

WORKSHOP ON AGROECOLOGY



Agrecol-Afrique and Agrecol e.V.



Documentation by Constanza Boeglin Claramunt

Senegal, November 2018

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRESENTATIONS 1

Monday November 5th 2

Tuesday November 6th 7

FIELD VISITS 12

Wednesday November 7th 12

Thursday November 8th 15

Friday November 9th 17

MORE PHOTOS 21

ANNEXES..... 22



PRESENTATIONS

PARTICIPANTS:

Djibril Thiam, Samba Mbaye, Assane Gueye, Felix Herzog, Firesenai Sereke, Lorenz Bachmann, Ursula Gröhn-Wittern, Ann Waters-Bayer, Wolfgang Bayer, Jörg John, Marlis Kees, Mamadou Dieng Ndour, Siméon Diedhiow, Cheick Tidiane Ndour, Matthias Görgen, Almut Hahn, Papa Maissa Fall, Elhadj Faye, Alihou Ndiaye, Constanza Boeglin Claramunt (see *Annex 1 – List of participants*)

MONDAY NOVEMBER 5TH

The opening of the workshop started with Djibril's welcoming speech followed by a speech by Monsieur Samba Mbaye (Président du Conseil Administrative (PCA) d'Agrecol-Afrique).

All the participants of the workshop had the chance to present themselves and their interest in or work with agroecology.

The idea to have this workshop started in 2004, when Agrecol-Afrique (AA) invited Agrecol Association (AeV) to hold one of its members' meetings in Senegal. The aims behind this meeting are to exchange ideas and experiences, learn about the origins of Agrecol-Afrique (how AA was born), to exchange experiences, to strengthen contacts between the two NGOs and to identify possible future links between them. The central focus of this meeting was on agroecology: what does it mean, what are its foundations, what is its definition and framework, how has it been implemented and what is there still to be done?

The continuous linkage in the past years between AA and AeV has been through the interns from German-language universities who travelled to Senegal for several months to work with AA and then reported their experience to AeV after their return to Germany.

The agenda of the workshop is presented in *Annex 2*.

Brief history of Agrecol-Afrique's origins

Almut gave a brief history of the origins of AA and of AeV. Her first visit to Senegal was in 1980, in the framework of an exchange programme in which her daughter was participating. It was a very dry period; the cows were dying on a daily basis. By August, there had been no rain. Almut told herself: I should have studied agriculture.

That uneasy feeling from what she had seen in Senegal stayed with her after her return to Germany. This thematic "haunted" her. She then met Matthias Zimmermann, a member of Agrecol e.V. living in Switzerland, and "contaminated" him with her concerns. She learned a lot from him in the field of environment and ecology. Agrecol e.V. set up a small office in his Ecology Centre in Langenbruck, Switzerland, and they started collecting books and other information on environmental issues and especially on agroecology.

Letters from expatriates (Germans working in the tropics) started to reach them. People interested on ecological issues in agriculture were looking for relevant information.

Someone from Senegal who was visiting Switzerland at this time and came to the Agrecol information and networking centre in Langenbruck commented that there was much more to understand and learn in addition to what they knew thus far about agroecology. There was thus a growing group of people interested in broadening their knowledge, looking for ways to obtain such information.

After working for 10 years in the information and networking centre in Switzerland, Almut took a sabbatical year and travelled to Senegal to see what was going on there. She loved it. She met some people who were also interested in gathering information and making it available locally. They started to work on a plan for this. One of the people she met was Papa Maissa Fall, and she started collaborating with him in the same kind of work they were doing in Switzerland: gathering documentation on agriculture, agroecology, ecology, environmental issues etc. She left Senegal again with the plan to come back.

In 1996, Almut came back with money and a project to start: they were only two people at first, but then others came and joined the team... This is when AA "officially" began.

After retiring, she decided to stay longer in Senegal (her kids were grown up by then). She found a 3-ha farm where she has been working ever since.

Brief history of Agrecol Association (e.V.)

After World War 2, a German named Arvid Gutschow travelled to India and was aghast to see what Germany had brought to agriculture in that country: synthetic fertilizers and other chemicals.

He looked for people in Germany and Switzerland wanting to work on ecological issues and development. Almut and he wrote to them and sought to gather around 60 people to discuss the situation and what could be done to develop other regions lacking knowledge oriented to environmental sustainability. Twenty people replied, who were all engaged in this cause.

This was the foundation of Agrecol e.V.: engagement for ecological causes. Various students, church-based people, and other committed and interested citizens came to visit the small library that Agrecol has built up in Langenbruck, with numerous books on ecology. The first book that Gutschow wrote on agroecology had the title *Agrecol*.

Back to Agrecol-Afrique

Papa and Almut, knowing the realities in the field in West Africa, the social and economic situation of small-scale farmers, wanted to regionalize the knowledge about ecological farming from Switzerland.

