AZN

ZORAMB NAAGTAABA inter-village association

FERME PILOTE de GUIE (FPG)

Water, *Earth*, *Greenery*.

2024 Activity Report
Guiè pilot farm

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March 2025

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Basic approval No. 95 - 021 / MAT / POTG / AG
(Publication in the Journal Officiel of April 11, 96)
Approval renewed under N°2021-293/POTG on September 7, 2021
(Publication in the Journal Officiel of December 9, 2021)

*For an aerial tour on **Google Earth**, type **Ferme pilote de Guiè (AZN)** in the search bar.*

Summary

The various pilot farm teams were able to carry out their programs during 2024.

The facilitators were able to carry out their activities in support of farmers, holding meetings with landowning groups as part of the proper management of woodland perimeters, monitoring farmers through individual meetings, distributing excellence bonuses to households that received surveyors in their fields in 2024, and carrying out excellence surveys. The support activity to strengthen the resilience of internally displaced farming families was carried out in the villages of Guiè, Douré, Lindi and Cissé-yargo, along with a few local families. The 23rdrdedition of the Ruralies was held at the Place des fêtes of the new Guiè market, during which the winners of the Zaï competition and that of the best perimeter field received their prizes.

At the land development unit (*CAF*), the team continued to develop the Guiè/Tounda woodland perimeter and started work on the Lindi woodland perimeter. The development of the Samissi village woodland road was completed with the digging of holes and the planting of trees. However, we were unable to obtain contractors for the digging of root pits in Kouila.

At the nursery, over 17,000 trees and shrubs of 17 different species were produced. Sales were satisfactory once again this year!

The bocage maintenance team continued its work pruning hedgerows and planting and maintaining trees on wooded roads.

In the Agricultural Equipment section, support for the preparation of farmers' fields through soil decompaction was achieved, with an increase in the total surface area, as well as various support operations for the other sections. The use of the mower-conditioner is confirmed for the farm's haymaking operations.

At the Park, we have continued to train farmers in rational grazing and herd management.

Finally, the Lindi farm has continued to diversify its production.

We would like to thank all our partners for the support they have given us to carry out all these activities during the year .

Abstract

The various teams of the pilot farm were able to carry out their programs throughout 2024.
The facilitators successfully conducted their farmer support activities, including meetings with land groups to ensure proper management of the bocage perimeters, individual follow-ups with

farmers, the distribution of excellence awards to households that welcomed surveyors into their fields in 2024, and the completion of excellence surveys.
The activity aimed at strengthening the resilience of internally displaced farming families was carried out in the villages of Guiè, Douré, Lindi, and Cissé-Yargo, along with some indigenous families. The 23rd edition of the Ruralies took place at the Place des Fêtes of Guiè's new market, during which the winners of the Zaï contest and the best bocage perimeter field competition received their prizes.
At the Land Development Unit (CAF), the team continued the development of the Guiè/Tounda bocage perimeter and initiated work on the Lindi bocage perimeter. The afforestation of the road in the village of Samissi was completed with the digging of holes and the planting of trees. However, we were unable to hire contractors for the digging of root wells in Kouila.
At the nursery, more than 17,000 trees and shrubs of 17 different species were successfully produced. Once again, sales were satisfactory this year!
The bocage maintenance team continued hedge trimming, tree planting, and the upkeep of afforested roads.
In the Agricultural Equipment Section, support for farmers in field preparation through soil decompaction was provided, with an increase in total cultivated area, along with various assistance to other sections. The use of the mower-conditioner has been confirmed for haymaking operations on the farm.
At the Park, we continued farmer training activities on rational grazing and herd management.
Finally, the Lindi farm carried on with its activities, with increasing diversification in its production.
We extend our sincere gratitude to all our partners for their support, which has enabled us to carry out all these activities throughout the year.

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Introduction

In the following, we will report on the progress of the pilot farm's activities throughout the year, during which we were able to carry out almost all our planned activities. The agricultural season saw much less rainfall than in 2023, but the good distribution combined with good farming techniques resulted in satisfactory harvests.

On the whole, the seven sections were able to carry out their activities successfully. Among other things, we were able to

- development of the Guiè/Tounda woodland perimeter;
- the beginning of the development of the bocage perimeter in the village of Lindi, Siguinvoussé district;
- support for farmers to prepare their fields by decompacting the soil and support for other sections;
- maintenance of hedges through pruning;
- tree and shrub production at the nursery ;
- training farmers in the Zaï technique;
- the distribution of excellence premiums to farmers in bocage areas;
- conducting excellence surveys during the rainy season;
- the organization of the 23thedition of the Ruralies ;
- continued operation of the Lindi production farm.

This annual report will review in detail the activities carried out by each section during the year.

Given the involvement of several partners in all our activities, we are unable to give precise details of each partner's contribution. We will therefore limit ourselves to mentioning the names of partners only in the financial and material reports (valuation of in-kind donations).

Technical support for farmers and breeders

1. Supporting farmers

The main missions are to provide support to farmers in the following areas:

- **Raising awareness of** environmental conservation (*bushfire control, composting, mulching, Zaï technique, etc.*).
- **Support for the mobilization of beneficiaries** for joint work in the perimeters.
- **Experimentation** with new farming techniques.
- **Maintenance** of common areas (*firewalls, perimeter paths, fences, gates*)**.**
- **Fight against ecobuzzling,** prohibition of deliberate fires in plots and awareness of the soil impoverishment caused by this technique.
- **Layout of the axes of landscaped fields** (*bocage perimeters*).
- **Training** adults (*from AZN member villages or not*).
- **Training apprentices from the Ecole du Bocage** in experimental fields.
- **Training and leading animals** to pasture with electric fencing in bocage areas

a. *Support for the organization of joint work :*

As a reminder, common works are one of the pillars of the Groupement Foncier's management of a bocage perimeter. It is one of the activities that give full meaning to the co-ownership that governs management within the perimeter.

During the rainy season, grass and shrubs grow on the paths, and especially on the firebreak, sometimes making it difficult for carts to reach the fields. At the end of the rainy season, it is important to clear these areas, in order to :

- allow tractor access to fields for soil decompaction ;
- prevent bush fires from penetrating the bocage perimeter.

The work involved 134 people, including 40 women and 94 men.

However, we have suspended our work in the Danghin/Rimpintanga perimeter, because after several meetings with the landowners' group to raise their awareness of the need to manage their perimeter fence properly, they were unable to find a solution to the acts of vandalism on the fence.

Finally, a lump sum of 25,000 Fcfa has been set aside by the pilot farm for each repair to the fencing of hedged farmland, in the hope that this will encourage the landowners to keep a closer eye on them.

b. *Individual meetings with farmers*

This activity generally starts during the field preparation period, and continues throughout the rainy season. The organizers take advantage of this special time to talk to farmers and raise their awareness of the importance of proper field preparation and crop maintenance. We met 334 people, including 141 women and 193 men.

c. Distribution of excellence awards

Following on from the excellence surveys carried out during the 2023 rainy season, premiums for farmers in the bocage perimeters were distributed during the month of May. These premiums, made up of farming tools (*ploughs, wheelbarrows, shovels, machetes, picks, etc.*) and chicken droppings, were mainly used to prepare the fields, in particular for the Zaï. 327 households benefited from these bonuses this year.

The following table shows the details of the premium distribution:

Inputs	Quantity	Number of male beneficiaries	Number of women beneficiaries
Wheelbarrow	1	200	127
Chicken droppings (bag)	793		
Shovel	89		
Pickaxe	87		
Lime	69		
Trees	766		
Total		**327**	

We met a woman who was very interested in planting trees in the Guiè/Konkoos-raogo perimeter. Below, she tells us about her work:

My name is Nobila SOMLARE. I cultivate within the Konkoos-raogo bocage perimeter in Guiè, where I also plant trees on the axes of the fields as well as in the trenches for setting up the hedgerows of our plot. I planted edible species such as baobab, kapok, tamarind and cashew in the field axes, while in the hedgerows I planted species such as Koumbrissaka (Senna sieberiana), Randga (Combretum micranthum) and Zamené (Senegalia macrostachya) to restore soil fertility.

I also preserve the plants that grow naturally in my fields and don't interfere with farm work. Planting trees has many benefits for us, as the wood can be used as fuel; the fruit of certain species is used for home consumption as well as for marketing; and the leaves that fall in the fields fertilize the soil. In addition to planting trees, we practice crop rotation, which helps to further fertilize our plots.

We do, however, encounter a few difficulties during planting, such as termites gnawing away at the roots, and the lack of water in dry periods hindering their development. Last but not least, some stony areas are not conducive to good plant development. Nevertheless, I plan to continue planting trees, especially during the reforestation period. To do this, I intend to acquire plants to plant in areas where the trees have not been able to develop well.

My advice to other women is that we should support our husbands in the work in the fields and especially in planting trees, because what men do, we women can do too.

2. Revegetation of degraded land project

Launched in 2023 with a dual objective, including :

- rapid recovery of degraded land using the Zaï technique;
- and providing internally displaced farming families (*who have had to flee their villages of origin to take refuge in other villages*) with the means of production to meet a large part of their food needs and thus strengthen their resilience,

we relaunched the project, this time with 257 families (*each family has an average of 5 to 6 members*) spread over four villages: Lindi (*146 families*), Cissé-yargo (*93 families, including 44 new arrivals*), Guiè (*7 families*) and Douré (*10 families*). These families benefited from the project, which was implemented as follows:

- distribution of agricultural inputs: this activity was carried out in two stages:
  - distribution of farming tools (*2 picks and 2 shovels/family*) for digging the Zaï. It should be noted that in Cissé-yargo, the elders did not receive this equipment as they had already received it in 2023. Only the 44 new families received these tools;
  - then later distribution of 20 bags of compost made from poultry droppings to families who had dug the Zaï. These bags were given out once the Zaï had been dug by the animator.

