Kingdom of the Netherlands

SOIL VALUES
MAINSTREAMING SUSTAINABLE SOIL MANAGEMENT IN THE SAHEL

SOIL VALUES
2025 WORK PLAN



March 2025

IFDC SNV WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH

AGRA Sustainably Growing Africa's Food Systems | CIFOR | World Agroforestry | IITA Transforming African Agriculture | ISRIC World Soil Information | IWMI International Water Management Institute

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1 Context

International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) on the behalf of the Soil Values Program's consortium (IFDC, SNV, WUR) submitted the 2025 workplan and budget to the Netherlands Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS) on November 1, 2024. In its feedback to the submitted workplan, DGIS recommended the following:

- Clear explanation showing how the workplan is a result of Soil Values' approach to work 'synergistically' and complementary to existing programs and institutions
- The above should clarify where, how and to what extent Soil Values will fill soil-health related gaps in existing programs (FSRP, Pro-ARIDES, ECOWAS and so forth),
- The ongoing programs should be the point of departure, based upon which the revised Work plan describes planned activities in complementarity,
- The Work Plan should also include clear indication of mutual recognition of the identified gaps and areas of complementary action with other programs, as well as institutionalization of the collaboration in arrangements that guarantee mutual commitment,
- A thorough risk analysis, also in case Soil Values plans to build upon the risk analyses of ongoing programs

In response to the abovementioned, this revised 2025 workplan addresses how the program leverages synergies with national and regional partner programs and institutions to advance soil fertility and health. It further highlights the collaborative processes and strategic partnerships underpinning the workplan, demonstrates the integration effort with existing national and regional soil health programs and institutions, and describes the implementation strategy and risks analysis of the program.

Soil Values is designed not as a stand-alone program but as a catalytic and integrative effort to embed soil fertility and soil health into national and regional development agendas. To ensure sustainability and alignment, Soil Values has engaged in an intensive six-month inception phase that prioritized the engagement of national partner programs, institutions and stakeholder collaboration. A series of workshops - both virtual and in-person - were conducted with national partner programs funded by donor communities such as World Bank, USAID, ECOWAS, DGIS/EKN and others. These engagements served as platforms to introduce Soil Values, identify actionable points of synergy, and create a strategic partnership map with relevant programs, institutions and stakeholders for long-term intervention in the priority countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Nigeria). As a result, an operational Theory of Change for the Soil Values program was developed, building on the operational framework that integrates clear objectives for soil health and productivity, stakeholder engagement and their capacity building through training programs aligned with identified gaps and points of synergy.

Prominent among the identified partner programs and institutions for the strategic partnership development are but not limited to the World Bank-funded Food System Resilience Programs (FSRPs) and PRAPS (Projet Régional d'Appui au Pastoralisme au Sahel), DGIS-funded Pro-ARIDES program promoting resilience and food security in the Sahel, ECOWAS Roadmap of the Lomé Declaration and investment programs (AU-FSH Action Plan through FARA, and the ECOWAS FSH Action Plan) for strengthening fertilizer and soil health sectors in Soil Values implementation countries. This partnership strategy could be adjusted and extended to programs and institutions other than the above depending on the evolvement of needs and priority policy agendas of local governments, national partner programs as well as donors' policy direction.

Building on these strategic partnerships, Soil Values addresses identified points of synergy through targeted interventions to maximize impact.

2 Methodological Approach

2.1 Strategic Entry Points for Soil Values Program

During the inception phase, a series of national technical workshops and physical meetings were organized to compile a comprehensive list of stakeholders, potential national partner programs, local implementing partners, and rural communities. Details of the identified local partner programs and Stakeholders, objectives and location of their intervention are in Annex 1.

The Ministry of Agriculture in Niger has issued a specific letter of recommendation to national programs for collaboration with Soil Values. Similar processes are underway in other countries to obtain tailored recommendations from their respective Ministries of Agriculture specific to Soil Values. Additionally, since 2022, IFDC has signed memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with the Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries in Burkina Faso, Niger, and Mali, while in Nigeria, an MOU has been established with the National Planning Commission.

Soil Values will adopt a collaborative and impact-driven approach by engaging in climate action and soil health investment programs at national and regional levels. Prominent among them are (but not limited to):

- World Bank's Resilient Food Systems Programs (RFSP), Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL)
- PRAPS (Projet Régional d'Appui au Pastoralisme au Sahel- Regional project to support pastoralism in the Sahel)
- DGIS-funded Agri-Food Program for Integrated Resilience and Economic Development in the Sahel (Pro-ARIDES), and other EKN climate resilience programs will be prioritized.
- International and African institutions (CORAF, FARA, WAFA, OCP etc.) to implement the AFSH Summit's recommendations, where Soil Values played a catalytic role.
- Regional Hub for Fertilizer and Soil Health and its consortium members (IITA, IFDC, APNI, UM6P, and OCP) to promote Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM) technologies and developing soil information systems tailored to the needs of West Africa and the Sahel.
- WAFA and its national members to catalyze partnerships with local fertilizer distributors to ensure the availability of affordable, high-quality agricultural inputs for smallholder farmers, and leveraging local natural resources.
- Other soil health/fertilizer implementing alliance and institutions such as ICRISAT, Regional Soil Hub Consortium partners (IITA, IFDC, FARA, APNI), USAID funded EnGRAIS and space to place, ARIA, APSA Programs.

The approach aims to enhance Soil Values' visibility and impact regionally, refine its regional intervention strategies, and secure additional resources. These efforts will ensure sustainability and long-term impact, driving progress toward resilient agricultural systems and improved soil health across West Africa and the Sahel.

2.2 Key Principle and Partnership Building

The Soil Values Program takes an integrated and collaborative approach to enhancing soil health and Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM) as key pillars of sustainable agriculture. The program aligns with national and regional strategies for building resilient food systems emphasizing partnership-driven solutions rather than working in isolation. By strengthening local implementing entities and engaging in climate action and soil health investment programs, the initiative collaborates with key partners like the World Bank, DGIS, and regional institutions. Key Principles include:

- Building on the World Bank-funded FSRPs/ACReSAL programs to optimize local governments' investments in selected watersheds through the promotion and dissemination of resilience-building technology intervention.
- Advancing policy, institutional capacity, and ISFM technologies by aligning with the Lomé Declaration's 10-Year Action Plan and working with institutions like CORAF, FARA, WAFA, and the Regional Hub for Fertilizer and Soil Health to enhance program visibility internationally, attract

and raise additional resources, promote long-term sustainability while strengthen agricultural resilience to climate risks across West Africa and the Sahel.

- Fostering private sector engagement in collaboration with partner financial institutions, value chain actors, and agro-dealers (Annex 2). This includes developing bankable business models and facilitating access to financial services and agricultural inputs, ensuring smallholder farmers can secure essential resources at the last mile.
- Strategic partnership building with national partner programs and institutions, leveraging approach to implement activities that effectively address synergies and gaps identified in collaboration with partner programs and institutions.
- Mainstreaming soil health while considering the contextual, programmatic, and institutional risks related to the prevailing agroecological and socio-economic conditions in West Africa and the Sahel.
- Proactive extension of the strategic partnership to other soil health-focused World Bank and Dutch-funded programs (Pro-ARIDES, L-PRES and PRAPS) to enhance sustainable agricultural practices.
- Developing partnership with and playing a catalytic role in training and capacitating local implementing partners (specialized local NGOs, subject matter specialists/experts, empowered farming communities etc.) through intensive training-of-trainers and farmer-to-farmers cascade-down training programs.

