



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

– Rural identity card –

I. Background

1. Name of innovation

Rural identity card

2. Country – Region

Western Africa

3. Organization

Network of Farmers' and Agricultural Producers' Organizations of West Africa (ROPPA)

4. Who is the innovator?

ROPPA (Mamadou Cissoko)

5. Actors involved

National Confederations of Farmers' Organizations (CNOPs) belonging to ROPPA, and the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), with financial support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

6. Implementation date

April 2001

7. Type of innovation

Knowledge-sharing among farmers' organizations

II. Key issues

8. Summary

The rural identity card is a geographical information system developed thanks to a partnership between ROPPA and the Agrhyment Centre, with the overall aim of helping to increase basic knowledge in order to assist in decision-making by local-level actors – farmers, NGOs, policy makers. It enables grass-roots actors to take relevant, useful information into account in their reflections and decisions regarding the development of their productive and commercial activities, their communities or their zones.

9. What issues does the innovation address?

The rural identity card is intended first and foremost to meet the needs of farmers' organizations, enabling them to:

- Have a tool to support them in decisions regarding family farms involved in agricultural, pastoral, fishery and forestry production activities;
- Incorporate relevant information useful for grass-roots actors into their reflections and decision-making regarding development of their community or area;
- Consider the family farm as the basic territorial level in drawing up the rural identity card.

10. Key success factors for replication

- Acquisition of a licence for software use by the CET and three CNOPs
- Existence of a spatial database (with CILSS)
- Success of the first experimental phase in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger

11. Main results

- Better understanding of the family farm, its environment and their various interactions
- Access to information in all its dimensions: farmers' movement, technological innovations, markets, environment, policy, economics and social aspects
- Support for consolidation of the farmers' movement: exchange of experience, optimization of farmers' know-how
- The positions and views of farmers' organizations made known and shared with other groups of actors

12. Target groups

- Grass-roots producers: by sector (agriculture, livestock production) and by value chain (cotton, rice, market gardening)
- Family farms
- Local organizations: local farmers' organizations, Union of Grass-Roots Organizations, umbrella organizations, national platforms
- ROPPA and locally elected officials

13. Difficulties encountered

- Uploading data to the Internet
- Very high cost, varying according to the territorial level:
 - o At the 3rd administrative level = base 0 (US\$ 181,727)
 - o If shifted to the 4th administrative level: + 44.00%
 - o If shifted to the village level: + 376.54%
- Updating of information, inasmuch as data fed into the programme are constantly changing
- The software is in English (problems of comprehension)
- Departure from the Agrhymet Regional Centre of the expert in charge of the scheme

14. Financial aspects

The cost of the innovation is US\$181,727, made up as follows:

- Architecture of the system: fixed costs (10%)
- Data: variable costs (55%)
- Capacity-building: fixed costs (18%)
- Other (17%)

III. Technical summary

15.

There are three aspects to be taken into account:

- The structural dimension, ROPPA (definition of indicators, monitoring and evaluation);
- The operational dimension, ROPPA + technical support (physical support, structure of the system and establishment of the network);
- The data dimension, ROPPA + technical support (data acquisition/gathering, integration and implementation).

IV. Follow-up

16. Key contacts

Name	Organization	E-mail
Saliou NDIAYE	ROPPA	salioundiaye@roppa-ao.org
Mohamadou MAGHA	ROPPA	mohamadou.magha@roppa-ao.org

17. Internet link

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

- Carte d'identité rurale: Document d'orientation et de mise en œuvre [Rural identity card: Guidelines and implementation]
- Brochure sur la CIR [Brochure on the rural identity card]
- Guide d'exploitation du logiciel AWhere [User's manual for AWhere software]

To obtain these documents, contact Saliou Ndiaye or Mohamadou Magha at ROPPA.