



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

– Support for the emergence of a local supply of farmer services –

I. Context

1. Name of the innovation

Support for the emergence of a local supply of farmer services

2. Country – Region

Niger: Maradi Region, Aguié Department

3. Organization

Project for the Promotion of Local Initiatives for Development in Aguié (PPILDA)

4. Who is the innovator?

PPILDA and IFAD

5. Actors involved

PPILDA team, young people (women and men) and NGOs in the project intervention zone

6. Starting date

2007

7. Type of innovation

Institutional, organizational and methodological, and in project management approach

II. Key concepts

8. Summary

The innovation is a new type of partnership set up between groups/communities and outside actors involved in various institutional, economic or social fields in order to improve living conditions. The project intervention strategy is based on the “do-do” approach and therefore entails:

1. Taking local wealth-bringing initiatives identified by the local people themselves as a starting point and developing them to meet the constraints and concerns that have also been identified by the people;
2. Stimulating a spirit of initiative and innovation among local people;
3. Supervising and supporting local people in a training process concerning all the stages of planning and implementing development actions;
4. Gradually bringing local people to an assumption of responsibility through a bottom-up participatory approach

The project therefore helped literate/educated farmers to form groups focusing on various activities and made contracts with the groups to implement certain project activities, for example:

1. Groups of farmer-trainers for targeting with a view to monitoring and evaluating project actions focusing on beneficiaries;
2. Groups to carry out local self-assessment and draw up village and inter-village action plans;
3. Groups to train farmers on plant genetic diversity fields (popularization of promising technologies).

9. What problems does this innovation seek to solve?

The innovation seeks to solve such problems as:

- The unemployment of literate and educated young people;
- The unreliability of information collected while implementing interventions;
- Local people's lack of participation in decisions concerning the planning of their development;
- The high cost of certain light surveys/studies that the project would contract out to an outside service provider (NGO, consulting firm, consultant etc.);
- The failure to master farm production techniques with a view to reducing food insecurity;
- The exodus of capable workers from rural areas to the country's large cities or abroad;
- The lack of efficient means of communication in order to transfer technologies in rural areas;
- The absence or scarcity of a local service supply in rural areas.

10. Factors for successful replication

- The involvement and dedication of the farmers, who are mainly literate/educated young people
- The impact of poverty reduction perceptible by local people through an increase in income
- Easy assumption of responsibility and ownership

11. Main results

- Assumption of responsibility for self-inventorization, keeping of beneficiaries' registers, local self-assessment and plans, and carrying out of agricultural activities (selection of varieties, efficient use of organic and mineral fertilizer, adaptability of varieties to local conditions)
- Job creation capable of reducing the rural exodus
- Increase in income by making service-supply contracts with the project
- Improvement in the group members' social conditions through the creation of new relationships with the project, the research world, NGOs and technical services

12. Target group(s)

Literate/educated young people and NGOs in the project intervention zone

13. Difficulties encountered

- Lack or scarcity of literate/educated farmers in certain villages
- Inadequacy of the French translation of data collected in the local language

14. Financial aspects

For the self-assessment groups, the average cost is estimated at CFAF 1,631,735, which covers group training supplied by the project team, the start-up kit (teaching material and office equipment) and the group's supply of services for the self-assessment of 30 villages (3 clusters). With regard to the trainers' groups for targeting, the costs concern the start-up kit and services supplied for 120 villages for one year. The cost is estimated at about CFAF 13,800,000 for the four groups, or an average of CFAF 3,450,000 per group. For the same services, the cost has been estimated at CFAF 30 million per year, composed of fees to outside consultants and the purchase of software and fuel for project monitoring and staffing.

The operating budget for establishing diversity fields is estimated at about CFAF 900,000, covering support in foodstuffs to the facilitators, contracts made with the groups, teaching materials and the supervision expenses of members of local technical services.

III. Technical aspects

15.

The emergence of a local supply of services entails the identification, recruitment, training and equipment of the literate or educated young people with whom the project makes contracts for certain actions that do not require outside skills. Local NGOs also play a full role in implementing most project activities apart from major works.

IV. Further information

16. Key contacts

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17. Internet link

FIDAFRIQUE network

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

Appui à l'émergence de l'offre locale de service paysanne (= Support for the emergence of a local supply of farmer services)

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