It should be noted that beneficiaries from the villages of Cissé-yargo, Guiè and Douré worked within the perimeters, while those from Lindi were outside the perimeter.

As in the first phase, the selection of these families was made thanks to the involvement of the Village Development Councillors of the two villages, who provided us with lists of the various beneficiaries. The main selection criterion was that the families should be among those experiencing the greatest difficulties as internal refugees.

Our aim was to give these families a helping hand to strengthen their resilience, and enable them to work more serenely on the land made available to them by their host villages, most of which was not very fertile. In Lindi, they benefited from plots of land of around 1 hectare, scattered throughout the village, while in Cissé-yargo, Douré and Guiè, the families benefited for the most part from fields within the bocage perimeter (*0.75 ha/field for Cissé-yargo and Douré; and 0.64 ha/field in Guiè*). We targeted the most degraded land within these bocage perimeters.

Once the tools had been distributed, the families were trained in the Zaï technique. To this end, several groups of around 10 to 15 people were formed to facilitate learning and exchanges with the instructors.

After the Zaï training, the team of animators continued the activity by monitoring the digging of the Zaï during the dry season, and the maintenance of the crops during the rainy season until harvest. The crops produced were mainly sorghum and millet.

Yields obtained at the end of the campaign were very satisfactory, with an average of 1,381 kg/ha for sorghum. One woman head of household stood out with a yield of over 3 tonnes per hectare in the village of Lindi!

The project's beneficiaries once again welcomed the initiative, and some of them came to AZN's headquarters to thank them in person for the support they had received.

3. Preparing and cultivating fields

As a reminder, field preparation involves cleaning up (*clearing and destoning*), running the subsoiler, digging the Zaï and composting. Ideally, this work should be carried out before the rains to avoid missing the first sowings. For a field to be ready in the first fortnight of May, sowing can proceed if a good rain (*at least 20 mm*) falls after May 15. Although the drought that follows sowing may make it difficult for crops to develop, it does not destroy them all.

In our test fields, the subsoiler was used in March and the Zaï was dug in the same month. Compost was applied between May 20 and 22, and the first seedlings were sown on May 23 after 22 millimetres of rain fell on the night of May 21-22.

The Pfumvudza (*feed your family*) experiment with maize was repeated again this year on the same plot as in 2023. The results are reported in the following section on the season's results.

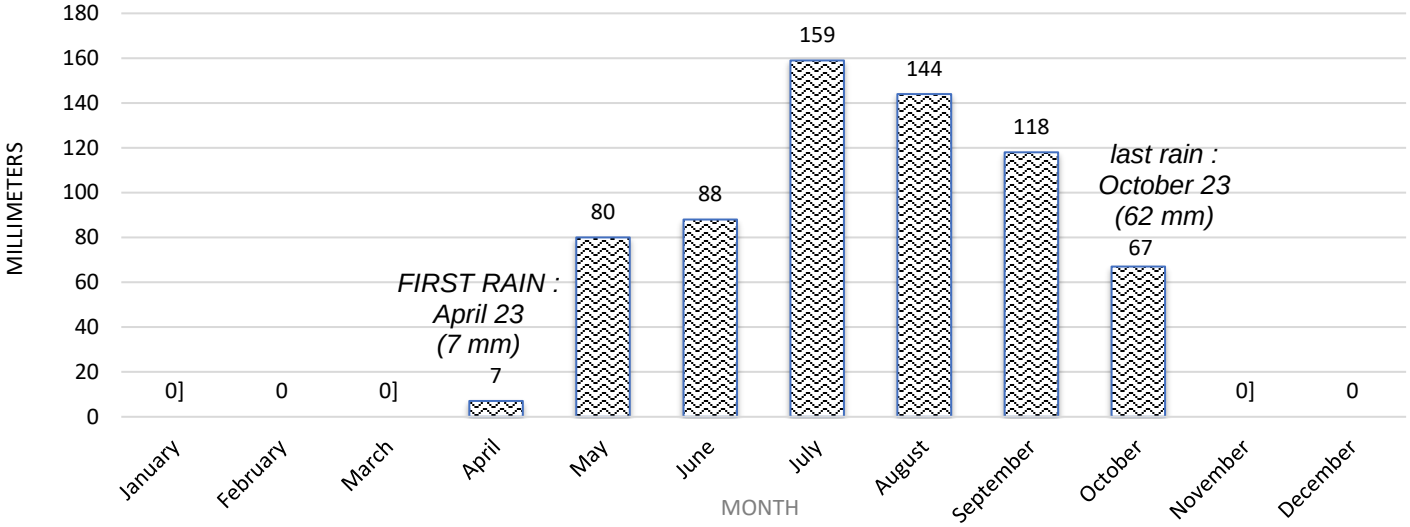
4. Agro-pluviometry report for the season

We received much less water this year than in 2023, but with a fairly even distribution throughout the season. This enabled the crops to develop well, with satisfactory yields.
The balance and distribution of rainfall for the 2024 season are shown below:

AZN
Pilot Farm
de Guiè
(Oubritenga)

Rainfall in 2024

TOTAL = 663 millimeters in 44 rains

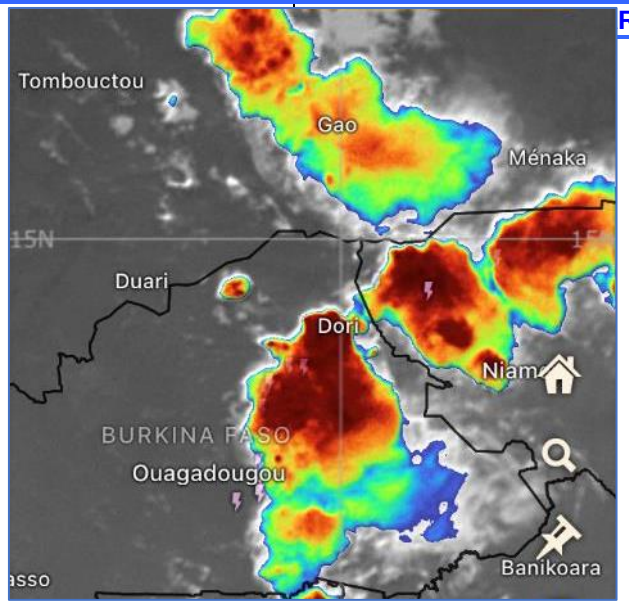


MONTHS	MONTHLY RAIN DISTRIBUTION 2024 (rain by date, with total at end of month) (mm = millimetres)																													TOTALS
Dates	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	mm/month
January																																0
February																																0
March																																0
April																							7									7
May					2	14						42									22											80
June					24			4					4		20						6			24						6		88
July			43										11		8		29			42		17						9				159
August			4	19		8		10			13	6				23	5		22				11	19			4					144
September	1			28				7			3		18		11		18		8	9	2		13									118
October			5																				62									67
November																																0
December																																0
																														R		663

Caption:

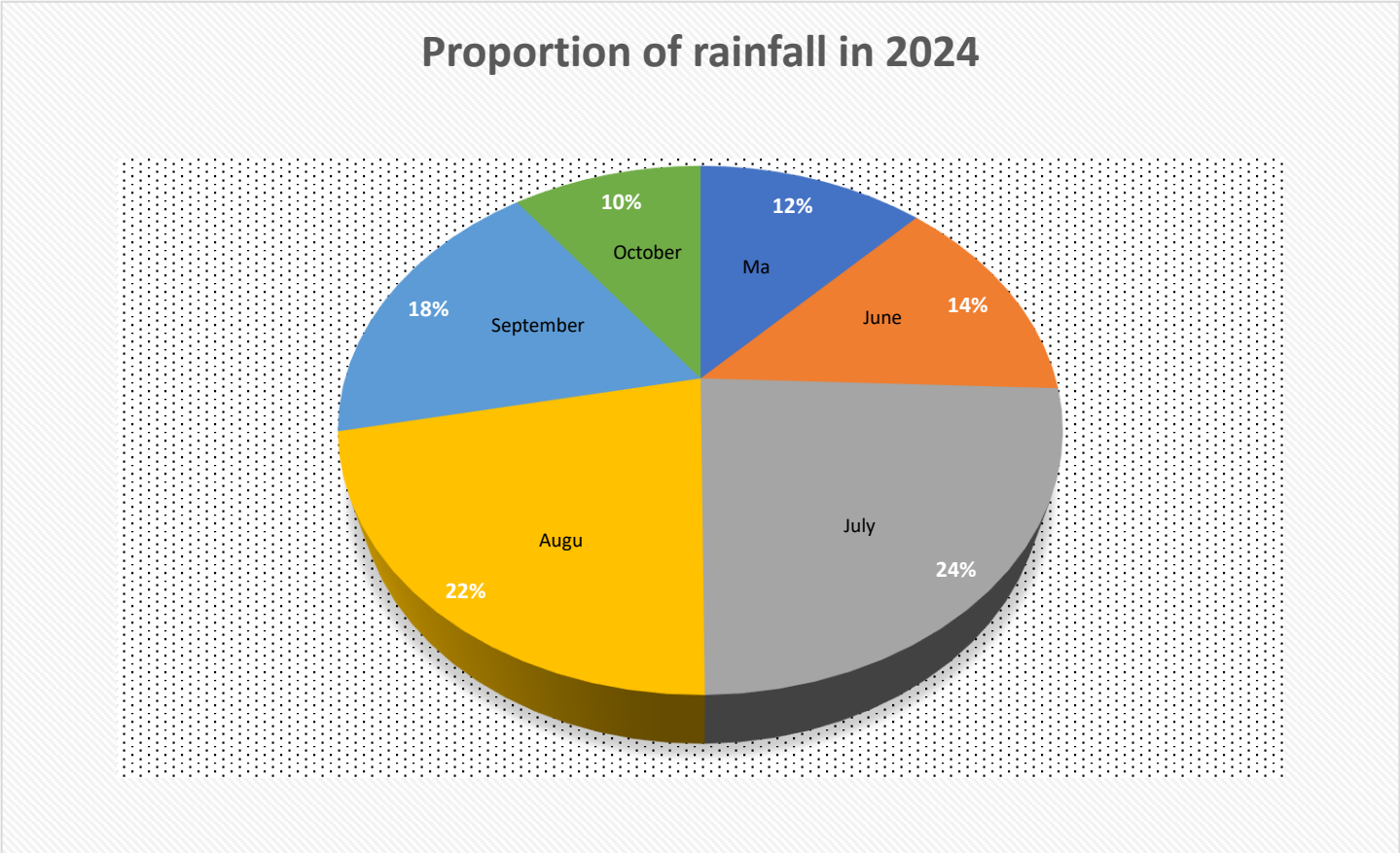
- Sustainable drought pocket
- Dangerous pocket of drought
- Agricultural season start date
- Sorghum sowing date
- Sorghum harvest date

STATION: **GUIÈ**



Satellite image of the cumulus clouds that rained on September 23

Rainfall analysis



The first rain of the year fell on April 23, with 7 millimeters of water. It was a refreshing rain, after several sunny days with temperatures in excess of 40 degrees!

