



Request for Proposal (RFP)

Consultancy Title	Technical Support to Water Smart Agriculture Pilot in Burkina Faso & Chad
RFP number	US8776.08.2024
Location	Remote (with the possibility of traveling to Burkina Faso)
Anticipated Contract Duration	October 1, 2024 – December 31, 2026 (2 Years, 3 Months)
Anticipated Level of Effort	90 Billable Days
Procurement Contact Person	Andrea Wilson-Taylor (andrea.wilson-taylor@crs.org)
Due date for Clarifying Questions	September 4, 2024 [11:59 PM EST]
Due date for Full Proposal	September 12, 2024 [11:59 PM EST]

Consultancy Overview

As part of our Vision 2030 strategy, CRS has identified land restoration as mission critical in improving the lives and livelihoods of rural people and has developed a land restoration platform to lead land restoration solutions *at scale*. CRS is supporting a landscapes and livelihoods platform, referred to as Landscapes & Livelihoods Strategic Change Platform, or SCP3. SCP3 is a farmer-centered land restoration platform with a goal to restore 1.6 million hectares of degraded land, reaching 1 million farm families with increased agricultural yields (40%) and increased income by 2030. The platform focuses on land restoration at scale – coordinating and facilitating catalytic roles we can play in scaling towards systems change. As part of this land restoration scaling platform, CRS has recently launched five country program pilots within CRS country programs that contribute to broader agency learning on land restoration and or scaling efforts. CRS has identified a need for external support for one of these pilots:

- Burkina Faso: *Contextualizing Water Smart Agriculture to the Sahelian Context*

The consultant will provide technical assistance to the CRS Burkina Faso team on the design, implementation, and analysis of the Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability & Learning (MEAL) agenda for the pilot. Specifically, that monitoring systems are designed and implemented to adequately respond to the learning questions set out in the pilot concept notes. The consultancy will be a mix of remote and in person support. French and English fluency required.

Burkina Faso Pilot

Background

Burkina Faso: See Annex 1. Concept Note for full Background Details.

The Burkina Faso pilot is located in the Central Plateau Region with a focus on the Province of Oubritenga where agriculture is the main economic activity of the population. The climate is Sudano-Sahelian in the northern part (Kourweogo and Oubritenga provinces) marked by a long dry season (October to May) and a shorter rainy season (June to September). Precipitation is irregular in time and space. The high climatic variability of rainfall does not facilitate water control for agriculture.

The pilot's objective is to manage water by managing soils. The CRS Burkina Faso team will integrate 2 existing CRS frameworks to inform the pilot's activities:

1. **CRS's SMART SKILLS** – Smart Skills is a suite of training guides that include different Farmer Competency Modules. The following are a list of some of the modules that may be relevant for use in this pilot:
 - I. Land Restoration and Climate Risk Management Planning
 - II. Conservation and Regenerative Agriculture
 - III. Integrated Soil Fertility Management
 - IV. Water Resources Efficiency
 - V. Sustainable Pasture or Pasture Management
 - VI. Integrated Pest Management
 - VII. Continuous Learning and Innovation.
2. **CRS Water Smart Agriculture (WSA)** is a set of principles and practices to manage soil to manage water. WSA was developed by CRS in Central America context. This pilot will adapt these principles to the Burkina Faso context (WSA-Sahel). This new approach will support the adoption of WSA as an alternative to increase productivity and land health.

This project will prioritize a co-selection approach of restoration techniques based on WSA principles with beneficiaries using CRS's SMART Skills model or a Guide to Sustainable Land Management in Burkina Faso.

Based on a literature review (Guide to Sustainable Land Management, National Land Restoration Strategy in Burkina Faso) and meetings with the main stakeholders at national level (BUNASOL, DGADHI, FAO, CNRST, GIZ, Grande Muraille Verte) the project will collect information's on existing soil mapping, ongoing approaches, activities and resources available to not duplicate effort and see how to be member of existing platforms on soil restoration activities in Burkina. Five villages will be selected after this literature review and main stakeholder consultation.

In the 5-village project area, the project will evaluate in the existing practices, including any WSA techniques known and/or applied by the producers, and understand barriers in adoption of WSA practices. A separate focus group of women and men will be formed to conduct this study. In addition to the techniques already known to the beneficiaries, the project team and the agricultural technical service of the intervention area could complement or propose innovations to the various techniques already in place based on WSA principles. These innovations will focus on increased water retention capacity of soils, through promotion of production systems that promote permanent soil cover. Depending on their needs and abilities, each beneficiary, especially women, will be accompanied to apply one or more WSA techniques. This approach takes gender into account as it will allow women to choose techniques adapted to their abilities.

