



INITIATIVE ON
Agroecology



Agroecology Initiative

Technical Report

*Agroecology and gender: Level of
involvement of women and young people in
agroecological farms in the Fatick
department*

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Summary:

This study, which looks at the involvement of women and young people in decision-making on agroecological farms in the Fatick department of Senegal, highlights the importance of these groups in family farming, particularly in agroecological practices. Although women account for the lion's share of food production, they are often relegated to back-breaking tasks and have little influence on strategic farm decisions. They do, however, play a crucial role in seed management, soil conservation and the processing of agricultural products, all activities central to the sustainability of farms. Young people, meanwhile, are often involved in the more physical and technical tasks, and contribute to the emergence of innovations, adopting modern practices such as agroforestry and composting, but are rarely included in strategic decisions. The study shows that, although women and young people are essential to the success of agroecological farms in the Fatick area, their involvement in decision-making remains insufficient, which could act as a brake on the development of agriculture in the Fatick department.

Keywords: Sustainable agriculture, Agroecology, gender and participation

Research context and issues

The world is facing a series of problems linked to land degradation, significant loss of biomass, climate change and water scarcity, which are hampering the achievement of food security. This situation, aggravated by demographic growth, the degradation of natural resources (renewable and non-renewable) and the significant loss of productivity, is weakening the agricultural sector. Faced with this situation, the challenge is to move towards a sustainable model in order to meet the challenges of poverty reduction, food security and economic and social development.

In the African region, the conventional agricultural production model is having a major impact on the environment, leading to the impoverishment of farmland, increased production of greenhouse gases, the ongoing degradation of natural resources and the endangerment of biodiversity. In this respect, public policies, non-governmental organizations and the United Nations (UN) are working hard to find solutions to biodiversity degradation, loss of agricultural productivity and food insecurity, hence the interest of the second Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 2): How can we combine sustainable agriculture and environmental protection?

It is in response to this problem that agroecology (AE) appears to be the path to follow to meet the challenges of reducing poverty, preserving biodiversity, promoting sustainable agriculture and ensuring food security.

Agroecology thus appears as a systemic alternative, which includes ecological and social principles in farm management, in order to promote a sustainable and equitable food system. In this sense, it not only strengthens agricultural activity, but also minimizes the negative environmental impacts of conventional agriculture and generates new sources of employment and income. In this respect, family farms are key to the agroecological transition. Relying on traditional knowledge and techniques, family farmers aim to intensify agricultural production, emphasizing a diversified combination of animal and crop production. Their practices make them the bearers of agroecology. This type of farming tries to adapt to the socio-environmental contexts of the area in order to make rational use of the resources available to ensure the farm's activities.

Like most West African countries, Senegal has responded positively to the agroecological farming system, implementing agroecology programs and initiatives to promote food security, environmental protection and rural employment.

In the groundnut basin, the department of Fatick is one of the main areas targeted by agroecology territorialization policies, aimed at implementing a Dynamique de Transition Agroécologique Locale (DyTAEL) to promote sustainable agriculture, which takes into account environmental and socio-economic dimensions in the family-type farming system. Agroecological transition (AET) initiatives were launched in 1994 with the "*green revolution*" policies. They integrate economic, social and ecological considerations into the farming system to ensure sustainable agriculture (FAO, 1996). However, these initiatives cannot be effective without taking into account all social strata of the population, particularly the most disadvantaged (women, young people, etc.). Indeed, failure to take gender and youth issues into account could slow down the momentum of the agro-ecological transition and substantially reduce its potential impact.

In the department of Fatick, women and young people are heavily involved in farming. Women are at the heart of WT because they participate in the entire agricultural production chain, from land preparation to post-harvest activities. They also play an important role in the seed system and in the conservation of biodiversity (the environment and natural resources). On the other hand, their presence in farm decision-making bodies does not seem to be visible. What's more, they are often confronted with inequalities such as access to resources, information and training.

Young people, for their part, are more concerned and sensitive to environmental issues. Their involvement in the agro-ecological transition facilitates the dissemination of agro-ecological techniques and the transmission of information about the benefits of agro-ecological practices. However, rural youth are often very little involved in the formulation of rural development and youth policies. This situation leads them to abandon agricultural activities in favor of more urban, income-generating activities. Agro-ecological transition can therefore provide a response to the rural exodus, by offering a majority of rural youth decent employment opportunities.

