




BURKINA FASO
**THOMAS
SANKARA'S
WOMEN**
©Mirko Cecchi
parallelozero



THYOU, PROVINCE OF NANORO.
THE MANAGER OF THE LOCAL BANK.

BURKINA FASO NOW HAS AN ADDITIONAL WEAPON TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE: AGRO-ECOLOGY. A SYSTEM OF THE CIRCULAR MANAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, IT COMBINES ORGANIC AGRICULTURE AND THE BREEDING OF ANIMALS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF FERTILISER.

TOGETHER WITH RESPECT FOR AND PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT, IT GUARANTEES FOOD INDEPENDENCE FOR ONE OF THE POOREST COUNTRIES IN AFRICA, IN ADDITION TO THE ENFRANCHISEMENT OF WOMEN IN BURKINABE SOCIETY.

CLOSE TO THIRTY YEARS AFTER THE MURDER OF THOMAS SANKARA, THE PRESIDENT WHO DREAMT OF A "LAND OF PEOPLE OF INTEGRITY" LED BY CITIZENS WHO WERE AWARE OF THEIR OWN CAPABILITIES, THE SAHEL HAS RETURNED TO OFFER TO THE WORLD A NEW LESSON IN CIVILITY.

AFTER THE DEATH OF THE SOCIALIST LEADER, THE ECONOMY OF THE FORMER FRENCH COLONY OF ALTO VOLTA WAS READMITTED TO PROGRAMMES FOR "INTERNATIONAL AID".

IN FACT, 40% OF THE POPULATION LIVES BELOW THE POVERTY LINE AND THE POOREST OF THOSE ARE PRIMARILY ADOLESCENTS AND MOTHERS (80% OF WHOM ARE ILLITERATE): THE ONLY PEOPLE INVOLVED IN CULTIVATING LAND DUE TO THE HIGH RATE OF EMIGRATION TOWARDS EUROPE.

80% OF THOSE LIVING IN BURKINA FASO SURVIVE THANKS TO AGRICULTURE, BUT IMPROVEMENTS IN QUALITY AND QUANTITY HAVE ALLOWED PEOPLE TO CONSOLIDATE THE SYSTEM OF MICROCREDIT. AN INNOVATIVE SOLUTION WHICH IS HELPING TO OPEN ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITIES DURING THOSE MONTHS WHEN THE EARTH HAS TO REST, NOT TO MENTION GUARANTEEING YOUNG PEOPLE THE POSSIBILITY OF GOING TO SCHOOL AND WOMEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS OF THEIR OWN HOMES.

A FARMER CONFRONTING THE VERY LOW LEVEL OF THE WATER
OF LOUMBILÄ. WHEN IT IS FULL OF SEASONAL RAINS,
THIS RESERVOIR MANAGES TO SERVE A WIDE AREA.



BATIO NESTOR BASSIERRE, MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT, HAS LAUNCHED A GOVERNMENT PLAN THAT AIMS TO CONVERT AT LEAST 2,000 COMMUNITIES, WITH A COMBINED POPULATION OF AROUND 4 MILLION, INTO "ECO-VILLAGES" BY 2020.

THIS MEASURE WILL PROTECT LOCAL CULTURES AND INCENTIVISE THE PRACTICES OF RESILIENCE, WHILE AVOIDING ECONOMIC IMPOVERISHMENT RELATED TO MIGRATION.

MOREOVER, IT WILL SERVE TO CONTRAST THE CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, WHERE ARIDITY IS GETTING WORSE EVERY YEAR, WATER RESERVES ARE RUNNING LOW, AND THE RAINY SEASON IS GROWING SHORTER AND SHORTER.

THREE PHENOMENA WHICH, TAKEN TOGETHER, ARE WEAKENING THE ALREADY FRAGILE AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM OF THE COUNTRY.

AT LA SAISONNIÈRE, HOWEVER, AN AGRICULTURAL CENTRE IN THE CAPITAL OF OUAGADOUGOU, A DIFFERENT FUTURE IS STILL POSSIBLE.

IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING WHAT IS NECESSARY FOR SURVIVAL, WOMEN WITHOUT ANY ECONOMIC RESOURCES ARE MANAGING URBAN MICRO-GARDENS, WHICH PROVIDE THEM WITH AN INCOME THEY WOULDN'T OTHERWISE HAVE.

THANKS TO SOPHIE SEDGHO, A GRAMMAR SCHOOL TEACHER SPECIALISED IN NATURAL SCIENCES AS WELL AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRE, SEWING AND LITERACY COURSES HAVE ALSO BEEN LAUNCHED.

FOR TO TELL THE STORY OF A NEW REVOLUTION, YOU ALWAYS NEED THE RIGHT WORDS.

BOYS PLAYING CLOSE TO A CISTERN FILLED
THANKS TO A PUMP POWERED BY SOLAR ENERGY.



WOMEN FROM KOUDOUGOU
DRY THE PARBOILED RICE.



