



Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2014)

Project Ref No	21-005
Project Title	Pesticide plants for organic cotton, livelihoods and biodiversity in Mali
Country(ies)	Mali
Lead Organisation	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Collaborator(s)	Institut d'Economie Rurale (Mali); MOBIOM (Mali); Natural Resources Institute (UK)
Project Leader	Dr Moctar Sacande
Report date and number (eg HYR3)	31 October 2014 – HYR1
Project website	http://www.kew.org/science-conservation/research-data/science-directory/projects/pesticide-plants-cotton-mali

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).

Progress is described against each of the planned outputs for Q1 & Q2 and activities listed:

Dr Moctar Sacande visited Mali partners (IER and MOBIOM) in April to commence the project and agree on activities, annual plans, management and reporting structure. Kew's project team, including Prof Phil Stevenson, Drs Serene Hargreaves and Moctar Sacande, have had regular project development meetings. They also took the opportunity of Prof Rokia Sanogo's (from Mali) visit to Kew in July for a workshop in the UK to meet and discuss the project with her.

Output 1: Identification and authentication of pesticide species currently used by organic cotton farmers in target communities.

Activity 1.1 – 1.3 (Q1, Q2, continuing to Q3)

Questionnaires were administered in country by partners from the Institut d'Economie Rurale (IER) on communities of the four target regions (Segou, Sikasso, Kita and Koulikoro). Sixty farmers, 10 men and 5 women from each region, were selected and interviewed. In addition to farming, the respondents other activities/interests include traditional healing, animal breeding and tree propagation. A preliminary analysis shows 164 species, the great majority trees, are cited as the wild species valued by the respondents for their livelihoods. Twelve of the 164 species are seen as useful in at least four of the sixteen use categories recorded and together they account for over 70% of all the citations.

23 species have been identified so far by local farmers as having pesticide properties. These are mainly native, but also include exotic species like Neem. Three species are only identified by their local names and still require verification. Investigations have started on the use and properties of the species described as pesticide plants by the respondents.

Specimens of species listed are being collected in country by our IER partners. A second trip to country by the UK partners, the first being the inaugural meeting of partners in Bougouni and Sikasso in April 2014, is organised for December 2014 where final collections of plants for verification will take place. After collection specimens will be either identified in country or sent to Kew for further study. These activities are on target for Y1.

Output 2: Compounds / ingredients in pesticide plants identified

Activity 2.1 and 2.2 (Q2, continuing to Q3)

The IER entomology laboratory has a specific branch which undertakes research on protecting and fighting against cotton pests. As in Kew's Jodrell laboratory, they are already working on testing efficient plant extracts and oils of some of the known species against crops.

Following the initial consultation with the communities a follow-up questionnaire is required to determine more detailed information on the methodology for use. This questionnaire is being prepared and will form part of the discussion during the December meetings. In addition IER will collect specimens of the plant species described by the communities for follow up extraction and study.

Output 4: Four community demonstration gardens established

Activity 4.2 and 4.3 (Q1, Q2, continuing to Q3)

Seeds of some of the species, where their pesticide properties are of common knowledge and have been selected by communities in Bougouni (Sikasso Region), were collected in April/May and produced in seedlings. About 10,000 seedlings of 5 pesticide plant species were produced by a trained village technician and planted in July/August in Bougouni, as a start of the demonstration garden. Seedlings were also distributed to farmers to be planted out in their familial plots.

Output 5 (and Activity 4.1): Reference materials for pesticide plants produced

Activity 5.1 (Q2, continuing to Q3)

Data, information and descriptions on 12 identified native species are being collated and this activity is on target for Y1 – to be completed by Q3.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

No notable problems.

2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with LTS: No

Formal change request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance No

3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes **No** Estimated underspend: £

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully as it is unlikely that any requests to carry forward funds will be approved this year. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project and would like to talk to someone about the options available this year, please indicate below when you think you might be in a position to do this and what the reasons might be:

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk . The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 20-035 Darwin Half Year Report**