Coordination and administrative challenges were encountered as well as collection, documentation and structuring it all together

With other organizations (Japanese, French, Fruitgrowers Association, etc), the plan was to share joint experiences and perspectives. They looked for information that they could document through the Agrecol-Afrique newsletter *Acacia* in sharing and spreading the information and documentation at a time when Internet was not available.

Papa went for one week to Switzerland and stayed in Langenbruck like a bookworm reading all the documents. This was the beginning of the bibliography that later was made in Senegal. And this is when, out of the wings of AeV, AA started to fly on its own.

There were three main phases in the development of AA:

1. 1983–2000: *exchange of ideas and experiences throughout several African countries, under ENDA juridical protection*
2. 2000–2005: *lots of changes and a challenging phase with many ups and downs, administrative and coordination problems*
3. 2005 onwards: *AA became an NGO registered in Senegal and Burkina Faso.*

There were hard times with ENDA between the early 2000s and 2008. After 2008, the relationship between ENDA and AA was re-booted. There was a need for networking and collaboration in documentation of organic farming and ecological knowledge to promote organic farming in Senegal. Today, there is a good collaboration, sharing projects, ideas, experiences, but this could still be reinforced. Out of this collaboration, FENAP was born.

FENAP (Fédération Nationale pour l'Agriculture Biologique)

This association takes two paths: one looking for certification of organic products, and the other focused on working with small-scale farmers. Such farmers include those who do agriculture as a “hobby” and those who depend on agriculture for their subsistence. Within this association, there is a wide array of farming visions: from those who are organic farmers to those who are conventional farmers but want to convert to agroecological and organic farming, IF this will bring them economic benefits.

“Hot topic” on the table: certification of agricultural products

According to Djibril, agroecology in Senegal is becoming “mainstream”; this has led to a clash between organic agriculture (trying to spread this as widely as possible) and agroecology practised by small-scale farmers and their associations.

In Senegal, there is not a single agreed perception about what agroecology is. There is still much work to be done in framing the principals of what is to be understood under agroecology. There is no support from the government, who wrote in its latest official report that fertilizers and agrobusiness will feed Senegal; there was no mention of the words “agroecology” or “organic farming”. There is also no support for training in organic farming.

AA and FENAP are setting up training courses in agroecology, which are supported by international NGOs. The government holds a two-

sided discourse: that they support agroecological initiatives (in speeches foremost) but this does not appear in policies and there is no structure and there are no programmes to follow up initiatives or spread this idea, so as to be coherent with the political speeches they make. The speeches and the will to support agroecology are volatile, depending on who is in which position in the government.

The question is, to what extent is the government really committed to keep the land in the hands of Senegalese people? This is part of the main focus of agroecology: that the farmers use the land.

If the government really has the will to support agroecology, it could go further, to change laws and their application. For now, the NGOs are the ones holding the frontline in promoting agroecology.

The work of the NGOs is not funded on a long-term or sustainable basis; they are still very dependent on external financing: NGOs are not self-sustained; their projects depend on finding donors and receiving financing for limited periods.

PROFEIS-Senegal presentation on farmer innovation

Djibril explained some of the work of *PROFEIS* (Promoting Farmer Experimentation and Innovation in the Sahel); this is the francophone version of *Prolinnova*, an international network for promoting local innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resource management (www.prolinnova.net). He showed a video with the example of planting mango trees in *nguiguiss*. This is a shrub that is planted or grows naturally, and mango seedlings are planted close to its roots to give the seedlings nutrients and water, which the shrub draws up from deeper soil layers. There is therefore no need to water the mango seedlings. The shrubs take care of them. This tree-planting technique has been used also for other fruit species, such as papaya. Screenshots of Djibril's ppt on *PROFEIS–Senegal* are shown in Annex 3.

Discussion on local innovation

The main focus is to develop a “thinking outside the box” mentality, a spirit of innovation, a solution-oriented attitude. Local farmer innovation is very site specific under those particular conditions. There is no focus on the rate of adoption of such innovations. What may be an innovation in site X might not be transferable to site Y. The idea is that farmers share ideas, so that they can motivate each

other to find solutions themselves for similar challenges under different conditions. The base is to scale up the *process* of innovation, not the innovation itself. Seeking local innovation means looking for “positive deviation”.

Joint experimentation

The idea is that researchers do not come with their scientific knowledge to dictate what is to be done and to teach farmers to do scientific research, to structure the experiments that the farmers were already doing without consciously regarding it as “experimentation”, but rather that each party involved can learn from the interaction and from the results. The idea is to open a dialogue between the “academic researchers” and the farmers with their local knowledge and creativity, and together they work on a mutually agreed experiment.

