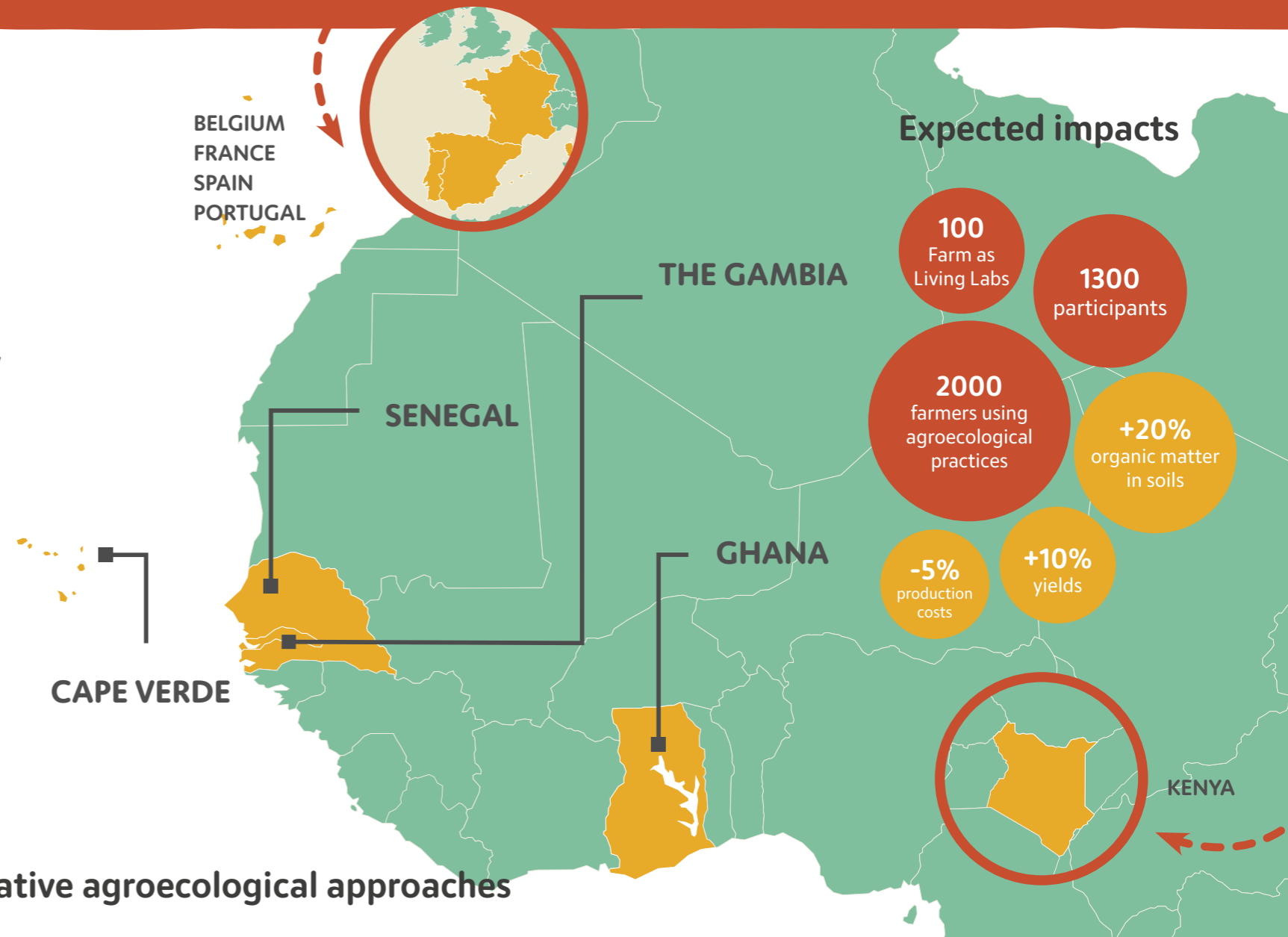


CIRAWA is working with small-holder farmers in West Africa to improve food nutrition, livelihoods ecosystem health. Bringing together 14 partners from 9 countries, CIRAWA is developing new agroecological-based practices that build on existing local and scientific knowledge to help create more resilient food supply chains in 8 regions across Cape Verde, Ghana, Senegal, and The Gambia.

The project's proposed practices put people and the ecosystem at the centre, taking ecosystem health as a starting point to unlock multiple natural services and benefits and working closely with small-holder farmers to ensure their needs are met. CIRAWA's agroecological-based practices demonstrate how working together with nature provide us the opportunity to improve water quality, climate resilience, agricultural yields, and invigorate local communities and economies by creating novel bio-based products and markets.

Climate change is raising temperatures in West Africa 1.5 times faster than the global average, reducing rainfall and shortening crop growing periods. The region's agricultural sector is characterised by small and primarily rainfed farms and has limited economic and institutional capacity to respond to climate variability and change. Supporting small-holder farmers is essential for ensuring regional food security and livelihoods in the face of the changing climate.

To support the transition to more sustainable and resilient food systems in West Africa, agroecological-based farming is emerging as a compelling response to the region's challenges. This approach has gained recognition in the European Union as a means to address environmental and social issues within food systems while meeting the growing demand for food. In this way, agroecological approaches contribute to improving landscape quality and biodiversity while enhancing ecosystem resilience.



CIRAWA project in figures

Budget 6.9 M euros	Duration 54 months
Partners 14	Study Regions 8

CIRAWA explores four innovative agroecological approaches

 <p>Agro-waste valorisation Valorising agro-waste by advancing state-of-the-art technologies to provide high quality composts and bio-based fertilisers from local agricultural resources.</p>	 <p>Phytoremediation Proposing an integrated approach that combines phytoremediation and conventional methods. Phytoremediation is an approach for soil-health improvement through plant root action.</p>	 <p>Quality seeds Emphasising high quality crop and vegetable seed production and selection, using advanced techniques.</p>	 <p>Land management practices Promoting sustainable land management practices, such as soil fertility, and water and crop management practices, using digital solutions to support farmers.</p>
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