LET'S CONNECT THE RESOURCES OF SAHELIAN TERRITORIES TO MAXIMIZE THE SAHEL'S POTENTIAL!

Economic development begins when stakeholders are mobilized and empowered and resources are developed at even the smallest of scales, within: rural communes, districts, departments, circles, regions.

Regional development actors need efficient technological tools to better manage and accelerate development within their territories. All stakeholders including mayors, decentralized administrations, and entrepreneurs must connect with one another, collect, organize and circulate information, locate problems and understand the nature of these problems, measure their resources and needs and be able to communicate about their work.

This can only be done via high-level tech innovations that are adapted to the needs of each stakeholder and the constraints of the local environment.

The SOS SAHEL Agri-Hackathon exists to produce digital solutions for Sahelian municipalities and larger territories, which will facilitate access to up-to-date data, monitoring and decision-making tools, and knowledge sharing between local municipalities, administrations, economic operators, and more.

What does it mean to manage territories?

Decentralization lies at the heart of development - particularly as it relates to Sahelian countries. Decentralization ensures that territories and resources are managed by the local citizens.

But delegating this authority is not enough. It is also necessary to equip these citizens with the resources and tools necessary to accomplish such a complex mission.

■ How to prioritize investments in land restoration and water management?
■ How to plan road maintenance?
■ How to monitor market developments?
■ How to monitor herds present in town from year to year?
■ How to locate water access points, local products and producers within each territory?
■ How to share news and information with farmers in the municipality concerning natural resources, means of production, market information, risks and technical advice?
■ How to promote and market local projects to external partners?

These are questions that periodically arise for those who manage local territories. This Agri-Hackathon exists to provide a solution to these questions through custom IT solutions.

These solutions should integrate all forms of media and should take into account the constraints of the Sahel which include the fact that regions are often landlocked, local actors have insufficient and uncertain tools and the population speaks a variety of languages.