## ABOUT SCAP

The Small holder Conservation Agriculture Promotion is a regional project financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The programme is concentrated in a project area that comprises selected arid, semi-arid and humid areas. The Programme's objectives shall include promoting Western and Central Africa (WCA) based community and smallholder-driven NRM, cropping and farming systems. The latter will be crafted according to environmental, social and economic conditions.

## THE GOAL

The general goal of the project is to reduce rural poverty, improve food security, conserve agricultural land and water resources, and foster economic growth through sustainable improvements in the productivity of agro-ecosystems in WCA, through improved access on the part of poor rural communities to technical options inspired by the principles of conservation agriculture, with a primary focus on selected sites in Burkina Faso, Niger and Guinea.

## THE VISION

SCAP vision is to raise the technology development, adaptation and assessment within communities, develop improved cropping systems, foster farmer-innovation networks and improve knowledge-sharing.

## THE MISSION

The Programme's mision is to raise the productivity and improve the sustainability of natural resources in WCA as a way to reduce rural poverty and improve the access by the rural poor to technology and natural resources, including land and water.

## THE APPROACH

The overall approach adopted in the Programme will be highly participatory and allow for the allocation of the necessary space for a dynamic, iterative and flexible process to unfold that will lead to the development of technical and organizational innovations in partnership with key stakeholders, foremost among them farmers and their organizations. Existing initiatives and dynamics that present convergences with the approach (for example through crop or tree-residue management, minimum tillage, soil organic property stimulations, service plant implementation) will be highlighted and inserted into a participatory innovation management system.

Learning in Farmer Field Schools

Demonstrating use of Animal Drawn Direct Seeder

Direct Planting without ploughing

## PROBLEMS FACED BY FARMERS

Farmer Ploughing difficulty

Heavy Environment Degradation

Heavy Soil Erosion

Withered beans

## FOSTERING FARMER INNOVATION NETWORKS

- Develop methodological considerations that utilize available knowledge on suitable “next steps” to develop sensible options, among them cropping systems, for farmer assessment.
- Selection of multiple sites will be undertaken to sample diversity and to use it in developing strategies for technology targeting and scaling out.
- The Project team will conduct an initial diagnosis on problems, causes, and possible solutions that are related to CA tillage techniques in combination with cropping systems related to agro forestry/tree pruning, residue retention or cover crops.
- Ground working for enhancement of farmer field schools (FFS).
- After the process of decision making on suitable options for CA equipment and the scale of it the SCAP team will also arrange for training and back-up support in equipment and input use for the CA plots. Lessons should be drawn from the experiences of the FAO implemented CA-SARD project that is operational with ACT management in East Africa

## PARTICIPATORY TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT, ADAPTATION & ASSESSMENT

The community work plan will be implemented by relying mostly on farmer initiative and local capacity for innovation. Retrospective analysis and individual attitudes during the visits, surveys and training sessions will help each community group to identify among its members, innovators with a keen interest in taking part in developing and adapting new innovations or practices through experimentation, and in sharing the results with the group. In Western and Central Africa, there are many examples of farmers' indigenous' innovations (forest zaï, potato « cellar », etc.), and also many adaptations of research proposals. Efforts still have to be made to describe, understand and to assess the whole scope of existing innovations in this sub-region, and an inventory of innovations will be prepared.

Exchange visits & tours on CA prg ts

Biological Soil fti ity Improvement

Complete soil cover & High Yields