

***NIAMEY, ¶ Niger, September 11 (Infosplusgabon) - Niger intends to produce 700,000 tons of cereals under an irrigation programme due to be launched in October 2017, the country's director of rural mechanization, Moussa Amadou said on Saturday.***

The 27 billion CFA Franc project will cover 172,800 hectares, Amadou told journalists, explaining that Niger's goal is to raise the contribution of irrigated farming to the economy from 30 percent in 2015 to 40 percent in 2021.

"For that purpose, it will be necessary to develop 358,000 hectares in order to produce around 1,500,000 tons of food by the end of the programme in 2021," he added.

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