



ANNUAL REPORT **2023**



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AGMIP	Agricultural Model Intercomparison and Improvement Project
AGRIDATA	Data portal on smallholder farms in Senegal
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AJPEAS	Association of Young Water and Sanitation Professionals of Senegal
ANACIM	National Agency of Civil Aviation and Meteorology of Senegal
ANPEJ	National Agency for the Promotion of Youth Employment
APIX	National Agency for the Promotion of Investments and Major Projects
ARD	Agence Régionale de Développement
AROA	Alternative Report on Africa (ARoA)
ASPH	Agro-Sylvo-Pastoral et Halieutique
CCDG	ECOWAS Gender Development Centre
CD	Conseil Départemental
CDP	Conseil Départemental de Podor
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FS	Faecal Sludge
CFP	Centre de Formation Professionnelle
CLIMB	Climate-Induced Migration in Africa and Beyond
CLIMBER	Building Systemic Resilience Against Climate Variability and Extremes
COINS	The Joint Development of Innovations for Sustainable Land Management in Smallholder Farms in West Africa.
COMPRA	COVID-19 Macroeconomic Policy Response in Africa
CRAFS	Cadre de Réflexion et d'Action sur le Foncier au Sénégal
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CWIS	City Wide Inclusive Sanitation
DAI	Development Alternatives, Inc.
DUA	Projet de Développement et d'utilisation des systèmes d'Intelligence Artificielle
DYTAES	Dynamique pour une Transition Agroécologique au Sénégal

EFI	Programme d'appui à la mise en place d'un écosystème de facilitation des investissements et des activités économiques dans le département de Podor (Sénégal)
EIG	Economic Interest Grouping
ENO	Espace Numérique Ouvert
FC	Finance Corporation
FNBS	Fédération Nationale des Boulangers du Sénégal
FPT	Formation Professionnelle et Technique
FSTP	Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant
GFA	Global Farmers Association
GIZ	German Society for International Cooperation
GRAIN	Gender and Responsible Artificial Intelligence Network
FNDASP	Fédération Nationale des Boulangers du Sénégal
FO	Farmers Organization
GSDR	Global Sustainable Development Report
IED AFRICA	Innovation, Environment, and Development–Africa
IGS	Independent Group of Scientists
IPAR	Agricultural and Rural Foresight Initiative
ISRA/BAME	Institut Sénégalais de Recherches Agricoles/ Bureau d'analyses macro-économiques
JAES	Agroecology Days in Senegal
MOVIDA	Migration, Travel, Innovations, and Dynamics in Mediterranean and Sub-Saharan Africa
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NLUPC	National Land Use Planning Commission
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
OTT	ON Think Tanks
PAP	Priority Action Plan
PCR-SAT	Prévention des Conflits et Résilience des Systèmes Alimentaires Transfrontaliers
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
PNGF	Plateforme Nationale sur la Gouvernance Foncière
PODDE	Plateforme nationale de Suivi des ODD relevant du secteur de l'Environnement
PROCASEF	Projet de Cadastre et de Sécurisation Foncière
PRODEFI	Inclusive Agrifood Value Chain Development Program
PSS	Feed the Future Senegal Policy System Services
RASCIPP	Annual Report on Civil Society Participation in Public Policy Development
RCDL	Revue Conjointe du Développement local
SC	Steering Committee

SDEL/MEPA	Service Départemental de l'Elevage/ ministère de l'Elevage et des Productions Animales
SEN-RTT	Réseau Sénégalais de Think Tank
SRI	System of Rice Intensification
UFTP	Union of Women Fish Processors
UJAK	Union des Jeunes Agriculteurs du Koyli Wirnde
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
UVS	Université Virtuelle du Sénégal
VGS	Voluntary Guidelines
WASPA	West African Sanitation Policy & Activators
WEL	Projet de transition énergétique pour l'autonomisation économique des femmes à travers la chaîne de Valeur horticole dans un contexte post-Covid-19 en Guinée et au Sénégal
WLR	Women House land and Property Rights in Senegal

A WORD FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

As 2023 comes to a close, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to my colleagues on the Executive Board, whose exceptional work in research and policy dialogue has been invaluable. I also wish to express my gratitude to the members of the Board of Directors, whose commitment has enabled the successful execution of our planned activities.

In the African context, where rapid and complex transformations are being driven by shocks such as the repercussions of COVID-19—to which humanity is still trying to adapt to—we have focused on bolstering our resilience to better align with current priorities. Drawing from the insights gained during these times of change, the Board of Directors adopted a new strategic plan aimed at transforming smallholder agri-silvopastoral and fisheries farms with a partnership-based, collaborative approach that emphasizes evidence-based data generation, strategic analysis, and both thematic and territorial foresight.

Our 2023 initiatives have reinforced our deep integration within local regions. The growing trust that local stakeholders place in IPAR's offerings, aimed at transforming these areas into vibrant environments rather than isolated entities, was exemplified by the renewal of our partnership with the Department of Podor, following the economic forum, supported by the Feed the Future Senegal Policy Systems Services (PSS) and carried out by the DAI-IPAR consortium, with funding from USAID. The Fanaye forum (Department of Podor) an extension of the Podor forum, has provided valuable training to large groups of young people and women entrepreneurs about the pressing challenges of unemployment, rural exodus, and irregular migration.

At national and international level, IPAR initiated a range of discussions at both the national and international levels, including webinars, scientific events, conferences, and exchange meetings. These platforms fostered multi-stakeholder dialogue on key issues such as land tenure (National Land Tenure Forum in Senegal), agroecological transition (JAES 2023), and the management of water resources in transboundary basins. These efforts were particularly evident through partnerships with the RIM-Rural platform in Mauritania, supported by the Belgian Development Agency (Enabel) with funding from the European Union, as well as through the Hydro-diplomacy virtual platform, etc.

In terms of research, IPAR continued to provide evidence-based data to inform policy-making. This included strengthening partnerships in the sanitation sector with research institutions from the WAEMU think tank network, through the creation and leadership of a working group.

In Senegal, IPAR was asked by the Ministry for Women, the Family and the Protection of Children to design and conduct national consultations as part of the National Conference on Women's Entrepreneurship and Empowerment of Women, chaired by the President of the Republic of Senegal and drew nearly 10,000 participants.



DR CHEIKH OUMAR BA

It was an opportunity to formalize the meetings and take important decisions in favor of women entrepreneurs.

The 2023 Activity Report, which follows, will offer further details on the past year's initiatives, highlighting the valuable lessons learned and key areas to focus on as we strive to maintain IPAR's standing as an independent benchmark institution for the analysis and debate on national and regional public policies.

In closing, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all our technical and financial partners whose support has made these initiatives possible, with a special note of gratitude to the Hewlett Foundation for their continued trust and unwavering support.

ENJOY YOUR READING!

IPAR

A key Actor in Sustainable Development In West Africa

IPAR is a forum for examination, dialogue and proposals for coordinated Agricultural and Rural Policies in Senegal and the West African region.

VISION

To be a benchmark think tank in Africa, catalyzing economic and social transformations that will lead to sustainable, inclusive and equitable development, in which family farms will play a key role.

MISSION

To contribute to the economic and social development of Senegal and the West African region by creating forums for exchange and debate based on the findings of rigorous strategic and forward-looking research, closely linked to the current and future challenges facing West African agricultural economies and smallholder farms in particular.

