

# Migration, Food Security and Climatic Change

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Policies based on migration are being used as a development tool (Lacroix, 2009). Current discourses aimed at guiding individual or collective transfers into productive investment appear to be in reality, although favourable conditions are not quite in place in their home country (Haas, 2012). Focusing exclusively on the role of migrant associations promotes the emergence of a neo-liberal logic in relation to state duties and tasks, where the diaspora is called upon to replace more and more duties that come back reality to the state (Kapur, 2003). The most outstanding feature is undoubtedly the emigrants' contribution, their investments and achievements in alleviating difficulties faced by Senegalese households. Migrant organizations, as actors of cooperation and co-development, organize activities directly with the populations and occur at the micro-economic level to solve specific problems. This is particularly the case of the agricultural sector, which is favoured both in terms of individual investments and collective projects. It is within the framework of an investment domain capable of generating resources and employment that the attention of the Senegalese diaspora, especially that of agriculture and the development of measures to cope, is currently focused to climate change (Maggi, 2008). The acknowledgement and valorisation of migrants efforts by public authorities become a necessity. This is why we will discuss in this article the role of migrants in Senegalese agriculture and adaptation to climate change. We will first describe the methodology used in this research, then analyse the results and then conclude.

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## II. METHODOLOGY

Our study used several approaches. The first approaches support restrictive policies to prevent the arrival of migrants. While the second was about their development and the emigration flows of their population. Thus, the central question that arises in this study is that of understanding : In what forms, migration and co- development dynamics are characterized between Italy and Senegal ? The methodological approach used in this context is characterized by a two-dimensional approach. This multi-space approach has also been interdisciplinary, integrating concepts and methods from sociology, anthropology, economics and political science. The methodological approach was first to study the documentation and to carry out qualitative and quantitative surveys<sup>1</sup> and then proceed to their analysis. The analysis, based on field surveys conducted in Italy and Senegal, integrated statistical and audio-visual methods (Bergman, 2008). The documentary review (reports, databases, studies, websites, etc.) took place with institutions active in the field of migration, co- development, remittances, investment promotion and of research<sup>2</sup>. This documentary research made it possible to dispose of the regulatory texts, to take stock of the policies and especially to have statistical data. Migrant organizations operating between Italy and Senegal in the context of co- development, based in the Lombardy region, mainly the municipality of Milan, were investigated. The choice of Milan is bound by a Senegalese associations that has developed by the dual presence of migrants in integration and development through cultural exchange activities and economic promotion (Navara , 2011). Thiès, Dakar and Louga regions was selected according to, on the one hand, the presence of migrants living in the region of Lombardy ; on the other hand, it depends on the number of co- development projects carried out with Milan. Three questionnaires and an interview guide were developed and used for this study. The questionnaires are of three types and was respectively administrated to state and co- operation organizations, technical and financial partners, and civil society organizations<sup>3</sup>. The interview guide is intended for resource persons and research institutions. Policy analysis was based on individual interviews (15 state, international and diplomatic institutions)<sup>4</sup>. For dynamic migrants, individual and group interviews were conducted with presidents and members of migrant organizations and NGOs (20 migrant organizations and NGOs 5). For resource persons and research institutions, open interviews were applied to the experts (45 resource persons and 6 universities and research centers). We surveyed a total of 209 people (88 in Italy and 121 in Senegal). The audio recordings of interviews and survey cards gave rise to a database. The difficulties encountered during this study were mainly related to inaccessibility to certain authorities such as Ministers, senior officials and diplomatic representatives among others. The refusal of some people (migrants and NGO members) to give personal information or reveal those specific to their organizations was a major constraint. Other constraints are related to the periods of travel between Italy and Senegal to meet at the right time the people to investigate. These constraints are due in part visa procedures to enter Italy. The statistical data are difficult to access in Senegal, they are sometimes non-existent or are not updated. In some administrations such as embassies and ministries, some information is inaccessible because it is considered as confidential.

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<sup>1</sup>Field surveys were conducted from June to August 2016 in Senegal and from September 2016 to March 2017 in Italy.

