-raising and training activities aimed at addressing socio-cultural constraints and strengthening women's knowledge of their land rights.
- ii. Put in place land management and gender sensitivity capacity-building activities for elected representatives, thereby encouraging support for the quota system.
- iii. Adopt specific regulations designed to institutionalize a quota system granting at least 30 percent of land to women in public development projects and the various public services in charge of land development.
- iv. Explore the potential for testing the application of a quota system in favor of women and young people as part of the systematic registration planned through PROCASEF.
- v. Institutionalize, promote and make sustainable initiatives such as that pursued by the mayor of Mbadakhoune through adoption of local charters.
- vi. Monitor the extent to which land quotas are being applied in public hydro-agricultural developments through an appropriate monitoring-evaluation mechanism, with sanctions set out for cases where quotas are not respected.
- vii. Provide financial, material, and technical resources to women's groups benefiting from quotas, thus allowing women to exploit and add value to the land granted to them.

For more information on this tool, see the following fact sheets:

 **Sheet 2:** Irrigated Agriculture and Economic Development Support

 **Sheet 3:** Land Security

 **Sheet 15:** Application of a Developed Public Land Quota for Women

Tool 3: Financial Support for Women in Land Tenure Procedures

Identified Challenges	Proposed Approach	Results
<p>The costs associated with securing land tenure are a major constraint on women’s access to land. Some municipalities set very high demarcation/survey fees, which are often unaffordable for women and young people.</p>	<p>Remove (or lessen) financial constraints hindering women’s access to land through either reduction of demarcation/survey costs, or project paying some or all these costs.</p>	<p>Following various projects (Sheets 4 and 6), the mayor in Toubacouta municipality decided to lower surveying costs. Following this decision, and allocations made in the name of women represented 38 percent of the total, compared with 28 percent in the baseline situation.</p> <p>In Darou Khoudoss, the reduction of demarcation fees to CFAF 20,000 per hectare enabled 14 women to benefit from land allocation decisions.</p> <p>In Fandène and Chérif Lô municipalities (Thiès region), payment of the costs of cadastral plans drawn up by a surveyor, as well as the state commission’s travel expenses, enabled 51 women to benefit from land allocation decisions (Sheet 9).</p>




Perceptions of Efficiency and Sustainability

Despite demonstrating a degree of effectiveness, the scope of this strategy remains highly limited as it requires considerable financial resources to be mobilized. It is also better suited to peri-urban areas, where land is valuable: this is the case in Darou Khoudoss and Fandène municipalities. Moreover, the approach is largely dependent on the presence of projects and programs that can cover the costs incurred, which limits its sustainability. Outside such projects, women rarely take the initiative in submitting land allocation requests to the municipality, mainly due to financial constraints. The overall sustainability of reducing or eliminating demarcation/survey fees depends largely on each mayor’s sensitivity to women’s access to land.

Lessons and Recommendations

- i. Keep registration costs low to facilitate access to land for women and other vulnerable groups—this could be a very promising strategy if implemented as part of a systematic rights registration project such as PROCASEF.
- ii. Target municipalities where mayors and municipal teams have already demonstrated their sensitivity to gender equity and equality (“champion mayors”).

For more information on this tool, see the following fact sheets:

-  **Sheet 4:** Land Rights and Equal Opportunities
-  **Sheet 6:** Promoting Inclusive Land Governance by Improving Women’s Land Rights
-  **Sheet 9:** Improving and Securing Women’s access to Land for Inclusive Land Governance.

Tool 4: Helping Women Make Productive Use of Land

Identified Challenges	Proposed Approach	Results
<p>Women’s lack of access to agricultural inputs limits their ability to use land productively—a condition of land allocation. Many women end up losing their land due to their inability to develop it, particularly in areas where land is valuable.</p>	<p>Several gender-sensitive mechanisms—mainly geared toward developing market gardening plots for women, providing fertilizer support, and setting up lines of credit in collaboration with local micro-credit financial institutions and banks—have been developed by land actors to help women make productive use of land.</p> <p>Provision of market garden areas for WPGs is current practice in many parts Senegal.</p> <p>The 2018 MASAE Circular (referred to under Tool 2) is also part of this approach.¹¹</p>	<p>The development of a 0.68 hectare vegetable garden in Guédé and a 1.5 hectare garden (with 43 beneficiaries) in Leeraabé has enabled several WPGs to carry out income-generating activities. These developments were accompanied by a credit line established for the benefit of Ngatamaaré Tooro federation member villages (Sheet 9).</p> <p>In the Tambacounda area, a market gardening perimeter financed since the end of 2014 by the Malem-Auder non-profit is operated by women of the GIE Deggo.¹² The 5,000 m² plot has enabled GIE members to experiment with market gardening.¹³</p>

11 This prescribes allocating women at least 20 percent of subsidized fertilizers, at least 20 percent of R1 certified rice and groundnut seeds, at least 10 percent of subsidized tractors, and at least 40 percent of funding.

12 <https://www.iedafrique.org/25-Leadership-et-autonomisation.html>

13 The plot was subdivided into 45 cultivation beds, or one bed per working woman, with maize plantations as windbreaks.




Perceptions of Efficiency and Sustainability

In addition to helping women retain the land they have acquired; these mechanisms promote economic empowerment and household food security. Thanks to a system for distributing income from the harvest—part of which is used to prepare for the following season—they also enable women to self-finance their farming activities.

Lessons and Recommendations

- i. Enable women to achieve production autonomy and foster the potential for larger-scale production through capacity building in the areas of technical assistance, inputs (seeds, fertilizers, etc.), and means of production (modern agricultural equipment).
- ii. Systematically integrate this approach into broader agricultural projects, ensuring a focus on supporting women.
- iii. In light of the fact these mechanisms benefit only a small number of women through groups, consider how to strengthen and scale up these initiatives nationally.

For more information on this tool, see the following fact sheets:

-  **Sheet 2:** Irrigated Agriculture and Economic Development Support
-  **Sheet 4:** Land Rights and Equal Opportunities
-  **Sheet 9:** Improving and Securing Women's Access to Land for Inclusive Land Governance.

2.2. Promoting Women’s Participation in Land Governance

Tool 5: Promotion of Women’s Participation in Decision-Making Bodies

Identified Challenges	Proposed Approach	Results
<p>Law 2010-11 of May 28, 2010 on parity, which encourages women’s participation in decision-making bodies, is not being adequately applied at the executive and land commission level.</p> <p>While parity has almost been achieved on municipal councils, this has not translated into qualitative participation by women in decision-making processes.</p> <p>At the local level (village and family), land governance mechanisms are largely governed by customary rules and non-formal practices, from which women are generally excluded.</p>	<p>Several initiatives have set up joint consultation frameworks at different levels (municipality, village zone, etc.) to try to resolve these issues—this includes establishing expanded land commissions (commissions domaniales élargies - CDEs) and zonal or village land governance committees (see section below for more details).</p> <p>The approach generally includes awareness-raising and capacity-building sessions for women.</p>	<p>In Darou Khoudoss and Mbadakhoune, two CDEs were set up, respectively comprising five and four women selected through five zonal land governance committees (Sheet 10).</p> <p>In two villages in Ndiob municipality, joint village committees have been set up to facilitate consultation and inclusive dialogue on land and natural resource management issues (Sheet 9).¹⁴</p> <p>In Méouane district, a gender-sensitive inter-communal land governance charter was implemented (Sheet 6), providing for priority allocation to women in the district of land rehabilitated and returned by extractive companies, as well as land decommissioned from restoration schemes.</p>

Overview of the Most Common Joint Local Consultation Frameworks

Zonal or village committees act as frameworks for consultation and citizen control of public action in the land sector, established at zone (group of villages within a municipality) or village level. Their aim is to involve representatives of different social strata (particularly women and young people) in local land governance, thereby strengthening participatory democracy and decentralization at a grassroots level. Committee members are appointed by members of the community in a constituent assembly and must include an equal number of men and women. The committees are designed to:

¹⁴ This includes discussion of the development and application of natural resource management rules (e.g. as part of implementation of a local convention); acting as a forum for conflict prevention, mediation, and resolution; and garnering the expectations and concerns of local people regarding land and natural resource management.

- i. Create space for local-level dialogue, awareness raising, and sharing on land governance;
- ii. Exercise citizen control while supporting local authorities implement local land governance policies;
- iii. Contribute to preventing and managing land conflicts, and promoting social peace; and
- iv. Strengthen women’s land rights and secure access to land as a prerequisite for their socio-economic empowerment.