VALUES

Commitment

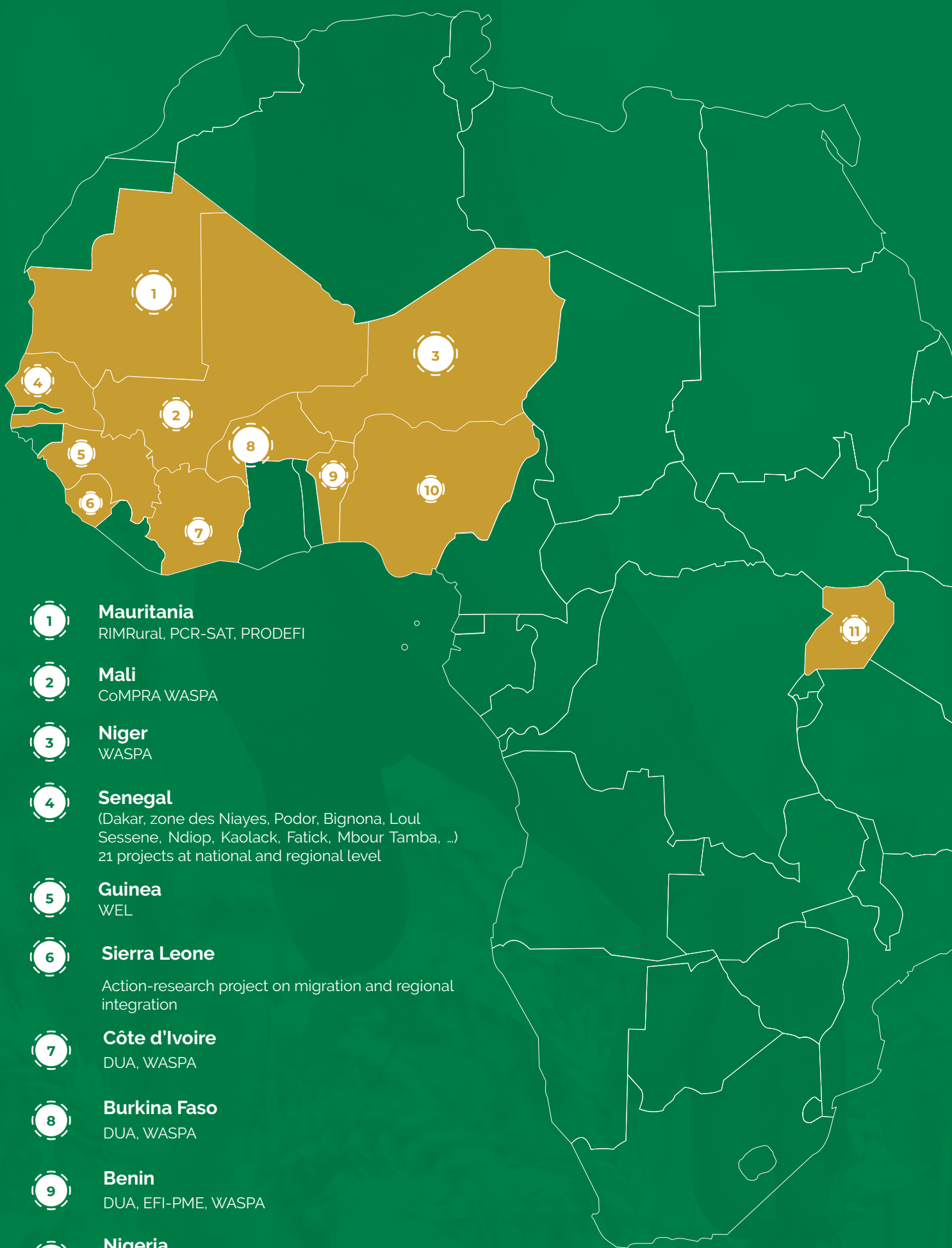
Objectivity

Responsibility

Equity

AREAS OF OPERATION





1

Mauritania

RIMRural, PCR-SAT, PRODEFI

2

Mali

CoMPRA WASPA

3

Niger

WASPA

4

Senegal

(Dakar, zone des Niayes, Podor, Bignona, Loul Sessene, Ndiop, Kaolack, Fatick, Mbour Tamba, ...)
21 projects at national and regional level

5

Guinea

WEL

6

Sierra Leone

Action-research project on migration and regional integration

7

Côte d'Ivoire

DUA, WASPA

8

Burkina Faso

DUA, WASPA

9

Benin

DUA, EFI-PME, WASPA

10

Nigeria

GRAIN, CoMPRA

11

Uganda

GRAIN

IPAR MAURITANIA

Created in 2018 by RIMRAP, the Rim Rural platform, run by IPAR office in Mauritania, is a framework for consultation and multi-stakeholder dialogue on the issues and challenges related to the agro-pastoralism sector in Mauritania.

It is made up of all rural development stakeholders (government departments, technical and financial partners, civil society organizations, the private sector, universities, research institutes, etc.) with a view to facilitating exchanges and perpetuating an inclusive sectoral dialogue on common issues.

OBJECTIVE AND MISSION

The platform aims to facilitate consultation and dialogue, fostering solutions derived from collective intelligence.

Its mission is to contribute to the guidance of political decision-makers, TFPs, CSOs and any other key actors in rural development in Mauritania.



TOPIC GROUPS

-  Territorial Management of Natural Resources
-  Productive Rural Infrastructure
-  Pastoral Farming Council
-  Local Dairy Production
-  Pastoral Hydraulics
-  Security and Development

DIGITAL SUPPORT

www.rim-rural.org

The rim-rural.org website is a digital platform accessible to all actors in the rural development sector. It provides stakeholders—including policymakers, private sector and civil society representatives, as well as technical and financial partners—with relevant, useful, and up-to-date information on the rural sector, with a focus on agro-pastoralism. The platform is supported by data collection from partners and ongoing monitoring.

DIGITAL RESOURCE
CENTER

 11
documents

REPORTED
NEWS

 724
articles

VISITS

 1 418 096
visiteurs

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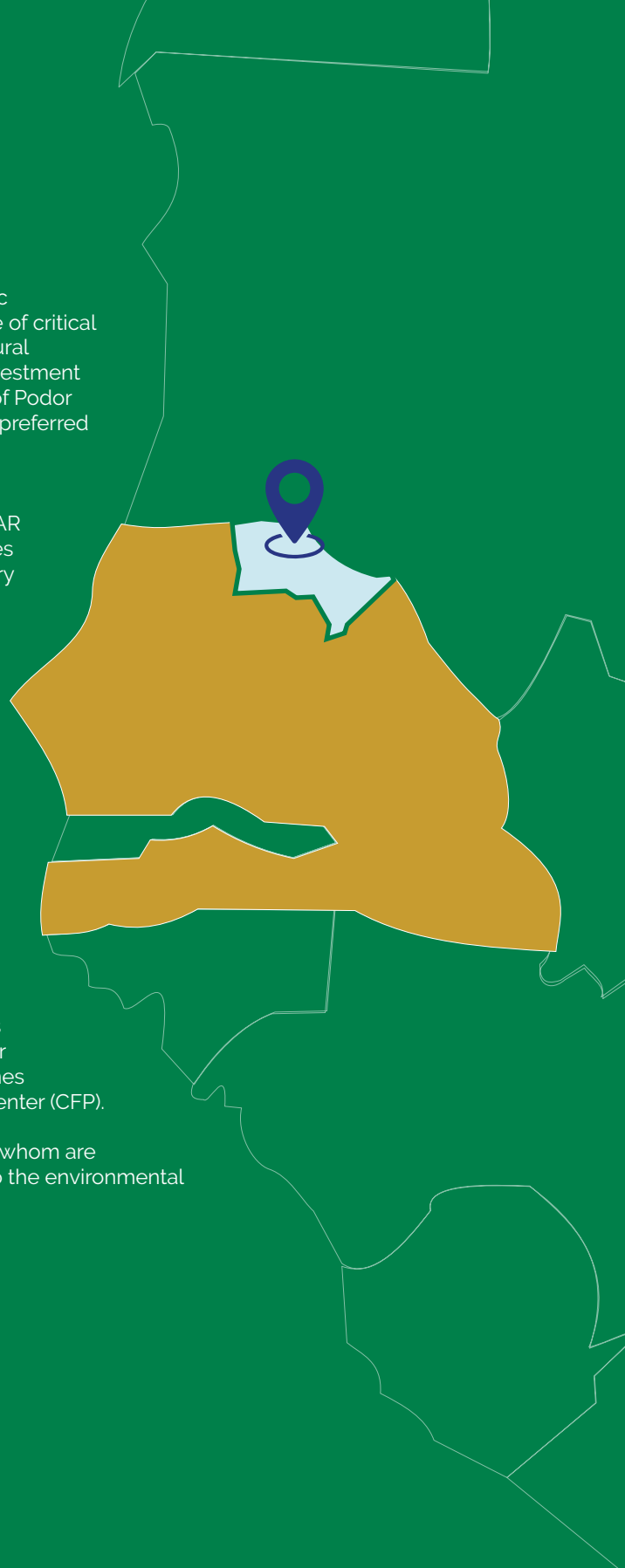
Due to its specific socio-economic features—such as its economic potential and socio-economic challenges—along with prevalence of critical development issues in the department like land governance, natural resource management, youth employment and employability, investment promotion and nutrition and food security, etc.), the Department of Podor has become a fertile ground for IPAR think tank activities and the preferred hub for many projects and programs.

The “Program Support Governments, the Private Sector and Civil Society in Ecosystems Management” (EFI Podor), facilitated by IPAR and supported by the Feed Future Senegal Policy System Services Project (PSS), seeks to stimulate investment in Podor’s agroforestry and fisheries sectors by leveraging the region’s potential.

The Joint Development Innovations for Sustainable Land Management in Smallholder Farms in West Africa (COINS), led by IPAR in collaboration with UJAK, was designed using case studies from Ghana and Senegal (Senegal River Valley), to “promote and enable sustainable agricultural and land use practices alongside governance mechanisms to improve livelihoods and food security while increasing natural capital through the reversal of land degradation and improved resource use efficiency.”

“Young Green Entrepreneurs for a Prosperous and Resilient Senegalese Community” is a Project being implemented in the Department of Podor by the International Secretariat for Water (ISW) in collaboration with the Ecole des Entrepreneurs Québécois (EEQ) and the IPAR think tank. At local level, it is working with the Departmental Council, the Espaces Numériques Ouverts (ENO-UVS) in Podor and Ndioum, the National Agency for the Promotion of Youth Employment (ANPEJ), the Union des Jeunes Agriculteurs de Koyli Wirndé and the Podor Vocational Training Center (CFP).

The project aims to support young entrepreneurs, the majority of whom are women, in developing best practices that effectively contribute to the environmental and climate transition of communities.



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Link to the digital platform dedicated to Podor's Development Initiatives : **www.podor-en-action.com**

ASSESSMENT

YEAR'S ACHIEVEMENTS



In 2023, IPAR conducted 186 activities as part of its research activities to support decision-making in various fields, as part of its priority projects/programs and themes, 92 were research-focused activities, representing 49.46% of the total activities for the year 2023.

The two other primary areas, 'policy dialogue' and 'capacity building,' accounted for 23.66% and 17.20% respectively, while communication and outreach activities made up 9.68%.

2.1 Research activities and knowledge building

2023 was a period of intense activity for the 'Research' area, reflecting a strong commitment to generating knowledge and evidence to support public policy and stakeholder advocacy across West Africa.




2.1.1 Structural Transformation of Agriculture

The significant focus of the research of IPAR was on the 'Structural Transformation of Agriculture' (over 45%) highlighting its ongoing dedication to its core mission of agricultural and rural development, as well as its efforts in deepening the understanding of smallholder farm dynamics. However, there is also a need to broaden the scope of research and discussion. Accordingly, the research of IPAR span a wide range of areas, including agricultural transformation, natural resource management, climate change and the SDGs. This diversity underscores the dedication of IPAR to addressing the complex development challenges faced by rural communities and devising relevant solutions.

As part of the "Structural Transformation of Agriculture" topic, IPAR conducted a series of studies aimed at identifying the opportunities and challenges in agricultural value chains. This included assessing the impact of adopting resilient practices through a "Living Lab" approach and exploring the opportunities for empowering women through the energy transition in the horticulture value chain in Senegal and Guinea. These research efforts provide crucial insights to inform the actions of development partners — such as USAID Projects, farmers' organizations — and to evaluate and/or develop policies aimed at increasing agricultural productivity and promoting food security, while ensuring greater inclusion and equity in the agricultural sector.