Involving women and young people in farm decision-making is an innovative factor for agriculture, leading to sustainable and inclusive agricultural development, enabling them to generate income and contribute to local development.

In view of the overall and specific climate surrounding the agro-ecological transition (AET) in the Fatick area, taking gender into account in agro-ecological farming is an important issue, insofar as it helps to improve the planning of agricultural policies.

This research complements the study on the analysis of the level of agroecology of farms in the Fatick department (HOLPA) and aims to analyze and discuss the level of involvement of women and young people in agroecological farms in the Fatick department:

- How involved are women and young people in the collective management of agroecological farms in the Fatick area?
- How do the area's so-called agro-ecological farms take gender into account in farm activities?
- At what point do women and young people make household choices about agroecological practices?

The specific aim of the research is to analyze the roles of women and young people on agroecological farms, and to see whether they have decision-making power in farm activities

Literature review

To provide a better understanding of our study, we have defined and analyzed the key terms or expressions that relate to our research object: sustainable agriculture, agroecology, gender and participation.

- **Sustainable agriculture**

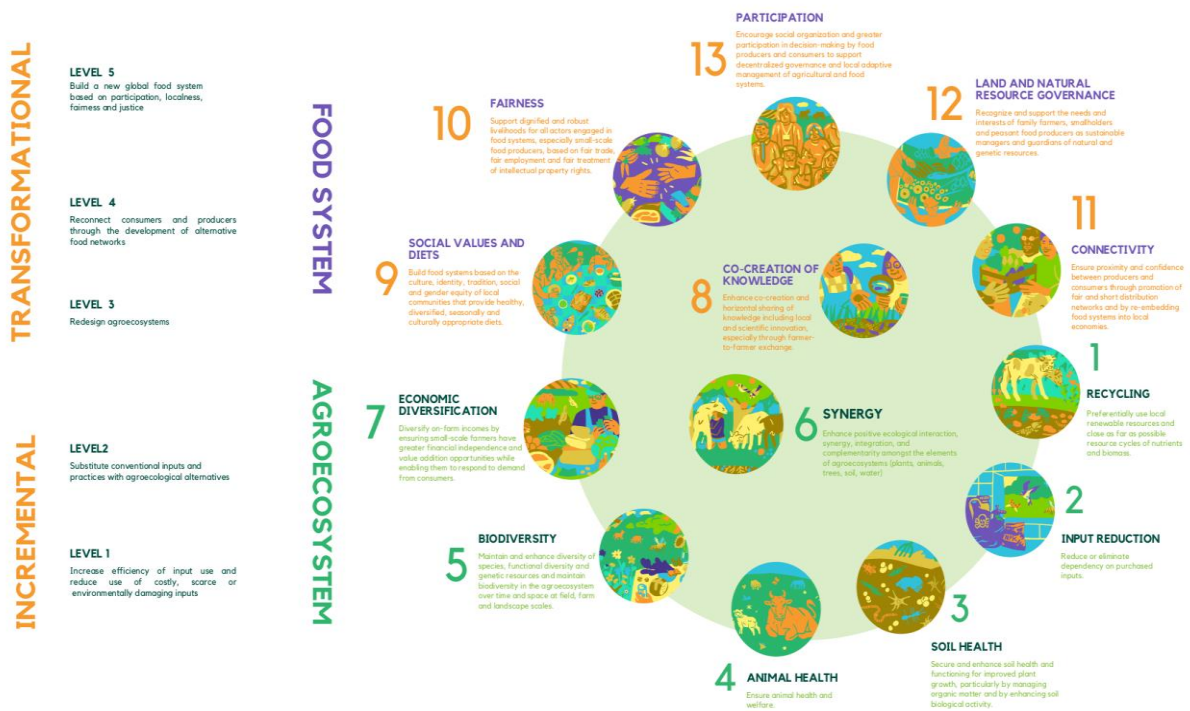
Sustainable agriculture, also known as sustainable farming, is one of the principles of sustainable development, which integrates social, ecological and economic limits into agricultural activities to ensure the development of agriculture.

It advocates reducing the use of pesticides to protect biodiversity and farmers' health (Actu Environnement 2015). According to the FAO, sustainable agriculture means meeting the needs of present and future generations, while ensuring social and economic equity and preserving environmental health.

