

Climate Information for
Development:
An assessment of the Mali
Meteorological Service's
Agrometeorological Program

Edward R. Carr

Department of Geography

University of South Carolina

Background: The Agrometeorological Program

- Established in 1982
 - Government of Mali
 - Swiss Cooperation
- Goal
 - Improve agricultural outcomes
 - Deliver climate and weather information to farmers
 - Deliver agroecological information
 - Couple with local extension/outreach



Background: The Agrometeorological Program

- Initial Pilot (1982-1985)
 - Four villages
 - 16 farmers
- Impressive results

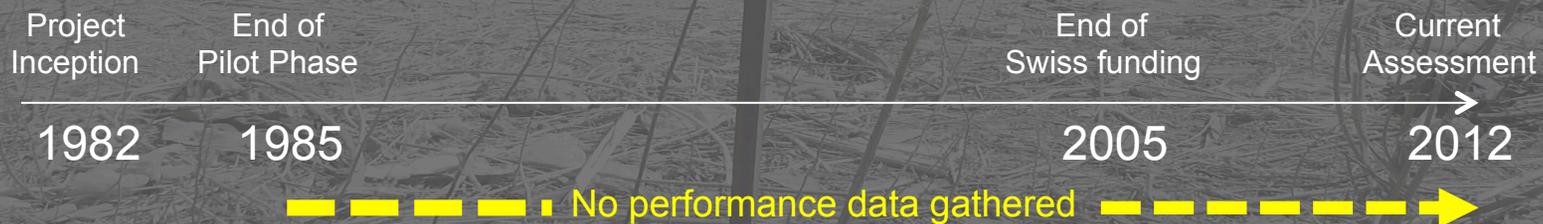


RESULTATS TECHNIQUES (SUITE)

- réduction importante du nombre de ressemis;
- réduction du temps des travaux champêtres ;
- Respect strict des doses d'engrais et de pesticides ;
- Augmentation substantielle des rendements dans les ordres de grandeur suivants:
 - + 25 à 30% dans le secteur de Bankoumana (Sud);
 - + 40 à 60% dans le secteur de Banamba (Nord);

The Agrometeorological Program: What do we know?

- Pilot phase was very successful
 - Swiss funded it for nearly 25 years
 - GoM saw the program as important, funded up to the 2012 coup
 - This program endured where others failed across the Sahel



All performance claims from data gathered in four villages in this phase

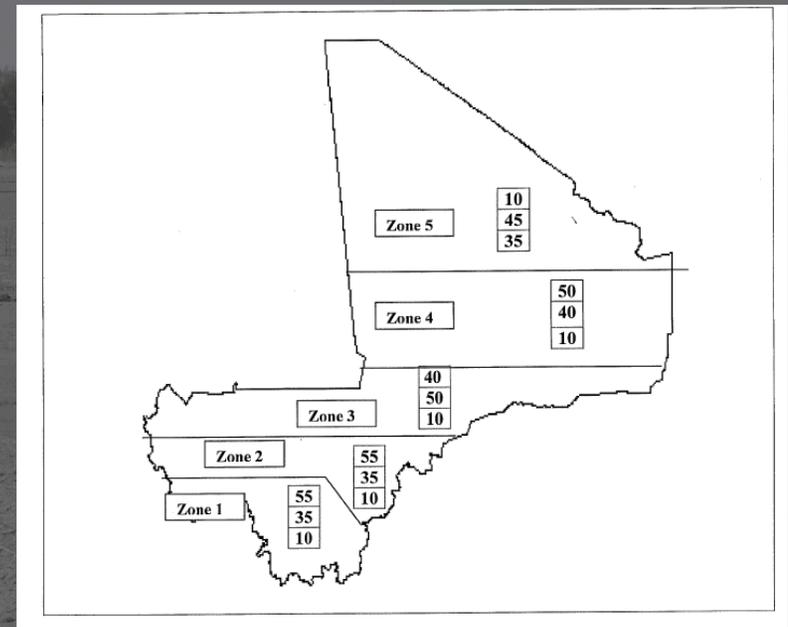
Assessment

- Three parts:
 - Science
 - What information and products are they using?
 - What are the program's science needs?
 - Institutional
 - Why did this program go from donor to government funded?
 - Field
 - What is the impact of the program?
 - What are the end user's needs?



Assessment: Progress and Findings

- Science Assessment:
 - 1st Phase complete
 - 2nd Phase to come when field component complete
- Institutional Assessment
 - Began in mid-June



Assessment: Design

- Field Assessment: 36 villages (18 GLAM, 18 control)





Assessment Design

- Preliminary visits
- Livelihoods focus
- Semi-structured interviews
 - Climate as last topic of conversation
 - Test-run in four villages



Assessment: Progress and Findings

- For one village in Kayes
 - Avg farmer: 2.4 plots
 - Younger women: 3
 - Older women: 2
 - Younger men: 2.2
 - Older men: 2.4
 - 60% had received NGO support
 - 60% younger women
 - 100% older women
 - 80% younger men
 - 0% older men



Assessment: Progress and Findings

- Farm organization training
 - 15% of the interviewees
 - 100% of the young women
- Agromet program awareness
 - 75% of the interviewees
 - 40% younger women
 - 100% older women
 - 100% younger men
 - 60% older men



Assessment: Progress and Findings

- Do you follow the advice of the agromet program?
 - 25% of the interviewees said yes
 - 100% of younger men
- Is the agromet program effective?
 - 25% of the interviewees said yes
 - 100% of younger men
 - Nobody else knew if it worked



Assessment: Progress and Findings

- Preliminary Lessons
 - What information is needed vs. what is provided
 - How information is provided has a social context



Assessment Goals

- Identifying gaps in the Meteo Mali program
 - Identifying focused needs for donors,
- Learning from Mali's successes for scale-up
 - Building on Mali's experiences in other countries
 - Facilitating proposals to donors



Assessment Goals

- Identification of good practices
 - Minimum standards
 - Science
 - User engagement
 - Evaluation
 - Alternative assessment/evaluation techniques



Acknowledgements