Some research activities on the topic of 'Structural transformation of agriculture :

Table of research activities by priority topic

	Structural Transformation	42
	Migration and Youth Employment	1
	Climate Change	11
	Sustainable Development Goals	16
	Natural and Land Resource Management	22
	Total	92

PROJET COINS

Contribution to the implementation of the socio-economic study with farmers' organizations (UJAK and Union Galoya)

Podor, Senegal

PROJET DOOLEL MBAY

- Study on the benchmark situation
- Study to profile opportunities in the mango value chain in Casamance
- Study to profile opportunities in the small ruminant value chain
- GESI study on the inclusion and empowerment of women

PROJET PCR-SAT

Exploratory diagnosis of the links between food, health and gender in the cross-border areas of Mauritania, Mali and Senegal

Solar Energy Shines on the Future of Women Farmers in Senegal and Guinea.

A study carried out as part of the “Women’s Economic Empowerment in Low Carbon (WEL)” Project highlights the significant impact of solar energy access on the economic empowerment of women in the agricultural sector. In Senegal, the adoption of solar-powered irrigation is having a significant impact. It has not only increased the agricultural income of women vegetable farmers by more than 200,000 CFA francs, but also reduced irrigation costs by more than 125,000 CFA francs compared to traditional methods. The Women’s Empowerment Index (0.935) underscores the strong involvement of women in decision-making, as income and time are reallocated, and labor intensity is reduced. These findings demonstrate the crucial importance of access to solar energy in strengthening women’s economic empowerment and enhancing their active participation in agricultural development.

In Guinea, however, figures indicate significant disparities in access to solar technologies. Only 0.6% of women have access to these technologies, despite a favorable institutional framework for the energy transition. Barriers include a lack of knowledge about the technologies (61.3%) and their high cost, with 24.1% of respondents citing cost as a

Major hurdle and 12% reporting a lack of government/NGOs support. These findings emphasize the urgent need for coordinated efforts to overcome these obstacles and extend women’s access to sustainable energy solutions.

The main objective of the project is to design development programs to promote women’s access to solar energy in agriculture. Information has been shared with various partners to inform decision-making around large-scale solutions. In response, organizations such as ANER in Senegal and the African Climate Foundation are showing an interest in supporting capacity-building initiatives and policy dialogues for an equitable energy transition.



2.1.2 Natural Resource Management and Land Governance

In the field of Natural Resource Management and Land Governance, IPAR has implemented a series of activities to promote sustainable management of land and natural resources, with particular emphasis on gender and governance. These efforts have been supported by various projects and a new program on the inclusive natural resource governance, supported by the Hewlett Foundation.

The WLR Project carried out an in-depth study of women’s rights to housing, land and property in Senegal, with the aim of analyzing the current situation and developing measures to reduce gender inequalities in this area. As part of the partnership with COPIL/PROCASEF, a knowledge-building study on land tenure tools and arrangements was carried out to identify best practices and experience gained. Additionally, a workshop for researchers was organized to examine rural land transactions and markets in Africa, with the aim of a better understanding of these complex dynamics. This approach shed light on irregular land conversion and ownership issues, involving the sale of land, with limited participation of women in decision-making levels. Finally, several knowledge-building documents were produced, including a conceptual paper and a report on the Voluntary Guidelines in Senegal, as well as research reports.

The COINS Project enabled the mapping of sustainable land management practices in the Department of Podor, Senegal, highlighting challenges associated with soil fertility and agricultural practices. These critical issues of soil condition and quality have also been the focus of research on land salinization, particularly in the commune of Loul Sessène. Three dissertations have been submitted on topics related to these issues, with a fourth dissertation currently in progress examining other related aspects (land salinization in the commune of Loul Sessène: edaphic, hydric and biological characterization of the physical environment and analysis of farmers’ understanding of the phenomenon).

Some research activities on the topic of “Natural Resource Management and Land Governance”:

WLR

Study on women's right to housing, land and property in Senegal: Analysis of the situation and proposals for tools to reduce gender inequalities (WLR Project)

Research school on rural land market and transactions in Africa

COPIL/
PROCASEF

Study on the harnessing of tools and land tenure arrangements (COPIL/ PROCASEF partnership).

COINS

Mapping of sustainable land management practices in the department of Podor, Senegal (COINS Project).

Exploring Women's Land Rights in Senegal: Towards More Inclusive Land Governance.

As part of the WLR Project funded by the World Bank and implemented by the IED Afrique, IIED and IPAR Consortium, an in-depth study was carried out in 2023 to explore the situation of women's land rights in five key areas, namely Bambilor, Diembering, Dodel, Toubacouta and Tomboronkoto. The findings of the study identify a number of significant trends. Agricultural land is generally considered to be a family asset, but women often have only secondary and temporary rights to agricultural land, particularly through loans or allotments. Among the 457 households surveyed in 30 villages in the five communes, only 24.3% of women reported having any right to agricultural land. In contrast, women are more likely to buy their own homes, though this is affected by major land issues, particularly in peri-urban areas such as Bambilor, where only 39.2% of women surveyed claimed ownership of housing. Another important finding is the participation of women in land governance decision-making bodies. Although parity laws ensure their inclusion, women often remain unheard, with limited representation on land commissions, where they account for only 3.4% of members. Intermediary frameworks between formal and informal structures seem to facilitate their participation, yet further efforts are needed to equitable representation in land-related decision-making processes. This study draws a close to the importance of addressing gender disparities in land and urban policies and governance processes, in order to promote women's economic empowerment and ensure fairer, more inclusive societies.



The Innovation Laboratory: a Coordinated Tool for Agricultural Actors in the Department of Podor

The Joint Development of Innovations for Sustainable Land Management in Smallholder Farms in West Africa (COINS) initiated an Innovation Laboratory for Intensive Rice Farming and Sustainable Land Management (LIMAceRiz/SLM) in Senegal, marking a major turning point in local agriculture. This challenging initiative aims to transform traditional farming practices by focusing on the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) and Sustainable Land Management (SLM), with to increase agricultural productivity while ensuring environmental sustainability.

The Innovation Laboratory brings together a wide range of local stakeholders, including farmers, researchers, and political decision-makers, to co-create innovative solutions tailored to the specific context of the department

of Podor. The core of this initiative is SRI, a promising agricultural method recognized for its multiple environmental and socio-economic potential. However, despite its potential, SRI faces major challenges, including the need for appropriate mechanization and raising awareness among stakeholders and financial institutions.

To address these obstacles, the Innovation Lab is committed to setting up demonstration plots to illustrate the benefits of SRI, while raising awareness among local stakeholders and working with financial institutions to support sustainable farming initiatives. This broad-based and inclusive approach is a significant step towards more resilient and eco-friendly agriculture, offering tangible opportunities to improve the living conditions of farmers and preserve essential natural resources for future generations.

2.1.3. Sustainable Development Goals

Research on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a key part of the activities of IPAR, reflecting its commitment to sustainable and inclusive development. Over the past year, IPAR has carried out a series of studies and initiatives aimed at contributing to the achievement of the SDGs in various key areas.

As part of its participation in the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR 2023), IPAR, represented by senior researcher Dr. Ibrahima Hathie, made significant contributions to the assessment of progress and challenges related to the SDGs worldwide. In collaboration with the Saint-Louis Regional Development Agency, efforts have been made to map the initiatives for localizing the SDGs in the Saint-Louis region, and carry out diagnostic studies in several communes in Senegal.

In addition, IPAR has made noteworthy efforts to address specific SDG-related issues. For example, comprehensive studies focused on sanitation policies and the development of wastewater master plans, thus contributing to SDG 6 which emphasizes access to water and sanitation.

In the context of the DUA Project, IPAR has assessed the development of Artificial Intelligence in several West African countries, highlighting its potential for stimulating economic and social development (SDGs 8, 9 and 16).

A thorough study of women's entrepreneurship was conducted in Senegal's 7 territorial hubs, highlighting the challenges and opportunities for women's empowerment (SDG 5).

Furthermore, agriculture and farming data remain central to the focus of IPAR, with the AGRIDATA initiative aimed at identifying and making accessible new sources of farming data (SDG 2). A new communication strategy has also been developed to promote the use of agricultural data and raise awareness of the challenges of the SDGs.

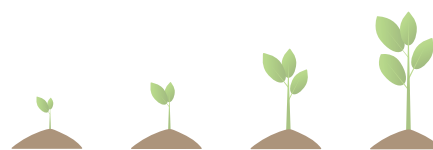
Some research activities on the « Sustainable Development Goals » topic:

Contribution to the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR 2023)

Mapping of initiatives to identify the SDGs in the Saint-Louis region (Senegal) (partnership with the Saint-Louis Regional Development Agency)

Diagnosis of initiatives to identify the SDGs in the communes of Bargny, Cambéréne, Sandiara and Mont-Roland (Senegal)

Studies on sanitation policies in the target countries, the involvement of private actors in the sub-sector and the socio-cultural challenges to developing access to sanitation in Benin, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso and Senegal (WASPA Project)



Study on the development of a wastewater master plan for island communities in the Ziguinchor region (WASPA Project)

Study on the level of development of AI as part of the DUA- project Development and use of Artificial Intelligence systems for the well-being of all in West Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast and Senegal)

Identifying the new sources of data available on agriculture and the needs of local actors in terms of the use of agricultural data (AGRIDATA initiative)

Assessment of women's entrepreneurship in Senegal's 7 territorial hubs (National Conference on Women's Entrepreneurship)

2.1.4. Climate Change

The research of IPAR on climate change is based on its own expertise and collaboration with research networks, particularly the AgMIP, a network of over a thousand researchers working on different aspects of modeling climate change and its impact on agriculture and nutrition. This year, IPAR actively participated in the sharing of the socio-economic modeling findings on climate change, emphasizing the need of bridging the gap between policy and science within the AgMIP network. Additionally, IPAR has contributed to the ClimBer Project (Strengthening Systemic Resilience to Climate Variability and Extreme Weather Events) with a view to identifying climate change adaptation measures and mapping the stakeholders involved. The aim of this work is to assess the transformative potential of the various initiatives in a multi-scale, multi-centered governance framework. Finally, a study on the macroeconomic responsiveness to climate shocks in Senegal and Mali was completed, resulting in an article and a policy note published by T20 member partners.

