



# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

FARMSAHEL







## **MISSION STATEMENT**

FarmSahel unlocks the potential of women to achieve economic freedom through agribusiness.

### **What We Do**

We build the capacity and confidence of rural women to farm smarter and at scale, breaking the cycle of poverty and transforming the lives of their families and communities.

### **How We Do It**

FarmSahel provides access to the initial inputs needed to transition from subsistence farming to agribusiness. Through the provisions of seeds, fertilizers, and repurposed ag-equipment, as well as training on best agricultural practices and cooperative organizing, women farmers can increase their yields and ensure improved earnings in the marketplace.

## **OUR VISION**

To foster sustainable development, achieve economic prosperity, and end hunger and poverty in Africa.



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**Dear supporters,**

We have come a long way since we launched in May 2019 because we have spent the first six months of the year working with the Government of Burkina Faso to establish a partnership that will allow us to work toward our mission. Throughout that journey we met with smallholder women farmers to find out more about their struggles and the best way to assist them.

FarmSahel is focusing on women farmers because most rural women in Burkina Faso are responsible for providing food for the family and spend more and more time looking for water or wood, which leaves them with very little time to dedicate to their farms, and when they do, they don't use fancy farm equipment nor advanced technology.

2019 was FarmSahel's first year of operation, and we are grateful for what we were able to accomplish in a short period of time. We trained 50 farmers this year and expect to expand to 100 farmers in 2020.

Lastly, 2019 was a year of building our case that smallholder farmers need training to guide them from sowing to rippling and selling their harvest. Yes, FarmSahel is engaged to helping farmers all the way to finding markets for their products. We are still reaching out and building partnerships with other non-government organizations, foundations, farmers associations and research institutions. Together with these partners we will help African farmers farm smart to feed the continent and sell leftovers.

*Madjalie Seynou*

**Madjalie Seynou**

**Executive Director and Founder**



# THE GLOBAL CHALLENGE

Smallholder farmers in the world produce up to 80% of the food consumed in Africa and Asia. As a group, they are among the poorest and most marginalized in the world. They are also stewards of increasingly scarce natural resources and on the front line of dealing with the impacts of climate change.

Africa's smallholder farmers face many challenges preventing them from scaling up their participation in markets, including lack of access to quality inputs and equipment, inadequate support from research services, and high transaction costs caused by poor rural infrastructure.

Burkina Faso farmers are not any exception to these struggles. Burkina Faso experiences low and variable rainfalls, land degradation, deforestation and desertification. Despite the harsh climate, Burkina Faso's agriculture sector continues to generate roughly a third of the country's GDP and employs 80 percent of the population.

Agriculture production is generally characterized by low crop and livestock productivity and mainly supports subsistence livelihoods.

FarmSahel Burkina Faso Agriculture and Food Security Goals:

- Increase agricultural production and productivity
- Improve farmers' income and marketing capacities
- Engage women and rural youth in farming for business
- Create jobs for young adults across the rural value chain





# EMPOWERING WOMEN

In Burkina Faso women divide their time between agricultural and domestic tasks, spending as much as 16 hours a day in such work, including food processing and preparation. Their limited access to water and fuel increases their work burden.

Social and economic decisions in the family and the community are usually made by men and the elderly. FarmSahel wants to join the growing number of women's groups and other non-governmental organizations to promote the interests of women.

We are focusing our work in areas such as protection of the environment, agricultural training, literacy and information. We are providing women with training to help them farm smart and big.

We are working on finding sponsors in the US for farmers in Burkina Faso. These farmers will provide ongoing monthly donations to help them focus on their farm work and not worry about finding food for the family.





## SCALING UP OUR RURAL ECOSYSTEM

Much of the world's poor are highly dependent on ecosystems in which they live. These ecosystems, in many cases, are highly degraded which limits the resources and processes people depend upon.



By providing farmers with the technology to farm smart, FarmSahel helps increase productivity translating to food security for their families and climate resilience. This also creates a ripple effect that advances both the commercial and agricultural sectors.



By employing rural youth to serve as field agents and assist farmers with best practices and trainings, FarmSahel is creating jobs.

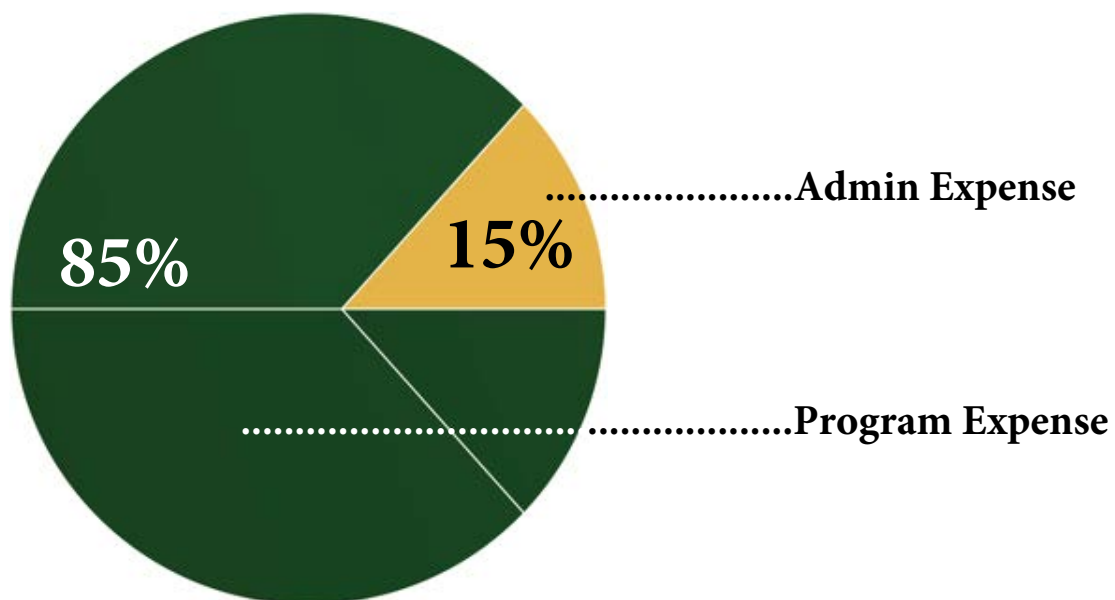


# 2019 AT A GLANCE

Established a partnership with the government of Burkina Faso and the municipality of Binde .

Met with farmers to talk about their struggles and find a way to help them farm smart and increase their productivity.

Trained 50 women farmers. Received a 10 hectares of land from traditional leaders.





# 2020 LOOKING FORWARD

Expanding access to seeds, fertilizers and equipment to increase productivity for 100 farmers.

Take a major step to address climate change through reforestation and women education.

**Diversify our Board**





# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