<sup>2</sup>The literature review was conducted to from the EU, the Italian Embassy, Consulate of Senegal, ministries, universities, IOM, OECD, World Bank, ADB, the e ILO UNDP, IRD, IDRC, APIX, ADEPME, ANEJ, FNPJ, ANSD, BCEAO, and other national and international structures established in Senegal and Italy

<sup>3</sup>Civil society : migrant organizations, NGOs , etc.

<sup>4</sup>EU, IOM, Italian Embassy, Cooperation Office, Senegalese Ministries and Parliament, etc.

### III. RESULTS OF RESEARCH

Almost all the literature says that the economic situation is the main cause of Senegalese emigration. Senegal is among the 25 poorest countries in the world according to the IMF report in 2015. However, remember that agriculture is the basis of the Senegalese economy. 70% of the Senegalese population practice agriculture, so the population dependent mainly on the agricultural (Touré, 2002). There is a numerical prevalence of women, 96.9 men per 100 women, in rural areas due to rural-urban migration, and international migration mainly practiced by men (84%) (ESAM 2004). Agriculture contributes 20% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and provides an average of 23% of national export earnings and nearly 70% of all national jobs. It supplies raw materials for processing industries such as oil mills, sugar factories, soap factories, spinning mills and textile industries. In addition, it is an important outlet for basic factories in agricultural machinery, fertilizers, plant protection products, animal feeds, and other inputs and equipment. Senegal has enormous potential for surface water and groundwater. These aquifers contain more than two thirds of the country's reserves. The potential of irrigable land is estimated at 500 000 hectares ; the areas currently irrigated are very small, estimated at 1.6% of cultivable land or 2.8% of land actually cultivated. Its relief is slightly uneven and is relatively flat with vast plains covering 80% of its surface and some dunes and escarpments. Despite its enormous potential and its importance in the country's population and economy, Senegal has still not achieved food security and food self-sufficiency. One-third of Senegal's staple food, rice, is imported. Agriculture does not feed the Senegalese population, because of a decline in soil fertility related to monoculture, population pressure and mismanagement of natural resources, and also because of the high cost of food. agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, etc.), oldness of agricultural equipment and lack of control over technical routes.

### EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON SENEGALESE AGRICULTURE

Senegalese agriculture is disadvantaged by the arid climate with annual rainfall varying between the Northern and Southern part of the country, from about 300 mm to 900 mm. A dry season is observed from November to May, and a rainy season from June to October. Its Sudano-Sahelian climate, currently disrupted by climate change, is causing degradation in Senegalese agriculture and imposing changes in habits and behaviour. Climate change has led to a deterioration of the environment as desertification progresses and rainfall problems increase. They lead to a decrease in agricultural yields (Some, 2009). The rainy season lasts only 3 to 4 months. Senegal is likely to follow the fate of the drought near the Sahel, because it is one of the states most threatened by desertification. Geophysical or meteorological disasters, rising sea levels, ecosystem degradation, every year, millions of people leave their land for environmental reasons. A phenomenon that the current climate change will only amplify. In addition, Senegal has been severely affected by the energy and cereal crisis and its situation challenges today all development actors. Beyond a worsening of impoverishment, it is the economic take-off of the country as a whole that can be slowed down by this crisis. According to the Director General of FAO, the cereal import bill for the poorest countries increased by 56% in 2008 after having increased by 37% in 2007. A rise that has a devastating impact on the security of many peoples. The rural exodus thus increases because it is more and more difficult to live from agriculture. The unemployment rate in rural areas was 17.1% in 2002 (ANSD, 2006). This unemployment particularly affects young people under the age of 35, for whom the unemployment rate is as high as 30% (World Bank, 2007). As a result, emigration is often a community survival strategy (Some, 2009). Because of this situation and in order to find better living conditions, people are tempted to

continue the adventure to developed countries, where other Senegalese have been able, by the same way, to provide for their families. To cope with this threat and this degradation of the environment and agriculture, more and more visible, the Senegalese government has promoted over the past years many projects and programs. Despite this, the situation remained rather worrying.

