Come take part in sharing agricultural knowledge through the creation of #Academies of Sahelian expertise and experience.

SOS SAHEL is actively involved in the design of innovative solutions and the construction of a dynamic technological ecosystem which will modernize agricultural production and strengthen food value chains for the economic inclusion of family farmers in the Sahel.

Collaborative problem solving, and the development, application and sharing of technological solutions will be concentrated and brought to life within the framework of an annual AGRI-HACKATHON.

SPARK2050, the broader platform, will serve as the base for these processes until 10 innovative agricultural technologies are identified to be deployed over 30 years, thus transforming the lives of 300 million Sahelians.

The Africa Camp aims to bring together all players - producers, leaders of cooperatives, economic operators, social enterprises, NGOs, local elected officials, leaders of civil society, communications advisors, development agents, researchers, instructors – to identify their needs and conceptualize innovative solutions that will modernize, adapt and scale up African agriculture processes.

Among other things, these solutions will help stakeholders across the region, support local initiatives, structure an inclusive economy for young people and women, link actors to one another, disseminate knowledge, support development policies, and strengthen and enhance skills to ensure local action is more effective.

THREE CORE THEMES OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

The objective of the Africa Camp is to share thoughts and ideas about innovative solutions that could aid in the dissemination of knowledge as it pertains to development issues in the Sahel. This work will be entrusted to six small groups of people from different backgrounds. Each group will work on one of the three themes below. These ideas and concepts will then be assigned to the participants of SOS SAHEL’s Agri-Hackathon who will be tasked with developing the technological solution. The Agri-Hackathon will take place in May 2020.
Theme 2: How to integrate knowledge in the piloting of the territories of the municipalities to support the decentralization in the Sahel?

Decentralization lies at the heart of most development strategies in African countries. It ensures that land and resources are carefully managed with the local citizens’ best interest in mind. But after we delegate this authority, what resources and tools are available to accomplish this goal?

How do we prioritize investments in land restoration? How do we ensure proper management of water facilities? How do we plan road maintenance? How do we remain aware of changing market conditions? How do we track and record cattle inventory from year to year? How do we locate the local water points, farms and producers in each municipal territory? How can we share information with the farmers of each municipality concerning natural resources, means of production, risks, technical advice, etc.? How do we highlight the innovative experiences carried out in each municipality? So many of these questions periodically arise for the heads of each commune, often dispersed over a vast territory. While this information is available, it is not aggregated, analyzed, or used.

The development of a tech application for these municipalities, which could use a range of different media formats, would make it possible to regularly share this data and knowledge between the commune administrations, economic operators, citizens, and others.
Solution 3 Brief: “Bouboudi”

Theme 2: How do we share knowledge as we pilot decentralization across municipalities in the Sahel?

Why do we need an innovative solution?

We live in a Sahelian municipality. The mayor has good communication and community mobilization capacities; the area has fertile land to cultivate, a river, fishing potential, diversified livestock, and 65% of young people are engaged in different activities. However, the community is faced with problems such as the lack of infrastructure (schools, health centers, etc.), the poor state of the roads, the lack of qualified staff, a very limited budget, the lack of support from the central government, disorganized development and planning of agricultural land.

Our mayor had the idea of an innovative solution to help him: a robot monkey named Bouboudi who will collect information and data to help understand the problems encountered in the community, and armed with this knowledge, he will be able to stimulate rural development and strengthen infrastructure.

What is the “Bouboudi” solution for?

The main objective of our solution is to meet development objectives by using adaptable and achievable local solutions which can be extended to other the countries of the Sahel as well.

The “Bouboudi” solution objectives are to:

- Scan local conditions;
- Provide the mayor with data and information;
- Capture information using various tools like in-person interviews, photos and videos:
  - Data specific to the territory;
  - Data on social services;
  - Data to share with villagers, donors and project stakeholders, and the municipality as a whole.
- Collect data on security issues;
- Integrate traditional knowledge to improve the decision-making system
- Strengthen the decision-making process
- Involve the local people in the development process
- Attract potential financial and technical partners
- Share relevant information in locales well-frequented by the community (churches, mosques, shopping centers and government offices)
- Share information from neighboring countries (information on epidemics or early warnings, regular market information, best practices from different countries, monitoring of government projects, employment opportunities).
Who will use the solution and on what scale?

Bouboudi collects information from local communities and in different countries of the Sahel to facilitate the mayor’s implementation support systems.

- Municipal officials
- The people

How does the intended end user imagine the proposed solution will work?

The Bouboudi solution is powered by solar energy; it speaks several languages so that the information is accessible to the broadest possible audience and serves as a broadcaster of early warning information to raise the alarm about imminent crises predicted by the data it collects.

The robot is linked to radio stations that can be installed at the community level.