



INITIATIVE ON
Agroecology

National meeting of the DyTAELs in Senegal

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National meeting meeting of DyTAELs In Senegal

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The Agroecology Initiative (AEI) supports local agroecological transitions through Agroecological Living Landscapes (ALL). In Senegal, this initiative is active in the Fatick department through a local dynamic called DYTAEL (Dynamique pour une Transition AgroEcologique locale), which began in 2021. DyTAEL is part of the broader DyTAES platform, established in 2019, aimed at promoting agroecology through awareness, research, advocacy, and policy dialogue. DyTAES involves 80 organizations from various sectors, including farmers, NGOs, and public authorities.

There are currently 11 DyTAELs in Senegal, each at different stages of development. These local initiatives are driven by regional stakeholders and aim to influence agricultural policies towards greater sustainability. A meeting attended by 96 people, was held to evaluate the performance of the DyTAELs. The AEI funded the event, which allowed participants to present their successes, challenges, and lessons learned. This exchange focused on improving operations and sharing the experience of the Fatick ALL. The results and conclusions from the workshop are documented in a report. Many of the points raised here are taken from the general DyTAES report: RENCONTRE BILAN DES 5 ANS DE LA DYTAES of November 2024.

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Introduction

To support the implementation and development of the agroecological transition at local level, the Agroecology Initiative (AEI) relies on multi-actor systems called Agroecological Living Landscapes (ALL). In order to share experiences and build the capacities of stakeholders in these landscapes, the AEI supports the organization of exchange visits.

In Senegal, the IAE is developed in the department of Fatick, in a local dynamic called DyTAEL for "Dynamique pour une Transition AgroEcologique locale". This dynamic, initiated in 2021, is part of a process of territorialization of DyTAES " Dynamique pour une Transition AgroEcologique au Sénégal", a coalition created in May 2019 by various organizations and platforms committed to promoting agroecology in Senegal. The DyTAES aims to "promote agroecological transition in Senegal through research, advocacy, awareness-raising, experience-sharing and support for territories in transition" (www.dytaes.sn). To achieve this goal, it promotes awareness-raising among the masses, collaborative research with stakeholders, and political dialogue with the Senegalese government for public development policies, particularly agricultural policies, that are much more sensitive to agroecology. Today, DyTAES comprises 80 organizations integrating 7 categories: national platforms, farmers' organizations and social movements, national and international NGOs, private sector stakeholders, local authorities, public stakeholders, research and training institutions.

There are currently 11 DyTAELs (Tambacounda, Podor, Bignona, Fatick, Thiès, Kaolack, Mboro, Foundiougne, Mbour, Vélingara and Linguère), spread across the different agroecological zones of Senegal, and at very different stages of development and structuring: some are very well structured, and have been in place since 2021, while others are just emerging. DyTAEL is created on the initiative of local stakeholders.

After a one-day review of the DytAES and its operation over the past 5 years, a second day, financed by the I-AE, was organized to evaluate the operation of the Dytaels. As part of the exchange activities promoted by the Initiative's WP 1, the national exchange in Senegal (DYTAELs exchange visit) was approved for \$9600. This workshop enabled the DyTAELs to present their flagship actions, their weaknesses, but also the lessons learned, the challenges identified and the recommendations for improving their operations. It was also an excellent opportunity to share the All de Fatick experience.

The meeting was held at the Musée des Civilisations Noires in Dakar. This document, in the form of a general report, attempts to record the substance of the results obtained and the conclusions

reached by the participants. The meeting was attended by 96 people: 8 from ministries and others from DyTAES and DyTAEL. Many of the points raised here are taken from the general DYTAES report: rencontre bilan des 5 ans de la DYTAES (DYTAES, 2024).

Evaluation of DYTAELs

Initial work was carried out on Dytael evaluation. Two panels were organized with representatives of DyTAELs: one on more recent DyTAELs and the other, the older, the senior Dytaels.

2.1 More recent DyTAELs: between launching the dynamic and structuring the collectives

A few questions structured the discussion:

1. Among the key actions you have carried out within your respective DyTAELs, could you highlight two that have had the greatest impact for you?