Thus, in order to propose a solution, we will particularly analyse the interventions of migrants in the agricultural sector, mechanism of the Senegalese economy.

### **INTERVENTIONS OF MIGRANTS ON SENEGALESE AGRICULTURE**

The implementation of an agricultural program depends on several factors such as the implication of beneficiary populations, available funds, including international support, innovation and management of climatic threats, as well as the intervention strategy. Our analysis carried out during the fieldwork allows us to think that the blockage of the success of agricultural policies and programs is at the level of the support of the populations and the intervention strategy. This is where the actions of migrants accumulate success. As a strategy, migrants intervene at the level of family farming in their territory, in known territory. To understand the relevance and major changes that migrants have made to Senegalese agriculture, it is important to understand the country's agricultural system.

Senegal's agricultural production is mainly provided by smallholders' farmers, nearly 60% of which have a cultivated area ranging from 1 to 5 hectares and the remaining varied between 6 to 10 hectares. Since independence, Senegalese agriculture has essentially been practiced by smallholders' farmers, characterized by low productivity, conducted mainly under rain conditions, despite the dissemination of good agronomic practices and improved varieties. The production systems are extensive and usually based on subsistence crops. They are mainly under rain-fed conditions, itinerant, rudimentary and dominated by peanut crops (in the center and south), pearl millet, cowpea, rice (in the Senegalese River Valley and the southern part of the country), cotton (in the South-East), sorghum and maize, which represent about 95% of the cultivated area (Dia, 2000). However, there are around 120 big farms (private farms up to more than 10,000 hectares) that are mostly under the control of marabouts, politicians and businesspersons. There are also about ten community farms supported by the projects and programs of the REVA plan's poles of excellence. State disengagement, the privatization of public enterprises, the empowerment of farmers, the liberalization of prices and markets, decentralization, the encouragement of private investment in rural areas these are all agricultural policies and strategies that the state and its partners have put in place to support agriculture. Unfortunately, these policies have failed to reduce poverty and reduce the deficit in the food trade balance.

On the other hand, despite the enormous amounts allocated by state programs and development partners, it seems that the actions of migrants in the agricultural sector are more successful. Looking more closely, we note that migrants are initiating new approaches in the implementation of actions to develop Senegalese agriculture by supporting the family farm.

### **PARTICULARITY OF MIGRANT ACTIONS IN SENEGALESE AGRICULTURE**

The migrants' actions let us understand that the weakness of the success of these programs is due to their intervention strategy. National programs, including ANIDA community farms, are moving towards the establishment of farms. The Senegalese agrarian system is of a family type. Farmers have neither the means nor the predispositions necessary to aspire to a transformation of their family farming field towards a private type of exploitation. This transformation is at first fundamentally sociological and anthropological, since agriculture is based on traditional practices. It requires a

transformation of the sociological foundations of household organization, as well as the economic activities and environmental realities of Senegal's rural system. Thus, it is a transformation in time and space, a transformation that must take into account a multitude of technical, sociological and traditional parameters.

Following observations on the ground, migrants seem to be adopting the "right path" to improve Senegalese agriculture. They intervene in the family farm and food security. International migrants have established cereal banks to address grain shortages in several villages in Senegal (IOM, 2009). By investing in Senegal, the individual or collective migrant has three main objectives: (i) Reduce dependency on shipments of funds: to do this, the migrant improves the family farm to make it more productive; (ii) Prepare for his return: He buys, or takes a part of the family field, to practice an intensive agricultural activity; (iii) Creating employment at the local level These jobs will be offered to his brothers and relatives. In all three cases, thanks to the technical and financial resources imported from Italy through co-development, the migrants manage to intervene in the family farm, whose main objective is to feed the family and to reduce the dependence of migrant funds. The Senegalese in Italy began to play a role of liaison, initiators of new comfortable relationships. Emigrant associations have mobilized funds to fight against emigration by supporting family farming. Wells and boreholes are built through the collection of funding from their own funds, in collaboration with technical and financial partners, from fundraising activities or following the organization of cultural events, exhibitions, and so on. By these infrastructures, the agricultural practice in the family farm is no longer limited to the rainy season (which lasts 3 months), it is practiced all year long. This has promoted cultural diversity.

