



# The Agricultural and Rural Training international network



# FAR, an international network supporting agricultural and rural training programs

THE FAR  
NETWORK IN  
ACTION

**T**he FAR international network brings together agricultural training professionals from across the African continent. It was launched in Ouagadougou in 2006 following the international conference on “Mass education in rural areas, an issue for consideration in the definition of national policy”. The network aims to create rural employment and promote sustainable and profitable agriculture. The members of the FAR international network seek to pool their experience and expertise in order to renovate agricultural and rural training systems.

To promote exchanges among agricultural training practitioners and enrich expertise in the South, the network calls on specialists in training systems and the insertion of young people into agriculture.

In 2018, the FAR international network brings together 16 member countries and over 1,400 individuals in the Northern and Southern hemispheres. It is involved at different levels in:

- mobilizing appropriate expertise for the renovation of agricultural and rural training programs;
- capacity-building of senior staff in agriculture and education ministries;
- sharing experience and knowledge about agricultural and rural training;
- training of trainers in agricultural and rural training programs;
- promoting youth projects anchored within a territory.



## COUNTRY SUPPORT

### Support member countries in renovating agricultural and rural training programs

The FAR network's greatest strength lies in the international expertise that it mobilizes from among its members and partners.

Member countries seeking to renovate their training systems can request support and expertise from the network.

Since it started over ten years ago, the FAR network has supported the renovation of public and private technical and vocational training schemes in Cameroon, Senegal, Madagascar, and Burkina Faso, and more recently in Togo, Guinea, Niger and Mali.

➤ The network also initiated and supported the creation of several national platforms in member countries, resulting in the formation of national networks: FARCI in Côte d'Ivoire, FARMADA in Madagascar, FAR-GUI in Guinea, FARSEN in Senegal, SAFARI in Togo, RNFAR BF in Burkina Faso.

➤ Discussions are underway in other countries: Algeria, Benin, Morocco, Mauritania, Central African Republic, Chad, and Tunisia.



Exchanges in a field in Guinea.

## ENGINEERING

### Strengthening expertise in the South

The FAR international network has also assumed the task of reinforcing the skills of its actors: senior ministerial staff, trainers, heads of producer organizations, etc. This capacity-building enables national and international expertise to be developed.

The FAR network regularly organizes capacity-building workshops for its members on agricultural and rural training issues. For example, in Larache, Morocco, it organized a workshop on the design and planning of training programs, bringing together some 20 managers and trainers.

➤ It finances and supervises study grants and internships for people from member countries following lifelong training courses within engineering and master programs. Since it began, the network has awarded some dozen study grants and supported about fifteen trainees. Their final theses are useful resources for other network members.

➤ The FAR network is currently designing and validating an International Master in Training design and planning program adapted to agricultural and rural training systems in the South, open to engineers, training centre directors, project managers and trainers.



In a market garden.



Visiting a training center in Guinea.

## KNOWLEDGE

### Produce useful knowledge

The FAR network specializes in the production of new knowledge on agricultural and rural training activities and the strengthening of actors' capabilities. International experts from member countries are therefore regularly asked to contribute to different fields of knowledge useful to agricultural training actors.

➤ The FAR network organizes international seminars and conferences that are very successful and bring together many participants from the Southern and Northern hemispheres. Over the last ten years, the network has organized around twenty international meetings (Benin, Cameroon, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Senegal, Togo, Burkina Faso, Italy,

France) focused on key issues for agricultural and rural training systems.

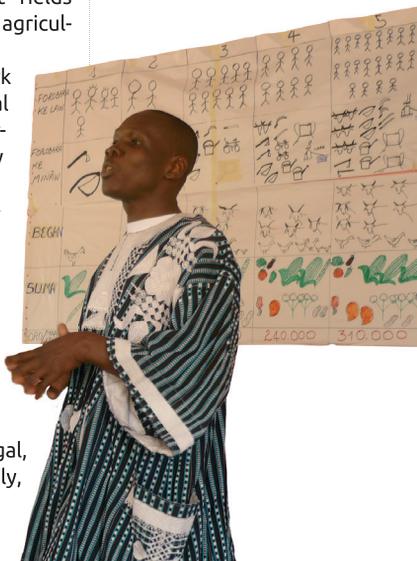
➤ The FAR network also regularly calls on its members and outside experts to produce operationally-oriented diagnoses, studies and methodological guides on key themes such as the integration of young people into agriculture, the training of producers, the process of reno-

