



Kingdom of the Netherlands



World Vegetable Center



## **BENIN - BURKINA FASO - MALI**

*Healthy, locally produced vegetables  
for consumers in West Africa*

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# SAFEVEG WEST AFRICA

*Healthy, locally produced vegetables  
for consumers in West Africa*



**Financing**  
11.8 million euros



**Donors**  
European Union  
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**Partners**  
World Vegetable Center,  
Wageningen University & Research,  
CIRAD, INRAB / Benin, INERA /  
Burkina Faso, IER / Mali, National  
Universities, Civil Society  
Organizations, Local NGOs, Policy  
makers

Indicators	
People with improved nutrition	75,000
Environmentally friendly cultivable areas	2,500 ha
Small-scale producers supported directly by SAFEVEG	10,000
Small-scale producers with improved seeds	200,000
Small-scale producers with increased income	5,500
Policy impact studies published	6
Msc students	24
PhD students	7
Mentors	100

(SAFEVEG - West Africa) is the acronym for: "Healthy locally produced vegetables for consumers in West Africa". It is an action developed within the framework of the European Union's initiative on Smart Innovation for Development and Climate through Agriculture (and Food Systems) Research in Developing Countries (DeSIRA). The action is implemented for a period of 60 months (from November 1, 2020 to October 31, 2025) in three West African countries: Benin, Burkina Faso and Mali.

SAFEVEG West Africa aims to reduce undernourishment, improve the income and productivity of small-scale food producers, particularly women and youth, and expand sustainable land use in Benin, Burkina Faso, and Mali. The project is based on the promise that promoting the role of vegetables in local food systems requires simultaneous interventions on both the supply and demand sides.

The World Vegetable Center leads a consortium of several national and international partners, including Wageningen University & Research (WUR) and the Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD). The overall objective is to reduce undernourishment, improve the income and productivity of small-scale food producers, especially women and youth, and expand sustainable land use in Benin, Burkina Faso and Mali.

## The SAFEVEG West Africa project is organized into 6 components

### Component 1 : Management and coordination of the Action

Led by the World Vegetable Center, this component ensures

- Coordination on the ground in the three countries.
- Facilitation of activities in Benin, Burkina Faso and Mali
- Communication and visibility of the project

### Component 2 : Tools and policies to promote vegetable consumption

Led by Wageningen University & Research (WUR), this component

- Identifies, designs, tests and scales innovative retail solutions and distribution models
- Identifies, designs, tests, and scales innovative solutions to make vegetables more palatable
- Identifies, designs, tests and scales innovative solutions to gain consumer confidence in food safety.

### Component 3 : Production of healthy, climate-resilient vegetables and post-harvest practices.

Led by the Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD), Component 3

- Conducts surveys of farmers and processors
- Mapping the diversity of major pests and diseases in vegetable production
- Evaluate the impacts of cultivation practices on vegetable safety
- Adapt and test selected agricultural and post-harvest practices locally
- Scale up selected agricultural and post-harvest practices

### Component 4 : Climate Resilient Vegetable Varieties.

Led by World Vegetable Center, Component 4

- Builds the capacity of private seed companies in plant production and breeding
- Scales up the use of existing locally adapted varieties with good performance
- Test new varieties in multi-site trials
- Promotes selected varieties through on-farm trials



## Component 5 : Strengthening Vegetable Business Networks (VBN)

Led by World Vegetable Center, Component 5

- Selects vegetable business networks
- Organizes diagnostic and design workshops
- Selects business coaches
- Provides technical training
- Holds annual review and capitalization meetings

## Component 6 : Knowledge and Evidence for Policy Development

Led by World Vegetable Center, Component 6

- Conducts a food systems assessment
- Implements a (near) real-time monitoring system
- Conducts an impact assessment to generate evidence
- Coordinates knowledge management
- Builds capacity in partner countries
- Participates in WorldVeg Global R&D Week and international conferences



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