Once the restoration techniques have been chosen, 10 volunteer lead farmers will be identified in each village, including 5 women and 5 men, in each village for a total of 50 lead farmers. Lead farmers will be trained on key soil health principles from the Smart Skills Modules, WSA practices, and soil mapping. CRS will work with BUNASOL and FAO to take advantage of the soil doctors project to reinforce the capacity of the lead farmers. Lead farmers will set up demonstration fields where they will apply good agricultural practices including WSA that will be compared to fields where conventional practices are applied to generate evidence on crop yields. Each lead farmer will train 10 other producers. They will also supervise other producers at a rate of 10 producers per primary farmer for a total of 500 producers. The choice of these responsible farmers, who will be models, will consider the different restoration techniques applied by them to have demonstration fields for all the selected techniques. CRS will organize exchange visits bringing together the rest of the beneficiaries, agricultural technical services will be organized in the demonstration fields with the aim of bringing about changes in the behavior of the beneficiaries.

Pilot Objectives

Title: Project to improve household food production by restoring soil productivity in the Central Plateau region of Burkina Faso.

The overall objective is to improve the food production of producers in the Central Plateau region.

Specific objective 1: Introduce WSA in the targeted villages based on participatory the selection of appropriate techniques.

Result 1.1.: Key practices of adapted WSA techniques are selected and tested through a participatory process.

Specific Objective 2: Increase community and farmer adoption of WSA-adapted techniques and innovations.

Result 2.1. 75% of strengthened farmers have adopted WSA technique.

Specific objective 3: Promote learning, sharing and capitalization.

Result 1.3. Establishing lessons learned from the process of how to introduce WSA in Burkina Faso

Result 2.3. Organize and disseminate with stakeholders and partners success stories, lessons learned and evidence-based reports through sharing workshops and webinars.

Pilot Theory of Change

If beneficiaries are involved in the selection of good practices for sustainable soil fertility management, **if** beneficiaries are trained **and** adopt WSA-adapted techniques and innovations, **then** their food productivity will be improved **because** they will improve agricultural yields **and** the evidence will confirm this.

Pilot Location & Target Group

The project will be implemented in the Central Plateau region in 5 villages in the province of Ouhitenga.

Villages will be identified based on criteria, such as the non-existence of land restoration projects and the potential for degradation of available land through discussions with agricultural services, the commune and community leaders, etc. In each village, in addition to 50 lead farmers, 450 vulnerable farmers will be selected according to criteria that will be defined with the agricultural services, community leaders and the project team; in the end, 500 farmers will be targeted. This will ensure that there are enough cases to learn from lessons and successes, but also to ensure close monitoring of the learning aspects. To

encourage the involvement of husbands in their wives' land restoration activities, the husband's name will be registered in addition to the wife's and vice versa.

Rationale for Consultancy

The pilot's main aim is to contextualize CRS' Water Smart Agriculture in the Sahel context. Given the short timeframe of the pilot, a well refined learning agenda and Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability & Learning (MEAL) framework is critical to evaluating effectiveness of WSA at the end of the pilot. This consultancy will provide MEAL support to the Burkina pilot. MEAL support will include development support of the MEAL plan and monitoring system, and capacity building for the CRS Burkina staff.

Deliverables, Estimated Timeline and Level of Effort

The consultant will provide technical assistance and capacity building to the CRS Burkina Faso team focusing on the following deliverables:

	Deliverable	Work Period	% LOE
1	Finalization of Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability & Learning (MEAL) plan & Detailed Year 1 Workplan - Support development of Burkina MEAL plan and detailed Year 1 workplan. MEAL plan should help answer the pilot's learning agenda, and the workplan should be high quality as to provide actionable data at end of Year 1.	Oct/Nov 2024	50%
2	Development of Tools to Implement MEAL plan - Support capacity building on methodology and tool development needed for implementation of MEAL plan.	Dec-April 2025	30%
3	Oversight on Quality of Monitoring- quality control and course correction if needed on monitoring through an in-field visit and routine remote support for Year 1 production/harvest season.	May- Oct 2025	15%
4	Annual Report - support annual report development ensuring it displays MEAL plan results & analysis, and reports on learning agenda Detailed Year 2 Workplan support Year 2 workplan development, integrating any revisions to MEAL plan based on learning from Year 1.	Nov-Dec 2025	30%
5	Oversight on Quality of Monitoring- quality control and course correction if needed on monitoring through an in-field visit and routine remote support for Year 2 production/harvest season.	May- Oct 2026	15%
6	Final Assessment - Support team in development and review of final assessment. Final assessment should include MEAL results and analysis from Years 1-2, and provide final analysis on the pilot's learning agenda, and recommended next steps.	Nov - Dec 2026	30%
	<i>Each deliverable requires one trip to Burkina Faso</i>		

Table 1. Consultant's DELIVERABLES

The consultancy is focused on providing capacity building support to the Burkina Faso CRS team in developing and implementing learning-focused MEAL systems to evaluate impact/feasibility of WSA-Sahel. The consultant is responsible for ensuring high quality of the deliverables listed above, but their development will be a team effort, with the Burkina Faso team taking the lead.

Level of Effort (LOE)

The consultancy is anticipated to be for 90 billable days, with 35 of those days in Burkina Faso.