### **CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND MIGRANTS**

Migrants initiate new agricultural techniques and technologies and promote a diversification of crops in the family farm, securing producers and at the same time providing alternatives to export. This cultural diversity made it possible to introduce horticulture, poultry production, egg production, beef meat and milk production into the family farm, whereas families were once devoted to growing food crops. . Indeed, at a time when the main Senegalese export products such as fish products and vegetable oils have lost a significant share of the world market, horticulture is nowadays one of the sub-sectors that should be used to strengthen the role of agriculture in the country's economy. The horticultural sector in Senegal has grown rapidly in recent years. It provides continuous food sources through irrigation and diversifies the vitamins and nutrients of a diet that has so far been exclusively composed of rice or pearl millet in rural areas. There is no industrial meat production in Senegal, except for poultry production. On the other hand, milk production is becoming increasingly important during artificial insemination campaigns to improve the production of local breeds animals. However, the major problem of local milk lies in its preservation. In fact, large quantities of milk are lost during rainy seasons because they can not be kept. Small migrant initiatives aim to set up mini-dairies industry in the production areas located in Matam, Dioum , etc.

## AGROFORESTIER TECHNIQUES ENCOURAGED BY THE EMIGRES FOR AGRICULTURE

The emigrants developed agro-forestry activities that help to improve the family farm, but also to fight against desertification and protect the fields erosion, while enhancing soil fertility:

**Agro-forestry systems:** It is characterized by the relationship between forestry and horticulture. The migrant fields we visited are being re-planted with trees, which improves the soil fertility and provides wood for family use. This practice helps combat desertification.

**Agri-sylvopastoral systems:** This system links agriculture, livestock and forestry. The drilling of the village of Beude Dieng, settled by migrants for agricultural practice, also feeds local livestock. The presence of animals in family farms enhances soil fertility, and the crops residues are used as fodder

**The forestry-pastorales systems** They are grazing areas for animals due to the presence of grass cover. They are also collection points for wood and wood and non-wood forest products. In some of the areas we visited, the migrants have reforested, so that people are no longer confined to cutting the leaves of the trees for cattle without worrying about the renewal of the plant cover.

The project " Adopt a tree at a distance Of the Sunugal Migrant Association , allowed the distribution of approximately 25 000 tree seedling plants to support the practice of these systems on family farms. This project is funded by Italian donors who have decided to adopt a remote tree to support local development and protect the environment.

We noted that migrants have deliberately associated in the family farm, simultaneously or sequentially, four main components : plants, trees, animals and land. The technologies practiced in these systems have always been used by traditional populations, but have been abandoned because of modernization, despite their major importance on the environment. Among the agroforestry techniques, we can cite :

**The windbreak:** It is a band of trees or vegetation that reduces wind strength, erosion, evaporation and lodging.

**Soilfixation:** the species used are usually *Euphorbiabalsamifera*, *Prosopis* , to prevent soil movement.

**Nursery management:** This activity is conducted to support the populations.

**Edge planting:** trees, shrubs or herbs serve here to delimit the fields, and thus mark the plot. It is a common practice and easily accepted by the people. The *melifera* and *Leusena* are the most used species.

**Shade trees:** this trees are mostly found in public places in villages, around schools, market places, mosques, family concessions, cattle yards and water points. The species used are *AzadirachtaIndica*, *Prosopis*, *Delonixregia* .

**The agroforestry park:** Trees or shrubs distributed in the fields are the oldest agro-forestry technology in the Kayor "district. Characteristic of the traditional agrarian landscape, they are a perfect example of traditional agroforestry. There are at least two components for parks: a wood component representing the upper stage and an agricultural or animal component which is the secondary stage.

