

# Transforming Agriculture in the Sahel

What Would It Take?



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## 1. Agriculture Risk: New Normal

The Sahel sub-region, owing to its climatic, institutional, livelihood, economic, and environmental context, is one of the most vulnerable regions of the world. Poverty is pervasive, and the countries in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal) rank low on almost all of the human development indicators. Agriculture is the most important sector and is the principle source of livelihood for majority of the people. The performance of the agricultural se

leave countries and their agricultural supply chains at risk. The realization of these risks leads to

Figure 3. Risk Layering and RM Approaches

## 2. Doing Business Differently: Mainstreaming a Landscape Approach

Increasing food and nutrition insecurity and increasing poverty in the face of a rapidly changing climate and a degrading natural capital base are daunting challenges for agriculture. To address these challenges, the region needs to move towards an integrated climate smart agriculture approach to managing competing demands for land, water, and other natural resources. This comes out of the simple recognition that it is the most efficient thing to do given the complex inter-linkages between the different components of natural capital and, most importantly, it is essential for the communities that live in a reality in which all is connected: i.e. in the landscape. Taking a landscape view on productive activities also leads to better risk management. Opportunities for income diversification and risk pooling between the different stakeholders will become more visible and thus more feasible; and leads to the triple win of increased productivity, increased adaptation, and increased mitigation.

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opportunity to redress past economic imbalances and position the region to become a player in

Based on specific targets for each of these intervention areas we estimate a global investment

decentralization. Policy change involves developing secured land tenure systems, and recognizing mobility for resources management and conflict resolution. Interventions are most effective within a value chain approach including product distribution to end markets, where public funding should encourage private sector participation.