- Thanks to the rainfall on May 21, the organizers and some farmers were able to start sowing cereals; but it was the rainfall on June 5 that really marked the start of the "agricultural season", with its 24 millimeters of water .
- We recorded four pockets of drought between July and October, three of which were sustainable and one dangerous.
- The first pocket of drought occurred between July 5 and 11, i.e. one week.
- The second dry spell lasted almost 10 days, between July 24 and August 4. This drought came at a time when crops needed water for growth.
- The third dry spell lasted 9 days between late July and early September. It didn't really have any significant effect on crop development, especially as the days that followed were quite rainy.

- The last dry spell was the longest, and therefore the most dangerous, lasting almost 29 days. A little rain on October 3 unfortunately failed to reverse the trend.
- It should be noted, however, that the relatively good distribution of rainfall enabled most crops to reach maturity, despite the prolonged absence of rain.
- The heavy rain of October 23 (*accompanied by violent winds*) almost did more harm than good to farmers, most of whom had already started harvesting their secondary crops such

as groundnuts and cowpeas. Some, who had already spread out their crops for drying, saw them washed away by the run-off, causing a great deal of damage.

- July was the wettest month on record, with 24% of total rainfall coming on just 7 days.
- August recorded the most rainy days (*12 days*).
- The relatively good distribution of rainfall in September enabled crops to reach the fruiting stage. The long dry spell that followed prevented many farmers from ripening their crops properly, but they were nevertheless able to harvest enough to meet a large part of their families' food requirements.
- Together, July, August and September brought a total of 421 millimeters of water, or around 63% of total rainfall.
- Of the 44 rainfalls received, 32 were below 20 millimeters, i.e. around 73%.
- The greatest amount of water fell on October 23, with 62 millimeters. This rain facilitated the peanut harvest in particular, and caused some damage to crops that had already been harvested.
- The agricultural rainy season lasted 118 days, or around 4 months. It ended on October 23, with 62 millimeters of water falling.

5. FPG experimental plots

Reminder: To put their money where their mouth is, the animators themselves cultivate fields in the Tankouri woodland perimeter *(developed between 1998 and 2000)*. This plot was loaned to us by a farmer who does not live in the village of Guiè. We are striving to develop know-how linked to the bio-ecological intensification of agriculture, capable of offering solutions adapted to the challenges and characteristics of Sahelian agriculture. The objectives pursued in these fields are :

- *In situ* testing of the techniques we propose to farmers *(mechanized Zaï, localized weeding, FACA roller, crop rotation, rational grazing with electric fencing, living hedges, high-growing trees in the axis of the fields, depriming)*.
- Try out new approaches/methods and refine old ones.
- Training farm apprentices
- To enable visitors to discover the results of our work.

We operate four half-fields of 3,200 m² each, enabling us to practice a 4-year rotation. The apprentices, for their part, have three half-fields at their disposal for three-year rotation (*plots framed in the photo above*).

The following table shows the 2024 rotation/assortment system (*arrows*) and the technical itinerary for each crop in his plot:

Year : 2024	Main crop : ***Fallow (temporary grassland)***	Year : 2024	Main crop : ***Mil***
2023	***Mil***	*2023*	***Sorghum***
No associated crops		Possible associated crop: cowpea Intercropping strips	
Combined cultivation: green manure seeds can be broadcast. Cultivation technique used : • Let nature express itself through spontaneous grassing • However, some interesting seeds can be added (*legumes, etc.*). • Regular grazing with electric fence throughout the season		Cultivation technique used : • Using the old Zaï holes • Sowing on May 23 then replanting on June 04 • 1st weeding on July 16 • Harvest on October 25	
Year : 2024	Main crop : ***Secondary crops (peanuts, sesame, bissap)***	Year : 2024	Main crop : ***Sorghum***
2023	***Fallow (temporary grassland)***	*2023*	***Secondary crops (peanuts, sesame, bissap)***
		Alley intercropping	
• Sowing on July 19 • Sesame, groundnut and bissap weeding on August 28 • Groundnut harvest on October 23 • Sesame harvest on October 18		Cultivation technique used : • Subsoiling in March • Making Zaï in March-April • Compost application and covering in May Sowing on May 23 • Spot weeding on July 04 • Second weeding on plot without FACA roller test on August 30 Harvest begins November 12	

Plot maintenance continued with the reinforcement of the hedgerows by planting additional shrubs, details of which are given in the following table:

Species	Mooré/French name	Number of plants
Acacia macrostachya	Zamenenga/Zamené	33
Adansonia digitata	Toèga/Baobab	3
Anogeissus leiocarpus	Siiga/ African birch	60
Total		**96**

The planted trees are maintained throughout the season by cleaning their surroundings and mulching.

6. Cereal yields 202 4

Although we recorded a significant drop in rainfall compared with last year, the results of the agricultural campaign were nevertheless satisfactory this year, thanks to the distribution of rainfall, especially in September.

The various yields are shown in the tables below:

Cereal yields 2024 in kg/ha for FPG plots :

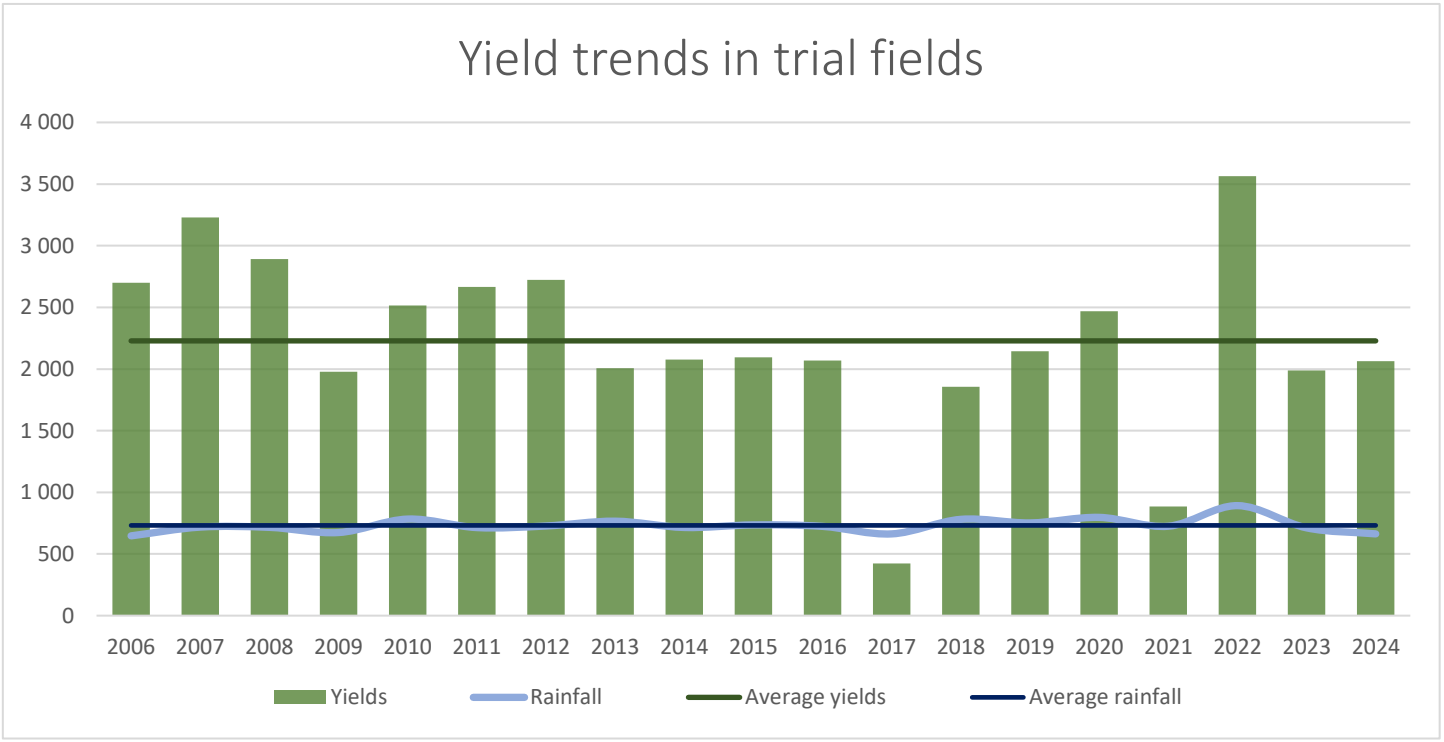
Productions	Yields 2024	Yields 2023	*Yields 2022*	*Yields 2021*
Local sorghum (*standard system*)	**2 063**	*1 988*	*3 564*	*884*
Local sorghum (*FACA roll*)	**/**	*3 184*	*2 618*	*1 447*
Local sorghum (*Pfumvudza*)	**/**	*1 785*	*2 900*	*/*
Pfumvudza corn (*improved seed*)	**5 834**	*1 888*	*3 186*	*1 146*
Farm manager's field	**1 314**	*1 235*	*1 287*	*693*

We recorded a slight increase in the yield of sorghum grown according to the standard system (*Zaï and weeding maintenance*) this year, with **2,063 kg/ha** corresponding to the average yields of red and white sorghum, which are 2,632 kg/ha and 1,493 kg/ha respectively. Nevertheless, we are still within the average yield of 2 tonnes per hectare. The FACA roller could not be applied this year due to insufficient grass in the sorghum plot.