Lorenz’s presentation on agroecology in dryland areas

Not fighting drought, but learning to co-exist with drought: a different approach

In Senegal (and other countries), you need to invest for long-term higher productivity and revenue. Investment has to have another approach than only the monetary one, because you need the individual engagement and understanding of the ecosystem benefits (eco-services) that one can get over a period of 100 years, for example.

What can be an incentive, other than monetary, to become a farmer, to work the land, to stay on the farm?

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 6TH

Working groups for discussion based on Lorenz’s presentation

Group 1: Agroforestry: sustain period of growth of the trees
(Senai, Matthias, Felix, Lorenz, Almut)

- *Challenges: rights of use of the land and protection from livestock*
- *One solution: live fence (haie-vive) to protect the soils and fields; it can include useful trees.*
- *First three years are for more intensive protection of trees against animals and for watering; this work requires constant attention.*

- Pay a premium for each successfully grown tree (rate of tree survival tree, which shows that people took care of them, that the trees attained a height and strength so that they can survive on its own); e.g. the government could pay a premium of perhaps 10,000 XAF (about 15 Euro) per surviving tree to the person(s) who took care of the tree until it reached X height or X age (this is less expensive than making new tree-planting programmes). But for those who do this consciously, because otherwise it could become an unsustainable system, in which people take care of trees just because they are expecting money. Other incentives could also be developed.
- Association and symbiosis of woody species (e.g. mango tree and nguiguiss).
- Plant trees that are economically interesting.
- Decentralisation to engage the local government and create a tree nursery and a strategy in agroecology for the community (e.g. schooling programmes).
- Networking

Group 2: Integration of crop farming and animal husbandry
(Djibril, Wolfgang, Assane and Ann)

- Many functions of livestock: traction power and transport; investment in livestock for savings; manure as fertilizer and for compost; risk reduction/alternative source of income when crops poor; food; transfer and germination of seeds.
- How to obtain livestock: "pass on the gift" approach.
- Which types of animals are best suited? It depends on the context and conditions of the farms and fields.
- Research should be done on the impact of livestock in agroecology and closed nutrient cycles, and on the effects of different types of manure.
- Potential: agropisciculture (combining crop and fish farming)

Group 3: Future and perspective of agroecology as social movement
(Ursula, Marlis, Jörg, Constanza)

- The central question was: Are we on the right pathway?
- Question on productivity needs to be redirected: it is not only kg/ha; it needs to be measured in terms of the positive effects on microbiological activity, carbon sequestration or eco-services, for instance. Other indicators are needed to measure "productivity" as

a whole. Long-term thinking: maybe to be able to get subsidies for these eco-services.

- The target groups:
 - Schools to start sensibilization on these matters
 - Universities to gain the expertise and networking
 - Civil society to move the politicians.
- Start at a municipal level, e.g. of Djob with an eco-Mayor, Green Mayors Association, or farmer associations.
- Identify people who are interested and motivate them, encourage them to push it forward.
- In Senegal, agriculture policies are centralized in the government. It is important to find other entry points at the decentralized level (health, for example) to bring about changes in the local agricultural situation.

Presentation by Monsieur Elhadj Faye on NGO ENDA-Pronat (Environnement et Développement et Action du Tiers-Monde – Protection naturelle)

Elhadj Faye gave a short overview on the experiences of ENDA-Pronat in promoting agroecology approaches:

- Démarche – gouvernance participative et inclusive des Ressources Naturelles (RN)
- 3 axes d'intervention : recherche-action, formation en AE, valorisation des produits locaux
- Recherche Action Participative (RAP)
- Approche terroir basée sur l'AE et Gestion durable des RN
- Capitalisation et plaidoyer pour influencer le changement des politiques, focus sur le foncier (AT – Accaparement des Terres)

Après la présentation : Discussion sur les relations entre ENDA-Pronat et AA, perspectives pour la collaboration future sous le toit de la FENAB.

Presentation by Assane on Agroecology & local food systems (Appui au développement de la chaîne de valeur durable de l'AE)

Assane gave a summary of how AA is working in connecting the different processes from agricultural production to the logistics of transport, to packing and to commercialization, also looking at how to add value to products (food processing). Some of the challenges encountered are: few market places for organic products, too little

information and awareness about organic products and why they are healthier than conventional ones.

Presentation by Monsieur Alihou Ndiaye on ASPSP study (*Association Sénégalaise des Producteurs de Semences Paysannes* - Senegalese Association of Peasant Seed Producers)

Monsieur Ndiaye spoke about a study made by ASPSP on seed and plant husbandry (*Etude sur les systems semenciers gérés par les paysans en Afrique – Etude de cas au Sénégal*). He said that all small-scale farmers know how to produce their own seed, but most do not do so, because the government gives out free seed (of introduced cultivars) with a subsidy. So the farmers are not interested in producing their own seed, which might have a potential to produce higher-quality seed and to select their best plants and seed. There are several outside forces preventing or holding farmers back from reproducing their own seed and being independent.