An **expanded land commission** (*commission domaniale élargie*, CDE) is a purely consultative body that participates in the work of a municipality’s land commission with a view to reinforcing participative, inclusive, and transparent land resources at communal level, while establishing citizen control over public action.¹⁵ The principle underlying the CDE is to involve representatives of a municipality’s various social strata (young people, women, farmers, stock breeders, religious and customary authorities, etc.) in the various tasks of the actual land commission (examination of allocation requests, land surveys, etc.). One means of selecting CDE members is through zonal committees, allowing issues identified at a zonal level to be elevated to the municipal level. Another variant involves choosing only non-elected women to consult and participate in the land commission’s work, thereby enabling them to represent their peers and ensure women’s land-related needs are considered.¹⁶

Varying approaches, chosen according to the specific needs and context of a community or municipality, may be adopted in the process of formulating these gender-sensitive land governance tools. Sometimes, local communities—in particular women’s organizations—will take the initiative themselves, or they may emanate from CSO projects and programs. Regardless of the approach and the scale at which these tools are implemented (neighborhood, village, zone, municipality), the main formulation stages are similar (Figure 3) and remain essential to the smooth running of the process.

¹⁵ The land commission is a key body involved in managing the public domain land in a municipality’s territory. Made up of municipal councilors, this technical commission—which may be set up at the discretion of the local council—is responsible for assessing and ensuring follow-through of applications for the allocation and withdrawal of plots for agricultural or residential use. To this end, it is responsible for carrying out socio-economic surveys in the field and supporting the municipal council in preventing and resolving land conflicts.

¹⁶ The process of setting up local consultation frameworks is supported by specific provisions in the General Code of Local Authorities, which establishes citizen participation as a principle. Article 83 of the General Code stipulates that “Citizens or representatives of associations in a district or village may form a consultative council. These councils are consulted by the mayor and can make proposals on any issue of interest to the district or village”. In addition, Article 156 states that “The municipal council may set up commissions (including public domain commission) to study issues within its remit. The municipality may call on any person whose expertise may enlighten the work of the commission.”

Dialogue and consultation between local stakeholders can be initiated based on these local frameworks, leading to proposals for better governance of land resources. These proposals can then be presented using tools such as gender-sensitive local land governance charters, which act as instruments for ensuring sustainable, peaceful, transparent, and inclusive land resource management.¹⁷ Charters are formulated by and for local communities and can also be used to clarify the links between the various committees (village and zonal), the CDE, and the land commission.

Figure 3 Main Stages in the Creation of Tools Promoting Women’s Participation in Land Governance



Perceptions of Efficiency and Sustainability

Overall, setting up various joint consultation mechanisms and integrating a gender dimension has enabled women to join bodies they are usually excluded from. In so doing, women have been able to assert their leadership and debate with men on an equal footing, which was not hitherto the

¹⁷ For example, the inclusive land governance charter set up in Mbadakhoune municipality with financial and technical support from IED Afrique includes a provision aimed at strengthening women's access to agricultural land: "The municipality undertakes to promote equity in access to land resources for men and women and to grant at least 30 percent of annual land allocations to women who request it."




case in rural areas, where social norms are marked by patriarchy and male domination. Sustainable implementation and use of these mechanisms depends, among other things, on the active participation of various categories of actors. It requires local authorities to be sufficiently aware of the gender issue and to actively support their validation.

Lessons and Recommendations

These local frameworks provide spaces for training, awareness raising, advocacy, and social mobilization. They also help build alliances between men and women, as well as reduce gender inequalities in land tenure. Given that the village remains the first level of land governance, it is important to institutionalize village-level consultative bodies linked to other inclusive land governance tools and mechanisms, including zonal committees, the CDE, and land governance charters. This can strengthen the civic participation of both men and women in the governance of local land resources. Toward these ends:

- i.** Senegal's administrative authorities must ensure absolute parity is applied in land commissions, in accordance with current legislation.
- ii.** The state, including parliamentarians, should legally recognize participatory and gender-sensitive local land governance mechanisms.
- iii.** Local authorities should establish and operationalize joint local consultation frameworks on land issues, applying absolute parity in all decision-making bodies, boards, and strategic commissions.
- iv.** Participatory land governance consultation frameworks should be institutionalized through local charters, thereby preventing a change of municipal team from jeopardizing gains made.
- v.** The process of formulating tools for land governance participation must actively involve communities, who should then be supported in appropriating these tools to ensure their sustainability.

For more information on this tool, see the following fact sheets:

-  **Sheet 1:** Accountability Mechanisms in Land Governance
-  **Sheet 6:** Promoting Inclusive Land Governance by improving Women's Land Rights
-  **Sheet 10:** Gender, Land, and Accountability.












3

CONCLUSION

Analysis of the 15 initiatives selected for this Catalog has identified five main types of tools aimed at reducing gender inequalities in access to agricultural land in rural areas:

-  **Tool 1:** Integrated capacity building, awareness raising, and advocacy for women's access to land
-  **Tool 2:** Access to land through a quota system
-  **Tool 3:** Financial support for women in land tenure procedures
-  **Tool 4:** Helping women make productive use of the land
-  **Tool 5:** Promotion of women's participation in local decision-making bodies.

These tools should be seen as complementary rather than alternatives. Some are quite specific (quota system, financial support), while others are broader, involving different components. Some initiatives employ a single tool, while others use a combination. Overall, a holistic, multi-tool approach appears to achieve the greatest impact. It seems that combining awareness raising and training with other, more tangible, approaches (support in securing land, quotas, financial support) leads to better results in terms of securing land for women.





4



DETAILED FACTSHEETS ON INITIATIVES

Sheet 1 Accountability Mechanisms in Land Governance

Pillar 1: Identification and Characterization of Initiative

Initiative	Accountability Mechanisms in Land Governance. (Followed by Gender, Land, and Accountability see Sheet 10).
Location	Dodel municipality, Gamadji-Saré district, Saint-Louis region
Period	2013–17
Coordination and Implementation	Innovation, Environnement, Développement en Afrique (IED Afrique)
Technical and Financial Partners	International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada; International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), UK
Beneficiaries	Farmers, herders, village chiefs, young people, women, and women’s groups applying to regularize land granted to them by village chiefs
Type of Initiative	Promoting women’s participation in land governance
Issues	Against a backdrop of calls for investment and policies aimed at promoting large-scale farming, it became imperative for all land stakeholders to think about a new governance strategy aimed at dealing with large-scale land acquisitions. As such, initiatives were launched to ensure land security for local communities, food self-sufficiency, and sustainable development.

Pillar 1: Identification and Characterization of Initiative

Approach	<p>The first initiative, titled “Accountability Mechanisms in Land Governance,” involved testing capacity-building tools with a view to improving accountability in agricultural investments by private investors. Toward this end, the project set up a local charter for land governance. The second initiative “Gender, Land and Accountability” (Sheet 10) was prompted by events in Fanaye, where, due to an influx of agricultural investors to the River Valley area, customary land tenure was subject to severe challenges. In many cases, this has led to a questioning or weakening of the rights communities once had over these lands.</p>
Objectives	<p>The main aim was to set up a concerted framework for land governance in Dodel municipality involving all land management stakeholders, particularly women.</p>
Lead Actors and Roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The municipal council (acting as gateway to the municipality). • Women’s groups applying to regularize the land granted them by village chiefs. • Various categories of stakeholders involved in the process, including farmers, herders, village chiefs, young people, and women.
Major Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action-research process to test capacity-building tools aimed at improving accountability in agricultural investments by private investors. • Laying the foundations for changes in policy and practice by taking into account research results and replicating project-tested tools. • Selection and capacity building of land agents and paralegals. • Awareness-raising activities on land legislation in Senegal for different categories of stakeholders. • Formulation of a local land governance charter.
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local players received capacity building. • Framework established for dialogue and consultation with local communities. • Improved land management at the municipal level. • Greater fluidity of relations between the various players involved in land management. • Reference document elaborated on local land management in Dodel municipality • Gender taken into account in land management, particularly regarding women’s access to land

Pillar 2: Beneficiaries' Assessment of Results

Criteria	Assessment
Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process has strengthened women's access to land by involving them in local land governance and taking their specific needs into account, while also enabling the strengthening of women's knowledge concerning their land rights. • On a social level, has established a framework for dialogue and consultation between local players on land resources, enabling women to make their voices and concerns heard. On a political level, has helped ensure the accountability of local authorities regarding resources. • Economic spin-offs may arise from women's access to land once the charter has been implemented.
Sustainability	Process found to be socially acceptable by all local players involved, helping ensure its sustainability.
Participation	Participation of different categories of stakeholders, particularly women, ensured through consultation workshops and the establishment of a dialogue framework.
Replicability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience could be replicated by resource-poor local actors, who only require substantial resources for communal meetings, which are rare. • The process, which requires no major organizational skills, is largely carried out at the village and zonal levels. • All that is needed is the commitment of local players and collaboration of the authorities.

Pillar 3: Key Lessons and Recommendations

Key Lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a framework for consultation and dialogue has helped reduce tensions and establish a climate of trust between the mayor's office and the local population. • Accountability of local authorities is ensured if the charter is implemented. • Formulation of a charter presented an opportunity to take women's access to land into account when formulating land programs and projects.
Recommendations for Scaling Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize the implementation process and popularize the charter. • Pursue capacity building for women on their land rights. • Strengthen women's participation in decision-making bodies.