Our definition of sustainable agriculture is in line with that of Géoconfluences (2024), which defines sustainable agriculture as a set of *"farming systems that, while respecting the environment, are economically profitable, capable of providing society with good quality and sufficient food, while ensuring adequate incomes for farmers"*

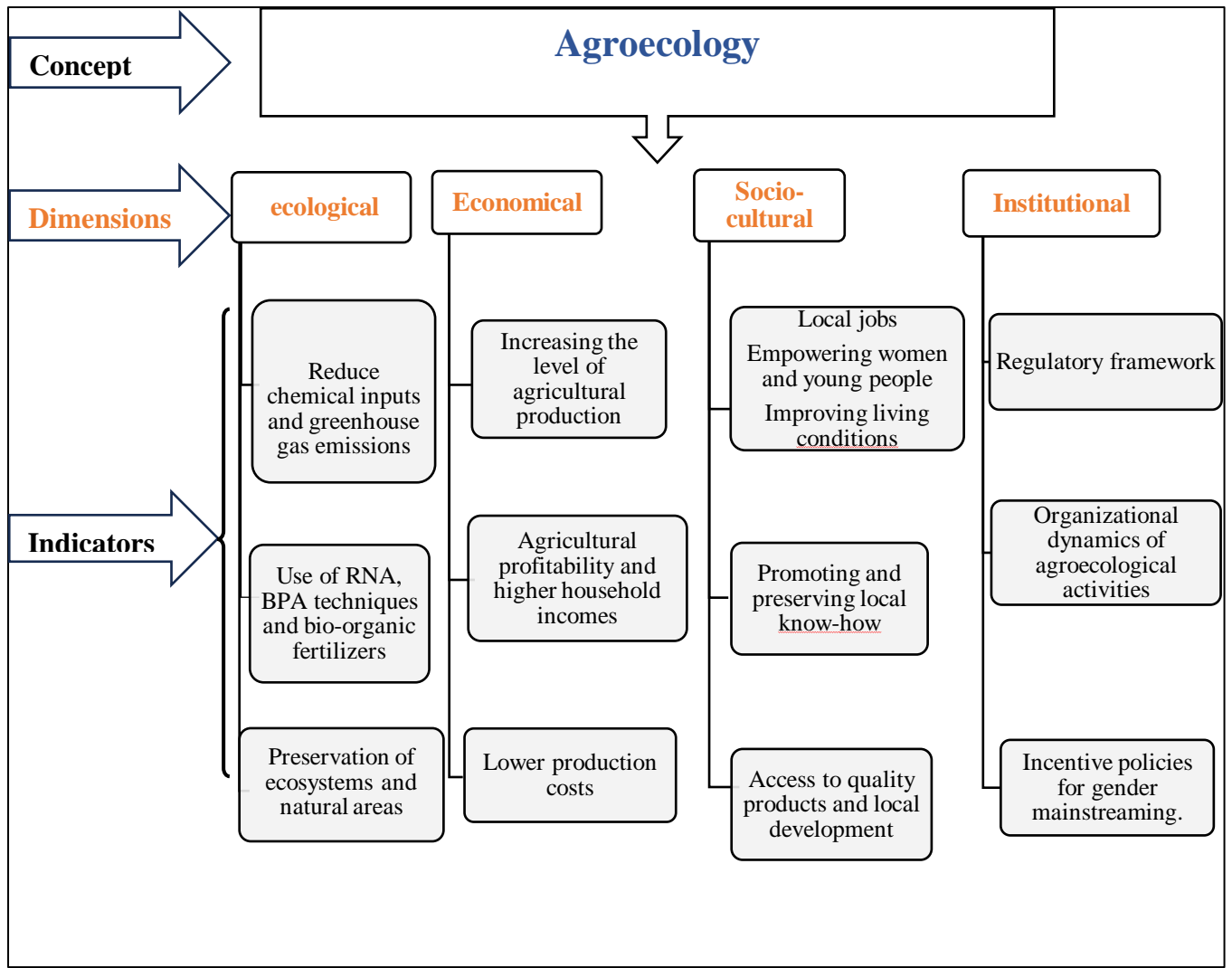
- **Agroecology :**

It is ambitious to give a concrete definition to what agroecology is, a concept in perpetual construction. However, we can base ourselves on the 13 principles of agroecology for sustainable agriculture and food systems as determined by CSAM/HLPE (2019), according to which *"agroecology brings together a science, a set of practices and a social movement, and has begun in recent decades to broaden its scope: initially focused on fields and farms, it now encompasses entire agricultural and food systems"*.