Some research activities on the theme of «climate change» include:

Exploring the Migration-Climate Change Nexus: Challenges and Prospects for the Protection of Climate Migrants and Gender Equality

Within the framework of the CLIMB Project, an extensive literature review was conducted to explore the nexus between migration and climate change. This analysis highlighted a significant gap concerning the legal protection of climate migrants. Despite the growing acceptance of the term “climate migrants”, a clear legal framework for their protection is lacking, often leaving them in unprecedented vulnerability.

Moreover, the study revealed that most climate change-induced migrations are internal, occurring primarily within the borders of the affected countries or at a regional level. This finding challenges traditional narratives centered on South-North migration flows, emphasizing instead the need to understand internal migration dynamics.

Additionally, special attention was given to gender disparities in the impacts of climate change. Although research on this area is still limited, it is evident that climate change affects men and women differently, with specific repercussions on communities, generations, and genders. This awareness underscores the importance of integrating a gender perspective into climate change adaptation policies and programs.

Data collection from semi-structured interviews conducted with national institutions involved in climate change, food security, and early warning system governance (ClimBeR Project).

Development of a policy note on macroeconomic resilience: The cases of Senegal and Mali (Compra Project).

2.1.5. Migration and Youth Employment

The “Migration and Youth Employment” topic has been at the core of the research of IPAR, as evidenced by its EJMAO Project (2012 - 2015). However, previous research primarily focused on youth employment and employability without establishing a direct link with mobility.

This year, IPAR is reviewing the topic by integrating the nexus of climate change - agriculture - mobility within the framework of the CLIMB Project. In collaboration with several institutions (Malmö University IDEMA, The President and Fellows of Harvard College, Harvard University, Paris-Lodron-University Salzburg, DPA Foundation Inc., Vrije Universiteit Brussel) IPAR is not only reviewing the topic but also highlighting the use of “big data” from mobile data combined with qualitative and quantitative field data collection methods. By conducting an exhaustive literature review on theories and concepts related to climate-induced migration in Senegal, IPAR seeks to contribute to policy discussions and interventions by addressing the socio-economic implications of climate-induced migration for youth employment in Senegal.

2.1.6. Défis et perspectives pour la recherche

To further its mission of driving positive development impact, IPAR must address key challenges while exploring new exciting prospects.

IPAR must strive to secure long-term funding for research activities. In 2023, IPAR established 12 new research agreements, covering diverse topics with the support of partners such as the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the GIZ (German Cooperation), and others. However, financial stability remains critical to ensuring independent research that responds effectively to development needs. Another major challenge is the evaluation and monitoring of research activities. It is essential for IPAR to carefully document its results and estimate the impact to measure its contribution to development. A robust monitoring and evaluation system is essential to assess the effectiveness of its research and guide

future initiatives.

In alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030, IPAR is committed to consolidating its current initiatives for monitoring SDG indicators. A particularly focus will be placed on two vital areas: agriculture, through the AGRIDATA platform, and the environment, with the PODDE platform. By collecting, analyzing, and making relevant and reliable data available, these platforms will provide a solid basis for measuring progress and identifying areas requiring more sustained action by integrating various actors for each sector. IPAR will contribute in the development of policies and programs that ensure progress toward SDGs, by 2030, and support the monitoring of the goals beyond 2030.

IPAR also plans to intensify its efforts in gender research. By focusing on women's economic empowerment and youth employment in the agricultural sector, IPAR aims to reduce inequalities and promote more inclusive and resilient communities. In addition, gender considerations will be integrated across all initiatives through the development and implementation of a Gender Equality and Equity Charter.

Finally, IPAR will explore opportunities for conducting synthetic analyses at the West African level. This approach, built with these partners and different networks, will identify common regional challenges and opportunities, providing a solid basis for the development of regional policies and programs aimed at stimulating economic and social development.

By addressing these challenges and exploring these opportunities, the IPAR research will continue to play a key role in shaping and influencing sustainable development in West Africa.



A team of IPAR researchers at the Fimela Water and Forestry Service (Fatick Region, Senegal). Copyright IPAR 2023



Podor Economic Forum - © IPAR 2022

2.2 Capacity Building for Change Agents

As a leading think tank and key player in the research landscape, IPAR contributes to capacity building for change agents in its intervention areas, with key focus on empowering them to participate more actively in decision-making processes for more inclusive, effective, and efficient public policies.

In this perspective, IPAR implemented in 2023 a comprehensive capacity-building program targeting several categories of stakeholders. These included representatives from the government, parliament, the private sector, civil society organizations, elected representatives, youth, women and others.



Table of capacity-building activities by priority topic

	Structural Transformation of Agriculture	12
	Climate Change	4
	Sustainable Development Goals	9
	Natural and Land Resource Management	6
	Total	31

2.2.1 Support for Stakeholders in the Conceptualization, Implementation, and Structuring of Organizational Frameworks tailored to their needs

The purpose of this initiative is to assist stakeholders in structuring themselves into strong, efficient, and resilient organizations, capable of meeting the needs of their members (training, access to credit, and mentoring, etc.) and to empower members with leadership capable of influencing decision-making processes.

In this respect, IPAR supported the establishment and structuring of the Union des Femmes Transformatrices de Podor (UFTP), in northern Senegal, at the request of the women's EIGs from the department who took part in the ASPH products fair, during the Podor Economic Forum organized by local stakeholders with the support of IPAR in December 2022.

UFTP, which is made up of 43 groups and associations, is now a well-structured umbrella organization with its own board, statutes and by-laws. Furthermore, the Union is formalized with APIX, facilitating connections with financial institutions for better access to financing. The UFTP is a platform for collaboration and synergy of action, and a hub for training and awareness-raising activities on the importance of processing ASPH products, particularly in the context of Senegal's quest for food sovereignty.

2.2.2 Support for the Optimization of Farmers' Organizations and the ASPH Value Chains.

As part of capacity-building efforts for stakeholders in the department of Podor (component 2 of the EFI program), IPAR supported stakeholders in major ASPH sectors to draw up Priority Action Plans (PAP) to optimize these sectors (dairy, aquaculture, etc.).

These PAPs are used by stakeholders to seek partners in advocacy campaigns. Through this initiative, actors in the dairy and aquaculture sectors have identified the strategic partners they plan to collaborate with (for dairy: SDEL/MEPA, Technical Services, IPAR, FNDASP, CT, OPE, CFP, ONFP, UVS, ANPEJ. For aquaculture: ANAT, Fisheries Department, CDP, Prefect, technical services, IPAR, UCG). Stakeholders were also able to identify the constraints of these sectors in a participative manner.



2.2.3 Training Sessions for Stakeholders in the E.F.I. Podor Program

- Training session for departmental elected representatives (CD) on "Territorial Project Management and Organizational Governance of Departmental Councils". A total of 86 elected representatives took part in this training course.
- Digital marketing training session (30 young entrepreneurs);
- Leadership and change management to support the transformation of agricultural sectors (50 members of the UFTP);
- Processing of perishable vegetables (185 women);
- Dairy processing (52 women from Fanaye)
- As part of its support for women and dynamic young entrepreneurs, one of the components of the Podor Ecosystem Support Program (EFI Podor), the IPAR Think Tank organized a training session for members of the Podor Union of Union des femmes transformatrices de Podor on March 18 and 19, 2023, on "Leadership and change management" for 50 women members of

the UFTP.

2.2.4 Capacity-building for sanitation operators

Sanitation operators have been mapped in most of the countries targeted by the WASPA Project. They play an essential role in WASH activities. However, to ensure universal access to appropriate sanitation and hygiene services under equitable conditions, and to eliminate open defecation, paying particular attention to the needs of women and girls and vulnerable populations, it is crucial to implement training and capacity-building initiatives for stakeholders. The aim is to design training programs tailored to the needs of stakeholders and to build capacity to improve sanitation services.

2.2.4.1 City-Wide Training on Inclusive Sanitation as part of the Capacity Building Program, ISC-Hub, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

A one-week training program conducted for cesspool emptiers (09) and artisan masons (09) from the Mbour commune.

The aim was to build their capacity in the CWIS approach and the management of faecal sludge through training and coaching. By the end of the session, participants had:

- Understood the theoretical and practical aspects of the CWIS approach
- Gained in-depth knowledge of the Sludge Management System in urban areas
- Mastered the various tools associated with the CWIS Approach
- Demonstrated full integration of CWIS principles in their operations.

The aim is to establish a sustainable regional network of partners in West and Central Africa sharing programs, knowledge and inclusive urban sanitation (CWIS/FSTP).

2.2.4.2 Training with the African Water and Sanitation Association on the Operation and Maintenance of Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants (FSTP)

The week-long training course was conducted for a dozen participants, including middle and senior managers from sanitation departments and students completing their studies in sanitation.



The aim was to equip them with the tools they need to properly monitor

- Monitoring of FS physico-chemical and microbiological parameters;
- Management of final products;
- Keeping and archiving various registers (or operating books).

These actors are expected to contribute to improving the design and operation of FSTP across Africa.



2.2.5 Outlook and Recommendations

To drive positive change through capacity building, IPAR intends to:

- Support CSOs, particularly Farmers' Organizations, in developing and implementing monitoring programs that generate evidence-based data.
- Position itself as a player capable in assisting states (government, parliament, local elected representatives, private sector, etc.) in the sub-region in the defining tools, research and analytical approaches, and foresight strategies.
- Strengthen the internal capabilities of its staff.

2.2.5.1 Internal Capacity Building



2.2.5.2 Capacity Building for Partners

- 1 Implement tools, have access to research findings (IPAR or other), and learning methods.
- 2 Draw up a capacity-building and coaching plan for partners (CSOs -> PASC).
- 3 Train Farmers' Organizations in data collection -> EF monitoring (Poultry Farmers Organizations, UJAK, etc.).
- 4 Strengthen the capacity of commodity chains/inter-professional organizations to structure or restructure themselves.



