



Experience by SYMBIOSE
in Niore du Rip, Kaolack, SENEGAL

Senegal has initiated many reforestation programmes which, in the end, have not produced the expected results. Indeed, these reforestation programmes were initially conceived as responses to the phenomenon of environmental degradation of natural resources and the disappearance or rarefaction of certain forest and animal species (wild boars, monkeys, hares, guinea fowl, hyenas, etc.). Despite the persistence of such programmes, the population continues to suffer the effects of the deterioration of ecosystems, thus affecting agricultural production, the environment and the atmosphere.

Solution: Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR). The practice consists of cutting off the lateral branches to keep only the main stems of the protected subject. It allows a better allocation of nutrients to the retained stems, thus boosting their growth.



Experience description

To implement this strategy, it was necessary to inform and sensitise the actors. Two important stages were followed:

The reflection phase: A workshop was organised to provoke a reflection with the representatives of the Penc (representatives of civil society at the commune level) on the degradation of natural resources and the strategies for adapting to climate change. The ANR strategy was presented in a schematic way. Subsequently, Penc undertook sensitisation activities at community level to facilitate the identification of ten farmers in each Commune for the pilot phase. A training workshop was then organised for these farmers.

The implementation phase - The practice in this phase consists of: Locating and selecting the shoots of the species to be protected; Cutting the unselected shoots; Maintenance and pruning of the selected shoots each year, Reasoned cutting of the branches from the regenerated trees according to the species and the needs (fodder, wood, organic matter, etc.).



Other characteristics



IMPACTS

- Improving soil fertility
- Restoration of floral diversity
- Reduction of water and wind erosion
- Increased availability of firewood
- Reducing the carbon footprint.



CHALLENGE

- Deviant uses because protected areas are often perceived as places of refuge for thieves
- The return of some animal species is not always positive
- The persistence of anthropic actions (bush fires, presence of herders, fraudulent cutting, etc.)
- Socio-climatic conflicts between indigenous people and herders



LESSONS LEARNED

- ANR is a very cost and time efficient strategy compared to active reforestation (planting)
- ANR can accelerate ecosystem restoration processes with a survival rate of over 95%.
- To be successful, innovation in a community must be supported by the actors involved

