



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

**– Sustainable funding of programmes for professional agricultural groups –**

**I. Context**

**1. Name of the innovation**

Sustainable funding of programmes of applied research, advice/extension, training and support to professional agricultural organizations

**2. Country – Region**

Côte d'Ivoire

**3. Organization**

Interprofessional Fund for Agricultural Research and Advice (FIRCA)

**4. Who is the innovator?**

Farmers and the State of Côte d'Ivoire

**5. Actors involved**

Farmers, professional agricultural organizations, agribusinesses

**6. Starting date**

2003

**7. Type of innovation**

Institutional

**II. Key concepts**

**8. Summary**

The initiative establishes sustainable funding of programmes of applied research, advice/extension, training and support to professional agricultural organizations through a system of joint contributions from farmers, the State and development partners, for the benefit of Ivorian farmers. The creation of the Interprofessional Fund for Agricultural Research and Advice (FIRCA) is based on Law 2001-635 of 9 October 2001, which instituted agricultural development funds and is part of an approach to empower farmers and encourage the assumption of professional responsibility. It particularly highlights the assumption of professional responsibility by farmers and their professional organizations in the design and planning of agricultural development actions, thus allowing the concept of service to be introduced, with the farmer defining the objective, evaluating the result, using or not using the provider again, and bearing the costs.

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

FIRCA was created to solve the following problems:

- Malfunctioning of research system finance and poor distribution of financial resources
- Lack of resources to support developments in interventions in the field of agricultural advice
- Absence/shortage of services provided for farmers by service providers, despite the fact that the State or the farmers themselves place the necessary resources at their disposal
- Conflicts over the management of levies for services to be provided for farmers in a number of value chains
- Interruptions in the supply of services, due to the absence of State-guaranteed sustainable financing mechanisms
- The need for solidarity within and between value chains
- The will to find an appropriate framework for development partners' funding, focusing on the "progress value chain".

**10. Factors for successful replication**

Good organization of value chains through producers and structured professional agricultural organizations in order to facilitate consultation and the raising of professional contributions.

**11. Main results**

- Implementation of a participatory evaluation system with representatives of the sector in question
- Introduction of a joint contribution system
- Strengthening of links among all the actors in the value chain

## 12. Target group(s)

- Farmers
- Professional agricultural organizations

## 13. Difficulties encountered

- Difficulty over effective mobilization of resources for value chains that are organized poorly or not at all
- Difficulty over effective mobilization of resources expected from the State to supplement professional subscriptions
- Difficult discussions and consultations with certain value chains that lack sufficient organization or whose professional agricultural organizations suffer from their leaders' lack of representativity

## 14. Financial aspects

- Better management of financial resources thanks to the control exercised by the value chains
- Results reported to the beneficiaries, who then decide whether or not to continue with the service provider
- No interruption in finance once the project is under way

## III. Technical aspects

15.

## IV. Further information

### 16. Key contacts

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### 17. Internet link

[www.firca.ci](http://www.firca.ci)

### 18. Key documents

- Le FIRCA en 2006: Rapport annuel (= FIRCA in 2006: Annual report)
- La Filière du Progrès (Bulletin d'information du FIRCA) N° 00 et 01 (= The progress value chain, FIRCA Newsletter, nos. 00 and 01)

These documents can be downloaded from the site [www.firca.ci](http://www.firca.ci)