

## AGRA Impact Series

# AGRA Supports Establishing Efficient Budgetary Program Management Unit in Agriculture Ministry

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**Every year, Burkina Faso's Ministry of Agriculture and Hydro-agricultural Development (MAAH) runs several budget programs that convene six implementation instruments - projects, programs, budget lines, administrative departments, NGOs, and technical and financial partners.**

Over time, however, the administration of these budget programs suffered from lack of a management unit to harness the individual competencies of all the different components for the best possible outcomes.

Against this background, the MAAH sought the support of the Alliance for the Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), in mobilizing the technical assistance required to design the tools that would guide the creation of an efficient budgetary program management unit.

According to Yassia Kindo, Chief of the Budget Management and Support Program, this search for efficiency and synergy required a guide that defines the ideal industry practices.

Mr. Kindo's assertion arose from the fact that neither the country's laws nor existing presidential decrees provided operational proposals for budget program management.


This had, in effect, led to the day-to-day management of public expenditure under the line-item budget approach, instead of the desirable outcome-based framework.

"Guiding documents are important to propose the administrative and financial procedures for coordinating the activities at all levels of implementation. They also help to define the human resources needed for efficiency and synergy," he said.

In this regard, AGRA committed \$200,000 to a consultancy process that yielded two important documents. The first is an institutional organization manual focused on budget programs which outlines the typical structure of the management units, the specific human resources required and the operationalization modalities of the budgetary programs.

The second is a procedures manual that provides a formal framework for the execution of operations of a financial, accounting and administrative nature, and specifies the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders. The latter manual can also serve as an information base for the financial and product audits.

The two documents identify the compulsory staff in the standard budget program units,



the modalities and procedures for putting this structure in place, and the establishment of accountability measures by regional departments.

“The manuals remove the operational constraints from the budget program approach implementation and now leave clear guides to be applied and appropriated by the finance teams,” said Saoudatou Boly Sidibe, Director of the Coordination of Projects and Programs.

This is the first time that these two guides are available in Burkina Faso, allowing the MAAH to play a pioneering role in the operationalization of a program budget management unit.

“The main results of this reflection are eagerly awaited by the Ministry in Charge of Finance for assessment and if possible, for scaling up to

other ministries,” said Oula Damien Ouattara, the Coordinator of the Institutional Support Program.

Jules Some, AGRA’s Burkina Faso Country Manager added that his organization will be available to support the Department of Agriculture in the deployment of the recommendations proposed in the two manuals for an effective budgetary program management unit.

“This development is essential for the Department of Agriculture to lead and be a leader in the process of agricultural structural transformation,” he said.