Agroecology is generally seen as a response to food insecurity and ecosystem degradation. It is defined as a technical approach to agriculture that promotes the preservation of available natural resources and enables farmers to control agricultural techniques and products (water, seeds, know-how, practices, etc.).

According to the FAO, agroecology is an approach that envisions a social and equitable food system, integrating ecological and social principles into the sustainable agricultural and food management system. Our perception of agroecology is in line with this.



Title: Operational diagram of the agroecology concept

Source : Aminata BA

- **Type**

Gender, a social construct that refers to what is acquired and dependent on the designation of roles, responsibilities and tasks that women and men perform in the context of economic, social and political activities, and so on.

Generally speaking, gender represents the social perception of masculinity and femininity existing in all social activities and relationships, independently of innate sexual differences.

In this sense, *"It is a multidimensional process with symbolic dimensions, translated into political, material and social frameworks. As a social construct, gender is embedded in every society, wrapped up in its historical, social and cultural context, which makes it an evolutionary process involving men and women and characterized by asymmetrical relations and unequal*

power. The concept of gender integrates inequalities in access to resources and services, as well as inequalities in access to decision-making bodies and processes".¹

In sociological terminology, gender designates "social sex", i.e. the socio-cultural relationships that are constructed between men and women and that determine the role of each of these two categories in society. It organizes, dictates, polarizes and divides the responsibilities of each, assimilated into the socio-cultural fabric.

For the purposes of our study, we will refer to the UNESCO definition, which states: "*The term gender refers to the roles, behaviors, activities and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for men and women at a given time.*"

• **Participation**

Participation is a constantly reinvented term. In this sense, it is a polysemous term that can take on several definitions. According to political science, participation is a set of means by which citizens can contribute to political decisions. Hence, it refers to political activity based on militant initiatives and spontaneous movements. In economic terms, on the other hand, it can refer to an employee savings scheme, enabling a portion of profits to be redistributed to employees.

However, in the context of our study, the definition we give to the notion of participation comes down to that of social participation. Indeed, we consider women's participation in the management of collective granaries as social participation.

Participation therefore refers to "*a process by which a person or a group of people associates and takes part in the decisions and actions of a more global entity or group, in relation to a project of varying scope*

Based on this definition, the participation of women and young people on farms refers to the fact that they take part in collective decision-making. This enables them to play a decisive role in the agro-ecological transition in the Fatick department

Methodological approach

This research was initially based on the methodological framework of the HOLPA study, carried out on a statistical analysis of 200 farms surveyed to determine the level of agroecology

¹ See [acotaf - femmes genre et agroecologie - janvier 2024](#).

in the Fatick department. Based on the results of this study, two types of farms were observed: agroecological and less agroecological. Our study focused primarily on agroecological farms, in order to analyze the level of involvement of women and young people in decision-making on farm activities. We observed 30% of the farms in this group that seemed to adhere to the principles of agroecology.

Based on the scientific literature on our object of study and the expected results of the research, we opted for a socio-anthropological approach: social, to understand the real involvement of women and young people in decision-making on agro-ecological farm activities, and anthropological, to grasp the socio-cultural dynamics highlighted in the activities and decision-making bodies of agro-ecological family farms. To do this, we used a qualitative approach, based on an interview guide administered to a representative sample of women and young people working on agroecological family farms in the Fatick department.

Data collection took place from December 24 to 31, 2024 in the department of Fatick, where we spoke with producers of agroecological farms. To this end, interviews were conducted with stakeholders in agroecological family farms.

The 31 respondents were selected on the basis of the results of the HOLPA survey and concerned the areas targeted by the study: Ndagane Sambou; Yayèm; Baboucar; Djilor, Kombongoy1 ; Mbissel; Soudiane Thiélème; Ngéssine; Fimela; Diofior; Tataguine; Diouroup; Gnongolor Sassène ; Bakhoungok ; Senghor ; Loukouk ; Ndoth ; Ndiob ; Ndiourbél Sine ; Ndoffane Ndéme ; Diakhao Sine ; Ndingliyam ; Mbafaye ; Nianiane et Niakhar.

Results and discussion

In this section, a summary analysis of the information gathered from our respondents was carried out in order to understand the involvement of young people and women in the decision-making bodies of agro-ecological farming activities in the Fatick department.