2.3 Watersheds Selection and Strategy to Reach Soil Values' Targeted Areas

The Soil Values program aims to restore 2 million hectares of degraded land by 2033 and enhance smallholder farmers' resilience through agroecological interventions. To achieve this, ambitious yearly targets have been set to reach 100,000 hectares farmland in 2025 considering that FSRPs interventions cover 608,335 hectares across key watersheds in Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Nigeria (Table 1). To achieve its target of 2 million hectares area landscape by the year 2033, Soil Values will expand its interventions over an additional coverage of 1,391,665 hectares within FSRPs watersheds.

Recent watershed mapping studies conducted during the 2024 inception phase identified nine major watersheds totalling approximately 47 million hectares. The selection criteria included (i) security conditions, (ii) presence of FSRPs and other relevant programs, (iii) existing physical investments[1] on agriculture, and (iv) agroecological characteristics. A preliminary selection approach led to the identification of 128 existing sub-watersheds within the FSRPs intervention areas. Furthermore, in-depth watershed mapping study was then conducted to complete and narrow the watershed selection using the following criteria: (i) biophysical characteristics, (ii) socio-economic factors, (iii) land use, (iv) land governance and conflict dynamics, (v) water systems, and (vi) climate risks. Focus group discussions were conducted during the study with farmers communities toward refining the selection and ensuring a more strategic and informed approach to implementation. This provides significant potential area extension toward reaching long-term target of 2 million hectares while maintaining alignment with FSRP implementation strategy and Soil Values' agroecological sustainability goals.

Table 1. *Selected sub-watersheds and their potential, actual coverage under FSRP, and Soil Values Target Areas (hectare)*

Country	Watershed	Potential Area (ha)	FSRP Actual Area (ha)	Soil Values Target Area (ha)	Soil Values Remaining Area to Cover (ha)
Mali	Bani	12,898,598	246,186	400,000	153,814
	Sankarani	3,294,255			
Burkina Faso	Kou	2,044,716	162,411	400,000	237,589
	Nakambe	4,530,688			
Niger	Maggia	7,119,768	162,367	400,000	237,633
	Korama	6,727,691			

[1] Physical investments refer for instance to irrigation canals, dams, soil and water conservation structures.

Nigeria	Fajewa	2,389,332	37,371	800,000	762,629
	Yartiti	2,397,525			
	Bauchi	5,265,552			
Total		46,668,125	608,335	2,000,000	1,391,665

Source: Calculation based on FSRPs progress reports; Soil Values watershed mapping report in 2024.

2.4 Strategic Expansion of Soil Values in FSRP Intervention Areas

Assuming that FSRP programs are extended beyond their current implementation period, Soil Values will build on the existing collaborative framework with them to ensure continuity and deepen its impact. More specifically, Soil Values will continue complementing FSRP interventions, focusing on long-term agroecological transformation and sustainable land management within these priority watersheds.

However, with FSRPs ending by 2026 (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger) and ACReSAL in Nigeria by 2027, Soil Values must proactively diversify its partnerships toward preventing interventions disruption. A continued expansion beyond FSRPs implementation period will therefore require an anticipated engagement with other large-scale national programs operating in FSRPs watersheds.

Strategic partnerships with other World Bank-funded Regional Support Project for Pastoralism in the Sahel (PRAPS in Burkina Faso, Niger, and Mali) and Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support Project (L-PRES) in Nigeria offer tangible area expansion opportunities. These large-scale programs that focus on sustainable countrywide pasture production and landscape restoration in the arid and semi-arid areas are well-aligned with Soil Values' core objective of soil and landscape restoration as improved pasture management and fodder production through regenerative agriculture could significantly increase the expansion of Soil Values area of landscape under ecologically sustainable use in the Sahel.

The DGIS-funded Pro-Arides program aims to improve food security and resilience in the Sahel. The program chiefly operates in the FSRPs watershed focusing on the dryland areas. This creates an opportunity for Soil Values to expand its geographic coverage. Operating in dryland areas where FSRPs presence is limited, Pro-Arides is deploying soil and water conservation techniques such as half-moons and stone rows/bunds to combat erosion. By collaborating with Pro-Arides, Soil Values will optimize these efforts in promoting climate-smart soil fertility and productivity-increasing crop management technologies, maximizing impact and expanding its reach in dryland agroecosystems.

In addition, to the above programs, HortiPlus (Burkina Faso) and HortiNigeria (Nigeria) are among the key promising potential partner programs other than FSRPs and Pro-Arides that could also add value to Soil Values intervention strategy. The two EKN-funded programs could play a crucial role in reinforcing a horticultural value-chain approach to increase the income of Soil Values end beneficiaries in the Sahel while improving their resilience.

A well-coordinated collaboration efforts among Dutch-funded programs would enhance implementation efficiency and effectiveness, increase visibility, ensure long-term impact while improving sustainability and resilience of agricultural systems and soil health across West Africa and the Sahel.

3 Detailed Activities

Following discussions with program partners, a consensus was reached on key priorities for 2025 to enhance the resilience and sustainability of agricultural and food systems (See signed agreements in annex 3). These priorities include strengthening digital advisory services for real-time information on soil management, reinforcing early warning systems to mitigate climate and market risks, and promoting sustainable and adaptive agricultural practices through data-driven approaches. Additionally, partners have committed to improving access to inputs and ensuring inclusive approaches that empower smallholder farmers, women, and youth. Institutional and policy support has also been recognized as crucial for fostering digital innovations and ensuring long-term sustainability. These priorities have driven our collaborative efforts for 2025, resulting in activities structured around the following action points:

- Knowledge dissemination on smart agriculture
- Capacity building and training

- Policy development and advocacy
- Sustainable land and watershed management
- Financial inclusion and market access
- Research, Innovation and technology adoption
- Climate-Smart and sustainable agricultural practices
- Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

The activities developed under these action points are interlinked with the five intervention areas namely Bundling, Integrate, Convene, Brokering, and Scoping & Learning which will be implemented by the national implementing partners, with the support of coalition partners (IFDC, SNV, WUR, AGRA, ICRAF, IITA, ISRIC and IWMI) through a holistic and synergistic approach.

Soil Values will develop additional partnerships by engaging the private sector to drive investment in agricultural through GESI-sensitive business models, contracting local extension NGOs and rural radios for technology dissemination, and identifying scalable agricultural innovations to enhance productivity and sustainability. These efforts will ensure smallholders access to modern agricultural equipment, knowledge, and market linkages, fostering a more resilient and efficient agricultural sector.

3.1 Work packages per intervention areas

Bundling: Key activities under knowledge dissemination focus on expanding farmer registration on digital platforms to facilitate the sharing of technology-related knowledge through multimedia channels and in local languages. Capacity-building efforts prioritize cascade down training of trainers (extension agents), relay farmers to farmers, including women and youth, in agroecological practices and use of extension tools and equipment such as setting up demo plots, farmer field days (green and brown field days etc.), training tools and materials include training modules, technical advisory notes, technical pamphlets in French, English and local languages as needed, soil testing kits, quality seeds and fertilizers, small-scale irrigation kits, and other essential equipment. These efforts seek to enhance resilience, long-term agricultural productivity, and environmental conservation.

