



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

- Collaborative Research for Development -

I- Background :

1. Name of innovation:

- Collaborative Research for Development

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 funded projects, public & private sectors, NGOs and Purdue and Michigan State Universities (USA)

6. Implementation date:

1994 - 2006

7. Type of innovation:

- Institutional and technological

II- Key issues :

8. Summary:

PRONAF collaborates in joint research activities with advanced research institutions like the Bean/Cowpea CRSP located at Michigan State, Purdue University and California (Riverside) Universities in the U.S, and Natural Research Institute in England. Activities are mainly in socioeconomic analysis and replication of the innovations. Also, there are specific regional research issues which are addressed through implementation in each country (mainly improved varieties, botanicals, pesticide use).

9. What issue does the innovation address?

- Reduction of pesticide use;
- Information exchange on technical issues and research methodologies; and
- Timeliness for obtaining results.

10. Key success factors for replication:

- A series of scientific articles and research reports have been produced and disseminated on technology adoption, impact of technology on food security, farmers' perceptions, gender analysis, regional competitiveness of cowpea, etc;
- Light and rapid surveys to collect data;
- Effective and synergistic collaboration between research, extension and development practitioners; and
- Each innovation responds to concrete and high priority farmer concerns.

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

Each innovation concerns the needs of vulnerable resource- poor farm populations, including women.

12. Difficulties encountered:

- Low technical capacity of trainees and limited on-the-job opportunities to apply newly acquired skills;
- Lack of resources for training of trainers.

13. Financial aspects:

Analysis conducted and training offered in the following areas: financial capital; access to markets; prices; wages; profitability; subsidies; taxes; and policy formulation.

All innovations were analyzed for cost effectiveness.

III- Technical Summary :

14.

The most common techniques used for joint activities are the regional workshops. During these workshops, research and analysis methodologies are presented, discussed and harmonized for all country-level sites.

IV- Follow up :

15. Key contacts:

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16. Useful web link:

- www.pronaf.info

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

- Annual activity reports.
- Working documents on Adoption, Cost-benefit Analysis and Impact studies.
- Coulibaly, O., and J. Lowenberg-Deboer. The economics of cowpea in West Africa: in 'Challenges and Opportunities for Enhancing Sustainable Cowpea Production. Proceedings of the World Cowpea Conference III. Eds: Fatokun, C., S. Tarawali, B.B. Singh and P. Kormawa and Tamo. Ibadan, Nigeria, Sept. 2000 PP 351-366;
- Adetonah, S; O. Coulibaly, M.C.A. Downham, D.Endamana, R/Adeoti and M.Tamo. Farmers Perceptions of Cowpea Yield Losses due to M.Vitrata in Benin. Annales des Sciences Agronomiques (6) 1 1:20 2003 ;
- Nouhoheflin, T. O. Coulibaly et A. Adégbidi . Impact of cowpea technology on inequality in income and poverty reduction in Benin. In print in the Proceedings of International conference on Poverty, Food and Health 1-4 July 2003, Lisbon, Portugal