The results highlighted the importance of agroecological practices for family farms, and the participation of women and young people in agroecological farm activities. They also demonstrated their level of involvement in decision-making bodies and the challenges that revolve around taking gender into account in the agro-ecological transition (AET).

1. Agroecology: a lever to meet the challenges

Today, agro-ecology is perceived as *the "ideal type"*² of agriculture, offering a solution in terms of climate change resilience, promotion of sustainable agriculture and food security. In the department of Fatick, agroecology represents a means of combating the harmful effects of conventional agriculture, combined with multiple environmental challenges. For family farms in the area (which are the potential bearers of sustainable agriculture), agroecology offers multiple advantages, helping to improve their production and their ability to adapt to the local environmental context.

Agroecological practices enable family farms to increase productivity and diversify production, while avoiding the negative environmental effects of conventional farming practices and protecting biodiversity.

In short, the importance of agroecological practices for family farms is well established, as they enable farms to ensure profitable, quality agriculture, preserve the fertility of the land and help protect the environment. In this respect, one of the respondents testifies that :

*"At farm level, the agroecological practices I adopt are compost, RNA and bio-waste fermentation. These practices are very effective because, when we use them instead of chemical fertilizers, we find the soil becomes more fertile. They also enable us to reduce soil salinization and grow trees".*³

2. A significant contribution by women and young people to agro-ecological activities

a) Women and young people, the workforce of farms

In the farming system configuration of these family farms, women and young people make up a large workforce. They are the main land users, as they are responsible for all farm activities. Their presence is essential to the smooth running of the

There are 5 women and 6 young people on the farm, and they are involved in all stages of agricultural production. Roles depend on the period. At each stage of the farming process, everyone knows what they have to do. No one waits to be told what to do. Taking young people and women into account is very important; young people have the strength to work the land,

² This is a sociological concept developed by Max Weber. The term here refers to a perfect agricultural framework.

³ Text taken from an interview with Birame SARR, in the village of Nguéssine, on 25/12/2024.

and women are also involved in the farm's activities. They help us with every task. They help to increase the profitability of production and also the needs of the household," asserts a head of household.

However, it's important to point out that even in the agro-ecological farming activities they perform, there's a gendered division of labor, which confines women to arduous activities compared to those of young people.

➤ **The female workforce :**

It is part of farming for consumption and household necessities. Consequently, they take on the most arduous and time-consuming tasks. To list just a few, they are generally involved in weeding, harvesting, threshing, husking, winnowing, cleaning and processing. They perform these tasks either manually or with rudimentary tools. Women also play an important role in agricultural activities intended for household consumption.

In addition to production, women are often involved in processing agricultural products (peanuts, cereals, fruit) with a view to selling them or storing them for the family. Alongside their agricultural role, women also take on a large share of domestic tasks (childcare, cooking, management of household resources), which sometimes limits their availability for full-time farming activities. Cumulatively, they take part in the activities of the agroecological farm, ensure the conservation of biodiversity and meet the nutritional needs of the household:

"Their presence is very useful. The women take care of the sales and they manage the work well. If I have to spend 10 days in the fields and they help me, I'll do less and save time. What's more, women are now very active in processing products like groundnuts. This gives us a finished product that's more profitable. They take care of household needs

➤ **The young workforce**

As far as young people are concerned, they are more present on modern farms, where the use of technical equipment is required. Young people are often assigned to the most physical tasks, such as ploughing, technical weeding, harvesting and managing the animals (for those who keep livestock in addition to farming): *"There are 3 young people and they look after the horses and the machinery for cultivation. The women continue the work to remove the remaining grass"*. They are also involved in the maintenance of farming tools and infrastructure. In fact, they concentrate more on technical tasks, plowing the land and planting large areas of the farm. Young people are more open to new technologies and modern farming practices.

As part of an agroecological approach, they can play a key role in the adoption of innovations such as agroforestry, modern irrigation, and sustainable soil and water management practices.

b) Women and young people, pioneers of agroecological practices

The role of women and young people in the application of agroecological practices on farms is crucial to the promotion of sustainable, resilient and environmentally-friendly agriculture. Indeed, we can't talk about agro-ecological transition (AET) without mentioning the decisive role played by women and young people in implementing agro-ecological practices at farm level.

On the various farms, young people and women promote agro-ecological know-how to improve soil fertility and promote profitable farming.

