

Project update

Project title (Acronym):	Agroforestry reinvented: agroecological, nutrition-sensitive intensification of vegetable production under fruit trees in Western and Eastern Africa (AfriNutriForest)
Geographical focus:	Kenya and Senegal
Call reference:	2822NIPS02
Cooperating partners:	Senegal: Institut Senegalais de Recherche Agricole (ISRA) together with Université Gaston Berger (UGB), APAF, Eclasio Kenya: Pwani University (PU), PlantVillage
Duration:	01.04.2024 - 31.03.2027
Budget:	1.014.481,14 €

Maps of the study regions in Kenya and Senegal

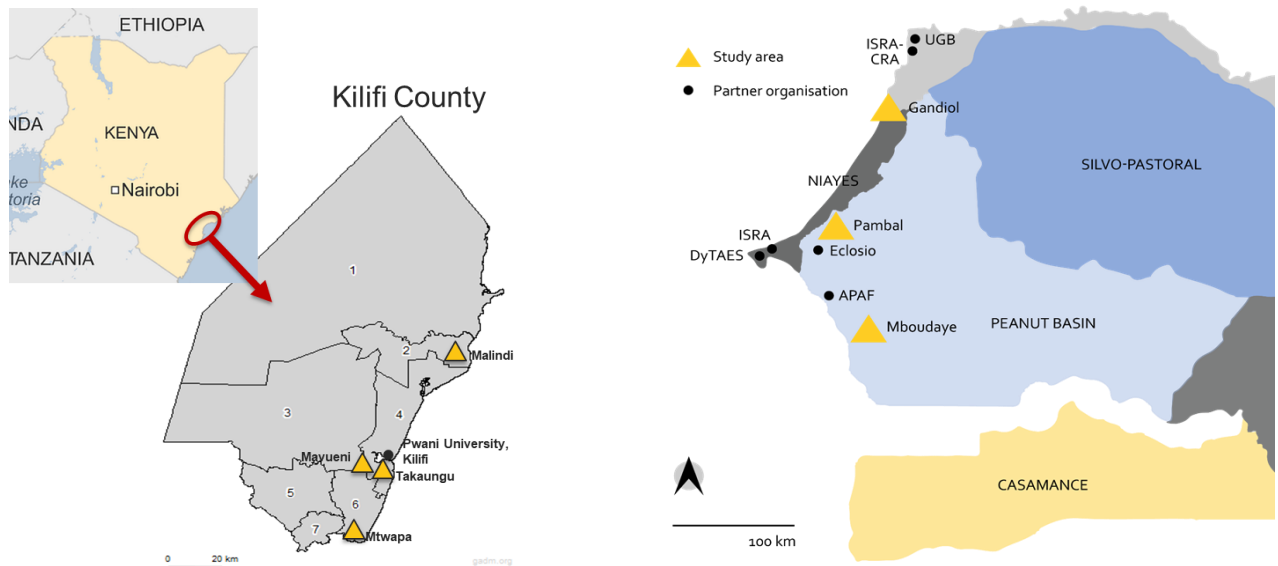


Figure 1: Maps of the study regions, showing the locations of the four FFS group sites and Pwani University in Kilifi County, Kenya (left) and the locations of the three FFS group sites as well as the partner organisations ISRA, UGB, Eclasio and APAF in north-western Senegal (right).

Aim of the project:

The AfriNutriForest project aims to develop, test and promote innovative sustainable agroforestry systems (arbo-market gardens) using participatory and transdisciplinary approaches in Senegal and Kenya (Fig. 1). These arbo-market gardens will produce healthy and nutritious fruits and (bitte hier die Logos der kooperierenden Partner einfügen)



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vegetables in an agroecological and socially acceptable way to diversify the diets of local populations, transform horticulture into a resilient food system and improve the livelihoods of local communities. Agroecological intensification in arbo-market gardens in a “reinvented way” particularly seeks solutions that are low-cost and offer labour-saving technologies. It also promotes farm management and rural agro-entrepreneurship models that are attractive to rural youth.

Results:

WP1:

- 5 SLE and 3 Senegalese postgraduates trained, baseline survey in Senegal finished.
- Hotspot analysis of sustainability problems along 3 value chains (mango, onion, tomato) (Fig. 2) and stakeholder workshop performed in Senegal.

WP2:

- 2 MSc and 2 PhD students selected, research projects developed and defended at their universities in Kenya and Senegal.
- Plots for field trials of the students identified (Fig. 3) and needed materials and inputs procured in Kenya and Senegal.

WP3:

- 3 Farmer groups identified in Senegal and 4 in Kenya for the formation of Farmer Field Schools with a total of 162 participants, of which 137 are women (85%).
- 20 facilitators (50% women) trained as Farmer Field School facilitators according to FAO Standards.
- Need assessments were done for all 7 groups and first training sessions provided on compost making (Fig. 4) and vegetable nursery establishment.
- Field trials have been initiated at all 7 sites and needed materials and inputs purchased.

WP4:

- First project newsletter developed and distributed among participants of the stakeholder workshop at the annual project meeting in Kilifi, Kenya.

WP5:

- Agreements with all partners developed and signed, fund transfers done.
- 6 monthly online team meetings and 1 in-person annual project meeting in Kilifi, Kenya performed.
- Project steering committee of 6 people identified.
- Drafts of communication strategy and grievance redress mechanism developed.

Key statements and policy advice:

As the project just started in April 2024 and some important activities were delayed due to time-demanding processes of finalizing the agreements, no key statements and policy advices are available yet.



Figure 2: WP1 activity: focus group discussion for the mango hotspot analysis with the Kayanda FFS group in Takaungu, Kenya. (Photo by K. Kehlenbeck)



Figure 3: WP2 activity: selection of fruit trees (here a mango trees) suitable for field trials of the PhD student on farmers' fields in Kilifi area, Kenya. (Photo by K. Kehlenbeck)



Figure 4: WP3 activity: Members of the Saidia Young Mothers FFS group in Mavueni, Kenya, together with their facilitator from the NGO Plant Village (in the blue shirt) show their new compost shed provided by the project and explain the process of compost making, on which they received training. (Photo by K. Kehlenbeck)