Again this year, Striga reappeared in the field, but the effect was not very significant on production. We again noticed that the number of plants was greater in the white sorghum than in the red.

The Pfumvudza results were very encouraging this year, with a yield of **5,834 kg/ha**, a jump of around 4 tonnes per hectare compared with 2023. Termite attacks were again recorded, but this time with less effect thanks to the rains. That said, one of the best solutions against termites is soil moisture. A well-moistened soil prevents termites from reaching the base of crops.

Evolution of sorghum yields in our trial fields from 2006 to 2024 :



Over a 19-year period, sorghum yields in our experimental fields average **2,228 kg/ha** (dark green line). Rainfall averaged 732 mm over the same period (dark blue line). In our system, **"1 millimetre of rainfall gives a yield of around 3 kg/ha"** for sorghum. These results continue to confirm the performance of the techniques we promote to farmers.
That's why we feel that the most important thing for us is that it should be of use to them, as they are the ultimate beneficiaries of our work.

*Average yields **in kg/ha** of sorghum (local variety) among farmers in the area :*

Production methods	**Yields 2024**	***Yields 2023***	***Yields 2022***	***Yields 2021***
Zaï	**1 148**	*1 025*	*1 238*	*931*
Traditional	**799**	*778*	*993*	*674*

There is an overall increase in yields compared with 2023, with**+** 123 kg/ha for Zaï (*around 12% more*) and**+ 21** kg/ha (*2.7% more*) for the traditional technique. The Zaï yield exceeds that of the traditional technique by around 70%. In terms of extremes in production, the highest yield for the Zaï technique is 2,534 kg/ha and the lowest is 482 kg/ha, while for the traditional system, the highest yield is 2,210 kg/ha and the lowest is 247 kg/ha.

These results once again justify the need for the farm's animation team to continue training farm families in Zaï and sustainable agriculture techniques.

A comparison of yields in and outside the bocage perimeter gives the following results:

Production technology	Website	Yields (Kg/ha)
Zaï	Bocage perimeter	1 125
	Outside the bocage perimeter	1 183
Traditional	Bocage perimeter	657
	Outside the bocage perimeter	872

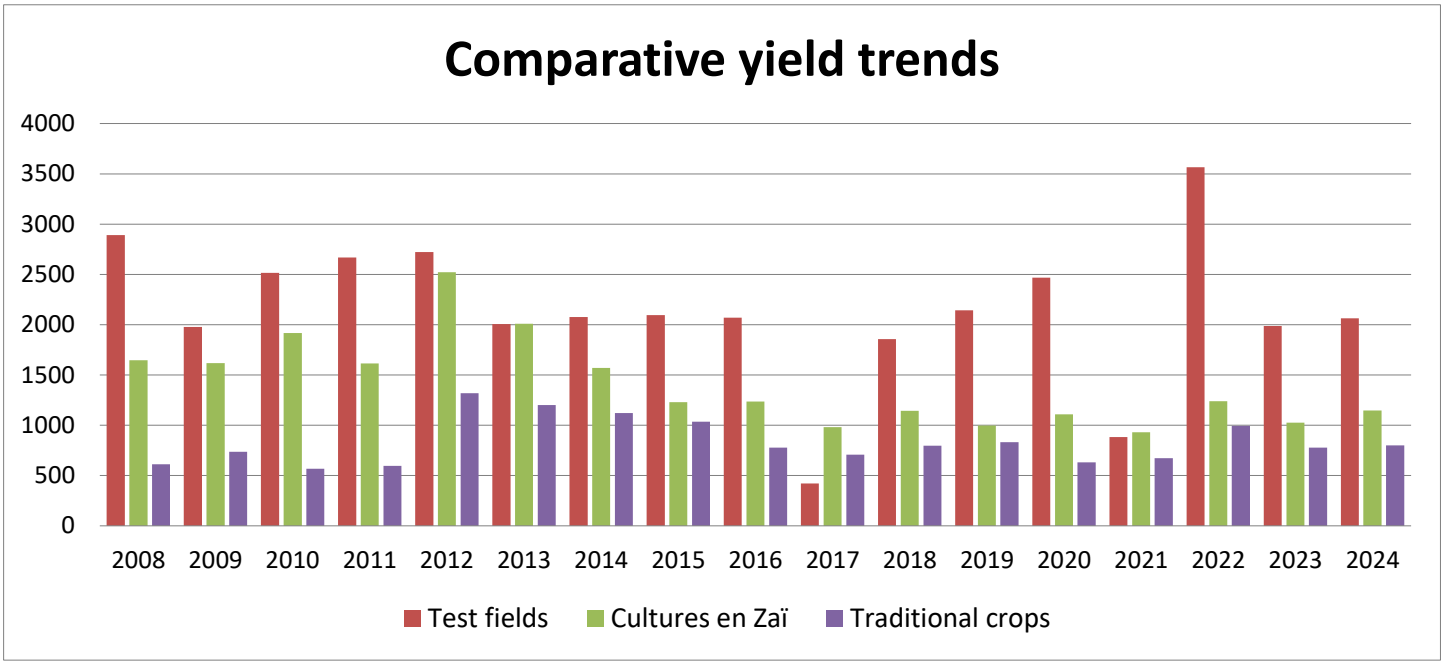
It can be seen that this year, yields for techniques carried out outside the bocage perimeters are slightly higher than those for the bocage perimeters.

The bocage perimeter is certainly a framework for sustainably productive agriculture, but it cannot guarantee good harvests from the outset without prior work on the part of the farmer. As the land is generally poor, good farming techniques must be applied to start the soil enrichment process, which requires a great deal of time and effort. Over time, however, the re-emergence of vegetation is a source of soil fertility, which will significantly improve yields.

A major difficulty faced by Zaï farmers is the roaming of animals at the beginning of the season, when they have finished sowing and the seedlings are starting to grow. Indeed, as can be seen in the photo opposite, these crops are at the mercy of the animals' teeth, which will only be tethered once the secondary crops have been sown. Some are forced to abandon their fields to the animals, as it is so difficult to prevent them from gaining access to the fields. It's at this point that the bocage perimeter shows one of its advantages, that of protecting crops from roaming animals.

The graph below shows the evolution of yields for the different techniques applied, from 2008 to 2024:

Comparative yield trends:



Apart from the two years 2017 and 2021, we can see that the yields from the trial fields are the best over the 17 years. The Zaï technique remains the most productive compared with traditional practice over the whole period. As a reminder, reclaiming degraded land is a long-term process. As the soil is the central element of rain-fed agriculture, it must be given particular importance by nourishing it over the years; but also and above all by conserving it through sustainable development, of which the bocage perimeter is one element. This remains our main message to farmers, so that they become aware of the vital importance of the soil by practising Zaï, systematic composting, tree planting, crop rotation, rational grazing, etc.

7. Millet depriming

As a reminder, this operation involves grazing crops, in this case millet and to a lesser extent sorghum. This operation must be carried out before panicle initiation to avoid cutting the stem carrying the ear. So, since 2008, we've been applying this technique when the weather permits. The soil must be relatively dry to allow the cattle to enter the field, otherwise the plants may be uprooted. This year, depriming was carried out in the director's millet field on July 28, part of which was used for the operation. The results at the end of the campaign were 1,443 kg/ha for the depressed part, compared with 935 kg/ha for the non-depressed part.

This can be explained by the greater quantity of stalks after the passage of the animals. De-stemming boosts millet recovery, enabling it to form better grains than ordinary millet.

8. Farmers' excellence surveys of bocage perimeters

They took place in August in six bocage areas. The excellence surveys are an ideal opportunity to observe the quality of each farmer's work in the bocage perimeters, both in terms of production techniques and field maintenance (*hedgerows, earthen bunds, field axis trees, etc.*). It's an opportunity to talk to farmers about their production and field maintenance work, and give them advice on how to improve their practices to benefit more from the points.

A scoping meeting was organized before the surveyors left for the bocage perimeters. This enabled each surveyor to harmonize his or her understanding of the various scoring criteria.

This year's surveys covered 333 households in 493 fields.

9. Organization of the Ruralies

The 23rd edition of the Ruralies was held on November 23 at the Place des fêtes of the new Guiè market. The aim of this ceremony is to promote life in rural areas in general. To achieve this, particular emphasis is placed on promoting culture through performances by traditional song and dance troupes, the exhibition of agricultural products from the fields, and the processing of these products. This year's theme was: "**Let's get an early start on our work in the fields, so we can make the most of the agricultural season**".

This choice stems from our observations concerning this year's agricultural campaign. Irregular rainfall has affected crops to such an extent that some harvests have been practically compromised. However, when we take our observations a step further, we notice that most of the fields that have suffered the most are those where work started late. Until early July, some farmers were still sowing cereals, while others had already sown at the end of May. The latter's crops benefited from the rains from June to September, which enabled them to achieve satisfactory yields.