Sheet 2 Irrigated Agriculture and Economic Development Support

Pillar 1: Identification and Characterization of Initiative	
Initiative	Project to Support Irrigated Agriculture and Economic Development Support of Podor (AIDEP)
Location	Dodel, Fanaye, Ndiayenne-Pendao, Guédé-Village, Gamadji-Saré, Dodel, Doumga-Lao, Médina-Ndiathbé, Méri, Boké-Dialloubé, and Mbolo-Birane municipalities, Podor department, Senegal River Valley
Period	January 2014–December 2022
Coordination and Implementation	Société D'Aménagement et d'Exploitation des Terres du Delta du Fleuve Sénégal (SAED, Senegal River Delta Land Development and Exploitation Company)
Technical and Financial Partners	SAED; Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Equipment and Food Sovereignty (MASAE); Agence Française de Développement (AFD, French Development Agency)
Beneficiaries	Farmers and women's groups
Type of Initiative	Promoting access to land for women's groups: quotas
Context	Program is part of the fight against food insecurity
Issues	<p>The AIDEP project is designed to promote economic development and revolves around the three pillars of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land tenure security and management; • Development of promising sectors (mainly agriculture and livestock); and • Establishment of an intercommunity support fund with a gender component of CFA 2.230 billion (US\$3.6 million) for the ten municipalities benefiting from the project.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce poverty and food insecurity while promoting integration of vulnerable groups. • To be achieved by consolidating and strengthening viable, diversified and sustainable irrigated agriculture in Podor department.
Lead Actors and Roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipality • Local stakeholders through farmers, breeders, and women's groups

Pillar 1: Identification and Characterization of Initiative

Major Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of an intercommunity gender support fund to help women’s organizations gain access to land and enhance its value. • Financing micro-projects—including those in support of land management—presented by municipalities in their annual investment plans, encompassing investments in natural resource management (e.g. demarcation of classified forests and grazing defense zones), pastoral water supply, waterhole development, construction of vaccination pens to protect livestock, etc. • Setting up micro-project management committees. • Training management committee members. • Developing and equipping three market gardens for the women of Nianga Edy, Wourou Bayel, and Marda. • Facilitating control and monitoring of the Land Use and Allocation Plan (Les Plans d’Occupation et d’Affectation des Sols, POAS) in the municipality’s zones as part of a strategy of deploying SAED’s land tenure security tools. • Setting up zonal commissions to act as relays for the municipal council which ensures compliance with the POAS.
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 percent of land allocated to women through the three market gardens in Nianga Edy, Wourou Bayel, and Marda. • Irrigated perimeters developed. • Local players received capacity building.

Pillar 2: Beneficiaries’ Assessment of Results

Criteria	Assessment
Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through women’s groups and support for income-generating activities, approach has strengthened women’s access to developed land, despite social and cultural constraints that often confine women to domestic and reproductive activities. • On a social and political level, introduction of a quota system through the intercommunity gender support fund, along with capacity-building activities, have enabled women to feel more involved in projects and programs run by the central government and local authorities. • Economic benefits include access to managed perimeters, which enables women to carry out income-generating activities, thus contributing to their economic empowerment.

Pillar 2: Beneficiaries' Assessment of Results

Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The market gardens created for the women come from land with customary legitimacy, thereby garnering social acceptance. • The technical process is not straightforward, with financial resources required to develop the gardens.
Participation	Women's organizations participate in project implementation activities.
Replicability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited opportunity for resource-poor populations to adopt the process. • Strong community interest in the experience, especially among women.

Pillar 3: Key Lessons and Recommendations

Key Lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrating the social dimension into development projects and programs in municipalities is crucial. • Adopting a multi-stakeholder approach involving customary and religious authorities gives these parties a better understanding of the issues involved in women's access to land. • The 10 percent quota provided for in the projects and programs is not yet effective as the current percentage falls below this threshold. It is, however, a good start on the path to reaching the 10 percent target. • Organizing and structuring women into groups or associations facilitates their access to the quota system introduced by SAED.
Recommendations for Scaling Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of women's groups benefiting from the development of agricultural and market gardening perimeters. • Meet and increase the 10 percent quota. • Continue to develop capacity-building programs for women. • Provide women's groups benefiting from quotas with support projects for land development (e.g. equipment subsidies, financial management, leadership and management, access to sufficient quantities of quality seeds). • Introduce the gender dimension into other project activities, for example by setting up micro-project management committees.

Sheet 3 Land Security

Pillar 1: Identification and Characterization of Initiative	
Initiative	Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) Land Security Project
Location	Commune of Dodel (Dodel basin), Saint-Louis region, Senegal River Valley
Period	2010–15
Coordination and Implementation	MCA
Technical and Financial Partners	MCA
Beneficiaries	Residents of Dodel municipality
Type of Initiative	Quota system
Context	Following conflicts between the people of Fanaye and investors, the Senegalese government and the MCA set up this program to help promote inclusive land governance.
Issues	This land security initiative was set up to provide populations with land certificates (<i>titres d'affectation</i>) to secure their land.
Objectives	<p>The overall aim of the initiative is to enable people to secure their land. more Specifically, this initiative aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the local authorities in Podor department to allocate 10 percent of arable land to women. • Provide local populations with documents to prove their right to these lands. • Help preclude land disputes.

Pillar 1: Identification and Characterization of Initiative

Lead Actors and Roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MCA's technical team was responsible for financing and coordinate project activities. • The <i>Dodel municipal domanical commission</i> was responsible for carrying out investigations and making data available to the MCA's technical team. • Village chiefs were responsible for taking part in land use surveys and testifying as to whether land belongs to a particular family. • Notables from different villages in the municipality were responsible for helping prevent or resolve land disputes between local communities. • Community-based organizations were responsible for making local players aware of the law on the national domain and the procedures for acquiring an allocation decision, as well as encouraging them to apply for allocation decisions.
Major Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness of land access procedures • Socio-fiscal surveys • Encouraging the municipality to issue allocations • Updating Land Use and Allocation Plans • Land formalization • Approval of allocations by sub-prefect
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 percent of land granted to women • 200 land allocation decisions • Land regularization • Improved relations between farmers and breeders • Increased women's awareness of land allocation requests • Reliable, appropriate land registers established at municipality level • Zone commissions set up • Capacity building conducted and institutional framework established to support land management and conflict resolution

Pillar 2: Beneficiaries' Assessment of Results

Criteria	Assessment
Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiative has effectively contributed to increasing women's access to land (10 percent in basins). • Has enabled women to gain access to land; engendered respect for their economic rights; changed women's mindsets regarding their land rights; and increased their understanding of the legal framework governing land tenure. • Women have begun to engage in income-generating activities such as farming and market gardening.
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project, which has encouraged dialogue and resolved conflicts between farmers and breeders, has benefited from social acceptability due the fact it does not consist solely of a gender component. • The technical process is straightforward, with consultations between local players and dialogue with the town council—as such, sustainability depends on willpower alone. • The program covered the costs and mechanisms of implementing the project.
Participation	Although commissions were set up to enable local communities to participate in land governance, women's participation in these forums, as well as the domanial commission, remains low.
Replicability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low likelihood of resource-poor populations adopting the solution, as the process requires financial resources. • Strong community interest in the initiative.

Pillar 3: Key Lessons and Recommendations

Key Lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dialogue with local populations is essential prior to introducing any land-related project. • Improved relations between customary and legal land governance are crucial. • The initiative successfully helped people understand the procedures involved in allocations.
Recommendations for Scaling Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build the capacity of elected officials in land management and gender sensitivity. • Raise women's awareness of their land rights. • Increase the amount of land granted to women beyond the 10 percent quota. • Help women obtain financing to develop their land. • Publicize land security projects in Dodel municipality.

Sheet 4 Land Rights and Equal Opportunities

Pillar 1: Identification and Characterization of Initiative	
Initiative	Land Rights and Equal Opportunities
Location	Toubacouta municipality, Groundnut Basin
Period	January 2013–June 2016
Coordination and Implementation	Conseil National de Concertation et de Coopération des Ruraux (CNCR, National Council for Consultation and Cooperation of Rural Communities); Association des Juristes Sénégalaises (AJS, Association of Female Senegalese Lawyers)
Technical and Financial Partners	Coopération pour le développement des pays émergents (COSPE, Cooperation for the Development of Emerging Countries)
Type of Initiative	Promoting women’s access to land via an integrated awareness-raising and training approach, as well as support in securing land rights.
Beneficiaries	Farmers in Toubacouta municipality
Context	Under the traditional land management system, men have considerable advantages over women in terms of access to and control over agricultural production factors, such as land and farm equipment, decision-making power, and knowledge. For many women, access to land is precarious, resulting in insecure land rights. In addition, what land they do have access to is generally of poor quality, limited in area, and often far from the village. Another limiting factor is lack of resources for income-generating agricultural activities. Despite this, women play a key role in rural development through their diversified activities in agriculture, livestock breeding, gathering, processing, and marketing, etc.
Issues	In response to this discrimination against women, a number of development players have put in place mechanisms aimed at creating equal access to land resources for men and women. These initiatives are part of a drive to empower rural women both economically and socially.

