

Mali

Project title:	An integrated approach to the mango supply chain in Mali
Location:	Bamako
Sector:	Agriculture
Applicant:	Durabilis N.V.S.O., Belgium
Local partner:	Service Commercial Silvain International Sarl. (SCS), Mali
Start project:	1 January 2011
End project:	31 December 2013
Total budget:	EUR 1,500,000 (50 percent PSI contribution)

Project summary:

The project partners will establish a modern mango plantation of 200 ha. with high yielding varieties suited for export. A modern drip irrigation system will be installed with fertilizer mixing tanks to apply the fertilizers with the irrigation water. The energy to pump the irrigation water will be generated by solar panels.

The mango trees will be pruned every year in order to keep trees small and to increase the vegetative mass, allowing more than 400 trees per hectare. This number is based on modern pruning and other farm maintenance techniques. Wind breaking trees will be planted as well to prevent top soil from being carried away by wind erosion and to create a micro climate favourable for the mango trees. These trees will also prevent the wind to damage the mango flowers in order to keep yields as high as possible. In addition a knowledge exchange centre for out growers will be established.

Currently yields from existing mango trees in Mali are declining year by year because the trees are aging and no maintenance, irrigation or fertilizers are used at all. To remain competitive on the world market, Mali has to invest in its mango plantations like it has been done in Ivory Coast, Senegal and Ghana and many other countries around the globe.

As demand for fresh mangos is rising in Europe, increased production and export of mangoes will offer a great possibility for Mali to increase its welfare and to encourage its development process.