The Diender area, an integral part of the Niayes region, is a farming area par excellence marked by heavy pesticide use. This massive use of pesticides is linked not only to the current infertility of the soil, but above all to the many harmful effects pesticides have on crops. Farmers use large quantities of pesticides to fertilise the soil and control pests. But some extremely dangerous pesticides have harmful effects on human health and ecosystems. It is against this backdrop that Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Senegal, with the support of the GEF Small Grants Programme, will be implementing a project to "Strengthen the capacity of women farmers in the Diender area to manage pesticides more effectively".

The aim of the project is to train women to build their capacity using agro-ecological approaches and techniques to improve the rational management of pesticides to protect human health and the environment. The specific objectives of the project are to

- to build the capacity of women producers by setting up demonstration plots or experimental sites,
- to develop tools/documents for capitalising on experience (training modules on agro-ecology, brochures on experiences in the demonstration plots, etc.),
- develop income-generating activities to empower women.

It is within this framework that learning sites have been set up, training sessions on agro-ecological practices have been organised and awareness-raising sessions on the dangers of pesticides and their alternatives have been held to better inform women and empower them.