



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

– Organization of farmers in Nounbiel Province –

I. Background

1. Name of innovation

Organization of farmers in Nounbiel Province

2. Country – Region

Burkina Faso, Western Africa

3. Organization

Nounbiel Provincial Union of Farmers (UPPA/N)

4. Who is the innovator?

UPPA/N

5. Actors involved

Farmers' groups (women, young people and mixed)

6. Implementation date

September 1998

7. Type of innovation

Institutional and methodological

II. Key issues

8. Summary

The innovation involved the organization of farmers into departmental unions in each of the province's five departments. The departmental unions then met in the provincial capital to set up the provincial union. This form of organization made it easier to obtain and manage agricultural equipment (ploughs, carts, spare parts etc.) and inputs (seed, fertilizer and plant protection products). So far, it has allowed certain women's groups to benefit from credit facilities (income-generating activities, processing, trade, agricultural production etc.). It has also made it possible to hold a number of capacity-building sessions for the leaders of the groups involved.

9. What issues does the innovation address?

- Defence of the members' interests
- Representation in decision-making bodies
- Training and capacity-building for members
- Accessibility and local availability of inputs
- The search for marketing outlets for agricultural produce

10. Key success factors for replication

The following aspects have been boosted through information and awareness initiatives and monitoring:

- Conviction and readiness of leaders elected in general assembly
- Acceptance of this form of organization on the part of the groups
- Patience of these groups in waiting for results
- Forward-looking attitude and commitment of leaders

Frequent communication and regular meetings between groups have consolidated these success factors.

11. Main results

- Establishment of a stock of agricultural equipment
- Establishment of a stock of agricultural inputs
- Negotiation of loans for women's groups from the savings and credit cooperative
- Establishment of all the unions
- Training and capacity-building for the leaders of farmers' groups

12. Target groups

Farmers (cereal growers and market gardeners) in Nounbiel Province. At the last count (in 2000), there were about 2,136 members (cereal farmers and market gardeners) of the Nounbiel UPPA.

13. Difficulties encountered

- Certain leaders' lack of a forward-looking attitude and commitment
- Failure of members to pay their contributions (for some people want to see immediate results)
- Illiteracy of some members
- Failure to repay some loans on time

14. Financial aspects

III. Technical summary

15.

The members of the executive board met every three months. However, problems regarding allowances to be paid to the departmental unions' representatives during provincial meetings meant that these petered out.

A general assembly of farmers (three people per group) was held once a year.

We highlighted members' main priorities and decided on the lines of action to be pursued.

According to our regulations, at least one third of the representatives of each organization must be women.

All the loans granted in partnership with the savings and credit cooperative are to women's groups, which use them for the purchase, storage and resale of cereals, the processing of groundnut oil, the production of fritters, the preparation of *dolo* (local beer), other petty trade etc.

IV. Follow-up

16. Key contacts

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17. Internet link

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