

# Addressing dry season feeding challenges in Mali by Mobile Choppers

Sapna Jarial<sup>1a</sup>, Hamidou Nantoumé<sup>2</sup>, Birhanu Zemadim<sup>1b</sup>, Bogouna Soguba<sup>3</sup>, Augustine Ayantunde<sup>4</sup>, Anthony Whitbread<sup>1c</sup>, Ramadjita Tabo<sup>1b</sup>, Gundula Fischer<sup>5a</sup> and I.Hoeschle-Zeldon<sup>5a</sup>

<sup>1a</sup> ICRISAT Niamey, Niger, <sup>1b</sup> ICRISAT Samanko, Bamako, Mali, <sup>1c</sup> ICRISAT Patancheru, India, <sup>2</sup> Institut d'Economie Rurale (IER), Sotuba, Mali, <sup>3</sup> Association Malienne d'Eveil au Développement Durable (AMEDD), Koutiala, <sup>4</sup> International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) Burkina Faso, <sup>5a</sup> International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)

Corresponding author email: [s.jarial@cgiar.org](mailto:s.jarial@cgiar.org)

## Key research activities

- Mechanized power and its role in feeding both humans and animals more efficiently have long been neglected in West African agriculture. ICRISAT along with its partners are taking corrective action.
- Key research activities were to make the farmers aware about the technology of chopping green and dry fodder for optimum and efficient utilization of CR using a machine and its cost benefit of technology and
- To identify a local fabricator to innovate it as per Malian situation.



Chopping of maize stover in Bougouni

## Results and main findings

- Introduced 3 choppers adapted as per local context.
- Overall 372 persons from 9 villages of Africa RISING were trained on use of chopper technology.
- The middle age group of (42-48 years) men and women participated in the training from the selected villages of Koutiala, while in Bougouni younger women participation was observed.
- In Koutiala and Bougouni the total fodder collected in cartloads by the men farmers (300-1400 kg) were more than women farmers (186-940kg).
- Chopping of 50-100 kg/30 minutes of crop-residues vis-a-vis 8 hours manually.
- Chopping 20 charrettes or 2 tonnes/ 10 hours @ 500 CFA proposition to make the business reasonably profitable.



Chopping of dual purpose Fadda at Koutiala

## How this work would continue in Africa RISING phase 2

1. It will assist in understanding the gender role in scaling out and up scaling of the technology using: community ownership as against private entrepreneurship.
2. Demonstration livestock trials to the farmers on effect of chopping-residues.
3. Testing new silage making options. at village level

## Implications of the research for generating development outcomes

Availability of improved management options for efficient and optimum utilization of crop residues for dry season feeding.

## Current partnerships and future engagements for out scaling

1. Partners: ICRISAT, ILRI, IER, AMEDD, MOBIOM, IITA, 34 farmer organisations
2. Engage self help groups/farmer organizations and incentivizing farmers for crop-residue collection and linking it with fodder markets.
3. Using ICT, gender and youth in forefront. Making new partnerships such as Heifer International, Livestock for Growth Mali Agri-business Incubation Hub (MAIH) and in ICT.