As for the Zaï competition, we have registered four candidates again this year. As a reminder, candidates are pre-selected by the villages through the district chiefs and the CVD (*Village Development Committee*), who pass on their identities to the farm. The jury, which in principle consists of people from outside the pilot farm, evaluates the various fields by awarding marks on the basis of predefined criteria. The jury is made up of three people from the French government's departmental services (2 *from agriculture and 1 from the environment*). It should be noted that the winner of the Zaï competition can only enter the competition again after five years.

The following table shows the ranking of candidates in the competition:

Rank	Candidate	Gender	Village	Prize obtained
1er	Mimanegda OUEDRAOGO	M	Souka	A heifer (*from the farm's herd*)
2th	Tambi GUELBEOGO	M	Bélé	Poultry droppings (10 bags)
3(th)	Téné OUEDRAOGO	F	Guiè	Poultry droppings (10 bags)
4(th)	Kouka OUEDRAOGO	M	Doanghin	Poultry droppings (10 bags)

The prize for the best bocage farming family went to Mr. Kouma SAWADOGO of the Konkoos-Raogo bocage in the village of Guiè, who is also a volunteer on the pilot farm (*in charge of the bocage maintenance team*). On behalf of his family, he received a heifer from the farm's herd.

The best bocage perimeter was that of Bendogo/Pasgo (*to be developed in 2021*). It received the most points in the excellence surveys carried out in August.
In 2025, all farmers will benefit from a fixed-price passage of 5,000 CFA francs for the decompactor in one of their fields between January and April, provided that the field is well cleaned (*stump removal in particular*) and accessible to the tractor (*cleaned internal paths*).

Les Ruralies: an event that boosts the local economy

Since its creation, the Ruralies have been an opportunity for traders from the region beyond to do business at the Guiè market. Indeed, many of them come to occupy the squares dedicated to commerce to sell their wares. From manufactured goods to local produce (*fruit, vegetables, handicrafts, etc.*), customers find almost everything they need on site. Appropriate restaurants and barbecue vendors open in the evening, keeping the village market lively until dawn. In this way, the Ruralies is more than just a fleeting festival: it's a catalyst that stimulates and strengthens the village's economic activity.

The following table summarizes the year's activities:

Activities	Period	Location and quantification	Comments
Meetings to exchange ideas and mobilize farmers for the proper management of bocage perimeters	All year round	Guiè/Tankouri, Doanghin/Rimpintanga, Guiè/Kankamsin, Douré/Boangb-wéogo, Guiè/Konkoos-raogo, Bendogo/Pasgo, Cissé-yargo/Taangbanka	134 farmers took part, including 94 men and 40 women.
Clearing of internal paths and firebreaks in bocage perimeters	January to May	Guiè/Tankouri, Doanghin/Rimpintanga, Guiè/Kankamsin, Douré/Boangb-wéogo, Guiè/Konkoos-raogo, Bendogo/Pasgo, Cissé-yargo/Taangbanka	Firewall : Unsatisfactory attendance Internal paths : Some fields are still inaccessible to the tractor, as this activity is not always followed up assiduously.
Repairing fences in hedgerow perimeters	All year round	Doanghin, Tankouri, Old Farm plot, Lindi Farm, AZN headquarters, AZN borehole	We are continuing to raise awareness among users of the hedgerows about the importance of proper fencing, which is the primary source of protection for their plant and animal resources.
Revegetation of degraded land project	March to November	Villages of Guiè, Douré, Lindi and Cissé-yargo	Rapidly reclaim degraded land and strengthen the resilience of 256 farming families, the majority of whom are internally displaced. 414 picks, 414 shovels and 5,120 bags of chicken droppings were distributed.

Apprenticeship training	All year round	Guiè Farm	These are the classes of 2023 and 2024. For more information, read the École du bocage 2024 annual report.
Preparing experimental fields	March-May	Experimental fields on the farm	See results above.
Individual meetings with farmers in and outside the bocage perimeters	January to August	The 11 AZN villages	334 people (141 women and 193 men): these people can act as relays for other farmers in the application of farming techniques.
Maintenance of internal hedges and axis trees	July to October	Experimental fields	This involves weeding and mulching at the foot of shrubs.
Exchange visit between the various beneficiaries of the landscaped gardens	June to July	In all landscaped rain gardens	Two experience-sharing meetings were organized between gardeners, attended by 19 people, including 18 men and 1 woman. We are seeing an improvement in production in all the gardens.
Distribution of excellence premiums to farmers	June	Four bocage perimeters : - 327 beneficiaries - 246 materials distributed - 4,402 plants distributed - 793 bags of chicken droppings	Farmers are increasingly interested in chicken droppings, as the results are convincing.
Surveys of excellence	August	6 bocage perimeters	The surveys covered 333 households in 493 fields.
Harvesting, weighing production and calculating yields	October to November	Samples taken from 125 fields in 12 villages	See results above.
Organization of the Ruralies	November 23	New market in Guiè	Theme: "**Let's get an early start on our fieldwork to get the most out of the agricultural season**".
Welcoming visitors	All year round	265 people	Visitors from all walks of life.

Rural development
(CAF section: Land Development Unit)

We started the year with two main activities: development of the Guiè/Tounda woodland perimeter and development of the Lindi woodland perimeter. The Guiè→ Kouila road is still waiting for contractors to dig the root pits.

1. Bocage perimeters s

a. *Development of the Guiè/Tounda woodland perimeter:*

We continued work on this hedged farmland (*132 hectares in total*), digging trenches and ponds in the first two sections.

As a reminder, we subdivided the perimeter into three sections to facilitate the work. As a result, the dynamic teams were able to dig 67 infiltration pools, plus 103 internal trenches 160 metres long, for a total length of 16.48 kilometers.

This labor-intensive work mobilized 669 people (*548 women and 121 men*) divided into several teams of around 4 to 6 members.

Transparency being a key element in this type of activity, before payment is made, the technicians and each team of contractors evaluate together the level of difficulty of the work carried out, to

avoid any misunderstanding concerning the amount to be paid.

At the start of the rainy season, we replaced the trees in the mixed hedge in the bocage perimeter by planting 2,070 *Combretum micranthum* and *Senna sieberiana*.

To set an example for the other beneficiaries, we supported one of them in planting a batch of plots, in this case batch 15. Several species such as tamarind, baobab and kapok were planted in the internal trenches and field axes of the four plots in this lot.

b. Lindi bocage perimeter :

Following the field survey, the beneficiaries of the Lindi woodland perimeter paid their financial contribution and reallocated the plots among themselves. They named their perimeter "**Nayir kaongo**", which in French means "**royal court grove**".

Work began with the construction of the perimeter protection dike, involving the excavation of a 220 m long watertight trench, followed by the excavation of a 1,500 m^{3}bulli.

Once completed, the bulli played its protective role well, stopping the water coming from the hills, and allowing the overflow to pass through the weir, which bypasses the device.

We then went on to develop the bocage perimeter, beginning with the digging of the 2,400-metre

fence trench, followed by the digging of the stake holes, internal trenches and ponds. Around 2,800 metres of internal trenches and 13 ponds were dug this year.

The labor-intensive work here involved 358 people, including 40 men and 318 women divided into several dozen teams.

Fencing work involved the attachment of 723 T35 posts, 50 rolls of wire mesh (*50 meters/roll*), 5 rolls of barbed wire (*500 meters/roll*) and 2 rolls of galvanized wire to attach the mesh to the posts. As a reminder, this perimeter has a total surface area of 38 hectares, where 12 families will cultivate.

Planting the fence hedge (*to form a mixed hedge*) required 1,700 shrubs, including 840 Senna sieberiana (*Koumbrissaka*) and 860 Combretum micranthum (*Randga*).

In October, we could see how well the trees were developing on this plot where very little vegetation was growing...

2. Development of wooded roads

Begun in 2022, the wooded road linking the villages of Guiè and Samissi was completed this year, with the digging of the remaining 33 holes. The trees were planted during the rainy season.
The baton has now been passed to the bocage maintenance team, who will look after the trees on this section.

The wooded road to the village of Kouila, where we are faced with a lateritic terrain that is very hard to dig, is still struggling to mobilize contract workers.

3. Reforestation

In our section, the reforestation campaign began on June 25 with the replacement of trees in the mixed hedge of the Bendogo/Pasgo bocage perimeter.

Details of the campaign are shown in the table below:

Species	Mooré/French name	Planting site	Quantity
Combretum micranthum	Randga/Kinkéliba	Mixed hedge in the Guiè/Tounda perimeter	1 320
Senna sieberiana	Koumbrissaka		750
Combretum micranthum	Randga/Kinkéliba	Lot 15 of the Guiè/Tounda bocage perimeter	305
Senna sieberiana	Koumbrissaka		275
Sarcocephalus latifolius	Gouinga/African peach tree		5
Adansonia digitata	Toèga/Baobab		70
Tamarindus indica	Pousga/Tamarind		75
Sclerocarya birrea	Nobga/Marula		10
Anogeissus leiocarpus	Siiga/African roll		10
Parkia biglobosa	Roanga/Néré		9
Combretum micranthum	Randga/Kinkéliba	Bendogo/Pasgo perimeter	2 130
Senna sieberiana	Koumbrissaka		1 196
Combretum micranthum	Randga/Kinkéliba	Lindi/Nayir kaongo mixed hedgerow perimeter	860
Senna sieberiana	Koumbrissaka		840
Khaya senegalensis	Caïlcédrat	Wooded road Guiè→ Samissi	57
Eucalyptus camaldulensis	Eucalyptus		57
TOTAL	10 species		7 960

By 2023, we had planted 10,725 shrubs in the mixed hedgerow of the Guiè/Tounda bocage perimeter. Only 2,070 plants were replaced, giving us a survival rate of just over 80%! As usual, after planting, comes the plant maintenance phase. This involves watering and weeding, with the participation of the beneficiaries.

