

an update on  
the work & progress at  
IFDC—An International Center for Soil  
Fertility and Agricultural Development

[www.ifdc.org](http://www.ifdc.org)

## From Thousands to Millions, or 1000s+: Progress in the First Year

From Thousands to Millions, or 1000s+, is an IFDC project to increase agricultural productivity and economic growth for 1 million farm families (10 million people) in West Africa. 1000s+ links farmers to markets through expansion of the Competitive Agricultural Systems and Enterprises (CASE) approach.

The CASE approach increases agricultural productivity by improving soil fertility and increasing farmers' access to input and output markets, says Dr. Arnoldus J. Maatman, Chief of Party of the IFDC Strategic Alliance for Agricultural Development in Africa. Maatman is based in Mali.

Crop yields, agricultural revenues, and farm incomes have increased dramatically, benefiting 150,000 farmers in areas where CASE has been used. 1000s+ will not only reach 1 million more farm families, it will also strengthen the capacity of 2,000 agribusiness enterprises.

1000s+ started more than a year ago and targets Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Togo.

"Despite the short time that 1000s+ has been in effect, we've been able to develop action plans for 30 agribusiness clusters together with local producer organizations and business support services," Maatman says. Examples of the agribusiness clusters include maize farmers in southern Mali and soybean producers in northern Nigeria.

"CASE was developed from real field- and enterprise-level learning experiences," Maatman says. "It is based on the recognition that smallholder farmers, local processors, input dealers, and warehouse managers don't know each other well. Often, they even distrust each other. That limits their potential to link to remunerative markets.



Dr. Arno Maatman (right) meeting with representatives of a farmers' cotton association in Banikoara, Northern Benin.



Photo by Mariëtte Gross

Women in southern Niger receive an IFDC team with a song about Integrated Soil Fertility Management.

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