Note to Bidder

If, in your assessment, the number of billable days needed is less than or exceeds 90 days, please explain in your proposal.

Contract Timeframe

The anticipated duration of the contract is October 1, 2024 - November 30, 2026 (anticipated 2 Years, 3 Months).

Assignment Location & Travel

A greater percentage of the consultancy will be conducted virtually. However, there are anticipated opportunities for in-person activities which are listed in the table:

TRAVEL					
Location		Event	When	Number of Days	Number of Nights
Burkina Faso	1	Inception Workshop	Nov-24	5	4
	2	Capacity Building Workshop - MEAL Tool Training	Feb-25	5	4
	3	Quality Control MEAL implementation Year 1	Jun-25	8	7
	4	Annual Reflection & Year 2 Workplan	Nov-25	5	4
	5	Quality Control MEAL implementation Year 2	Jun-26	8	7
	6	End of Pilot Final Workshop Event	Nov-26	4	3
TOTAL				35	29

Table 2. Consultant’s Anticipated TRAVEL

Flight and hotel costs for the above trips will be booked and paid directly by CRS’ third-party travel vendor. The consultant will support per diem and ground transportation to and from their home airport; CRS will reimburse these expenses based on actual expenditures. Receipts are required for transport related reimbursements. CRS Per diem rates and policies will apply for per diem costs.

The consultancy will engage virtually with CRS staff from the US’ East Coast as well as CRS staff in Burkina Faso. The consultant should be prepared for work times to accommodate different time zones.

Payment Schedule – Fixed Fee, Supporting Activities, Deliverables, Estimated Due Date and Level of Effort

Payment will be based on the completion and approval of deliverables by CRS. Please submit your rate, fee or financial as a fixed fee per grouping of deliverables.

Payment Number		Supporting Activities and Deliverables	Estimated Due Date	Number of days	% LOE
1	1	MEAL plan & Detailed Year 1 Workplan - Support development of Burkina MEAL plan and detailed Year 1 workplan. MEAL plan should help answer the pilot's learning agenda, and the workplan should be high quality as to provide actionable data at end of Year 1.	30-Nov-24	10	50%
2	2	MEAL Tools - Support capacity building on methodology and tool development needed for implementation of MEAL plan	30-Apr-25	30	30%
3	3	Oversight on Quality of Monitoring- quality control and course correction if needed on monitoring through an in-field visit and routine remote support for Year 1 production/harvest season.	31-Oct-25	18	15%
	4	Annual Report - support annual report development ensuring it displays MEAL plan results & analysis, and reports on learning agenda Detailed Year 2 Workplan support Year 2 workplan development, integrating any revisions to MEAL plan based on learning from Year 1.	Dec-25	5	25%
4	5	Oversight on Quality of Monitoring- quality control and course correction if needed on monitoring through an in-field visit and routine remote support for Year 2 production/harvest season.	31-Oct-26	18	15%
	6	Final Assessment - Support team in development and review of final assessment. Final assessment should include MEAL results and analysis from Years 1-2, and provide final analysis on the pilot's learning agenda, and recommended next steps.	31-Dec-26	6	30%
		<i>Each deliverable requires one trip to Burkina Faso</i>		87 days	

Payments will be processed, net 30 days, after the completion of the following four action steps:

1. Submission of deliverable(s) by the consultant.
2. Submission of an invoice specific to the deliverable(s) by the consultant.
3. Approval of the deliverable(s) by CRS.
4. Approval of each invoice by CRS.

Main Contacts and Key Working Relationships

- Primary contact: Technical Advisor SCP3 and Technical Advisor III

Location	Title	Function related to contract
CRS SCP3 Team	Technical Advisor SCP3	Main point of contact for consultancy, final approval of final form deliverables.
	SCP3 Program Mgr	Administrative support – contracting, invoices, coordinating meetings between qualitative and quantitative studies.
CRS Burkina Faso	Regional Technical Advisor (RTA) Agriculture, West Africa	Reviewer of deliverables, backstopping support.
	Head of Programs	Key Burkina Faso contacts for the pilot. Lead recipients of MEAL capacity building efforts, to serve as in-country trainers themselves.
	Program Manager pilot	

Table 3. Consultant’s Working Relationships related to this SOW. **SCP3 refers to CRS’ Landscapes & Livelihoods Platform (Strategic Change Platform #3) focused on.**

Qualifications

1. Master’s degree in Agriculture, Soil Science, Natural Resource Management or related field is required;
2. Fluent in French and English is required;
3. 3-5 years’ experience with agriculture, preferably with a soil and water management focus, in Burkina Faso or West Africa is required;
4. Experience in developing and implementing monitoring systems that include both biophysical indicators (soil, water, vegetative cover, etc) and qualitative indicators (behavior analysis, adoption rates, socio-economic) is preferred;
5. Strong systems thinking approach is required;
6. Strong written and verbal communications skills, especially workshop facilitation is required;
7. Team player, strong collaborator - experience with team capacity building is required.

