



– International Fund for Agricultural Development –
– Scouting and Sharing Innovation in Western and Central Africa –

– Local empowerment –

I. Background

1. Name of innovation

Empowerment of local land management commissions (village organizations responsible for coordinating local development)

2. Country – Region

Burkina Faso, Western Africa

3. Organization

Second National Land Management Programme (PNGT2)

4. Who is the innovator?

PNGT2

5. Actors involved

- Village Land Management Commissions (CVGTs)
- Service providers
- Technical services
- Associations and NGOs

6. Implementation date

January 2002

7. Type of innovation

Institutional (an organizational innovation)

II. Key issues

8. Summary

Local empowerment has built on the observed failure of previous projects to involve local inhabitants sufficiently. Phase 1 of PNGT2 incorporated local empowerment, which allowed the assumption of full responsibility by rural communities in the implementation of their own development process and the involvement of private operators in supporting the inhabitants. The PNGT2 has, so to speak, provided new tools suited to local conditions (tools for financial management, accounting and the management of materials and equipment). Adoption of this new strategy by the PNGT2 has allowed local inhabitants to implement good-quality microprojects at a low cost and within reasonable timeframes. This training for the local assumption of responsibility has facilitated the inhabitants' participation in the decentralization process under way in Burkina Faso.

9. What issues does the innovation address?

- How are the real concerns of local people to be taken into account?
- How are rural communities to be made responsible for their own development?
- How is transparency to be established in the management of public funds?
- What are the most appropriate tools for boosting the capacities of rural communities?

10. Key success factors for replication

This innovation empowers rural communities, ensures transparency in management and consolidates the beneficiaries' assumption of ownership of investments. The cofinancing approach also commits the beneficiary to better management and greater responsibility for investments. This in turn leads to the effective implementation of local microprojects.

11. Main results

- A fuller appraisal of the intervention zones is carried out by the local people themselves.
- Communities are the chief actors and are responsible for their own development.
- Management procedures are transparent and known to everybody.
- Appropriate methods and tools for planning development actions in time and space are designed, made available and usable by local people.
- There is a real assumption of ownership of the social infrastructures established under the aegis of communities.

12. Target groups

All the inhabitants of a given area through the CVGT as representative structure

13. Difficulties encountered

- Certain local service providers' lack of skills means that certain installations are of mediocre quality.
- The insufficient skills of CVGT members with regard to monitoring and follow-up is a handicap.
- The poor planning of some schemes prejudices certain investments.
- The failure of certain service providers to respect technical norms results in poor-quality installations.

14. Financial aspects

III. Technical summary

15.

Local assumption of responsibility requires:

- Capacity-building of rural communities regarding management and accounting;
- Formulation of a technical and financial frame of reference for all investments;
- Creation of a database of service providers for the use of communities;
- Boosting of rural communities' capacities regarding procurement;
- Establishment of a local development fund to finance microprojects.

IV. Follow-up

16. Key contacts

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17. Internet link

18. Key documents (document title + link or contact or other details)