

Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale (IPAR)



Supporting farmers' organizations in collecting and analyzing data for decision making

Location: **Senegal**

Year formed: **2008**

Who we are

IPAR is a space for reflection, dialogue and proposals for concerted agricultural and rural policies in Senegal and in the West African region. It was created by a group of researchers, policymakers, civil society representatives as a way of supplying an autonomous thinking and providing evidence to support policymaking.

What we do

IPAR's mission revolves around three major areas: research, capacity building and dialogue facilitation. Its research currently focuses on the five following areas: structural transformation of agriculture; migrations and youth employment; climate change; sustainable development goals; and governance of land and natural resources.

Key areas of focus

- Research
- Building capacity
- Organizing policy dialogue activities to further reforms and improve policy
- Contributing to the construction of the evidence ecosystem in Senegal



CONTEXT

The 2008 food crisis helped to put agriculture back on the agenda of major international institutions. This renewed interest in the sector led to a reflection on the models of agriculture best suitable to meet food and nutritional needs of the 9 billion inhabitants projected in 2050 and to ensure sustainable management of natural resources. Worldwide, various types of farms coexist and transform themselves by making use of these resources.

The Senegalese agricultural sector has undergone major transformations due to population growth, urbanization, market access, climate change and public policies. Likewise, family farms diversified by developing various strategies. But these changes are insufficiently understood and documented. Building on its experience of monitoring how family farms contribute in feeding Senegal, CNCR a farmer apex organization, teamed with IPAR to take the opportunity of the World Agricultural Watch project, and address the knowledge gap on the Senegalese agriculture transformation processes.



WHAT WE DID

With a view to strengthening the monitoring and analysis of farms, their functioning, performance and transformation and better adapt policies and interventions to this diversity, a typology of farms was developed. First, exploratory work was carried out to assess the current situation and to inform on the needs of the various actors. Second, interviews were then conducted with national entities with knowledge on typology and monitoring of farms. The methodology developed draws on previous experience and literature on farm typology along with economic theory. To compensate for the insufficiency of the existing data (annual surveys and census), a complementary survey was carried out on 229 holdings in order to obtain data on land, main activity, labor and market orientation. A second typology exercise was implemented using the deductive method. The minimum wage (SMIG) was adopted as the threshold because it not only reflects what a worker earns, but also gives the best distribution of family farms in Senegal. The hourly minimum wage in the agricultural sector is CFAF 182.95. Overall, 30 reference farms have been selected for the purpose of an in-depth monitoring and evaluation.

CHALLENGE

Several challenges were encountered including: (i) insufficient financial resources for annual surveys and subsequent data processing; (ii) maintaining the same reference farms with the risk of farmer fatigue; (iii) incentives for reference farms to record regular and accurate data on the books provided.



OUTCOME

Based on the minimum wage and the surveys administered, it was possible to characterize a diversity of family farms. For each of the four categories, we highlighted using key indicators, the characteristics of the farms, their production system, their economic situation, their performance and their food security status. This information is used by famers' facilitators to sensitize family farms and to explore avenues of improvement. The data is also shared with policymakers in the hope they will inform decision-making.

Graph 2. Classification of family farms according to minimum wage

