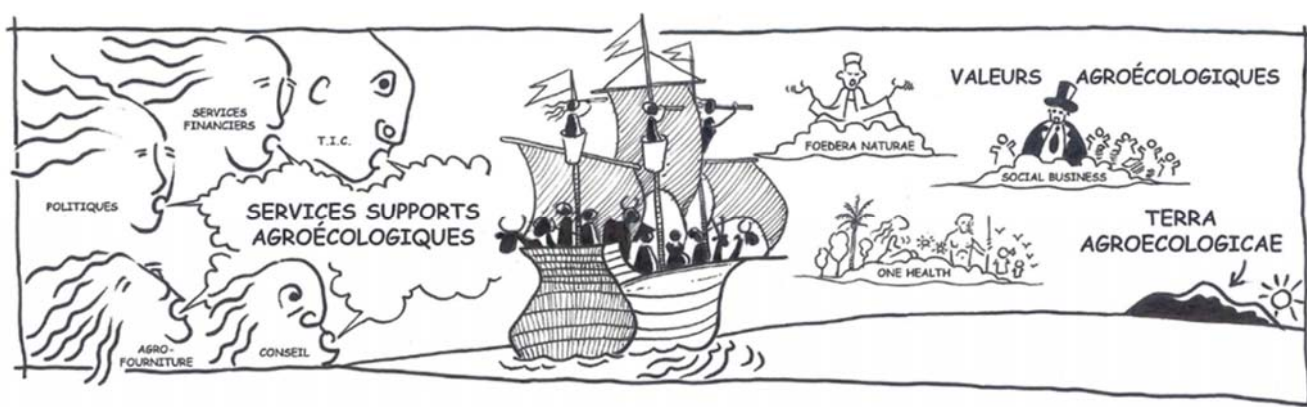


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### WP 4

# Inventory of institutional initiatives promoting agroecological transition in Bobo-Dioulasso's dairy value chain



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The CGIAR Initiative Transformational Agroecology across Food, Land, and Water Systems develops and scales agroecological innovations with small-scale farmers and other food system actors in seven low- and middle-income countries. It is one of 32 initiatives of CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food-secure future, dedicated to transforming food, land, and water systems in a climate crisis.

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# 1 Introduction

In Burkina Faso, the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques (MARAH - Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Resources and Fisheries) is seeking to promote agroecology within the dairy value chain, with a view to ensuring sufficient quantities of quality dairy products are made available to consumers at an affordable price. Transitioning to agroecology in the dairy value chain requires commitment from a wide range of stakeholders, including agro-pastoralists, collectors, processors, distributors and consumers. A number of initiatives in support of this transition have been developed both by government institutions and the private sector, including NGOs and associations, to support dairy industry players in their efforts towards agroecological transition.

In this context, the aim of this study is to review local and national institutional initiatives in the field of agroecology and to assess their applicability to Bobo-Dioulasso's dairy value chain.

# 2 Methodology

Sib et al (2023) have drawn up a map of the various players involved in Bobo-Dioulasso's local dairy value chain (Figure 1) and are in the process of compiling a directory of institutions and organisations supporting agroecology and/or the dairy value chain in Bobo-Dioulasso. These stakeholders, located in the lower half of Figure 1, include support providers, trade associations (TAs) and input and equipment suppliers. They are listed in **Erreur ! Source du renvoi introuvable.** (this is only a preliminary inventory which may be completed or adjusted if necessary).

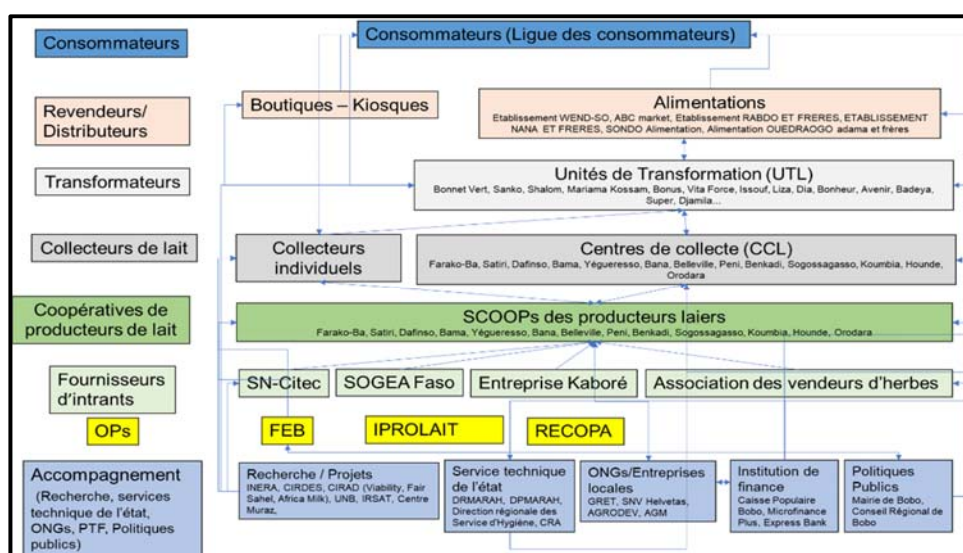


Figure 1 : Overview of Bobo-Dioulasso's dairy value chain stakeholders (Source: Sib et al. (2023))

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The inventory of institutions and organisations involved in agroecology and the dairy value chain is based on this preliminary inventory. For this purpose, we conducted interviews with staff from these institutions and organisations using an interview guide, asking the following four questions:

- Who are you and what do you do?
- What is your involvement in agroecology?
- What is your involvement in the dairy value chain? (If applicable)
- Do you think your actions in relation to agroecology are applicable to the dairy value chain?

These interviews took place in the cities of Bobo-Dioulasso and Ouagadougou over 2 phases.

During the first phase, which took place in November 2023, interviews were carried out with 18 agents from the various institutions and organisations located in Bobo-Dioulasso. Following this first phase, a second round of interviews was conducted in January 2024 with 16 agents from national institutions and organisations based in Ouagadougou. All interviews were recorded and fully transcribed for manual data processing.

## 3 Results

### 3.1 Bobo-Dioulasso City Hall (Direction technique de l'environnement, de l'eau et de l'énergie)

Pursuant to article 7 of law no. 004/93/ADP of 12 May 1993 on municipal organisation, Bobo-Dioulasso was established as a fully-fledged municipality due to its size. Under law number 006/93/ADP of 12 May 1993, Bobo Dioulasso was also granted special status. Pursuant to article 2 of this law, the municipality of Bobo-Dioulasso was organised into three boroughs (arrondissements) comprising twenty-five sectors. During a cabinet meeting on 7 November 2009, ministers endorsed a bill on the division of urban municipalities with special status. Both the municipality and district of Bobo-Dioulasso thus saw their boundaries extended (at the expense of neighbouring districts and municipalities that had already become highly urbanised, particularly in the municipality of Bama): the number of boroughs was increased from three to seven, comprising 33 sectors. Bobo-Dioulasso City Hall is now administered by a special delegation. The Direction technique de l'environnement, de l'eau et de l'énergie (Technical Department for the Environment, Water and Energy) is also responsible for promoting and supervising agro-sylvo-pastoral activities in urban areas. Within this department, tree planting is the responsibility of the 'Urban Improvement Department'. The Department for Waste Collection and Management is responsible for keeping public areas clean. Similarly, the Water and Sanitation Department is in charge of drinking water supplies and water body development throughout the municipality. A number of financial and technical partners are supporting the local council in setting up agroecological equipment (boreholes, etc.), as well as in social and skills-building initiatives for rural stakeholders. In partnership with RICOLTO, the local council has set up initiatives to promote urban agriculture using fewer synthetic inputs. The council has also introduced an eco-sanitary latrine scheme around market gardening areas to produce biofertilisers from human faeces and urine.

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The municipality supports initiatives run by trade associations. As part of the financial support provided by the Bel Foundation, the council assisted the NEEMA cooperative (Bobo-Dioulasso dairy processors' cooperative) in setting up a milk collection and distribution network to provide quality local dairy products in Bobo-Dioulasso's school canteens. This pilot scheme, covering seven school canteens, was carried out in partnership with the Groupe de Recherches et d'Echanges Technologiques (GRET).

### **3.2 Direction régionale de l'agriculture, des ressources animales et halieutiques (DRARAH)**

The DRARAH is a decentralised branch of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Resources and Fisheries. Its remit is to provide support to those involved in agriculture and livestock farming in order to significantly increase agricultural production. It acts as the technical arm for all government projects and programmes aimed at the farming community. As such, it coordinates or supports the implementation of projects such as PDPS, FODEL, PADELB, PRAPS, etc., in the Hauts-Bassins region. It is headed by a Regional Director (RD) in charge of the Hauts-Bassins, as well as Provincial Directors (PD) in charge of agriculture and livestock in the region's three provinces (Houet, Tuy and Kéné Dougou). The RD is made up of several departments, namely Agriculture, Livestock (Livestock Production, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Animal Health, Pastoralism), Human Resources and Administration.

In terms of agroecology, the government of Burkina Faso, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Resources and Fisheries, has implemented a national strategic plan for the development of agroecology (SND-AE). The overall objective of this plan for the period 2023-2027 is to "sustainably increase productivity and agro-sylvo-pastoral, fisheries and wildlife production through agroecological intensification".

It is built around three strategic priorities: (i) improving the governance of agroecology, (ii) scaling up agroecology in all regions of Burkina Faso and (iii) capacity building for agroecology stakeholders and advisory support agents. In support of these efforts, the DRARAH provides government-subsidised agricultural inputs and equipment. In terms of inputs, it supplies forage and dual-purpose seeds (forage maize, forage sorghum, cowpea, mucuna, etc.), and fertilisers (NPK, urea). Equipment includes farm mechanisation tools (mainly shredders, mowers, etc.). The DRARAH also distributes fodder kits consisting mainly of wheelbarrows, gloves, rakes and moulds for fodder bales. It supports farmers in building vaccination pens and supplying livestock feed (oilcakes and other feeds). The DRARAH offers training courses and consultancy services to help farmers grow forage crops, formulate feed rations and correctly use synthetic fertilisers.

More specifically with regard to the dairy value chain, the DRARAH supports the organisation of stakeholders in the local dairy value chain. It played an active role in the setting up of Bobo-Dioulasso's multi-stakeholder Dairy Innovation Platform (Plateforme d'Innovation Lait, PIL Bobo) in 2020 and is a member of the PIL's innovation support team. It has also been instrumental in setting up the ALL (Agroecological Living Landscape) around PIL Bobo in 2023 and is committed to supporting stakeholders in the dairy value chain as part of the Agroecology Initiative.



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As a result of the PDPS programme (Programme de Développement Durable des Exploitations Pastorales au Sahel), dairy processors from the NEEMA cooperative have benefited from a range of processing equipment (pasteurisers, iceboxes and other small items of equipment), as well as kiosks for selling dairy products throughout Bobo-Dioulasso. The PDPS programme also helped to renovate Milk Collection Centres (MCCs) and fitted them with solar panels. In addition, PIL Bobo received 2 vehicles and 25 dairy delivery tricycles through the PADEL-B project (Projet d'appui au développement du secteur de l'élevage au Burkina Faso), as well as support for the construction of its head office. Farmers saw the installation and fitting-out of three boreholes, the construction of 30 barns, and the provision of motorbikes and milk collection cans for both dairy farmers and milk collectors. In early 2024, through FNEC BURKINA SA, a microfinance institution, the PDPS programme initiated a loan agreement to finance development projects in the dairy value chain. These funds are intended to finance around fifty viable projects aimed at increasing the share of local milk in the dairy industry. This loan programme is aimed at dairy farmers or farmer organisations (purchase of cows and/or small ruminants, construction of cowsheds, etc.), as well as dairy processors or processor cooperatives (purchase of equipment, construction of dairies).

Providing forage seeds and agricultural equipment to players in the dairy value chain, together with the distribution of livestock feed, are initiatives that promote sustainability in dairy production. In addition, the technical support provided by the DRARAH includes advisory support at farm level. Examples include the correct use of mineral fertilisers, the production and use of organic manure, animal rationing, animal mobility regulations, cow reproduction management (artificial insemination) as well as animal health and welfare. Advisory support also takes into account the general organisation of the dairy value chain, from production to processing.

### 3.3 Trade associations

#### 3.3.1 Chambre régionale de l'agriculture (CRA)

The definition of the Chambre Régionale d'Agriculture (CRA) is set out in Article 1 of Decree No. 2018-0347/PRES/PM/MAAH/MRAH/MEEVCC/MEA/MATD/MESRSI/ MINEFID dated 26 April 2018 on the creation, allocation, organisation and operation of Burkina Faso's Chambers of Agriculture. The CRA is a consular institution dedicated to agriculture with a public service mission of general interest in the agrosylvo-pastoral, fisheries and wildlife sectors at regional level. The CRA brings together all regional farmers working in the fields of agriculture, livestock and the environment, whether or not they are affiliated to a farming trade association or inter-branch organisation.