Pillar 1: Identification and Characterization of Initiative

Objectives	<p>The project's overarching objective is to support women's emancipation through dissemination and popularization of their economic and social rights, as well as to assist women in the process of acquiring, managing, and securing their land. More specifically, the project aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen women's knowledge and awareness of their land rights in order to increase their self-esteem and reduce their vulnerability. • Support women in undertaking economic, social, and legal initiatives to secure their recognition in society. • Strengthen the leadership of the CNCR Women's College members involved in the project through development of a genuinely shared strategy.
Lead Actors and Roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNCR, AJS, and COSPE as bearers of experience. • The mayor and domanical commission collaborated in the project's implementation. • Paralegals and literacy instructors involved in the project. • Local players, such as members of the Missirah local union (Toubacouta municipality); customary authorities (e.g. village chief); religious authorities (imams); and other resource persons (e.g. school principals in Missirah).
Major Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness and training women on their land rights in particular and on land legislation more generally. • Providing women with functional literacy, enabling them to acquire basic skills (reading, writing, arithmetic) and make use of everyday tools (telephone, scales, calculator). • Providing equipment and additional market gardening materials (motor pump and water reservation kit) for the operation of the 3.5 hectare market gardening perimeter. • Training of <i>relai communautaire</i> and paralegals to help women formulate land applications and follow them up.¹⁸ • Free land documentation for women when the project is implemented by the mayor.

¹⁸ A *relai communautaire* is a trained person responsible for carrying out information, education, and communication tasks related to behavior change and preventive and promotional activities.

Pillar 1: Identification and Characterization of Initiative

Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 84 allocations obtained by women, with 30 hectares allocated (for housing, rice growing, market gardening, and arboriculture). • Women gained better knowledge of their land rights. • In 2016, pepper production was profitable for the 18 women who practiced market gardening in the collective plot, with an average annual profit of CFAF 200,000. • 300 requests for additional allocations already issued subject to additional documentation to be supplied to the sub-prefect.
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Pillar 2: Beneficiaries' Assessment of Results

Criteria	Assessment
Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community players' level of involvement in the process is very important. • Beneficiary women are organized into local unions. • The level of collaboration between the implementing actors and the municipal and administrative authorities was decisive, especially in terms of meeting women's demands and reducing costs. • The <i>relai communautaire</i> trained during the project have continued their awareness-raising work and obtained results. • The women's crops are more profitable, with production increasing as they have more space to cultivate.
Participation	Project focused more on women's access to land and economic empowerment than on their participation in decision-making bodies.
Replicability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity for resource-poor populations to adopt the approach if funding is available. • Interest in the initiative among the community. • High cost of the experiment poses problems for replicability. • Organizational skills required. • Implementation requires a high level of organization.

Pillar 3: Key Lessons and Recommendations

Key Lessons

- The ease with which allocations can be obtained in Toubacouta municipality can partly be explained by the mayor's commitment to promoting legal security for land acquired by women.
- The process of acquiring and securing land for women needs to involve men, especially customary authorities, as working exclusively with women results in men feeling marginalized and confrontational.
- Reinforcing women's knowledge of their rights is a sound strategy for empowering them to express their needs.
- Intervention strategies for women's empowerment must always involve advocacy, capacity building, support, and monitoring.

Recommendations for Scaling Up

- Maintain awareness that results can decline or disappear after the initiative has been launched.
- Emphasize awareness-raising campaigns on women's land rights.
- Create more *relai communautaire* and representatives among young women and men.
- Support women in exercising their rights.
- Take into account the collective nature of land and the family concept of land ownership.

Sheet 5 Promoting Secure Land Tenure

Pillar 1: Identification and Characterization of Initiative	
Initiative	Promoting Secure Land Tenure
Location	Toubacouta municipality, Groundnut Basin
Period	No information
Coordination and Implementation	No information
Technical and Financial Partners	No information
Beneficiaries	<p>Beneficiary women come from a variety of structures, including the following women's groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GIE Mbélagorom • Mbogi-if • Marsassime • Nabit-Xoxo • Bafinokolo
Type of Initiative	No information
Context	<p>Land is overwhelmingly the prerogative of men. Women do not have access to land through inheritance, only through loans. Thus, before the introduction of these initiatives, women in Toubacouta had no access to land unless they bought it. Despite this lack of access, women do farm either their husband's land or land belonging to the family circle.</p>

Pillar 1: Identification and Characterization of Initiative

Issues	This experiment was set up to give women access to agricultural land through women's groups, as well as raise awareness of women's rights to land .
Objectives	Helping women in relation to their land rights.
Lead Actors and Roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The women • The mayor • Initiators • Village chiefs • Imams • Paralegals
Main Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training • Chat • Awareness • Support • Home visits
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk sessions informed the population—particularly village chiefs, imams, and men—about women's rights to access land, whether for agriculture or housing. • Women gained a new appreciation of their abilities. • Allowed women access to decision-making bodies and positions of responsibility. • Remarkable changes observed, especially in relation to preconceived ideas about women's land situation.

Pillar 2: Beneficiaries' Assessment of Results

Criteria	Assessment
Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to female beneficiaries, the initiative's degree of effectiveness in relation to productivity is immeasurable. • Awareness raising among village chiefs, women, and imams has yielded highly positive results in terms of women's land rights. • Women have been encouraged to take part in decision-making bodies and claim their rights by occupying municipal-level positions. • Women have received training, especially from paralegals, who helped inform them about land acquisition procedures. • Women can now make land acquisition requests to their spouse without the request being frowned upon, while men have gained a new perspective on the relationship between land and women, even giving thought to increasing the space allotted to women after seeing the results of the latter's work. • Within the municipality, people have become aware of women's contribution to the economy, with women acquiring a degree of prestige at a group level. • Among the strategies used to gain access to land, women stress that negotiation has proven to be a key factor. • Women manage good harvests—in mahogany fields, they save so that they no longer need to go to the bank for loans but can instead invest in farmland. • Over the course of their work, women have acquired important experience and expertise, which they have then used to prepare for the agricultural season—for example, in protecting their crops from insects. • Women have set up funds within their groups to deal with constraints on their production—these monthly contributions help in overcoming technical and organizational problems.
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In general, the land granted to women—especially for farming—is far from their homes, which presents enormous difficulties. • The process is socially acceptable and has been easily integrated into community social norms and values. • The costs and support mechanisms for the initiative's implementation methods and strategies are not onerous.
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project has focused more on women's access to land than on their participation. • Women's access to decision-making bodies should be an indirect consequence of capacity building based on their land rights.
Replicability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity for resource-poor populations to adopt the approach. • Interest in the initiative among the community.

Pillar 3: Key Lessons and Recommendations

Key Lessons

- Women's access remains limited by socio-cultural constraints.
- The status of head of household facilitates women's access to land.
- Marriage is a determining factor in obtaining land or housing.
- Associative involvement is a key element in facilitating access to land.
- Women now have access to land through purchase and are familiar with land acquisition procedures.
- For widowed women, access to housing is only possible after the death of their husband.

Recommendations for Scaling Up

- Increase the availability of water.
- Fence fields
- Provide training in the processing of agricultural products such as tomatoes.
- Install fountains for watering farmland.
- Facilitate individual land acquisition procedures.
- Inform women of any administrative delays in accessing land.
- Promote greater awareness, especially among women who do not yet own land and men and women who sell their land.
- Modernize production techniques.

Sheet 6 Promoting Inclusive Land Governance by Improving Women’s Land Rights

Pillar 1: Identification and Characterization of Initiative	
Initiative	Promoting Inclusive Land Governance by Improving Women’s Land Rights
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toubacouta municipality, Groundnut Basin • Darou Khoudoss municipality, Niayes region • Ross Béthio, Mboundom Barrage, and Ronkh municipalities, Senegal River Valley
Implementation Period	2018–21
Coordination and Implementation	Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rural (IPAR, Agricultural and Rural Prospective Initiative) in partnership with Conseil National de Concertation et de Coopération des Ruraux (CNCR, National Council for Consultation and Cooperation of Rural Communities)
Technical and Financial Partners	International Development Research Center (IDRC), Canada
Beneficiaries	Women’s groups
Type of Initiative	Integrated approach (awareness raising, training, advocacy) and participation of women in consultation frameworks.
Context	Programs aimed at reviving Senegal’s agricultural sector face the following common issues: water management; reconstitution of seed capital; intensification; and professionalization and modernization of the sector. This requires considerable technical and financial capacity, which is often unavailable to family farms. Meanwhile, national and foreign investors are interested to bid for land for industrial agriculture, leading to increased competition for land. This has been to the detriment of farmers and in particular rural women, who are the most vulnerable links in the chain.
Issues	Despite their essential contribution to agriculture and food security, women are discriminated against in terms of access to and control over land, as well as the distribution of income derived from farming. Women’s ability to defend their rights to land and other natural resources is weakened by their status within the community. Although national legislation on land tenure does not discriminate against women, policies aimed at improving women’s access to land are hampered by often discriminatory customary traditions and practices.