Forum économique de Podor - © IPAR 2022

2.3 Political Dialogue on Development Issues in Senegal and West Africa

Political dialogue involves engaging stakeholders in a specific sector, issue, over a more or less long period to build win-win agreements that combine divergent interests. This approach is crucial for effective governance and public policy, as it maximizes efficiency, facilitates ownership, avoid conflict and achieves the objectives of social and economic transformation.

Throughout 2023, IPAR conducted a number of policy dialogue activities on key issues linked to its priority research themes. Some of these dialogues were conducted within global framework in which IPAR is an active member, including SEN-RTT, RTT-WAEMU, GRAIN, Southern Voice Network for peace Building, MOVIDA, AgMIP and Inter Réseaux, or within the framework of national initiatives or thematic platforms (PNGF, CRAFS, etc.).

2.3.1 Contributions to Policy Dialogue on the Governance of Natural Resources, Land and Food Sovereignty in Senegal and West Africa

Alongside the Senegalese Think Tanks Network (SEN-RTT), for which it provides the secretariat, IPAR facilitated a dialogue involving various stakeholders (think tanks, civil society organizations, and the state) to address the critical issue of food sovereignty. This dialogue took place on International Think Tank Day, celebrated annually on January 31, and was inspired by the multifaceted crises affecting the world in recent years, which have also impacted Senegal (security, economic, health, climate crises, etc.). It highlighted the urgent need to establish conditions for sustainable food sovereignty with more resilient food systems.



Table of capacity-building initiatives by priority topic

	Structural Transformation of Agriculture	27
	Sustainable Development Goals	3
	Natural Resource Management and Land Governance	14
	Total	44

2.3.1.1 Issues and Challenges of Land Governance and its Links with Food Sovereignty in Senegal

The national land forum has become an annual event, now firmly established on the agenda of stakeholders involved in land governance in Senegal. This significant annual gathering serves as a platform for dialogue on the issues and challenges of improving the governance of land resources, in a context characterized by diverse stakeholder interests and various forms of tension.

The 6th edition of the forum, held in December 2023 in Dakar by the National Platform on Land Governance (PNGF), under the leadership of IPAR, focused on the nexus between “land governance and food sovereignty.”

Strong consensus emerged regarding the vital role of effective land governance as a foundation for ensuring food sovereignty and facilitating socio-economic development.

2.3.1.2 Strengthening the National Framework for Dialogue on Land and Natural Resource Management in Senegal and Contributing to the Implementation of Policies, Programs, and Projects in the Territories

IPAR has played a central role in broadening the social base of the National Platform on Land Governance in Senegal (PNGF). Since 2020, ongoing consultations with territorial actors have focused on raising awareness about the Voluntary Guidelines (VGs) and expanding the Steering Committee to include other structures (private sector, civil society, local authorities, universities, research institutions, and local associations). This initiative has led to the establishment of local dialogue platforms, which are spaces for exchange, debate, and support for any local policy or good practice related to the governance of natural resources and land in particular, based on the principles of the VGs.

As part of the Project for Dialogue, Consultation, and Land Security, two general assemblies were held, resulting in the establishment of two regional platforms in Kaolack and Kaffrine, and the definition of regional action plans for both districts.

In the framework of the CRAFS/PROCASEF partnership, which aims to strengthen multi-stakeholder territorial dialogue on land governance and natural resource management in the regions of Sédhiou, Kolda, Ziguinchor, and Matam, 2023 was dedicated to consolidating existing local platforms and to initiating consultations to create frameworks for dialogue in territories where they do not yet exist.

2.3.1.3 Socialization Around Land Reform in Senegal

A panel on the new land law now allowing the allocation of land to a group of people (Decree 2022-2307 amending Article 3 of the 1972 Decree) was held in Dakar, Senegal, in October 2023.

Dakar, Senegal, October 2023

Organized by PNGF and IPAR, with the participation of civil society actors, PNGF platform members, PROCASEF, local elected officials, and others, a policy brief titled "Considering Collective Land Rights in the Land Reform in Senegal" was presented to highlight the risks of the erosion of collective ownership in favor of extreme individual appropriation.

Regional Workshop on the New Decree 2022-2307 on Land Allocation and Deallocation Conditions

Dakar, Senegal, October 2023

GIZ in collaboration with IPAR. Participants in the workshop were: GIZ SEEN SUUF, GFA-IPAR, PROCASEF, AMBERO,

the governor and mayor of Kaolack, AGEROUTE, ARD, ANAT, mayors of the region, technical services, FOs, etc

Raising Awareness Among Senegalese Parliamentarians on Reforms Contributing to Food Sovereignty and Climate Change Adaptation

From August 22 to 24, 2023, in Saly (Mbour, Senegal),

a workshop organized by FNBS, CNCR, IPAR, and ANACIM brought together 55 actors, including about 30 Senegalese parliamentarians from three commissions (Law, Finance, and Rural Development), to discuss these reforms.

2.3.1.4 Sustainable Water Management in Africa

In July 2023, IPAR, in collaboration with the information site hydrodiplomacy.com, organized a virtual roundtable on "Challenges and Issues in Water Resource Governance in Africa and the Role of Diplomacy."

The event highlighted the importance of diplomacy in managing water resources. In a context of water resource scarcity, increasing demand, and tensions over access to and control of transboundary water basins, hydro-diplomacy was highlighted as the most effective way to fostering cooperation and collaboration between states for sustainable and peaceful management of shared water resources.

2.3.2 Agroecological Transition in Senegal: The Role of IPAR in Facilitating Dialogue at the National and Territorial Levels

The fourth edition of the Agroecology Days in Senegal (JAES), held in Dakar from February 14 to 15, 2023, with active participation from IPAR as a member of DyTAES, was a moment of intense reflection and dialogue on the territorialization of agroecology.

These days highlighted the main challenges of agroecology in Senegal, including scaling up, knowledge transfer, funding for research and agricultural advisory services, and the lack of dialogue among stakeholders. DyTAES, as a collaborative framework for stakeholders, aims to address these challenges through the synergy of actions, the training of a critical mass of actors in agroecology, the scaling up of innovative practices, and the strengthening of political dialogue in favor of the agroecological transition in Senegal.

IPAR shared its experience in supporting the DyTAES of Bignona during a scientific seminar titled "La transition agroécologique au Sénégal: de l'analyse des verrouillages à l'accompagnement du changement." This seminar, organized by ISRA-BAME and its partners—including IPAR—took place in May 2023 in Dakar as part of BAME's scientific events. The shared experience emphasized the importance of territorial anchoring in achieving a sustainable agroecological transition. Collaborative construction is fundamental to the agroecological transition processes at the territorial level.



2.3.3 Facilitation of dialogue on entrepreneurship and promotion of investments

2.3.3.1 National Symposium on Women's Entrepreneurship in Senegal

The National Symposium on Women's Entrepreneurship in Senegal, held on March 7th at the Grand Théâtre of Dakar, provided a platform for continued dialogue and exchange among the various categories of actors at the national level. It allowed the identification of challenges and the prioritization of intervention areas for the revival of women's entrepreneurship, the reduction of gender inequalities, and the empowerment of women by 2030.

IPAR supported the Government of Senegal, through the Ministry of Women, Family, and Child Protection, in assessing the situation across the 7 territorial hubs, documenting the potentials, opportunities, achievements, and challenges specific to each hub. The aim was also to share success models in each sector and, finally, to formulate strong recommendations for the empowerment of women and the strengthening of their leadership in the entrepreneurial sector, tailored to the specific needs of each territorial hub.

These regional consultations were chaired by the Governors of the region and mobilized all actors involved in the entrepreneurship ecosystem (women's organizations, private sectors, administrations, universities, civil society, experts, financial sectors, research institutes, think tanks, actors in the primary sector, technical and financial partners, etc.).

2.3.3.2 2023 Joint Local Development Review (RCDL) of Podor: IPAR Supports Stakeholder Consultations in the Territory

The overall objective of the Joint Local Development Review (RCDL), conducted by IPAR in support of the Podor Departmental Council, is to contribute to accelerating the implementation of the department's economic and social policies. More specifically, it ensures coordinated monitoring of policy implementation, establishes a framework for multi-stakeholder, multi-sector dialogue, and implements a mutual accountability framework.

In 2023, IPAR supported the consultations, following a study that highlighted the significant information gap faced by the youth regarding

employment opportunities in the Podor department (limited access to information and lack of access to a local mechanism to guide and support youth in entrepreneurship).

2.3.3.3 Contributions to the Dialogue between the EU and CSOs on Youth Employment in Senegal

As part of the production of knowledge and evidence aimed at strengthening structured dialogue between CSOs and the Government or its branches, SENRTT and IPAR contributed in 2023 to the realization of a groundbreaking work entitled "Annual Civil Society Report on Public Policies" (RASCIPP). This report generated considerable interest from umbrella organizations, which were heavily involved, as well as from the Government, which provided technical and financial support for its development and dissemination, and from technical and financial partners, the press, and citizens who expressed the need for greater visibility on the economic and social impact of NGOs and their contribution to the Plan Sénégal Emergent, etc.

2.3.4 Dialogue for the Digital Inclusion of Youth and Women and the Use of Evidence-Based Data in Public Policies

2.3.4.1 Challenges of Responsible and Inclusive Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in African Policy and Research

AI is a powerful tool that can drive Africa's development. That's why IPAR has adopted it as an area of intervention. Within the think tank, several Research Projects (GRAIN, DUA, AgriDATA) focus on the responsible use of AI, which is a powerful tool that can drive development in Africa. While AI holds immense potential for advancement, it also poses challenges that can exacerbate inequalities if not applied judiciously. AI policies must prioritize the digital inclusion of women and youth.