Required Application Components

1. Cover letter, which describes a brief summary of the approach demonstrating qualifications in undertaking the Scope of Work. This summary should highlight how the applicant will complete the deliverables. (Document cannot exceed 3 pages single-spaced.)
2. (a) Compensation rate per day; (b) Total cost for completing the assignment; (c) Confirmation of the level of effort (i.e., number of billable days).
3. Resume/ CV.
4. Contact information for four professional references, with the following details about the references: (a) name, (b) position, (c) company, (d) phone number, (e) email address, and (f) city, state, country.

Clarifying Questions and CRS Response

Prospective bidders may submit any clarifying questions by singular request to andrea.wilson-taylor@crs.org by September 4, 2024 [11:59 PM EST]. The solicitation name “US8776.08.2024: Technical Support to Water Smart Agriculture Pilot in Burkina Faso & Chad” must be included in the Email Subject

Line. Questions submitted after the deadline will not be accepted. Responses will be provided to any known prospective bidders on September 9, 2024.

Proposal Submission

All proposals must be sent to andrea.wilson-taylor@crs.org no later than September 12, 2024 [11:59 PM EST for electronic submission]. The solicitation name “US8776.08.2024: Technical Support to Water Smart Agriculture Pilot in Burkina Faso & Chad” must be included in the Email Subject Line.

Please note that all prospective bidders will receive a notification regarding the outcome of the Request for Proposal (RFP) promptly following the decision-making process.

ANNEX 1. BURKINA FASO PILOT – FULL CONCEPT NOTE

HISTORY AND CONTEXT (MAX 3/4 PAGE)

Briefly describe the context with a focus on land use and management and its impact on farmers' livelihoods, food security, conflict, etc. What problems of land and soil degradation do you address? Why and what type of land and soil restoration is relevant in your context?

Burkina Faso's economy is essentially based on agriculture, livestock and the exploitation of natural resources. Agricultural production contributes 24.3% to household income (PNIASP, 2021-2025, P17).ⁱ However, production conditions are very difficult and regularly influenced by climatic hazards and human activities. Since the drought of the 1970s, climatic conditions have deteriorated, with isohyets receding from north to south, rainfall being randomly distributed in time and space, and soil degradation making living conditions even more precarious. Climatic factors are reflected in the drought that has become chronic in Burkina Faso and in the disruption of rainfall patterns. This drought is at the origin of the ecological imbalance that has led to the degradation of soil fertility. Anthropogenic factors remain the most important determinants. They lead to soil degradation due to overexploitation. Land degradation is a major problem for agriculture in the Sahel regions, which are subject to significant deterioration processes, often leading to the abandonment of large arable areas and, in extreme cases, desertification. The direct consequences of these phenomena are frequent famines that can lead to socio-economic crises (MEED, 2011 - P10).ⁱⁱ

In addition to the climate challenge and anthropogenic pressure on soils, it is also noted that a good part of the rainwater that falls is lost through runoff, thus reducing its availability for crops. Thus, rather than low annual rainfall, it is the low proportion of rainwater reaching the root horizon of crops that constitutes the main constraint to production (Sissoko 2009) cited by Ouattara et al. (2018, P1771). In addition, current agricultural practices are characterized by the continuous cultivation of land without the support of sustainable soil fertility management. Such extensive practices would lead to the degradation of soil fertility (Bado, 2002) cited by Ouattara et al. (2018, P1771) with a lower pH and carbon content (Coulibaly et al., 2012) cited by Ouattara et al. (2018, P1771).

Low water availability at the plot level and the continuous degradation of soil fertility due to inappropriate agricultural practices have a negative impact on agricultural production. The direct consequence is the food insecurity of populations (especially rural populations). This accentuates the vulnerability of small-scale producers whose livelihoods depend heavily on the land, and especially women, 68.2% of whom work in the field of agriculture in Burkina Faso (INSD, 5th RGPH 2019-P90ⁱⁱⁱ). The biggest challenge would therefore be to improve water availability at the field level to reduce the consequences of climate variations, human pressure and improve agricultural yields and the livelihoods of smallholder producers. To tackle this challenge, it is imperative to develop innovative agricultural production methods that contribute to the efficient mobilization of falling water for the benefit of crops and to an improvement in soil fertility. Because Water and Soil Conservation/Soil Defense and Restoration techniques are an alternative to combat soil degradation and land productivity decline (SOME et al., 2000) cited by Sanon A., 2014 P1^{iv}.

The area targeted by this project is the Central Plateau Region with a focus on the Province of Oubritenga where agriculture is the main economic activity of the population. The climate is Sudano-Sahelian in the northern part (Kourweogo and Oubritenga provinces) marked by a long dry season (October to May) and a shorter rainy season (June to September). Precipitation is irregular in time and space. The high climatic variability of rainfall does not facilitate water control for agriculture. The annual average is between 600 and 800 mm. The average temperature is from 20° in December or January to more than 40° in March or April. The prevailing wind is the harmattan. It is a dry and drying wind that blows from February. In this region, there are approximately eight (8) types of soil. Apart from the lithosols on the crust and the poorly developed gravelly erosion soils, all the soils in the region (74%) are favorable to agriculture. However, most of these soils (leached tropical ferruginous soils) are vulnerable to erosion. The area of land unsuitable for agriculture amounts to 2,223 km², or 26% of the region's surface area.