Pillar 1: Identification and Characterization of Initiative

Objectives	<p>The project's overall aim is, through strategy formulation and evidence-based tools, to bring about more equitable land governance and improvements in women's land rights amid a context of large-scale land acquisition (LSLA). More specifically, it seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish conditions for improving women's access to, control over, and participation in land-related decision-making in an LSLA context. • Develop tools and strategies, including capacity building, to strengthen women's land rights. • Formulate practical and strategic recommendations for the effective implementation of inclusive land governance policies and strategies.
Lead Actors and Roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's groups • Local communities
Major Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting research to assess: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ State of large-scale land acquisitions in project areas. ◦ Availability of land within households. ◦ Distribution of land by gender and age within and outside households, along with the power relationships involved. ◦ Women's participation in land governance. ◦ Strengths and weaknesses of women's access to land through groups. • Capacity building for local players to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Improve women's knowledge, as well as their ability to make use of it. ◦ Strengthen women's leadership. ◦ Raise awareness among the various local players, communities, and institutions. ◦ Advocate for affirmative action policies to improve women's land rights. ◦ Set up a national-level platform to carry out advocacy (supported by CNCR). • Experimenting with local land governance tools, such as gender-sensitive land governance charters; joint village commissions (a framework for consultation and dialogue at village level); and land commissions extended to include women and young people. • Documenting and disseminating the approaches.

Pillar 1: Identification and Characterization of Initiative

Results	<p>In Toubacouta:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 gender-sensitive village land committees composed of both men and women created. • 29 land paralegals trained to sensitize communities on land issues or carry out other local-level land-related interventions. • Land tenure commission expanded to include female village land committee members whenever the commission travels to the local level to deliberate on applications. <p>In Ross Béthio and Darou:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s knowledge, as well as their ability to use this knowledge, improved. • Women’s leadership strengthened. • Greater awareness of women’s land rights among local community and institutional stakeholders. • Successful advocacy with politicians regarding adoption of positive discrimination aimed at improving women’s land rights, particularly adoption of a law instituting a quota for women in hydro-agricultural developments, in line with the African Union Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges. • Capacity building received by women and their strategic allies. • National platform for advocacy established. • Land governance tools tested at local level, including joint village commissions and land commissions extended to include women and young people.
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Pillar 2: Beneficiaries’ Assessment of Results

Criteria	Assessment
Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving women’s knowledge of their land rights and raising the awareness of other stakeholders holds the potential to strengthen women’s access to land. • Women have found strategic allies at the community level, enabling them to strengthen their access to land and local decision-making bodies.

Pillar 2: Beneficiaries' Assessment of Results

Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of women on village land committees means the process benefits from social acceptability and ease of integration with respect to social norms and values. • Technical process can be sustainable as, once trained, local paralegals can continue to raise awareness of women's land rights after the project ends. • Given the process usually takes place at village level through consultation, support mechanism cost are not high.
Participation	<p>Process promotes women's participation in local land governance bodies (e.g. land tenure committees) and builds women's capacities for quality participation.</p>
Replicability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity for resource-poor populations to adopt the approach. • Interest in the initiative among the community. • Organizational skills required.

Pillar 3: Key Lessons and Recommendations

Key Lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given the complexities of the land issue, the project's intervention time was deemed insufficient (especially during the COVID-19 pandemic)—the desired behavioral change has yet to be fully achieved. • Capacity building was central to enabling local players to participate effectively in the process to secure land. • Empowerment has had a major impact on how the process of securing land tenure is understood by various stakeholders, as well as changing perceptions regarding the role and function of each stakeholder—from local populations and representatives through to officials and politicians at all levels. • Supporting women has enabled them to recognize their capacities and the benefits of sharing their knowledge with peers—women understood very early on that making the most of their skills in harmony with men is the only way of ensuring lasting, equitable peace in the service of community development.
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Pillar 3: Key Lessons and Recommendations

Recommendations for Scaling Up

- Replicate village land committees for all projects in the municipality and consolidate the project's achievements through regular monitoring of committees
- Empower women on village land committees to take greater account of gender and land issues, and exercise their leadership skills to the full.
- Integrate and involve young women and men in village land committees, thereby making them responsible for a committee's sustainable management.
- Disseminate best practices, such as mentoring, in order to:
 - Promote intergenerational dialogue between women and young emerging leaders.
 - Empower women regarding the process of negotiating, obtaining, and using land, thereby encouraging them to apply for land allocations—at present, women are constrained by socio-cultural obstacles and their weak legal and economic capacity.
 - Involve local authorities in financing capacity-building sessions for communities on land issues.
- Build the land management capacities of local elected officials, as well as community members and leaders. Training sessions could be offered at town hall and community level and coupled with community-level awareness-raising activities. All this should be followed up and continuously evaluated by a mechanism bringing together all stakeholders (community, local elected representatives, and CSOs).
- Continue to support lobbying and advocacy by facilitators, partners, women leaders, and elected representatives, with a focus on inter-communality.
- Apply the quota in developments affected by extensions or refurbishments, such as the Grand Digue perimeter—to this end, the main support body remains SAED and, to a lesser extent, the water industry unions.
- Organize talks in neighboring local authorities in order to encourage inter-communality.
- Hold discussions with the water industry unions regarding application of the quota to future developments.

Sheet 7 Raising Women’s Awareness of Land Rights and Sharing the Benefits of Mining Companies

Pillar 1: Identification and Characterization of Initiative	
Initiative	Raising Women’s Awareness of Land Rights and Sharing the Benefits of Mining Companies in Partnership with the Civil Forum
Location	Tomboronkoto municipality
Period	March 2023–
Coordination and Implementation	National Civil Forum
Technical and Financial Partners	No information
Beneficiaries	Women’s groups
Type of Initiative	Awareness raising, training and advocacy
Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy exploitation of mining resources in the area and unequal sharing of land resources. • Environmental protection.
Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mining resources. • Revaluation and reclamation of inherited land (threat to the next generation). • Environmental destruction. • Inequality in the redistribution of resources created in the area. • Women’s level of knowledge about land issues is very low, leaving them unaware of opportunities available in the area. • Revitalization of long-dormant women’s organizations.
Objectives	Strengthen women’s leadership on land issues, corporate social responsibility, and environmental protection.

Pillar 1: Identification and Characterization of Initiative

Lead Actors and Roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Civil Forum responsible for training beneficiaries; development and sharing of action plans, as well as providing restitution, to beneficiaries; and raising awareness among women via women's groups. • Decentralized civil forum in Kédougou responsible for program implementation and monitoring of grassroots activities with focal persons. • Women's groups responsible for organizing meetings with focal persons to raise women's awareness. • Local authorities responsible for providing political and administrative support.
Major Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring community-level restitution. • Raising women's awareness of their land rights through women's and men's groups. • Advocacy with the authorities. • Revitalizing women's organizations.
Results	A women's focal point is being set up by the Civil Forum.

Pillar 2: Beneficiaries' Assessment of Results

Criteria	Assessment
Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness of women's land rights and land restoration has the potential to help strengthen women's access to land. • Revitalizing women's organizations and restoring degraded land could create income-generating activities for women.
Participation	Participation has not often been considered in the process.
Replicability	The initiative's benefits for the community may lie in the equitable redistribution of resources, particularly for women, as well as in protection of the environment.

Pillar 3: Key Lessons and Recommendations

Recommendations for Scaling Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide financial support for the initiative to achieve a sustainable impact at community level. • Strong commitment by local authorities. • Search for technical and financial partners to support the initiative and operationalize it at community level.
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Sheet 8 Corporate Social Responsibility and Benefit-Sharing from Gold Mining

Pillar 1: Identification and Characterization of Initiative	
Initiative	Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Benefit-Sharing from Gold Mining
Location	Mako village, Tomborokoto municipality
Period	2018–
Coordination and Implementation	Private mining company
Technical and Financial Partners	Private mining company
Beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s groups in Mako village • Groupement d’Intérêt Économique de (GIE, Economic Interest Group) of Djouko, Tambanoumouya, and Thiobo (formed by several GIEs)
Type of Initiative	Combating women’s vulnerability in the locality
Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of income-generating activities for women in the face of the company’s inability to recruit a significant number of women in the locality. • Development of market gardening. • Secure tenure for space allocated for market gardening. • Restoration of livelihoods. • Revitalization of long-dormant women’s organizations.
Objectives	Reinforce women’s economic power by creating income-generating activities that impact households.
Lead Actors and Roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The oil and mining company, which provides technical and financial support to the women. • Enrolled women’s groups—the initiative’s beneficiaries. • Local authorities, which provide political and administrative support for the initiative.

