

CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOOD INSECURITY IN MARADI DISTRICT - SOUTHERN NIGER

SOME LESSONS FROM COMMUNITY-LED COPING STRATEGIES

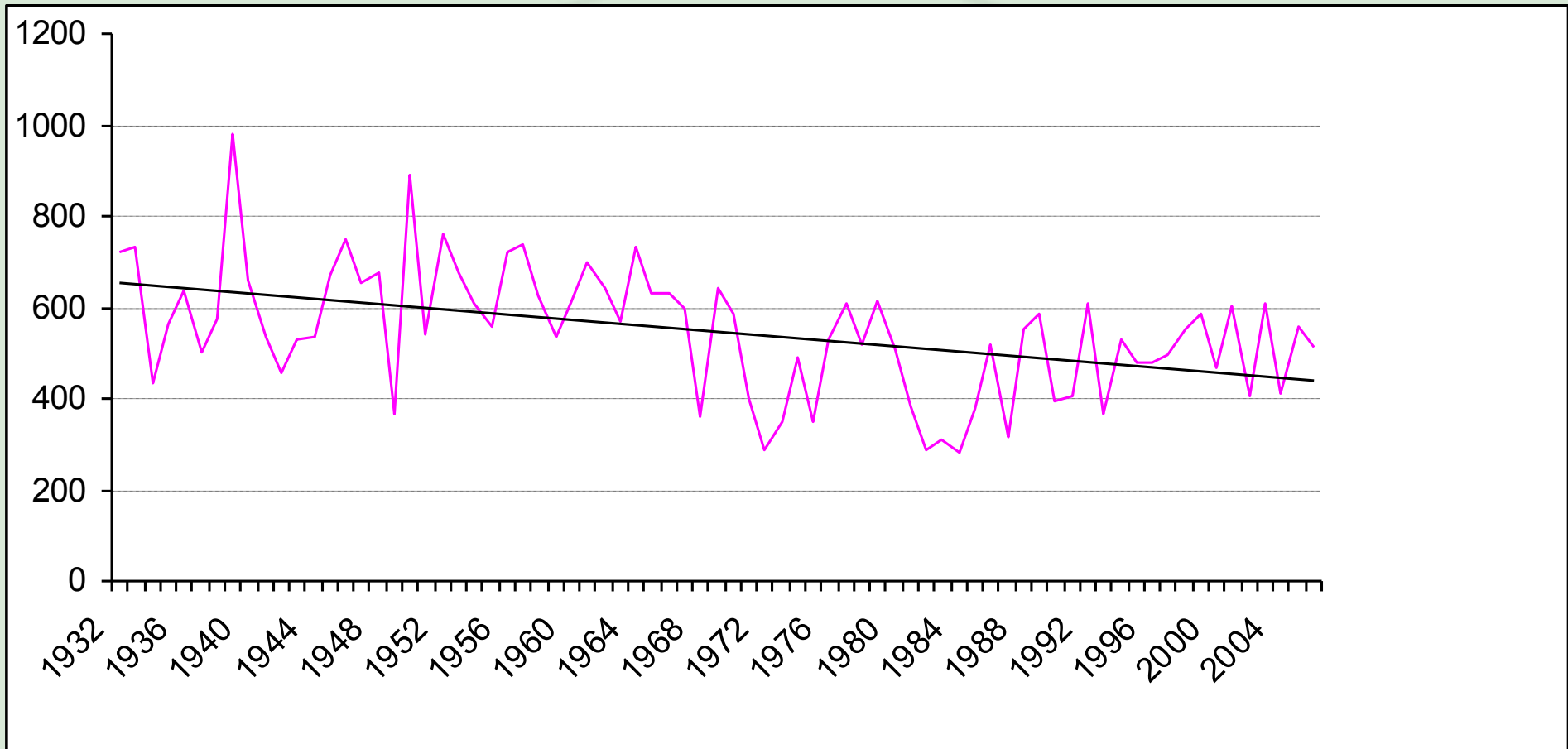
