AgrICulTural initiative in Mali and Senegal: E-TIC.net

Theme: The issues of farming, rearing livestock, fishing and the related sanitary conditions are at the heart of this project ICVolunteers aims to provide the means to improve the information available to those directly involved in these sectors, a pillar of the local economy for pastoral regions in Mali and Senegal.	
Context: The isolated nature of rural zones means a large majority of farmers, herders and fishermen do not have access to information that would help them improve their living conditions and possibilities of marketing their products.	
Beneficiaries: farmers, headers and fishermen (in particular young ones), journalists of community radios, women, IT specialists.	

Partners: <u>Local</u>: Primatures, Ministries of Agriculture, Youth and Sports, New Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), National Civic Service of Senegal (SCN), written press, community radios, national televisions, farmers organizations, Eco-Village Network of Senegal, CRESP/EREV/GENSEN, Oulad Nagim Community, Eco-Commune de Guédé-Chantier, Conjedev, Youth and ICT_Mali, Société Nationale d'Aménagement et d'Exploitation des Terres du Delta du Fleuve Sénégal (SAED), Association des Municipalités du Mali (AMM)), Manobi. <u>International</u>: Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO).

Project duration: First phase: 18 months	**Number of volunteers involved in the project:** 350

Long term objectives:	**Specific objectives:**
▪ Transform the digital divide into digital opportunities so as to create a society in which knowledge is shared. ▪ Create opportunities for young people in rural zones to avoid migration to -and the further overpopulation of- the cities. ▪ Use Information and Communication Technology (ICT) within ICV's network to better inform the public, namely journalists from community radio stations, women and young volunteers. ▪ Develop ICT to adapt to the needs of farmers, herders and fishermen (taking into account their degree of literacy and their oral tradition).	▪ Develop training in ICT to help improve farming, husbandry and fishing practices. ▪ Promote better pastoral management and sanitary conditions. ▪ Promote the adoption of sustainable husbandry practices by making farmers aware of their responsibilities (awareness of agricultural methods which respect the environment and biodiversity). ▪ Acknowledge the value of commercializing products and sub-products in the husbandry industry. ▪ Create an inventory and set up a monitoring system of livestock and pastures, interface "Green Network".
Expected outcome: to provide a model for farming and rearing livestock in the targeted area.	**Role of ICV:** ICVolunteers coordinates the various activities of the project and recruits all the cyber-volunteers involved.

Method:

- Consult farmers, herders and fishermen, as well as other actors in the sector to identify their needs.
- Set up a system whereby those who have been trained in ICT train others in turn.
- Create a website, discussion forum and management and information tools for the actors in agriculture, their organizations, exporters, importers and researchers.
- Provide community radio journalists with the information necessary to diffuse radio programs made in collaboration with and intended for farmers.
- Share information and make it accessible to a large audience through group discussions, door-to-door calling, radios, posters, newspapers, mobile phones
- Carry out research into making the project financially self-sustainable in the long term.

Calendar:	**2008:** Evaluation of the needs and constraints of the project / assessment of its feasibility. **2009/2010:** Project implementation.