ALIGUETOU ZENBA, 39 YEARS OLD, WORKS A PLOT OF LAND MANAGED SOLELY BY WOMEN WHO LIVE NEAR COULOGOU. SHE IS THE SECOND WIFE OF A MAN WHO EMIGRATED TO ITALY, AND FROM WHOM SHE HAS NEVER RECEIVED ANY HELP. IN SPITE OF THE DIFFICULTIES, SHE IS ABLE TO CARE FOR HER CHILDREN THANKS TO THE LAND SHE FARMS.





THE MASCULINE FLOWERING OF CORN IN THE FIELDS OF THE FARMERS' UNION OF LOUMBILÀ.



PREPARING "DOLO", THE CRAFT BEER OF BURKINA FASO THAT IS MADE FROM MILLET.



A WOMAN FROM NANORO COLLECTING MORINGA SEEDS; YOU CAN EAT THEIR FRUIT, LEAVES, AND FLOWERS. THEY ARE FULL OF ANTIOXIDANTS AND ANTI-INFLAMMATORIES, BOTH HELPFUL IN PROTECTING THE IMMUNE SYSTEM.

BURKINA FASO IS ONE OF THE
MOST IMPORTANT PRODUCERS OF
ONIONS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA.



THE FIELDS OF THE FARMERS' UNION OF LOUMBILÀ:
AN EXPERIMENTAL FIELD WHERE NEW TECHNIQUES
OF OPTIMIZING THE USE OF WATER, ALWAYS
LACKING IN THIS ZONE, ARE BEING TRIED OUT.



WAREHOUSE OF TRANSFORMATION: HERE THE EXTERNAL
PART OF THE RICE IS REMOVED, WHILE THE CORN
AND OTHER CEREALS ARE TURNED INTO FLOUR.



PREPARING "DOLO", THE TRADITIONAL BEER OF BURKINA FASO, MADE FROM MILLET.



THE WIFE OF A MIGRANT WHO RETURNED TO BURKINA FASO AFTER 4 YEARS OF WORK IN ITALY.



FARMERS WASH CARROTS GROWN IN THE FIELDS NEAR THE
RESERVOIR OF THE DAM OF LOUMBILÀ. THEY WILL THEN BE
SOLD TO DRIVERS PASSING BY ON THE ROAD FOR OUAGADOUGOU.



THE WAREHOUSEMAN OF THE "WARRANTAGE WAREHOUSE" IN THYOU. THE WARRANTAGE IS AN INSTRUMENT OF MICROFINANCE WHICH ALLOWS MEMBERS OF FARM ORGANISATIONS TO OBTAIN LOANS, USING THEIR HARVESTS AS A GUARANTEE. IN THIS WAY, THE PRICE TENDS TO GO UP. THE TWO LOCKS WHICH LOCK THE WAREHOUSE CAN ONLY BE OPENED BY THE FARMER ORGANISATION AND THE BANK WHICH GRANTS THE LOAN. IN EXCHANGE, THE FARMER HAS THE RIGHT TO A LOAN EQUAL TO AROUND 75-80% OF THE VALUE OF THE HARVEST WHICH HAS BEEN STORED (THE «STOCKAGE»).







BECAUSE OF CLIMATE CHANGE BURKINA FASO IS CYCLICALLY AFFECTED BY PERIODS OF ARIDITY, WHICH WEAKEN THE COUNTRY'S FRAGILE AGRICULTURAL AND SOCIAL SYSTEM.

ALIGUETOU ZENBA, 39 YEARS OLD, WORKS A PLOT OF LAND MANAGED SOLELY BY WOMEN WHO LIVE NEAR COULOGO. SHE IS THE SECOND WIFE OF A MAN WHO EMIGRATED TO ITALY, AND FROM WHOM SHE HAS NEVER RECEIVED ANY HELP. IN SPITE OF THE DIFFICULTIES, SHE IS ABLE TO CARE FOR HER CHILDREN THANKS TO THE LAND SHE FARMS.



TWO WOMEN FROM KOUDOUGOU PREPARE "DOLO", THE TRADITIONAL BEER OF BURKINA FASO MADE FROM MILLET.





CULTIVATED FIELDS IN THE
PROVINCE OF KOUDOUGOU.

IN ADDITION TO PROMOTING URBAN FARMING THANKS TO SMALL "DOMESTIC" GARDENS, THE SAISONNIÈRE CENTRE ORGANISES COURSES IN SEWING AND BASIC LITERACY.





BERNADETTE ZONGO, 48 YEARS OLD, AND HER 7 CHILDREN, ARE THE BENEFICIARIES OF A MICROCREDIT PROJECT. "IN THE TWO YEARS OF ACTIVITY OF THE WARRANTAGE PROGRAMME SHE HAS RECEIVED TWO CREDITS OF 50,000 AFRICAN FRANCS (AROUND 88 USD), USED TO PURCHASE A DOZEN GOATS AND RAMS TO BREED AND RESELL. "MY LIFE HAS CHANGED A LOT. IN THE PAST, I ONLY THOUGHT ABOUT MYSELF, BUT EVER SINCE I BEGAN TO BE BETTER, I UNDERSTOOD THAT I WANTED TO SHARE MY EXPERIENCE WITH OTHER WOMEN AND I FOUNDED A SMALL ASSOCIATION TO HELP OTHERS PURSUE A PATH OF INDEPENDENCE."