➤ Women's role in the adoption of agroecological practices on agroecological farms

❖ Soil fertility management

As the main managers of food crops on most agro-ecological farms in the Fatick department, women play a key role in implementing practices aimed at improving soil fertility. They are often responsible for :

- Using compost :**

In family farming systems considered to be agroecological, women are involved in collecting organic waste for compost preparation and application on plots. Compost is a valuable resource for maintaining and improving soil fertility without the need for chemical fertilizers.

The women, through the many tasks they perform in the home and on the farm, ensure the mobilization of biowaste to help young people make compost. They collect biowaste (food scraps, leaves, branches, harvest residues, etc.) and help transform it into compost. This compost is then used to fertilize crops in a sustainable way. As one of our respondents put it:

"The work is collective, with everyone taking part in the running of the business. Taking gender into account in the farm's activities is very important. They collect the waste so that we can have compost. They clean the house, they collect the waste to be used on the farm, as well as the water for the laundry".

This practice not only regenerates degraded soils, but also increases their capacity to retain water and support plant growth, while minimizing the use of polluting and costly chemical fertilizers.

- Soil cover practices :**

Women are involved in techniques such as ground cover and mulching, which help protect soils from salinity and conserve moisture. These agroecological practices are essential for maintaining soil productivity in environments where salinity is constant or rainfall irregular. This is illustrated by a particular case in the village of Mbissel (in the Fimela area) where women have reclaimed and revitalized 23 hectares of valley land that had been taken over by salinity. Thanks to agroecological practices, they are now able to grow rice on this perimeter

❖ **Biodiversity management**

- **Local seed management :**

Farmers' seed management (the cornerstone of agroecology) is traditionally the responsibility of women. On family farms, they play a crucial role in conserving local and traditional seeds. Women are often the custodians of seeds, ensuring their preservation and storage, as well as the selection of varieties to be grown according to climatic conditions and household needs. Generally, they manage the storage of farmers' seeds, thus ensuring the seed autonomy of the farms: *"Women have a say in the farm's activities, they can decide what is to be sold, stored, processed and the quantity of produce intended for household consumption (...) Women and young people have a say in seed conservation"*.

- **Combining crops :**

Women practice polyculture, growing several plant species on the same plot. They often integrate their own crops into agro-ecological farms, enabling them to improve crop resilience to pests and diseases, and diversify sources of income and nutrition:

"Outside the farm, they have their own plots where they do market gardening, and sometimes time doesn't allow them to do both. To be able to continue their activities, they combine crops. In other words, they grow their own crops on the family farm to save time and continue their activities. This diversification also helps to preserve local biodiversity.

➤ **The role of young people in the adoption of agroecological practices on agroecological farms:**

On agro-ecological farms, young people are responsible for implementing innovative techniques and modernizing farming practices. Their role is crucial in the adoption of new technologies and the integration of agroecological practices that are more resilient to climate change:

❖ **Adoption of modern technical and agro-ecological practices**

As young people are more inclined to adopt new technologies and experiment with modern methods, they play a key role in the introduction of innovative agro-ecological techniques:

• **Compost production and management**

The young people take charge of compost production on a larger scale on agro-ecological farms. They use the techniques they have learned to accelerate the decomposition process of biowaste and produce high-quality natural fertilizers.

Thanks to modern techniques, such as the use of natural bio-activators (a mixture of biowaste and natural phosphates), the young people can speed up the composting process and thus increase the production of organic fertilizers. This enables them to practice mixed farming, i.e. the simultaneous integration of crops and livestock on agroecological farms, a technique that creates resilient and ecologically stable systems:

Agroecological practices have improved my work because they have enabled me to farm healthily and produce quality products. My main crops are peanuts, millet, cowpeas and beans. The practice of tossing is more efficient because it allows us to have healthy, quality products"

.⁴

By combining livestock rearing with plant cultivation, young farmers can naturally fertilize the soil with animal manure, while increasing production in a sustainable way.

⁴ Text taken from interview with Wally NDIAYE, Ndiob, 29/12/2024

- **Implementing agroforestry**

Agroforestry, which combines crops and trees on the same farm, is an essential agro-ecological practice for sustainable land management.

Young people play a key role in planting trees to improve soil fertility, and to capture and protect crops from wind or herds. By adopting this approach, young people contribute to land regeneration and environmental conservation. With this in mind, they become involved in the sustainable management of forest resources by introducing integrated forest management practices.