Integrate: Activities in sustainable land and watershed management are supporting program partners in developing integrated watershed-landscape plans, establishing multi-stakeholder platforms, and strengthening local governance structures for watershed and landscape management. Additionally, in alignment with agreements with partner programs, Soil Values will strengthen the capacity of national agricultural research institutions in soil mapping, modelling site-specific fertilizer recommendation to accelerate innovation and technology adoption through research collaborations, promote ISFM and climate-smart agricultural solutions, and enhance soil health monitoring.

Recognizing the importance of gender equality and social inclusion (GESI), the workplan integrates activities for training women and youth in leadership, financial literacy, GESI-sensitive technologies and advocacy while ensuring their participation in watershed governance.

Brokering: To enhance financial inclusion and market access, the workplan prioritizes activities that facilitate internal resource mobilization by linking farmers with financial institutions. Activities planned under this interventions area focus on promoting financial services such as microloans, pre-financing of fertilizers, crop insurance, and VSLAs for rural resource mobilization and financial education. In addition, activities are designed to foster public-private partnerships through the connection of financial institutions, value chain actors, agro-dealers, and policymakers to create enabling conditions for accessing financial, advisory, and agricultural input services.

Convene: The activities emphasize policy development, awareness and advocacy to strengthen regional trade relations, secure long-term funding for soil health initiatives, at both local and national levels. Additionally, activities emphases consultative frameworks development with agro-dealers to improve agro-inputs availability at the last mile. The activities will build on AGRA's and IFDC's existing coalitions and relationships with governments, regional economic communities, commodity boards, the fertilizer and agribusiness industry, and other soil actors to mainstream the understanding of ISFM for future policies and investments. Emerging areas of interest, such as World Soil Day, national awareness creation about the African Union – Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan through FARA, will also be

considered to enhance engagement and awareness. Furthermore, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, as two strategic countries, play a central role in Soil Values' ongoing leveraging efforts. Therefore, planned activities include consultative framework on soil health to explore synergies on fertilizer and soil health, strengthening local agro-dealer networks with coastal countries, and providing training on fertilizer storage and handling techniques to enhance the private sector's capacity in maintaining and preserving fertilizer quality.

Scoping and Learning: The activities focus on strengthening academic and research capacities in agricultural development, specifically targeting soil management and resilience among small producers. Training initiatives on specific topics related to the five intervention areas are planned to enhance the expertise of students through PhD program including *(i)* Soil fertility gradients within landscapes and the role of crop-livestock integration; *(ii)* The role of value chains and networks in promoting uptake of ISFM practices; *(iv)* Community and watershed level dynamics in managing the above and below ground biomass, and biodiversity; *(v)* The role of institutions and policies with respect landscape, soil fertility, value chains; *(vi)* The trade-off between distributive justice and conflict in relation to ISFM interventions at farm and watershed level. Additionally, partnerships with the private sector at national and regional levels will be established. Soil Values will also participate in agricultural exhibitions and collaborate with institutions to advance agro-technical and socio-economic innovations for enhanced productivity and resilience.

3.2 Budgeted Activities for 2025

Table 2 outlines the detailed activities planned for 2025.

Table 2. *Soil Values activities in line with identified points of synergy with partner programs and Institutions*

Legend (PI = Partner Institution; II = Implementing Institution; PP = Program Partner)

PI	II	PP	Partner Program Relevant soil Health Components	Partner Program Relevant Soil Health Activities	Gap Identified/Demand Articulated	Proposed Soil Values Complementary Activities	Estimated Budget (Euros)	Intervention Area	Timeline (When)
World Bank	Ministry of Agriculture of Niger	FSRP Niger	Digital advisory services for the prevention and management of agricultural and food insecurity	Support the enrollment of 200,000 farmers on the national digital platform.	Weak farmer cooperatives, poor agro-dealer platforms and input distribution networks, and a lack of collective management of agricultural equipment	Scale up new farmer registration on the digital platform of the National Network of the Chambers of Agriculture (RECA) to ensure digital services delivery to a larger target.	40,000	Bundling	Jan-Dec
				Support professionalization and fertilizer quality control to promote use of quality fertilizer and improved seeds.		Update and digitalize the National Directory of Agricultural Input Suppliers.	10,000	Bundling	By June
				Disseminate technical and advisory services on the fertilizer market and efficient use as well as pest management.	Poor dissemination of ISFM-based knowledge and technologies, landscape management and water conservation techniques, among producers	Catalyze knowledge dissemination on soil fertility and health in local languages through video/audio and digital platforms to reach a larger target.	20,000	Bundling	Jan-Dec
			Sustainability and adaptability of the food system's production ecosystems	Promote proper use of quality fertilizer and improved seed: distribution of quality agricultural inputs to farmers for demonstrations (15,000 metric tons).	Poor dissemination of available agricultural innovations and inadequate extension service delivery for small-scale producers	Facilitate cascade training for extension agents in agroecological practices, efficient fertilizer, use and ISFM.	50,000	Bundling	By June
				Set up 25 demonstration plots on productivity-increasing agroecological technologies.	Limited use of agroecological practices for preserving and integrated landscape management	Set up demonstration plots of GESI-sensitive technology options in the watershed.	20,000	Integrate	May-Dec
						Develop an integrated watershed-landscape management plan.	20,000	Integrate	By August
					Low participation of farmers, especially youth and women, in local governance bodies	Set up multi-stakeholder consultation platforms (involving women and youth groups) on natural resource management.	10,000	Integrate	By June
						Support advocacy at watershed level to develop a GESI-sensitive governance and management structure for integrated catchment management, including raising awareness among land management	30,000	Integrate	March-Oct

PI	II	PP	Partner Program Relevant soil Health Components	Partner Program Relevant Soil Health Activities	Gap Identified/Demand Articulated	Proposed Soil Values Complementary Activities	Estimated Budget (Euros)	Interventi on Area	Timeline (When)
						committees with GESI champions and training rural women.			
				Support the implementation and operationalization of productive alliances in the target value chains at the watershed level.	Poor market-oriented policy framework for sustainable funding and technical support to soil health and agricultural development	Create a bottom-up social governance framework at the watershed level through forums and awareness-raising activities.	15,000	Integrate	March-Oct
						Support the establishment and/or strengthening local institutions, initiatives and policies, as well as multi-stakeholder platforms, for the sustainable management of natural resources.	10,000	Integrate	Feb-June
						Promote the mobilization of internal resources through local initiatives by developing financing mechanisms tailored to women and youth and strengthening their capacity to address gaps in financial literacy.	100,000	Brokering	Jan-Dec
			Market integration and regional trade in food and agricultural inputs	Support the elaboration of a national action plan for fertilizer and soil health in accordance with the Nairobi Summit.	Poor policy framework for sustainable funding and technical support to soil health and agricultural development	Contribute to the development of policies and action plans to secure long-term funding for improving soil health.	15,000	Convening	March-Sep
				Support policy development on food to facilitate the regional trade integration.		Support policy development at national and regional levels (ECOWAS and Sahel) in strengthening regional trade relations between Niger and neighboring countries (Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana) while promoting fertilizer use and adoption for improved soil health.	25,000	Convening	March-Sep
			Digital advisory services for the prevention and management of agricultural and food insecurity	Strengthen the capacity of extension agents through academic training.	Limited/poor knowledge of productivity-increasing ISFM technologies	Organize study and exchange visits and educational forums for involved extension agents.	40,000	Scoping & Learning	By July
		Total					**405,000**		

