



Mali

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Poor Rainfall in Konodimini and Sidabougou: People Under the Threat of Severe Famine

By maliweb.net -27 Oct 2021



Located 260 and 255 km from Bamako in the Ségou region, the villages of Konodimini and Sidabougou are under the threat of severe famine following poor rainfall. In Konodimini and Sidabougou where agriculture remains the main activity, climate change is impacting crops.

-maliweb.net- Sitting sharing a cup of roasted peanuts, a group of old men chatter waiting for the Maghreb call to prayer. A talk that allows them to forget the current state of their fields that does not bode well unlike other years. A few 100 meters from them, a group of young people aged between 30 and 45 exchange everything and nothing around a teapot. Which is unusual in this country. Because, it is at this hour that we cross these able-bodied arms of the village on the way back from the fields where they spend all day watching the crops.

This year, Mother Nature has turned upside down all the habits of the inhabitants of the villages of Konodimini and Sidabougou like other peasant villages in Mali. Rainfall did not meet expectations falling at an irregular rate. A total upheaval in seeds that can not the desired harvests. Climate change is making itself felt. And the localities of Konodimini and Sidabougou, whose main activity remains agriculture, are bearing the brunt of the adverse consequences. Usually, the months of June and July are the periods when farmers begin to sow rice or millet thanks to an abundance of rains.



A view of a millet field in Konodimini

The son of the village chief of Sidabougou, Aliou Diarra, who has no other activities than agriculture, is concerned about this situation. "In recent years, we have seen a worrying phenomenon. The rains no longer arrive at the same time. They say it's climate change. Even if we do not control all the contours, one thing remains: the rainfall has not been up to the mark and there has not been enough water at the height in the river, we have had a low flood and the water does not reach our rice fields, we have no yield so far," he laments.

Same concerns identified with Madou Traoré. "We are currently experiencing a situation of famine, in our communities even though many families out of dignity are trying to hide it from the public," he said.

Māini Coulibaly, in turn, supports this thesis. She was deeply concerned about the condition of the plants that were yielding under the weight of the drought. She does not hide her pessimism. According to this stay-at-home mother, no less a farmer, the year will be hard. "We don't know where to turn this year, no plant is successful. We are not even going to have enough to put in our attics, let alone to have enough to resell to ensure our family expenses," says Mrs. Māini Coulibaly sitting on her cart loaded with dried millet stems.

Testimonies of desolation and lamentation are common in the localities of Konodimi and Sidabougou. The rain was not there. As a result, the harvests have not been good to the great misfortune of families who owe their livelihood to agriculture. "Unlike you people from Bamako who do business, here we grow to eat and resell the surplus for our needs. Imagine a farmer forced to pay more than 35,000 FCFA for a bag of rice," the village chief's son moaned. He added that the majority of them heads of household are responsible for at least 100 people to feed, an effort they made thanks to the work of the land.

Faced with this situation that borders on disaster, the young Konodimini and Sidabougou want to migrate to traditional gold panning sites. They say they want to become occasional researchers of the yellow metal. Something that is not without risk for both the community and the environment. When we know these traditional gold miners use for the most part products very toxic to the soil, the river brief for the ecosystem.

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Original Story: <https://www.maliweb.net/environnement/mauvaise-pluviometrie-a-konodimini-et-sidabougou-les-populations-sous-la-menace-dune-grave-famine>