Despite the sensitive nature of the soils and the strong practice of agriculture in the region, there is not enough practice of water and soil conservation actions. For sustainable agricultural production, it is necessary to plan actions to increase soil productivity while protecting soils from the effects of erosion (land loss) and increasing the use of organic matter. To this end, we will use CRS's SMART Competency Model framework that provides several restoration techniques and

steps to follow by competency to select which techniques to apply as well as which crops to implement. The following skills will be used to diversify smart water restoration techniques: Land Restoration and Climate Risk Management Planning, Conservation and Regenerative Agriculture, Integrated Soil Fertility Management, Water Resources Efficiency, Sustainable Pasture or Pasture Management, Integrated Pest Management, and Continuous Learning and Innovation. All this diversity of techniques offers a wide range of choices to women who could opt for techniques according to their physical abilities.

PROPOSED PROGRAM AND DESIGN (max 2-3 pages)

State the objectives and rationale for the program. How does the program align with the proposal evaluation criteria mentioned above? Identify the location and target group of the program.

Describe the theory of change, planned activities (full schedule of activities table in Appendix 1).

Explain how the planned activities will address the issues identified in the context description and lead to the completion of the deliverables.

Describe the risks associated with completing the planned work within the proposed timelines and how you will address them.

I. Rationale and objectives of the project

1. Rationale

In the Central Plateau region, there are approximately eight (8) soil types. Apart from the lithosols on the crust and the poorly developed gravelly erosion soils, all the soils in the region (74%) are favorable to agriculture. However, most of these soils (leached tropical ferruginous soils) are vulnerable to erosion. The area of land unsuitable for agriculture amounts to 2,223 km², or 26% of the region's surface area.

The livelihoods of the population in this region are mainly based on agriculture, despite the lower crop yields due to soil productivity and rainfall. In addition, the spatio-temporal irregularity of rainfall, which makes agricultural and economic activities related to rainwater resources uncertain and precarious, and yields per hectare vary from one year to the next, as they depend on rainfall in general and its spatio-temporal distribution in particular. Thus, the major challenge of agriculture, which is the main means of subsistence of the populations, remains water management and soil fertility and adaptation to climate change.

Adopting a suitable solution to increase soil productivity is still challenging and the SWC approach to promoting the SWC activity requires more knowledge about the reality and context of the region and is human-centred to allow for the adaptability and scalability of farmers.

To address these challenges, CRS Burkina proposes throughout this concept note CRS Burkina aims to introduce WSA principles based on existing work/techniques and the overall Burkina Faso context (WSA-Sahel). This new approach will support the adoption of water-smart agriculture (WSA) as an alternative to increase productivity and land health. This project will prioritize a co-selection approach of restoration techniques based on WSA principles with beneficiaries using CRS's SMART Skills model or a Guide to Sustainable Land Management in Burkina Faso.

Based on a literature review (Guide to Sustainable Land Management, National Land Restoration Strategy in Burkina Faso) and meetings with the main stakeholders at national level (BUNASOL, DGADHI, FAO, CNRST, GIZ, Grande Muraille Verte ...) the project will collect information's on existing soil mapping, ongoing approaches, activities and resources available to not duplicate effort and see how to be member of existing platforms on soil restoration activities in Burkina. In the project area, the project will evaluate in the intervention villages the WSA techniques known and/or applied by the producers, the barriers analysis will make it possible to understand the key factors of adoption or not. A separate focus group of women and men will be formed to conduct this study. In addition to the techniques already known to the beneficiaries, the project team and the agricultural technical service of the intervention area could complement or propose innovations to the various techniques already in place based on WSA principles. These innovations will focus on increase soil retention capacity of water throughout improvement of soil coverage. Example: revegetation of stone dikes. Depending on their needs and abilities, each beneficiary, especially women, will be accompanied to apply one or more

WSA techniques. This approach takes gender into account as it will allow women to choose techniques adapted to their abilities. Once the restoration techniques have been chosen, we will identify 10 volunteer lead farmers, including 5 women and 5 men, in each village for a total of 50 lead farmers. These lead farmers will be trained on WAS, soil mapping and key principles on soils restoration and soil health. CRS will work with BUNASOL and FAO to take advantage of the soil doctors project to reinforce the capacity of the lead farmers. Lead farmers will set up demonstration fields where they will apply good agricultural practices including WSA that will be compared to fields where conventional practices are applied to generate evidence on crop yields. They will also supervise other producers at a rate of 10 producers per primary farmer for a total of 500 producers. The choice of these responsible farmers, who will be models, will consider the different restoration techniques applied by them to have demonstration fields for all the selected techniques. CRS will organize exchange visits bringing together the rest of the beneficiaries, agricultural technical services will be organized in the demonstration fields with the aim of bringing about changes in the behavior of the beneficiaries.