PI	II	PP	Partner Program Relevant soil Health Components	Partner Program Relevant Soil Health Activities	Gap Identified/Demand Articulated	Proposed Soil Values Complementary Activities	Estimated Budget (Euros)	Interventi on Area	Timeline (When)
	Ministry of Agriculture of Burkina Faso	FSRP Burkina	**Component 1:** Digital advisory services for agriculture and food crisis prevention and management	Strengthen local means and capacities for the production and dissemination of agronomic and hydrometeorological data.	Lack of adequate and updated soil information and ineffective use of soil fertility maps for site-specific fertilizer recommendations	Train local implementing partners and technical agents in improved soil classification of the pilot watersheds and equip them with rapid soil test kits.	14,000	Bundling	Feb-June
			Component 2: Sustainability and adaptability of the food system's productive base	Support 500,000 farmers in adopting climate-smart agricultural technologies and services, 40% of whom are women.	Poor dissemination of knowledge and technologies, including ISFM, landscape management, and water conservation techniques, among producers	Strengthen the technical capacities of local implementing partners, extension agents, and relay farmers to train their counterparts on ISFM (organic fertilizers, mineral manure, green manure, improved varieties, biochar).	68,000	Bundling	Jan-Dec
					Limited use of agroecological practices for preserving and integrated landscape management	Provide practical training and support to small-scale farmers, especially women and youth, in producing non-timber forest products, growing fodder plants, and cultivating fertilizer trees, along with assistance in acquiring necessary materials and equipment.	18,000	Bundling	Jan-Dec
					Weak farmer cooperatives, poor agro-dealer platforms and input distribution networks, and a lack of collective management of agricultural equipment	Support the establishment of private-sector-led biocompost production units using effluent from biodigesters.	12,000	Bundling	By June
						Train and monitor agricultural cooperatives in the collective and proper management of the agricultural equipment.	37,500	Bundling	Feb-June
					Insufficient focus on productivity-increasing ISFM technologies	Train partner programs on GESI sensitive technologies.	13,000	Integrate	By May
					Low participation of farmers, especially youth and women, in local governance bodies	Train GESI champions on positive masculinity, leadership, and gender.	9,000	Integrate	Feb-June
						Reward the best in soil regeneration on World Soil Day.	34 000	Convening	Dec

PI	II	PP	Partner Program Relevant soil Health Components	Partner Program Relevant Soil Health Activities	Gap Identified/Demand Articulated	Proposed Soil Values Complementary Activities	Estimated Budget (Euros)	Interventi on Area	Timeline (When)
						Organize peer-to-peer learning (storytelling) sessions and knowledge workshops to document and share traditional farming practices and local knowledge conducive to soil management, biodiversity, and sustainable agriculture.	27,000	Scoping & Learning	Oct-Dec
					Insufficient financial service providers for sustainable agriculture management	Connect with financial partners through a business-to-business workshop.	10,000	Brokering	By May
						Support national consultation frameworks (National Transhumance Committee, Sikasso Koudougou Bobo-Dioulasso, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, Benin, Togo).	3,000	Convening	By July
				Support farmers to practice integrated landscape management on 26,160 hectares (ha) of farmland.	Weak farmer cooperatives, poor agro-dealer platforms and input distribution networks, and a lack of collective management of agricultural equipment.	Create a business partnership to provide services with a private or public organization (project): biofertilizer.	12,000	Brokering	By June
						Strengthen consultation frameworks between research, extension, and farmer organization services for collective action and entrepreneurship around rentable agricultural innovations.	8,000	Convening	By May
					Limited use of agroecological practices for preserving and integrated landscape management	Support farming communities and land tenure commissioners in the watersheds in drawing up local land tenure charters and build their capacity in conflict management.	27,000	Integrate	March-July
						Elaborate an integrated watershed management plans.	15,000	Integrate	By July
					Poor dissemination of knowledge and technologies, including ISFM, landscape management, and water conservation techniques, among producers	Extensive use of short videos and image boxes in local languages to facilitate large-scale dissemination of existing and innovative climate resilient agro-sylvo-pastoral practices and sustainable agroecological and productivity-increasing ISFM technologies.	63,000	Bundling	Feb-Dec

PI	II	PP	Partner Program Relevant soil Health Components	Partner Program Relevant Soil Health Activities	Gap Identified/Demand Articulated	Proposed Soil Values Complementary Activities	Estimated Budget (Euros)	Interventi on Area	Timeline (When)
					Poor integration of sustainable livestock management practices into ecosystem restoration efforts	Support the production of fodder crops in pastoral areas and on agropastoral farms.	25,000	Bundling	May-Nov
					Low participation of farmers, especially youth and women, in local governance bodies	Train local women's and youth organizations, GESI champions, and land management committees to advocate and raise awareness of inclusive watershed governance systems, including combating gender-based violence and discrimination.	93,000	Integrate	Feb-Nov
						Facilitate gender-sensitive exchange spaces for sharing knowledge and experiences in soil management and agriculture, addressing specific challenges related to gender norms. Mentors will be identified to support these groups.	24,000	Integrate	Feb-Nov
					Limited use of agroecological practices for preserving/maintaining irrigation infrastructure and integrated landscape management	Support FSRP partners to revise, finalize, and validate the guide on agroecological practices.	38,000	Scoping & Learning	March-June
		TOTAL					**516,500**		
	Ministry of Agriculture of Mali	**FSRP-MALI**	Sustainability and adaptability of the productive base of the food system	Rehabilitate 1,000 ha of flooded land and restore 4,000 ha of degraded land for rice cultivation and market gardening in Sikasso and Ségou.	Poor dissemination of knowledge and technologies, including ISFM, landscape management, and water conservation techniques, among producers	Facilitate training of relay trainers and producers on ISFM and the use of agricultural equipment.	37,200	Bundling	Feb-Dec
				Strengthen the regional agricultural innovation system by building the capacity of research and extension systems to sustainably deliver improved technological innovations.		Support FSRP to develop and implement a strategy aimed to strengthen the capacity of extension agents in good agricultural practices.	4,360	Bundling	Feb-June
				Strengthen the capacities of women and youth agricultural enterprises and organizations in seed multiplication,	Insufficient local tree nursery production	Equip and support women and youth training in the production and use of non-timber forest products (including starter kits).	14,430	Bundling	March-Nov

