

Soil Protection and Soil Rehabilitation (ProSoil) in Burkina Faso



Context

Agriculture in Burkina Faso employs about 86% of the active population and offers a significant potential for economic development and poverty reduction of rural populations. However, it is confronted with the accelerated degradation of natural resources, in particular the productive resource "land", which constitutes a daily problem to be solved for the country and specifically in the Hauts-Bassins region. Indeed, anthropic pressure combined with the harmful effects of climate change on the

"land" resource strongly compromise productivity and agro-sylvo-pastoral production.

For several decades, actions to restore, conserve and recover the productive potential of the land have been carried out by the State and its partners, including ProSoil, whose overall objective is to implement large-scale approaches to the protection and rehabilitation of sustainable soils in the Hauts-Bassins region.

Areas of intervention in Burkina Faso

ProSoil is implemented through four fields of action that act in synergy to achieve the overall objective of the Burkina Faso country package. These are:

- **Field of action One:** integration of soil fertility improvement techniques into farming systems and communal planning (CA1); it comprises four components (Soil Fertility Improvement (SFI); Support to Communes (SCA); Introduction of Agro-Forestry Systems (AFS); Water and Soil Conservation (WSC).
- **Field of action Two:** Strengthening local land authorities (CA2).
- **Field of action Three:** Strengthening the political and institutional basis for the protection and rehabilitation of soil and rural land in Burkina Faso (CA3).
- **Field of action Four:** Sharing experience and knowledge between actors at all levels (CA4).

Our objectives

20,000 ha of land used by smallholders is protected or rehabilitated. 40 percent of women confirm that on a scale of 0 to 5 their social, economic or legal situation has improved with a value of 2 or more.

Yields of maize, beans and cotton increase by 30 percent on treated areas. Measures to improve access to land as an incentive to invest are put in place. A national strategy on soil protection and rehabilitation that takes into account land and climate change is available for implementation.



Region(s)

8 communities in the provinces of Tuy and Houet

Duration

April 2015 – April 2024

Budget

EUR 21,310,000

Commissioning party

German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Implementation partners

Directorate for soil protection and irrigation (DGAHDI),
Directorate for land tenure rights and rural areas (DGFOMR)

Lead executing agency

Ministry of Agriculture (MAAH) of Burkina Faso

Target group

Smallholder farmers in the water catchment areas



A real-life example

"There used to be many trees and the leaves would fall and regenerate the soil. But nowadays there is absolutely nothing left, so the soil is bare, at the mercy of the sun and the wind. In the rainy season, the water scrapes away what little soil is left. I started timidly in 1996, not putting much emphasis on forest species because they were a bit neglected. Thanks to ProSoil, I learned that not only fruit species needed to be developed but also forest species because they also have their role to play in our ecosystem. One of the things I learned was how to collect quality seeds. Before, when I wanted forest seeds, I had to go all the way to Ouagadougou and sometimes I couldn't find what I wanted. To produce seedlings, you first have to have quality seeds and choose the species according to the desired objective. Then I prepare and mix the substrates, paint the pots and fill them. Afterwards I line them up and sort them. For some species, the seeds have to be pre-treated. ProSoil support started in 2015 but the production of plants started in 2018. Before ProSoil's support, the annual production of forest species was around 1,000 seedlings, whereas this year it is around 20,000 seedlings. The main difficulty is that forest species take a long time to grow, such as the Néré (*Parkia Biglobosa*), the Baobab (*Adansonia Digitata*) or the Karité (*Vitellaria Paradoxa*). This is what discourages some people from planting forest species. What is needed is to reduce this time through grafting techniques and this is where I need supplies.



Mr OUEDRAOGO Marcel from the village of Makognadougou in the community of Koumbia (Hauts-Bassins region)

Results

15,787 hectares of degraded land in six micro-watersheds have so far been protected through water and soil conservation, soil fertility and agro-forestry measures. To further stabilise and improve the soil, 399,895 seedlings have been planted. 51% of direct beneficiaries are women. In the area of land rights, meetings are organised to provide information on the national land policy and its implementation at local level. 23 local land authorities are set up, trained and functional (89% of conflicts resolved). The project has contributed to the development of the National Strategy for Soil Restoration, Conservation and Recovery and its implementation; to the updating of the reference situation of degraded land in Burkina Faso. It has supported the enrichment of the training curricula of two agricultural vocational training courses (Matourkou Polyvalent Agricultural Centre and rural promotion centres).

Imprint

Published by:

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
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GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

March 2022