2. What key tips would you like to share with other DyTAELs?

How do you interact with DyTAES and what are your future expectations in this area?

3. Are there any interactions between DyTAELs? Do you have any examples to share?

4. Can you tell us about a key lesson you learned from your experience with your respective DyTAELs?

5. What challenges are you currently facing to ensure the continuity or expansion of your actions within DyTAEL?

For the Linguère DyTAEL, the stakeholders are located in the pastoral zone, where livestock farming is characterized by pastoralism and transhumance. In addition, the effects of climate change, combined with the impacts of human activities, are upsetting the balance of the ecosystem, hence the importance of the DyTAEL.

Mobile livestock farming, with internal movement within 3 camps in search of a water-grazing balance, has an impact on land tenure. In addition, it contributes to generating farmer-herder conflicts over land, with diverging interests. The farmer's authorization is required to use his harvested fields for grazing. The phenomenon of land grabbing is a reality in the area and calls for corrective strategies.

In terms of actions recommended for the Linguère DyTAEL, reforestation, fodder crops with cowpeas or other species, and a pastoral unit approach involving a group of villages with a management plan are all recommended. If POs get involved, with the support of DyTAES, it is possible to manage these problems by delimiting areas into zones of activity to anticipate conflicts.

DyTAEL Foundiougne is at an intermediate stage of development. It brings together 40 organizations, including 30 farmers' organizations. DyTAEL was launched by a consortium of organizations in 2023. The secretariat is provided by CORDID, based in Djilor. The NGOs are involved in a number of activities, including tree, environment and food days, as well as capacity-building visits to DyTAEL in Fatick. DyTAEL had not included the administrative authorities and the islands. Today, it is working to do so. In November, meetings are scheduled to complete the structuring and provide DyTAEL with an action plan.

As for DyTAEL Mboro, it is located in the Niayes market-garden zone, which faces difficulties such as pressure and insecurity of land tenure to the detriment of farmers, the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers, not to mention untreated waste. This means raising public awareness through radio broadcasts, and promoting the manufacture of compost for sale to producers. Mboro is home to a local organic fertilizer manufacturing unit that valorizes the town's organic waste. DyTAEL broadcasts awareness-raising radio programs on agroecology.

With the mines evicting the market gardeners for exploitation, the perimeters are then restored before being managed by the State. An appeal has been made to the State to return this land to the producers. On the other hand, there are tentative collaborations with certain industries, such as ICS, which make CEP for agroecology.

As such, it is necessary to support the Mboro DyTAEL, especially to tackle the land issue. Indeed, the Mboro Town Hall supports the DyTAEL in a number of activities. The members have set up a WhatsApp group to discuss problems (22 people).

As for DyTAEL Vélingara, it was set up after the passage of the 2022 caravan, but a milestone had already been reached. This is an area of high cotton production and livestock development. The use of pesticides is therefore recurrent in cotton growing and in field crops, as is the use of veterinary medicines, which have an impact on human and animal health and the environment. It is therefore appropriate to have a DyTAEL, which currently has between 12 and 15 active members.

However, the financing of the activities poses a problem. AVSF takes full responsibility, but proposals have been made to the Departmental Council, even though they have not yet been finalized. Other stakeholders are interested, but there are no funds. Many NGOs are involved, but their focus is on education. For sustainability, it was first necessary to map the POs, but financial problems were encountered in paying for participants.

Despite these difficulties, DyTAEL Vélingara has sealed a partnership with the Departmental Council for the territorialization of agroecology. The administrative authorities have been enlisted. "One Health" awareness-raising activities are carried out through loumas and community radio broadcasts. Initiatives have been taken to work with traditional practitioners to treat certain animal diseases. Setting up farmer field schools to train farmers and support young farmers in changing their behavior and practices. Activities are being carried out with women to supply school canteens through short circuits.

For the Mbour/Petite Côte DyTAEL, making it a reality is a challenge. Their participation in the first "Journées de l'agroécologie" (Ae journey) inspired them to take the decision to create a DyTAEL. The department of Mbour is one of the most densely populated in Senegal, with a high incidence of land use and potential for fishing, tourism, livestock farming and other activities. It is also a seaside area with fewer and fewer fish, prompting young people to emigrate or go into tourism.