The CRA's legitimacy is built on free and transparent elections, with members elected by universal suffrage by farmers alone for a 5-year term, renewable once consecutively. In terms of organisation, the Hauts-Bassins CRA comprises the following bodies:

- A Consular Assembly, which is the supreme guidance and decision-making body;
- An Executive Board, which is responsible for the general administration of the structure and is made up of 5 elected members;
- A General Secretariat, which provides technical support to the Executive Board;

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- Standing committees, established around 4 main themes in the agro-sylvo-pastoral, fisheries and wildlife sectors (land issues and decentralisation, promotion and modernisation of agriculture, structuring and training of the rural community, identification and development of projects and programmes);
- Representative bodies at provincial, communal and village level, for consultation and information rather than decision-making purposes. Each comprises two bodies, an assembly and a coordination office.

The CRA is responsible for:

- representing the agro-sylvo-pastoral, fisheries and wildlife profession at all levels;
- contributing to the definition and implementation of policies and strategies for the promotion and development of the agro-sylvo-pastoral, fisheries and wildlife sectors;
- promoting and supporting the organisation of farmers in the agro-sylvo-pastoral, fisheries and wildlife sectors;
- contributing to the information and training of farmers in the agro-sylvo-pastoral, fisheries and wildlife sectors;
- initiating and/or contributing to the design, implementation, monitoring and assessment of development projects and programmes for farmers and their trade associations in the agro-sylvo-pastoral, fisheries and wildlife sectors;
- creating and maintaining an agro-sylvo-pastoral, fisheries and wildlife register.

As part of its collaboration with government departments in charge of rural development (agriculture, livestock, environment and water), projects and programmes (such as the *Projet d'Appui aux Filières Agricoles*, the *Projet de Développement Intégré de Samandéni*), NGOs (such as the *Organisation Catholique pour le Développement et la Solidarité*, *Action Contre la Faim*) and producer organisations (such as the *Union Nationale des Producteurs du Coton*, the *Union Nationale des Etuveuses du Riz* and the *Comité Interprofessionnel des Céréales du Burkina Faso*), the CRA is contributing to the agro-ecological transition in the agro-sylvo-pastoral, fisheries and wildlife systems of the Hauts-Bassins region. Under a partnership agreement with the *Conseil Général* (County Council), it has developed lowlands and market gardening areas in Samandeni for the benefit of market gardeners and, in particular, vulnerable groups such as women and young people, as part of the *National Rural Sector Programme (2011-2015)*. It has provided training for farmers and organised study trips to share best practice in agro-sylvo-pastoral farm management, both within and outside the country. It also supports the setting up and running of agricultural cooperatives.



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The Hauts-Bassins CRA worked with the local council during the 2018-2019 agricultural season to provide agricultural inputs and equipment as part of a national scheme aimed at providing state-subsidised support to farmers. It helped to provide information, raise awareness and train farmers and members of farmer organisations in sustainable agro-sylvo-pastoral, fisheries and wildlife activities. A number of young farmers were able to take part in development work as part of the ProSol and PACOF projects in the municipalities of Béréba, Koumbia and Satiri.

The CRA is not pursuing any specific initiatives in the dairy value chain, but it is helping to organise stakeholders involved in agro-sylvo-pastoral systems, including agro-pastoralists, dairy farmers and dairy processors.

### 3.3.2 Interprofession Lait (IPROLAIT)

IPROLAIT/ BF is the inter-branch organisation representing dairy industry players in Burkina Faso. Established and desired by its members, it is the key framework in which all partners within a sector can come together and build more formal links in terms of business, organisation and action, with the aim of strengthening their positions on the local market and abroad. It represents all the trade associations across the various links in the value chain: production, processing (small and medium-sized enterprises) and distribution (Réseau national de distribution physique des produits laitiers - National Network for the Physical Distribution of Dairy Products). For example, the UMPLB (Union nationale des mini-laiteries et producteurs de lait local du Burkina) collected nearly 1.3 million litres of milk in 2020, generating sales of FCFA 927 million. The UMPLB boasts 80 members and has helped to create 490 full-time jobs and 1,470 indirect ones. The interprofession aims to represent and defend the interests of the dairy industry through consultation between the national umbrella organisations of the various links in the value chain. Its scope includes: i) improving the structuring process both upstream and downstream in the industry; ii) promoting best practices and improving production, processing and marketing conditions in order to promote the modernisation of the industry; iii) improving framework conditions for the industry; iv) negotiating subsidies and levies on inputs and dairy products; v) increasing productivity on many of Burkina Faso's dairy farms.

IPROLAIT's activities have led to the emergence of seasoned professionals offering a wide range of products on the market that are comparable to imported products in terms of quality/price (economic diversification). It promotes dialogue between industry players and provides technical and commercial information to assist operators in their work. The interprofession has a network of training instructors on key topics such as herd husbandry, feed management (forage crops), genetic improvement (artificial insemination, etc.) and good milk hygiene practices. It promotes environmental protection through sustainable pastoralism. It encourages the employment of young people and women. Every year, IPROLAIT holds the '72 heures du lait local' (72 Hours of Local Milk). This event provides an opportunity to promote local milk and lobby the political authorities, as evidenced by the theme of the 7<sup>th</sup> edition which was held in 2021: "What strategies are needed to ensure that the local dairy industry is properly taken into account in the Presidential Initiative: Ensuring that every school-age child has at least one balanced meal a day." This initiative is a concrete response to the unfair competition from imported milk powder, but also a source of commercial opportunities for mini-dairies and local dairy farmers.

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### 3.3.3 Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et de Producteurs Agricoles de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (ROPPA)

The Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et de Producteurs Agricoles de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (ROPPA) is a regional organisation that represents and protects the interests of farmers and agricultural producers in West Africa. The ROPPA is represented in 13 countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo, with associate members from Nigeria and Cape Verde. Its executive board is based in Burkina Faso and is currently headed by Mali. The ROPPA is represented by national farmer organisation platforms in each member country.

The organisation seeks to empower farmers and agricultural producers, defend their rights and promote inclusive and sustainable agricultural and rural development.

As far as agroecology is concerned, the ROPPA has been committed to this approach since its inception, emphasising good farming practices, in particular the preservation of farmers' seeds. The organisation carries out lobbying activities to encourage member governments to incorporate agroecology into their agricultural policies. This mission has led the ROPPA to take on secretarial duties for 3AO, an agroecology alliance in West Africa, which brings together a number of stakeholders including ECOWAS, CRAD, IPES FOOD and CNABIO. As part of its lobbying activities, the ROPPA took part in the declaration made in 2021 at the United Nations summit, highlighting agroecology-related issues.

It should be stressed that a thematic think-tank on agroecology has been set up within the ROPPA, led by the national coordination of farmers' organisations in Mali. Agroecology is also a major topic of interest in members' national roadmaps.

Besides its campaigning and policy work, ROPPA undertakes a number of research and development projects on agroecology for the benefit of its member organisations. Typically, these projects aim to examine how approved technologies can be applied to farming practices, by promoting dialogue between farmers and researchers. Agroecology and other related publications are also produced for discussion at farmer universities organised by the ROPPA.

Regarding the dairy sector, activities are carried out under the aegis of the ROPPA's livestock framework, which brings together directors from all member countries. This livestock framework carries out advocacy work and generates dairy-related knowledge. The ROPPA is currently implementing the PROLAIT project, funded by the ECOWAS Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food (RAAF). This project supports endogenous processing units in adopting good practices in milk production and collection. In addition, training is provided to young people in forage production to ensure that cows are fed quality feed during the dry season and to sustain milk production levels. The ROPPA also coordinates a multi-stakeholder dairy platform, in partnership with APES and with the support of ECOWAS, which carries out advocacy and promotional activities to encourage local milk consumption. The ROPPA also supports other initiatives through its members, such as the Confédération paysanne du Faso for the organisation of World Milk Day, and the Union Nationale des Producteurs de Lait du Burkina for the '72 Hours of Local Milk' event.

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### 3.3.4 Plate-forme d'Actions à la Sécurisation des Ménages Pastoraux (PASMEP)

As an association, the PASMEP works closely with pastoral communities on a variety of issues. As well as organising value chains, the PASMEP is also involved in building technical and economic capacity, particularly in the area of dairy processing units. These activities are part of development efforts, but the organisation has also recently been focusing on social cohesion, dialogue and child protection in view of the security situation. The organisation, which is mainly made up of individual members, also oversees numerous groups, including some 50 cooperatives.

Various forms of support are provided to the dairy value chain, from the production stage through to marketing. Training sessions and technical skills building programmes are implemented, with a particular focus on livestock feed, forage cultivation, dairy staff management and dairy product marketing.

The association also campaigns at both national and international level to promote the purchase of local dairy products and reduce milk powder imports. It is involved in the organisation of various events, such as World Dairy Day and the 72 Hours of Milk, initiated by the UMPLB (Union nationale des mini-laiteries et producteurs de lait local du Burkina) association, which is closely linked to the PASMEP.

### 3.3.5 Confédération Paysanne du Faso (CPF)

The Confédération Paysanne du Faso (CPF) is an umbrella organisation of 16 members, representing virtually every sector of economic and strategic importance. The CPF was founded in 2002 following extensive consultations among rural stakeholders.

The structure acts as a platform for farmers' demands and initiatives, and is the product of a long and concerted process involving rural stakeholders. Its role is to represent farmers' organisations as a whole and to address cross-cutting issues. Given its presence in every one of the country's strategic sectors, the CPF is particularly active in the area of political influence.

Recognised by the scientific research community as an organisation that provides a framework for the use of research-based technology and innovation, agroecology is one of the key elements of its strategic action plan.

The CPF is structured around four pillars: land, membership services, family farm monitoring and agroecology-oriented systems. In partnership with various NGOs, it carries out field-based agroecological initiatives aimed at disseminating technologies that have been tried and tested through research.

As part of its agroecological initiatives, the CPF also supports dairy cooperatives, the Union des Mini-Laiteries du Burkina (UMPLB) and the Fédération des Éleveurs du Burkina (FEB) in the production of agroecological forage. In its appraisal of the current state of agriculture, the CPF points to a number of ongoing challenges, such as the lack of availability of biomass for organic manure, and the shortage of tools and equipment required to implement agroecology. Farmers face challenges in accessing the resources and equipment they need to implement agroecological practices.

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### 3.3.6 Association des vendeurs d'herbes fraîches (AVHFB)

The AVHFB (Association des vendeurs d'herbes fraîches pour le bétail de Bobo-Dioulasso) was founded in 2015 under the provisions of Law no. 10/92/ADP of 15 December 1992 on freedom of association in Burkina Faso. It collects and provides livestock farmers in Bobo-Dioulasso with around 287.5 tonnes of fodder a year, including 187.5 tonnes in the rainy season and 100 tonnes in the dry season. It offers a platform for disseminating information by SMS via mobile phones. The AVHFB aims to: i) contribute to the sustainable development of the Hauts-Bassins region, ii) help combat poverty through the sale of fresh grass, iii) organise the fresh grass sales sector to improve the living conditions of those involved, iv) promote environmental protection in the Hauts-Bassins region, and v) produce and supply quality fresh grass to livestock farmers in the Hauts-Bassins region.

Fresh grass fodder sellers believe that their activity helps to ensure responsible animal husbandry in an urban environment by preventing animals from roaming all over the city. Selling grass is a profitable economic activity for those involved. This activity constitutes a value chain that employs a large number of people

Most fodder sellers are supplied by pre-collectors, who collect fodder far from the city from field owners who, for a fee, allow them to mow the grass or collect crop residues. They in turn resell what they harvest or collect to buyers from the city, and so on all the way to the final buyer. Some sellers cover the whole chain themselves in the hope of making far greater profits. The price of a bundle of fresh grass varies according to the season and the type of fodder. In general, legume fodder is sold at a higher price (between FCFA 200 and 400 depending on stack volume). Fresh grass and straws are sold between FCFA 50 and 200 depending on the season.

Fodder marketing is booming in Bobo-Dioulasso and involves a number of players, from the owners of the fields where the grass is mown through to reapers, transporters, sellers and livestock farmers. Its purpose is to make up the shortfall in animal feed fodder as well as generating income for those involved. Fodder sellers' customers include urban and peri-urban dairy cattle farmers, fatteners (sheep, goats, cattle) and monogastric livestock farmers (rabbits, horses, etc.). Sellers offer a wide range of fodder, including green fodder, hay, cereal straw, legume haulms and woody forage, collected from pastures, fields, fallow land and lowlands. Informal loyalty contracts have been signed with dairy farmers in Bobo-Dioulasso, especially in the dry season, to provide quality forage for their cows.