2. Objectives

Title: Project to improve household food security by restoring soil productivity in the Central Plateau region of Burkina Faso.

The overall objective is to improve the food production of producers in the Central Plateau region.

Specific objective 1: Introduce SWA in the targeted villages based on participatory the selection of appropriate techniques.

Result 1.1.: Key practices of adapted WSA techniques are selected and tested through a participatory process.

Specific Objective 2: Increase community and farmer adoption of WSA-adapted techniques and innovations.

Result 2.1. 75% of strengthened farmers have adopted WSA technique.

Specific objective 3: Promote learning, sharing and capitalization.

Result 1.3. Establishing lessons learned from the process of how to introduce WSA in Burkina Faso

Result 2.3. Organize and disseminate with stakeholders and partners success stories, lessons learned and evidence based reports through sharing workshops and webinars.

II. Project location and target group

The project will be implemented in the Central Plateau region in 5 villages in the province of Ouhritenga. There are several reasons for choosing this region:

- Physical accessibility. In fact, the Central Plateau region did not record any attacks by armed terrorist groups in 2023.
- The presence of CRS Burkina in the Region through the Mc Govern Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition (Beogg Biiga in the local language) project, which aims to build an independent and productive society through the reduction of hunger in schools.

The potential for land restoration exists in the region. Indeed, the Central Plateau Region is moderately covered by land restoration actions and comes in 7th position among the 13 regions of Burkina Faso (DGAHDI-SRTD 2021, P4^{vi}). It is one of the six regions where women have the most access to land with a rate of 16% (MAAHA-TBSA 2018, P5^{vii}). 05 villages will be covered by the project. These villages will be identified based on criteria, such as the non-existence of land restoration projects and the potential for degradation of available land through discussions with agricultural services, the commune and community leaders, etc. In each village, in addition to 50 lead farmers, 450 vulnerable farmers will be selected according to criteria that will be defined with the agricultural services, community leaders and the project team;

in the end, 500 farmers will be targeted. This will ensure that there are enough cases to learn from lessons and successes, but also to ensure close monitoring of the learning aspects. To encourage the involvement of husbands in their wives' land restoration activities, the husband's name will be registered in addition to the wife's and vice versa.

- **III. Theory of Change.**

If beneficiaries are involved in the selection of good practices for sustainable soil fertility management, **if** beneficiaries are trained **and** adopt WSA-adapted techniques and innovations, **then** their food productivity will be improved **because** they will improve agricultural yields **and** the evidence will confirm this.

IV. Activities

A1.1. Baseline and end-of-line soil quality study: Knowledge of soil quality prior to implementation, knowledge and impact of the project at the end: analysis of soil chemical and biological properties before and after intervention

A1.2. Analysis of barriers to the adoption of WSA principles and SWC techniques (focus group discussion, meeting with stakeholders)

A1.3. participatory selection of techniques adapted to WSA based on the Guide to Sustainable Land Management in Burkina Faso (forum in the village)

A2.1. Strengthening the technical capacities of producers on WSA restoration techniques

A2.2. Supervision and control of farmers selected by the lead farmers and the project team in their village

A2.3. Setting up demonstration plots by leading farmers

A2.4. Organized guided tours between producers, agricultural services and community leaders.

A2.5. Production of learning materials (annual evaluation, or final evaluation report)

A3.2. Workshop on the outcomes of "A9" with key stakeholders including Government bodies, FAO, Research centers, the Agriculture and Livelihoods Community of Practice and the sharpoint.

The participatory diagnosis (focus group by gender) to identify and prioritize the factors limiting production, the known and applied WSA techniques, the obstacles to the adoption of WSA techniques to select WSA techniques by consensus will allow the involvement of producers and facilitate the application of these techniques. Technical capacity building will raise the level of knowledge of beneficiaries and/or bring innovations to existing techniques. Material capacity building will provide beneficiaries, especially women, with the necessary inputs for the application of restoration techniques. These 3 factors (diagnosis, technical and material capacity building) will allow the mastery and adoption of WSA restoration techniques. The application of these techniques will also result in improved soil health and yields. Better yields are sources of income and better food security. For the implementation of these activities, the Central Plateau Agriculture Service, the Institute of Environment and Agricultural Research of Burkina Faso (INERA) and community leaders will be involved. INERA or BUNASOL will implement certain activities (soil analysis and diagnosis) through service contracts, the agriculture department will participate in all activities and community leaders will contribute to the mobilization of beneficiaries and conflict prevention. And as a scaling strategy, a lot of evidence will be produced, such as the demonstration result of the plots of the main farmers, the result of the increase in yield, the increase in soil health, the adoption rate of WSA techniques. All of this evidence will be shared in a workshop with state and non-state actors and with the agriculture and livelihoods community of practice. As with another scaling strategy, the lead farmers will be coaches and not beneficiaries of the targeted village. In addition, a new agricultural project at CRS could be inspired by this model.