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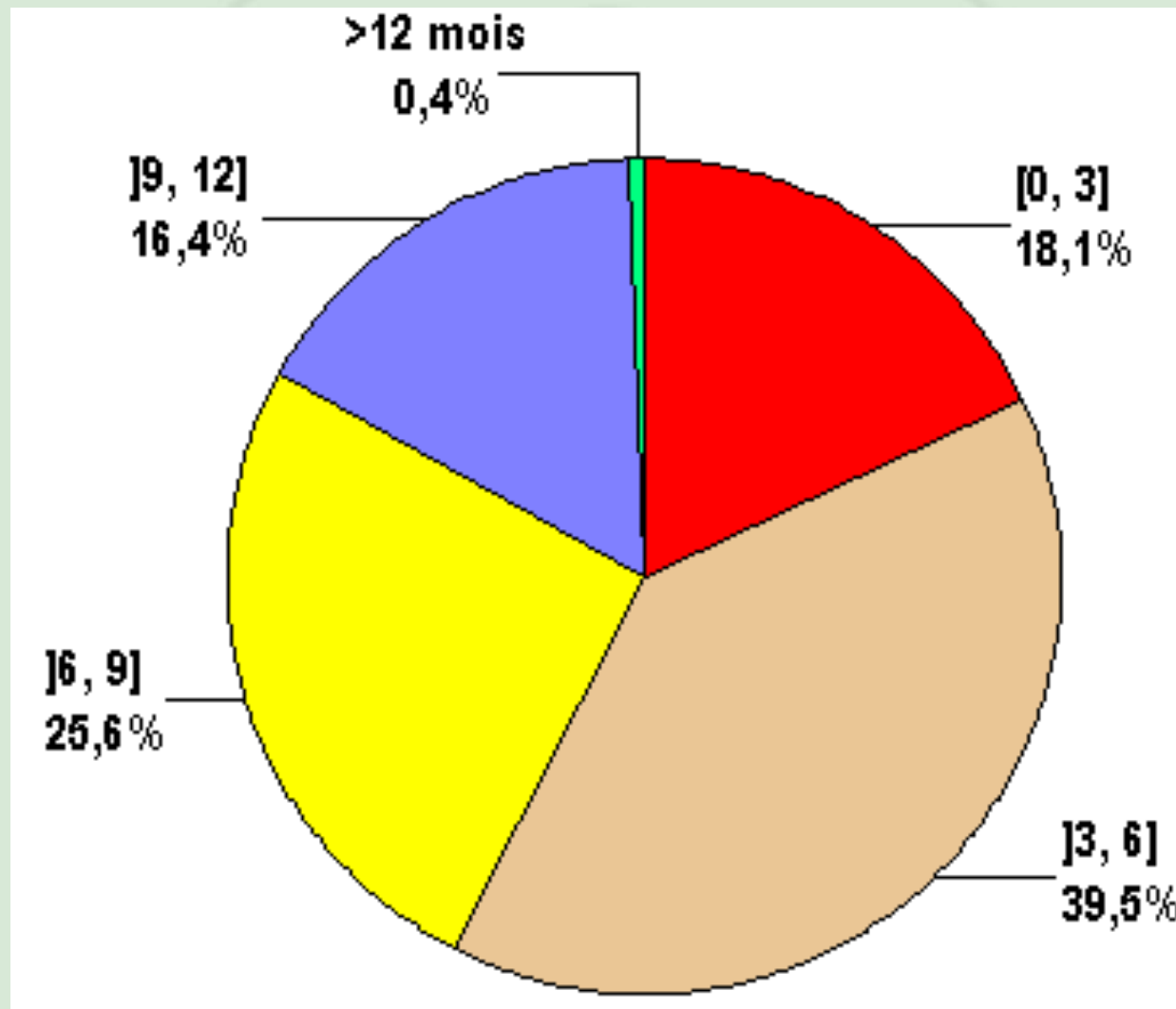
A recent action research we conducted in Maradi reveals that main factors governing vulnerability and food insecurity include:

