

## Objectives of the project

"Health & Territories" aims at designing, testing and evaluating an innovative participatory and inclusive approach to accompany the agroecological transition by improving the health of human, agricultural production systems and the environment conjointly, and then positively and sustainably impact the livelihood of populations in given territories.



*Lake Guiers, Senegal © JDC 2019*

## Background

Zoonosis (animal diseases that can be transmitted to humans), antibiotic resistance and environmental pollution are all causing serious public health problems. Many of these problems are linked to the intensive agricultural production systems and degradations of territories. Can the agroecological transition of territories contribute to mitigate health problems? This is the central question of the Health & Territories project.

The integrated approaches to health, such as One Health, EcoHealth and Planetary Health, address health problems holistically, by considering the interactions between animals, humans and the environment. Improving the health of territories within a One Health framework that integrates the challenges of the agroecological transition contributes to strategies for mitigating climate change (in line with the NDCs of the various countries concerned) and to the increasing the resilience of systems.

The One Health approach is transdisciplinary, including different disciplines and sectors from human, animal and environmental health, and the participation of policy makers and the civil society. Transdisciplinarity is also a characteristic of interventions to support the agroecological transition, when for instance farmers, breeders, agronomists and ecologists encounter to co-design sustainable solutions for agricultural production systems. Therefore, using an integrated approach to health to accompany the agroecological transition strongly relies on participatory tools and methods to foster the dialogue between all the relevant actors, including the scientists.

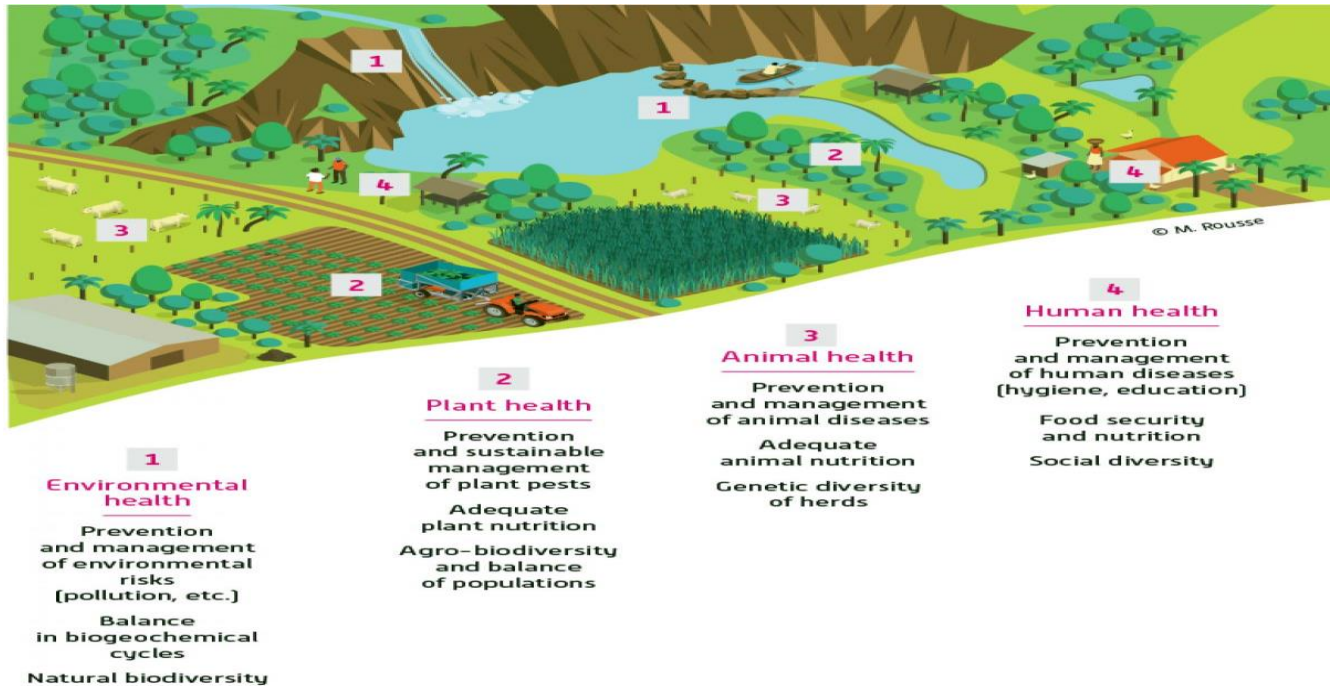
The project revolutionizes the integrated approaches to health by integrating the challenges of the agroecological transition in Senegal, Benin, Laos and Cambodia. The results we aim to achieve impacts the social and ecological dimensions of the territories (within the framework of a socio-ecological approach to health).

## The theory of change to achieve the objectives:

The "Health & Territories" project adopts a participatory, iterative and evolutionary approach of co-identification of problems and co-design of solutions. This approach is implemented within living labs, conceived as experimental set-ups for designing and testing new agroecological practices, new tools, knowledge, norms and discourses, and the institutional arrangements that accompany them. The living labs are geographically and institutionally delineated, and thematically bounded by a problematic identified by the local community participating to the living labs with project partners. There may be one or more living labs for a given territory.