Pillar 1: Identification and Characterization of Initiative

Major Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping groups become GIEs. • Provision of fruit and vegetable processing equipment. • Endowment of a vegetable nursery. • Farm fencing. • Seed allocation. • Training women to process fruit and vegetables. • Ensuring collective access to land facilitated by the community (mayor and village chief, rural adviser).
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women gained collective access to agricultural land. • Women’s vegetable and fruit processing skills, as well as market garden production skills, has been strengthened. • Women’s awareness of their land rights has increased. • Beneficiary women’s groups revitalized. • Increased collective gains.

Pillar 2: Beneficiaries’ Assessment of Results

Criteria	Assessment
Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiative has been weak in terms of awareness-raising among women. • Initiative has been weak in terms of women’s mastery of procedures and knowledge of their land rights. • Long-dormant women’s groups revitalized in the two villages. • Capacity building provided to women leaders in decision-making bodies (commissions, etc.). • Women’s groups have been trained into GIEs to increase their influence and leadership. • Income-generating activities have been created. • Women’s collective earnings have been replenished. • By-products have been supplied to communities and the company.

Pillar 2: Beneficiaries' Assessment of Results

Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Women lack awareness of land issues.• Women are culturally dominated by socio-cultural norms.• Very high acceptance of the women's support project.• The project is accepted and supported by the community.• The implemented activities are aimed at women economic empowerment and so bear a significant cost in terms of support.
Participation	High levels of stakeholder participation (reported in focus groups and key informant interviews).

Pillar 3: Key Lessons and Recommendations

Key Lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revitalization of long-dormant women's groups has been helpful in pursuing the initiative's objectives.• Women have displayed considerable tenacity when it comes to continuing activities on a sustainable basis, despite funding-related limitations.• Women's lack of knowledge of land issues and poor command of integrated commissions have proved to be obstacles.
Recommendations for Scaling Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure easier access to financing for women.• Promote women's access to agricultural land.• Strengthen women's leadership through training on fundraising and other useful skills—such as land tenure and CSR—in order to raise funds from mining companies.

Sheet 9 Improving and Securing Women’s Access to Land for Inclusive Land Governance

Pillar 1: Identification and Characterization of Initiative	
Initiative	Improving and Securing Women’s Access to Land for Inclusive Land Governance in Senegal
Location	Koussanar municipality, Saré Boubou village, Sénégal Oriental Guédé municipality, Guédé Wouro-Lérabé
Period	2012–16
Coordination and Implementation	Environnement Développement Action pour la Protection Naturelle des Terroirs (ENDA Pronat, Environment Development Action for the Natural Protection of Land)
Technical and Financial Partners	No information
Beneficiaries	Women’s groups
Type of Initiative	Training and awareness raising
Context	Despite the existence of Law 64 on the national domain, religious and socio-cultural factors are often perceived as limiting women’s access to land. On the economic front, women face limited access to means of production. They work in market gardening, where their meager incomes are spent on family needs and cultural ceremonies. On a social level, women are regarded as exclusively responsible for household chores, with management and direct control of the local land system strictly the domain of men.
Issues	The land issue in rural areas is associated with production issues, with land acting as the basis for agricultural, pastoral, forestry, and mining activities. Despite accounting for the majority of the agricultural workforce, women generally have to make use of land they have no legal documentation for. Customary norms that are unfavorable to women continue to be applied despite the existence of the law on the national domain. Moreover, women play little part in decision-making bodies.

Pillar 1: Identification and Characterization of Initiative

Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to improving and securing rural women’s access to land in the context of healthy, sustainable agriculture in Senegal. • Strengthen the political capacities of rural women in order to initiate reform of customary land management practices; encourage women’s participation in land reforms; and influence national agricultural policies. • Strengthen rural women’s economic capacities through technical training and research into producing and adding value to products, thereby helping secure their access to land.
Lead Actors and Roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ENDA Pronat responsible for coordinating the project and organizing training workshops on gender, land tenure, and advocacy. • Women’s group Kawral Saré Boubou responsible for managing the mini-boreholes and market gardening perimeter. • Yakaar Niani Wulli Federation, Koussanar and Ngatamaaré Tooro Federation, Guédé responsible for strengthening rural women’s citizenship and advocacy skills; coaching local unions; setting up a functional literacy program in local languages; and monitoring activities carried out by local groups. • Koussanar municipality responsible for supporting women’s groups in obtaining land allocations. • Women’s group Yellitaaare and Women’s group JAB Gollaadé Lérabé.
Major Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness-raising roadshows on women’s land rights, village meetings, talks, and literacy programs. • 1) Capacity building for religious and traditional leaders on) women’s land rights; 2) positive masculinity with traditional leaders as agents of change; 3) training for municipal technical services on gender and land; and 4) training for women on female leadership, securing land, and coaching in participation techniques, decision-making, and support for gender-sensitive budgeting. • Acquisition of mini-borehole in Koussanar. • Advocacy sessions with customary leaders and notables to negotiate allocation of land plots to women under customary law, as well as development of advocacy materials based on rural women experiences’ in promoting healthy, sustainable agriculture.

Pillar 1: Identification and Characterization of Initiative

Results

- Women's leadership amplified.
- Men's customary behaviors and practices have begun to change in favor of better access to land for women.
- Saré Boubou village chief decided to grant a one hectare plot to the Kawral Saré Boubou GIE (25 women and 5 men) for market gardening.
- Income-generating activities have been developed thanks to mini-drilling.
- Women's group land allocation request to the municipality.
- Members of the Yellitaaare group in Guédé and Jab gollaadé group in Lérabé have become more aware of land-related issues.
- In Guédé, men have gradually ceded plots in favor of women.
- Most women (and other beneficiaries) were able to find out about their land rights and how to apply for a land allocation.
- Women are now more informed about the land grabbing phenomenon and the land reforms underway, which are part of individual privatization dynamics that act to the detriment of small producers and women.
- Women have developed the leadership skills and confidence to discuss issues with men and express their views in public.
- Beneficiaries have accessed new agricultural practices, as well as business and marketing techniques.
- Market gardens have been developed and equipped: for example, a 0.68 hectare agricultural production plot in Guédé and a 1.5 hectare plot in Lérabé, including the purchase of protective fencing (agro-pastoral zone), motor pump, etc.
- Operation of the credit and savings mutual set up before 2012 by ENDA Pronat in collaboration with the Bantaare Ngatamaaré Tooro Federation gave producers access to agricultural credit in the four villages benefiting from the project.

Pillar 2: Beneficiaries' Assessment of Results

Criteria	Assessment
Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The process has placed great emphasis on raising the awareness of women's land rights among customary authorities through talks and home visits, prompting customary leaders to grant land to women. Plots granted to women by customary authorities have generated economic spin-offs for women through income-generating activities.
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising awareness of women's land rights and changing attitudes can help ensure the process's sustainability. While some activities, such as awareness raising, do not require high cost of ownership, others, such as income-generating activities, may pose problems in the post-project period.
Participation	Participation was not considered in this process.
Replicability	Activities such as awareness-raising campaigns, land grants to women, and allocations can be easily reproduced by local populations following the same process.

Pillar 3: Key Lessons and Recommendations

Key Lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While women's leadership capacities have been strengthened, allowing them to negotiate land with their communities and landowning families, they still lack the means to develop land or acquire the equipment to cultivate it. Despite the improvements made by NGO and government projects, women remain just as dependent as men. Access to credit or financing remains a problem for both men and women. Positive customary practices such as <i>Ndioowaandi</i> promote women's access to land. Collective access for members of mixed groups promotes gender equality in land matters. Women's access to land is not the main issue in this area, but rather the financial and material means to develop land. Access to developed agricultural land is a central issue mainly affecting women.
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Pillar 3: Key Lessons and Recommendations

Recommendations for Scaling Up

- Continue promoting mixed economic interest groups, as it is necessary to involve men in awareness-raising, diagnostic, and capacity-building activities in order that they become strong allies for a group's women and female advisers. This will further strengthen understanding between men and women.
- Continue exchange visits between members of the National Network of Rural Women of Senegal by increasing the frequency of field meetings. These meetings encourage the exchange of experiences and best practices, helping develop women's open-mindedness.
- In order to diversify their activities, the project's beneficiaries—mostly women—recommend establishing an additional line of credit to support the purchase of livestock (goats, sheep, cows) for milk production and organic manure. This will not only generate a new source of income through the sale of dairy products, but offset the depletion of organic fertilizer, thereby ensuring the long-term sustainability of beneficiaries' agricultural production activities.
- Extend the size of agricultural developments until the ratio of developed land to beneficiary is surplus to requirements (define a threshold as an assessment tool).

