



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

– Floating cages for fish farming –

I. Background

**1. Name of innovation**

Floating cages for fish farming jointly managed by fishermen and women smoked fish processors

**2. Country – Region**

Burkina Faso, Western Africa

**3. Organization**

Rural Microenterprise Support Project (PAMER)

**4. Who is the innovator?**

Tenkodogo local branch of PAMER

**5. Actors involved**

- Boulgou Union of Fishermen
- Boulgou Union of Women Fish Processors
- Directorate General of Fisheries

**6. Implementation date**

September 2007

**7. Type of innovation**

Organizational

II. Key issues

**8. Summary**

Since fishing started on Lake Bagré in Boulgou Province, annual production, which was about 1,000 tonnes in 1994, has fallen to about 500 tonnes. Three categories of actor have a monopoly on production: wholesale fish merchants (market intermediaries), wholesale traders and women processors. With the decline in production and the women's low purchasing power, their access to fish has become more difficult. The initiative to introduce floating cages first of all meets the need for an overall increase in fish production and increased availability in periods of scarcity, while joint management of the cages by the fishermen and the women meets the need to give women better access to fish, with the production of each cage being divided between the woman (60 per cent) and the fisherman (40 per cent).

**9. What issues does the innovation address?**

Joint management of the floating cages makes fresh fish available to the women fish processors on an ongoing basis, so that they can carry on their activities and provide for their families' needs. The initiative has a threefold impact:

- The most immediate impact is an improvement in the income of women fish processors and fishermen;
- The second impact is a reduction in imports of smoked fish during the scarcity period (December-May);
- The third impact is a boosting of the actors' capacities in terms of formalizing and managing the partnership.

**10. Key success factors for replication**

The existence of an informal partnership between fishermen and women processors around all water points, based on the supply of small fishing tackle and a priority option on catches

**11. Main results**

- Training of fishermen in fish farming in floating cages
- Training of women fish processors in the production of fish feed
- Installation of 50 floating cages
- Effective joint management of the cages by the fishermen and the women fish processors

## 12. Target groups

- Fishermen on Lake Bagré
- Women fish processors in Boulgou Province

## 13. Difficulties encountered

A failure to respect the terms of the contract signed between the two parties can lead to malfunctioning of the joint management arrangement.

## 14. Financial aspects

The unit cost of the cages is estimated at CFAF 90,000, while the unit cost of training actors (in the use of floating cages, feed production, and negotiation and formalization of contracts) is CFAF 180,000. The anticipated annual production per cage is 300 kg of fish, two thirds of which goes to the women for processing and sale, generating an income of about CFAF 350,000 per cage for a woman.

## III. Technical summary

15. Joint management of floating cages by women fish processors and fishermen is organized as follows:

The fishermen are responsible for:

- Supplying the cages with young fish caught during their daily fishing (these fish generally used to be thrown back into the water);
- Operation and maintenance of the cages;
- Supervision of the cages and harvesting of their production.

The women are responsible for:

- Making and supplying fish feed to the fishermen;
- Processing and sale of the fish.

All this is laid down in a contract signed by the two parties.

## IV. Follow-up

### 16. Key contacts

Name	Organization	E-mail
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### 17. Internet link

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