Key activities in 2023 include preparatory meetings and the organization of a first workshop to launch the process. This workshop helped to identify the stakeholders involved in agroecological initiatives thanks to the ARTS project. This was followed by local visits to 4 communes to strengthen territorial anchoring.

However, DyTAEL Mbour faces difficulties such as mobilizing financial resources to organize activities, the unavailability of stakeholders (around 10 active members), and the absence of a strategic communication and action plan.

In terms of challenges, we need to succeed in organizing a workshop to officially launch DyTAEL with the authorities, ratify the structuring (which is still provisional) giving pride of place to the umbrella organizations, and draw up an action plan or roadmap.

2.2 Debate on younger DyTAELs

A number of points emerged from what the participants had to say on the younger DyTAEL panel. They can be structured as follows.

1. Portage DyTAEL: some are run by farmers' organizations, others by NGOs.
2. Women's role in agroecology: DyTAELs are invited to integrate and work more closely with RNFRS focal points; women's secure access to land should be promoted in DyTAELs.
3. Relevance of the DyTAEL scale: for Mboro, is it better to choose the arrondissement scale? In any case, there is no predetermined geographical scale for the DyTAELs, even if, for the moment, they have all chosen the departmental scale, with some members operating at regional level.
4. Local political dialogue: no political dimension at DyTAEL level? This could help find solutions to funding issues.
5. Sustainability of DyTAELs: the challenges of funding, structuring, visibility, etc. raise questions about the sustainability of DyTAELs; given the different interventions, we can assume a link between the number of NGOs present in DyTAELs and the dynamics of activities.
6. Proposal for financing: set up a contribution system in the DyTAELs to rely on their own resources.
7. DyTAEL's role: advocacy, intermediation, orientation of decentralized policies, necessarily involving local administrative authorities as well as deconcentrated technical services.
8. Guide to setting up DyTAELs: a guide to DyTAELs is needed to harmonize them and advise stakeholders at grassroots level.

To conclude this first panel, the main key messages are: the importance of local projects that support DyTAELs; the structuring model seems to be uniform; the importance of the profile of members for the success of DyTAELs; the adaptation of advocacy to issues that are discussed in the territories; the absence or invisibility of the link between the work of DyTAELs and that of DyTAES.

2.3. Older DyTAELs: sharing their experiences

The panel included the DyTAELs from Fatick, Thiès, Tambacounda, Bignona and Podor, which are the oldest but also considered the most advanced in terms of structuring, dynamism, etc. The session enabled them to share their experiences, especially those of Fatick.

For the Fatick DyTAEL, the IAE ALL, was created in June 2022 and brings together 56 signatory member organizations. The context is marked by numerous challenges linked to resource degradation, food security and youth employment. All these factors led to the creation of DyTAEL, whose vision is to make the Fatick department a territory resilient to the challenges of agriculture through agroecology by 2035. The structuring model is based on 4 governance bodies: the Steering Committee, which acts as the General Assembly, the Technical Committee, which is the executive body, the Coordination Committee and the Secretariat, which is provided by a PO. The Charter of Commitment, signed by 52 member organizations, the Membership Form and the Annual Action Plan, in addition to the principles and values shared by all members, facilitate the implementation of activities. Producer organizations are committed to promoting agroecology.

In terms of flagship activities, DyTAEL Fatick organized 11 community forums to establish institutional roots with more than 500 local leaders and champions, sharing DyTAES' Positioning Notes adapted to the local context. These forums led to a number of recommendations, including the need for composting units, the promotion of agroecological products (hence the recommendation for dedicated spaces in markets), and the promotion of local consumption through training workshops on the production of local organic produce and the promotion of products of local interest. In addition, activities to take account of the territorialization of agroecology in Communal Development Plans were promoted with the holding of a CDD with 57 territorial authorities and a training workshop to raise awareness in communes that have a CDP. As a result, 5 communes have integrated agroecology into their PDCs. However, the Departmental Council has asked PREDA to revise the Regional Development Plan to include agroecology.