## 3.4 Research and Education

### 3.4.1 Research

#### 3.4.1.1 Institut de l'Environnement et de la Recherche Agricole (INERA)

The INERA is one of the four research institutes of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique et technologique (CNRST). It is a specialist public body whose official remit is to formulate, implement and coordinate environmental and agricultural research in Burkina Faso. It was created in 1996 following the merger of the Institut d'Etudes et de Recherches Agricoles and the Institut de Recherche en Biologie et Ecologie Tropicale. It has a wide range of missions and responsibilities. These include providing a

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framework for programming and implementing research programmes in the agricultural and environmental fields; providing researchers with the supervision and support they need for their work; providing researchers with the opportunities they need for promotion; contributing to the information and training of researchers, support and back-up staff, students and farmers; providing a framework for expertise; exploiting research results; creating production units; producing and marketing research products; promoting research focused on the sustainable management of natural resources; providing technical support for agricultural, environmental and forestry development, including through studies and project monitoring; decentralising and regionalising agricultural, environmental and forestry research in order to bring research closer to its users and promote the optimum development of regional agricultural, environmental and forestry potential; providing a link between research and development, including the transfer of technologies and innovations to users.

In the field of agroecology, the INERA and its partners are pursuing a number of initiatives to develop innovative and sustainable cropping systems that optimise interactions between crops and their environment. For example, the ORACLE project focuses on integrating legumes into cropping systems, and more specifically aims to assess their effect on cereals in the case of cereal/legume combinations or rotations. Crop combination or rotation strategies are well suited to ecological intensification, as they aim to improve productivity per unit of cultivated area without the need for additional inputs. The ECO-FERT-CLIM project aims to jointly develop, with stakeholders, climate-smart cropping systems (varieties and technical itineraries) and biomass and nutrient management methods at farm level, drawing on knowledge of mixed crop-livestock systems and models, and building stakeholders' capacity for ecological intensification. The co-design approach to agroecological practices is also being implemented as part of the FAIR SAHEL project, with central fields set up to experiment with agroecological practices during the agricultural season. These fields act as spaces for demonstrations and discussions with farmers to illustrate the benefits of implementing various practices. In addition, farmers have the opportunity to implement them individually in their own fields, with the project's support. Each year before harvest, the project carries out a joint evaluation of these systems. Several other projects implemented by the INERA highlight agroecological principles to promote farm resilience.

The INERA is developing and updating its catalogue of improved agricultural seeds to boost agricultural productivity. A wide range of seed varieties, including forage and dual-purpose seeds, are being promoted and tested in the field to support farmers with their milk production.

The INERA is actively involved in helping to structure and support dairy farmers. The INERA works on the sustainable intensification of dairy production, through an integrated approach that includes all stages and stakeholders in the dairy value chain, from farmers to consumers. Through two research programmes on animal production, natural resource management and livestock systems, the INERA has built up a wealth of experience in the technical management of dairy cows (genetics, nutrition, health management), local dairy farming and feeding systems, as well as dairy value chains. These programmes helped develop strong expertise in the management of innovative dairy platforms through their partnership with the Banfora Dairy Platform and contributed to the establishment of Bobo-Dioulasso's multi-stakeholder Dairy Innovation Platform as part of the Africa-Milk project in Burkina Faso. Through these research programmes, the INERA is committed to developing sustainable dairy farming systems. It has been involved in a number of major initiatives in the dairy value chain, including the Programme de recherche et développement sur l'élevage en Afrique de l'Ouest (PROCORDEL), a cooperation project with

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Swedish universities (centred on training and research into nutrition for dairy production), and the Réseau de recherches et d'échanges sur les politiques laitières (REPOL) in the WAEMU zone.

### 3.4.1.2 Institut de Recherche des Sciences Appliquées et Technologies (IRSAT)

The IRSAT is a specialist institute within Burkina Faso's Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique et Technologique (CNRST). It was created in 1997 after the Burkina Faso government adopted the National Strategic Plan for Scientific and Technological Research in 1995. The Plan's main purpose is to develop, coordinate and implement research programmes and activities in Burkina Faso, while taking account of the needs expressed by users.

The IRSAT's main remit is to implement the National Scientific and Technological Research Policy (Politique Nationale de la Recherche Scientifique et Technologique - PNRST) adopted by the government in October 2012 in the field of applied sciences and technologies. As such, it carries out R&D projects in the fields of energy, mechanisation, natural substances and food technology. These missions are conducted along the following lines: 1) study and research development in the field of renewable and conventional energy; 2) inventory of plant, animal and mineral-based natural substances, and study of their exploitation; 3) agricultural, forestry and fishery product conservation and processing, as well as their adaptation to consumer demands; 4) biotechnology in relation to all development sectors.

The IRSAT includes four specialist departments: Energy, Mechanisation, Natural Substances and Food Technology. To meet its objectives, the IRSAT has drawn up strategic sectoral research plans that help steer research and development, disseminate technical and scientific results, and provide training.

In the field of agroecology, several innovations and technologies have been developed by the IRSAT in Burkina Faso. These include the 40 kWp photovoltaic solar power plant connected to the IRSAT's grid, which saves 75% of the SONABEL grid's energy per month. There is also an experimental solar cold room for preserving fruit, vegetables and seeds, which can store products for up to 8 months.

The IRSAT has also designed improved stoves (wood, charcoal, gas) that save 50% energy, as well as shea nut cake stoves to enhance the value of crop co-products and reduce input costs. The IRSAT is actively promoting the use of household waste as compost for mass agroecology.

In the area of mechanisation, various technologies have been introduced, including a maize degerming machine, a mixed rotary screen for cereals, a cereal stone trap, a néré seed shelling machine, a fonio seed rotary washer and a solar dryer.

With regard to natural substances, the IRSAT has developed and distributed an essential oil extraction process for aromatic plants. It has also developed insecticides based on neem extracts (bio-insecticides) and technologies for fractioning and stabilising shea butter.

Food technologies include cereal-based biscuits and cakes (sorghum, maize, rice, fonio), as well as mango fritters and spices (8 spice formulations based on onion powder).

In the dairy value chain, the IRSAT is involved at both production level, offering biofertilisers for the production of forage resources, and processing level, organising training sessions on milk and dairy



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product processing and conservation techniques. These training sessions, aimed at small dairy processors, are designed to provide them with skills in good hygiene and dairy product manufacturing practices, quality standards, technical specifications for milk processing equipment, dairy product packaging and preservation, and milk processing techniques.

### 3.4.1.3 Centre International de Recherche-Développement sur l'Élevage en zone Subhumide (CIRDES)

The CIRDES is an international research institution with a regional focus dedicated to livestock development in West and Central Africa. It is a legal entity and has administrative and financial autonomy. It is made up of eight (8) Member States: Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger and Togo.

One of its missions is to support the development of pastoral and agro-pastoral livestock systems that are better suited to current global changes (climate, demographics, nutrition), more productive and more income-generating in order to achieve food security for households, in particular the poorest.

Since the early 2000s, the CIRDES has launched initiatives supporting agroecology and promoting climate change adaptation activities through various projects conducted with its partners. The activities carried out as part of these projects aim to support players in animal value chains through:

- Improving resource efficiency in urban and peri-urban agriculture as well as food security. These initiatives were all designed to contribute to the sustainability of local food systems (Urban Food <sup>Plus</sup> project);
- Adapting the principles of conservation agriculture to agro-pastoral practices to improve soil fertility (Projects: FERTIPARTENAIRES, ABACO, ECO-FERT-CLIM, etc.);
- Intensifying forage production for meat and dairy cattle feed (Projects: STRADIV, SFBs, FAPROVIAQ, CIMF, etc.);
- Identifying and raising awareness among stakeholders in the dairy and meat sectors as part of the ASADAO Programme's BenCout-Agrodur project: The BenCout-Agrodur project aims to perform a trade-off analysis of innovations or technologies from an economic profitability standpoint for the dairy and meat value chains, taking into account the agroecological context;
- Generating knowledge on the socio-economic and environmental viability of agroecological practices (VIABILITY project), etc.

In the dairy sector specifically, the CIRDES and its partners have supported industry stakeholders in developing strategies to improve the efficiency of local dairy supply chains by reducing losses and waste from production to consumption (REGAL project). As part of various research and development projects

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conducted by the CIRDES and its partners (STRADIV, SFB project, BenCout-Agrodur, One CGIAR Initiative on Agroecology, etc.), agroecological packages have been developed and implemented to improve forage production for dairy cow feed, nutrient recycling on dairy farms (manure pits), and rationing. Within its remit, the CIRDES works on cow genetic improvement and animal health. In addition to technical innovations in support of the dairy industry, the CIRDES also supports the organisation of the dairy value chain through innovation platforms and agroecological Living Landscape around the dairy industry. The CIRDES has been involved in several studies and produced reports on the dairy industry as part of various programmes (PROCDEL coordinated by the CIRDES) and projects (Projet Politiques Laitières, etc.).

The work carried out by the CIRDES in the dairy value chain thus seeks to co-build innovations that are economically, socially and environmentally sustainable throughout the dairy value chain, from production, collection and processing to marketing and consumption.

### **3.4.1.4 Centre de coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD)**

The CIRAD is the French agricultural research and international cooperation organisation for the sustainable development of tropical and Mediterranean regions. Together with its partners, the CIRAD co-builds knowledge and solutions for resilient agriculture in a more sustainable and inclusive world. Its aim is to achieve sustainable development objectives through science, innovation and training. From farmers to public policy-makers, its expertise is on hand for those seeking to promote biodiversity protection, agroecological transitions, sustainable food systems, health (for plants, animals and ecosystems), as well as the sustainable development of rural areas and their resilience in the face of climate change.

Founded in 1984 as an *Établissement public à caractère industriel et commercial* (Epic) following the merger of technical institutes and tropical agricultural research institutes, the CIRAD comes under the joint supervision of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation and the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs. It lends support to France's scientific diplomacy.

In response to the challenges of adapting production systems in southern countries to the changes they are experiencing, the CIRAD and its partners mobilise regulations and natural processes on which the principles of agroecology are based to test and implement new production methods. They provide support for local stakeholders and social movements driving these agroecological transitions in order to influence the socio-economic and institutional conditions and encourage the majority of rural populations to adopt these practices on a larger scale. The CIRAD and its partners have for many years been carrying out a range of research and full-scale trials to document and objectively assess the capacity of agroecology to represent a technically, economically and socially viable alternative to conventional intensification models.

Several research and development projects are being implemented by the CIRAD and its partners in West Africa, most notably in Burkina Faso. These projects address a wide range of agroecological principles through promoting agroecological intensification of agriculture to boost farm resilience (projects: INITIATIVE AGROECOLOGIE, FAIR Sahel, Projet LegAE, ProPulses, 3F2; Africa-Milk; STRADIV, SFB, Fertipartenaires, ABACO, ECO-FERT-CLIM, APEUFO etc.); strengthening agricultural advisory services to support agroecological transitions in family farms in sub-Saharan Africa (ACOTAF project); documenting

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and assessing the socio-economic and environmental viability of agroecological practices (VIABILITY project). The CIRAD's expertise covers production and productivity in a context of agroecological transition, crop preservation, genetic improvement, processing of food and non-food products, sustainable supply, value chain adaptation to climate change, multi-criteria performance assessment (LCA - life cycle assessment), development of markets and standards promoting sustainable production and social responsibility in value chains, and academic and technical training for value chain stakeholders.

The CIRAD's Délégation aux filières tropicales (Tropical Commodity Chain Unit) has 15 priority commodity chains: plantain banana, cocoa, coffee, sugarcane, coconut, cotton, fruit and vegetables, rubber, milk, oil palm, animal production, roots and tubers, forest resources, rice and sorghum.

As regards the dairy value chain, the CIRAD works with local stakeholders (pastoralists, agropastoralists, farmers, commercial farms, collectors and industries) to assess the sustainability of ongoing transformations. As part of various research programmes (Africa-Milk project, INITIATIVE AGROECOLOGIE (in conjunction with Bobo Dioulasso's Dairy Innovation Platform), REGAL, AGRIPSAU, etc.), development programmes, and research and teaching schemes (PPZS, ASAP), the CIRAD and its partners offer innovations designed to make the most of the interactions between livestock farming and its environment, with a view to:

- Promoting agroecological intensification of dairy production systems to supply dairies with more milk while managing resources efficiently;
- Promoting sustainable and inclusive value chains that provide greater scope for local dairy production within collection areas;
- Strengthening the contribution of local dairy value chains to sustainable food systems based on local identities and cultures;
- Supporting policymakers and local stakeholders in developing a new generation of trade and supply management policies.

