



**– International Fund for Agricultural Development –  
– Identifying and sharing innovation in Western and Central Africa –**

**– Consultative communal committees (CCCs) –**

**I. Context**

**1. Name of the innovation**

Consultative communal committees (CCCs)

**2. Country – Region**

Mauritania: Wilaya region of Gorgol, Assaba and Guidimakha

**3. Organization**

Poverty Reduction Project in Aftout South and Karakoro (PASK)

**4. Who is the innovator?**

PASK and its intervention communes

**5. Actors involved**

- PASK
- Intervention communes
- Private operators (especially farmers and herders)
- Civil society (especially small farmers)

**6. Starting date**

June 2003

**7. Type of innovation**

Institutional

**II. Key concepts**

**8. Summary**

The consultative communal committees (CCCs) consist of institutional arrangements set up as the project got under way in order to foster and develop community-level consultation and exchange on all issues relating to communal development. The CCCs are intended to:

- Ensure the full participation of women, young people and marginalized groups in local decision-making processes
- Approve communal-level appraisals and studies carried out by generalist partner operators
- Support the formulation of communal development plans
- Support a spirit of solidarity among the various communities making up the commune

**9. What problems does this innovation seek to solve?**

- Development and encouragement of a real and effective municipal policy
- Commune-level reduction of community difficulties and disputes with regard to the distribution of investments
- Better representation of the most disadvantaged groups, especially women and young people, in local decision-making processes

**10. Factors for successful replication**

- Simple assumption of responsibility for these consultation frameworks on the part of local people
- Local people's acceptance of the decisions and recommendations of these bodies
- Clear and effective spirit of solidarity through these bodies

### 11. Target group(s)

- Local inhabitants (in general)
- Socio-professional groups
- Women and young people (who may participate more easily in local decision-making processes)

### 12. Difficulties encountered

- Antagonism (in terms of conflicts over jurisdiction) between the CCCs and municipal councils
- Geographical size of large communes, making regular meetings of the CCCs difficult
- Inadequate resources made available to these bodies to cover the costs of holding meetings

### 13. Costs and benefits of the innovation

As an institutional innovation, this arrangement entails no significant financial costs.

With regard to the benefits of the innovation, there has been an empowerment of the rural poor in terms of their part in policy decisions and especially women's representation at the policy-making level.

## III. Technical aspects

### 14.

The CCCs are a major innovation in institutional and methodological terms. However, the only technical aspect of this innovation lies in the selection of the members of this body, since the effectiveness of these consultative frameworks can be assessed through their composition.

## IV. Further information

### 15. Key contacts

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### 16. Internet link(s)

- [www.fidafrigue.net/article435.html](http://www.fidafrigue.net/article435.html)
- [www.fidafrigue.net/rubrique117.html](http://www.fidafrigue.net/rubrique117.html)

### 17. Key documents (document title + link or contact or address)