Starting from this premise, IPAR has seized the opportunity of the 2023 edition of International Women's Day, celebrated on the theme "For an Inclusive and Digital World: Innovations and Technologies for Gender Equality," to launch a debate through a day of reflection in 2023 on the challenges

of responsible and inclusive use of artificial intelligence (AI) in Africa.

Five (5) speakers from different countries (Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, and Morocco) shared their views on enhancing practices that promote digital inclusion, access technology, and women's entrepreneurship. They also discussed the necessary policies to ensure responsible and inclusive AI, as well as the strategies needed to raise awareness among decision-makers and entrepreneurs about the opportunities for integrating women into Africa's digital transformation.

2.3.4.2 IPAR Promotes the Use of Evidence-Based Data in Decision-Making Processes

Evidence-based data encompasses information, statistical data, survey or evaluation findings, conclusions drawn from research, and other scientific knowledge that can serve as a useful basis for decision-making. The use of this evidence-based data ensures the effectiveness of public policies. In 2023, institutional mechanisms to encourage the optimal use of evidence-based data among decision-makers in the public sector, private sector, and civil society, particularly regarding agricultural reforms and policies, were the subject of a dialogue initiated by IPAR and its partners DAI and Sen-RTT through a scientific seminar.

The discussions revealed a real need for institutional stakeholders to understand the importance of evidence, strengthening the government's capacity to use innovative funding mechanisms for mobilizing evidence to inform policy decisions, promoting synergy with research organizations to better influence decisions, while facilitating the appropriation of data and evidence through more accessible formats, etc.

2.3.5 Political Dialogue for the Consideration of the Recommendations of the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report in Senegal and West Africa

This dialogue, initiated by IPAR in partnership with the Senegalese Network of Think Tanks (SEN-RTT) and the Alternative Report on Africa (AROA),

aimed at achieving several goals. These goals included raising awareness of the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) process and the establishment of the Independent Group of Scientists (IGS), sharing the key messages of the GSDR and reflecting on how to address challenges specific to Senegal and West Africa,

and most importantly, defining an agenda to integrate the Report's recommendations into national and regional policies and strategies.

The GSDR 2023 shows that at the halfway point to the 2030 deadline, the SDGs are far from being on track. The report provides insights on the way forward, including data on necessary interventions and how to overcome obstacles and strategically influence the pace of change. Ultimately, the 2023 report calls for action on the transformations it outlines.

2.3.6 Advocacy for Effective Responses to Shocks

As part of the macroeconomic policy responses to COVID-19 in Africa (COMPRA), a "policy note on macroeconomic resilience" was published, focusing on the cases of Senegal and Mali.

The note, which comparatively examines the resilience of the Senegalese and Malian economies to major shocks at the national and global/regional levels from 2000 to 2022, and the policy responses adopted, emphasizes the need to implement countercyclical fiscal and monetary policies, and to enhance their performance in trade, industry, human capital, and governance to bolster the economic resilience of both countries against shocks.

2.3.7 Promising Results

The political dialogue initiated by IPAR, or involving our think tank, over the past year, have begun to produce tangible results, even though several processes are still ongoing.

Under the leadership of IPAR, SEN-RTT proposes five levers for Senegal's national food sovereignty strategy:

- Establishment of appropriate regulatory frameworks and multistakeholder governance;
- Promotion of innovative financing models;
- Community engagement in the development of regulatory frameworks and implementation mechanisms;
- Capacity building for actors in the food chain;
- Contribution of science and technology.

01 Memorandum on Land Governance and Food Sovereignty in Senegal

Arising from the discussions during the National Land Forum, this document urges Senegalese decision-makers to complete the land reform process by:

- Adopting a land policy document and translating it into legislative and regulatory actions;
- Relaxing the legal framework to make agricultural private investments more attractive while avoiding land commodification;
- Developing a national strategy for entrepreneurship and youth integration by facilitating their access to land.

Three Local Platforms for Dialogue on Land and Natural Resource Management Established in Senegalese Territories

Alongside other actors from the National Platform on Land Governance (PNGF), IPAR contributed in 2023 to the establishment and structuring of platforms in the following territories:

- Regional Platform of Sédhiou on Land Governance (Casamance);
- Regional Platforms of Kaolack and Kaffrine (peanut basin);
- Initiative Committee established in Dagana (northern zone).

Looking ahead, other dynamics are underway in the Niayes area (Louga) and in the Senegal River delta zone (finalization of the process in Dagana) and in Casamance (Kolda and Vélingara).

These frameworks will expand the list of existing operational platforms in Casamance (Regional Platform of Ziguinchor and MYF Platform) and in the Senegal River region (Podor and Matam).

About Thirty Senegalese Parliamentarians from three commissions (laws, finance, and rural development) have been sensitized on reforms that could contribute to food sovereignty and climate change adaptation.

- A roadmap has been developed to engage parliamentarians, civil society, research, and other stakeholders in an alliance to contribute to the necessary reforms for achieving food sovereignty in Senegal.
- Agroecological Transition Underway in the Bignona Department. Under the impetus of IPAR, the Bignona DyTAEL has set the course for its complete agroecological transition by 2036. The goal is to unlock Bignona's

agricultural and food potential and to make the district an agroecological department recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Centre.



Guidelines for Promoting Investment and Entrepreneurship in Senegal.

IPAR supported the Joint Review of Local Development (RCDL) in Podor in 2021 and 2023. Among the outcomes of this consultation are (1) the establishment of a territorial platform to support youth employment and employability and a showcase site for projects and programs, and (2) the proposal of entrepreneurial pathways for youth and women based on the district's potentials.

Recommendations for Addressing the Challenges of a Responsible and Inclusive Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) from the Perspective of Policies and Research in Africa:

- The need to strengthen political commitment around promoting inclusive leadership on AI, paradigm shift, investment in training, especially for women, etc.;
- Promote inclusive algorithms, create an inclusive corporate culture, train AI developers on gender issues, involve women in AI design, and raise awareness about the connections between AI and gender;
- Regulate the sector to minimize risks associated with its flaws;
- Bridge the gap between Africa and the West in AI by ensuring that developed solutions meet Africa's needs and are inclusive;
- Invest in research and knowledge for youth and women, as AI and technological tools should not be seen as too complex or unattainable.

2.3.7 Challenges and Perspectives

Throughout 2023, IPAR, in the wake of its research or in response to current issues, has worked to create dialogue hubs for stakeholders (state, private sector, and civil society) addressing topics relevant to nearly all its areas of intervention (priority issues). While the focus has been on issues,

related to the future of family farms (land governance, agroecological transition, etc.), efforts have also been made to establish a contributive dialogue around promoting investment and employment opportunities for youth and women at both the national and local levels. Although some processes have not yet resulted in concrete decisions that can be capitalized in this report, these dialogue sessions have succeeded in initiating debate on essential issues, based on scientific evidence, highlighting the bottlenecks that need to



be addressed, and proposing solutions/recommendations that could inform public policies.

Over the next few years, these issues will likely continue to be prioritized in the political debate led by IPAR, given their relevance and alignment with our think tank's strategic orientations. However, emerging issues such as the use of emerging technologies (AI), which offer potential levers to address development challenges, particularly in the agricultural and rural sectors and to mitigate gender inequalities, will also be considered. Climate change, the risk of a global health crisis, the SDGs with their imminent deadline (2030), and the governance of natural resources, particularly shared ones (transboundary basins), are increasingly drawing the focus of IPAR, which plans to expand research and debate on these issues.

COMMUNICATION

HIGHLIGHTS AND KEY FIGURES



Institutional and Internal Communications

- Update of the graphic charter of IPAR with Hewlett and OTT (logo redesign, PPT templates, reports, etc.);
- Ongoing revamp of the institutional website (intuitive site structured to facilitate information search);
- Implementation of a Google Workspace package (Drive, email tailored for sharing large volumes of information, calendar, electronic signatures, etc.);
- Development of communication tools and materials (sound card for Zoom, project and institutional brochures, etc.);
- External Communication & Press Relations
- Development and Implementation of a Digital Communication Plan (OTT)
- Collaboration with around fifty media outlets (TV, radio, print media, news websites, press agencies) for the media coverage of activities of IPAR; formalized partnerships with Amani TV Groups (international) and E-media (Senegal).
- Website and Social Media Update and Management (Facebook, LinkedIn, X-Twitter, YouTube)
- Management of multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms/content updates (PNGF, PODDE, Podor in Action, etc.);
- Involvement in communication activities for thematic platforms (PNGF, CRAFS, DyTAES) and territories in Senegal (Podor, Fanaye, Loul Sessène, etc.).
- Institutional and Internal Communications
- Update of the graphic charter with Hewlett and OTT (logo redesign, PPT templates, reports, etc.);
- Implementation of a Google Workspace package (Drive, email tailored for sharing large volumes of information, calendars, electronic signature, etc.);
- Development of communication tools and materials (sound card for Zoom, project and institutional brochures, etc.);
- Annual Report

Number of communication and knowledge dissemination initiatives by topic;

