Country context - Mali

- One of the poorest countries with 65% of farmers living in poor conditions.
- Agriculture contributes to more than 40% of GDP and represents the main activity for 80% of the population.
- The cereal yield average is about 1500 kg/ha while the sorghum and millet yield is less than 1000 kg/ha.
- Main climate changes risks include drought, flooding, howling wind and cricket infestation.

Objectives

- Identify and prioritize the more efficient CSA options.
- Mobilise stakeholders
- Define a portfolio of actions and investments for food security

Classification of CSA long list

Top ten CSA options

1. Water and soil conservation techniques
2. Crops associations
3-4. Small agricultural flood barrier and pastoral settlement
5. Assisted natural regeneration
6-7. Hedges, stone barriers, zaï
8. Sand dune stabilization
9. Improved varieties and seeds
10. Agro-ecological information

CSA Prioritization Process

1.1 Stakeholders and «clients» identification
1.2 Areas and vulnerabilities identification
1.3 CSA options listing and first selection

2.1 Listing of different criteria per area
2.2 Prioritization of CSA options per area
2.3 Required conditions and innovations for implementing prioritized options

3.1 Cost-benefit analysis
3.2 Stakeholders and investments commitment
3.3 Terms and conditions of implementation and commitment

Prioritization criteria per area

- Improve pasture condition
- Contribute to water management
- Respect local habits and customs

Top criteria:

- Socially tolerable
- Economically attractive
- Technically feasible

- Accessible technology
- Contribute to food security
- Improve water and soil

Conclusion

Lessons learned include: (i) a strong commitment of stakeholders to the process (governments and technical services, international partners, civil society, etc.) but we noted that communities and local councillors have to increase their rallying; (ii) selected CSA options are not necessarily new techniques and are equivalent to practices used by farmers in the different agro-climatic areas but the purpose is to combine 2 or 3 practices and to define conditions to put them to larger scale; (iii) the national assessment is still a great challenge to engage decision-makers in broadly invest in CSA and one of the next step (the cost-benefit analysis) is a good argument for that.

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