AA is trying in Kaolack to start producing its own seed. A challenge is not only to find organic seed, but to find this at the *time* needed.

Workshop participants mentioned that there were some problems with the reliability of the seed study made, on account of statistical inaccuracy or issues with interpretation of the figures.

Agroecology Knowledge Hubs (*Centres de connaissances en Agriculture Écologique*) – Regional pole (hub) management

Agrecol, with FENAP, has expressed interest in being part of this new programme being set up by the Germany Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), but is still waiting for the decision by GIZ about which organization will host the Agroecology Knowledge Hub in West Africa. The African countries involved are Senegal, Togo, Benin, Mali, Burkina Faso (members of ECOWAS, but not Mauritania). Djibril presented a PPT on “*Regional pole management*”:

Aim: Better integration and promotion of organic farming approaches and organic farming practices in agricultural systems.

Specific objectives:

1. *Ecological intensification of agriculture by making more accessible knowledge of local, contextual and gender-specific production methods*

2. Improved productivity and balance between productivity and productivity constraints safeguarding natural resources
3. Improved availability of high quality, nutritious foods produced in such a way and improved nutrition through dietary diversity, especially for women of childbearing age and young children
4. Strengthening existing markets or developing new local, regional and international markets for organic and affordable products using internationally accepted and local certification systems.

Grandes lignes de la démarche d'AA :

1. Identify challenges prioritized by local actors
2. Organize workshops and learning processes to identify effective practices and innovations at the technical, social, commercial and political levels
3. Prioritize gender-specific strategies to enable women's involvement and leadership
4. Document the case studies and key principles
5. Decentralized support of the network and support the implementation of these practices and innovations
6. Use of various communication strategies to share knowledge (e.g. radio, web, exchange visits, caravans for decision-makers, learning events)
7. Convene capacity-building workshops
8. Promote a continuous and continuous cycle of action, learning, reflection and amplification through Participatory Innovation Development (PID).

Discussion on perspectives of networking and collaboration between ENDA-Pronat, Agrecol-Afrique and Agrecol e.V.

How to work together (ENDA, AA and AeV): share interns, look for topics of interest for joint projects and send Senegalese interns to Germany to work on a given topic.

Other areas for future cooperation:

- Renforcer les capacités de conception
- Support – consultations – expertises
- Spécification des expertises
- Pool d'experts internationaux
- Policy lobbying
- Programme de stagiaires – évaluation à mi-parcours.



FIELD VISITS



WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 7TH

Baback field visit

Of the 3.5 ha field, AA put 2 ha in place and the rest was supported by Caritas.

The working group has existed a little more than a year. It tries to integrate both men and women, but the vast majority of the participants



are women. They are also part of the *Calabasse de Solidarité* (Calabash of Solidarity) Programme.

The field has 11 water basins, each of which serves to water four plots around the basin. Water costs around 200–250XAF per cubic meter of water (0.30–0.40 Euro). The water and the electricity needed for the pump is paid by all the women working on the plots.

Eleven types of crop are grown, including *niébé* (pulse), *bissap* (hibiscus), eggplant, tomato, pepper, hot pepper, papaya and onion. The idea is that the women have something to harvest year-round.

There are protecting hedges to be seen around the perimeter. Some moringa trees are used as dividers between the plots.

The group also does composting and has a crop-rotation system, in which a piece of land is left fallow each year.

For the future, they want to install a drip irrigation system, using local thicker tubes that resist humidity and rodents.

Sahel Vert Training Centre

In 2001, the project was launched with development of the infrastructure. It used to be a field that was used by nearby farmers to collect branches for animal feed or for fuel. The land was used communally, but belongs to the government as national land. It had been overexploited; the soil was degraded and at risk of further soil erosion. In 2005, they also started an afforestation programme.



Today, the territory covering around 40 ha (the Centre has to pay the government for the right to use the land) is used as experimental fields and as a training centre.

The Centre has different types of animals (cattle, chickens, geese, ducks, sheep). It also has a nursery of local trees: around 40 local species, including five that are under protection.

There is a need for better-trained technicians and engineers working in the agricultural domain, especially for organic and agroecological farming practices. Because of this “gap”, the training centre was developed, aiming to give more technical training than is offered in the colleges and universities in Senegal.

The curriculum is divided into 50% practical and 50% theoretical work. It focuses on aviculture, vegetable gardening and crop associations. The whole programme takes 18 months.

The first batch of students started in 2017, and preparation for the second batch is on track. Most of those in the first batch were 18–22 years of age (70% male and 30% female).