- ☐ Rain-fed agriculture (80%) vs. decrease of rainfall**
- ☐ High rainfall variability** (one raining season lasting 3-4 months)
- ☐ Lack of alternative sustainable livelihoods and Poverty** (annual average rural income is only 50,000 FCFA or ~ \$100)



Annual rainfall in Maradi

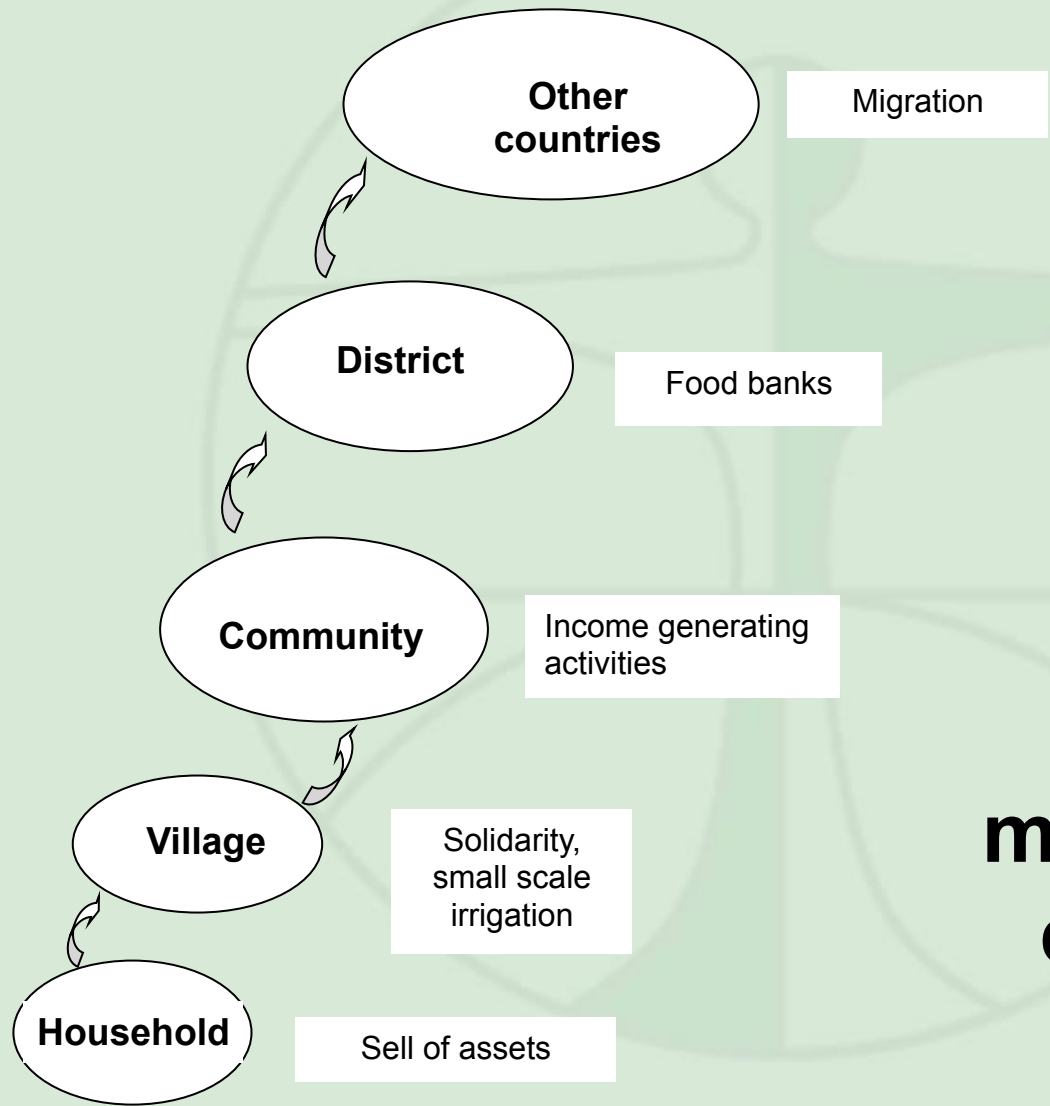
Moreover, less than **17%** of farmers can rely on their food production before the next harvest



