



FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION INITIATIVE 2025

Smallholder farmers: an underestimated potential

The contribution of smallholder farmers to global food production is underestimated, according to a recent study from the scientific review of Global Change Biology.

Experts point out that in the world, smallholder farms make up 40% of the global agricultural area. **In Africa, smallholder farms make up 78%.** In fact, countries such as Mali and Ethiopia, where SOS SAHEL works, tend to possess a large number of small agricultural lands.

Yet, these smallholder farms remain under-valued while. According to the Food and Agriculture organization of the United Nations – 60% of the African population is concerned by the agriculture sector; a sector that provides 90% of the food throughout the continent.

SOS SAHEL solutions: inclusion and modernization

In view of their value, these smallholder farms need specific attention. SOS SAHEL is aware of what is at stake, and that is why the organization has worked for decades to strengthen its support of smallholder farmers and facilitate the transition toward modern and efficient farming.

To make it a success, **SOS SAHEL leads an inclusive development approach** (communities, governments, development actors, private sector) to accelerate the transformation process and make smallholder farms more sustainable.