The curriculum is divided into modules of about 30–40 hours each, which outside experts come in to teach. Based on the evaluation and feedback given by the students who just graduated, the Committee will make a few changes.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 8TH

Almut's farm

"I was not looking for the land; the land found me".

Almut told about how she acquired her farm almost 20 years ago, when she decided that she was going to retire from Agrecol but wanted to stay in Senegal for a few more years.

A man, who wanted to sell his land to send his son to Italy, sold her the land. It was discussed over the market for the Tamjarit (celebration when sheep are slaughtered).

The land she received was quite dry; not much was growing other than a few weak millet plants. A young man called Noel and his brothers started helping Almut several days a week to cultivate the land. Eventually, they decided that they also wanted cattle. They had a guard looking after the territory, since Almut was not living on the farm yet.

The main question was: how to make the land profitable? This project would be part of her retirement "plan".

From the beginning, many different trees were planted, amongst them many lemon trees. For some reason, although the neighbour manages to grow many mangos, on Almut's farm not one mango tree has borne fruit.

After hearing the background information about the farm, we walked through it: the 3 ha are divided into three areas: the central part for organic and agroecological farming (Noel being the person in charge), the medicinal forest area, and the socio-pedagogical area for guests, meetings and gatherings. Almut has her own plant nursery as well and intends to set up a botanical garden with different herbs and medicinal plant species.

After almost 20 years, the soil has recovered. The entire land is covered with trees of all kinds (moringa, neem, lemon, acacia etc) and crops (e.g. bissap, potato, millet).

Many different training sessions or gatherings take place at Almut's place, who regards herself as a facilitator providing information and

space to exchange ideas developed by different groups and the “agroecological practitioners’ project” she accompanies.

Two invited guests – Teresa (president of a women’s group, amongst many other functions) and Bachirou (ethnobotanist, phytomedicine specialist and herbalist) – joined us for the coffee break and throughout the rest of the meeting on Almut’s farm. It was a very enriching conversation about understanding how plant health is related to animal (including human) health, questions on how the ecosystem is changing, how the biodiversity is decreasing or increasing, how the people of the nearby Fandane village are coping with the changes, and what the challenges are to keep young people interested in working the land. Many stories were exchanged. Before leaving Almut’s place, we did a round of feedback, ideas and wrapping up the week’s presentations and meetings.

We then visited another field of one of the women working with Teresa’s group, and then an artisan in Fandane who makes different types of furniture and utensils with palm fronds.



FRIDAY NOVEMBER 9TH

Visit to Pout

We visited an area that had undergone severe soil degradation. It was very impressive to see, and hear, how this land had been re-fertilized little by little, by the hard work of 80 women and 9 men, who work twice a week in the morning, on a voluntary basis (no payment) because they understood how important it is not to lose the communal land.

They have big problems with water, so they have come up with different techniques to capture water, to help it infiltrate into the soil and to retain water. They are now also reforesting and, when/where possible, also planting some crops.

They understood the importance of teamwork, of thinking long-term about the land and their children. Even though it is a voluntary work they do, they have organized themselves with "strict rules" such as: if you miss out twice without a good excuse (being sick, for example) you are sanctioned for four months to not be able to touch some funds (they did not explain this further, but they probably also have a *calabasse de solidarité*, i.e. some type of alternative loan system).



They are divided into four working groups: one that investigates the sites and prioritizes them according to urgency, another that cuts the stones (usually men), a third one that transport the stones from one

place to another (these are to make the barriers to retain water) and the fourth group that works at the chosen site. *Chapeau* for these women!

We then went to see a farmer who also has an agroecological farm. He understood well the importance to avoid fertilizers and other synthetic chemicals. He had only a local synthetic chemical, filled in an empty plastic bottle and hanging on the branch of the tree. It was to fight against the flies that are a pest to the mango trees. He had potatoes, lemons, grapefruit, mangos, papaya, etc.

He also explained the challenges with the water, how he had to plant his crops in such a way (horizontal to the way the water flows) so that the water is retained. His water comes from the government's pipelines and, when there is water scarcity in Dakar, the water pressure on his farm is too low to be able to reach the highest parts.

The entire soil was covered by dead leaves. It was also nice and cool to see how this older man loved his work, loved the land and understood so well the importance of combining trees and other plants, and keeping out chemicals.

Visit to ENDA-Pronat (Environmental Development Action in the Third World - *Protection naturelle*) in Dakar

Participants: Felix, Ann, Senai, Ursula, Marlis, Lorenz, Matthias, Jörg, Wolfgang

The meeting took place at ENDA-Pronat in Dakar, where the participants had the chance to eat a delicious Thieboudienne (typical Senegalese dish of rice and fish) before the concluding round took place. Following are the comments and feedback given by the participants in key words:

Felix: It was really nice to see Almut again after so many years. It was interesting to see how Agrecol Afrique (AA) developed and what they do. The difference between the working tasks of the head of AA (Assane and Djibril) was not clear, especially the role of Djibril. The field visits were impressive. Somehow, it seemed that sometimes the people told what we (the visitors) wanted to hear.