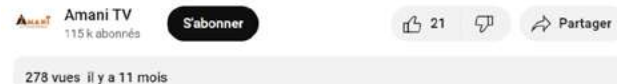


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Dr Cheikh Oumar Ba sur les succès du Forum de Podor



www.ipar.sn

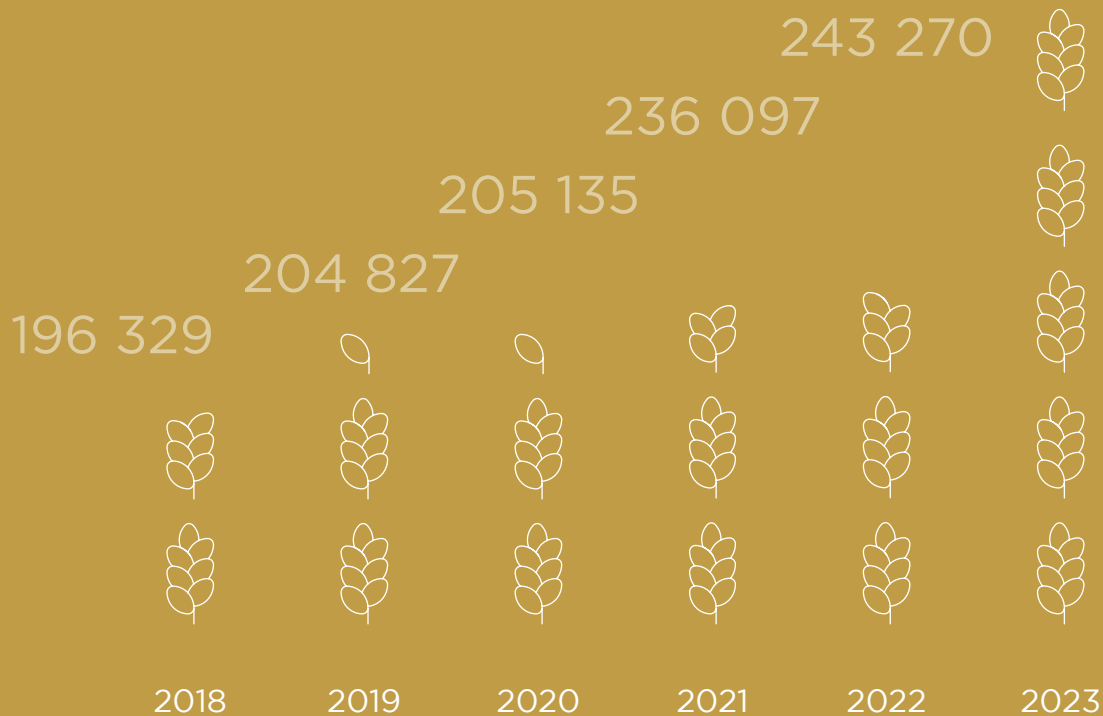
Visits/year to the site

1.546.435

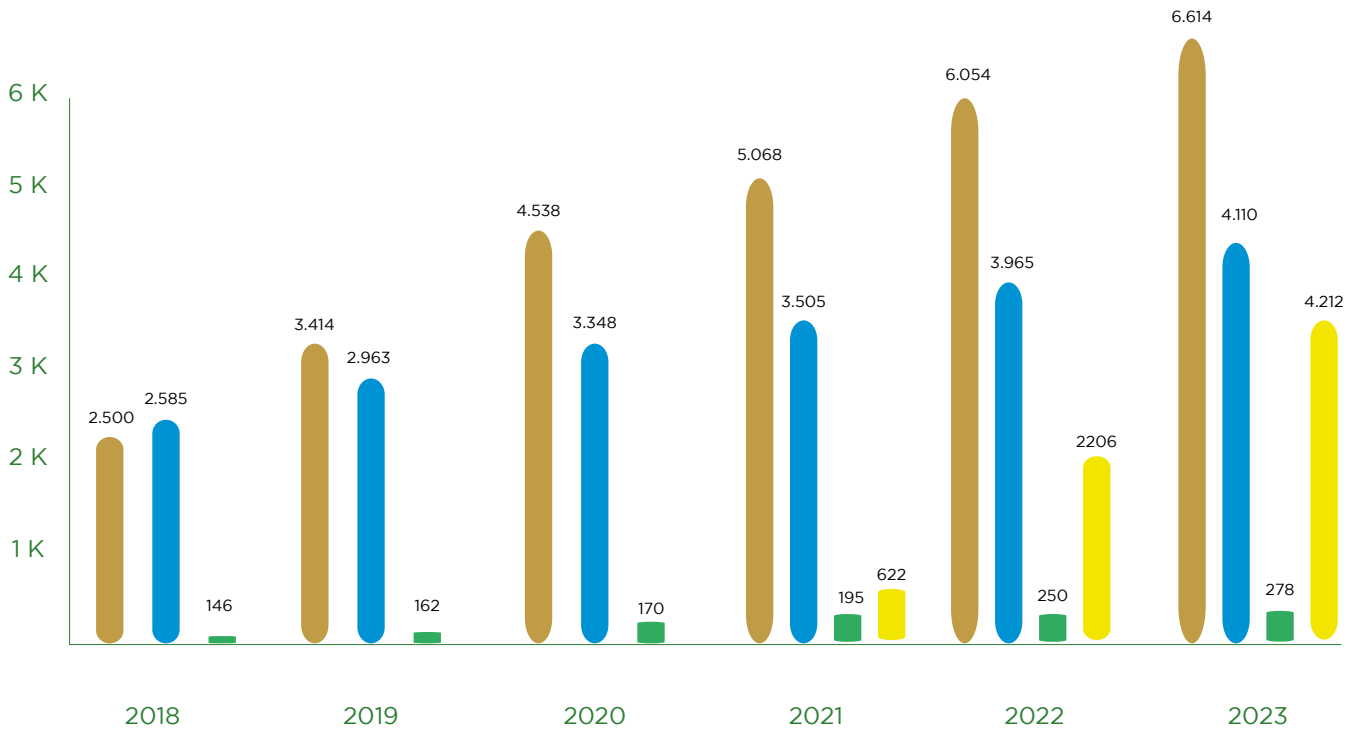


+635,69%

visits to the website



Social Media

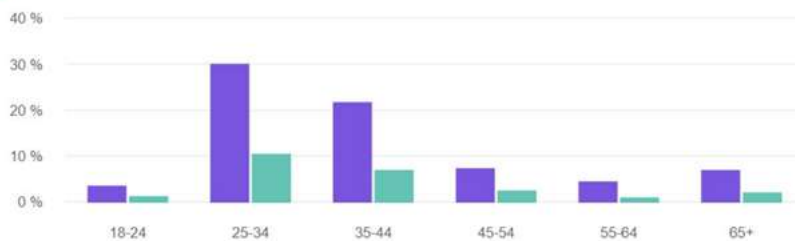


- Twitter (Subscribers) - https://twitter.com/IPAR_ThinkTank
- Facebook (Subscribers) - <https://www.youtube.com/@IPARFILMS>
- YouTube (Subscribers) - <https://www.facebook.com/IPARNEWS>
- LinkedIn (Subscribers) - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/ipar-think-tank/>

Facebook Page Audience

Âge et genre

- Hommes 74.90%
- Femmes 25.10%



Découvrir	
Couverture des publications	8 552
Interaction avec les publications	1 897
Nouvelles mentions d'autre la Page	36
Nouveaux followers de la Page	97
Interactions	
Réactions	654
Commentaires	69
Partages	76
Vues de photo	517
Clics sur un lien	28
Autre	
Masquer toutes les publications	0
Dé Abonnements	0

ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

Satisfactory findings achieved in enhancing the visibility of IPAR through the updating of social media content and the website and thanks to strong media links.

Ongoing Challenges:

- Promoting publications of IPAR through thematic newsletters and website dissemination, scientific events to popularize research findings.
- Internal newsletter to streamline information sharing.
- Influence and communication strategy to better guide, plan, and monitor communication and engagement activities with stakeholders.

The screenshot displays the IPAR Think Tank website interface. At the top, there is a search bar and a language selector set to '(fr) français'. The main navigation menu includes 'QUI SOMMES-NOUS?', 'QUE FAISONS-NOUS?', 'NOS PUBLICATIONS', 'ACTUALITÉS', 'RESSOURCES', and 'BLOG'. Below this, a secondary menu lists thematic areas: 'Changements climatiques', 'Gestion des ressources', 'Migration et emploi des jeunes', 'Objectifs de développement durable', and 'Transformation de l'agriculture'.

The central banner features a photograph of a panel discussion at the '6^{ème} Edition FORUM NATIONAL SUR LE FONCIER' held at the Hotel King Fahd Palace in Senegal. The banner text includes the dates 'Du 05 au 07 Décembre 2023' and mentions the presence of the Minister of Finance and Budget. Logos for PNGF, PR-CASEF, giz, LAND, and BANQUE MONDIALE are also visible.

Below the banner, there are three smaller promotional tiles: 'LA BIBLIOTHÈQUE NUMÉRIQUE DE L'IPAR', 'Directives volontaires pour une gouvernance responsable des régimes fonciers', and 'Feed the Future Sénégal - Projet d'appui aux réformes et aux politiques agricoles'.

The 'QUOI DE NEUF À L'IPAR ?' section highlights three key updates:

- IPAR's integration into the Consortium international de recherche sur la santé et la nutrition en milieu scolaire.
- The 'Dooleel Mbay' project's role in profiling mango value chains in Casamance.
- A public-private dialogue on agricultural insurance in Senegal, supported by FEED/FUTURE and USAID.

A social media section titled 'Posts de @IPAR_ThinkTank' shows a tweet from June 25th, announcing the consortium's focus on school health and nutrition, and the launch of a global coalition for school meals.

At the bottom, three content categories are featured: 'Études et recherches' with a report on 'ENDING RURAL HUNGER: The case of Senegal'; 'Notes politiques' with a document on 'Le système de protection sociale'; and 'Nouvelles de l'IPAR' with news about the 'Programme de coopération climatique internationale (PCCI) Lancement du Projet'.

— I PAR SHINES —



Dr Amadou Guèye, a sanitation specialist at IPAR, was honored by the Association of Young Professionals in Water and Sanitation of Senegal (AJPEAS) for his vision and dedication, which have earned him recognition in Senegal and internationally.

This recognition was given during the celebration of AJPEAS's 10th anniversary on December 16, 2023, in Dakar, Senegal.

AJPEAS serves as a forum for meetings, knowledge exchange, communication, and reflection on the future of the sanitation sector. It is open to young people aged 18 to 35 who are active in the water and sanitation sectors, as well as public and private organizations, NGOs, academics, and other stakeholders.