In terms of challenges, we need to integrate consumers into the dynamics, but they lack structure. This limits their presence and involvement.

Dytael receives substantial support from external projects, including the One CJAIR agroecological initiative set up by CIRAD and ISRA.

DyTAEL Thiès, created in 2023, is made up of 23 organizations. The participation of its members in various CRAFS meetings, followed by the DyTAES Caravans, has given impetus to the local dynamic. Several initiatives were visited in the Thiès area. The participants then reflected on their mission and vision. A workshop was also organized at RESOPP with local authorities, to convince them that agro-ecology can pull the department of Thiès upwards. A shared vision has been drawn up. The aim is to make Thiès a locomotive for the promotion of agroecology through the preservation of natural resources, notably land and water, and healthy, sustainable production. The mission is to bring together all the stakeholders involved in advocating the preservation of natural resources.

Several activities are being carried out, including animation workshops, special days in schools to raise children's awareness, training, with the support of the Water and Forests department, to recognize trees suited to the Thiès region, farm visits, and the organization of an organic market every Friday, with Agrécol Afrique.

However, challenges remain. Indeed, the lack of resources for activities remains a real problem. There is a major challenge with land in the area, due to the expansion of housing estates and factories. The mobilization and involvement of DyTAEL stakeholders is more than necessary. More work needs to be done on issues such as productive water and inputs.

For DyTAEL Tambacounda, created in March 2021 with the mobilization of stakeholders involved in the local development sector, particularly in sustainable agriculture and forestry, it brings together 30 member organizations, 25 of which are highly committed and regularly present. Tambacounda is one of the last forested regions in Senegal to experience progressive soil impoverishment. Deforestation is also a major problem. With 70% of its population engaged in agriculture, Tambacounda needs to be part of the national dynamic, but with territorial intervention to pool resources and create synergies. That's why the local authorities have been involved from the outset, and have remained highly mobilized.

Key activities include exchange visits, networking between DyTAEL stakeholders (capitalizing on experience), work on improving the supply of organic inputs and the territorialization of activities, which has involved the authorities. It is therefore necessary to maintain communication within DyTAEL and to maintain the right structure for participative management, not forgetting networking.

Their expectations of DyTAES are in terms of advisory support and financial empowerment. The main challenges are geographical coverage, which needs to be completed with a real presence in each commune, the issue of taking care of participants during activities and the decentralization of DyTAEL activities, which has become a unifying tool and framework in the Tambacounda department. The main lesson learned is that synergy enables many issues to be resolved with the help of numerous resource people.

For DyTAEL Bignona, which brings together 85 organizations, structuring is effective, with governance bodies such as the Congress, the Steering Committee, the Technical Committee and the General Secretariat. A Charter of Commitment has been signed by 47 organizations, including 2 communes. In addition, an updated roadmap is available for 2024. These results were achieved through the organization of several workshops. In addition to structuring, the project also carried out foresight work on food systems in the Bignona department, and artistic co-construction.

In terms of advice, openness to partners is essential, as it enables us to build capacity, provide agroecological training centers, contribute to the academic training of young people, and promote school fields with demonstration plots. Agroecology is from farm to fork, with women and young people as leaders in local development. The concept of agroecology needs to be understood. The links must not be isolated from each other.

Looking ahead, DyTAEL Bignona must continue to raise awareness and build the capacities of stakeholders along the entire value chain, from farm to fork. It could start with problems such as the supply of quality farmer seeds, bush fires, abusive logging in forest and mangrove environments, etc.

DyTAEL Podor was created in 2021, with 75 member organizations with diverse profiles. The vision is to make Podor a benchmark department in agroecology, to achieve food self-sufficiency by 2035. Podor is a very large department. That's why DyTAEL has organized CLDs in each arrondissement. Focal points have been identified in each arrondissement to act as relays. It is structured around a General Assembly, a Steering Committee, a Technical Committee and a Charter of Commitment for members.

