NIAMEY

LOCAL SEEDS FOR A HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE DIET



Niamey's urban producers faced high and fluctuating costs and availability of seeds, limited access to quality inputs, technical production constraints and difficulties maintaining regular local vegetable supply. The pilot therefore sought to strengthen producers' access to quality local seeds and plants while promoting agroecological practices adapted to local conditions.

The intervention established a municipal agroecological nursery equipped with two production greenhouses, storage facilities, a work shelter, compost pits, agricultural equipment, irrigation and transport. The nursery was conceived not simply as a production facility, but as a space for production, experimentation and training. Thirty-two producers representing five cooperatives across Niamey's five districts received training in seed and plant production, composting and biological pest control. They subsequently transferred the knowledge and practices acquired to other producers within their cooperatives, extending the reach of the training beyond the initial group of participants. The final survey found that producers were applying practices such as seed selection and conservation, compost production and biopesticide use.

A management committee composed of trained producers has been established to progressively coordinate production, distribution and maintenance. The nursery is also seen as a preliminary step towards future seed houses. Scaling should focus on consolidating local governance, adapting technical solutions to different seasons, developing relay points across districts and integrating small local seed producers and professional organisations.



KEY TAKEAWAY
Niamey shows that strengthening urban food production begins not only with infrastructure, but with locally managed seed systems, practical skills and the gradual building of producer autonomy.





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