

#### Multi-stakeholders platforms as a process of innovation system learning: Experience of sustainable and integrated exploitation of inland valleys in Benin

F. Dossouhoui (FSA /UAC), R.C. Tossou (FSA /UAC) et C. Kinha (FUPRO)

#### Introduction



- Need for agricultural research and development to be holistic and integrated in it's approach.
- The **concept of innovation** systems is gaining importance in agricultural research programs.
- Innovation is not only technology (institutional, organizational, financial, political, etc...)
- Innovation is not a linear process but a complex dynamic one (Hagmann, 1999; Dantas, 2005; Spielman, 2006).



### **1 - Introduction**

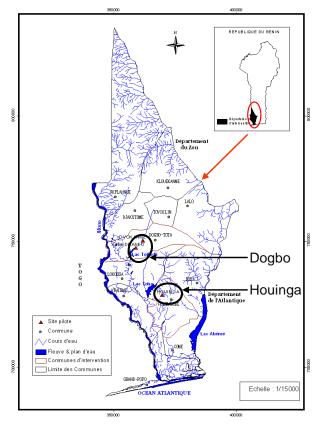


- How to research the **concerns of small stakeholders**?
- Need of innovation in how to improve adoption of new technology (researched results)
- Extension, rural radio, TV, video, mobile phone, Internet
- RAP project ='Realizing Agricultural Potentials'
- RAP, aims at improving the sustainable and consensual management of lowlands
- Two Multi-Stakeholders Platform (MSP) : Dogbo and Houeyogbe (Mono/Couffo)



#### Map of MSP site in Benin





#### Departments of Mono&Couffo (Benin)

Area: 3 761 km<sup>2</sup> Population density : 238 inh./km<sup>2</sup> Rainfall: 950 mm Wet season: June-September Major crops: rice, maize, leafy-vegetable Artesian wells



#### 2 - The process of Multi-Stakeholders Platform building



- Objectives, roles and responsibilities of the MSP
- Strengthening the innovation capacities of actors through co-learning processes;
- Facilitating and monitoring the various organizational and institutional mechanisms set up for the co-learning processes;
- Stimulating the co-learning processes through which the various stakeholders in rice production acquire intensification and diversification capacities



#### 2 - The process of Multi-Stakeholders Platform building

- The roles and responsibilities assigned to the MSP are :
  - to extend, diversify and intensify the production in the sites
  - to promote a sustainable agriculture which takes into account its social, economic, cultural and ecological dimensions
  - to identify in collaboration with the various researchers groups the needs of the actors in terms of research

To fulfill these roles and responsibilities, the MSP mobilize the necessary human, material and financial resources

#### 2 - The process of Multi-Stakeholders Platform building

- Main stakeholders involved in the MSP are :
  - the landowners,
  - the farmers and their organizations,
  - the herders, the fish raisers,
  - the traders,
  - the processors,
  - the transportation facilitators,
  - the researchers,
  - the NGOs,
  - the extension agents and
  - the municipalities.



#### 2 - The process of Multi-Stakeholders Platform building

• The MSP building process :

MSP in RAP project has been built through three (3) main phases which are fully integrative, iterative and interactive:

- the MSP setup (steps 1, 2 and 3);
- the strategic planning, implementation & management (steps 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8); and
- the monitoring, learning and adaptation (steps 9, 10, 11 and 12).

Rice Cong

#### 3 - Role of facilitation and capacity building in the process



- Facilitation of meetings, drafting of management documents and laws, installation of the platform, and the provision of various information as needed.
- **Capacity building** has played a key role in the process of MSP building in the RAP project.
  - the basic training,
  - the need-oriented training and
  - the facilitation & backstopping activities.



# 4 - Actors' perceptions on the MSP process and results so far



- Three types of results have been identified :
  - the facilitation, training and backstopping activities enabled the process to move smoothly;
  - the development and strengthening of the partnership between actors
  - the tangible outputs obtained through the MSP (storage infrastructures, the access to seeds, fertilizers, tractors, market, etc.)
  - This process need more time to be internalize within actors



#### 6 - Lessons learned and further challenges

- 1. It is **difficult to work together** with different actors that have different perspectives.
- 2. The articulation between the MSP on one hand and researchers and developers on the other hand needs to be improved.
- Skills in group dynamics or groups management seem too narrow to induce the required behavior and knowhow.
- Articulation of the MSP with the local and regional administrative body is useful for sustainability.



#### Conclusion



- To make MSP a useful tool for development, it is necessary to develop the skills of all the stakeholders involved,
- Initial facilitation and trainings may concern not only farmers but researchers and developers as well.
- These trainings have to be reinforced according to emerging needs and may be based on the collective experiences gained through the MSP



## Thank you!



#### Merci!

<sup>3</sup><sup>rd</sup>Africa Rice Congress, 21-24 October 2013, Yaoundé, Cameroon