



SUMMARY AND FINDINGS OF THE FIRST OFF/ROPPA REPORT



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A	AFD..... French Development Agency
	AFDI..... French Farmers and International Development
	ANADER..... National Agency for rural development support
	ANOPACI..... National association of professional farmers organizations of Côte d'Ivoire
	ANOPER..... National association of professional ruminant breeders organizations of Benin
	ANPROCA..... National agency for agricultural promotion and advice
	AOPP..... Association of professional farmers organizations
	APESS..... Association for the promotion of livestock breeding in the Sahel and the Savannah
	ARAA..... Regional agriculture and food agency
	ASRP..... Agriculture sector rehabilitation project
B	
	BE..... Executive Bureau
	BM..... The World Bank
C	
	CA..... Board of Directors
	CEDEAO..... ECOWAS - Economic Community of West African States
	CFO..... Advice to smallhold family farmers
	CILSS..... Permanent interstate committee for drought control in the Sahel
	CMDT..... The Malian Company for the development of textile
	CNCR..... National Council for farmers' consultation and cooperation in Senegal
	CNOP-G..... National confederation of farmers organizations in Guinea
	CNOP-M..... National coordination of famers organizations in Mali
	COFREPECHE..... International Survey Bureau in fishing, aquaculture and marine environment
	CORET..... Confederation of the organizations of traditional breeders
	COS..... Orientation and follow-up and monitoring committee
	CPF..... The Burkina Faso farmers confederation
	CTOP..... The Togolese coordination of farmers and agricultural producers organization
E	
	ECOWAP..... The West African regional agricultural policy
	FO..... Family farm
	EXFAM..... Family farmers watch project
F	
	FAO..... United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization
	FIRCA..... Interprofessional fund for agricultural research and Advice
	FISAN..... Investment funds for food and nutritional security
	FNAA..... National fund for food and agriculture
	FNGN..... National federation of groupements Naam
	FONG..... Farmers organization network in Ghana
	FONGS..... Federation of non-governmental organizations in Senegal
	FPFD..... The federation of Fouta Djallon Famers
	FRAA/ECOWADF..... Regional fund for agriculture and food
	FUN..... Farmers union network of Liberia
	FUPRO..... The Federation of farmers unions in Benin
G	
	GAFSP..... Global agricultural food security program
I	
	igN..... The Nigérians feed Nigérians Initiative
	ICAT..... Institute for advice and technical support
	IER..... Institute of Rural Economy
	IMF..... Microfinance institution
L	
	LFOA..... Approach for support to agricultural family farmers
	LOA..... Agricultural orientation law
	LOASP..... Agro-sylvo-pastoral orientation law

M	MVE	Ebola virus disease
N	NACOFAG	National coordinating organisation of farmer associations the Gambia
	NAFSL	National association of farmers of Sierra Leone
O	OFO	Observatoire des exploitations familiales / Observatory of family farms
	OGM	Organisme génétiquement modifié / Genetically modified organism
	OP	Peasant/Farmer organization
	OSC	Civil society organization
P	P4P	Purchase for progress
	PADAT	Support project to agricultural development of Togo
	PAM	World Food Program
	PAMFO	Support project to the modernization of family farms
	PAPROSEM	Support project to sustainable production and dissemination of certified seeds in West Africa
	PASA	Support project to the agricultural sector
	PAU	Agricultural policy of the West African economic and monetary union
	PCD-TSAN	Ten-year community program for agricultural transformation aiming at food and nutritional security
	PDDAA	Programme détaillé de développement de l'agriculture en Afrique / Detailed program for agricultural development in Africa
	PF	Platform
	PFPN	Niger Farmer platform
	PIB	Gross domestic product
	PNIA	National program for agricultural investment
	PNIASA	National program for agricultural investment and food security
	PNOPPA-B	National platform for the organizations of famers and agricultural producers in Benin
	PPAAO/WAAPP	Program for agricultural productivity in West Africa
	PRAPS	Regional Sahel pastoralism support program
	PRIA	Regional agricultural investment program
	PRIASAN	Regional agricultural and food and nutritional investments program
	PRIDEC	Regional livestock investment program in coastal countries
	PSRSA	Strategic plan for boosting the agricultural sector
	PTF	Technical and financial partner
Q	QNCOCPA-GB	National Consultation framework for Farmers and agricultural producers Organizations in Guinea Bissau
R	RBM	Billital Maoobe Network
	RECA	Agricultural chambers network
	ROPPE	The network of West African farmers and agricultural producers organizations
	RPCA	Food crisis prevention and management network
S	SE	Executive secretariat
	SFD	Decentralized financial systems
	SNAAP-FO	National support systems and proximity assistance to family farms
T	TEC	Tarif extérieur commun / Common external tariff
U	UEMOA	West African Economic and Monetary Union
	UGCPA/BM	Union of farmers groups for the marketing of agricultural products of the Boucle du Mouhoun
	USAID	United States agency for international development
Z	ZAE	Agro-ecological zone



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE 2016 REPORT

The first report of the REGIONAL OBSERVATORY OF ROPPA (OFF/ROPPIA) FAMILY FARMS deals with four questions that delivers successively (i) a farmer reading of the behavior of the West African family farms during the last two farming seasons; (ii) a status of the proximity support and extension from which these FOs benefitted; (iii) an analysis of the policies which these FOs and organizations that represent them coped with; and (iv) the OFF perspectives. In the same way, ROPPIA put to profit the information production process that fed this first report to analyze its current follow-up and monitoring practices of family farms.