Ann: The meeting with Agrecol-Afrique, which had been planned for years, finally took place. Seeing Almut again and the visit to her farm were very pleasant and informative. It was good to see that the work

between AA and Prolinnova is going well. Perspectives for further projects together, possibly within the framework of "Agroecology Knowledge Hubs", could be discussed. The links and opportunities for future joint work between ENDA-Pronat and AA seem to have improved as a result of the meeting. In total, the organization of the meeting by AA was good (*merci* to Constanza!). Only the meeting centre (RESOPP) was not ideal. Conclusion: altogether it was a harmonious and worthwhile meeting.

Wolfgang: I was positively impressed! There were good discussions and field visits, even though the original concept of strengthening the networking throughout the meeting came somewhat short of the target. Conclusion: All was good!

Senai: Altogether a positive impression and good exchanges! I really liked it, especially the last field visit with ENDA-Pronat. In regard to ameliorating the situation of future interns, there should be a clearer agreement and task-oriented description.

Ursula: I had no big expectations of this workshop. However, they were surpassed in a positive way. During the field visits, the long-known problems of rural development and farming in Africa were seen. It was also clear that the understandings of "*Agrarökologie*" and "*Agro-écologie*" drift apart from one another and the word does not always mean the same. The West African atmosphere and the francophone flair of Senegal were enriching and pleasant.

Marlis: I found the workshop with AA in Thiès and the field visits altogether interesting and enriching. However, the question arises why the meeting was organized in Senegal at all, when so few participants from AA took part in the meeting. The exchange and learning from the field visits could have been better, if there had been technical handouts for each of the visits and if the farmers, especially the women, would have been better informed of our arrival. In terms of organization and time management, there are doubtless many areas for improvement.

Lorenz: Coming back to Senegal and the earlier experiences made it easier to come "on board". Much was already known. My personal goal was to present the results from the study. It was a shame that, at the same time, so many other meetings were taking place in Dakar about agroecology and therefore the participation of partner organizations (AA, ENDA-Pronat) was small. Positive to highlight is

the approach of ENDA-Pronat to fight soil erosion (*Lutte Anti-Erosive / LAE*). It was a pity that the time was too limited to have more intense discussions with the farmers, partly because of the great amount of time spent in traffic on the roads. In perspective, the meeting surely will contribute to a more intensive exchange between AA and ENDA-Pronat, given that the personal interaction (getting to know each other) was strengthened. Altogether, it was a very good meeting and the level of satisfaction is high.

Jörg: The main aim – to bring ENDA-Pronat and AA together – was achieved. The positive general tone will lead to better agreements. The field visits could have been more intensive. The different initiatives of the stakeholders (AA and ENDA-Pronat) in the same domain of action could still be improved, to allow synergy. For that, FENAB offers a suitable framework. The definition of agroecology must be further refined and agreed on. ENDA-Pronat and AA should agree on this, and on a joint programme for the newly-to-be-created Agroecology Knowledge Hub (Elhadj Faye, Djibril Thiam, Ibrahim Seck, amongst others).

Matthias: It was nice to see and experience how our intern Constanza has been integrated into the AA team. Her polyglot talent is enviable. The roles of Djibril and Assane remain somewhat unclear (various hats). Altogether, the meeting was successful and the trip to Senegal worthwhile. The country and the people showed their best side.

Discussion with ENDA-Pronat staff

Between 17:20-18:00. Introduction of the participants.

From ENDA-Pronat:

- Laure Diallo (Brun) (monitoring and evaluation, planning)
- Jean-Michel Sene (in charge of agroecology)
- Elhadj Faye (sociologist, coordinator)
- Jörg John (technical advisor, Weltfriedensdienst / WFD)

ENDA-Pronat presentation

Words of thanks.

