

Republic of Benin

PROJECT "DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANIC ROTATION CROPS' VALUE CHAIN"

CONCEPT PAPER

Conceived by

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CONTEXT

Nowadays, it is evidence that organic cotton production is an alternative economically, environmentally and socially interesting to the small farmers, particularly in Benin. Since 1996, organic cotton is produced in Benin and the value chain is progressively establishing. After more than 10 years of organics farmers' technical support and organic cotton trade, OBEPAB has a great expertise in the field and share its experiences through international network on organic and fair products. Several actions are actually done in order to reinforce the responsibilities of farmers' organizations in the value chain development.

Unfortunately, for a long time, crops from cotton's rotation system don't benefit from a great attention to their promotion. The pilot project entitled "Organic and fair cotton in Benin" funded by the Programm for South-South Cooperation (PSC) is focusing on the: (i) development of best organic practices to improve organic cotton supply, (ii) reinforcement of farmers' organization and (iii) promotion of value chain around cotton rotation's crops. Concerning this last point, the project will identify the crops of great interest but there is a great need to establish and develop the value chain around this product.

OBJECTIVE

The project aims at promoting selected crops from organic cotton rotation system through the development of their value chain.

The specifics objectives are the following:

- § Analyse the value chain of selected rotation crops in order to find out the strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats for the development of the value chain (identification of current and potential actors, supporters, influencers, etc.)
- § Develop a sustainable institutional plate form for an integrated value chain oriented toward the market
- § Share OBEPAB experiences and skills in terms of organic farmers' technical to others organizations promoting organic agriculture within PSC mechanism.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The results expected through the implementation of the project are:

- § The value chain of selected crops from organic rotation system is progressively established
- § Partnership between Benin, Costa-Rica and Buthan is reinforced

METHODOLOGY

The methodological approach which will be used to implement the project is based on the principle that we cannot induce a sustainable social change if the main actors concerned aren't in the centre of thought and actions. Indeed, the object of the project required an ascendant approach based on process facilitation. Firstly, at national level, the implementation process will constitute of: sensitization session, training session, participative study on the development of value chain, exchange visits between potential partners from Buthan and/or Cost-Rica and Benin, documents and skills sharing with the partners, etc.

The knowledge OBEPAB could share with the partner in the second phase is relative to the technical knowledge package. This includes the establishment of internal control system for organic and fair product certification, the farmer field school approach and its implementation, the management of weeds, pests and diseases, soil fertility in organic way, etc.

