

EPREUVE ECRITE D'ANGLAIS

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A Draught fighting Technique

Yacouba Sawadogo is known as "the man who stepped the desert". Starting around 1980 during a phase of severe drought he has successfully created an almost 40 hectare forest on formerly barren and abandoned land. Today, it has more than 60 species of trees and bushes and is arguably one of the most diverse forests planted and managed by a farmer in the sahel.

Sawadogo's remarkable success builds on experimenting with traditional planting pits for soil, water, and biomass retention ("zaï" in local language). He has continued innovating the technique over the years, increasing crop yields and successfully planting trees; Sawadogo has always been eager to share his knowledge, and has received thousands of visitors from the region and beyond. By organizing training, he has empowered farmers to regenerate their land. As a result, tens of thousands of hectares of severely degraded land have been restored to productivity in Burkina Faso and Niger.

Those who adopt Sawadogo technique often become food secure, as zaï helps to conserve rainwater and improve soil fertility. This allows farmers to produce crops even in years of drought. Trees planted together with the crops serve to enrich the soil, produce fodder for livestock and create business opportunities like bee keeping. This helps farmers adapt to climate change, reduce rural poverty and prevent local resource and water related conflicts. Together with other former-managed natural regeneration techniques, Zaï could become an important tool to counter forced migration and build peace.

By Africa-On the Rise – September 27, 2018

Vocabulary: to be eager to: to be enthusiastic about.

Guided commentary

- 1) What Method does Yacouba Sawadogo use to turn the desert into forest according to the text? (2 points)
- 2) What Sawadogo's method consists in, referring to the text? (3 points)
- 3) Find in the text at least two ways through which Yacouba Sawadogo promotes his method. (4 points)
- 4) Basing on the text, give five benefits of Sawadogo's system. (5 points)

II/ Shord essay. (6 points)

In your opinion how, can Zaï help to reduce migration? (About 80 words)