PI	II	PP	Partner Program Relevant soil Health Components	Partner Program Relevant Soil Health Activities	Gap Identified/Demand Articulated	Proposed Soil Values Complementary Activities	Estimated Budget (Euros)	Interventi on Area	Timeline (When)
				processing, marketing, and business management.	Weak farmer cooperatives, poor agro-dealer platforms and input distribution networks, and a lack of collective management of agricultural equipment	Strengthen farmer cooperatives and other watershed operators in the sustainable management of their enterprise.	10,000	Integrate	March-Nov
				Establish integrated landscape management committees and platforms in the agriculture sector.		Revitalize multi-stakeholder platforms through advisory support and the dissemination of innovations for sustainable watershed management.	15,000	Integrate	Feb-Dec
					Insufficient emphasis on technologies and plans to reinforce food security in the context of climate change	Develop and disseminate technical advisory notes on climate-smart technology packages adapted to the local context (drought, flood) to add value to supply chains.	50,000	Bundling	Feb-Dec
				Restore 4,000 ha of degraded land, restore 1,000 ha of alluvial plains, develop 1,000 ha of flooded land, and restore 8 km of banks.	Lack of updated soil information and ineffective use of soil fertility maps for site-specific fertilizer recommendations, and inadequate use of soil and water conservation and land restoration techniques	Facilitate the creation of a repository of agricultural sites eligible for hydroagricultural technologies.	12,500	Bundling	By July
					Poor policy framework for land tenure and sustainable funding and technical support to soil health and agricultural development	Implement a sensitization workshop for stakeholders to influence policies and develop favorable strategies for soil health and fertility.	7,500	Convening	By April
				Improve food security by drawing up development plans in Sikasso and Ségou.	Limited use of agroecological practices for preserving and integrated landscape management	Support capacity building for watershed management committees in the implementation and management of integrated landscape management plans.	12,220	Integrate	By June
				Improve food security by promoting integrated and participatory planning and financing priority activities in Sikasso and Ségou.	Poor policy framework for sustainable funding and technical support to soil health and agricultural development	Complete the integration of integrated landscape development plans into economic, social and cultural development plans.	15,500	Integrate	By July
				Negotiate with beneficiary communities on the criteria and methods for allocating		Catalyze the development of a strategy to adapt the governance of land management activities in watersheds, based on GESI	10,000	Integrate	By July

PI	II	PP	Partner Program Relevant soil Health Components	Partner Program Relevant Soil Health Activities	Gap Identified/Demand Articulated	Proposed Soil Values Complementary Activities	Estimated Budget (Euros)	Interventi on Area	Timeline (When)
				plots to women and other vulnerable groups in the developed areas in Sikasso and Ségou		analysis, to ensure equitable representation, inclusive policies, and responsiveness to the specific needs of men, women and youth.			
				Implement a gender-focused strategy within the framework of environmental and social safeguards and the gender action plan in Sikasso and Ségou.		Organize working sessions with local women and youth organizations to promote governance systems that sustainably integrate women, youth, and vulnerable groups into decision-making processes of land resource management units at community and watershed levels.	20,000	Integrate	Feb-Nov
					Low participation of farmers, especially youth and women, in local governance bodies	Facilitate training of rural women on female leadership at watershed level.	15,000	Integrate	By July
				Consolidate the regional agricultural innovation system by disseminating technologies through innovation platforms and extension services.	Weak farmer cooperatives, poor agro-dealer platforms and input distribution networks, and poor collective management of agricultural equipment	Connect producers and integrated landscape management committees with input suppliers (irrigation equipment, seed companies, etc.) through platform strengthening.	12,000	Integrate	By June
					Insufficient focus on ISFM technologies for increasing agricultural productivity	Facilitate access to climate-smart technology packages from input and service providers through production and dissemination of technical advisory notes.	22,000	Bundling	Feb-Nov
					Limited use of agroecological practices for preserving and integrated landscape management	Disseminate good agro-sylvo-pastoral and agroecological practices on a large scale through the introduction of extension tools.	22,000	Bundling	Feb-Nov
						Develop, disseminate, and anchor technical and technological innovations adapted to the context of climate change.	22,000	Bundling	Feb-Nov
				Establish climate-smart villages and finance priority activities of the community development plan through the acquisition of agricultural seeds, biopesticides, and logistics.	Insufficient focus on climate-resilient and productivity-increasing ISFM technologies	Reward committed and champion villages on soil regeneration on World Soil Day.	30,550	Convening	Dec
						Facilitate field visits between farmers (peer learning) on agroecological practices, agroforestry, and soil conservation and restoration techniques.	22,900	Scoping & Learning	March-Nov

PI	II	PP	Partner Program Relevant soil Health Components	Partner Program Relevant Soil Health Activities	Gap Identified/Demand Articulated	Proposed Soil Values Complementary Activities	Estimated Budget (Euros)	Interventi on Area	Timeline (When)
			Integration of regional food markets and trade	Facilitate trade along key corridors and consolidate the food reserve system: FSRP provides capacity building for agricultural trade negotiation platforms in the implementation of action plans.	Insufficient financial service provision for production-increasing sustainable agriculture natural resources management	Support decentralized financing institutions in the development of financial products affordable and accessible for women producers.	7,000	Brokering	By July
						Support the implementation of a strategy to strengthening the capacity of women farmers to access operational financial services.	7,000	Brokering	By July
						Develop contractual farming models between producers, agricultural input suppliers, and marketing companies to guarantee access to markets.	3,000	Brokering	By July
		TOTAL					**372,160**		
	Federal Ministry of Agriculture of Nigeria	**ACReSAL**	Dryland management	Conduct soil sampling and analysis at watershed level.	Lack of updated soil information and ineffective use of soil fertility maps for site-specific fertilizer recommendations	Organize training sessions for soil analysis at watershed level, with the aim of mapping hotspots of soil degradation and restoration in the main agroecological zones.	62,446	Bundling	Feb-Nov
				Construct water conservation structures.	Inadequate water conservation techniques and inefficient management of irrigation systems	Support the improvement of water conservation techniques and practices of farmer communities at watershed level.	127,178	Bundling	March-Dec
			Community climate resilience	Provide capacity building and training.	Lack of updated soil information and ineffective use of soil fertility maps for site-specific fertilizer recommendations.	Train farmers on soil health management and the use of Soil Health Cards.	53,286	Bundling	Oct-Dec
					Limited use of agroecological practices for preserving and integrated landscape management	Train extension agents on carbon sequestration for carbon crediting.	23,286	Bundling	March-July
						Train extension agents on the decision support tool (DST) for landscape targeted fertilizer management using mobile app advisory for extension agents and farmers.	85,783	Bundling	March-July
				Support farmer-managed natural regeneration	Limited use of agroecological practices for preserving and integrated landscape management	Expand climate-smart agriculture practices to a larger scope.	55,783	Bundling	Jan-Dec

PI	II	PP	Partner Program Relevant soil Health Components	Partner Program Relevant Soil Health Activities	Gap Identified/Demand Articulated	Proposed Soil Values Complementary Activities	Estimated Budget (Euros)	Interventi on Area	Timeline (When)
					Poor dissemination of knowledge and technologies, including ISFM, landscape management, and water conservation techniques, among producers	Training of trainers and cascade training of farmers on soil restoration techniques and ISFM practices.	86,910	Bundling	Jan-Dec
				Conduct community sensitization and awareness-raising on watershed management.	Insufficient focus on ISFM technologies for increasing agricultural productivity	Train extension agents on GESI-responsible technologies.	27,023	Integrate	March-Nov
					Limited use of agroecological practices for preserving and integrated landscape management	Strengthen the advocacy capacity of local women's organizations to promote the inclusion of women in the provision of GESI-sensitive local technology services.	65,506	Integrate	March-Nov
				Facilitate community revolving fund.	Insufficient financial services provider for sustainable agriculture management	Increase access to finance for more beneficiaries through community revolving funds.	39,350	Brokering	April-July
		TOTAL					**626,551**		
		L-PRES	Institution and innovation system strengthening	Build capacity for fodder value addition and strategic storage.	Insufficient focus on ISFM technologies for increasing agricultural productivity	Train farmers in soil restoration and conservation techniques, expansion of natural pasture acreage, and regreening of the landscape.	121,804	Integrate	Jan-Dec
		TOTAL					**121,804**		
DGIS	**SNV and Its Consortium**	**Pro-ARIDES Niger**	Improved business, service, and employment opportunities and market linkages, generating greater economic value	Support local startup to deliver quality services toward sustainable production systems.	Poor agro-dealer platforms and input distribution networks	Link key values chains actors to agricultural input suppliers through a digital platform.	10,000	Brokering	By July
			Improved food, farm and herd management for more resilient production systems and better household nutrition	Rehabilitate grazing corridors through replacement of invasive species with more appetizing species and their enhancement through local service providers	Insufficient focus on ISFM technologies for increasing agricultural productivity	Promote multi-purpose forage species by building the capacity of field agents to fight invasive species in rehabilitated grazing areas.	30,000	Bundling	By July

