



SENEGAL | NIGER | MALI NATIONAL STUDY

# TERRE ET PAIX

## PROMOTING ACCESS TO PRODUCTIVE LAND BY YOUNG PEOPLE AS CONFLICT PREVENTION

Terre et Paix is an EU funded project which has been implemented since February 2015 by the Italian NGO COSPE in partnership with the three national farmers' platforms of Senegal, Mali and Niger, (CNCR, CNOP and PFPN), under the auspices of ROPPA (Réseau des organisations paysannes et de producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest).

### PRACTICES IMPLEMENTED

Thanks to the project, 60 youths from Senegal, Mali and Niger were trained in the following three agroecology training centers: the Nyéléni Centre in Mali, the Agroecology Farm of Kayadara in Senegal, and the Winditan Agroecology training center in Niger, managed by CNOP, CNCR and PFPN respectively. These young people, both males and females,

were trained to lead agricultural projects in their villages, and address social, environmental and economic challenges through an agroecological approach.

The training centers promote and disseminate a holistic set of practices of integrated soil fertility management, sustainable small-scale animal husbandry and efficient use of water resources.

The integration of such practices will play a critical role in enhancing the economic, social and environmental sustainability of West-African farming systems. The idea of agroecological terroir has thus emerged, supported by peasant movements, ROPPA and the Global Convergence for Land, Water and Seeds.

### RESULTS

Thanks to the Terre et Paix Project, more than 40 hectares of farmland were legally assigned by local administrative and traditional authorities to the 60 youths, to carry out individual or collective projects with an agroecological approach. In each one of the six rural communities in Casamance (Senegal), Tahoua (Niger), and Nioro Sahel (Mali) targeted by the project, several plots are now managed using agroecological practices.

In December 2016, the 60 young farmers took part in the Symposium Forum +1 year: "Generation Agroecology: Multi-stakeholder approaches for the development of agroecology in West Africa".

During the symposium, the young farmers had the opportunity to meet other farmers, researchers, NGO's officers, policy-makers and become personally involved in the dynamic scenario of Agroecology promoters in West Africa and Europe. The young farmers held poster presentations of their projects and have been acknowledged as key actors of the Task Force for Agroecology, a growing movement in West Africa.

Back in their communities, all the 60 youths started individual or collective projects, and are now committed to showing that through agroecology it is possible to reach a greater economical and social integration of marginalized people, thus fostering a more efficient and environmentally friendly use of land and other natural resources.

