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## FRANCE

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### FRANCE'S INTERNATIONAL FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY

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France's international development assistance for food security is primarily delivered through:

- the French Agency for Development (AFD) for implementation of bilateral aid;
- the French research centres (CIRAD, INRA and IRD) for research-related activities;
- the Ministries of Agriculture, Finance and Foreign and European Affairs for support to international organizations and multilateral development banks.

The French Food Security Strategy is based on the implementation of the three pillars of the Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition launched in 2008:

- Ensure coherence of policies impacting on food security in the framework of renewed governance based on the reformed Committee on World Food Security (CFS). To this end, France is committed to the reform of the CFS and of the United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition as well as to the reform of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). France is also engaged in the renegotiation of the Food Aid Convention (FAC) to make it a meaningful food assistance tool.
- Ensure a knowledge-based approach, through the mobilization of research and innovation. In this regard, France has played an important role in the setting up of the CFS High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE).
- Strengthen investments in food security through a French financial commitment of € 1.5 billion over 2009-2011.

**France** –The Office du Niger is one of the few places in Mali where economic opportunities lead to poverty reduction and the promotion of fair and sustainable growth. Traditional partners of the Office du Niger (Netherlands, France, Germany, USA, Canada, World Bank, European Union, BOAD, AfDB, WAEMU), have linked their support and interventions to consolidate the institutional changes in the Office. Since 2005, the French Development Agency (AFD) has provided total funding of €25 million with the aim of increasing agricultural production in the area, thanks to the setting up of public water infrastructure. Annual production of paddy reached 600 to 700 000 tonnes, 50% of national production in Mali. Since 1980, the cultivated areas increased by 80% and yield by 200%. [http://www.afd.fr/jahia/Jahia/home/Qui-SommesNous/Filiales-et-reseau/reseau/pid/1\\_105](http://www.afd.fr/jahia/Jahia/home/Qui-SommesNous/Filiales-et-reseau/reseau/pid/1_105)

This policy framework guides the efforts to improve food security through bilateral and multilateral channels. The French bilateral support focuses mainly on 14 priority countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Chad and Togo) with additional support provided to other African countries, as well as Francophone countries in other regions (South East Asia, Haiti). Multilateral financial support is given mainly to the FAO, the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

In this spirit, the French Presidency of the G8 and G20 made food security one of its core priorities, with a specific focus on reducing price volatility, dealing with its consequences, increasing productivity, sustainability and resilience of agriculture and improving international coordination.

To achieve its L'Aquila commitments, France is focusing in particular on three inter-related policy areas:

- Supporting smallholder farmers and the development of food crops;
- Mobilizing research and science for innovation;
- Strengthening public-private partnerships on the basis of responsible agricultural investment.

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## SUPPORT TO FAMILY FARMING AND FOOD CROP DEVELOPMENT:

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To maximize the potential of family farming, the AFD supports the organization of agricultural sectors (support to producers' organizations, information dissemination, training), and provides assistance to ensure a proper framework (land tenure, credit), and to improve production methods (agricultural extension services, fertilizers, irrigation, crop selection, disease control) and access to markets (stock exchange, connection to local and regional markets).

To give a few examples, the AFD is supporting agriculture, rural development and food security programmes such as:

- Irrigated agriculture in Senegal through integrated water management, hydro-agricultural investments, land tenure and economic diversification.
- Hevea-culture in Ghana together with the Agricultural Development Bank, the agro-industry and producers' organization.
- Pastoral water management in Chad to support water equipment as well as water management framework to minimize the risk of conflict between agricultural producers and pastoralist populations.
- Support to the agriculture and food security policy of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), together with the Permanent Inter-States Committee for the Fight against Drought in the Sahel (CILSS) to strengthen information systems, implement and coordinate food security policies, and reinforce cross-border trade.
- Development of cotton production and reduction of price volatility in Burkina Faso through innovative financing instruments protecting cotton producers against excessive price fluctuations.

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## KNOWLEDGE FOR FOOD SECURITY

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To promote agricultural innovation, the French agricultural research system for development is mobilized to reinforce North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, knowledge sharing, capacity building and joint projects to address the main challenges for agriculture, such as developing more resistant and productive crops, climate change adaptation, natural resources management and biodiversity). It is involved in the CGIAR Consortium Research Programmes, particularly on sustainable crop productivity increase for food security (CRP3), integrated agricultural production for dry areas (CRP 1.1) and water scarcity and land degradation (CRP 5).

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## PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR RESPONSIBLE AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT

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In spite of the massive commitment made at L'Aquila to reinvest in agriculture, food security and nutrition, official development assistance is clearly not able to cover all the investment needs (that are estimated at more than US\$ 80 billion per year). Complementary sources of financing therefore need to be mobilized. France contributes to public-private partnerships through initiatives such as the African Agriculture Fund, and is also working together with philanthropic foundations, private companies or local authorities in the framework of decentralized cooperation. Private sector investment must, however, fully respect the principles of responsible agricultural development developed by the World Bank, the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the FAO and IFAD.

The African Agriculture Fund (AAF), Africa's foremost private equity fund focused solely on food production throughout the continent, achieved a first closing at US\$ 151 million. **The French Development Agency** provides US\$ 40 million. Its priority investments will be in food production, distribution and agri-services in sub-Saharan Africa. The fund seeks to buy majority and significant minority interests in potential portfolio companies and will promote an SME fund. A technical assistance facility, amounting to approximately US\$ 14 million will finance studies and capacity building for small firms and outgrower/smallholder schemes.

<http://www.afd.fr/jahia/webdav/site/afd/shared/ELEMENTSCOMMUNS/AFD/Communiqués/Announcement%20Final%20-%20AAF%20First%20close.pdf>