

Welcome to the NUTRiGREEN project

Dear partners, the NUTRiGREEN project is launched! Welcome to the first newsletter about our project, which we will publish twice a year in French and in English for our partners. A lot has happened during the first phase of the project, from 21 June to 21 December. This newsletter is an opportunity to share the current developments and progress of the project and to get to know each other better. Happy reading!

The objectives of the NUTRiGREEN project

NUTRiGREEN is an international project with partners in Burkina Faso, Germany, Senegal and Sweden. The project investigates the value chains of traditional African plants in order to strengthen their impact in the local and regional agri-food system. Together with small farmers, consumers and other value chain actors, we investigate their current status and future potential, from the farm to the people.

Contribution to the UNFSS dialogues 2021

On 5 July 2021, the project contributed to the UNFSS dialogues with an online event entitled "Transformative Sustainable Agri-Food Systems for Sustainable Diets with Traditional Plants", with over 50 participants, in simultaneous English-French translation, which addressed the following questions: How can we create transformative sustainable agri-food systems in Africa with diets that incorporate and promote traditional species? What are the barriers and facilitators to the creation of sustainable and transformative agri-food systems in Africa? European and African experiences: What can we learn from each other? Moderator: Kostas Karantininis, SLU Sweden (NUTRiGREEN Coordinator).

Contributors: (NUTRiGREEN partners): Judith Henze, HU-SLE Germany; Alphonsine Ramde Tiendrebeogo, IRSS, Burkina Faso; Aliou Guisse, UCAD, Senegal; Janvier Kini, IRSS, Burkina Faso. Panelists: Silke Stöber, Senior Researcher, HU-SLE & NUTRiGREEN, Germany; Dávid Bencsik, Deputy State Secretary, Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture, Hungary;



Image: Flyer of the event at the UNFSS dialogues

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François Lompo, former Minister of Agriculture, Director CNRST/INERA, Burkina Faso; Busie Maziya-Dixon, Food and Nutrition Scientist, IITA, Nigeria.

Launch in Burkina and Senegal



Image: Prof. Kini, Prof. Kiendrebeogo, Dr. Ramde-Tiendrebeogo and Dr. Stöber in Ouagadougou (from left to right) © Dr. Judith Henze

On 20. September until 22. September 2021 in Zitenga, the NUTRiGREEN project officially launched and initiated its first field activities in Burkina Faso. The event brought together more than 100 people in total, the African and European partners of the project as well as government representatives and farmers from the region. The farmers selected their common and preferred traditional edible plants.

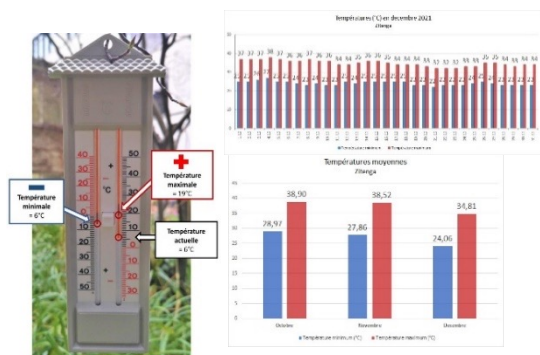
Moringa, baobab and hibiscus were chosen. These are the plants selected as the basis for future research activities of the project. Farmers in the Thiès region of Senegal indicated that they wanted to focus on **hibiscus, mango, citrus, artemisia** and **sicklepod (Seina optusifolia)**.



The project team and small-scale farmers in Fandène, Senegal © Dr. Judith Henze

Agro-meteorological data and the household survey

Since 1.10.2021, agro-meteorological data have been collected by farmers in Burkina Faso. On-site coordination is provided by Olivier Sawadogo. Measurements will also be carried out in Senegal from February 2022. The household questionnaire consists of 63 questions in six sections. Several online and face-to-face trainings on the household survey with KoboToolbox have already taken place, one on 24.09.21 in Ouagadougou and one on 18.12.21 in Dakar. The local coordinators are Prof. Kiendrebeogo and Dr. Oumar Sarr. The surveys take place in February & March 2022.



Minimum-maximum thermometer and first results of agro-meteorological data from Burkina Faso © SLE, Malika Sarr

Get to know our students in the team



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Olivier Sawadogo is an agronomist working as chief technician for the Zitenga agricultural services. He coordinates the collection of agro-meteorological data with village weather observers for the project in Burkina Faso and participates in the interpretation of the graphs from the rainfall and temperature readings. In his diploma thesis, that is supervised by Dr Jean Ouedraogo, CNRST/INERA, and Dr Sanon Abdramane from the Provincial rural development authority, he evaluates the learning effects of the climate field schools.



© Katarzyna Schwartz

Katarzyna Schwartz (fifth from left) is a student of development geography at the Freie Universität Berlin. Her research topics are climate change adaptation and gender justice. She has been involved in the NUTRiGREEN project in Senegal since November 2021. Katarzyna supports the household survey, conducted agro-meteorological training with smallholder farmers and thematic focus group discussions to examine farmers' climate perception and adaptation as well as gender specificities. All results will be analysed in her master thesis.

Climate Field Schools

The climate field schools are planned on the basis of SLE's experience in Indonesia, where they have a long tradition as innovative adult education approach. In these "schools without walls" knowledge is gained about the agroecology, growth and productivity of Baobab, Cassia and Moringa trees through weekly observations in the Nutritious Gardens. The Burkinabe students Robert Doulikom and Olivier Sawadogo will write their thesis in this context. A video learning concept has been developed to guide the farmers in the video and photographic accompaniment of the field schools and to produce a series of short videos on the value chain development of the nutritious leaves of these tree crops.



Women cooperative of Nutritious Garden in Boala, Burkina Faso © SDEEVCC

Dissemination of results

A song was specially composed by a Burkinabe artist for the launch of the project in Zitenga. The event was also followed by various media. A radio report and several articles on the project were produced. The project factsheet, compiled by the SLE team, can be found here: <https://www.sle-berlin.de/index.php/forschung/nutrigreen>

Media coverage of the project

[Sidwaya-The Burkinabe daily news paper](#)

[faso7-Another side of the news](#)

[Commune-actu - News from local authorities in Burkina Faso](#)
[Humboldt17](#)

Get to know our students in the team



© Malika Sarr

Malika Sarr is a student of natural resource management at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin. She specialises in sustainable production methods and land and water management. Malika has been part of the NUTRiGREEN team since September 2021 and supports the project as a student assistant. Within the project, she is responsible for the communication with the Burkinabe and Senegalese students and organises the weather data collected by the farmers. In addition, she is responsible for the processing of agro-meteorological data into climate diagrams and assists in their interpretation.

Coordination and project management

More than six small team meetings were held via Zoom. The Board of Directors, composed of all key participants in the project, has met twice since the beginning of the project: A. Guisse, UCAD, Senegal; A. Ramde-Tiendrebeogo, IRSS, Burkina Faso; J. Henze and S. Stöber, SLE, Germany; K. Karantininis (Project Coordinator) SLU, Sweden.