Key activities included the organization of an exchange and sharing workshop on land governance rules and tools, and programs with community radio stations. It has also capitalized on initiatives in pastoralism and renewable energies. Already structured with governance bodies, meetings are held on a rotating basis. Members take care of themselves, while the hosting member organization takes care of catering. Annual reports are filed with the Prefecture. A specific logo has been designed to support external communication. Internally, 2 WhatsApp groups (extended and restricted) have been created to ensure the smooth running of the brainstorming committee.

The main weaknesses are a lack of resources of their own, competition or the creation of other frameworks which are perceived as sources of disruption, the lack of marketing of agroecological products, difficulties in building customer loyalty, the vast size of the department which makes it difficult to move around during activities, etc. On a temporary basis, the perimeters flooded in 2024 are on standby for flood-recession cultivation of sorghum, maize, squash, etc. There has been a great deal of damage caused by the floods. There has been a great deal of damage caused by the floods, which has prompted a call for help from the area's economic stakeholders, especially the producers.

In terms of challenges, there is the difficulty of convincing local communities to take ownership of the DyTAEL vision, to create successful models of family farming and water management, etc. This is compounded by the fact that DyTAELs can host development projects in their own name as a single entity. Added to this is the fact that DyTAELs can host development projects in their own name as a single entity. Lessons learned include the sharing of experiences and practices, horizontality between members, and a strong awareness of agroecology among stakeholders.

2.4. DyTAEL seniors debate

The presentations by the senior DyTAELs (Fatick, Podor, Tambacounda, Bignona) gave rise to many reflections and recommendations for improving DyTAEL action in favor of agroecology in Senegal.

1. Working with partners who carry out action research.

2. DyTAEL scale: it's never been said that a DyTAEL has to be department-wide. It can be a village, a commune, a region. It has to be a territory. It all depends on the commitment of the stakeholders and their ability to mobilize. But what needs to be improved in the DyTAEL creation process, and what are the compulsory points to follow?

3. The need to integrate consumers: a statement of the lack of a consumer link in the activities of the DyTAEL. How do we engage with this consumer community?

4. Representation of young people and women: are young people and women well represented on DyTAEL bodies? Stakeholders should be relied upon to solve their own problems first. Their representation should be proportional to their commitment. Working with political decision-makers can make it much easier to obtain support to encourage the installation and growth of farms. Actors must be able to find solutions to community problems. This is what will stimulate interest in joining DyTAEL.

5. Raising awareness: through visits, radio broadcasts, etc., DyTAELs need to raise awareness. And then, how can we assess the operation of the DyTAELs? We need to find solutions for the operation of DyTAELs, especially those that have no support. The water issue in the Thiès area is a major challenge. It used to be a fruit-growing area, but there are almost no fruit trees left, due to lack of water. Many people no longer even grow vegetables in the Thiès area, again because of the water problem.

6. Importance of advocacy and local consumption: this is marked by advocacy for sustainable agriculture, which is essential in the area. Women face real challenges in processing and marketing their products. We need to work on demonstrating the added value of these products so that local populations become more interested in them.

7. Agroecology as an alternative: Agroecology can help find solutions. Agroecology is a whole, a way of life, with social rules. People need to be at the center of our actions. We need to develop community projects, in every department, to empower women, employ young people and so on. NGOs are there, and they must be able to finance such activities.

8. Training young people in agroecology: Some DyTAELs have made youth training a strategic priority, and are encouraging other DyTAELs to do the same. In Bignona, the Lycée Technique Agricole (LTAEB) has a strategic plan dedicated to agroecology. LTAEB has an agroecology course. Today, we're organizing a forum on agroecology, with exhibitions and product tastings, and panels on the introduction of agroecology into curricula in February 2025.

9. Financing: many activities have been listed, but we're having trouble accessing funds to finance them. Shouldn't DyTAES formalize itself to raise funds, support DyTAELs at grassroots level and better impact the communities most affected by climate change and the various scourges?

10. DyTAES/DyTAEL relations: are there any links between DyTAELs and DyTAES? Isn't it time for DyTAES to formalize itself to attract funds to facilitate the implementation of activities? How will existing DyTAELs cope in the future, avoiding any dichotomy in relation to DyTAES' involvement, and avoid a sudden withdrawal of the people who run the activities if they are taken to other horizons? What have we learned from the past, from work already done, even before DyTAES?