Nursery

The nursery has 3 main missions:

- plant production for landscaping projects (*hedgerows, avenue trees, pondsides, roadsides*);
- the sale of plants, seeds and leaves to meet local demand;
- research and development (*multiplication of species that have become rare, introduction of new species*).

It also records rainfall data.

In 2024, the team produced a total of **18,595 plants** of 56 different species. It should be noted that this production includes the plants remaining at the end of the 2023 campaign, which amounted to 3,820 plants, from which a few dead plants have to be removed.
Details of plant production and use are given in the following lines.

1. Assessment of the 2024 campaign

Details of the campaign (*production* + *use*) are shown in the following table:

Species	French name	Mooré name	Quantity produced	Quantity planted	Excellence awards	Sales	Donations	Remainder
Acacia albida	Kad	Zaanga	11	0	0	0	11	0
Acacia colei	Acacia colei		12	0	11	1	0	0
Acacia macrostachya		Zamenega	43	33	0	10	0	0
Acacia nilotica		Pegnenga	35	0	0	35	0	0
Adansonia digitata	Baobab	Toèga	249	73	84	90	0	2
Albizia lebbeck	Women's language	-	1	0	0	0	0	1
Anacardium occidentale	Cashew apple	Fisan	77	0	0	7	0	70
Annona squamosa	Apple cinnamon	Baa-taam	17	0	0	9	0	8
Anogeissus leiocarpus	African birch	Siiga	137	70	67	0	0	0
Artemisia	Wormwood	-	7	0	0	7	0	0
Azadirachta indica	Nimier	Niim	813	6	0	418	30	359
Bauhinia rufescens		Tipoèga	11	0	10	1	0	0
Bombax costatum	Red-flowered Kapok tree	Voaka	113	0	8	5	0	100
Bougainvillea sp	Bougainvillea	-	43	0	0	4	0	39
Carica papaya	Papaya	Bogfire	311	166	0	127	0	18
Ceiba pentandra	Cheesemaker	Gounga	14	0	0	2	0	12
Citrus limon	Lemon tree	Lémbour-miissinga	202	5	0	131	0	66
Cola cordifolia		Masinm-noogo	22	0	0	22	0	0
Combretum micranthum	Kinkéliba	Randga	4 834	4 525	0	272	0	37
Crescentia cujete	Calebassier	Wam-tiiga	57	0	31	15	8	3
Dseialium guineense	Black tamarind	Mak-poussa	8	0	0	0	0	8
Diospyros mespiliformis	African ebony	Gãaka	70	0	0	50	0	20
Eucalyptus camaldulensis	Eucalyptus	-	1 232	365	0	705	0	162
Ficus platyphylla		Kamsaongo	6	0	0	2	0	4
Guajilote	Jamaican cane	-	14	2	0	12	0	0
Khaya senegalensis	Caïlcédrat	Kouka	1 569	253	12	1035	5	264
Lannea microcarpa	African grape	Sãbga	60	0	52	1	0	7
Leucaena leucocephala	Leucéna	-	217	0	0	1	0	216
Lonchocarpus laxiflorus		Naglenga	1	0	0	0	0	1
Mangifera indica	Mango tree	Mang-tiiga	61	0	0	31	0	30
Morinda citrifolia	Noni		318	92	0	72	0	154

Moringa oleifera	Winged Ben	Arzantiiga	174	12	3	8	5	146
Musa troglodytarum	Banana	-	19	7	0	12	0	0
Parkia biglobosa	Néré	Roãga	106	9	96	1	0	0
Paciflora edulis		-	148	127	0	21	0	0
Peltophorum pterocarpum	Flamboyant yellow	-	9	0	0	9	0	0
Persea americana	Avocado tree		3	0	0	3	0	0
Psidium guajava	Guava tree	Goyaka	79	6	0	49	0	24
Pterocarpus lucens		Pemperga	100	0	0	0	100	0
Piliostigma reticulatum	-	Bagandé	70	70	0	0	0	0
Saba senegalensis	Liane	Wedga	268	0	0	9	0	259
Sarcocephalus latifolius	African fishing	Gouinga	63	5	33	20	0	5
Sclerocarya birrea	Plum	Nobga	114	10	62	0	39	3
Senna siamea	Siamea	Cassia	15	0	0	15	0	0
Senna sieberiana	Senegal breakage	Koumbrissaka	5 980	3 061	142	2 777	0	0
Tetrapleura tetraptera	4 sides	-	20	0	0	10	0	10
Tamarindus indica	Tamarind	Pousga	199	75	102	8	0	14
Tectona grandis	Teak	-	64	0	51	13	0	0
Theobroma cacao	Cocoa	-	12	0	0	4	0	8
Thevetia nerifolia	Thevetia	-	377	0	0	49	0	328
Vetiveria zizanoide	Vetiver	-	16	0	0	0	0	16
Vernonia golorata		Koasafandé	49	0	0	11	0	38
Verbena citronella	Verbena	-	10	0	0	10	0	0
Vitellaria paradoxa	Shea	Taanga	59	0	0	10	0	49
Ximenia americana	Sea lemon	Lènga	33	0	2	5	0	26
Ziziphus mauritiana	Jujube tree	Mougninga	43	0	0	3	0	40
TOTALS	56 species		**18 595**	**8 972**	**766**	**6 112**	**198**	**2 547**

At the end of the campaign, 2,547 plants remained in the nursery. They will be maintained and used during the 2025 campaign.

2. Sales of various products

Details of sales are shown in the table below:

Sales categories	Amount (in Fcfa)	Comments
Trees and shrubs	960 800	
Forestry seeds	243 750	
Moringa powder	4 000	
Total	**1 208 550**	

As can be seen, overall sales are down on 2023, when they stood at **1,432,250 Fcfa**. Sales were mainly of trees and forest seeds. We often bring trees to village markets for sale.

farm equipment

As a reminder, this section plays a logistical support role for the other sections, but also and above all in the targeted mechanization of agriculture to facilitate field preparation work. Our work is expanding with the development of the new perimeters, and we're always on the lookout for more powerful tractors to be able to tow tools more efficiently (*chisels, soil decompactors in particular*).

1. Activities carried out during the year

Our work is summarized in the table below:

Activities carried out	Sites	Quantifications	Comments
Passage of the chisel compactor	In the perimeters	22.75 ha	Down by around 14 ha compared with 2023
	Outside the perimeter	45.75 ha	36 ha more than in 2023
Water tanker transport	AZN Villages	6 tanks of 5000 liters	This is a new service we provide for people at social events (*funerals, parties, etc.*).
	Guiè/Tounda and Lindi perimeter	10 tanks of 5000 liters	Watering the trees in the mixed hedge
	School "B	7 tanks of 5000 liters	For brick making and construction
Mowing and baling hay and straw	CREN CSPS of Guiè Old plot	Approx. 6 ha 106 bales of hay	50 bales less than in 2023
Transporting lateritic soil for road repairs	Route AZN D57→ Route Guiè→ Lindi	40 m^3	
Lateritic soil transport for Kelyam School	School "B"→ Kelyam	60 m^3	
Transport of sorghum stalks	Lindi Farm	112 bundles	Decreasing
Gyro cleaning	AZN lowland; Lindi farm (orchards) and Kelyam school	4.5 ha	
	Permanent grassland Tankouri experimental plots	1 ha	
	Wooded roads	7 km	
Compost transport	Tankouri experimental plots	12 m^3	
Plant transport	Guiè/Tounda; Lindi and Bendogo/Pasgo perimeters	3 480	
Shallow ploughing with cover-crop	Bocage perimeters	6 ha	Up by 4 ha compared with 2023
	Outside the perimeter	6.5 ha	On the rise
Transporting and piling manure	Lindi Farm	108 m^3	

Shredding brushwood	Lindi Farm	144 m^3	The shredded material is spread in the pens to form bedding.
Passage of the FACA roller	Permanent grassland Tankouri	0.96 ha	



2. Conclusion of mower conditioner test runs

We continued our grass mowing test this year, during the month of September. As a reminder, the aim of this new tool is to reduce grass drying time (*mowing in the morning and harvesting in the afternoon*), which would enable us to obtain better quality hay.

The result was very satisfactory, and we'll be using this tool for our haymaking operations from now on.

Bocage maintenance

As a reminder, the mission of this section is to maintain the trees and hedges planted by the pilot farm, including regular pruning, replacement of dead trees and tree management. The technicians are responsible for managing over 20 kilometers of wooded roads and as many kilometers of hedgerows on all the farm's developments, and the volume of work increases as new projects are completed!

1. Pruning trees and hedges :

After several years without a brushcutter, we were able to take delivery of a new machine in March, which has been a great relief to the team. The brushcutter cuts the lateral branches of hedge trees, making it easier to trim the vertical branches with the chainsaw. We used to use the chainsaw for both operations, which slowed down the work.