For comforts of use, this report is decomposed into four BOOKLETS and a SUMMARY AND FINDINGS document.

This part of the report on the observation of the behavior of family farms over the 2 farming seasons is subject to a **BOOKLET 1 (OBSERVATION OF THE DYNAMICS OF FAMILY FARMS)**. It is evident from this observation that from one year to the other, according to the climate behaviors, but also to the intensity of public supports, family farms are capable to make important progress and therefore to improve food security and sovereignty of the region. Thus, 8 countries of the West African region improved the results of the 2015 - 2016 farming season compared to the previous year. These countries are Niger, Mali, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia. For most of these 8 countries, the lean period has been supported this year well because family and communal attics were filled well, the contributions of the picking/counter season activities were consequent, the markets were supplied well, and

prices remained steady. In these 8 countries, the 2015 good rainfall and favorable public policies (notably concerning subsidies), combined to the strategies of the family farms and to the action of FOs, encouraged the overall favorable trend of these results. In some places, natural calamities, civil insecurity and shortcomings in implementing public action, limited the results of the farming seasons. The report concludes on this point that next to natural factors, human action (strategies of the FO, action of the state) also remains determinant. It also concludes, in the interest of FOs, that they need to develop a follow-up and monitoring scheme of the farming seasons in order to reinforce their role in the definition and implementation of such policies.

This part of the report proposes a first appreciation of the findings of these family farms by groups of countries which share more or less the same eco-geographical and sociocultural characteristics. Therefore in countries of the Sudano Sahelian belt (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger), FOs were rather self-sufficient and oftentimes in excess in crop production, with an increase in animal production, a good marketing, an increase in income, and a contribution to the economies on the increase. The Western Atlantic coastal countries (Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Senegal) also had crop and animal production on the increase, and an improvement in the trading conditions, except in one country. In predominantly forest countries recently marked by the outbreak of Ebola fever (Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone), it is noted a clear improvement in crop production, and a slowdown in animal production and fisheries, whereas the supply is struggling to meet

the market demand. Finally in Southern Atlantic coastal countries (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo), a decreasing trend is rather noticed in crop productions even if food security is not threatened. Livestock results are in progress.

For the 4 groups of countries, the report identified factors that either encouraged or constrained the results of FOs, and provided some information on the strategies implemented by family farms to reach the objectives that they pursue considering their current opportunities and constraints. Finally the report concludes this part on an analysis of the viability of FOs in West Africa, a viability that will depend in the time on their capacities to change in order to remain always more attractive for the youth and women. Several arguments permit to say that FOs must interest the States with respect to their consequent contributions to national economies and societies.

The observations presented in **BOOKLET 2 (OBSERVATION ON THE SUPPORTS AND GUIDANCE PROVIDED TO FAMILY FARMS)** give a panoramic view of the current supply of FOs concerning support and extension provided to family farmers. It comes out that there are guidelines in FOs with a large scale farmer governance in 5 countries (Burkina, Mali, Senegal, Guinea, Benin), partially functional farmer devices or under construction in 4 countries (Niger, Liberia, Ivory Belt Republic, Ghana), and that in 4 countries there are no FO farmer guidelines yet (Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone, Togo). This booklet also presents a description and a comparative analysis of the practices and systems of farmer support and extension, and a location of the conditions in which are constructed FO practices and farmer advice systems. Finally, from a first appreciation of the results of these farmer devices, the report proposes national. In this 2nd booklet deals with development perspectives, specially the promotion in each country of a national assistance and close follow-up and monitoring family farms system (SNAAP/ FO) based on the FO/ State partnership, and allowing for the strengthening of the adaptation and close assistance and guidance services in favor of family farmers. It should be noted here that 5 countries (Burkina Faso, Gambia, Guinea, Mali et Senegal) already have in this respect jointly formulated proposals by the national farmer platform and the Ministry in charge in each country.

