



CREATE!

Center for Renewable Energy
& Appropriate Technology
for the Environment

2025 Fall Newsletter

132 East Broadway
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Connecting Generations in CREATE! Communities through Knowledge

Since 2010, CREATE! has partnered with rural Senegalese women to turn the challenges of climate change, hunger, and poverty into opportunities for growth and leadership. In villages where women produce most of the nation's food but often lack access to land, financing, and tools, our programs open doors to self-reliance and resilience. As the **World Food Program's 2024 Senegal Report** highlights, women face steep barriers that limit their potential to build sustainable food systems. Together, we're changing that by empowering women to cultivate thriving gardens, strengthen their communities, and lead the way toward a more sustainable future.

A vital component of this sustainable program is inter-generational transfer of knowledge.

Women, many of whom are leaders in our community gardens, play a key role in passing on newly acquired sustainable practices to younger generations. Through hands on training sessions and collaborative work in community gardens, experienced women share essential skills related to gardening, poultry, reforestation and VSLA with youth, especially young women.

This approach not only preserves cultural heritage but also ensures the continuity and evolution of these practices. By fostering strong relationships between women and youth, CREATE! helps cultivate a new generation of environmentally conscious and empowered community leaders.



Aissata Ndiaye, Fass Kane

« The intergenerational transfer of knowledge is essential, because young people also bring their own ideas. This combination of our experience and their energy and curiosity ensures that what CREATE! has planted will become sustainable »

***Your support is essential to continue this impactful program that spans generations.
Please donate today to keep empowering these women and youth.
You can use the QR code at the back to donate***

Stories from the field :

How women and youth have been engaged and empowered in the CREATE! Communities

For 15 years, CREATE! has been engaging women and their families in rural Senegal, training them to lead lasting change in their communities. Today, we share with you stories from one such family, embodying CREATE!'s success in bridging generations with our programs.

"Before CREATE! arrived in Santhie, we depended on the short rainy season to work in our family's fields. We spent most of our time collecting firewood and doing household chores. Vegetables were scarce, and we bought them at very high prices at the market. Our children often left the village to look for work.

When CREATE! introduced the vegetable garden, everything started to change. I was one of the first women to join the site. They trained us in preparing the vegetable beds, making organic compost, and managing water using a solar pump. At first, it was hard work, but the technicians encouraged us. Today, we grow vegetables all year round. I no longer depend on the market.

What makes me proud is that my daughter, Ngoye, has joined me. She learned by watching the older women and now contributes her own ideas. I never imagined that this same garden would connect us across generations in this way."



Allé Thiam, Santhie



Ngoye Dione, Santhie

"Growing up, I saw my mother struggle. When CREATE! arrived, I was skeptical at first. But over time, I saw her confidence grow and her health improve. She brought fresh vegetables home and earned money at the same time. I started helping her on the site and ended up joining the group. I learned not only how to grow vegetables, but also how to manage resources, lead savings groups, and teach others. I mastered all the techniques of the CREATE! program, starting with the construction of the improved stove.

For me, it's not just about market gardening, it's about the future. I don't need to leave the village to find opportunities. Thanks to CREATE!, we have created them right here. Tomorrow, I will train other young women, just as my mother trained me."

Loumbeul's Journey Toward Sustainability and Resilience

Since becoming CREATE!'s 23rd partner community, Loumbeul has undergone a gradual but significant transformation. As a new site, the women from Loumbeul are benefitting from technical and community support focused on sustainability, empowerment, and resilience in the face of climate challenges.

The community launched their gardening activities in 2025 with an emphasis on the active participation of women, who are the main actors in food security within the village. Thanks to training in sustainable agricultural techniques, water resource management, and nutrition, 147 women from the community began to produce a variety of fresh vegetables, improving their daily diet and generating income. Today, women from Loumbeul are looking forward to their and their family's tomorrow where they share this training and empower each other.



« I believe it's very important to pass this knowledge to our children. What we are learning today will help them build a better future. If we teach them early, they will grow up understanding how to protect our environment and how to sustain CREATE! program »

Kine Ndiaye, Loumbeul

Training Women Farmers the Secret to Stronger, Healthier Gardens

One of the many techniques that the CREATE! technicians train the women from our partner communities that they can pass on to the next generation is a watering technique used during the rainy season. Our field trainer, **Georges Mancabo**, shares how this simple but strategic practice, known as **«Drenching the Plants»**, plays an essential role in the harmonious development of vegetable crops. It involves applying water in a targeted manner, mainly at the roots, while avoiding excessive wetting of the leaves. This method promotes deep water penetration into the soil, which significantly improves the development of the plants' root system.



By limiting direct contact between the soil and the leaves and preventing water from stagnating on the foliage, drenching also helps reduce the risk of leaf diseases, often caused by splashes of contaminated wet soil, leaf burn and premature leaf fall. In addition, it ensures a more efficient and better-controlled water supply, which is particularly important during periods of excessive humidity.

Did You Know?

Women in Senegal **produce 80%** of the country's food **BUT** face disproportionate gendered **barriers to accessing productive resources** like land, agricultural equipment, seeds, climate information, and financing?

Men control 93.3 % of agricultural land, while women **hold just 6.4 %**

In the Health Sector, micronutrient deficiencies remain critical, with **anemia** affecting **53% of women** of reproductive age

In the CREATE! Communities:

1. More than **99% of participants** are women
2. **We enable them to access land** for their community garden through dialogue with the village elders
3. **Women save \$20-25** on an average every month from program activities
4. **98% of women** of reproductive age achieve **Minimum Dietary Diversity**, an indicator measuring nutritional adequacy



Your Support means a lot to us.
Please donate generously to CREATE! today.
You can use the QR code above to donate.



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