

Moustapha's story: Water is life



For Moustapha, water is life. His whole family relies on water to grow food, to clean, to drink and to cook. It is crucial for their livelihoods.

Moustapha lives in a village called Sablogo, in Burkina Faso. All the families that live in Sablogo rely on farming to provide food and an income. But rainfall is becoming increasingly unpredictable. This means it is much harder for farmers to grow the crops they need. Before WaterAid worked in their community, the families had to collect water from a riverbed close to the village. This often meant digging into the sand in search of water.

This unreliable source of water was dirty and made people who drank it ill, especially children who were often forced to miss school. However, WaterAid worked with the community and provided a borehole. WaterAid also worked with Moustapha and trained him to become a water monitor.



He uses a rain gauge (called a pluviometer) to track rainfall and works alongside others from Sablogo checking the levels of water in the wells. This has helped Moustapha to grow crops throughout the year and now even in the dry season, he is able to use his water management skills to grow tomatoes, cabbages, aubergines, onions and much more.

Moustapha says, "The knowledge I have from water monitoring has improved my farming work. Before I didn't know the right moment to start sowing. But now with the training and the water monitoring work, I have learnt how to supervise and pay attention to the beginning of the rainy season and the types of improved seeds needed to increase our luck for good production and harvest. I'm sharing information and advice with other people in the community."

Since water arrived in Sablogo, Moustapha knows his children will have water to drink which doesn't make them ill and he is also able to grow healthy and nutritious food for them to eat. What's more, he has extra crops each harvest which he is able to sell and in turn buy essentials for his family.