- **conservation practices**

Young people are also key players in the promotion and implementation of soil conservation techniques. As an active workforce, they are often responsible for implementing innovative techniques on agro-ecological farms. Young people are also more inclined to adopt crop rotation and intercropping techniques, which improve soil health while increasing yields. For example, combining leguminous and cereal crops helps to fix nitrogen in the soil. What's more, they are open to new farming methods and adopt practices based on science and technology to improve crop yields while respecting the environment.

Overall, young people and women together bring complementary know-how that enables farms to adapt to local challenges, promoting the adoption of agroecological practices such as composting, bio-waste management and crop rotation, to promote sustainable agriculture that is resilient to the effects of climate change. However, their consideration in decision-making bodies remains a matter of debate.

3. Organizational dynamics of decision-making bodies in agro-ecological farming activities

The organizational dynamics of decision-making bodies on agro-ecological farms in the department of Fatick are mainly marked by a social hierarchy in which the management of agricultural decisions traditionally rests with the heads of family.

a) Functioning of decision-making bodies on farm activities

Although some decisions are taken collectively within families, responsibilities are often divided according to gender and age.

The main decisions are taken at the farm planning stage, where the influence of the elders (often older men) remains predominant, as they make the crucial decisions on major orientations: choice of crops, management of financial resources, land allocation, etc.

On many farms, decisions are taken jointly, although some are still centralized by the heads of household, who are generally men. In many cases, decisions concerning the strategic orientation of farming activities (choice of crops, investments, sale of produce) are mainly taken by the heads of household. In this respect, one respondent stated that:

"It's the head of the household who plans and we, at our level, can give our opinions and ensure that the activities run smoothly. Yes, we take part in decision-making because we can give our point of view, but it's the head of the household who makes the decisions. If he tells us to plant an area and we see that it's not suitable for cultivation, we can change location. For example, during the sowing season, we can give our opinion on how things should work".

Young people and women are consulted mainly for secondary tasks, but not for important decisions:

"If young people and women are present on the farm, their opinions are taken into account, but when they're not, they're not involved in decision-making. On the other hand, in general, women can make decisions about sales"

b) The place of young people and women in decision-making bodies for agro-ecological farm activities

Although they play a central role in agricultural production and the adoption of agro-ecological practices, the participation of women and young people in decision-making remains low.

Young people are more involved in decisions concerning the handling of work equipment, but they do not always participate in strategic farm decisions. Women, on the other hand, are poorly represented in decision-making bodies. Their responsibilities are mostly concentrated in seed management, processing of farm produce, and post-harvest activities (drying, storage, processing) for sale or family consumption.

Women do have a decision-making role, but it is often limited to seed saving, processing or managing products for sale or consumption within the household.

c) Low involvement of women and young people in decision-making on agro-ecological farm activities

Although women and young people are often involved in day-to-day farm tasks, their participation in decision-making remains limited. This discrimination is linked to :

- **Unequal access to resources and decision-making bodies:**

Restricted access to resources, particularly land, is one of the obstacles to the full participation of women and young people in decisions relating to agro-ecological farming activities. Women, in particular, have difficulty gaining access to land ownership due to customary rules and gender-based discrimination.

Traditionally, women and young people do not have direct land rights in rural areas. Land is often held by men, particularly heads of household, which limits the ability of women and young people to own or manage their own plots independently:

"No, I decide. Nobody has the right to decide. I'm the head of the household and the fields belong to me, so I plan everything we have to do. No, when I decide, no one has the right to speak, they do what I tell them to do", says one head of household. This situation hinders their involvement in agroecology, which is based on the use of plots of land for sustainable cultivation and natural resource management. Young people, for their part, often struggle to gain real control over agricultural resources, limiting their decision-making power.

- **Poor access to seeds and agricultural equipment:**

Women and young people, being financially dependent in many cases, do not always have access to the quality seeds and equipment needed to improve productivity. Equipment such as ploughs, power tillers or processing tools are often inaccessible to them due to their high cost.

- **Marginalization of young people and women in decision-making processes:**

This marginalization is often the result of social and cultural norms, which assign specific roles to men and women. As a result, women and young people are not perceived as legitimate decision-makers in agriculture, even when they play a key role in day-to-day tasks.

Women are under-represented in decision-making bodies. Important decisions concerning farm management are often taken by men, leaving little room for women to express their views on these strategic issues.