**Hedgerows/ dead hedges:** Familiar part of the agricultural landscape, hedgerows are an ancient practice among farmers in the locality Beude. The traditional role of hedgerows was mainly to prevent the intrusion of animals. Apart from the protection aspect, this practice made it possible to mark the limits around dwellings.

**Assisted natural regeneration (ANR)** She is to protect the plants regenerated naturally. Nowadays, this practice is more and more encouraged because these species are much more likely to survive.

## ALTERNATIVE NEWS

With rising of oil prices and the climate change, renewable energies are booming. Thus, Senegalese migrants from Italy, with their partners, initiated a project to develop the biofuel. This project was based in Beude Dieng village. Therefore, we can ask the following question: how this initiative will integrate Senegalese farming systems ? Farmers have not yet adopted this culture, and land conflicts are more common in some places. This culture for energy production also poses a risk of slump because it can not find a buyer, because developed countries are not yet quite convinced of the energy efficiency of these products.

Africa must have a tendency to move towards the exploitation of solar energy. The sun is available in Senegal for more than 12 hours/day almost during all the year. Thus, migrants have promoted the use of solar energy in village life. In some Senegalese' villages, emigrants' house are recognizable by the solar panels placed on the roof. In villages still without access to electricity, the emigrant associations were able to install lighting in three strategic locations in the village, in addition to their homes. This is the mosque, the center of the village under the palaver tree commonly called 'Penc', and in the school. Charging plugs are also visible at each of these locations.

## AGRITOURISM OF MIGRANTS

Senegal has no shortage of assets to ensure the development of the tourism sector : seaside close to Europe, it has natural sites of great beauty, parks and reserves , a great wealth of flora and fauna , 700 km of sandy beaches from north to south and especially the warm welcome of its population. Alongside this classic form of tourism, Senegalese emigrants encouraged tourists to take an interest in discovering the deep country. Called solidarity tourists, they go to meet the social values and customs of the local population and engage in dialogue between cultures. They will discover the activities carried out in the villages, share experiences and participate in improving good practices in almost all areas of local life. Emigrants have been able to encourage a new concept of tourism in their village. Camps are built with local materials by emigrants or village women's groups, with the support of migrants from the area. These sites serve as welcoming places for solidarity tourists, who are most often friends of migrants in Italy. We had the opportunity to visit during our investigations Lompoul, located in the department of Kébémér, Louga region. It was set up by a women's group supported by a migrant association based in Turin, Italy. Likewise, the "Keur Toubab", located Beude Dieng village was built by a migrant association based in Milan. In a socio-economic context characterized by lack of employ, the area is transformed in such a way as to stimulate a real economic, agricultural, tourism and artistic revolution. These initiatives aim to demonstrate the potential for profitability of the agricultural and tourism sector, promote the development of new technologies and bring out a new form of link between tourism and the rural world.

## IV. CONCLUSION

The primary goal of any country is not to depend on other countries to feed its people. The developed countries are aware of this and then implement proactive policies to promote national agriculture. Senegal must go beyond the logic of emergency management and move towards a real and concrete rationalization of our policies and actions to intensify our agricultural system. For a better understanding of the impact of migration on agriculture and climate change, it is to uncover how environmental causes mingle with other political and socio-economic factors that drive people to temporary or to the exodus.

The investment of migrants, individual and / or collective positively change the living conditions of their families who stayed in the country. The recommendations are in line to involve their skills, technical and financial resources, their desire to achieve food security along with adaptation to climate change in their local area of origin. Emigrants' actions should therefore be encouraged in the emergence of modern agricultural entrepreneurs.

However, the difficulties and specific needs are many and varied. Mainly, it concerns the lack of funding that meet the specific needs of migrants despite the multitude of funds available for migrants, as well as the lack of communication on the possibilities of development of activities, and the possibilities support and funding of migrant projects .

With the current crisis, migrants need to be accompanied, trained and oriented, so that those who hold the capital can make them grow and allow Senegal to benefit more. And yet, the treatment of the migration-development relationship at the national and European levels focuses on the management of migratory flows to the detriment of positive and civic interactions both in the societies of origin and in the host societies.

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