Climate change has had significant impacts on the island, making the soil very salty. “Crops cannot grow in the saline soil, meaning that food security and nutritional quality of our meals. We have noticed the result because now, when we cook our meals, we imagine a dish without them? You wouldn’t have enough vegetables for our dishes. Can you envision a dish without them? You wouldn’t have enough vegetables for our meals.”}

**Weather Information System Helps Avoid Farming Losses in Bakho**

In Senegal, the government subsidizes all seeds for farmers. Though this makes them cheaper, these seeds arrive late, are not sufficient for all farmers, and often do not have the best quality. The domatic varieties, which possess strong adaptability and resilience of the growing period. This particularly affects women because they generally lack the same access to seeds as their male counterparts. As part of ActionAid’s Agroecology and Resilience project, a seed bank was introduced to the village of Bady, to not only improve access to seeds but also the quality of seeds.

Famara Diawarra, 35, is the president of the seed bank in Bady asked with seed control and expanding access awareness of the importance of having the bank. He notes that “before, when the government provided us with seeds, they were covered in chemicals and spoiled every quality. The quality of the seeds was just as bad and they caused many health problems for our population.”

With the seed bank located not too far from the road, farmers from the surrounding villages are able to collect and store seeds in the bank. To maintain sustainability and respect with the communities, whenever a farmer collects seeds from the bank, they must return the same amount of seeds. This makes them cheaper, these seeds arrive late, are not sufficient for all farmers, and often do not have the best quality. The domatic varieties, which possess strong adaptability and resilience of the growing period. This particularly affects women because they generally lack the same access to seeds as their male counterparts. As part of ActionAid’s Agroecology and Resilience project, a seed bank was introduced to the village of Bady, to not only improve access to seeds but also the quality of seeds.
Solar Water Pump Imperoves Food Security in Bady

For the roughly 716 people who live in the village of Bady, located just several kilometers (km) from the town of Missirah which is 485 km from Dakar, climate change is no stranger. The rough winds brought by adverse weather and the lack of consistent rainfall has made it very hard, especially for women, to cultivate their land. Before the arrival of ActionAid’s Agroecology and Resilience project, there was no source of water in the village, so the women indeed had to rely on this inconsistent rainfall.

Sira Camara, 45, a member of the women’s group and a lead farmer in the market gardening plot, says that from 1999 to 2002, women had to travel to Niokolo from Bady. Because of this distance, Sira notes that “there was no garden in the village. We were not able to grow any vegetables, so we took root plants to resell them and earn some small income so we could feed our families.”

The quality of life was low and a secure access to nutritious foods was even lower. Sira expressed how tired the women always were because they had to constantly travel to collect water and come up with alternatives to simply feed their families. This highlights key issues of gender discrepancies and unpaid labour from women that is often the reality in many communities. Fortunately, in 2002, ActionAid in partnership with the Producers Association of the Gambia River Valley (APROVAG), introduced the market gardening plot and a solar water pump. Women were finally able to grow their own vegetables and no longer had to travel so far to collect water, thus improving their quality of life and dignity.

“Since the arrival of the project, there is so much more ease within the village, especially with the solar water pump,” expresses Sira with a big smile. At the entrance of the gardening plot are several solar panels standing tall that create the power to pump water into the three large basins. The women now only have to walk a couple steps from their vegetables to get all the water they need and they even have the time to sit down briefly while the water pumps into their watering cans.

“I mainly produce okra, chilies, and onions and learned how to cultivate through trainings on organic farming and how to use the land by APROVAG and ActionAid. I am very pleased with the partnership we have because now the food security has increased for our village. So many difficulties we encountered before are now diminished. For the future, I envision many things. I see more planting of different kinds of vegetables in the garden and maybe even more plots of land to cultivate.”

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