

COMMITMENT: COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Irrigation systems in the Niger desert: find out all about the **Irhazer** project

Funded by Orano and developed in partnership with the State of Niger, the Irhazer agro-pastoral project aims to contribute to sustainable food security by developing irrigation systems in the desert areas of the Agadez region.



The total project represents over 11 billion CFA francs of investments (€ 17 million) with a test phase from 2013 to 2015, then a development phase from 2015 to 2021. It aims to directly reach, by 2021, 5,000 households and 35,000 beneficiaries.

In 2018, despite a significant delay in implementing the program related to external factors, the year was characterized by significant investments in community irrigation. New installation works have been conducted. Measures to secure land and develop the irrigated areas have also emerged. Program outcomes also include improvement and support for animal health.



Results: 22 hectares are under development, 12 of which are now cultivated, 23,500 animals vaccinated.

It is noteworthy that the project has started up the process of promoting private irrigation initiatives and private livestock in several communes of the sector.



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Issoufou MAHA

Mayor of the rural commune of Tchirozérine

« What we are seeing in the Aghrous area is very edifying. We have a sturdy fence that prevents animals, especially camels, from entering the site. The irrigation network, the soil

work, and in fact all the equipment, are of very good quality. The boreholes have been rehabilitated and are delivering more than 100 cubic meters per hour. Producers are being properly mentored. There are innovations such as forage crops, including alfalfa and sorghum. You can see the joy on the faces of the growers.

Without a doubt, the Agharous district is a source of pride for producers in the Agadez region and throughout Niger as a whole. This can be reproduced throughout the Irhazer and Tamesna. I think we're on the right track.

Thank you to Orano and we would like to make an appeal to donors to invest in this project, which is vital for the communities. »



Dijé Suzette PILON FRANTZ

Mentor for producers at the Injigrane site

« Originally, the people of Injigrane were pastoralists. Today, the presence of this site has resulted in all the herders converting to market gardening.

The first phase of my work consisted in mentoring producers on cultivation techniques. The result has shown that the training has had a significant impact. If we look at the operating status, all producers have fully understood the techniques in six months. The selling price of the produce varies from 200,000 to 800,000 CFA francs per individual, and for a harvest on a cultivated area of 0.25 ha. The women and children of Injigrane have been able to improve their diet. The other thing we do appreciate is that many of the women victims of the war in Libya have been able to come together at this Injigrane site. We believe that with the support of Orano through the project to develop the irrigated areas in the Irhazer Valley and Tamesna Plain, the Injigrane site will be fully utilized. »



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