Details of the work involved in this activity are shown in the table below:

Activities	Location	Quantity	Observation
Mixed hedge trimming	Doanghin/Rimpintanga woodland perimeter	4 440 m	The brushcutter has enabled us to get on with the job.
	Meadow	535 m	
	Nursery fence	184 m	
	Prairie du Parc	423 m	
	Lowland meadow	527 m	
Cutting *Leucaena leucocephala* for fence posts	AZN headquarters	545 stakes	Leucaena (*false mimosa*) wood is ideally suited to replacing the teak posts we used for fencing in bocage areas, and to support the tree protection *fences* on wooded roads. It is highly resistant to termites, which is not the case for teak.
Eucalyptus cutting for CVD	Guiè inter-district road	101	This service is provided to the Guiè Village Development Council.
Removing trees from wooded roads	Koãada de Guiè road; Doanghin road→ Bélé; AZN road→ D57	175 trees	
Internal cleaning	Lindi Farm	5,568 metres	
Cleaning	AZN headquarters	5 housing courses	
	Lindi farm (*fields*)	1.8 ha	
	New Guiè market (*Ruralies site*)	2 days	

2. Tree maintenance operations on wooded roads :

They are listed in the table below:

Activities	Sites	Quantity	Observation
Tree maintenance on wooded roads	Route Doanghin→ Toèghin	- 272 frames surveyed - 131 posts replaced - 57 frames removed - 52 entourages found	**Summary of activities:** - **1,093 fallen surrounds were removed.** This operation is usually carried out after a strong wind. As a result, the same entourage may be surveyed several times; - **57 surrounds have been removed** because the trees have grown tall enough; - **131 surrounds were replaced** - **52 entourages were found** - **370 posts were replaced**; - **57 half-moons were made**
	Circular from the Guiè center	- 123 surrounds surveyed - 12 posts replaced	
	Route AZN D57→	- 26 surveyed surrounds	
	Route Guiè→ Samissi	- 220 frames surveyed - 68 posts replaced	
	Route Guiè Kouila→	- 426 surrounds surveyed - 282 posts replaced	
	EFAPE AZN→ Dispensary→ CREN	- 26 surveyed surrounds - 8 posts replaced	
Making half-moons	Circular from the Guiè center	47 half-moons	
	Route Guiè→ Lindi	10 half moons	
Weeding trees on wooded roads	Route Guiè Kouila→	167 trees	685 trees weeded
	EFAPE AZN	16 trees	
	Lindi Farm	30 fruit trees	
	Route AZN D57→	35 caïlcédrats	
	Route Doanghin→ Toèghin	216 trees	
	Circular from the Guiè center	94 trees	
	Route Guiè→ Samissi	115 trees	
	Route Guiè→ Lindi	12 trees	
Removal of dead trees from wooded roads	New market in Guiè	13 caïlcédrats	60 trees cleared
	Route Guiè→ Samissi	2 caïlcédrats	
	Route Guiè→ Koãda	12 Eucalyptus	
	Circular from the Guiè center	10 caïlcédrats	
	Route AZN D57→	14 caïlcédrats	
	AZN garbage can→ Tankouri	9 Eucalyptus	
Development of traffic circle at PPE entrance→ CREN	Trench digging	50 meters	
	Digging stake holes	34 holes	
	Fixing wooden stakes	34 stakes	
	Fence installation	50 metres of wire mesh	

3. Reforestation campaign/Replacement of dead trees :

Activity	Species	Location	Quantity	Comments
Replacing and planting trees on	Caïlcédrat	Circular from the Guiè center	91	We're continuing to look for ways to successfully plant the Guiè→ Lindi road by
		Route Guiè Kouila→	35	
		Route AZN D57→	35	
		New market in Guiè	16	

wooded roads.		Route Guiè→ Samissi	18	planting different species. To this end, we have planted a few Nobga trees, which adapt well to the terrain.
		Yangré district road	16	
		Koãda district road	4	
	Eucalyptus	Route Guiè Kouila→	10	
		Yangré district road	17	
		Koãda road	18	
		AZN garbage can→ Tankouri	28	
		Traffic circle CREN entrance→ PPE	43	
	Neems	Route Guiè→ Lindi	5	
		New market in Guiè	10	
		Route Guiè Kouila→	6	
	Bagande	Route AZN D57→	70	
	Nobga	Route Guiè→ Lindi	20	
Total	**5 species**		**442**	

Breeding

Reminder: the mission of this section is to develop a breeding system that is in harmony with the preservation of the environment, through the technique of rotational grazing with electric fencing and paddock feeding when grass is no longer sufficiently available in the bush.
Thanks to André VOISIN's book *Productivité de l'herbe*, we are trying to develop this new system with the participation of breeders from AZN member villages, in a version adapted to our Sahelian conditions.

1. Grazing in bocage areas :

This grazing is carried out using electric fencing throughout the year. In the dry season, the animals graze mainly on crop residues and straw, while in the rainy season they graze on fresh grass from common plots and fields left as temporary meadows. The shepherds take advantage of this grazing to clear the land in preparation for cultivation the following year.

The following table shows the grazing carried out in the bocage perimeters by the farm's herd and that of a breeder:

Grazing sites	Period	Number of days	Number of heads/passage	Comments
Guiè/Tankouri	January-December	27	24	Farm herd for grazing harvested fields Cattle spend an average of 15 days on the same plot of land
Bendogo/Pasgo	January-December	8	43	Herd of two breeders
Guiè/Konkoos-raogo	January-December	11	31	
Total		**46**	**98**	

We are continuing to raise awareness among farmers and stockbreeders of electric fence grazing as a means of reconciling them, while enriching the soil and ensuring healthy animals.

In paddocks, cattle are fed hay and straw with wet bran during the dry season. As a reminder, the animals spend half a day on free-range pasture, then the other half in the paddock. We opted for this model following the suspension of silage, which was costly, with grass of inferior quality.

The activities carried out during the year are summarized in the following table:

Activities	Description/Observations
Straw mowing	To create litter to provide sufficient manure for passive composting and for livestock feed using the wet straw-bran technique.
Free grazing in the bush	We do not use electric fencing for this type of grazing, as the herd is led by a shepherd.
Cleaning the farm's permanent meadows	We cut shrubs to encourage grass growth
Rational grazing of harvested fields	In the Guiè/Tankouri woodland area
Rational grazing with electric fencing in hedgerows	This is a practice that remains difficult for farmers to implement because of the demands it makes

	(*cleaning of internal paths, acceptance by plot owners for grazing*).
Livestock vaccination	Three campaigns: January, July and December
Sowing *Pennisetum pedicellatum* (*Kimbgo*)	It's a grass much appreciated by livestock. We'll be continuing the operation in the years to come, to ensure that our meadows are rich and varied in forage.
Mowing and hay storage	Work carried out between September and October to feed the animals during the dry season. We obtained 156 bales of hay
Bale hay with manual baler	For year-round apprentice training
Purchase of sorghum stalks and hay	To supplement animal feed during the warmer months (*generally from the end of February*). Around 1,500 bundles were mobilized
Manure removal from paddocks	For passive composting. The compost produced will be used in May 2024 in the experimental fields.

2. Evolution of the farm's herd :

Below is a table showing the evolution of our herd during the year:

Herd	Headcount at 1/1/24	Change of category	Purchase	Sales	Shepherds' wages	Prizes awarded at the Ruralies	Birth	Death	Workforce at 31/12/24
Cows	8	+1	/	-1	/	/	/	-1	7
Heifers	4	-1	/	/	/	/	/	/	3
Calves	7	/	/	-1	-2	-2	+4	/	6
Bulls	2	/	/	-1	/	/		/	1
Total	**20**	**0**	/	**-3**	**-2**	**-2**	**+4**	-1	**17**

We recorded 4 births this year. In addition to the gift to the shepherds, we presented two bullocks to the winners of the 1stPrix du concours Zaï and the best farmer in the bocage perimeters at the Ruralies ceremony. We ended the year with a herd of 17 head.

3. Planting trees for the enclosure fence :

We have planted eucalyptus trees to make it easier to replace the fence posts in the paddocks. Once they've grown, the wire mesh will be attached to them, making them more durable, as the current posts are made of wood and therefore vulnerable to termite attack.

Lindi production farm

1. Plant production

At the beginning of the year, we welcomed four trainees from the Centre de Formation des Aménageurs ruraux (CFAR) as part of their end-of-cycle course.

This first class of trainees enabled us to strengthen our market garden production activities and launch rain-fed production in the open field.

As soon as the hot weather started, we noticed a lot of rodent attacks, especially hares, in our nurseries, which led us to recycle old pallets into above-ground planters to secure our high nurseries.

In order to produce vegetables in the mango orchard (*whose plants are still small*) and avoid rodent attacks, we have fenced it off and added a 0.5-hectare extension. The fenced-in area will be dedicated to vegetable and fodder production, until the mango trees grow larger.

We took advantage of the start of the rainy season to replace a few trees in our orchards and reinforce the mixed orchard with a new planting of 50 noni and 22 apple trees. Noni (*Morinda citrifolia*) is a medicinal plant reputed to be effective against a number of illnesses, including cancer, tumors, diabetes, hypertension, wrinkles, indigestion, infertility and so on.

Noni plants planted in August 2021 went into full production this year, from which we were able to harvest, extract and package 37 liters of juice. We experimented with the sale of this juice within the AZN at a promotional price of 8,000 CFA francs per 1-liter can. Feedback on the juice's effectiveness in improving health was very positive, leading us to officially launch the sale of noni juice from January 1, 2025 at a price of 7,500 CFA francs per 0.5-liter can.

The start-up of field production enabled us to grow groundnuts on 1.8 hectares with the participation of students from the Centre de Formation des Aménageurs Ruraux (CFAR). The yield obtained for this first year of production is 155 kg/ha, well below the country's standard average yield of 755 kg/ha.

This low yield could be explained, among other things, by the fact that the field had not been fertilized, the absence of fertilizer after-effects, as the field had only just been sown, and the lateritic state of the land.

With a view to diversifying the diet of our Maradi red goats, we have produced a highly productive forage plant, Maralfalfa, on 250 m²of land. The fresh forage yield of Maralfalfa per harvest is estimated at 500 tonnes/ha, with the possibility of 4 to 6 harvests per year under irrigation. We plan to expand the Maralfalfa field in 2025 to keep pace with the rapid growth of our livestock population.