Sheet 10 Land, Gender, and Accountability

Pillar 1: Identification and Characterization of Initiative	
Initiative	Land, Gender, and Accountability
Location	Darou Khoudoss and Mbadakhone municipalities
Period	2018–23
Coordination and Implementation	Innovations Environnement Développement (IED, Innovation Environment Development) Afrique
Technical and Financial Partners	International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), UK
Beneficiaries	Women and women’s groups
Type of Initiative	Increasing women’s participation in decision-making bodies
Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong presence of extractive industries : Industries Chimiques du Sénégal (ICS), Grandes Côtes Opérations (GCO), etc. • Coexistence of several land domains: maritime, mining, restoration zones, etc. • National domain has shrunk to around 20 percent. • Absence of women from land governance bodies. • Rapid urbanization and sprawl. • Population growth, prompting a growing need for housing, cultivated areas, and grazing land for local stakeholders. • State projects involving a high incidence of land use (Sine-Saloum University, planned teachers’ housing estate, toll freeway, military base, etc.).
Issues	Land remains the mainstay of economic production in both rural and peri-urban areas, where there is ever-increasing pressure and competition over the resource. This makes the land rights of local communities, and of women in particular, more precarious.
Objectives	Strengthen women’s access to land and participation in land-related decision-making bodies by promoting innovative approaches designed to support political decentralization and establish inclusive, equitable land governance.

Pillar 1: Identification and Characterization of Initiative

Lead Actors and Roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The local authority is the gateway to the municipality, overseeing and legitimizing the formulation and implementation of inclusive, participatory land governance frameworks. • Customary authorities participate in the process and legitimize local customary governance frameworks. • Women’s groups represent women in the process, voicing their concerns during consultations.
Major Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research designed to yield evidence on the municipality’s land governance situation, thereby helping guide the formulation of tools and approaches promoting inclusive <i>local</i>-level land governance. • Formulation and implementation of innovative land governance tools and approaches, thus encouraging stakeholder participation in the local decision-making process. • Training of paralegals (land facilitators) to support the local land governance charter process and strengthen women’s understanding of their land rights. • National and local level policy dialogue aimed at strengthening women’s land rights and contributing to evidence-based thinking on the ongoing land reform process and formulation of public policies.
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local charter formulated for the governance of land resources in Mbadakhoue. • Scientific evidence generated on land governance in general and women’s access to land in particular. • 16 land facilitators, including five women, trained and empowered. • Local actors gained capacity for on land legislation and women’s land rights. • Inclusive, participatory land governance frameworks revitalized to enable various categories of stakeholders (religious and customary authorities, women, young people) to participate in land resource governance in an equitable, inclusive manner while respecting local institutions and realities: one municipal land governance committee and nine inter-village committees have been set up. • In order to strengthen gender equality and participatory democracy, Darou land commission was expanded to include 10 resource actors, including 5 women, in an advisory capacity. Similarly, Mbadakhoue land commission was expanded to include 8 resource actors, including 4 women. • Local communities initiated advocacy through revitalized local frameworks on land issues.

Pillar 2: Beneficiaries' Assessment of Results

Criteria	Assessment
Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's access to decision-making bodies has contributed to their access to land by taking into account their specific land-related needs. • The frameworks set up at a local level have encouraged dialogue and consultation between local people, particularly women, thereby promoting social cohesion. • Economic benefits will be felt in the long term as women gain access to land.
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategy can be modified according to circumstances, as was the case with the local elections, which took place midway through the process. • The process benefited from a high level of social acceptance, with the various stakeholders raising awareness of women's land rights, leading to negotiations aimed at integrating women into local land management bodies. • Given that local frameworks can be set up on the smallest scale and represented by a small number of people on a communal scale, sustaining the process does not lead to significant costs.
Participation	Women's participation has been encouraged in local consultation frameworks at village, zonal, and municipal levels.
Replicability	The organizational capacities required largely rely on the ability and motivation of local players to set up frameworks.

Pillar 3: Key Lessons and Recommendations

Key Lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of inclusive land governance tools enables grassroots stakeholders, and women in particular, to participate in communal resource governance and ensure local authority accountability. • Involving all categories of stakeholders throughout the process is essential to ensure tools are monitored and sustained over time. • Local land governance charters enable grassroots players to respond to the land issues and challenges identified in their municipality. • A positive masculinity approach helps remove constraints linked to socio-cultural norms hindering women's access to and participation in land governance.
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Pillar 3: Key Lessons and Recommendations

Recommendations for Scaling up

- Ensure follow-up and sustainability of tools at project end, using the consultation frameworks set up.
- Ensure political agendas and changes in municipal teams do not influence the tools put in place.
- Reinforce the qualitative participation of women in decision-making bodies.
- Achieve legal recognition for inclusive, participatory land governance tools and mechanisms produced by and for local communities.

Sheet 11 Support for Land Access and Tenure Security for Rural Women in Kaolack « Diapal Ma Diap »

Pillar 1: Identification and Characterization of Initiative	
Initiative	Diapal Ma Diap: Support for Land Access and Tenure Security for Rural Women in Kaolack Region
Location	Kaolack municipality (Keur Socee, Waka Ngouna, Keur Baka, and Thiaré villages), Groundnut Basin
Period	6 months – no information on period
Coordination and Implementation	Federation of Senegalese Women’s Associations
Technical and Financial Partners	UN Women as financial partner
Beneficiaries	Women’s groups
Type of Initiative	Awareness raising and training
Objectives	Supporting women in accessing and securing land tenure
Lead Actors and Roles	Federation of Rural Women of Senegal
Major Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness among traditional and religious leaders, heads of households, and women’s groups. • Support for value addition, including provision of seeds and fertilizers.
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiative led to the creation of a 5 hectare collective field for the women of Thiamene Taba in Keur Socé municipality—awareness raising among traditional and religious leaders resulted in an agreement being reached between the village chief and the women. • The women also benefited from a fund enabling them to deposit funds each year in order to receive seed and fertilizer subsidized by the Senegalese government—thanks to the participatory approach used, the women co-financed this initiative through weekly contributions.

Pillar 2: Key Lessons and Recommendations

Key Lessons

- Initiatives must be supported by knowledge of the target's socio-cultural realities.
- Initiatives require the support of the target audience to achieve the desired results.
- The implementation period was too short.

Sheet 12 Securing Land Tenure Through Land Allocations by Local Administrative Authorities and Promotion of Responsible Land Governance

Pillar 1: Identification and Characterization of Initiative	
Initiative	Securing Land Tenure for Communities, in Particular Young People and Women, Through Issuance of Land Allocations by Local Administrative Authorities and Promotion of Responsible Land Governance
Location	Chérif Lô and Fandène municipalities, Thiès region
Period	2018 (6 months in Chérif Lô and 10 months in Fandène)
Coordination and Implementation	Environnement Développement Action pour la Protection Naturelle des Terroirs (ENDA Pronat, Environment Development Action for the Natural Protection of Land)
Technical and Financial Partners	Local Development Support Center as technical support
Beneficiaries	No information
Type of Initiative	Awareness raising and support in the land allocation process
Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid urbanization • Development of homesteads • Development of land markets • Strong presence of foreign investors • Poverty and precariousness • Presence of mining operations • Pollution of soils by phosphate mining
Objectives	Enable women and young people to gain access to and secure land, secure it, before exploiting it to the full
Lead Actors and Roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ENDA Pronat as project leader • <i>The municipality</i> (land commission) • Customary and religious authorities (village chief, parish priest, imam) • Local facilitators • Heads of families • Women and young people

Pillar 1: Identification and Characterization of Initiative

Major Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing partial financial support for the costs associated with women's access to land. • Information, awareness raising, and training on women's land rights. • Support in the application process.
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful awareness raising among local communities regarding the challenges involved in securing land tenure and women's access to land. • Land agents and supervisors on land legislation received capacity building on procedures for obtaining land allocations and use of GPS. • Support provided to communities, particularly women and young people, in obtaining land allocations. • A total of 225 land allocation requests were made, including 89 in Fandène and 50 in Chérif Lô. Of the 89 applications made in Fandène, 49 were approved, including 22 for women, 11 for young people and 5 for men. Of the 50 requests made in Chérif Lô, 29 led to land allocations being issued, including to 4 widows. • All costs associated with the plot plan and the state commission were met.