V. Description of Risks and Management Approach

Risk	Description	Impact on the project	Management strategy
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Insecurity linked to attacks by radical groups	Terrorist attacks could disrupt the implementation of the project, compromise the safety of participants, and impede access to communities.	Delay in implementation, risk to the safety of beneficiaries and project staff, difficulties in accessing targeted areas.	Cooperation with local authorities and security forces to ensure the safety of activities, adaptation of activities according to the evolution of the security situation.
Dependence on climatic factors	Unpredictable weather conditions, such as prolonged droughts or excessive rainfall, could affect the results	Risk of non-achievement of project objectives	Adaptation of restoration techniques according to soil type to mitigate the consequences of droughts and excessive rainfall
Land conflicts	Land disputes may arise during implementation, hindering land reclamation and the development of restored areas.	Delay in implementation, disruption of activities, risk of aggravation of degradation.	Work closely with local authorities to resolve land conflicts and ensure access to land, especially for women.

For a mitigation of the security situation prevailing in Burkina Faso, as part of the implementation of this project, CRS will establish and execute a security plan and in particular: **(1)** the advanced training of CRS security project staff, **(2)** the sharing of security information and the adaptation of the project in the event of a threat or incident, **(3)** the close collaboration with the community, Private Service Providers (PSPs¹), local authorities, other organizations to stay abreast of situations, and **(4)** the system of systematic collection and responses to feedback from participants as an early warning mechanism.

PERSONNEL AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT (max 1/2 page)

Identify the staff who will be involved in the project, whether they are full-time or part-time, and what the management structure will be. What technical support do you think will be needed for your initiative to be successful? Do you have access to this support within your CP or region, or will additional technical assistance be requested? Please ensure that the staff and management required to complete the deliverables are considered (publications, writing, etc.).

The activities will be implemented directly by the country program with support provided by RTA Ag&Liv but also RTA KLM for learning and knowledges managements. The CP project team will consist of a Program Manager who will report to the DHOP and his assistant in soil science and the PM will be hired based on his capacity to lead project activities and be able to collaborate with key stakeholders in country, region and global level. The PM must be able to document and share lessons learned and best practices during webinars and workshops. In addition, an external consultant will support in the development and implementation of the learning plan as well as the completion of the Baseline and Endline studies. The manager will coordinate the implementation of activities, ensure compliance with standards and procedures and ensure the quality of achievements. The Senior Technician in Pedology with the support of the agricultural service of the intervention area and the Manager, will provide training to the beneficiaries on the different techniques of WSA restoration. For the monitoring and learning activities throughout the project, the two project staffs, the TA MEAL of CRS Burkina, the RTA KLM, INERA, the Consultant and the Decentralised Technical Service in charge of Agriculture will be all involved. In addition, some activities (participatory diagnosis (focus group) and by gender to identify and prioritize factors limiting production, known and applied ESA techniques, barriers to the adoption of WSA techniques to select SWC techniques by consensus, and analysis of soil chemical and biological properties before and after the intervention) will be implemented by INERA through service contracts.

DELIVERABLE(S)/ PRODUCT(S) (Max 1/2 page)

All funded initiatives must produce at least one shareable resource that contributes to learning, practice, and/or influence related to land restoration. Please briefly describe the materials or resources you propose to produce as part of this initiative. It can be a

¹ CRS has trained and networked PSPs as part of a financial inclusion project in the same area. These networks provide an information platform for the CRS.

publication, brief, video, webinar, training material, etc. In addition, a final narrative report should highlight all the results of the initiative and how these results will contribute to broader land restoration efforts in the country.

The following deliverables will be produced:

- *Diagnostic report including analysis of barriers to the adoption of SWC techniques, selected WSA adapted techniques, list of beneficiaries – December 2025*
- *Annual report/assessment including the activities implemented, the result of the plot demonstration and some indicators (soil moisture, soil quality before implementation and after one year if possible, WSA adoption rate, number of non-beneficiaries trained by lead farmers, etc.) – January 2026*
- *Results Workshop with State and Non-State Actors and Stakeholders – January 2026 and 2027*
- *Final report/assessment including the activities implemented, the result of the plot demonstration and some indicators (soil moisture, soil quality before and after implementation, WSA adoption rate, number of non-beneficiaries trained by the main farmers, etc.) – March 2027.*
- *Presentation of results to the Agriculture and Livelihoods Community of Practice – March 2026 and February 2027*

MEAL PLAN (Max 1 page)

Identify the main indicators and present them in a tabular format. To the extent possible, these should align with the platform's indicator framework