With a view to improving working relations between DyTAES and DyTAELs, this last point was explored in greater depth.

Interactions between DyTAES and DyTAELs

This final highlight of the exchanges between the senior DyTAELs and the public was taken up and further discussed at a plenary session, to enable all concerned to discuss the interrelationships between DyTAES and the DyTAELs, and to make proposals for improving and consolidating the operation of the two national and local entities. Four aspects of the relationship between DyTAES and DyTAELs were discussed with the audience: points for improvement, proposals for improvement, DyTAELs' expectations of DyTAES and DyTAES' expectations of DyTAELs.

3.1 Areas for improvement in relations between DyTAES and DyTAELs

The issues raised are diverse and varied. They have been structured and presented in the following lines.

3.1.1 Information, sharing information on DyTAES work

- Draw up an internal and external communication plan ;
- Organize awareness-raising fairs and forums ;
- Strengthen presence on social networks to reach the general public;
- Link the DyTAES site to the DyTAEL sites (this assumes that the DyTAELs have their own websites);
- Review the DyTAES newsletter to capitalize on the activities of the 11 DyTAELs (keeping to the 4 axes, separating the activities of the DyTAELs from those of the supporting NGOs);
- Take better account of language diversity by including national languages in the workshops, to improve exchanges between DyTAEL stakeholders.

3.1.2 Setting up and structuring DyTAELs

- Draw up a reference framework to facilitate the implementation of DyTAEL ;
- Determine DyTAEL's range of action (department, agropole, etc.);
- Strengthen the national network (inspired by CRAFS?);
- Identical structuring for all DyTAELs (like DyTAES?).

3.1.3 Improving the visibility and operation of DyTAEL

- Strengthen DyTAEL participation in national workshops to represent DyTAES ;
- Institutionalizing exchanges between DyTAEL ;
- Organize annual meetings between DyTAELs and/or bipartite meetings between DyTAELs;
- Strengthen relations and joint actions between DyTAEL ;
- Strengthen local political dialogue.

3.1.4 Redefinition of functional relationships, articulation between DyTAES and DyTAEL

- Creating the conditions to empower DyTAEL ;
- Survey the membership of DyTAEL member organizations at the DyTAES level;
- Strengthen DyTAEL membership by continuing to map stakeholders and prospect for new DyTAEL members;
- Intensify relations between DyTAEL and DyTAES with more regular exchanges;
- Include the DyTAELs in the DyTAES Technical Committee and Steering Committee;
- Set up forums for exchanges between DyTAES and DyTAEL technical bodies.

3.1.5 Technical and financial support for DyTAES

- Engage in more reflection on the question of financing (for example, the most active DyTAELs are supported by projects);
- The DyTAES Secretariat should have a person dedicated to coordinating relations with DyTAELs;
- See how DyTAELs can make the most of DyTAES' human resources.

3.1.6 Reinforced monitoring of actions

- Collectively define monitoring indicators ;
- Send quarterly reports to the Secretariat, in particular to provide data and arguments for advocacy;
- Make a half-yearly assessment of the DyTAELs that would be built upstream at the base;
- Harmonize DyTAEL action plans to facilitate evaluation, or have one action plan per DyTAEL based on a common framework inspired by that of DyTAES;
- Draw up action plans that bring together DyTAES and DyTAEL activities;
- Strengthen mutual accountability mechanisms.

3.2 DyTAEL's expectations of DyTAES

- Strengthen information sharing between DyTAES and DyTAELs, particularly on policies and national and international advances;
- Facilitate networking with exchange visits;
- Empowering DyTAEL financially;
- Facilitating the raising of funds to support agroecological practices;
- Strengthening DyTAEL capacities ;
- Set up demonstration plots to raise awareness;
- Identify and support local businesses, particularly those run by young people and women (fertilizer production, agricultural services, etc.);
- Capitalize on achievements with the help of DyTAES research structures, produce scientific elements for scaling up;
- Support the structuring of DyTAELs and provide a guide for setting up DyTAELs;
- Supporting DyTAEL in local political dialogue.