PI	II	PP	Partner Program Relevant soil Health Components	Partner Program Relevant Soil Health Activities	Gap Identified/Demand Articulated	Proposed Soil Values Complementary Activities	Estimated Budget (Euros)	Interventi on Area	Timeline (When)
				Disseminate technical sheets on fertilizer, markets, and pest management.		Organize cascade training on ISFM practices, using GESI-sensitive approaches through demonstration plots, study visits, and mass messaging (video/audio) in local languages and on digital platforms.	80,000	Bundling	Jan-Dec
			Gender, youth, and inclusion for the development of resilient food systems	Support the capacity building of the local land and natural resource management committee.	Low participation of farmers, especially youth and women, in local governance bodies	Set up multi-stakeholder consultation frameworks (involving women's and youth groups) on natural resource management.	10,000	Integrate	By June
			Sustainable management of land, water, and other natural resources through arrangements for peaceful and collective use of resources	Support advocacy of the local land committee for fair governance and management of natural resources at local level.		Support advocacy at watershed level (across communities) to develop a GESI-sensitive governance and management structure for integrated watershed management.	10,000	Integrate	March-Oct
				Support the implementation and operationalization of productive alliances in the target value chains at the watershed level.		Carry out leadership training for rural women at the watershed level.	10,000	Integrate	March-Oct
			Gender, youth, and inclusion for the development of resilient food systems	Promote financial inclusion through the matching grants to the local services providers.	Insufficient financial services provider for sustainable agriculture management	Build the capacity of farmers (women and young people) to fill gaps in literacy, financial education, community life, coaching, etc.	50,000	Brokering	By June
						Support women's and youth groups to promote the mobilization of internal resources through local initiatives.	10,000	Brokering	By June
		TOTAL					**210,000**		
		Pro-ARIDES Burkina	Improved food, farm, and livestock management for more resilient production systems and better household nutrition	Increase sustainable and diversified production and improve household nutrition through secure food production, intensified production, and sustainable diversification.	Poor dissemination of agricultural innovations and inadequate extension services for small-scale producers.	Organize cascade training on ISFM practices, using GESI-sensitive approaches, through demonstration plots, study visits, and mass messaging (video/audio) in local languages and on digital platforms.	15,250	Bundling	Jan-Dec

PI	II	PP	Partner Program Relevant soil Health Components	Partner Program Relevant Soil Health Activities	Gap Identified/Demand Articulated	Proposed Soil Values Complementary Activities	Estimated Budget (Euros)	Interventi on Area	Timeline (When)
			Improved business, service, and employment opportunities and market linkages, generating greater economic value	Ensure economic resilience and increased household and business assets through diversified income sources, increased investment capacity, and improved business performance.	Insufficient financial services provider for sustainable agriculture natural resource management	Train village savings and loan associations on internal resource mobilization and financial education.	22,000	Brokering	By June
					TOTAL		**37,250**		
		Pro-ARIDES Mali	Improved feeding, farm and herd management for more resilient production systems and better household nutrition	Implement co-demonstration plots on ISFM technologies, fodder production, and inputs and practices adapted to the climate and household needs with the support of community relays.	Poor dissemination of knowledge and technologies, including ISFM, landscape management, and water conservation techniques, among producers	Training relay trainers and producers on integrated soil fertility management, fodder production, and the use of agricultural equipment.	37,198	Bundling	Jan-Dec
					Poor dissemination of agricultural innovations and inadequate extension services for small-scale producers	Disseminate good agro-sylvo-pastoral and agroecological practices on a large scale through the introduction of extension tools.	14,351	Bundling	Jan-Dec
					Poor integration of sustainable livestock management practices into ecosystem restoration efforts	Facilitate the establishment of demonstration plots on ISFM-based fodder production.	29,374	Bundling	March-Sep
						Provide training and support to agropastoralists in fodder production in pastoral areas.	12,061	Bundling	March-Sep
			Integrating gender, youth and inclusion for the development of resilient food systems (cross-cutting)	Increase collective and autonomous action by women's and youth organizations to influence decisions in favor of their needs (access to land, factors and means of production, adapted financial products).	Limited use of agroecological practices for GESI-sensitive preserving and integrated landscape management	Organize a series of leadership training sessions for women and young people to enable them to advocate for their agricultural needs.	24,427	Integrate	Jan-Dec
			Integrating gender, youth and inclusion for the development of resilient food systems (cross-cutting)	Improving the skills of women's organizations, youth, and vulnerable person in management, service delivery, and influencing decisions.	Low participation off farmers, especially youth and women, in local governance bodies	Work with local women's and youth organizations to promote governance systems that sustainably integrate women, youth, and vulnerable groups into decision-making processes of land resource management units at community and watershed levels.	4,580	Integrate	Feb-Nov
					TOTAL		**121,992**		

PI	II	PP	Partner Program Relevant soil Health Components	Partner Program Relevant Soil Health Activities	Gap Identified/Demand Articulated	Proposed Soil Values Complementary Activities	Estimated Budget (Euros)	Interventi on Area	Timeline (When)
Netherlands embassy	IFDC	HortiNigeria	Increasing productivity and income of smallholder vegetable farmers	Build the capacity of farmers on eco-efficient practices.	Poor dissemination of knowledge and technologies, including ISFM, landscape management, and water conservation techniques, among producers	Strengthen the capacity of vegetable-producing farmers (mainly women) on improved fertilizer use and soil fertility management practices.	14,846	Bundling	March-Sep
						Consolidate the fertilizer deep placement protocol for vegetable production.	3,783	Bundling	By Oct
		TOTAL					**18,629**		
	Consortium Advance Consulting	Hortiplus Burkina	Support 7,000 smallholders to increase production, incomes, access to finance, and sustainable land use and promote food diversity among 50,000 rural consumers.	Promote the market garden sites in the Boucle du Mouhoun (Balés province, watershed of Mouhoun inférieur) and Centre West (Tenado, Godyr, Didyr) regions.	Poor dissemination of knowledge and technologies, including ISFM, landscape management, and water conservation techniques, among producers	Strengthen producers' skills in ISFM and use the Hortiplus digital platform in collaboration with Auxfin to disseminate these technology packages.	11,450	Bundling	Jan-Dec
			Improving business performance and access to finance and markets for 103 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and 7 cooperatives.	Promote and disseminate compost from biodigesters produced by the 11 SMEs.	Weak farmer cooperatives, poor agro-dealer platforms and input distribution networks, and a lack of collective management of agricultural equipment	Carry out a diagnosis/study/reflection on production quality and costs.	7,620	Brokering	By July
						Train SMEs in marketing and communication, raise producers' awareness, and put them in touch with compost-producing SMEs.	4,575	Brokering	By July
		TOTAL					**23,645**		
ECOWAS	ECOWAS	AFSH 10-year Road Map	Improved efficiency and sustainable use of mineral and organic fertilizer inputs, improved soil health interventions, and farmers' resilience to climate change	Strengthen soil health monitoring and improve the dissemination of results and recommendations.	Lack of updated soil information and ineffective use of soil fertility maps for site-specific fertilizer recommendations.	Establish and publish soil information systems of national fertility maps and update current state of soil fertility mapping to enable the determination of the crop nutrient requirements.	10,000	Convening	By Nov
				Strengthen the capacity of research bodies to improve soil fertility and soil health.		Assess soil health status while strengthening the capacity of national fertility and soil health institutions on soil mapping and innovative ISFM techniques.	15,000	Convening	By Nov
				Disseminate ISFM technologies through demonstrations and digital platforms for extension workers and facilitate the availability and access to agricultural inputs.	Poor agro-dealer platforms and inefficient extension service delivery and input distribution networks	Link ISFM technologies with private sector-led bundled services toward increasing technology adoption rate and financial incentives for integrated soil heath management.	15,000	Brokering	By Nov