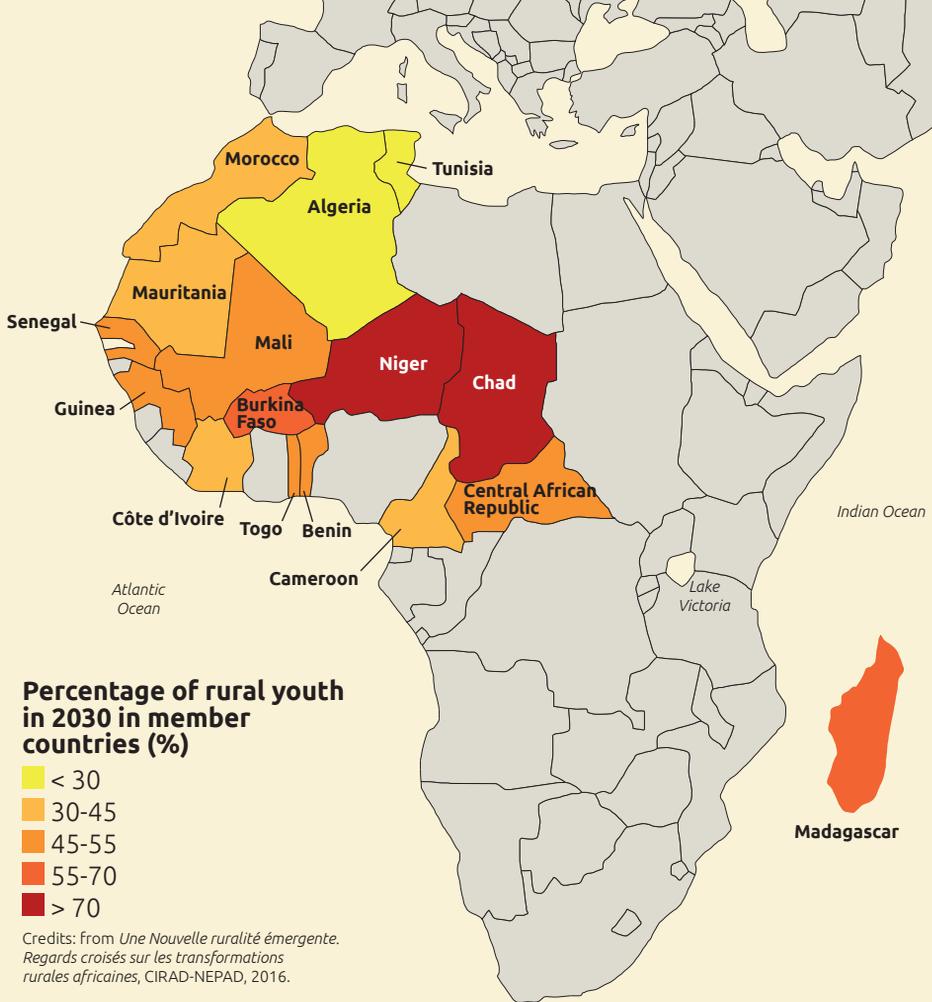
vating a training system, anchoring training schemes within a territory, etc. It also provides an open access virtual library on our network's website: [www.reseau-far.com](http://www.reseau-far.com)

## ADVOCACY

### Communicating for agricultural and rural training

In ten years of existence, the FAR network has developed a dynamic and proactive communication strategy. It ensures the network's international visibility by disseminating knowledge and information. The network's reputation now allows it to be a driving force behind proposals for decision-makers engaged in the development of agricultural training policies.





# Agricultural Africa

Rural areas are a considerable source of employment in Africa. Across the continent today, over 20 million young people are looking for their first job. By 2030, this figure will be over 33 million. Their integration into agriculture, recognized as a major challenge for development in many countries, is a condition for the renewal of family farming. The FAR international network invests in the field of agricultural and rural training because this sector represents an employment opportunity for this pool of young people.

# A network of expertise mobilized to renovate agricultural and rural training systems in the South

The foremost concern of the FAR international network is rural employment, the future challenge for young Africans. It advocates for the integration of young people into agricultural systems which are sustainable and can generate gainful employment. Its main mission is to support the efforts of Southern countries to renovate their agricultural and rural training systems. It mobilizes recognized expertise able to contribute to public policies and support countries to adapt agricultural and rural training schemes to new national and international challenges.

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