



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

**- Empowerment in Impact assessment of Agricultural Innovations -**

**I- Background :**

**1. Name of innovation:**

Empowerment in Impact assessment of Agricultural Innovations.

**2. Country - Region:**

Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, 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) through African Cowpea Project (PRONAF)

**5. Actors involved:**

NARES, IFAD investment projects, public & private sectors, and NGOs

**6. Implementation date:**

- 2000 to present

**7. Type of innovation:**

- Institutional (organisational and capacity building)

**II- Key issues :**

**8. Summary:**

IITA through its Socio-economics Group, PRONAF and its partners have endeavored to build impact assessment capacity of NARES, IFAD funded rural development projects staff, public & private sector actors and NGOs staff. Between 2000 and 2006, about 250 people in these organizations received training in monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment of agricultural innovations on food security, poverty reduction and environmental protection. These successful experiences have attracted donors like the United States Agency for International development (USAID), SDC (Swiss Development Cooperation), World Bank, DANIDA which requested IITA (PRONAF, IITA-IFAD Yam Grant Project, Impact Assessment Unit- IITA-Ibadan) to organize similar courses for their projects and stakeholders in Togo, 2001 (NARES); Benin 2003, 2004 (national Agricultural Policy Program), and Guinea in 2002.

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

- Increase adoption rates of innovations by identifying conducive and impeding factors;
- Increase efficiency of researchers through priority setting;
- Develop a culture of impact and accountability in each country.

**10. Key success factors for replication:**

- Multidisciplinary team during the sessions (namely, agronomists, breeders, agro economists, entomologists, sociologists);
- Participatory approach;
- Sessions respond to scientists' concerns in a specific way (relevance);
- Effective cost-sharing between IITA, NARES, and development projects to finance training sessions.

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

- Many women were involved in course sessions ;
- The program took into account differing capacity levels of participants

**12. Difficulties encountered:**

- Non availability of empowered staff to apply and sustain those techniques;
- Lack of resources for follow-up training and software purchase.

**13. Financial aspects:**

Training was given in analysis of the followings specific technical areas:

Financial capital; access to markets; prices; wages; profitability; subsidies; taxes; and policy formulation.

**III- Technical Summary :****14.**

A combination of regional and country-level training sessions have been conducted. Between 30 to 35 participants attended each week-long training session. . Common techniques covered included: Sampling methods; Core M&E methods; group discussion techniques; analysis Techniques for spatially-distributed information; Methods for time-based patterns of change; logical framework methodology; And Practical Techniques for ranking and priority setting.

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

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**16. Useful web link:**

- [www.pronaf.info](http://www.pronaf.info)

**17. Key documents:**

- Policy Analysis Matrix (PAM) manual;
- Impact Assessment of Agricultural Technologies and Effects on Food Security, Poverty Reduction and Environment (training module);
- Gender, Agricultural Technology Development, Diffusion and Environment Protection (training module)