### 3.4.2 Higher and Technical Education

#### 3.4.2.1 Institut de Développement Rural (IDR)

Established in 1973, the Institut de Développement Rural (IDR) is a teaching and research institute of the Nazi Boni University. The IDR trains rural development engineers across five disciplines: agronomy, livestock farming, environment, water and forestry, agricultural extension and communication, and sociology and rural economics. There are also Masters courses with several specialities, all of which focus on the integrated management of natural resources. The IDR's mission is to train students in these different disciplines. IDR lecturers are heavily involved in agroecology research activities in conjunction with laboratories (SyNAIE, LERF, etc.) which are part of the Nazi Boni University Doctoral School, as well as other national and sub-regional research institutes. The CALAO project, entitled 'Assessing the performance of agroecology in West Africa', is an example of an agroecology project that capitalises on the experience of stakeholders in the development of resilient agroecological techniques in West Africa,

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providing practitioners, policymakers and cooperation institutions with data and references. The CALAO project involves assessing and exploiting the agro-environmental and socio-economic effects and impacts of agroecological practices and systems, based on studies conducted in Senegal, Togo and Burkina Faso. It also documents the obstacles and drivers involved in the development of these practices. The IDR recently introduced a module on agroecology into its curriculum, which could lead to a training course on agroecology.

The IDR coordinated the AMPROLAIT (Amélioration de la production laitière en Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre) project in Burkina Faso. The aim of the project was to improve milk production and competitiveness. Through this project, over FCFA 10 million worth of hygiene kits were donated to dairy value chain stakeholders (farmers, collectors, processors) in order to improve marketed milk quality and promote best practices in the dairy value chain. Hygiene kits were made up of buckets, gloves, collection containers, boots, etc. As part of AMPROLAIT, studies were carried out on the effect of supplementation using locally available resources on cows' milk production performance, with a view to reducing the calving-to-calving interval in Burkina Faso.

### **3.4.2.2 Ecole Nationale de Formation Agricole de Matourkou (ENAF)**

The ENAF (Ecole Nationale de Formation Agricole de Matourkou) is a public institution under the supervision of the Ministries of Agriculture and Finance. The school was set up in 1963, with Israeli cooperation and the support of the FAO. Its mission is to provide both initial and ongoing training for agents and stakeholders in the rural community. In terms of initial training, the ENAF offers three cycles.

One cycle is aimed at agricultural technical staff, who are recruited by the government and sent out for distribution training. They graduate with a certificate of competency in agriculture. The second cycle is aimed at senior agricultural technicians who are recruited at baccalaureate level, and the third at agricultural engineers with a bachelor's degree. Most students are recruited by the government. Additional staff are also recruited by the ENAF. Furthermore, as an EPEE, the ENAF is also required to generate income for self-financing purposes.

The ENAF's mission is threefold: i) to provide initial and ongoing training for agricultural agents; ii) to provide training for rural stakeholders; iii) to develop an incubator centre aimed at reducing youth unemployment.

The ENAF is also involved in plant and animal production. Part of its activities are financed by technical and financial partners. These include the Chamber of Agriculture and the CNABIO, which promotes organic farming. It also collaborates with the Ecole Nationale de l'Elevage et de la Santé Animale (ENSEA) on training issues, and with international organisations such as the UNHCR on refugee resocialisation. The ENAF works closely with the FAO on training and youth development support projects. It also receives support from the Fund for Innovation in Development, which helps promote commercial successes and develop offshore agriculture.

The ENAF works in partnership with the Agriculteurs français et Développement international (AFDI) association to promote rural development.

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Although the ENEFA does not work directly with dairy value chain stakeholders, its initiatives may have an indirect impact on milk production as it focuses on crop production. However, the ENEFA does have its own livestock and poultry feed processing unit as part of its efforts to develop animal production. Current plans are to move towards agroecology by minimising chemical inputs and placing greater emphasis on organic and biological ones. Crop residues produced on the ENEFA site are processed. All these actions are carried out through such initiatives as the Presidential Initiative to combat food insecurity. In 2023, ENEFA planted 120 hectares of crops (cowpea, maize, etc.), the residues of which were turned into compost.

As part of the agroecological transition, a project is currently underway with the Regional Council to promote and develop the entire animal value chain, i.e. producing, processing and feeding livestock in order to produce quality animal products, be it milk or meat.

### 3.4.3 Vocational Training: INADES-Formation Burkina Faso

INADES-Formation was created in 1975. It originated from the Institut Africain pour le Développement Economique et Social (INADES). The structure is represented in 10 countries: Burundi, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ivory Coast, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Togo. Its General Secretariat is based in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. INADES-Formation operates in four areas:

- Food systems based on family farming (agroecology issues are addressed);
- Community microfinance (financial inclusion);
- Resilience to climate change;
- Inclusive governance (decentralisation and citizen engagement).

One of the distinctive features of INADES-Formation is that it works for the social and economic advancement of local people, placing particular emphasis on their voluntary and responsible involvement in the transformation of their own society. In other words, INADES-Formation applies a participatory approach to its activities.

In agroecology, INADES-Formation helps strengthen the capacities of the organisations it supports. It carries out various projects, particularly in the Northern and Mouhoun Loop regions. The overall aim of these projects is to improve stakeholders' capacity-building in terms of good agricultural practices, with particular emphasis on the use of bio-inputs. A programme manager is assigned specifically to this area, overseeing the various projects with the support of field coordinators. For example, several experiments have been carried out, such as making heaped compost and liquid compost (bokashi). Last year also saw the launch of field schools to experiment with various agroecological practices, and specific experiments are carried out with farmers every year. In 2022, for example, tests were carried out on the use of liquid fertiliser to combat striga (witchweed), with encouraging results noted among farmers. Alongside technical and practical issues, INADES-Formation is also involved in lobbying activities, in collaboration with other networks and organisations, with a view to urging decision-makers to adopt agroecological solutions. An awareness and lobbying campaign called 'Campagne conscience alimentTERRE' is currently underway, focusing on reducing chemical pesticide imports and promoting agroecological alternatives.

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This campaign is supported by the INADES network and involves partnerships with other organisations, in particular the CNABIO in Burkina Faso. Furthermore, INADES-Formation is involved in a broader coalition, the Urban Food Systems Coalition (Coalition pour des Systèmes Alimentaires Urbains Durables et Inclusifs), which aims to promote a sustainable food system through lobbying initiatives carried out in partnership with various organisations, including 'Prodigie Divin', a Belgian partner.

### **3.5 Agroecology Initiative: Conseil National de l'Agriculture Biologique au Burkina Faso (CNABio)**

Although many studies have shown the need to promote organic farming in West Africa, its growth remains limited. With this in mind, the Conseil National de l'Agriculture Biologique au Burkina Faso (CNABio) was set up in 2011 to provide an organised framework for proponents of this healthier form of agriculture, one that would enable them to mutually support each other and speak out. Organic farming has now been developing for over 30 years, helping to improve people's lives in Burkina Faso and preserve the land that feeds them. The CNABio provides training and capacity-building support to those involved in organic farming. It lobbies the authorities, raises public awareness and sets up a local certification body. Its strategy is based on : i) compiling a directory of players actively involved in organic production; ii) identifying and disseminating best practices in agroecology/agrobiology; iii) building members' capacities through training, monitoring and exchange visits between organic stakeholders; iv) promoting organic products in Burkina Faso, in particular through the development of a local market for such products; v) setting up a monitoring and certification body for organic products in Burkina Faso; and vi) lobbying the authorities to ensure greater consideration is given to organic production methods in Burkina Faso's agricultural production systems.

The CNABio boasts 101 stakeholder members (latest figures from the June 2023 AGM), 74 institutional members (associations, farmers' organisations, NGOs, companies), 27 physical members (farmers, researchers, contractors, etc.) with considerable expertise in sustainable farming. It has set up the Label BioSPG (Système Participatif de Garantie) (BioSPG Label - Participatory Guarantee System), which is one of the first national organic labels to be introduced in West Africa. This label offers an inexpensive alternative to organic certification systems and is adapted to the local context. It is based on stringent organic farming criteria and standards which involve all stakeholders: farmers, processors, transporters, distributors, support associations and NGOs, and consumers. This system is built on cooperation and trust between stakeholders, but also includes preventive mechanisms to guarantee the biological integrity of products. It also encourages improvements to farming systems.

The SPG system aims to ensure that production complies with the principles of Organic Farming: healthy products, no chemical fertilisers, pesticides or GMOs, soil conservation and sound resource management. The BioSPG certification has been developed to help individual farmers or farmer groups wishing to promote agroecology and organic farming. It is also aimed at those involved in the processing and marketing of agricultural produce who seek to comply with the requirements of Burkina Faso's organic farming standard. Certification entitles the holder to use the BioSPG label for 36 months.

Between 2015 and 2022, BioSPG certification activities have yielded significant results. These include:

- The setting up of 58 BioSPG-certified sites in several regions of Burkina Faso;



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- A total of 1,823 farmers covering an area of 299.47 supported hectares;
- 863 permanent jobs in production on private and community farms. Added to this are jobs in processing and marketing (estimated at around 30), as well as seasonal/temporary jobs.

The BioSPG scheme contributes towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) promoted by the UN and to the success of the agroecological transition advocated by the FAO, ECOWAS and donors. It is also in line with Burkina Faso's National Plan for Economic and Social Development (PNDES) and meets its criteria.

The CNABio has developed such initiatives as the OM4D 'Organic Markets for Development' project. This project was designed to improve the livelihoods of small-scale farmers by connecting them to national and international organic markets, while helping them to adapt to local and global challenges such as climate change, natural resource scarcity and depletion, as well as social inequalities. A campaign promoting the consumption of local, healthy and nutritious products in the city of Ouagadougou, entitled 'Eco-Bio, c'est la Vie', has helped to raise awareness and inform people about agroecology and organic farming in a bid to encourage them to make healthier food choices by prioritising Burkina Faso's 'Eco-Bio' products. Through this 'Eco-Bio, c'est la Vie' campaign, the CNABio has charted the market for organic products across the whole of Burkina Faso. These organic markets feature local dairy products recommended by the CNABio and marketed by a number of dairies belonging to the 'Union nationale des mini-laiteries et producteurs de lait du Burkina Faso', which offer a range of products including pasteurised local milk, sweetened yoghurt, Gapal, fresh semi-skimmed and pasteurised whole milk. In Ouagadougou, for example, the CNABio has listed dairies such as Laiterie La Vache Enchantée and Laiterie de Nagrin. In the Haut-Bassins region (Bobo-Dioulasso), mini-dairies include Super Koumba, Kossam de l'Ouest (Fairfaso équitable), Café Rio, Kossam Di ma, Mini Laiterie Kossam Woroman, Laiterie Djam Nati and Kossam Lobbam.

### 3.6 NGOs

#### 3.6.1 GIZ and the Prosol project

The ProSol project is implemented by GIZ, a German development agency. ProSol is being carried out in seven different countries in Africa and Asia. The ProSol climate project is unique in that, as well as reclaiming degraded land, it also addresses the surrounding land environment. Not only does ProSol reclaim land, but it also looks at the way in which local land management components are linked to this activity of reclaiming degraded land. Another special feature of all GIZ projects is that, although they are part of an overall ProSol framework, each country's ProSol project is independent. From an institutional point of view, ProSol falls under the authority of the Ministry of Agriculture's Department of Agro-Pastoral Development and Innovation. In addition, ProSol is closely linked to the 'Direction Générale du Foncier, de la Formation et de l'Organisation du Monde Rural', the department in charge of organising the rural community and dealing with land issues. ProSol maintains strategic partnerships with the INERA Farako Ba for soil analysis and land reclamation using various techniques, as well as with the ENAFA and the 'Ecole nationale d'élevage et de santé animale' on training issues, with tested modules included in the syllabuses.

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With regard to livestock farming in general, Prosol's actions focus on reclaiming pastoral land to provide farmers with abundant forage for their animals, which will indirectly boost milk production. One of its major links with livestock farming is that it helps to integrate agriculture and livestock farming through the production of various forms of organic manure. Through training courses, Prosol promotes the practice of stalling livestock to optimise manure production. Prosol initially helped farmers in the project areas to grow *Andropogon* in order to slow soil erosion, but today this crop is mown for animal feed. Prosol is also involved in setting up land charters to help rural communities improve the governance of local resources. Prosol also supports women in the production of dual-purpose legumes (food and fodder).

### 3.6.2 Groupe de Recherche et d'Échanges Technologiques (GRET)

The GRET is a French-based international non-governmental organisation involved in solidarity-based development since 1976. It has been active in Burkina Faso since 2003, designing tailored solutions to meet the challenges of malnutrition, food security and sustainable development.