Intervention logic	Indicator/Output	Target	Method
Specific objective 1: Involve producers in the targeted villages in the selection of appropriate ESA techniques			
Result 1.1: Key practices of adapted LA techniques are selected through a participatory process	Number of adapted SWC techniques selected by farmers (women and men)	F=4 M= 5	Group discussion (diagnostic study)
	% of targeted farmers who have selected at least 1 adapted WSA technique (women and men)	F= 90 M = 90	
Specific Objective 2: Increase community and farmer adoption of WSA-adapted techniques and innovations.			
Result 2.1. 80% of the strengthened farmers have adopted at least 1 WSA technique.	% of farmers strengthened on selected WSA techniques (women and men)	F = 95 M = 95	Count the number during training (attendance list)
	% of farmers have adopted at least 1 WSA technique (women and men)	F = 75 M = 75	Annual evaluation, field visit report
	Total hectares restored (males and females) (ha)	225	
	Number of guided tours organized	30	Yield square technique
	% increase in yield in demonstration plot		
	% increase in yield in the individual plot of beneficiaries		
Specific objective 3: Promote learning, sharing and capitalization.			
Result 3.1. Establishing evidence of ASW's potential	% increase in organic matter in demonstration plot	20	Analysis of soil samples before and after intervention
	% increase in organic matter in the individual plot of beneficiaries	10	

	% increase in soil moisture in the demonstration plot	20	Measurement using a hygrometer (comparison between control and study plots)
	% increase in soil moisture in the individual plot of beneficiaries	10	
	Number of learning materials produced	3	Evaluation Report
Result 3.2. Organize and disseminate key practices and results to key stakeholders through sharing workshops and webinars.	Number of sharing activities organized	3	Counting the number of activities organised and the number of participating structures, based on attendance lists.
	Number of structures that participated in workshops to share results	20	
	Number of non-recipients affected by activities	100	

APPENDIX 1: SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025, FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND T1 FISCAL YEAR 2027

Activities	FY-25													FY-26													FY-27									
	O	N	D	J	F	S	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	S	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D									
	c	t	v	c	a	n	b	e	a	r	a	y	n	l	u	g	p	t	v	c	a	n	b	e	a	r	a	y	n	l	u	g	p	t	v	c
Administrative Activities																																				
Recruitment of Project Manager Field Officer in Pedology or Agronomy																																				
Creation of the project's TEOP																																				
Signing of a collaboration protocol with INERA																																				
Monitoring & Evaluation Activities																																				
Field visit																																				
Atelier DIP/SMILER																																				
Internal Annual Review																																				
Internal Final Evaluation																																				
Capitalization Workshop																																				
Participation in the various activities of the agricultural services																																				
Specific objective 1: Involve producers in the targeted villages in the selection of appropriate ESA techniques																																				
Result 1.1: Key practices of adapted LA techniques are selected through a participatory process																																				
A1.1. Baseline and end-of-life study on soil quality: knowledge of soil quality before implementation, knowledge and impact of the project at the end: analysis of the chemical and biological properties of soils before and after intervention																																				
A1.2. Analysis of Barriers to the Adoption of CFC/SRD Techniques (Focus Groups, Discussion, Meeting with Stakeholders)																																				
A1.3. Participatory selection of techniques adapted to ASE according to the exciting work (forum in the village)																																				
A1.4. Annual study on soil quality: knowledge and impact of the project in fine: analysis of the chemical and biological properties of the soil after intervention																																				
A1.5. Final study on soil quality: knowledge and impact of the project in the end: analysis of the chemical and biological properties of the soil after intervention																																				
Specific Objective 2: Increase community and farmer adoption of WSA-adapted techniques and innovations.																																				
Result 2.1. 80% of the strengthened farmers have adopted at least 1 WSA technique.																																				
A2.1. Strengthening the technical capacities of producers on WSA restoration techniques																																				
A2.2. Supervision and control of the selected farmers by the lead farmers and the project team in their village																																				
A2.3 Establishment of demonstration plots by leading farmers/ Supply of small equipment from producers for WSA restoration activities																																				
A2.4. Organization of guided tours between producers, agricultural services and community leaders.																																				
A2.5. Production of learning documents (annual evaluation, activity report)																																				
Specific objective 3: Promote learning, sharing and capitalization.																																				
Result 3.1. Establishing evidence of ASW's potential																																				
A3.1. Production of learning documents (Success stories, etc.)																																				

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- ⁱ https://www.agriculture.bf/upload/docs/application/pdf/2023-05/pniasp_2021-2025.pdf
- ⁱⁱ <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/bkf198223.pdf>
- ⁱⁱⁱ http://cns.bf/IMG/pdf/insd_rapport_v21.pdf
- ^{iv} <https://beep.ird.fr/collect/upb/index/assoc/IDR-2014-SAN-IMP/IDR-2014-SAN-IMP.pdf>
- ^v <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/bkf198223.pdf>
- ^{vi} https://www.agriculture.bf/upload/docs/application/pdf/2022-01/srtd_actualsee.pdf
- ^{vii} http://cns.bf/IMG/pdf/table_de_bord_statistique_2021.pdf