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 3: How to disseminate information and knowledge useful for strengthening Sahelian agricultural value chains?

Fonio, arabic gum, shea butter, cowpeas, and baobab fruit are among the many promising Sahelian products that lack a market structure. Cooperative groups for these products are limited, poorly equipped, they don’t provide effective services, nor do they have the capacity to represent and defend their members. Even at this stage, the processing of these products is up against many technical and economic restraints and the market for these items are poorly understood.

How can we collect and share information related to these value chains, to improve the practice of producers, support cooperatives, enhance storage capacity, monitor markets and prices, and facilitate the visibility marketing of this sector?

An application dedicated to each sector would make it possible to share knowledge on production practices, locate production sites, track market changes, create change and build visibility among marketing networks to facilitate distribution. Ultimately, a dedicated application will allow for better organization of the sector and will connect actors to one another so that they can exchange views and collaborate on actions.
Solution 6 Brief: “O’Sahel”

**Theme 3: How to disseminate information and knowledge that are useful for strengthening Sahelian agricultural value chains?**

**Why do we need an innovative solution?**

We have noticed that the members of the Sahelian agricultural sectors, made up of distributors, producers, processors and seed companies, do not communicate enough with each other. Why? For lack of means? Of tools? Of will or opportunities to do so?

FEFA, an organization of onion producers in the Sahel, has been set up with a president. This organization faces organizational issues, is not dynamic and has not succeeded in establishing itself in the sector. They want to increase communication between the members of FEFA and the various players in the same sector in the face of the following constraints:

- No mastery of new technologies;
- Lack of technical training;
- Illiteracy;
- Social constraints from relatives or neighbors;
- Lack of knowledge about the market and its players;
- Hostile environment (climate changes, insecurity, lack of infrastructure, etc.);
- Limited access to production capital and financing.

It is therefore proposed to develop a solution that could solve the communication problem and revitalize the sector. Overall, the solution will contribute to the development of the sector and will improve the living conditions of the producers.

**What is the “O’Sahel” solution for?**

The main objective of the solution is to solve the communication problem between the members FEFA, the producer organization, the stakeholders in the sector and thus revitalize the sector.

The objectives of the solution are to:

- Put each producer in direct communication with their farm (crop evolution, water needs, inputs, threats, etc.)
- Collect information related to the sector, its characteristics, its operation, its difficulties and disseminate it to all users
- Share information by user category, type of use via specific exchange folders
- Allow members to communicate via calls and voice messages automatically translated into local languages
- Promote marketing via a sales/supplier exchange folder bringing together producers, processors and buyers
- Provide technical information (includes a research exchange folder through which researchers can connect and supply it)
- Broadcast alerts (technical, weather, sale, harvest, price, etc.)
• Host online financing systems (e.g. online tontine).

**Who will use the solution and on what scale?**

The members of FEFA, composed of producers, processors, distributors and suppliers of inputs (seeds, fertilizers, protection products, transport, technical and scientific advice, etc.) from all the Sahel countries.

- Suppliers:
  - Promote pest-free products
  - Sell pest-free products
- Producers
- Transformers
  - Supplier orders
- Central purchasing office
  - Order taking
  - Call to tender
- Distributors

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

The solution must be compatible with different types of support utilized by our users, like any basic mobile and smartphones (Android and iPhone), tablet, PC.

It must operate under all conditions regardless of the weather, security and social context.

It must be accessible in local languages (all languages spoken in the Sahel).