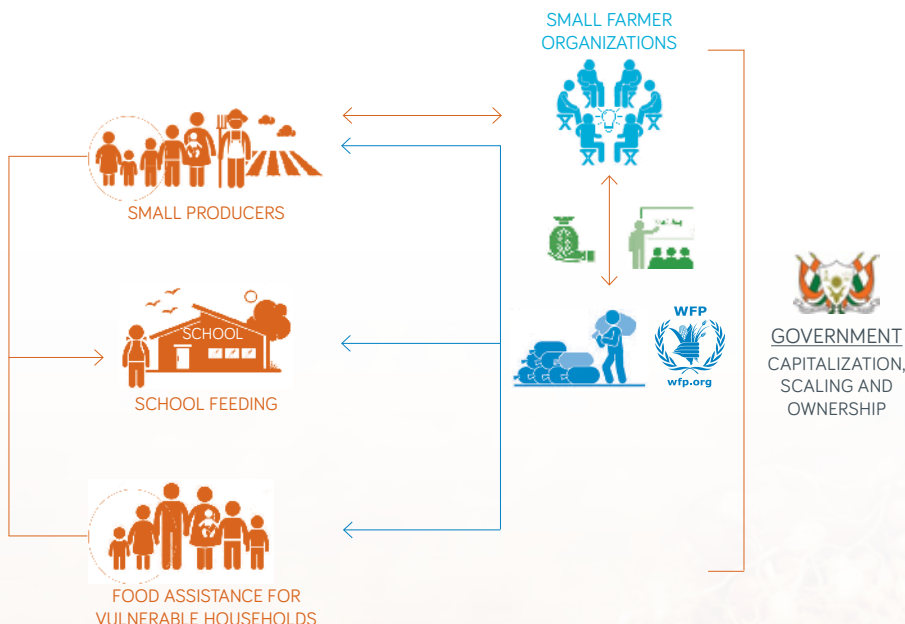


LOCAL PURCHASE IN NIGER



STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE BY INVESTING IN LOCAL VALUE CHAINS

Nearly 80 percent of the Nigerien population works in the rural sector, which is extremely sensitive to climatic shocks. Many smallholder farmers, in particular, live in poverty, while others earn just enough to get by. Even when smallholder farmers manage to have excess production to sell, they struggle to align to quality standards, access markets and access technology or information that could help them improve their livelihoods. As a result, these subsistence farmers, particularly women, struggle to cover their basic food and nutritional needs.



SDG 2: EMPOWERING SMALLHOLDER FARMERS FOR IMPROVED FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

In line with the Sustainable Development Goals, and particularly Goal 2 to end hunger, the World Food Programme (WFP) is working to empower smallholder farmers to become competitive actors in global food systems. WFP local purchase from smallholder farmers connects them to markets, giving them an opportunity to grow their businesses and improve their lives and those of their entire communities.

“Since the start of local procurements, we don’t need to leave the village to sell and we have guarantees that we can sell at a fair price that generates income. This allows us to cover our food and health needs and to invest in the education of our children.”

-Aissa Souley, 48-year-old smallholder farmer, mother of nine, from Barké, Niger



LOCAL PURCHASE IN NIGER



WFP NIGER LOCAL PURCHASE

WFP in Niger recognizes that investing in smallholder farmers has the potential to improve millions of livelihoods, while also strengthening rural economies, building more effective markets and increasing food security and nutrition for those who need it most.

When possible, WFP purchases food for its programmes, especially for school meals and social transfers, directly from local smallholder farmers. When stimulated by stable and sizeable demand for food, smallholder farmers are motivated to increase their productivity, which in turn encourages agricultural investment and improves farmer access to credit. This intervention also helps to link smallholder farmers with local markets, thereby

strengthening local food systems and positively impacting food and nutrition security.

To complement these efforts, WFP is strengthening the capacities of farmers to store, transport and market their goods, negotiate deals and navigate market dynamics. These capacity strengthening efforts are carried out in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), agricultural research institutes and other specialized partners. At the institutional level, WFP works with the Government to build capacity on local purchase by supporting the development of policies, operational strategies and plans that ensure government ownership and leadership.



RESULTS

By mobilizing WFP's purchasing power for small farmers, agricultural recovery programmes have been effectively linked with WFP food and nutritional assistance interventions and smallholders are increasingly connected to institutional markets. Food assistance has become a productive investment in strengthening the resilience of local farmers and agricultural communities. Local purchase has enhanced community participation, as well as economic empowerment, particularly for women, suggesting a tangible and sustainable exit strategy for WFP in countries where food crises are structural.

In 2015, following the development of specific standard operating procedures, WFP increased its local purchase from smallholder farmers to 2,500 metric tons, with the objective of reaching 6,000 metric tons by 2016. WFP has also significantly expanded the network of farmer organizations it works with, from 21 organizations with 7,430 farmers in 2014, to 69 organizations with a total of 21,000 farmers in 2015.

Beyond operational results, a key positive trend has been the progressive transfer of knowledge and capacity to national counterparts. The Government of Niger has technically validated the National Local Purchase Strategy and WFP is supporting the Government to guarantee smallholder access to institutional markets, such as the National Security Stock, among others.



SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

In February 2012, an agreement was signed between Brazil, WFP and FAO to support the implementation of Purchase from Africans for Africa in five African countries. In Niger, Brazil has provided US\$1.1 million, through WFP and FAO, as well as technical expertise to support project implementation.

LOCAL PURCHASES FROM SMALLHOLDER FARMERS

