



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

– Self-financed equipment management committee –

I. Background

1. Name of innovation

Self-financed management committee for erosion control equipment

2. Country – Region

Kourwéogo Province, Burkina Faso

3. Organization

Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and the NGO ANTD

4. Who is the innovator?

ANTD

5. Actors involved

Local inhabitants and seven local management committees, NGOs

6. Implementation date

January 2004

7. Type of innovation

Institutional innovation involving beneficiaries of a sustainable land management project and an NGO

II. Key issues

8. Summary

With a view to ensuring sustainable management and upkeep of the equipment needed to maintain stone lines, with the support of the NGO, local inhabitants set up a system of codified fees for use of the equipment placed at their disposal by the project (wheelbarrow, hand tools, cart etc.). The fee is paid to the management committee in cash (at varying rates depending on the type of equipment) or in kind (gifts of dishes of millet). This system enables the local committees to repair the equipment and invest in its replacement and also provides them with a trust fund of an average of US\$100 over the year.

9. What issues does the innovation address?

The innovation addresses the problem of upkeep of equipment entrusted to the beneficiaries. Without a system of codified management and fee payment, it is hard for small groups to ensure sustainable self-management of equipment intended for the community's use. The aim is thus to ensure the sustainability of equipment supplied under the project and hence the sustainability of the investments made.

10. Key success factors for replication

- The principle must be discussed and approved by the beneficiaries prior to the project design stage.
- The presence of village leaders on the local management committee facilitates implementation of the system.
- The involvement of a locally prominent political figure also facilitates mobilization of the beneficiaries and ensures sustainability of the system beyond the time-span of the project.

11. Main results

- After three years' execution, 75 per cent of the equipment made available by the project is in working order.
- The funds collected have been used for community investments (borehole repair).
- After three years' existence, the committees still have at least US\$100 of self-generated funds at their disposal.

12. Target groups

Local groups of foodcrop producers

13. Difficulties encountered

The question of the constitution of the committee's bureau is of vital importance. Although the presence of local leaders in the governing body can lead to problems of clientelism (with some people paying more than others for rental or being treated more favourably), the presence of such local political influence does ensure the visibility and legitimacy of the system.

The group also needs to have a literate treasurer (to keep the records and accounts) and this may be a major local constraint.

14. Financial aspects

This type of institutional organization requires little financial outlay: a few training sessions and regular monitoring during the few years of the project.

It can serve as a starting point for financial subscription systems for community uses.

This type of organization has already been established for the management of community boreholes, and this fee system represents the transposition of a self-generated and self-managed cash reserve.

III. Technical summary

15.

This innovation is not technical but solely organizational.

IV. Follow-up

16. Key contacts

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17. Internet link

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

Extraits des rapports d'activité 2004-2007 de l'ONG ANTD, rapport d'évaluation externe final et rapport final de supervision [Extracts from activity reports of the NGO ANTD, 2004-2007, final external evaluation report and final supervisory report].

These documents can be obtained from CILSS, but are not intended for general distribution at this stage. If the subject interests you, a detailed presentation note could be drawn up by CILSS and the NGO.