



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

– Reforestation under contract –

I. Background

1. Name of innovation

Reforestation under contract

2. Country – Region

Ioba Province, Burkina Faso

3. Organization

NGO SOS Sahel, Burkina Faso

4. Who is the innovator?

SOS Sahel, Burkina Faso

5. Actors involved

Ten-Tiètaa Union, 12 villages

6. Implementation date

2001

7. Type of innovation

An institutional innovation involving beneficiaries of a reforestation project and an NGO

II. Key issues

8. Summary

In view of the poor overall results of reforestation microprojects in the Sahel zone, the NGO SOS Sahel proposed an approach entailing payment for reforestation on the basis of the number of viable trees two years after reforestation. The beneficiaries cover all the production and planting costs, while the NGO undertakes to pay the members of a producers' group for each tree that is still alive two years later. The sum depends on the species planted (from US\$0.15 to US\$0.90). This approach has led to a survival rate of about 70 per cent after two years, which is extremely satisfactory in technical terms.

9. What issues does the innovation address?

This innovation addresses the issue of the lack of follow-up and the generally poor survival rate under village reforestation projects. It provides a fairly short-term (2 years after plantation) motivation to beneficiaries to plant and maintain seedlings for at least two years (the minimum critical time for sustainable reforestation).

10. Key success factors for replication

- The payment conditions are not decided unilaterally by the NGO but are negotiated with the producers on the basis of the expenditure involved in the production of each species, thus allowing a consensus on objectives.
- A local producers' group is made responsible for payment of the subsidies after two years, which facilitates village-level mobilization and provides an insurance for the contractors.
- The species planted are selected by the contractors.
- A written contract is signed by the project and the beneficiaries to guarantee the producers' investment.

11. Main results

This local pilot scheme has so far resulted in a 70 per cent survival rate of seedlings after two years, a figure higher than the averages generally observed under this type of scheme.

12. Target groups

Local inhabitants belonging to a local producers' group

13. Difficulties encountered

- This approach requires the establishment of a climate of trust between the NGO and the beneficiaries, since no funding is provided at the start of the activity: the producers themselves shoulder the execution costs, with a potential profit only two years after this human and material investment.
- For this type of action, technical training in seedling production and reforestation techniques has to be provided at the outset.

14. Financial aspects

- This type of action has the advantage of considerably simplifying the technical and financial aspects of reforestation activities. Since the approach is based on results, the risks connected with lack of upkeep and wandering livestock are assumed by the beneficiaries instead of the project.
- The financial payment is generally lower than the price from private nurseries (and also eliminates losses during transport), so that the technique is extremely effective.

III. Technical summary

15.

This innovation is not technical, but solely organizational: a contract on objective is signed, but payment is made only on the basis of results after two years.

IV. Follow-up

16. Key contacts

Name	Organization	E-mail
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17. Internet link

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

1. Article published (in French) in the journal of Burkina Faso's Ministry of the Environment.
 2. Extract (in French) from a technical document applying for European Union funding.
- These documents are available on request.