



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

- Dual purpose cowpea variety development and diffusion -

I- Background :

1. Name of innovation:

Dual purpose cowpea variety development and diffusion

2. Country - Region:

Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal

3. Organization:

International Institute of tropical Agriculture (IITA)

4. Who is the innovator?

IITA in collaboration with national agricultural research and extension systems (NARES) of Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and Nigeria, NGOs, private and public sector

5. Actors involved:

ITA, (Institute for Crop Improvement in the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), International Livestock research Institute (ILRI), (NARES), NGOs, Technicians, Producers, Universities

6. Implementation date:

2000

7. Type of innovation: (Technological, institutional, policy or knowledge sharing)

Technological

II- Key issues :

8. Summary:

In Sahelian zones feeding livestock in the dry season is one of the major constraints to animal rearing. Production of grain and fodder for human and animal consumption is needed for food security. The key issues to be addressed include: lack of stems and stalks (haulms) for livestock in the dry season; soil fertility degradation; drought resistance; and disease and pest resistance.

9. What issue does the innovation address?

The innovation addresses the lack of haulms for livestock feeding and grain for human consumption in the dry season and soil fertility improvement by cowpea as a legume crop. Drought and disease/pest tolerance needs are also being addressed.

10. Key success factors for replication:

The key success factors that contribute to the replication of dual purpose cowpea development and diffusion include technical factors (high grain and fodder production, drought and disease resistance), institutional factors (administrative support) performance factors (efficiency, effectiveness and relevance) and climatic factors (characteristics of various agro ecological zones).

11. Accessibility: (Poor, gender, youth, migrants...)

Improved varieties with high potential grain and fodder production have been diffused to poor resource farmers including women and youth through Farmer Field Fora. The African Cowpea Program (commonly known by its French acronym of Pronaf) has disseminated various dual purpose cowpea varieties to farmers and farmers' organizations through IFAD investment projects in the participating countries, as well as through other programs.

-NGOs and the private sector have also accessed and diffused dual purpose cowpea varieties to rural communities.

12. Difficulties encountered:

-Major difficulties encountered include the lack of landraces and the scarcity of funds for agricultural research for developing and disseminating new varieties.

13. Financial aspects:

Breeding and disseminating dual purpose cowpea varieties need substantial funds. IITA allocates funds to national teams for developing improved varieties including dual purpose cowpea varieties. IITA has managed the funds and provided technical backstopping. IITA also carried out administrative duties of reporting financial and management information to the steering committee and to IFAD. A national coordinator at country level, served as the financial and logistical link to the regional coordination.

III- Technical Summary :**14.**

The dual purpose varieties are developed to address the constraints of fodder for animal feeding. Varieties are developed by researchers and tested for their potential and performance. Through on-farm trials the on-station validated varieties are tested and validated across various agro ecological zones in collaboration with farmers and farmers' organizations, Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and private entities. After testing, varieties are multiplied and disseminated.

IV- Follow up :**15. Key contacts:**

Name	Organization	Email
Dr. Ousmane Coulibaly	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture	u.coulibaly@cgiar.org
Dr. Clementine Dabiré	Institut de l'environnement et des recherches Agronomiques Burkina Faso (INERA)	clementine.dabire@coraf.bf clementinedabire@yahoo.fr
Dr Mamadou Touré	Institut d'Economie Rural Mali (IER Mali)	mamadou.toure@ier.ml

16. Useful web link:

www.pronaf.info

17. Key documents: (Name of the document + Link or Contact or Co ordinates)

- Activity reports: http://www.fidafrique.net/IMG/pdf/Pronaf_TA_Notes_2005-2006-2.pdf

- Pronaf evaluation Report: http://www.fidafrique.net/IMG/pdf/PRONAF_Eval_20.12.2006.doc_final_.pdf

- Scientific papers: <http://www.fidafrique.net/rubrique568.html>