TAPSOLA RASMATA, 47 YEARS OLD. AGRO-ECOLOGICAL TECHNIQUES HAVE IMPROVED CROP YIELDS AND TODAY THE WOMEN CAN COMMIT A PART OF THE HARVEST AS A GUARANTEE FOR MICRO-CREDIT. THE MONEY THEY RECEIVE HAS ALLOWED THE WOMAN TO OPEN A DRESSMAKING SHOP, WHICH FUNCTIONS PRIMARILY IN THE PERIOD WHEN THEY ARE NOT WORKING THE FIELDS.





REPAIRING A TUBE IN THE
FIELDS BELONGING TO THE
FARMERS' UNION OF LOUMBILÄ.



THE FIELDS OF THE FARMERS' UNION OF
LOUMBILÄ: AN EXPERIMENTAL FIELD
WHERE NEW TECHNIQUES OF OPTIMIZING
THE USE OF WATER, ALWAYS LACKING
IN THIS ZONE, ARE BEING TRIED OUT.



PREPARING A DINNER OF CHICKEN, WHICH HAS BEEN RAISED ON THE AGRO-ECOLOGICAL FARM OF KARIM, OUTSIDE OF OUGADOUYOU.



BERNADETTE ZONGO, AGED 48, AND HER 7 CHILDREN, ARE THE BENEFICIARIES OF A MICROCREDIT PROJECT. IN THE TWO YEARS OF ACTIVITY OF THE WARRANTAGE PROGRAMME SHE HAS RECEIVED TWO CREDITS OF 50,000 AFRICAN FRANCS (AROUND 88 USD), USED TO PURCHASE A DOZEN GOATS AND RAMS TO BREED AND RESELL. "MY LIFE HAS CHANGED A LOT. IN THE PAST, I ONLY THOUGHT ABOUT MYSELF, BUT EVER SINCE I BEGAN TO BE BETTER, I UNDERSTOOD THAT I WANTED TO SHARE MY EXPERIENCE WITH OTHER WOMEN AND I FOUNDED A SMALL ASSOCIATION TO HELP OTHERS PURSUE A PATH OF INDEPENDENCE.

A GIRL, WHO HELPS TAPSOLA RASMATA IN HER DRESSMAKING SHOP, OUTSIDE THE BOUTIQUE.



ABIBOU TIENDREBEOGO, 43, HAS MANAGED TO SEND HER DAUGHTER FADILA TO SCHOOL WITHOUT DEPENDING ON HER HUSBAND, THANKS TO A SUPPLY OF ONIONS CONSERVED IN A WAREHOUSE: WHEN THE SET-ASIDE SEASON ARRIVED, SHE SOLD THEM AT A GREATER PRICE, GETTING THE FUNDS NECESSARY FOR STUDY. THEY WOMAN AND HER CHILD LIVE IN THE VILLAGE OF KOURIT-YAOGHIN, LOCATED TO THE EAST OF THE CAPITAL.



ABIBOU TIENDREBEOGO, 43 YEARS OLD, AND TRAORE ZHENABO, 38, UNLOAD THEIR ONIONS WHILE WAITING TO RESELL THEM WHEN THE PRICE GOES BACK UP.



A FARMER CONFRONTING THE EXTREMELY LOW LEVEL OF THE WATER OF LOUMBILÀ.
WHEN IT IS FULL FROM THE SEASONAL RAINS, THIS RESERVOIR MANAGES TO SERVE A
WIDE AREA. THE COSTS OF THE PUMPS AND TUBES ARE VERY HIGH: AS LESS WATER IS
AVAILABLE, THE LENGTH OF THE TUBES AND THE POWER OF THE MOTORS MUST BE GREATER.



TRAORE ZOENABO, 38, HAS 4 CHILDREN. SHE IS THE TREASURER OF THE ONION CONSERVATION WAREHOUSE OF LOUMBILÀ. THANKS TO THE HARVEST, TOGETHER WITH HER HUSBAND SHE HAS BEEN ABLE TO BUY A LARGER PIECE OF LAND, AND HAS THEREBY INCREASED DOMESTIC PRODUCTION: "NOW I HAVE A CART I ATTACH TO THE DONKEY IN ORDER TO GO TO THE FIELDS, THIS WAY I DON'T NEED TO WALK MORE THAN AN HOUR, AND I HAVE A SOLAR PLATE TO RECHARGE A BATTERY. IN THE PAST, WHEN I GOT BACK FROM WORK, I HAD TO TURN ON THE BATTERY AS WELL AS THE CANDLES; NOW I AM ABLE TO RECHARGE MY MOBILE AND I FEEL LIKE A MODERN WOMAN."





parallelozero

PARALLELOZERO, VIA DONATELLO 19/A MILAN - INFO@PARALLELOZERO.COM - WWW.PARALLELOZERO.COM - +39 02 89281630