Dr. Amadou GUÈYE



Dr Ndeye Coumba DIOUF

Dr Ndeye Coumba Diouf expresses her gratitude to IPAR following her thesis defense on the topic "Chercher le fil de l'or Mobilités des orpailleurs, circulation des savoir-faire au sud-est du Sénégal" ("Searching for the Gold Thread Mobility of Gold Miners and the dissemination of Knowledge in Southeastern Senegal"):

"My arrival at IPAR in late 2011 felt like a meeting with destiny. This journey, is the result of the sustained investment of IPAR, which strongly integrates the support of young people and the establishment of a career plan for them. It should be remembered that this career path is the result of sustained investment by IPAR, whose policy includes a strong emphasis on supporting young people and setting up a career plan for them. When I arrived in 2011 with no thesis plan, the Executive Director strongly encouraged me to pursue my studies to obtain a PhD, recognizing the importance of this title in the research world. He not only encouraged me in this PhD endeavor but also provided constant support throughout its completion. Dr Ibrahima Hathie, then Director of Research at IPAR,

provided support in my choice of topic, which was mining, analyzed from the context of the mobility of artisanal gold miners. I received funding from IPAR to facilitate access to documentation, and I also benefited from technical support from the Executive Director to obtain a PhD scholarship from the IRD. His participation as an examiner in my thesis jury, as a sociologist specializing in migration issues, was the culmination of over 10 years of support. Today, I hold the position of researcher, responsible for the thematic area of Migration and Youth Employment within this institution. It is clear that IPAR has opened the doors to the research environment I have always wanted to be a part of."

Paul Ndiaga Ciss, a PhD candidate in plant production and agronomy and a researcher at IPAR, presents part of his thesis results on "l'Évaluation de l'effet du stress hydrique et thermohydrique sur la résilience des communautés microbiennes des sols du bassin arachidier" ("Assessing the Impact of Water Stress and Thermo-Hydric Stress on the Resilience of Soil Microbial Communities in the Groundnut Basin.")

The purpose of this study was to assess the impact of current and future extreme events on the stability of soil microbial communities and to assess the effect of agricultural practices on the resilience of soil microorganisms.

This presentation took place during the 11th edition of the PhD students' scientific days at UGB from July 25 to 27, 2023, organized by the College of Doctoral Schools and the Collective of PhD Students.

The goal of these sessions was twofold: to make the transdisciplinary research at Gaston Berger University visible and comprehensible and to foster exchanges between researchers, students, and the socio-economic world.



Paul Ndiaga CISS



Dr Cheikh Oumar Ba

Dr Cheikh Oumar Ba, Executive Director of IPAR, was appointed President of the Regional Committee for the Support Program for Women Processors of Agricultural, Fisheries, and Artisanal Products in ECOWAS Member States.

This appointment was made during a meeting (2023 Edition) organized from November 27 to December 1, 2023, in Banjul, The Gambia, by the ECOWAS Center for Gender Development (CCGD), represented by its director and senior ECOWAS officials.

ECOWAS, through its Center for Gender Development (CCGD), recognizing the efforts of women in the agricultural, commercial, and nutritional sectors, has made the processing of agricultural, fisheries, and artisanal products a priority on its agenda. In line with ECOWAS Vision 2050 and the CCGD's 2023-2027 strategic plan, which under its Pillar 3,

"Economic Empowerment and Strengthening of Women and Girls' Power," the CCGD runs programs that promote the empowerment of women in ECOWAS Member States through the implementation of a large-scale program called "Support for Women Processors of Agricultural, Fisheries, and Artisanal Products in ECOWAS Member States."

IPAR, through its Executive Director, will chair the regional committee overseeing this program. The committee's objective is to review and approve projects submitted by beneficiary member countries and to formulate strategic recommendations to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of the program.

THE EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN

ON A COURTESY VISIT TO IPAR



Mrs. Saima Sayed, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Senegal, paid a courtesy visit to IPAR (Dakar)

on Friday, August 25, 2023.

The headquarters of IPAR, located in Ngor (Kër Jacques Faye Building), welcomed Mrs. Saima Sayed, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Senegal, on Friday, August 25, 2023. Accompanied by her chargé d'affaires, Mrs. Sayed was received by the Executive Director of IPAR, Dr. Cheikh Oumar Ba, in the presence of the following members of the executive management: Dr Cheikh Guèye, Forward Studies Officer, Dr Amadou Guèye, Sanitation Specialist, Ms. Awa Dia, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and Mr. Aly Faye, Communications Officer.



Accredited to Senegal since March 2023 and also representing Pakistan in several other countries in the sub-region (Cabo Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Sierra Leone), she is committed to strengthening and deepening friendly relations between Pakistan and Senegal, as well as promoting cooperation and collaboration in various areas of mutual interest. She said that she had chosen IPAR because of its leadership as a think tank and its immense work in the field of research on various key issues. Mrs. Sayed expressed her desire to make IPAR her gateway to other players (research, NGOs, Farmers Organizations, etc.), in order to gain a better understanding of the dynamics of Senegalese society and find opportunities for partnership. She mentioned that she chose IPAR because of its leadership as a think tank and its extensive work in research on various key issues.

The discussions identified several potential areas for partnership, including

- Sustainable Water Resource Management;
- The challenge of food sovereignty, with a focus on collaboration in rice production;
- Climate Change;
- Knowledge Management, etc.

IPAR and the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan plan to continue their dialogue through regular exchanges, with the ultimate goal of signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on one or two topics of mutual interest.



COMMITMENT TO RAISING AWARENESS

IPAR RECOGNIZED BY ALIEU SAMB
SCHOOL IN NGOR



IPAR received an award from Alieu Samb School in Ngor (Dakar, Senegal) for its commitment to raising awareness among students about Good Hygiene Practices.

The headmaster of Alieu Samb Elementary School in Ngor (Dakar, Senegal) presented a certificate of recognition to Dr. Laure Tall, Director of Research, as a token of appreciation for the role of IPAR in educating students and staff about handwashing and General Hygiene Practices during World Handwashing Day, celebrated every year on October 15.



GOVERNANCE & PERSPECTIVES 2024



Gender Participatory Audit: State of Gender Integration in Interventions and Organizational Life

Since its creation in 2008, IPAR has made gender equality and inclusion a core component of its intervention strategy. This commitment was further strengthened by the signing of the Africa Gender Justice Charter. The internal gender audit of IPAR was designed as an inclusive and participatory process based on a qualitative approach. Interviews were conducted across all levels of the organization using an analysis grid applied iteratively. Seven (7) interviews were held with the administrative head, thematic managers, the head of statistical data, the Director of Research, the former Director of Research, and an Emeritus Researcher. To diversify information sources, additional interviews are planned with the Executive Director, members of the Board of Directors, the head of the Communication Unit, the coordinator of the Mauritania Branch, and the head of the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit. This phase will be followed by a workshop to share audit results and validate the final report.

Preliminary findings indicate that IPAR has progressively enhanced its consideration of gender in its strategic orientations over the years. While the 2017 Strategic Plan included gender across various dimensions, gaps remain in certain areas, such as sanitation and livestock farming.

However, in the 2023 plan, gender has become a priority topic in its own right, underlining a marked shift towards a more gender-centered approach. Collaboration with development partners has contributed to this gender mainstreaming, making it a central element of the identity of IPAR. Research Projects exclusively focused on gender or incorporating gender in a transversal manner have been established, demonstrating a growing commitment to addressing gender issues in depth, with concrete examples underscoring the importance of studying the intersections between gender equality issues using an intersectional approach and the structural changes in agriculture in societies where demographic dividends are a key factor, requiring special attention to women. IPAR also undertakes inclusive policy dialogue and capacity-building activities that integrate the gender dimension. The impact of these projects on gender equality is evident, particularly in areas such as land tenure, access to productive resources, women's entrepreneurship, etc. Collaboration with women's organizations strengthens advocacy efforts and technical support, leading to tangible outcomes. In terms of human resources, IPAR boasts a strong representation of women in its staff (including the Director of Research) and has dedicated gender resources, as well as targeted actions to promote young women, reflecting its commitment to gender equality.

However, challenges remain, such as the need to integrate gender into specific topics such as livestock, sanitation, etc. and to develop easy-to-use measures to assess women's participation in policy dialogue and capacity-building activities. While efforts are being made to disaggregate data by gender, age, residence, etc., there is still no formal monitoring and evaluation system in place to assess specific gender-related indicators in the strategic plan. Specific challenges remain, such as capacity building on gender (in particular finalizing and disseminating the Gender Module), and taking gender into account as both a priority and a cross-cutting topic. Furthermore, strong recommendations are being made to formalize this approach further and influence other institutions through an action plan and a commitment charter on gender justice.



Outlook for 2024

To maintain its status as a leading think tank and advance further in line with the directions set by its members, IPAR will need to address existing shortcomings and overcome organizational and operational constraints that may hinder progress. Key challenges include revitalizing the association's activities to adapt to a rapidly changing context, reducing financial dependency on external partners, and maximizing the value of the research and studies conducted within IPAR.

To tackle these challenges, IPAR has developed a new strategic plan, built upon the outcomes and assessment of the previous plan (2017-2021).

OBJECTIVES

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

To contribute through our research to the positive transformation of agricultural and rural production systems, ultimately improving the living conditions of the populations in Senegal and West Africa.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

This overarching goal is broken down into five specific objectives, each addressed by five strategic focus areas.

STRATEGIC FOCUS

- Strengthen and diversify our research according to quality standards;
- Build the capacities of IPAR and its partners;
- Promote political dialogue and public debate;
- Enhance the institutional governance of IPAR;
- Promote the stability and sustainability of IPAR.

PRIORITY TOPICS

- The future of smallholder farms and rural enterprises;
- Inclusive governance of natural and land resources;
- Territories in transition and sustainable development goals;
- Sustainable, resilient, and nutritious food systems, and agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries policies;
- Youth, women, and entrepreneurial and mobility strategies.

Our Partners

IPAR extends its gratitude to all of its partners for the fruitful collaboration that enables our organization to continue excelling in its core areas of expertise (research, capacity building, and political dialogue) while expanding our influence over time through new projects, programs, and engagement with public authorities.

We particularly thank the Hewlett Foundation, IDRC, USAID through DAI, the European Union, IFAD, the World Bank, the French Cooperation, and others for the trust these institutions have placed in IPAR over the years





