



GENERATION EQUALITY **IMPACT STORY**



## CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE IMPROVES LIVELIHOODS OF RURAL WOMEN IN MALI

Photo: UN Women/Kalifa Daouda Keita

**FEMINIST ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE** is the focus of one of the six Generation Equality Action Coalitions, the innovative, multi-stakeholder initiative convened by UN Women that is mobilizing governments, civil society, international organizations and the private sector to deliver tangible impact on gender equality and women and girls' human rights by 2026. Ahead of the Generation Equality Forum in Paris (30 June - 2 July 2021), when the Action Coalitions' plans will be officially launched, this special edition of the [Impact Stories series](#) will include six briefs focused on each of the Action Coalitions' themes.

"I have been farming since I was very young," recounts Matta Koné, a 55-year-old mother of seven and farmer from Ségou, a town and urban commune 235 km northeast of Bamako, Mali. "As children, we helped our parents who gave us small containers to draw water. Now, I have children who help me."

Although half of the population engaged in agriculture in Mali is female, certain gender inequalities persist in the sector despite the existence of legal instruments to improve women's access to land and natural resources. For example, only 3.7 per cent of women have control over the space allocated to them as farm managers, compared

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**Photo above:** *Matta Koné, a farmer and member of the Jaba Sene Ton cooperative in Mali, has experienced the difference that programmes like AgriFed can have for women farmers.*



The **Generation Equality Forum** is a milestone global event to advance action and investment for gender equality convened by UN Women and co-chaired by the governments of France and Mexico in partnership with civil society and youth.

The Forum kicked off in [Mexico City from 29 to 31 March 2021](#), and will culminate in [Paris from 30 June to 2 July 2021](#), when heads of State and Government, international organizations, civil society, the private sector and youth organizations will gather to launch the **Global Acceleration Plan for Gender Equality**. Structured around **six Action Coalitions**, the plan will include concrete commitments and intergenerational, multi-stakeholder partnerships to advance gender equality over the next five years.

**PARIS 2021** Register for the Paris Forum at: <https://forumgenerationegalite.fr>

Learn more about the **Action Coalitions** and its leaders at: <https://forum.generationequality.org/>

**#ActForEqual!** for **#GenerationEquality**

to 96.3 per cent of men. In addition, the increasing degradation of land and natural resources caused by climate change is making women more vulnerable.

To combat gender inequalities in agriculture and the negative impact of climate change on women's livelihoods, UN Women is leading the Agriculture, Femmes et Développement Durable (AgriFed) Programme (2017-2022) in Mali, funded by the Government of Luxembourg and implemented by the local non-governmental organization Association Malienne d'Éveil au Développement Durable (AMEDD). The programme has been working with farmers to modernize their techniques, enable their access to information on latest advances in agriculture and increase the value of their products by improving their conservation methods.

Koné, who is also a trainer and member of the Jaba Sene Ton cooperative, one of the 49 groups of beneficiaries that are part of AgriFed, has experienced the difference that new information and support can have for women farmers. "We were working without any control over costs or techniques. We were selling our products, but we were not doing well. Now, we measure everything we produce," said Koné, who is now able to pay for employees, fertilizers and other materials while making an income and using part of the earnings for the next production.

With the Jaba Sene Ton cooperative, Koné and 320 other members have two stores for their produce—a market shop and a storage shop—in a collective warehouse that they built in 2020. The programme also supported members of the cooperative with seeds, bio-fertilizers and a motorbike taxi to help them transport their produce.

Aside from learning new farming techniques, Koné has also mastered her market-selling skills, noting, "Before, we went to just one market and brought back large quantities of unsold produce every day. Now, we have wholesale customers, semi-wholesalers and retailers. We know exactly

## PARTNERS FOR CHANGE

The **UN Women** programme **AgriFed** (2017-2022) is implemented in Ségou, Mali by the **Association Malienne d'Éveil au Développement Durable** with the generous support of the **Government of Luxembourg**. The programme works with farmers to modernize their techniques, enable their access to information on latest advances in agriculture and increase the value of their products by improving their conservation methods.

From 2017-2020 AgriFed has:

- Strengthened the capacities of some **13,000** direct beneficiaries on sustainable agricultural practices.
- Facilitated 332 hectares for 118 groups of women farmers totaling over **10,500** direct beneficiaries.
- Trained **6,000** women in modern processing techniques.

how to produce and sell our products." In 2020, she produced more than 1,000 kg of potatoes and more than 500 kg of onions, selling both at around 300 CFA francs per kilo.

"Mali's national policy on climate change aims to improve agricultural productivity through access to climate information, improved technologies, and capacity-building through awareness-raising and training," explained Beatrice Eyong, UN Women Representative in Mali. "However, few women benefit from these services due to their low level of education or high domestic workloads. Giving women farmers the support they need and ensuring there is equal opportunities in sustainable agriculture is key to lifting women out of poverty while addressing climate change."

As **Action Coalitions leaders**, Costa Rica, Maldives, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Global Greengrants Fund, ALGA, Diverse Voices and Action for Equality (DIVA), the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance, Women's Environment and Development Organization, Girls for Climate, Green Hope Foundation, Tejiendo Pensamiento, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) will **commit to ensure that a transition to an inclusive and regenerative green economy is initiated.**