3.3 DyTAES' expectations of DyTAELs

- Be part of a horizontal partnership dynamic by contributing to collective funding efforts, since DyTAELs are not DyTAES beneficiaries but partners;
- Provide for a system of membership fees for DyTAEL members to strengthen their financial autonomy;
- Understand and adopt the DyTAES Charter of Commitment;
- Design focal points by DyTAEL to participate in quarterly meetings;
- Contribute to the co-construction of projects and support their implementation in local areas;
- Integrate support for the DyTAEL roadmap into their new projects;
- Develop strategies to minimize operating costs;
- Provide figures to scientifically prove that agroecology is a credible alternative;
- Clearly express the desire to support transitional areas;
- Capitalize on local data and success stories;
- Raise awareness and support local authorities in introducing agroecology into their CDPs.
- The need to review the distribution line for organic fertilizers is well noted and shared.
- provide information on organic fertilizers, in particular the number of growers who have benefited from the fertilizers.

This will be a major challenge for DyTAES in the coming years.

Summary of results and evaluation

From November 12 to 13, 2024, DyTAES organized a two-day meeting with the aim of reflecting together on the course and achievements achieved by DyTAES and DyTAELs, as well as on how they operate. The meeting was opened by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Sovereignty. The day of December 13, dedicated to a national meeting of Dytaels, was financed by the AE Initiative One-CGIAR.

This workshop gave the floor to the DyTAELs, who reported on their various experiences in setting up and structuring their businesses. The progress made varied from one region to another. Analysis of the relationships and interactions between DyTAES and DyTAELs also led to strategic considerations for their improvement.

It brought back to the forefront of discussions the importance of the territorialization of agroecology, which must be accompanied by science, to produce scientific evidence. Such evidence can then be used to raise awareness and lobby local authorities to take agroecology into account in local development plans. This is also where DyTAES connects to take its advocacy to the national level.

For the ALL of Fatick (the Dytael at the departmental level), this meeting made it possible to :

- Confirm the leadership of the Fatick DyTAEL in Senegal; Fatick is now recognized as the most consolidated DyTAEL, partly as a result of the support provided by the Agroecological Initiative team.
- Share the actions carried out and the results obtained under the I-AE project, in particular with regard to territorial governance (the drafting of a charter of commitment that 52 member organizations have signed, the membership form, the presence of elected representatives), awareness-raising and capacity-building work among members, notably on collective intelligence, one-day visits to the DyTAEL in Fatick for capacity-building (with the Dytael in Mboro and Foundiougne), the 11 communal forums held for institutional anchoring with more than 500 local leaders and champions, taking into account the territorialization of agroecology in the Communal Development Plans that were promoted with the holding of a CDD with 57 territorial authorities

and an exchange workshop to raise awareness among communes that have a CDP, the strengthening of value chains, in particular that of millet for processing into bread, transition support workshops (ideotyping, transition path...).

It also enabled DyTAEL in Fatick to understand the importance of working more closely with consumers.

There was a demand for further exchanges between the Fatick DyTAEL and other DyTAELs:

- A call was launched by the DyTAEL of Linguère (pastoral zone) to analyze how to find solutions for peaceful cohabitation between farmers and breeders. These exchanges could also be used to reflect on regional complementarities.
- The Dytaels at the level of the department of Foundiougne (recently created) and Gossas, which is particularly active in setting up a DyTAEL, ask to the Fatick DyTAEL to set up a regional coordination of DyTAELs (all are at departmental level today).
- Fatick has put forward its candidacy to host a major event bringing together all the DyTAELs in 2025. This could lead to the consolidation of a national network on local transitions.

This meeting therefore really helped to create relationships among participants with similar interests and concerns that can foster some future forms of exchange and sharing of ideas, experiences and practices.

In this sense, the workshop met all participants expectations, and the potential for the future is significant. These relationships between Dytaels and the creation of a national DyTAEL network could form the backbone of SP 2 for Senegal.

Appendix: photos of the event



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