The GRET promotes a professional approach to solidarity and contributes to enriching the field of development with innovative knowledge and solutions. It acknowledges that people play an active role in development and works with them, emphasising human dignity over assistance, capacity-building over replacement, contribution to public policy over the recycling of inappropriate models, and collaboration with the economic sector over sterile opposition. Despite the crisis, the organisation continues to operate in the Sahel region, the Mouhoun Loop, the Hauts-Bassins, the East and the Centre. Its operating area does not currently cover the Centre-South or the South-West.

With respect to agroecology, a number of initiatives are being carried out in collaboration with partners in the field. The GRET is very active in encouraging agroecological practices, and generally takes the 13 principles of agroecology into account when defining its activities. It provides training for stakeholders and supports short supply chains. Apart from promoting practices through projects, it works with other organisations to develop a methodology for assessing the impact of agroecology (<https://gret.org/publication/guide-pour-levaluation-de-lagroecologie>), and market gardening sites have been set up in the Ouahigouya area as part of the 3F project.

Regarding the dairy value chain, the GRET is developing capacity-building projects for livestock farmers, with the emphasis on reducing the use of chemical inputs, although vaccines are permitted. For instance, in Bobo Dioulasso's dairy value chain, this has involved building, since 2018, stakeholder capacity to better supply the city's school canteens in partnership with the local council. As for marketing, the GRET is promoting short supply chains in the peri-urban areas of Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso. In collaboration with IPROLAIT, capacity-building has been organised for processing units as well as dairy farmers' unions in Ouagadougou, and the use of local milk has been promoted over imported milk in school canteens.

### 3.6.3 SNV

The SNV is a Dutch international organisation involved in project management. It operates in three main areas: 1) Agriculture, with a focus on energy and hygienic water; 2) PAPEA, Programme d'Appui à la Promotion de l'Entrepreneuriat Agricole (Support Programme for the Promotion of Agricultural

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Entrepreneurship); 3) A wide range of value chains: maize, groundnut, honey, beef cattle, pork, poultry, market gardening (chillies, tomatoes). The programme is funded through Swiss and Austrian cooperation.

In the dairy value chain, the SNV is involved in training and awareness-raising on the regulations governing the rational use of chemical inputs. As part of the support programme for the promotion of agricultural entrepreneurship, the SNV is working on the business cluster, i.e. the market system (from production to market and vice versa). This system involves people and activities designed to create, lend and deliver a product or a service. In connection with agroecology and renewable energies, a number of training courses have been held with the support of specialist partners in agroecology. These courses have helped to build farmers' capacities and change their attitudes to food production, especially milk. This has enabled dairy farmers to set up quality forage production activities to boost production. The SNV is also involved in cluster support (i.e. beyond production), thus also including the other links in the value chain, i.e. dairy product processing, collection and marketing. The SNV assists them in developing their own collective strategy and action plan based on their vision, and funds activities that fit into their programme and enable stakeholders (mini-farms, collectors, processors and retailers) to become self-sufficient going forward. Within these business clusters, there are support and regulatory structures, such as microfinance institutions, which facilitate the funding of members' activities, and technical services.

### 3.6.4 DIOBASS-Ecologie et société

DIOBASS is the name of a valley of Senegal. DIOBASS is also an action research and training approach. The DIOBASS approach was developed in the 1980s in response to concerns about the imbalance in communication between technicians and farmers, and the lack of frameworks for harnessing farmers' knowledge and know-how. This approach was introduced in Burkina Faso in the 1990s as part of the process of drawing up development programmes for the Koumbri and Gourcy Naam group unions. DIOBASS has many remits, including: 1) working towards a Burkina society in which rural communities, through their well-organised and efficient family farms, can express themselves freely on issues that affect their lives; 2) guiding stakeholders towards social and economic change through Farmer Action Research; 3) guiding stakeholders towards socio-economic, political and cultural self-sufficiency in order to lift them out of a state of dependency and poverty. By developing social, economic, cultural and environmental dynamics in rural areas and through Farmer Action Research, the association aims to bring about social and technical change for the benefit of grassroots populations. DIOBASS operates throughout Burkina Faso, using a process of research, analysis and action to provide sustainable and appropriate solutions (whether endogenous or mixed) to the concerns of rural communities. From 1990 until the 2000s, DIOBASS was a platform that brought together farmers' umbrella organisations and technicians who were interested in the DIOBASS approach. From the 2020s onwards, DIOBASS began to focus on ecology at a national level.

In an effort to spread innovations in rural areas as a means of increasing agro-pastoral production and helping to combat food insecurity, DIOBASS is compiling directories of farmers' innovations in livestock farming and agriculture. Some of these innovations have been endorsed by the Institut National de l'Environnement et des Recherches Agricoles (INERA), while others have benefited from grassroots support after being tested by farmers on their farms, thus proving their effectiveness. DIOBASS is also developing strategies for mobilising local funding sources for farmer action research in collaboration with the Action Research Groups (ARGs) and their Farmers' Organisations in a bid to make farmer research more

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autonomous. DIOBASS' activities are not specific to the dairy sector since it works with farmers' organisations as a whole. Generally speaking, demands relate to poultry and small ruminant diseases, as well as livestock feed. To address these different demands, focus groups suggest and test endogenous solutions in order to co-design sustainable solutions. These include, for example, the use of medicinal plants to produce remedies for identified diseases in order to reduce the impact of the growing use of chemicals in their treatment. In the area of cattle farming, DIOBASS also strives to find solutions to the obstruction of cattle tracks by involving all stakeholders at local level. Natural resource management strategies are also being introduced. With regard to agriculture, the development of biopesticides, the use of farmers' seeds, the production and use of organic fertiliser and Zai techniques are some of the initiatives put forward by focus groups on the basis of analyses carried out with the farmers' organisations involved. DIOBASS therefore approaches agroecology in terms of promoting local knowledge, while factoring in innovations produced through research and development.

### 3.6.5 OXFAM-Belgique au Burkina Faso

OXFAM is an international confederation of 20 organisations operating as a network in over 90 countries and helping to create global action for change towards a prosperous future free from the poverty that is one of the great injustices of our time. OXFAM has been present in Burkina Faso since the 1970s, working alongside farmers' organisations and local civil society partners and allies to promote dignified living conditions for the poor. OXFAM works to bring about real change to improve the socio-economic conditions of the most vulnerable, including women and young people, by: 1) supporting humanitarian action and building the resilience of vulnerable communities; 2) promoting active citizenship and combating inequality; 3) supporting the promotion of livelihoods and value chains. Today, Oxfam's programmes and campaigns are implemented in all thirteen regions of Burkina Faso and its teams are based in Ouagadougou, Kaya and Dori.

OXFAM supports resilience building and humanitarian action for populations through: providing food and nutritional assistance for displaced people, host and/or vulnerable households in areas where food crises are recurrent, strengthening the productive capacities of vulnerable communities, and supporting access to water, hygiene and sanitation for vulnerable people through the creation of latrines.

OXFAM thus supports the production, processing and marketing of agricultural products, particularly in the rice, maize, cowpea and dairy industries, through:

- Value chain development projects, particularly in the milk and rice sectors, and land governance initiatives to help secure land for the most vulnerable groups, particularly women;
- Promoting agricultural entrepreneurship through the provision of funding to farm businesses;
- Promoting agroecology to combat climate change and mapping grain banks.

OXFAM is working to reduce inequalities through active citizenship supported by a strong and committed civil society, spearheaded by women and young people eager to take on decision-making frameworks and spaces so that their concerns may be heard. Accordingly, measures are being taken to support: Active citizenry of young people and women for public policies and governance programmes, governance in the

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extractive industries driving local development, quality education and support for civil society involved in education, and a strong civil society capable of influencing public policies.

In the dairy industry, OXFAM works closely with partners such as the Union des Mini-Laiteries des Producteurs de Lait (UMLPL), focusing its support on activity and product diversification. Every year, OXFAM helps to organise the '72 Hours of Milk' event to promote innovation in the dairy sector. This event also provides a lobbying platform, with key officials being invited to discuss the challenges and opportunities for improvement in the dairy value chain.

OXFAM is working alongside the Union des Mini-Laiteries des Producteurs de Lait du Burkina Faso (UMPLB) to help it diversify its activities and dairy products. Initiatives in this area include the 72 Hours of Milk event, which OXFAM has been supporting every year for nearly 6 years, and which promotes innovation in all aspects of dairy products. This event also provides a lobbying platform, with key officials being invited to discuss the challenges and opportunities for improvement in the dairy value chain. OXFAM supports and guides these dairy industry stakeholders in forage production in compliance with agroecological standards, providing training courses aimed at women dairy processors so as to strengthen their capacity to diversify their products. As a result of these actions, OXFAM found that the range of products made from local milk actually increased with each edition of the '72 Hours of Milk' event.

### 3.6.6 CAES

The CAES is an NGO that was set up in the 1980s by the Swiss representation of the Swiss Foundation. In 2007, it became an association incorporated under Burkina law. It works in the fields of renewable energy, appropriate technologies for agroecology, agro-processing and sanitation. The CAES has two main programmes: the Renewable Energy and Appropriate Technology programme and the Agroecology and Food Safety Environment programme. The organisation adopts an approach based on applied research for development and the use of research results in development projects.

The organisation's agroecology activities began with composting to support the production of organic cotton, and since 2018, technologies such as straw axes, shredders and jigs have been developed to overcome compost production constraints during the implementation of an AGRA-funded project. During this project, composting units were set up to increase compost production. A system comprising a shredder, a jig and a polytank was used to support these production units. A number of experiments have been conducted in rural areas in collaboration with the INERA and NAFASO on the dissemination of technologies that foster the adoption of agroecological practices such as heap composting, bokachi and biochar. The CAES is essentially developing technologies to overcome the difficulties of cutting up residues, building compost heaps and mobilising water when adopting agroecological practices. In the dairy industry, the organisation is developing technologies for processing and preserving milk, such as pasteurisers, coolers, solar reproducers and other small equipment for by-products. These technologies have enabled the organisation to take part in a private sector support programme run by the Ministry of Agriculture.

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### 3.6.7 Secrétariat Permanent des ONG (SPONG)

The NGO Permanent Secretariat (SPONG) is a collective of NGOs and associations that currently has 168 members, both national and international. With such a large membership, SPONG clearly holds a prominent place in the NGO landscape. In terms of governance, a General Assembly is held every year, while elective General Assemblies are held every two years to elect the members of the Board of Directors, made up of SPONG members. The Board of Directors is the structure's governing body, while the coordinating body is responsible for the operational management and representation of SPONG as a collective.

SPONG addresses a wide range of development issues, including the environment, agriculture and food & nutrition security. For efficiency on the ground, SPONG has organised its members into eight theme groups, seven of which focus on operational follow-up. These groups naturally include the theme group on the environment, agriculture and food & nutrition security. As a collective, SPONG's main mission is to monitor public policy in order to exert a positive influence on it.

Each theme group meets not only to implement concrete actions, but also to review sectoral policies related to their particular area. They then seek to offer solutions aimed at making these policies more effective. This modus operandi is replicated in all of SPONG's fields of action, including health, social protection, professional and technical employment, as well as humanitarian aid.

In the field, SPONG projects are generally carried out by its members, often with research back-up. Besides monitoring public policy, SPONG is committed to building the capacity of its members, mobilising resources on their behalf, providing national and international intelligence, and networking to foster collaborations and funding opportunities.

SPONG is actively involved in agroecology issues in a number of institutions and forums at national level. It has made a major contribution to the implementation of the national agroecology strategy. There is currently a consultation framework for agroecology stakeholders, which specifically addresses the issue of adding value to non-timber forest products. With the Green Climate Front, these players address agroecology issues through the production of knowledge. SPONG also campaigns at international level. It takes part in the various identification COPs and climate COPs where agroecology issues are addressed. In addition, with CARI and RESAD (REseaux SAhel Désertification), it holds an international civil society forum every two (2) or three (3) years, depending on resource availability, which brings together civil society organisations from all over the world. In 2019, this forum was co-organised with the CARI association and held in Ouagadougou, covering a range of topics. The 4<sup>th</sup> edition will take place in Algeria, with agroecology taking centre stage. In the field, work is also being done with farmers to develop the honey value chain, one of the non-timber forest products. This agroecological project is based on assisted natural regeneration (ANR). The first phase of the project involves reclaiming land and re-greening agricultural areas using ANR and many other agroecological techniques.