More photos







ANNEXES

Annex 1: List of participants

Annex 2: Agenda of the Agrecol meeting

Annex 3: PROFEIS–Senegal: a multi-actor platform

Annex 1: List of participants

N°	Prénoms	Nom	Fonction	Tel
1	Djibril	Thiam	directeur	78640534
2	Samba	mbaye	PCA Agrecol	775383036
3	Assane	GUYE	Coordinateur	776691877
4	Felix	Hennig	Membre Agrecol e.v.	41799305932
5	Firesenai	Serele	"	+41 798482666
6	LORENZ	Bachmann	Pace Consultant	Bachmann D gmx.de
7	Ursula	Göhm- Wittern	policy advisors	U Wittern @peenet.de
8	Ann	Waters-Bayer	advisor	waters-bayer@web.de
9	Jörg	JOHN	Coopérant WFD/Ende PRODOT	jjoergjohn@yahoo.fr
10	Marlis	KEES	Membre AGERECOL	00221-77637 2617
11	Memadou Dieng	NGOUR	chargé de Programme	77112-44-16
12	Siméon	DIEDHIOW	Charge de Programme	774523689
13	Constanza	Boeglin	stagiaire	772930036
14	Cheikh Tidiane	Ndour	chargé de commercial	77-602-4516
15	Wolfgang	Bayer	pensionnaire/ellewaal	0551-485757
16	Matthias	GÖRGEN	Consultant indépendant	+49-15111873
17	Almut	HAHN	refaitu	77-615-2773
18	Papa Meissa	FALL	animateur/formateur	775447633

Annex 2: Agenda of the Agrecol meeting

A G E N D A – Agrecol meeting in Senegal

(Thiès – Centre de formation – RESOPP)

Time	Topics / Content	Responsible
	Sunday 4 November: Arrival	
16:00	Joint coffee for all who arrived already	
19:00	Evening dinner for all who arrived already	

	Monday 5 November: Workshop	
09:00	Opening ceremony	Djibril (AA)
09:30	Self-introduction of participants Presentation of workshop agenda	
11:00	Coffee break	
11:45	Review of common history of Agrecol e.V. and Agrecol–Afrique	Ann, Almut, Papa Meïssa Fall, Djibril
12:30	Questions, discussions, challenges	
13:20	Video from Senegal / Agrecol–Afrique	
13:35	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:50	Presentation: Agroecology and participatory innovation development: work of Agrecol–Afrique in the Prolinnova network (PROFEIS)	Djibril / Ann
15:15	Questions and discussion	
15:45	<i>Break</i>	
16:20	Presentation: Agroecology and challenges in semi-arid areas: findings from Senegal (ENDA project), India and Brazil	Lorenz
17:25–17:55	Questions and discussion	
19:30	<i>Dinner</i>	

	Tuesday 6 November: workshop	
09:15	Identification of topics for group work	Lorenz
09:30	Group work: Discussing key challenges of semi-arid areas	
10:20	Presentation of the findings of 3 groups	
11:10	<i>Break</i>	
11:45	Presentation: ENDA-Pronat and its experiences in promoting agroecology in Senegal	Elhadji Faye (ENDA-Pronat)
12:05	Questions and discussion	
12:30	Presentation and discussion: Agroecology and local food systems / value chains	Assane (AA)
12:50	Questions and discussion	
13:10	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:15	Presentation of a network of small-scale farmer organisations working on preservation of local seeds: ASPSP (Senegalese Association of Farm Seed Producers)	Alihou Ndiaye (Coordinator)
14:55	Questions and discussion	

15:10	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15:35	Presentation of Agroecology Knowledge Hubs supported by German government (GIZ-Project)	Djibril, Assane
16:05 – 16:50	Perspectives of networking and collaboration between Agrecol-Afrique and Agrecol e.V.	
19:30	<i>Dinner</i>	

	Wednesday 7 November: Field visit	
09:00	Pick-up at RESOPP Visiting the village Baback (12 km from Thiès) with which Agrecol-Afrique has worked for 2 years (Activities: “calabasse de la solidarité” and organic farming)	Agrecol-Afrique
13:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00	Training-Centre Sahel Vert in Toubab Dialow	Agrecol-Afrique
16:00	Return to RESOPP	
19:30	<i>Meet at the Restaurant Le Tikaara for dinner</i>	

	Thursday 8 November: Visiting Almut’s farm / ENDA-Pronat	
09:00	Car pickup at RESOPP Visiting Almut’s farm and discussing her projects and networks	
12:30	Wrap-up: workshop conclusions and way forward	Djibril, Lorenz
13:00	<i>Lunch at Almut’s farm</i>	
14:00	Visit the village Fandène, a good example of agroecological practices; the village has resisted urbanisation trends very well Drive to Dakar	ENDA-Pronat
20:00	Joint evening dinner in Dakar? (we are in separate 2–3 hotels)	

	Friday 9 November: ENDA-Pronat	
07:15	Pick-up at the hotels	ENDA-Pronat
	Visit village/zone Keur Moussa: 1–2 farms with good examples of erosion-control measures	ENDA-Pronat Mamadou Sow
13:30	<i>Lunch in Dakar</i>	
15:00	Visit ENDA office	ENDA-Pronat
15:15	Wrap-up and conclusions with ENDA-Pronat	
16:00	Return to hotels	
19:30	Joint evening dinner in Dakar: thank you and farewell	

Annex 3: PROFEIS-Senegal: a multi-actor's platform

PROFEIS

A Multi-Actors Platform to Support the Development of Local Innovation in Agro-ecology