In all its fields of intervention, the members of the "Health and Territories" project first of all co-define with the affected communities what the health of their territory is by considering four dimensions: human health, animal health, plant health and environmental health (see figure). These definitions, specific to each territory, serve as a framework for defining local collective actions aimed at improving health in all its dimensions. Systems components and interactions are mapped and collaborative scenarios of change produced to support the co-design of experiments based on agroecological principles.

In order to ensure the ownership and sustainability of new agroecological practices, these later have to be defined, tested and validated by the beneficiaries. The project will develop new and implement existing tools for local consultation, coordination and co-design of innovations. It is based on participatory methods such as territorial foresight (anticipation), companion modelling (ComMod) and monitoring/evaluation of the impact (IMPRESS). Tools for the analysis of production systems, socio-economic dynamics, public policies and institutions are also used.



### *The four dimensions of the health of a territory*

#### Main activities

The project is implemented in 8 steps:

1. Preparatory phase: Development of a generic conceptual and methodological framework for analysing the health of the territory and understanding the impact of agricultural practices and for setting up a support and co-design dynamic. Establishment of an information system for knowledge management useful for the project and shared by the actors .
2. Diagnosis of the health of the territory: characterization of production systems and value chains, characterization of the health of the territory, characterization of the impacts of practices on the health of the territory. Assessment of existing databases and information systems.
3. Territorial foresight: collective identification of living labs (intervention zones) based on collaborative scenarios and diagnosis.
4. Setting up of the living labs: participatory definition within the frameworks of dialogue related to the first experiments to be set up.
5. First experimentation phase: implementation of changes in practices and monitoring of impact indicators in each living lab.
6. Assessment and arbitration: Assessment and adjustment of activities within the living labs for the next experimentation phase.
7. Dissemination and scaling up: knowledge sharing between living labs of a given site and within the cluster of projects. Building a community of practice.
8. Next loops of experimentation: Based on steps 6 and 7 of the previous experimentation phase, engage in a new experimentation phase (repeating steps 5, 6 and 7).

The duration of an experimentation phase is one year.

## Organization

For this realization, the project is structured in 3 components:

- ✓ Component 1, "implementation within living labs" and broken down into two sub-components, "living labs" and "territorial organization and frameworks for consultation".
- ✓ Component 2, "knowledge management".
- ✓ Component 3, "cluster of projects", includes 2 sub-components, "community of practice" and "project management".

The project will be implemented by ten co-applicants in Senegal and Benin and will mobilize the results of a Platform in Partnership for Management of Emerging Risks in Southeast Asia (DP GREASE) for the Southeast Asia zone.

The governance of the project is based on a coordination team, a scientific committee, a steering committee, coordination units per country and committees representing the living labs. The scientific and steering committees meet on an annual basis. The country coordination teams meet with the representative of the committees of the living labs at least once a year. The members of the representative committees of the living labs are defined locally during the implementation phase. They are composed of consortium members present in the field and representatives of local stakeholders.

## Implementing organization

Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD), France

## Main partners

- ✓ Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD), France ;
- ✓ Stockholm Résilience Center (SRC), Suède ;
- ✓ Institut Sénégalais de Recherche Agricole (ISRA), Sénégal ;
- ✓ Société d'Aménagement et d'Exploitation du Delta (SAED), Sénégal ;
- ✓ Université Gaston Berger (UGB), Sénégal ;
- ✓ Institut de Recherche Coton (IRC), Bénin ;
- ✓ Université Abomey Calavi, Bénin (UAC) ;
- ✓ Université de Parakou, Bénin ;
- ✓ Institut National de Recherche Agronomique du Bénin (INRAB) ;
- ✓ Université Nationale d'Agriculture, Porto Novo, Bénin.

## Other main stakeholders

For each of the 4 countries, there are 6 categories of actors:

- ✓ Producers: Market gardeners, cereal farmers, cotton producers, fishermen, producers' organizations, foresters, transhumant herders, agro pastoralists, inter-professional associations, ...
- ✓ Private sector: Doctors and veterinarians, agribusiness, agricultural input suppliers, agricultural financial services, pharmacists...
- ✓ Policy makers: National policy actors (ministries of agriculture and health, local governments, municipalities, communes)
- ✓ Civil society: Local populations concerned, NGOs, associations, community groups (women, youth), local radio stations.
- ✓ Operators: Direction of breeding, agricultural advisory services, professional training centers, regional agency of development, services of control and sanitary surveillance, national companies of agri-cultural exploitation and/or land, health centers.

- ✓ Researchers and Trainers: The laboratories, universities and research institutes involved in the project will benefit from the training offers, internships and doctoral theses carried out in the framework of the project.

## Region

Lac de Guiers – Sénégal, Cotton zones – Bénin, Champasak – Laos, Battambang – Cambodia.

## Funding and co-funding

EU	€ 4,000,000
AFD - Agence Française de Développement	€ 2,000,000
Total budget	€ 6,000,000

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## Duration

5 Years; May 2021 – May 2026