### 3.6.8 ONG ARFA

Founded in August 1995, the Association pour la Recherche et la Formation en Agroécologie (ARFA) aims to contribute to the socio-economic development of Burkina Faso. It was officially recognised as a



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development Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) in April 2002. The ARFA works in many villages in Burkina Faso, and in particular in the east of the country. Farming is widespread in this region, but faces a number of challenges, including poor soil, unpredictable weather conditions and a lack of farming equipment. These difficulties prevent the population from reaching a suitable level of food self-sufficiency. With the involvement of village communities, the ARFA has set itself three main priorities: promoting agroecological practices, improving people's living conditions through an agroecological approach and environmental education, and strengthening rural communities' ability to adapt to climate change. The ARFA thus established an agroecological farm at Natioloani in 1996, helped with soil restoration through anti-erosion projects, and created agroforestry nurseries for reforestation. Thanks to the ARFA's initiatives, the 700 families that implemented agroecological practices recorded yield increases averaging between 40% and 60%.

The ARFA coordinated the 'Projet de Promotion de l'Employabilité, la Cohésion, l'Inclusion Socioéconomique des Jeunes et des Femmes' (PECISJF), which was implemented by a consortium of NGOs: Welthungerhilfe (WHH), the Institut International d'Ingénierie de l'Eau et de l'Environnement (Institut 2iE), and the Réseau de communication sur le pastoralisme (RECOPA). This project provided support to members of local communities, in particular women, young people and livestock farmers, in accessing, developing and sustainably managing agricultural and pastoral infrastructure tailored to their needs, while diversifying their sources of income. In collaboration with the Îles de Paix (IDP) NGO, and with financial support from the Agence Wallonne de l'Air et Climat (AwAC), the ARFA has also launched a project entitled 'Un sol vivant pour une agriculture durable' (in French) or 'Ten-Viiga' (in Mooré). This capacity-building project benefited 250 farming families in 10 villages, focusing on agroforestry and environmentally-friendly farming techniques, improved compost, mechanised Zaï and wet-season market gardening to promote sustainable family farming in Burkina-Faso (Gounghin and Tibga municipalities). Together with its partners, the ARFA is implementing a number of ongoing initiatives to support the agroecological transition. The FEED GOOD Project, which will run for 60 months from January 2022 to December 2026, aims to promote sustainable food systems and a healthy environment. This project is expected to lead farmers and other stakeholders towards a transition to agroecological production methods and sustainable environmental management. The Beog Yinga project aims to improve the living conditions of vulnerable rural households by increasing their resilience and resources in the face of climate change. Its specific objective is to strengthen the capacities of beneficiaries through the efficient management of natural resources and the promotion of techniques and technologies for adapting to climate change. The project entitled 'Promotion des Filières agro-pastorales à valeur ajoutée par l'approche Agroécologique' (ProFilA), funded by the German NGO Pain Pour Le Monde (PPLM), aims to support the improvement and diversification of farmers' incomes through actions in support of the agroecological transition (agricultural productivity through farming practices that are adapted and resilient to climate change; development of local processing activities and improved access to more profitable markets). The project entitled 'Amélioration de l'offre éducative en agroécologie et à la protection/préservation de l'environnement' (Projet Offre Educative phase 2), funded by Action Solidarité Tiers Monde (ASTM), aims to promote access to farmers' seeds, healthy food and a healthy educational environment for the project's beneficiaries. The 'Projet d'appui à la formation et l'insertion socioéconomique des jeunes ruraux vulnérables de la région Est du Burkina Faso' (PROFIL 2 project) is being implemented by a consortium comprising the ARFA, TIN TUA and RECOPA NGOs, with technical support from the Acting For Live (AFL) NGO. It is funded by the Agence Française pour le Développement for a 36-month period from February 2022 to January 2025. The overall aim of the project is to strengthen

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the economic resilience and social integration of young men and women, while promoting social cohesion within communities.

### 3.6.9 SOLIDAGRO

SOLIDAGRO is a Belgian NGO. Its country office, based in Burkina Faso, operates in two countries, Burkina Faso and Mali. It is dedicated to helping farming communities defend their right to food and drinking water through ecologically sustainable agriculture. It supports organisations that defend agroecology and lobbies governments to adopt policies that protect food sovereignty and promote agroecology. As a member of campaign groups such as the CNABIO, the NGO was able to take part in the development of the national strategy. It essentially provides technical and financial support to a number of partners in the field. Its work focuses on transformation and capacity-building with regard to agroecological practices. Several projects are being supported in this area, including market gardening areas, anti-erosion systems and the production of repellent pesticides.

### 3.6.10 AUTRE TERRE

Autre Terre is an NGO operating in several countries, with regional coordination for West Africa based in Burkina Faso and covering Mali, Benin and Senegal. The organisation works with local development organisations, supporting them in fundraising, training and follow-up, with a strong focus on lobbying. It played a significant role in discussions on the national agroecology strategy, which was adopted in 2021.

Autre Terre focuses primarily on plant-based rather than animal-based production. To carry out its activities, it identifies the stakeholders who are already involved in agroecology or who aspire to an agroecological transition. Work with partners is structured around five-year programmes. Once stakeholders have been identified, funding is granted for a five-year period by the main donor, the Belgian Development Cooperation.

The range of activities in which Autre Terre is involved includes composting, nursery production, the manufacture of biopesticides and bio-inputs, and seed multiplication.

## 3.7 Engineering Consultancies

### 3.7.1 AgroDev Consulting and AgroDev Services

AgroDev is an engineering consultancy providing advice and support in agricultural logistics. It was created in 2014 with a view to adapting demand from cooperatives to the realities on the ground. Agrodev initially focused on the cashew nut industry, but later realised that the needs expressed by rural and peri-urban stakeholders were not necessarily the same as those addressed by the various support structures. As a result, Agrodev decided to refocus its structure to better meet the expectations of these stakeholders. The consultancy's remit is to support cooperatives in formalising, training and managing their organisation. It also supports and assists programmes and NGOs in implementing their activities. AgroDev Consulting primarily targets businesses and micro-enterprises, especially in the agricultural and livestock sectors. AgroDev Consulting also provides external services.

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In the field of agroecology, AgroDev Consulting supports agricultural stakeholders in applying best production and natural resource management practices. This is achieved through training, as well as the provision of agricultural inputs and livestock feed (small farm equipment, dadas and hoes, NPK 15 15 15 fertilizers, forage and dual-purpose crop seeds: forage cowpea variety K VX 745-11P, Tiligré cowpea, etc.) as part of the project. As part of the GIZ ProSoil Project, AgroDev Services acted as an operator. This project supported 2,944 people over the 2020 and 2021 agricultural seasons, including 250 men and 2,694 women who benefited not only from improved seeds for soya, cowpea and groundnut crops, but also from technical support and agricultural kits. The beneficiaries are located in the municipalities of Léna and Satiri in the Houet Province, and Koumbia, Béréba and Houndé in the Tuy Province. This production was carried out under variable climatic conditions preventing women from building up healthy seed reserves for future seasons. All this was achieved thanks to the technical support of AgroDev Services, which was responsible for: i) identifying learning groups; ii) distributing seeds and agricultural equipment; iii) providing training in legume and compost production; iv) setting up demonstration fields, monitoring and guided tours; v) producing activity reports.

In the dairy sector, AgroDev has signed an agreement with the PAPEA (Programme d'Appui à la Promotion de l'Entrepreneuriat Agricole), a programme created by the governments of Switzerland and Burkina Faso for a period of twelve years, divided into three phases of four years each. In the Hauts Bassins region, AgroDev Services et Logistiques has been selected as co-facilitator in charge of implementing Lot 5, which focuses on the development of mango and dairy market systems. The main objective is to support stakeholders in these value chains in improving yields and processing methods, diversifying products, structuring the market and boosting production and processing capacity through structural investment.

AgroDev's contribution led to an analysis of the dairy and mango market systems and the creation of 6 functional clusters with collective strategies drawn up and led by facilitators. Three of these clusters focus on milk: Bobo Raw Milk Cluster, Bobo Processed Milk Cluster, Orodara Processed Milk Cluster. AgroDev's contribution also led to business dialogues between cluster members and financing institutions with a view to mobilising financial resources, cascade training in financial education for cluster leaders and members, and cluster companies' attendance at trade events (fairs). In March 2023, AgroDev set up an incubator to select micro-enterprise projects, train project owners in drawing up business plans and guide them towards microfinance providers. As part of this initiative, eight value chains were targeted, including dairy (from production to processing).

### 3.7.2 AGM Consulting

AgriGrowth Management (AGM) Consulting SARL is a company incorporated under Burkina law that specialises in providing development services to agricultural and rural initiatives. Founded in 2013 as a sole proprietorship, AGM became an SARL (Société à Responsabilité Limitée - Limited Company) in 2016, with a capital of FCFA 2,000,000. It is legally registered with the RCCM under N° BF BBD 2016B 1873 and IFU N° 00083709D. Headquartered in Bobo-Dioulasso, it has a permanent representative office in Ouagadougou. Its vision is to “build an agriculture that feeds, employs and contributes to sustainable economic development”. Its mission is to create opportunities and provide the necessary skills to economic players in farming and the rural world in order to support innovative, inclusive and sustainable development projects. AGM is made up of two structures: AGM Trading & Logistics and AGM Consulting.

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AGM has worked in partnership with the PAPEA programme (Programme Agricole pour l'Autonomisation Agricole des Jeunes) on agroecology and value chain development. The project was designed to identify emerging industries and develop value chains around them. Following a thorough analysis, the soya sector was selected and a soya value chain was set up, bringing together a range of stakeholders including farmers, processors and retailers. Through the PAPEA programme, AGM also set up an orange-fleshed sweet potato cluster, which helped popularise this variety. AGM has been pursuing this initiative for over two years. Previously, farmers were only familiar with the white-fleshed sweet potato. So for a long time, this is what the population consumed, and it was difficult to find orange-fleshed sweet potatoes. Now, thanks to this project, farmers know that the orange-fleshed sweet potato has more vitamins and nutrients than the white-fleshed variety. Farmers also now know that potatoes can be made into crisps, potato dèguè and potato couscous, and people are beginning to appreciate these new products, which are starting to be developed.

### 3.7.3 Bureau d'Etude et d'Appui Conseil en Agroécologie (BEACA)

The BEACA is a consultancy, assistance and training organisation incorporated under Burkina law. Its headquarters are in Bobo-Dioulasso. The BEACA is the brainchild of rural development professionals, each with over ten (10) years' experience in rural development and their field of expertise. The BEACA aims to support the various stakeholders to ensure that they take full ownership of the rural development tools that drive economic growth and sustainable development. It has a database of experts, engineers and technicians with a wide range of profiles who can be called upon on an ad hoc basis. This network of experts assists rural players through capacity-building services, specific studies and advice, support in setting up quality assurance systems to meet the demands of the international market on the basis of a participatory diagnosis, and advice on becoming self-sufficient.

The BEACA operates in five areas:

1. Natural resource management (including: organic farming (EU, NOP, BIO SUISSE, JAS, SPG), agroecology (reduction of chemical inputs), integrated soil fertility management, food security, CES/DRS management, climate change);
2. Livestock and animal health. This area of action covers chicken farming management (local, improved, meat and laying breeds), pig farming management, small ruminant and large cattle farming management, and the management of permanent animal health, prevention and prophylaxis systems;
3. Value chains and market access: in this area, the BEACA is working on the analysis of agricultural value chains, but also on fair trade (FLO, FAIR FOR LIFE, SPP);
4. Organisational support and project management. These include organisational diagnostics, project formulation, operational and strategic planning, and monitoring and evaluation;

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5. Consultancy and institutional support, i.e. support in identifying capacity-building needs, support in capacity-building, and support in drawing up a monitoring and skills transfer plan.

### 3.8 Agro-Supply Companies

#### 3.8.1 NAFASO

Neema Agricole du FASO, known as NAFASO, was founded in 2008 and is headquartered in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso.

Its core missions are: 1) production, cleaning, packaging and marketing of improved varieties of agricultural seed; 2) import and export of agro-sylvo-pastoral products; 3) representation and distribution; 4) marketing and distribution of agricultural machinery and equipment; 5) various agricultural services, consultancy, training and supervision; 6) all commercial, financial, industrial, personal property and real estate transactions directly or indirectly related to its mission.

Its main activities are: 1) production of certified agricultural seeds of improved varieties of cereals and legumes; 2) production of basic seeds of improved varieties of cereals and legumes under the supervision of the INERA; 3) marketing and distribution of improved (certified) seeds.

NAFASO partners with several organisations in the region, including the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD), AGRA and West Africa Food Markets. With this latter programme, the company has signed a project agreement to increase the production and marketing of maize, millet and sorghum varieties in order to combat food security problems in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Niger. In particular, NAFASO works with farmers to test new varieties and distribute seeds in village shops.