Djibril THIAM
Coordinateur PROFEIS-Sénégal

Overview

Some figures on Senegal

Brief Presentation on Agrecol Afrique

History on PROFEIS-Senegal

**Vision, Mission, Objectives and
participating Actors**

Work process

Role of Agrecol Afrique

Some of the results obtained

Challenges and Perspectives



A few fact on Senegal

- * **Population:** around 14 millions inhabitants
- * **Surface:** 197' 000km squared
- * **Agricultural land:** agricultural surface used is estimated at 9,5 millions ha (0,5% of the soil) (FAO, 2013)
- * **Types of agricultural exploitation :** 95% family management and 5% are private modern farms.
- * **Main crops grown:** Millet, peanuts, corn, sorghum and vegetables.
- * **Food coverage rate:** less than 50%



Brief Presentation of Agrecol Afrique

Legal Senegalese NGO recognized in 2005

Mission: reinforce the vision, the application and the promotion of agro-ecology and organic agriculture, as well as a social and solidary economy in Senegal and in West Africa.

Objectives:

1. To contribute to the development and knowledge of the practices and experiences in agro-ecology and organic farming, in Senegal and West Africa.
2. To develop the communication and information in agro-ecology and/or organic farming
3. To promote the values and practices of a social and solidary economy

Areas of Work:

Agro-ecology, Organic Farming, and Social and Solidary Entrepreneurship

Main Activities:

1. The facilitation and partnership.
2. The accompaniment and/or follow up of individual or collective initiatives,
3. The reinforcement of capacities and the self-learning process at all levels (local, national sub-regional)

Partners:

Broederlijk Delen, Autre Terre, Action de Carême, Groundswell International, Agrecol e.v, Université de Virginia, Prolinnova

History of PROFEIS-Senegal

2007-2009: Initial Phase

- * identification of the stakeholders,
- * Formation of the stakeholders on the DPI approach,
- * Identification and characterization of local innovation

2010-2012: Developing Phase

Formation of new stakeholders on the DPI approach

Formation on Joint Experimentation

- * Conduction of the joint experimentation on 5 local innovations

Since 2013: Consolidation Phase

- * Scaling up the innovations through fairs, forums and workshops
- * Political advocacy through on-field visits with the local authorities
- * Animation on radio programs and videos
- * Institutionalization of the approach with l' ENSA and Dakar University

Vision, Mission, Objectives, Actors

Vision

- * A world in which the farmers play a decisive role in the research and sustainable development for their subsistence

* Mission

- * Foster a culture of mutual learning and the synergy of the local innovation process, in agriculture and management of natural resources.

* Objective

- * To reinforce and diffuse peasant innovations through joint experimentation, the capitalization, the networking of innovative farmers and the multi-stakeholder partnership.

Member Organizations

- * Farmers Organizations : FENAB, FONGS, RENOLSE
- * research: University of Thiés and Dakar,
- * Agricultural Council: ANCAR central zone
- * NGOs: Agrecol Afrique, GREEN Senegal,

Work Process

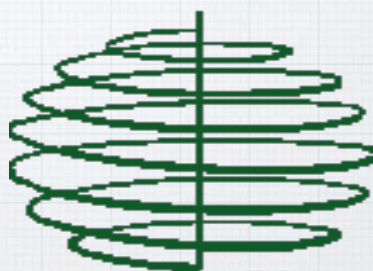
The base of the PROFEIS work is the DPI approach. The following actions are the foundation of PROFEIS work:

1. **Formation** of the DPI approach and the EC
2. **Identification et characterization** of the innovations,
3. **Joint Experimentation**
4. **Diffusion et institutionalization** of the DPI approach to the stakeholders of agricultural research and development
5. **Political advocacy and dialogue**
6. **Networking of** innovative farmers

Role of Agrecol Afrique

A.A' s role is defined by the directive N° 13 of Prolinnova:

- * Ensure the coordination of the platform activities
- * Ensure the administrative and financial management
- * Ensure the communication and information
- * To facilitate the participation of the stakeholders
- * To contribute to the good operation of the platform.



Some of the obtained results

- * Number of IL: 45
- * Number of EC undertaken: 6
- * Fairs of Farmer Innovations: 02 at a national level and 01 at a sub-regional level
- * Participation IPW: 05 from which 01 in Senegal
- * Radio programs: 32
- * Number of formed people : 54
- * Number of on-field visits: 18
- * Number of covered regions: 04
- * Number of networking (members?): 03

Challenges and Perspectives

Challenges

- * To develop a Fundraising strategy to amplify our work,
- * To integrate the chain of value thematic in the platform work
- * To reinforce the institutionalization of the DPI approach within the formation structures of agriculture and rural sectors

Perspectives

- * Amplify our collaboration with other national, sub-regional and international networks
- * Strengthen our financial resources