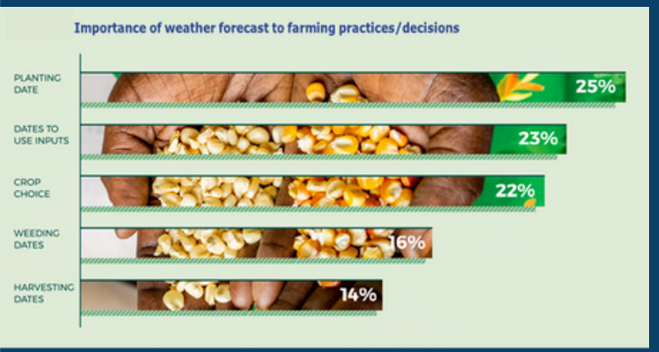


70% of farmers surveyed have no formal education. Education is important for the improvement of agricultural productivity as this enhances decision-making. Literacy enables farmers to read and understand instructions on inputs such as chemical fertilizers and pesticides among others, while numeracy allows for calculation of the right proportion of inputs to be combined to get the desired outpu. When farmers are educated, it increases their chances of effectively interpreting WCS messages.

Gender analysis indicates that **7** out of **10** educated farmers are men. The low level of literacy of farmers supports the preference for voiced messages in their local language. **77%** of farmers surveyed prefer audio weather forecast messages, **13%** prefer TV, while 10% prefer SMS as the messaging platform for WCS.

A potential to transform African agriculture for the better

The project has enabled family farms to make timely decisions on cultivation operations thanks to ISKA's weather forecast messages. Despite the difficulties noted during the agricultural season, producers were able to improve their production. The training sessions on good agricultural practices, in the face of climate change, on the dissemination of the technical itinerary of crops, on the techniques of harvesting and post-harvest and finally on the conservation of stored products have given **excellent results**

Aissata Ka -Extension Officer Thies&Louga



WEATHER FORECAST

Smallholder farmers in Senegal recognize the importance and benefits of Weather and Climate Services

83%
of farmers surveyed agree that WCS supports their planning for the farming season



The Importance of Weather Predictability for Smallholder Farmers

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HEIFER INTERNATIONAL SENEGAL

About weather forecast

The rapid spread of information and communication technologies (ICTs), notably mobile phones (SMS, voice calls, Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD), Interactive Voice Response (IVR), social media (WhatsApp and Facebook), community radios and internet connectivity has necessitated an increase in agritech adoption among African smallholder farmers.

Weather forecast is a Heifer International pilot project that provides rainfall forecast information via SMS to farmers in five regions in Senegal during the planting season between July and September 2021. In addition to weather forecast messages, agronomic practices were shared with farmers and selected farmers were supported with seeds and fertilizer. Extension workers also provided field support to farmers, continually reinforcing the importance of the WCS messages they receive.



IMPACT

Resilient families is the overall objective; strengthened through access to SMS based climate-smart agronomic advisory

15,000

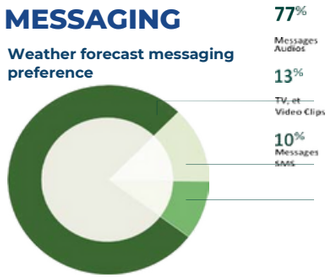
TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Farmers in Senegal with technical support from Ignitia

13,547

MESSAGING

Weather forecast messaging preference



YOUTH

Of the smallholder farmers surveyed are youths aged between (18-39 years old)

40%

WOMEN

Of the surveyed respondents are women

42%

Climate change and Agriculture

All farmers expressed concerns about climate change and the need to re-think their farming practices.

100%

KEY FINDINGS



Partnerships with Producer Organizations

Of farmers surveyed joined producer organizations because of access to inputs (seeds, fertilizers, and general support)

87%

Heifer's Training

During the project year, Heifer facilitated the training of 1,179 small holder farmers with 3,585 farmers sensitized on Iska messaging.

1,179

WCS information

Number of farmers in the overall project population receiving WCS information prior to receiving ISKA weather forecast messages

9,482/13000

Planting decisions

Of farmers surveyed use weather forecasts to plan

87%

11,244 farmers from the project districts, use weather forecasts to decide the timing of pre planting, planting and post planting activities. Decisions like planting dates, crop choice, fertilizer application dates, weeding and harvesting are scheduled using information from WCS.