In 2020, one of the company's objectives involved making its improved seed varieties more accessible to small-scale farmers (the target was for 50% of small-scale farmers in Burkina Faso to be familiar with these seeds by that date). The company produces certified seeds that it believes could improve local crop yields by 40%. Quality assurance procedures are carried out by government-approved laboratories that certify the seeds. Through its network of 200 seed producers in eight regions of Burkina Faso (72 individual producers and 18 farmer cooperatives), the company has increased its production capacity from 100 to 5,000 tonnes per season between 2008 and 2016. NAFASO maintains an extensive distribution network in 11 countries and raises its profile through demonstrations of good farming practice, radio advertising and open days. In its home country, NAFASO has teamed up with AGRODIA (Association des grossistes et détaillants d'intrants agricoles) and AGRIFARE, a major private distributor, to create a large network of retail outlets to improve farmers' access to quality seeds and other inputs.

Consulting, training and supervision are the foundations of NAFASO's development strategy. It works with AGRA and draws on the expertise of extension service managers to organise seed production groups, promote certified seed and offer basic training in financial management to help small-scale farmers ensure the viability of their farms.

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NAFASO works with all types of farmer groups or associations, including dairy farmers. As part of projects or on an individual basis, these farmers purchase forage seeds, especially dual-purpose seeds such as K VX 745-11P cowpea, TILIGRE, etc., Grinkan, Soubatimi, SARIASO 16 sorghum, etc., ESPOIR maize, etc.

### 3.8.2 SOGEA Faso

Founded in 2015, Société GÉnÉrale Alimentaire (SOGEA Faso Sarl) is an oil mill located in the Hauts-Bassins region in Bobo-Dioulasso (Secteur 20 route de Orodara). It owns the "HUILE MAJOR" brand of oil, bottled in 20-litre cans. It also produces a by-product, cottonseed cake, which is sold in 50 kg bags for use as animal feed.

In 2021-2022, SOGEA Faso has processed more than 2,400 tonnes of cottonseed, producing 24,4000 litres of oil and 1,700 tonnes of oilcake.

SOGEA Faso works closely with livestock farmers, in particular dairy farmers from Bobo-Dioulasso's Dairy Innovation Platform (PIL), to help market cottonseed cake. The PIL negotiates reasonable cake prices for its member producers. Cottonseed cakes are solid by-products obtained after extracting the oil from cotton seeds. As a by-product of the oil milling process, they generally represent 50 to 75% of seed mass. Cottonseed cakes are used as animal feed. The nutritional value of SOGEA Faso's cottonseed cake is comparable to that of conventional livestock feed, and is even richer in crude protein (26-40% of DM).

### 3.8.3 SN-Citec

Société Nouvelle Huilerie et Savonnerie Citec, abbreviated SN Citec, a subsidiary of the GEOCOTON Group, is a private company incorporated under Burkina law on 1 November 1995. It is Burkina Faso's leading oilseed manufacturer, producing cooking oil, cottonseed cake and cottonseed-based livestock feed. The processing of cotton seeds, which are grown by millions of farmers, represents added value for Burkina Faso's national economy. It also produces household soap from raw materials imported from the sub-region. SN Citec continues to benefit from the technical expertise of the GEOCOTON Group, in line with its commitment to innovation and development. SN Citec aims to be a benchmark in West Africa for the development of the oilseed value chain and the enhancement of agricultural products. Its reputation extends beyond the borders of Burkina Faso, thanks to the quality of its products which are increasingly in demand from consumers in countries across the sub-region. The SAVOR brand is the very first cooking oil enriched with vitamin A and cholesterol-free, certified to Burkina Faso's quality standards (NBF). SN Citec's co-products (livestock feed, cottonseed cake and soya cake) are rich in protein (26-40%), raw cellulose and feed units, making them an excellent nutritional feed for ruminants and poultry. SN Citec processes over 120,000 tonnes of cottonseed per year to produce over 20,000 tonnes of refined oil/year, 24,000 tonnes of cottonseed cake/year and 48,000 tonnes of livestock feed/year. SN Citec supplies livestock feed and cottonseed cakes to wholesalers and cooperatives. It collaborates with the Animal and Fishery Resources Departments.



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### 3.8.4 BIOPROTECT

BIOPROTEC is a company specialised in the promotion of agroecology. It is dedicated to research and development in the fields of agroecology and organic farming, with a particular focus on crop production. It also provides support to players in the industry by building their capacity. These activities are carried out in partnership with organisations or directly with farmers in the field, under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture's decentralised departments. One approach used is contracting, where a contract with buy-back options is signed with organic farmers, followed by capacity-building and monitoring sessions.

The company also runs an input production unit, where organic fertilisers and bio-pesticides are manufactured, as well as a microbiology laboratory for product analysis. It is also involved in the processing and marketing of agroecological and organic products. A range of organic plant and animal products are sold in the company's Ecobio Panier shops.

It should be stressed that all the company's activities are closely linked to agroecology, with a view to intensifying production while reducing the use of chemical inputs.

Although BIOPROTEC does not work directly in the dairy sector, some of its partners own dairy cows and seek to feed them according to agroecological practices. As part of its work with partners, the company encourages the integration of agriculture and livestock farming. This involves improving animal feed so that cow dung can be more easily recovered for composting in production units.

## 3.9 Financial Service Providers

### 3.9.1 Caisse Populaire de Bobo-Dioulasso

The first Caisse Populaire in Burkina Faso was set up in the south-west of the country in 1972. The Caisse Populaire network operates through an umbrella organisation based at the regional head office in Ouagadougou (managed by central directors), with delegations in the Centre, North and South-West, as well as the Western delegation in Bobo-Dioulasso. The network is also made up of primary and secondary branches. These secondary branches also have sales outlets.

Its source of funding is the general public. The Caisse Populaire has no shareholders. It collects deposits and redistributes them as loans. The Caisse Populaire has a unique portfolio dedicated to crop and livestock farming. This portfolio enables it to support the government's policy of promoting agriculture and livestock farming, which both play a key role in Burkina Faso's economy. In addition, for productive purposes, farm credit is also available for the purchase of equipment such as ploughs, draught oxen, seeds and inputs for the agricultural season. Trade credit helps boost beneficiaries' activity through eligible expenditure such as the purchase of capital equipment like grain mills, mini-dairy processing machinery and equipment, or loans for the purchase of goods to increase stocks. Loans to the agricultural and livestock farming sector are provided at an acceptable interest rate of 12% on a sliding scale, compared with 14% for retailers. As part of the partnership with Bobo Dioulasso's Dairy Innovation Platform, members of the NEEMA cooperative (dairy processors' cooperative) have been granted a range of loans and various forms of support to develop their business. Community credit is available to women's, men's

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or mixed groups for the purchase of agricultural equipment such as tractors for ploughing fields, grain mills or multifunctional platforms for income-generating activities, market gardening etc. A range of loans dedicated to women is also available, such as the Programme Crédit Epargne avec Education (PCEE), which enables very poor women living in rural areas to secure small loans without the need to build up savings first.

### 3.9.2 Microfinance Plus

Microfinance Plus is a micro-credit organisation dedicated to actively combating poverty through a different credit culture focused on savings, investment and production. The aim is to offer a new approach to microfinance and help promote a culture of credit and efficient savings management. This means considering the economic agent as a whole. The rural player is no longer seen as a simple farmer or livestock breeder, but as a rural entrepreneur. This means financing people in rural areas interested in farming, fishing, cattle fattening, off-season crop growing and even small-scale processing of their produce. There are several types of account: 1) sight savings accounts, which operate like cheque accounts (without cheque books) at the bank. Savers can withdraw money from their account as often as they like, 2) term deposit accounts, which bear interest, and 3) deposits as collateral for loans, which must represent 20% of the loan granted. This type of deposit bears interest as do term deposits.

## 3.10 Marketing services

### 3.10.1 Plateforme Nationale du Commerce Equitable du Burkina (PNCEB)

The Plateforme Nationale du Commerce Equitable du Burkina Faso (PNCE-B) is a benchmark umbrella organisation for fair trade-certified producer organisations in Burkina Faso. Founded in 2010, it now has 22 member organisations with over 35,000 people across the country working in the agri-food industry (organic yoghurt, dried mango, natural honey, crafts, cosmetics and textiles). Its missions are as follows: 1) to promote fair trade values and fair trade products in Burkina Faso; 2) to develop fair trade in Burkina Faso by establishing partnerships at national and international level, and to bring together the various players involved in fair trade in Burkina Faso; 3) to foster political recognition of fair trade at national level, and to represent Burkina Faso's cooperatives in West Africa through lobbying activities; 4) to provide its members with training on the principles of certification and standardisation, or cooperative work, as well as courses on the management and governance of cooperatives; and 5) to promote the development of South-South fair trade.

In its 2020-2022 action plan, the PNCE-BF, supported by the EQUITE programme, sought to build the governance and lobbying capacities of its member cooperatives. Platform members attended training sessions on the OHADA Uniform Act, gender mainstreaming, the various certification standards, as well as preparation for AB and fair trade audits. Internal training courses and seminars were also set up within the PNCE-BF to promote agroecology so that member cooperatives could reduce the impact of their activities on the environment and improve their resilience to the effects of climate change. It has also helped strengthen market access for PNCE-BF member cooperatives through the organisation of fair trade promotional days, which provide an opportunity for cooperatives to present their organic and fair trade products to a diverse audience and to organise B-to-B meetings between member POs and potential

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buyers. It also provided an opportunity to create a framework for dialogue between the various players with a view to extending partnerships to potential financial and technical partners.

### 3.10.2 Société Toussiana Karité Cosmétiques et Comestibles (SOTOKACC)

Since its creation in 2004, SOTOKACC has been driven by a team that is highly motivated by the company's project. Primarily made up of women, this team has successfully expanded from a manual workshop to a semi-industrial unit, while retaining the skills and abilities essential to its ancestral know-how. As and when required, SOTOKACC reinforces its HR base with more technical resources in areas such as management, accounting and value chain. SOTOKACC's head office is located in the centre of the Toussiana municipality, some fifty kilometres from Bobo-Dioulasso. The premises include offices, an extraction workshop and storage facilities for raw materials and finished products.

SOTOKACC offers 3 qualities of shea butter from the organic and fair trade value chain:

Organic fair trade 'Premium' raw shea butter is extracted from a selection of the best wild shea kernels: *"Collected in the savannah forests of Burkina Faso, home to African elephants and red monkeys, these kernels are a concentrate of nature"*. For this butter, SOTOKACC has developed an exclusive extraction process that guarantees the preservation of all the active plant ingredients contained in the shea kernels. This butter is particularly neutral from an olfactory and chemical point of view. It is designed to be incorporated into the most demanding shea-based natural cosmetics. Organic fair trade 'Classic' raw shea butter draws on the experience gained with 'Premium' butter. The shea kernels used to produce this butter come from networks of organic fair trade collectors and farmers organised into cooperatives. Under their shea trees, these farmers grow other organic crops such as cotton, sesame and hibiscus under an agroforestry system. Hibiscus is mainly produced on an agroecological pilot farm in Toussiana, where its flowers benefit from the very best treatments throughout the growing, harvesting and pre-marketing stages.

From the outset, SOTOKACC has been committed to a social and environmental approach. With no nationally-recognised certification in Burkina Faso, the company set out to build on this approach in 2007 by moving closer to international standards such as the European regulation on organic farming. Today, all of its products are organic and fair trade certified by ECOCERT. SOTOKACC is also vegan friendly, as none of its activities involve the use of meat products, and it pays close attention to animal abuse issues with its partners.

## 4 Discussion

### 4.1 Which dairy industry players' needs are well met by local agroecological transition initiatives?

In Burkina Faso in general, and in Bobo-Dioulasso in particular, the local dairy value chain is currently being structured, with several trade associations working to promote the value of locally produced milk: 1) the 'Interprofession lait du Burkina Faso' (IPROLAIT/BF), which has been active since 2001, 2) a large number

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of farmers' cooperatives (such as the 'Coopérative des Producteurs de Lait' (COPROLAIT), set up in 2003 by a group of 20 private farmers from the Ouagadougou region); 3) and the UMPL/B ('Union Nationale des Mini laiteries et Producteurs de Lait'), set up in 2007, which now includes some forty mini-dairies and is behind the launch of the FairFaso label designed to promote local dairy products made from local milk. For the past ten years or so, the government and its partners have been supporting the creation of Milk Collection Centres (MCCs) on the outskirts of major cities in order to extend the collection area and ensure a more regular milk supply to processors, both in terms of volume and quality. GANDI et al. (2022) identified 32 MCCs in eight provinces: Ouagadougou (Kadiogo, 4 MCCs), Bobo-Dioulasso (Houet, 8 MCCs), Ouahigouya (Yatenga, 1 MCC), Dori (Seno, 1 MCC), Banfora (Comoé, 7 MCCs), Djibo (Soum, 1 MCC), Fada (Gourma, 8 MCCs) and Kaya (Sanmatenga, 2 MCCs). In these centres, collection activity is steadily increasing, but much assistance and support is still needed if they are to fully play their part and integrate successfully into the milk collection system. In Bobo-Dioulasso, local dairy industry stakeholders (farmers, collectors, processors) established a Dairy Innovation Platform (Plateforme d'Innovation Lait, PIL) in 2020, which brings together all the local players with a view to fostering the integrated and sustainable development of the local dairy value chain.