Pillar 2: Beneficiaries' Assessment of Results

Criteria	Assessment
Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's requests for land and the simplification of procedures have helped increase their access to land. • There have been noticeable benefits in terms of safety levels thanks to the awareness campaigns carried out. • Women's access to land has led to economic spin-offs through the creation of income-generating activities.
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social acceptability, above all by local authorities, will help promote sustainability by streamlining procedures. • The process involves significant costs in terms of support, which local communities cannot afford.
Participation	Participation was not taken into account in this process.
Replicability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity for resource-poor populations to adopt the approach. • The experience has prompted considerable interest in the community.

Pillar 3: Key Lessons and Recommendations

Key Lessons

- Good awareness raising and negotiation can make a project socially acceptable.
- Simply having an official piece of paper is no guarantee of security in the face of land pressures—the land needs to be developed.
- Poverty is an obstacle to securing land tenure in these communes, where the water table is beginning to dry up, requiring vast resources for setting up an efficient drainage system.

Recommendations for Scaling Up

- Further expand the number of project beneficiaries.
- Strengthen training sessions on land tenure for both men and women.
- Municipality can support local players by reducing or even waiving the cost of demarcation.
- Set up a drainage system that will enable people—especially women—to grow vegetables and firmly secure their plots.
- Rehabilitate land contaminated by mining activities and allocate it to the local population.
- Raise people’s awareness of the issues involved in selling plots of land in the area.
- Help to fence off land in order to prevent rambling and the potential damage this causes.

Sheet 13 Support for Women Producers

Pillar 1: Identification and Characterization of Initiative	
Initiative	Support for Women Producers
Location	Village of Kabrousse, Diembering municipality, Casamance region
Period	Project was completed in 2021
Coordination and Implementation	No information
Technical and Financial Partners	No information
Beneficiaries	Women promotion groups from Canor
Type of Initiative	Support for women producers
Context	The women of Kabrousse's farming activities had ceased several years previously due to the failure of the fences enclosing the farm and a deterioration in land quality, prompting the women to abandon their activities in order to avoid operating at a loss.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help women to return to farming • Secure production • Facilitate access to water for women
Lead Actors and Roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's promotion groups • Africa Corps
Major Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of fence mesh • Construction of two wells • Granting of motorcycle pumps for wells
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farming activities by women members of the <i>groupements de promotion feminine</i> (GPFs, women's promotion groups) resumed. • Fencing walls were constructed to protect against stray animals. • Access to water was facilitated.

Pillar 2: Beneficiaries' Assessment of Results

Criteria	Assessment
Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiative increased production as a source of income for women. • Financial conditions for women producers improved as a result.
Sustainability	While land consensually allocated to women by village elders is often documented, land loaned to them cannot be secured without the owners' approval.
Participation	Participation was not taken into account in this process.

Pillars 3: Key Lessons

Key Lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No initiatives to strengthen women's rights in terms of access to land and housing have been noted. • The technical partners' involvement was limited to support the productive use of land granted to GPF by the men of the village. • Land allocated to GPF benefitted from a formal land allocation decision. • Associative involvement by women does not guarantee their access to land or housing.
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Sheet 14 Land Development

Pillar 1: Identification and Characterization of Initiative	
Initiative	Land Development
Location	Toubacouta municipality, Groundnut Basin
Period	2001
Coordination and Implementation	No information
Technical and Financial Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agrisud • Club Med
Beneficiaries	<p>Women farmers from a variety of structures, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groupement de Promotion Feminine (GPF, Women's Promotion Group) Kadiakaye • GPF Biamobéne
Type of Initiative	Support for productive use of land
Context	In a context where land is regarded as the preserve of men, women's access to land is no easy matter. Support provided to the women by Agrisud/Club Med enables them to work the land outside family holdings. ¹⁹
Issues	Experiment was set up as an alternative to give women access to agricultural land through women's groups while raising awareness of women's rights to land.
Objectives	Enable women to secure their production and facilitate its marketing.
Lead Actors and Roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The women • Village committee of Elders
Major Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fence wall construction • Well construction • Facilitating flow of production

¹⁹ Agrisud is an NGO that works in partnership with Club Med to support family-run farms that make the most of local resources, protect biodiversity, and are resilient.

Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fence wall to secure production constructed. • Access to water through the construction of wells has enabled women to increase production. • Project has made it easier for farmers to sell their produce.
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Pillar 2: Beneficiaries' Assessment of Results

Criteria	Assessment
Efficiency	<p>Support for productive use of land has contributed more to land development than improving women's access to land, enabling women to continue their farming activities independently, including through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased production • Product marketing • Increased income for women producers
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While land consensually allocated to women by the wise men's committee or village chief is often documented, land loaned to women cannot be secured without the owners' approval. • Although initiatives involving material support (fencing, motorcycle pumps, wells, boreholes) are accepted without major difficulty, when investments require the securing of loaned land, they are rejected.
Participation	Participation was not taken into account in this process.

Pillar 3: Key Lessons and Recommendations

Key Lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having head of household status in no way facilitates women's access to land. • Marital status does not give a woman individual access to land. • Involvement in associations enables only married women to access land. • Women are reluctant to use legal channels to gain access to inherited land as they are afraid of mystical reprisals. As such, widowed women without male children face de facto loss of access to their husband's land. • Although women now have access to land through purchase, this represents the only possible form of access to land and housing available to them.
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Sheet 15 Application of a Developed Public Land Quota for Women

Pillar 1: Identification and Characterization of Initiative	
Initiative	Application of a Quota for Women for Developed Public Land in the Senegal River Valley; as well as Food Security Improvement and Marketing Support Project in Matam region (Appui à la sécurité alimentaire et à l'amélioration de la mise en marché dans la région de Matam (ASAMM) and Support for the Promotion of Family Farms in Matam Region (Appui à la promotion des petites exploitations familiales dans la région de Matam – (APEFAM)
Location	Senegal River Valley
Period	Carried out since the 1990s in various forms
Coordination and Implementation	Société Nationale d'Aménagement et d'Exploitation des Terres du Delta du Fleuve Sénégal (SAED, National Society for the Development and Exploitation of the Land of the Senegal River Delta) and agricultural professional bodies from the Senegal River Valley
Technical and Financial Partners	Agence Française de Développement (AFD, French Development Agency), World Bank, Korea International Cooperation Agency, Japan International Cooperation Agency, Banque Ouest-Africaine de développement (BOAD, West African Development Bank)
Beneficiaries	Farmers in the Senegal River Valley
Type of Initiative	Quotas in access to land
Context	Public land developments are generally distributed to men in their capacity as head of family or household, to the detriment of women and young people.
Issues	Quota was designed to address gender inequalities in the distribution of publicly funded land in the Senegal River Valley.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen women's access to land. • Improve women's presence in agricultural professional bodies. • A quota of at least 15 percent to be allocated to women when plots are redistributed via a land development project.
Lead Actors	Agricultural organizations in the Senegal River Valley

Pillar 1: Identification and Characterization of Initiative

Major Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of irrigated perimeters. • Identification of beneficiaries. • Local agreements on the principle of a systematic 15 percent quota for women, plots allocations, and support for development. • Training and marketing support. • Experimentation, then scaling up as part of various projects.
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women have gained better access to developed irrigated land. • Women have received improved incomes. • Successful promotion of female leadership and women champions in irrigation. • Greater presence of women in OPAs. • Statistics on application of the quota system throughout the Senegal River Valley are unavailable. • As part of the quota system implementation in Matam region, market gardens have been created for 14,523 women in 87 women's promotion groups, covering a total area of 504.49 hectares, with 32 perimeters financed for women. The surface area per perimeter is around 5 hectares. In addition, other types of economic activity aimed at enhancing the socio-economic status of women have been supported by ASAMM/APEFAM.

Pillar 2: Beneficiaries' Assessment of Results

Criteria	Assessment
Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has effectively contributed to improving women's access to land. • Quotas have contributed up to a point in reducing agricultural sector gender inequalities by enabling women to benefit from access to developed land, from which they were previously excluded.
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women have seen economic benefits from the quota system and improved their income through access to production factors. • The financial costs associated with land development are considerable and can only be funded by governments or projects. • According to SAED stakeholders, application of the quota system in the Senegal River Valley continues to face societal resistance.
Replicability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity for resource-poor populations to adopt the approach. • Interest in the initiative among the community.

Pillar 3: Key Lessons

- Women have expressed strong support for an approach based on a negotiated partnership with local communities; support from supervisory authorities and technical and financial partners; and dedicated advisory support.
- Amid a context where women's freedoms are still determined by their family environment or the demands of their community, there is a constant risk that gains may be called into question.
- Experiment should be replicated judiciously, and efforts made to take patient account of local realities, which may require gradual implementation.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Cover Photo

iStock Photo / Siempreverde22

APR 25, 2017: Unidentified Fulani woman in a shirt with opened shoulder walks along the street. Fulanis (Peul) are the largest tribe in West African savannahs

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iStock Photo / Siempreverde22

MAY 4, 2017: Unidentified local woman in headscarf walks along the street.

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Two African women transporting water with a great container in the head, in Ziguinchor's city, Senegal



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