83% cannot totally rely on their food production

Action Research question

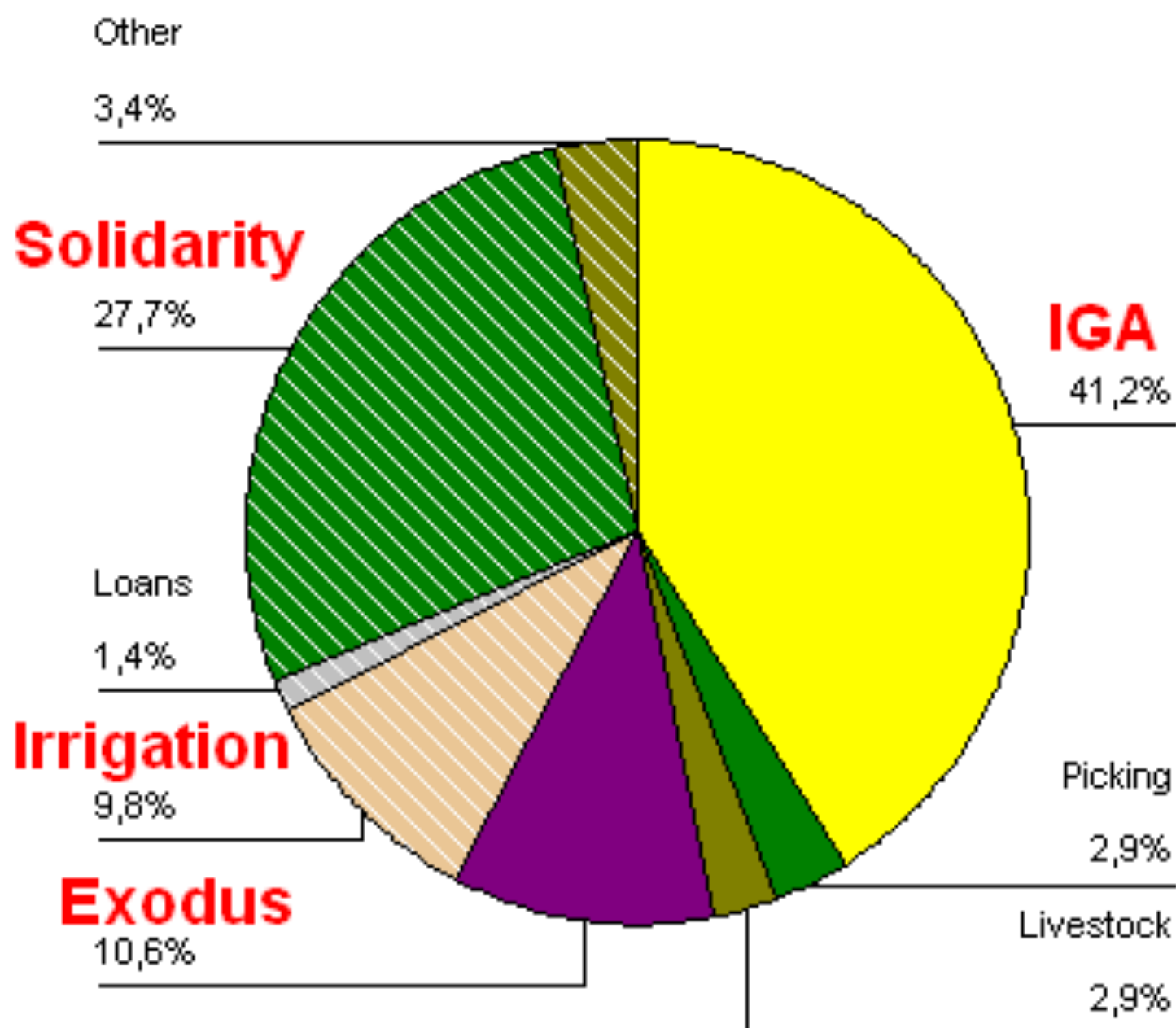
What are the mechanisms implemented by farmers to ensure food security in case of bad food production so that they can survive until next harvests ?



Coping mechanisms by communities

OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE COPING MECHANISM INCLUDE

- ❑ **Small scale irrigation** - limited by energy costs (for motor pumps), availability of water (a dam upstream over the only one river around Maradi)
- ❑ **Trading and income diversification** (limited by weakness of local economy, poverty)
- ❑ **Migration, rural exodus (temporary or permanent)** – limited by unfavorable international economic context
- ❑ **Cattle breeding** – also impacted by climate hazards
- ❑ **Food banks** – sometimes breach of supply except from very remote places – lack of infrastructures
- ❑ **Importation of food** - Infrastructures, access to markets, market rules, regional accords



SOME LESSONS LEARNT

The root causes of exodus are the unreliable conditions of local livelihoods - people may not have migrated if means of life were available locally

People migrate temporarily from Maradi towards neighboring West African countries. Because of permanent climatic changes, they tend to move and settle permanently

Local communities are now imposing new approaches and ways of doing action research either by NGOs or by other development agencies. “You and other people like you visited us several times for research but ...”