Young people are the driving force behind the application of new technologies on agro-ecological farms. They are responsible for physical and technical activities, such as maintaining farm infrastructure, managing work equipment (like farm machinery), and producing compost. However, their decision-making role remains limited to carrying out directives issued by the head of the family or the elders.

4. The challenges of gender mainstreaming in WT

Despite the fact that decision-making structures on agro-ecological farms are heavily influenced by traditional power dynamics (where older men dominate), women and young people manage to steer household choices towards sustainable and resilient agriculture. Indeed, the inclusion of women and young people, through the application of agroecological practices on farms, gives them room for adaptation in decision-making, improving productivity and resilience to environmental and climatic challenges

The involvement of women and young people in agricultural production processes makes farms more dynamic and resilient. Moreover, young people bring innovative ideas and techniques to the implementation of agroecological practices, while women, with their experience, reinforce the sustainability of practices

However, to better promote the inclusion of these groups in agro-ecological activities, it would be essential to facilitate women's and young people's access to farmland, quality seeds and processing units, in order to strengthen their autonomy and increase their contribution to agricultural activities.

Targeted financing programs should also be set up for women and young people in the agroecological sector, with easier access to credit and agricultural equipment. Technical training courses could be organized to improve their skills in modern agro-ecological practices and farm management.

Last but not least, we need to strengthen decision-making by encouraging the active involvement of women and young people in decision-making processes, and by raising awareness among heads of household of the importance of including young people and women in farm management to ensure greater profitability and sustainability of activities.

Conclusions and recommendations

In conclusion, the study highlights the crucial importance of women and young people on agro-ecological farms in the Fatick department. Women are responsible for seed management, soil fertility and processing agricultural products, while young people introduce agroecological innovations and take charge of technical activities.

However, social barriers, such as unequal access to land and resources, restrict their participation in decision-making bodies, hindering the potential for an inclusive agroecological transition. Although they play a central role in farming activities, their involvement in strategic decision-making remains limited.

Overall, these results show that women and young people are strongly involved in agro-ecological activities, but have little influence on decisions concerning the organization of farm activities

To maximize the impact of agroecological practices, enable a successful agroecological transition (TAE) and strengthen the sustainability of farms, it is essential to improve women's and young people's access to land and economic resources, while integrating them more fully into decision-making processes. Beyond this, strategies for greater empowerment of women and young people would contribute to the effective implementation of agroecology in the department of Fatik. This would guarantee a more resilient, equitable and profitable agriculture, by aligning family dynamics with the objectives of a sustainable agroecological transition.

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Appendix

Survey area :

THEME 1: Presentation of the respondent :

- What is your first and last name?
- How old are you?
- Are you married or single?
- What is your level of education?
- What is your main activity on the farm?
- Are you a member of a GIE or an agricultural organization?

THEME 2: Importance of agroecology for farms

- Do you know what agroecology is?
- What do you think of agroecology?
- Have you ever taken part in workshops or training courses on agro-ecological farming?
- Has agroecology changed the way you work on your farm?
- What are your main crops?
- What agroecological practices have been adopted?
- Between old and new practices, which ones perform better? And why?

THEME 3: Participation of women and young people in agro-ecological farm activities :

- How many women and young people work on the farm?
- What role do women and young people play on the farm?
- How are roles and responsibilities distributed within the operation?
- Are the division of roles and responsibilities discussed with the members of the operation?
- If so, can you describe how the distribution of roles and activities is discussed?
- If not, why not?
- Do women and young people feel comfortable with the roles and responsibilities entrusted to them?

THEME 4: Functioning of decision-making bodies and involvement of women and young people in decision-making on agro-ecological farm activities

- How are decisions made about the farm's various activities (area to be planted, crops to be grown, diversification, GAP, etc.)?
- Are decisions taken in concert?

- Are women and young people involved in farm decision-making (area to be farmed, crops to be grown, diversification, GAP, etc.)?
- In which farm activities do women and young people make all the decisions?
- Do women's and young people's decisions influence the farm's activities?
- Are women and young people involved in decision-making bodies? If so, which ones

THEME 5: Difficulties encountered by women and young people in agro-ecological farming activities

- What difficulties do women and young people often face on the farm?
- How do you overcome these problems?

THEME 6: Benefits and challenges of taking gender and youth into account in agro-ecological farming activities

- Has taking gender into account in farm activities had an impact on your performance?
- In what areas have you seen progress?
- In your opinion, how can gender be better taken into account in agricultural activities?