Today, dairy value chain stakeholders are well aware that local milk production, collection and promotion practices need to be changed and improved if they are to meet demand in a sustainable way. As part of the 'Agroecology Initiative' project, we worked on the assumption that to be sustainable, this change must meet key agroecological requirements, in particular in economic terms (ensuring a decent income for those involved, based on acceptable workloads and fulfilling work, and placing value on local production), in environmental terms (sustainable use of ecosystem resources, co-product recycling, bio-diversification of food resources, reduction in GHG emission intensity, etc.), and in social terms (inclusion of women and young people in the dairy value chain, limiting conflicts and competition for access to animal feed resources, etc.).

A number of organisations (government bodies, local authorities, trade associations, research institutes and universities, vocational training structures, NGOs, engineering consultancies, private agro-supply companies, financial service providers) are working in their own way to support agricultural stakeholders in increasing production and improving food security. These initiatives are not all specific to dairy industry players, and are often aimed at one or more stakeholder categories at a time, with varying levels of involvement.

Agro-pastoralists and other dairy industry stakeholders often benefit from capacity-building or training workshops in various areas. Training packages cover both technical and organisational innovations. Some initiatives help stakeholders gain easier access to resources and inputs such as adapted seeds, organic fertilisers, biopesticides, etc., thereby promoting a more sustainable approach to dairy production. The establishment of MCCs through a government initiative helps dairy farmers gain access to markets and processing plants secure access to raw materials. Ad hoc project-based support is also provided to processors, such as the supply of processing equipment designed to improve dairy product diversification. Some initiatives provide technical support and guidance to dairy industry players, particularly farmers, through advisory support, field visits, demonstrations of agroecological practices, etc. Various dairy industry players are also given support or made aware of the need to create and strengthen networks and collaborations with each other. These networks or platforms involve all stakeholders in the value chain, including agro-pastoralists, processors, distributors, consumers, researchers, civil society organisations,

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etc. These collaborations foster knowledge, resource and experience sharing, thereby strengthening the resilience of the value chain.

### **4.2 Which dairy industry players' needs are not met by local agroecological transition initiatives?**

Dairy industry stakeholders are faced with a number of challenges, including competition from imported milk powder, poor access to finance and modern storage and processing equipment, inadequate quality control, animal health issues, etc. Local agroecology initiatives rarely meet all the needs of those involved in the dairy value chain.

In the opinion of stakeholders, the local dairy industry suffers from a number of problems, some more structural than others. Unfair competition from imported milk (powder, concentrate, etc.) seems to be the main obstacle to its development. In addition to animal health, which is a major challenge for livestock farmers, cow feed is a daily and persistent concern given the rising price of feed inputs and the constant degradation of natural pastures. To help farmers meet their cow feed requirements, the MRAH arranged with SN Citec for farmers to purchase oilcakes directly. However, this solution seems to have run out of steam, as the company makes the sale of its oilcakes conditional on the offtake of oil. Not least among these challenges is access to finance. When dairy farmers approach financial institutions for loans, they are offered one- or two-year terms, whereas a dairy farm requires a continuous investment of at least five years to become profitable.

Another challenge is access to production and processing technologies. Production technologies (balers, forage harvesters, milking machines, etc.) and processing technologies (pasteurisers, packaging machines) are not within everyone's reach. These technologies have the triple disadvantage of being extremely expensive, overtaxed and unavailable on the domestic market.

Land pressure also limits the available space required for milk production. Due to property developers, it is becoming increasingly difficult to run dairy farms in peri-urban areas. Similarly, the tradition of sending the bulk of the herd on transhumance during the dry season and keeping a small, easily-fed herd on site for milk production is no longer viable because of the constraints on animal mobility in the usual transhumance areas, leading to herds being confined to smaller areas where forage is in short supply.

The situation is not entirely rosy either when it comes to human resources in support of the dairy farming industry in particular. Some diseases and genetic disorders require access to specialists. Yet recruitment of veterinary doctors and livestock engineers does not keep pace with demand on the ground. Added to this is the lack of manpower to herd animals out to pasture due to gold panning.

## **5 Conclusion**

In Burkina Faso, various initiatives supporting agroecology are carried out by government bodies, local authorities, trade associations, research institutes and universities, vocational training structures, NGOs, engineering consultancies, private agro-supply companies and financial service providers. These initiatives

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aim to support agricultural stakeholders in increasing production and improving food security. They take into account aspects such as capacity building, technical and financial support, equipment support, etc. However, they are not all specific, or even tailored, to the needs of dairy industry players, as they are often aimed at one or more stakeholder categories at a time, with varying levels of involvement. Despite their diversity, local agroecology initiatives are rarely able to meet all the needs and expectations of those involved in the dairy value chain. To address the needs and expectations of stakeholders, the agroecological Living Landscape approach could provide a gateway that would enable a diverse set of stakeholders (e.g. farmers, collectors, processors, consumers and support and research institutions) who are part of food systems and territorial landscapes to share insights and knowledge, and to jointly develop and adapt various types of agroecological innovations.

## 6 References

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- Sib O., Vall E., Tionyéfé F., Kouakou P., Sanogo S., et E. Sodrè, 2023. Cartographie des acteurs du « Living Landscape Agroécologie » au Burkina Faso (Draft version in French). Document de travail, Initiative Agroécologie, CGIAR, WP1, Working Document, Bobo-Dioulasso, 32 p.



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# 7 Appendices

### Appendix 1. Inventory of stakeholders involved in the agroecological transition

Type of institution	Institution name (acronym)	Contact
Government Body	Direction provinciale des ressources animales et halieutiques (DPRAH)	
Government Body	Direction régionale de l'agriculture, des ressources animales et halieutiques (DRARAH)	
Government Body	Direction régionale des services d'hygiène	
Media and Press	Droit Libre TV - Le WEB TV 100 % Droits humains - Tout voir, tout entendre, tout dire, sans peur !	Tel: (+226) 25 40 76 16; Email: droitlibre.tv@gmail.com
Financial Service Provider	Caisse Populaire Bobo-Dioulasso	
Financial Service Provider	Express Bank	
Financial Service Provider	Microfinance plus	
Marketing	Agri Growth Management (AGM)	Tel: +226 20971525; Fax: +226 70675787; Email: info@agrigrwth-bf.com
Marketing	Plateforme Nationale du Commerce Equitable du Burkina (PNCEB) - CNABio Founding Member	Tel: 70 23 84 86; Email: pnceb.burkinafaso@gmail.com
Marketing	Société Toussiana Karité Cosmétiques et Comestibles (SOTOKACC; Toussiana)	Antoine MARITON; Tel: 71-42-77-44); Email: toussiana.karite@yahoo.fr
Research and Education	Centre de coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD)	
Research and Education	Centre International de Recherche-Développement sur l'Elevage en zone Subhumide (CIRDES)	
Research and Education	Centre Muraz	
Research and Education	Ecole Nationale de Formation Agricole de Matourkou (ENAF)	
Research and Education	Institut de Développement Rural (IDR)	
Research and Education	Institut de l'Environnement et de la Recherche Agricole (INERA)	
Research and Education	Institut de Recherche des Sciences Appliquées et Technologies (IRSAT)	
Research and Education	Nazi Boni University (UNB)	
Trade Association	Chambre régionale de l'agriculture (CRA)	
Trade Association	Association des vendeurs d'herbes fauchées (AVHF)	
Trade Association	COASP-Burkina (Comité Ouest-Africain des Semences Paysannes)	
Trade Association	Fédération des éleveurs du Burkina (FEB)	
Trade Association	Fédération Nationale des Organisations Paysannes (FENOP)	Sanou ISSOUF; Tel 76-60-90-52; Tel: 25-38-26-29; Email: sissoufou1@yahoo.fr
Trade Association	Interprofession Lait (IPROLAIT)	
Trade Association	Plate-Forme d'Actions à la Sécurisation des Ménages Pastoraux (PASMEP) - CNABio Founding Member	Malik SAWADOGO Malick; Tel: 25 35 35 21; Email: pasmep@gmail.com
Trade Association	RECOPA	

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Trade Association	ROPPA (Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et des Producteurs Agricoles de l'Afrique de l'Ouest) - CNABio Founding Member	
Trade Association	Union Nationale des Producteurs de Coton du Burkina Faso (UNPCB) - CNABio Member	Moussa SINI; Tel: 76-59-62-60; Tel: 20-98-31-68; Email: moussasini@yahoo.fr; Armel KAMBOU; Tel: 77 66 61 61; Email: armelkambou@yahoo.fr
NGO	Autre Terre asbl. (Belgian NGO) - CNABio Founding Member	
NGO	BIOPROTECT BF - CNABio Founding Member	Arsène SAVADOGO; Tel: 70-22-48-41; Tel: 40-77-06-70; Email: bioprotect.b@gmail.com
NGO	Broederlijk Delen (BD) (Belgian NGO) - CNABio Founding Member	Arianne IDZENGA; Tel: 25 37 68 75; Tel: 78 16 50 50; Tel: 72 47 00 06; Email: arianneidzenga@gmail.com
NGO	Burkinature - CNABio Founding Member	Camille BULLET; Tel: 25 34 07 62; Email: burkinature@gmail.com
NGO	DIOBASS-BF	Djibrillou KOURA; Tel: 25 36 03 62; Email: djibril_koura@yahoo.fr
NGO	GIZ Prosol	
NGO	Groupe de Recherche et d'Échanges Technologiques (GRET)	Tel: 25 36 10 65; Tel: 25 30 48 73; Email: burkina@gret.org
NGO	HELVETAS (Swiss NGO)	Darius TIOMBIANO; Tel: 70-10-74-40; Tel: 25-36-37-73; Email: darius.tiombiano@helvetas.org; Email: burkinafaso@helvetas.org
NGO	Iles de Paix-Burkina (Belgian NGO) - CNABio Founding Member	
NGO	OXFAM-Belgique au Burkina faso	Omer KABORE (Director of Oxfam Burkina); Tel: 25 36 20 68
NGO	Secrétariat Permanent des ONG (SPONG)	Roukiattou OUEDRAOGO; Tel: 25 47 35 66; Email: spong.ouaga@yahoo.fr
NGO	SNV	
NGO	SOLIDAGRO (Belgian NGO)	Sarah GOYENS; Tel: 68 43 13 88; Email: sarah.goyens@solidagro.be
NGO	SOS Faim-Burkina (Belgian NGO)	
Agroecology Initiative	Association Centre Ecologique Albert Schweitzer du Burkina Faso (CEAS Burkina)	Tel: 25 34 30 08; Email: ceasburkina@fasonet.bf
Agroecology Initiative	Association pour la Recherche et la Formation en Agroécologie (ARFA)	
Agroecology Initiative	CCAÉ (Collectif Citoyen pour l'AgroEcologie)	
Agroecology Initiative	Centre Agro Ecologique et d'Innovation du Houet (CAEI)	
Agroecology Initiative	Conseil National de l'Agriculture Biologique (CNABio)	
Agroecology Initiative	Ferme Agro Ecologique Guiriko (Karankasso-Vigué – Bobo-Dioulasso)	Tavi Yvonne OUATTARA; Tel: 74-63-12-82; Email: taviandrinette@hotmail.com
Vocational Training	Institut Africain pour le Développement Economique et Social (INADES-Formation/BF, Ouagadougou)	Aline ZONGO (Country Manager); Tel: 25 24 28 29; Tel: 25 34 03 41; Email: aline.zongo@inadesfo.net
Agro-Supply Company	Entreprise Kaboré	
Agro-Supply Company	NAFASO	
Agro-Supply Company	SN-CITEC	
Agro-Supply Company	Société Coopérative des Distributeurs d'Intrants Biologiques, Ecologiques et de Matériels Agricoles Adaptés (SCO / DIBEMAA)	
Agro-Supply Company	SOGEA Faso	
Local Authority	Conseil Régional des Hauts Bassins	
Local Authority	Mairie de Bobo-Dioulasso	

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Engineering Consultancy	AgroDev Consulting	Address: BP 2103 Bobo-Dioulasso. Secteur n°5, Rue 5.41 Villa Rokiatou Porte n°653; Tel: +226 20 97 03 70, Tel: +226 64 31 68 37; Email: adsiburkina@gmail.com
Engineering Consultancy	Bureau d'Etude et d'Appui Conseil en Agroécologie (BEACA)	
Engineering Consultancy	Sama Bioconsult	Marc OLIVIER; Tel: 76-60-97-80; Email: oliviersama@yahoo.fr