PI	II	PP	Partner Program Relevant soil Health Components	Partner Program Relevant Soil Health Activities	Gap Identified/Demand Articulated	Proposed Soil Values Complementary Activities	Estimated Budget (Euros)	Interventi on Area	Timeline (When)
		TOTAL					**40,000**		
	WAFA	'	Development and dissemination of existing site- and crop-specific fertilizer recommendations	Increase fertilizer use efficiency as a result of a lack of site- and crop-specific fertilizer recommendations.	Lack of updated soil information and ineffective use of soil fertility maps for site-specific fertilizer recommendations	Strengthen agricultural research institutions, particularly through capacity building and training researchers and students in developing and disseminating site-specific fertilizer recommendations.	10,000	Convening	By Nov
			Regional fragmentation in agricultural inputs trade	Facilitate and encourage subregional trade in fertilizers.	Weak farmer cooperatives, poor agro-dealer platforms and input distribution networks, and a lack of collective management of agricultural equipment	Organize workshops to facilitate collaboration among West African fertilizer associations and strengthen their role in sector development.	20,000	Brokering	By Nov
			Soil health funding constraints	Stimulate inclusive financing mechanisms for fertilizer market.		Connect with financial institutions, value chain actors, agro-dealers, and policymakers (public-private partnerships) to set conducive conditions for accessing financial, advisory, and agriculture input acquisition services.	13,000	Brokering	By Nov
TOTAL							**43,000**		
COTE D'IVOIRE & GHANA						Engage dialogue on Soil health with Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire to explore tangible points of synergy on fertilizer and soil health	50,000	Brokering Convening	By Nov
						Facilitate agro-dealers association workshops to improve agro-input trade with the Soil Values focus countries and coastal countries	200,000	Brokering Convening	By July
						Training professional in fertilizer storage and handling techniques to enhance private sector capacity in maintaining and preserving fertilizer quality	100,000	Brokering	By July
TOTAL							**350,000**		
TOTAL AMOUNT COMITTED TO PARTNER PROGRAMS AND INSTITUTIONS							**2,886,532**		
TOTAL SUPPORTIVE ACTIVITIES COSTS							**2,054,385**		
TOTAL ADDITIONAL PARTNERSHIPS COSTS							**1,340,529**		
OVERALL TOTAL ACTIVITY COST							**6,281,446**		

3.3 Narrative of Activity Budget Committed to Partner Programs and Institutions

In 2025, the total cost of Soil Values activities is **€6,281,446.** Of this, **€2,886,531** is allocated to complementary activities that will strategically strengthen synergies with partner programs and institutions. Notably, **€1,920,211 (67%)** is dedicated to direct complementary activities with World Bank-funded programs (FSRPs/ACReSAL).

Supportive and enabling activities are integral to direct interventions, cutting across FSRP-Soil Values intervention areas and contributing to the program core objectives of mainstreaming soil fertility and soil health in agricultural sector in the Sahel. Those include Monitoring & Evaluation, Soil Fertility Mapping, GESI analysis studies, PhD/Master programs, communications and outreach activities, travel costs and additional partnership activities (see annex 7 for detail). They are essential for activities implementation in 2025, with a total cost of **€ 3,394,915.** Consequently, at least a proportionate share of this total will ultimately support activities complementary to FSRPs.

***Table* 3.** *Activity Budget Breakdown*

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY BUDGET DETAILS - ACTIVITIES ONLY (value in €)		
FSRP/ACReSAL	1,920,211	**67%**
L-PRES	121,804	**4%**
TOTAL WB-Funded	***2,042,015***	***71%***
Pro-ARIDES	369,242	
Horti-Nigeria	18,629	
HortiPlus	23,645	
TOTAL DGIS/EKN-Funded	***411,516***	***14%***
AFSH 10-year Road Map (ECOWAS)	40,000	
Private Sector (WAFA)	43,000	
TOTAL REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS	***83,000***	***3%***
Strategic Countries (Ghana/Cote d'Ivoire)	**350,000**	***12%***
Total Activities Budget (in Table 2)	**2,886,531**	**100%**
Supportive Activities		
GESI Analysis	99,750	
Monitoring & Evaluation exp.	591,578	
Soil Fertility Mapping	225,000	
PHD & Master programs	300,000	
Communication	200,000	
Activity travel cost	638,057	
Additional partnership costs during program implementation	1,340,529	
Total Supportive Activities	**3,394,914**	
Total Activity Costs	**6,281,446**	

4 Risk Assessment

Program implementation could face three risk categories: Contextual Risks, which might arise from external factors beyond the program's control, such as insecurity due to terrorism, political instability, natural disasters, economic shifts, or tensions between different populations arising out of (perceived or real) mismanagement

and unequal distribution of access to natural resources for different groups; Programmatic Risks, which could result from a failure to achieve intervention objectives or exacerbation of external challenges due to issues such as limited stakeholder buy-in or poor coordination; and Institutional Risks, which would involve internal challenges, such as budget overruns, budget cut or program cancellation, staff turnover, or reputational damage that might adversely affect the implementing organization and its operations.

Soil Values will address contextual risks through a conflict-sensitive program management approach at the watershed level, analyzing local tensions, natural resource practices, and the impact of interventions on benefit distribution. This includes incorporating GESI criteria and conflict resolution mechanisms adapted to the local context, including updating the Theory of Change and adjusting resource allocation as needed. The exit of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger from ECOWAS may disrupt regional coordination, increase costs, and misalign priorities, potentially affecting the program's sustainability and regional objectives. Additionally, Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger governments' preference for physical investments in agriculture over capacity building could hinder engagement and commitment, potentially limiting sustainability and delaying implementation. A preponderance of physical investments may misalign with Soil Values' holistic approach, straining resources and affecting long-term success.

Key contextual risks to Soil Values implementation in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, related to their exit from ECOWAS, with tailored "What If" scenarios and mitigation measures to ensure the program's resilience, are outlined in Annex 4. It must be noted that Nigeria could also experience political stability. In case field implementation becomes impossible in the four countries, the program will strengthen its digital learning and capacity building strategy by developing/leveraging existing local actors and using digital platforms and tools for remote extension service delivery and technology dissemination. This will ensure the continuation of achievement of the program's objectives while adapting to local realities.

