



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

– Local Integrated Management Plan for Agricultural Soil Fertility –

I. Background

1. Name of innovation

Local Integrated Management Plan for Agricultural Soil Fertility

2. Country – Region

Est Region, Burkina Faso

3. Organization

Community Investment Programme for Agricultural Fertility (PICOFA)

4. Who is the innovator?

Project Management Unit

5. Actors involved

- Farmers in the target villages
- Research institutes

6. Implementation date

June 2006

7. Type of innovation

Institutional (methodology involving local inhabitants), although it has been noted that this innovation combines many aspects

II. Key issues

8. Summary (to be revised)

The local plan described here, used by the PICOFA in Burkina Faso's Est Region, represents a new approach in the promotion of activities and technological packages to manage agricultural soil fertility. The PICOFA has been able to introduce this method in 123 villages. However, since it is a new activity, technical mastery is not yet perfect and some of the local soil fertility management plans formulated still require fine-tuning. The innovation entails two main stages:

- First, farmers carry out a rural appraisal in the intervention zones;
- Integrated agricultural soil fertility management actions are then planned.

9. What problems does the innovation address?

The innovation in planning seeks to improve the effectiveness of actions to reverse soil degradation and increase the agricultural productivity of the soil on target farms.

10. Key success factors for replication

There are four main factors:

- The know-how of private service providers
- The participatory approach used by the PICOFA
- The effectiveness of awareness-raising regarding the efficacy of the proposed techniques
- The literacy level, which facilitates planning

11. Main results

The plan has been introduced in 123 villages.

12. Target groups

Farming households (farmers and herders)

13. Difficulties encountered

Inasmuch as planning has only just started, the difficulties listed below are hypothetical:

- The failure to take account of all the needs of the local inhabitants: if the demand expressed through the plan reflects the needs only of the “leaders”, this could compromise the sustainability of the plan;
- Some difficulties can spring from land tenure disputes within or between villages;
- Low literacy levels may make implementation of the integrated management plan less acceptable.

14. Financial aspects

Local soil fertility management plans are financed according to the IFSAP/RDF or LDF/RDF principle.

III. Technical summary

15.

Formulation and implementation of local soil fertility management plans seek to eliminate technical constraints on agricultural production on the farms targeted after appraisal, particularly with regard to soil fertility management. These constraints (physical, chemical and biological) are eliminated through soil management initiatives in pediment microzones, valley bottoms, and the areas upstream and downstream of dams, together with agricultural development of these zones.

IV. Follow-up

16. Key contacts

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17. Internet link

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