We were surprised to see that implementation of coping strategies by communities, is often of very low cost

This study demonstrates that adaptation to climate change should no longer be considered only as a local but a multi level multi scale process

NEXT STEPS

Clear understanding of coping strategies - Give support to “good” ones and raise awareness on “bad” ones

Transform coping strategies into adaptation

Value creation on indigenous/local adaptation technologies

The cost of coping strategies

Need to go for « systemic » adaptation because of multiple faces of vulnerability in Maradi and multiple coping strategies

Collaboration between decision makers from Niger and Nigeria around trans-boundary water resource management



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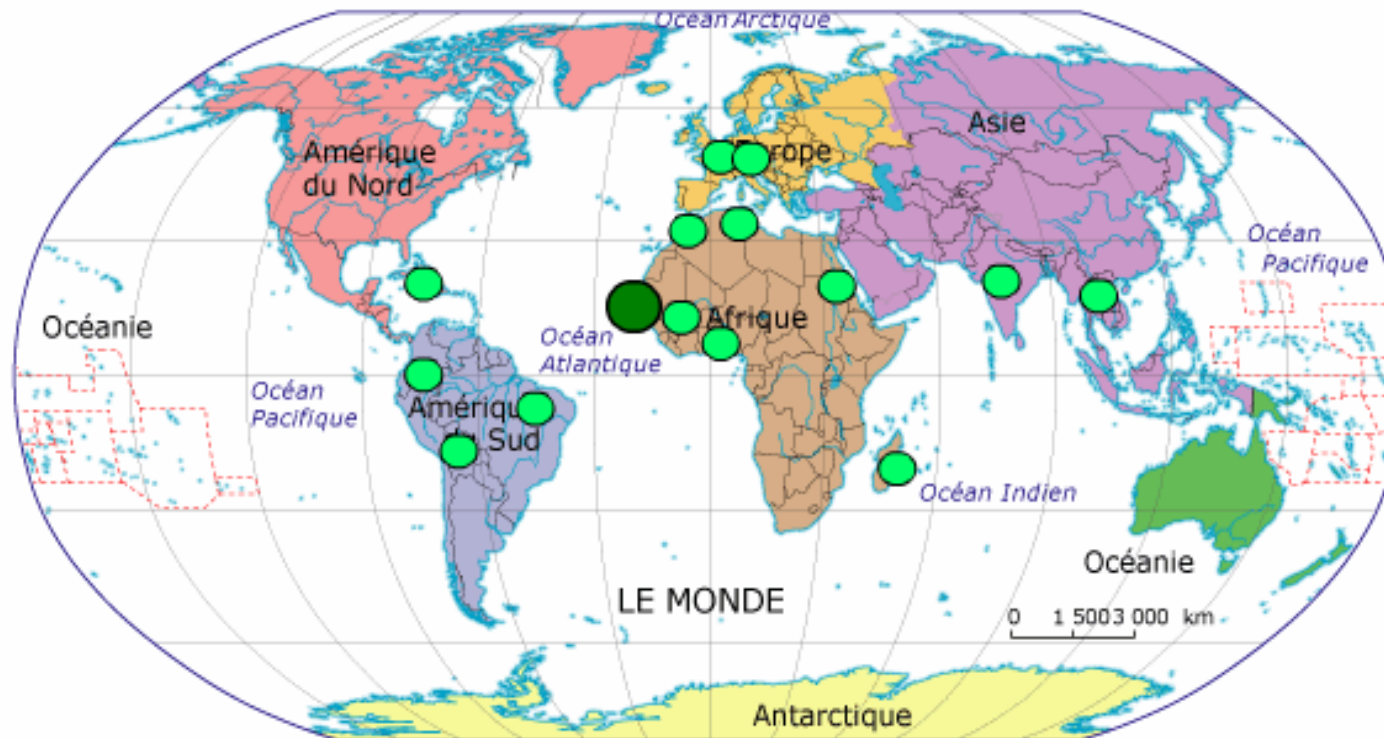
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THANK YOU