The primary programmatic risk lies in Soil Values' dependence on coalitions with other national programs. To address this, stakeholder engagement, capacity building initiatives, and an acceptance strategy will be strengthened, focusing on participatory and inclusive decision-making to secure the prior consent of stakeholders and target groups. Regular monitoring and adaptive management practices will be employed to identify and resolve issues promptly.

In addition, programmatic risk includes the non-renewal of national FSRP activities, ending in 2026 for Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger. As these FSRP activities are the entry point for Soil Values interventions, the mitigation strategy would be to strengthen and expand partnerships with other national resilience and food security projects. Should partnerships with FSRP, ACReSAL, Pro-ARIDES, or others fail, contingency plans will ensure program continuity by engaging alternative partners, such as local government agencies, NGOs, or private sector actors (Annex 1 and 2). Additionally, internal capacity will be enhanced to directly implement key activities, resources will be reallocated to high-impact areas, a phased implementation approach will be adopted, and community actors will be empowered to take on more significant roles.

Regarding institutional risks, the Soil Values consortium will ensure adequate resource allocation, prioritize staff training and support, and maintain clear communication channels across all levels. This will involve monitoring resource management, offering ongoing capacity building opportunities, and fostering transparency through regular updates and feedback. Clear communication will help prevent misunderstandings, enhance accountability, and reduce the risk of internal challenges affecting program operations.

5 Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

MEL activities will focus on several key areas. Digital data recording and tracking activities will leverage existing platforms to automatically capture and store real-time data on field activities. Training activities will ensure partners are equipped to use these platforms and systematically record their activities for continuous monitoring. Additionally, quarterly review activities will be conducted to ensure data remains up to date with planning timelines, reinforcing transparency and accountability. Finally, field support and monitoring activities will involve MEL coordinators who will provide direct support or monitor partner activities, ensuring the accurate capture of accomplishments and ongoing outputs.

Moreover, activities planned for 2025 include finalizing the ongoing baseline study, which will support various studies that will provide crucial insights into the current state of soil health. These include the finalization of the ex-ante evaluation to assess the potential impact of bundled ISFM services on food security. Additionally,

ongoing studies on land use, land cover change, conflict, and governance will identify areas of potential conflict, competition areas, and complementary territorial uses, while a future soil health mapping at the meta-level will examine soil challenges through satellite imaging and collection of legacy soil fertility data. Finally, the ongoing GESI study will be finalized and provide insights on social norms and policies related to resource management. These efforts will shape tailored interventions for the Soil Values program.

Additionally, the mechanism for outcome harvesting to systematically capture and analyze the program's achievements will be set up. Finally, to foster continuous improvement, a review-and-reflection exercise will be organized, providing an opportunity to assess the first year's implementation, draw valuable lessons, and refine strategies for enhanced program performance.

5.1 Collaborating, Learning, and Adapting

Activities planned for 2025 regarding the learning component are aimed at enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of soil management practices by gaining a deeper understanding of practical questions on soil, practices, and implementation approaches. More specifically, the baseline data and intervention results will help in the completion of specific studies and answer learning questions. The focus includes: (1) How effective have the training programs and workshops been in enhancing stakeholders' knowledge and skills in soil management practices? (2) What methods have been most successful in disseminating information and promoting collaborative learning? (3) What additional resources or support do stakeholders (men, women, youth, people with disabilities) need to fully implement and benefit from soil management practices? and (4) How does the approach implemented contributes to close the global gaps identified? The results will ultimately support the continuous integration of lessons learned into the adaptive management process and ensure that the Soil Values program remains responsive and effective, promoting a culture of evidence-based decision-making and collaborative problem solving.

5.2 Outcomes and Indicator Table

Outcomes that will be tracked across the implementing countries are provided in Table 4. The activity outputs are in annex 6.

***Table* 4:** *Outcomes and Indicators*

Outcome 1: Small-scale food producers, in particular women, sustainably decrease the yield gap by adopting integrated soil fertility management (ISFM) and soil and water conservation practices, ultimately leading to increased crop productivity.	
Output 1.1: Number of farmers trained on ISFM and other soil and water conservation (SWC) practices	*Target: 100,000* *Burkina Faso: 20,000* *Niger: 20,000* *Mali: 20,000* *Nigeria: 40,000*
Output 1.2: Number of small-scale food producers directly reached with activities aiming at structural/systemic improvement of their agricultural performance (DGIS indicator)	
Output 1.3: Number of private sector actors and extension services reached and empowered in the program-targeted areas	Private: 4 Extension services: 4
Output 1.4: Number of public servants whose capacity has been increased to effectively implement soil fertility policy (DGIS indicator)	Public servants: 100
Output 1.5: Number of small-scale women, youth, and other vulnerable or marginalized farmers/pastoralists with access to and decision-making power over finance/credit facilities	*Target: 40,000 (10,000 per country)*
Outcome 2: Farmland is converted to ecologically sustainable use, enhancing resilience to environmental shocks and ensuring long-term agricultural sustainability.	
Output 2.1: Number of hectares of farmland directly reached with activities aimed at structural/systemic improvement of agroecological sustainability (DGIS indicator)	*Target: 100,000* *Burkina Faso: 20,000* *Niger: 20,000* *Mali: 20,000* *Nigeria: 40,000*
Output 2.2: Number of people benefiting from operational plans for integrated water resources management of basins (DGIS).	
Output 2.3: Number of financing mechanisms developed and operational in the four target countries.	Target: 4 (1 per country)

6 2025 Work Plan Projected Summary Budget

The 2025 budget is based on planned activities for the year and the necessary human and logistics requirements needed to implement those activities while maintaining the main structure of donor-approved budget. The structure in terms of the proportion of staff cost, direct costs/activities, and indirect costs/overhead also reflect the commitments to some activities planned in 2024 and projected to be completed and paid for in 2025. Table 5 displays the anticipated total budget of €13,255,506 for 2025. The detailed budget breakdown can be found under the various budget sections in Annex 5.

***Table* 5.** *2025 Soil Values Summary Budget*

	IFDC	SNV	WUR	IITA	IWMI	AGRA	ICRAF	ISRIC	Total (Euros)
Staff Cost	2,344,013	1,086,743	485,440						**4,183,556**
Activity Cost In-Country Development Activities									
- Bundling - Strategy development	423,017			946,302	229,256		117,091	94,474	**1,810,140**
- Integration	100,000	555,363			183,404		138,939	55,110	**1,032,816**
- Broker - Strategy development	172,333								**172,333**
- Convening	76,000			135,186		399,351	60,545		**671,082**
- Learning and Scoping	6,500		267,360	270,372	45,851		79,393	7,873	**409,989**
Local NGOs and Third Parties (Broker, Bundle, Integrate, etc.)	940,026	536,803							**1,476,829**
Activity-Related Travels	530,000	108,057							**638,057**
Office Operations	918,640	114,030							**1,032,670**
IFDC Audit	70,200								**70,200**
Sub-total		**2,400,996**							
In-Country Program Delivery (6.5%)		156,065							**156,065**
		2,557,061							
Global Indirect Costs (8.5%)		217,350							**217,350**
Total (Technical assistance)									
Global Overhead/Indirect Cost IFDC 14.5% and Contingencies	1,384,419								**1,384,419**
Contingency Cost									
Total (Euros)	**6,965,148**	**2,774,411**	**752,800**	**1,351,860**	**458,511**	**399,351**	**395,968**	**157,457**	**13,255,506**