We renewed the production of okra and sunflower seeds with those harvested during the dry season during the rainy season, so as to have seeds suitable for all seasons. After harvesting, we obtained seven kilograms of okra seed and one kilogram of sunflower seed, which will be used for future production in large fields.

We continued to harvest moringa and baobab leaves during the rainy season. However, moringa powder was in short supply this year, so most of the leaves harvested during the rainy season were used to enrich goat feed.

Nevertheless, we intend to focus on promoting Moringa powder next year on social networks so that we can sell beyond the AZN zone. We've offered baobab leaves to AZN volunteers for the sauce, and next season we'll be launching its sale.

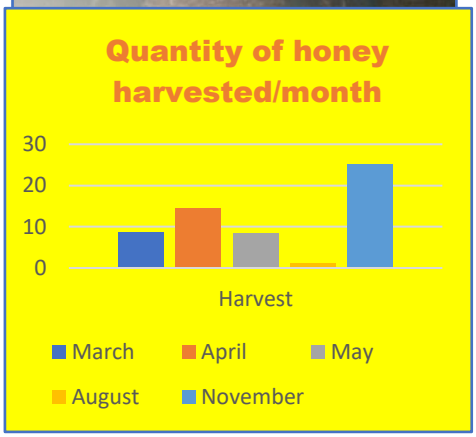
At the end of the rainy season, we launched salad production on 22 6 m/1.5 m beds. The lettuce will be produced over several cycles to guarantee availability at all times. At the end of January, we'll be launching the sale of the lettuce to AZN volunteers and their families, after which we'll be extending sales to all the surrounding villages.

Finally, we produced aerobic compost (*in heaps*) using andropogon gayanus straw, cattle manure and poultry droppings to fertilize the market garden. The compost was enriched with ash, charcoal and fresh brush biomass (*fresh leaves*). Compost maturation time was reduced by shortening the turning days from 14 to 7 days, and at one and a half months it was ready for use.

2. Animal production

We have continued our beekeeping activities this year, but with a drop in harvests and a significant desertion of bee colonies from the apiary, we believe that this difficulty is linked to the non-blossoming of most woody plants, in particular shea, which provides almost all the nectar necessary for the production of honey, which helps maintain the bee colony.

We were able to package 55.5 liters of honey, which were sold for 277,500 Fcfa.



The remainder of the harvest (*2 liters*) was donated to the AZN's Centre de Récupération et d'Éducation Nutritionnelle (CREN) for the benefit of its residents. We plan to provide the bees with additional food next year to ensure good honey production in the apiary.

On our red goat farm in Maradi, we recorded 13 births this year, with a total of 22 kids. The majority of births coincided with the period of high heat (*March-April*), resulting in a high mortality rate of kids a few days after birth.

Nevertheless, we were able to keep this situation under control by isolating the lactating females with the kids and feeding them a rich and varied diet. After two years of breeding, we sold the breeding billy-goat and three other billy-goats born in the herd to limit the risk of inbreeding.

The table below shows the situation of Maradi's red goats at the end of December 2024:

Goat	Workforce at 1/1/24	Purchase	Sales	Birth	Death	Workforce at 31/12/24
Male	1	+2	-1	0	-1	1
Female	6	+	0	0	-1	5
Chevreau	8	0	-3	+22	-10	17
Total	**15**	**+2**	**-4**	**+22**	**-12**	**23**

After a nine-month internship at the Lindi production farm, the four trainees from the Centre de Formation des Aménageurs Ruraux have successfully completed their training. We attended their graduation ceremony, which was crowned by the presentation of their diplomas. We wish them all the best for their future careers.

As in previous years, we were able to put on an exhibition during Ruralies 2024, with a varied range of our products, including honey, beeswax and noni juice.

Financial statements

Balance of "General" accounts /Fiscal 2024 (January to December 2024)

CURRENCY = CFA Franc (Communauté Financière d'Afrique) 1 € = 655.957 F CFA

	Inputs	Departures	Balance
Revenue	**150 401 630**		**150 401 630**
Balance brought forward from previous year	**29 884 967**		**29 884 967**
Partner funding	**100 134 452**		**100 134 452**
GREEN EARTH	11 000 000		11 000 000
ASTRE	262 383		262 383
PATAE-CEDEAO/Bocage Sahélien en Partage	900 000		900 000
Jean-Marie Bruneau Foundation	11 000 000		11 000 000
Paysans Solidaires de Morges	3 111 914		3 111 914
Mouvement Associatif Solidarité	983 936		983 936
ACCENT DU SUD	4 657 295		4 657 295
Colomiers Twinning and Support	2 295 850		2 295 850
ROTARY CLUB AVIGNON	1 639 893		1 639 893
Association Champenoise de Coopération Inter-Régionale	5 854 570		5 854 570
Luxembourg Agency for Development Cooperation	58 428 611		58 428 611
Valuation of donations received in kind recorded in the central warehouse	**13 593 761**		**13 593 761**
Donations from individuals	**80 000**		**80 000**
Self-financing	**6 708 450**		**6 708 450**
Sales and sales margins	2 742 050		2 742 050
Services provided (*services, training, construction, manufacturing*)	2 226 400		2 226 400
Schooling for apprentices	1 740 000		1 740 000
Expenses		**139 743 049**	
TRANSVERSAL COSTS		**70 666 009**	**-70 666 009**
Consumption of in-kind donations recorded in the store		**13 593 761**	**-13 593 761**
INVESTMENTS IN AZN HEADQUARTERS		**2 130 240**	**-2 130 240**
Agricultural and livestock equipment		1 689 890	-1 689 890
Small tools		160 350	-160 350
Computer hardware		280 000	-280 000
PROGRAM-SPECIFIC EXPENDITURE		**53 353 039**	**-53 353 039**
Land development (*perimeters, roads, gardens, bullis*)		19 569 494	-19 569 494
Lindi Farm development		222 100	-222 100
Bocage perimeters		646 840	-646 840
Road layout/upgrading		235 500	-235 500
Development of the Guiè/Tounda woodland perimeter		11 883 816	-11 883 816
Development of the Lindi/Nayir-Kaongo woodland perimeter		6 581 238	-6 581 238
Solicited service providers		509 000	-509 000
Organization of village events		452 100	-452 100
Hosting partners		31 000	-31 000
Agricultural, forestry and livestock inputs		16 155 250	-16 155 250
Premiums and prizes for excellence to farmers in bocage areas		2 591 375	-2 591 375
Apprentice training (*allowance, miscellaneous maintenance*)		13 564 895	-13 564 895
Compensation		2 177 100	-2 177 100
Apprentice care		1 218 345	-1 218 345
Apprentice canteen		8 109 050	-8 109 050
Supplies and theoretical course fees CFAR		319 900	-319 900
Other boarding costs (+*supervision*)		542 100	-542 100
Personal protective equipment for CFAR		243 000	-243 000

Apprentice recruitment costs		539 400	-539 400
CFAR graduation ceremony		416 000	-416 000
Cleaning and maintenance products (*soap*, *ointment*, *brooms*, *etc.*)		2 200	-2 200
Work meetings		299 800	-299 800
Animal care		142 525	-142 525
TERRE VERTE trainees		20 400	-20 400
Sport and recreational activities for apprentices		15 000	-15 000
Grand total	**150 401 630**	**139 743 049**	**10 658 581**

We end 2024 with a positive balance of**+ 10,658,581** Fcfa. This balance is much lower than in 2023, when it was +29,884,967. This can be explained by the fact that we were able to carry out certain activities that had been put on hold, and also and above all, that we financed a good part of our work with our own resources. The year was indeed somewhat difficult, as we announced in our conclusion to the 2023 annual report. Indeed, with the international financial context becoming increasingly difficult, some of our partners were unable to support our actions as usual. We remain confident, however, that the situation will improve, enabling us to pursue our business programs with greater serenity.

Details of donations in kind

(*January to December 2024*)

ORIGIN OF DONATIONS RECEIVED IN KIND 13,593,761		
Donations from individuals	181 000	181 000
PARTNERS A Z N	**13 412 761**	**13 412 761**
TERRE VERTE	10 833 367	10 833 367
MISSION ENFANCE Monaco	600 000	600 000
BURKINABE State (exemptions from the Ministry of the Economy and Finance)	1 192 245	1 192 245
SAVENA (France)	787 149	787 149
CONSUMPTION OF DONATIONS IN KIND		**13 593 761**
GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES		**10 070 000**
AZN VOLUNTEERS		1 070 000
Distributions to volunteers		1 070 000
Technical and organizational support		9 000 000
INVESTMENTS		**3 523 761**
Farm equipment		2 514 151
Electrical equipment		222 461
Topographic equipment		787 149

Conclusion

Once again, we end the year with the satisfaction of having successfully carried out the program of activities through the farm's various teams. The agricultural campaign has shown us once again that while the quantity of water that falls is important, its distribution is even more so.

Despite the current financial difficulties, we intend to pursue our actions with local populations (*training, awareness-raising, development of rural areas, etc.*), while hoping that a change in behavior will come about as quickly as possible, for a more pleasant rural life for all.
The year 2025 also kicks off with a busy schedule, including :

- completion of the Guiè/Tounda and Lindi/Nayir-kaongo woodland schemes;
- the possible resurvey of the future woodland perimeter of the Gounghin district in Guiè ;
- production of around 20,000 trees and shrubs by the nursery;
- pruning of the mixed hedge at AZN headquarters and of the Douré/Boangb-wéogo bocage perimeter by the bocage maintenance team;
- the distribution of excellence premiums and the conduct of excellence surveys in the bocage perimeters by the animators;
- further development of the Lindi production farm and diversification of its output.

We cannot conclude this report without once again expressing our sincere thanks to our various partners, who have placed their trust in us through their support, most of whom have been with us for several years.

Our thanks also go to the village, communal, provincial and regional authorities for their support and availability throughout the year.