BOOKLET 3 (AN OBSERVATORY ON PUBLIC POLICIES FACED WITH FAMILY FARMS, and the EFFICIENCY OF THE FARMER ACTION) restores the analysis and the appreciation by the farmer organizations of the main current public policies and their effects on FOs and the family farmers. This analysis deals with the main public policies known by FOs in every country. They are counted and the effects of their implementation are appreciated according to the six domains that are under consideration: the use of seeds and other inputs, the strengthening of the facilities and infrastructures, support to the animal and fish production, the supports to the commercialization, access to funding and credit, and access to land). The positive effects for family farms of the recent policies in most States are sensitive concerning improvement of access to inputs; they are more mitigated

concerning the commercialization of products; some problems arise for family farms operators, for women for breeders in several countries concerning land tenure security and access to the developed spaces. The farmer warning also pinpoints many problems concerning the implementation of policies and analyzes the recent national platforms action on policies and its main results. The second part of this booklet recalls the main regional policies within ROPPA participates, their instruments and regional implementation programs (regional food stock, important development programs for WAEMU priority development of the paths of WAEMU, PRAPS – pastoralism Sahel, PRIDE – livestock breeding in inshore countries, GAFSP, Sahel irrigation, PAPROSEM, offensive rice). One presents the political positioning of ROPPA in collaboration with FO networks and OSC partners, and one makes an appreciation of the results achieved through their lobbying and their expected effects on family farm. The important progress in the involvement of FOs in the political dialogue is highlighted. Based on ROPPA internal reflections induced by the results of its warning policy at the time of the validation of its first report, this booklet highlights 9 cross-cutting questions to which ROPPA is and will remain sensitive.: (i) temptation to privilege industrial agriculture to the detriment of family agriculture; (ii) space management and territory land development planning; (iii) renewal of natural resources and anticipation on climate change; (iv) fisheries and aquaculture; (v) pastoralism management policies ; (vi) consideration of women in the policies; (vii) consideration of youth in the policies ; (viii) safety and security in the rural world; (ix) policies definition and implementation.

BOOKLET 4 (FOLLOW-UP AND MONITORING PRACTICES of ROPPA's FOs MEMBERS) shows the situation of the current follow-up and monitoring practices in farming seasons, the follow-up and monitoring practices of the behaviors and results of family farms, the support and extension practices and the political warning practices of ROPPA's platforms that permitted to gather information used to generate the first report of ROPPA's FOs. This assessment, conducted essentially for internal usage, must serve as a basis to improve such practices in the process for a progressive strengthening of this Observatory.

Finally, the last section of this report, which is subject to the present SUMMARY, underscores the characteristics of this first report, summarizes the knowledge generated by farmer organizations on the dynamics of family farm, the way to follow-up and monitor them, and to support them, and the appreciations by farmer organizations of policies related to family farms as developed in the 4 booklets, and reveals the perspectives of the Observatory of ROPPA family farms, namely in terms of circulating this reports (which for ROPPA is the first of a series of publications), and in terms of gradual improvements of its observation devices and consolidation of ROPPA's regional FOs.

The vast majority of the farmers in West Africa are the family type (95% according to the official evaluations). Members of farmers/producers' organizations affiliated to ROPPA are also mostly made up of FOs or members of family farms. This foundation justifies the commitment of these FOs and their network, ROPPA, in the defense of family agriculture as a model on which food sovereignty must be built in West Africa. This commitment is also justified by the conviction that the FOs must bet on the adaptation capacity, the strengthening of the resilience and the results of FOs to feed their countries, the region, and the world in a sustainable way.

Farmers/producers' organizations have a dual vocation to assist their members directly while developing some services, and to defend their interests under public policies that impact on their living and working conditions. For this reason, FOs tried to endow themselves with tools and strategic instruments that meet this dual concern to provide better assistance to the FOs and to better defend their interests. The Observatory the family farmers of ROPPA (OFF) comes into effect under this perspective. Its overall goal is to contribute to circulating the knowledge generated by and for farmers on the dynamics of family farms in order to adapt services and supports in their direction and policies to the different levels. The creation of this instrument was already registered in the perspectives of ROPPA at the time of its foundation.

There are also some observation devices of African agriculture, but to our knowledge, none has the farmer characteristic sought for by ROPPA initiative. We were convinced right from the beginning that a farmer Observatory will not be replication of the existing devices with scientific means that are out of the FOs reach, but would be able to lean on them in order to make available to farmers and their organizations quantitative information which they do not have easy access to, and would bring both to policy makers, researchers and development stakeholders types of qualitative information "captured from within" which is not currently available. Such a pioneer undertaking is however not easy to build. ROPPA experienced many difficulties to achieve this, but it was able to count on the trust and support from several of its partners. It was persistent so as not to give up out of discouragement. At the same time, through trials and errors, we acquired experience and came to the conclusion that we were far from being « empty » of knowledge with respect to family farms and that it should not be expected that all the components of this permanent Observatory be in place in order to value the knowledge and to publish a first report that forecasts what this Observatory is seeking to produce. In fact, we already have devices which enable us « to observe » and therefore to have the fundamentals of « an Observatory »: ROPPA will use this first experience as a support to improve its tools and circulate its new reports on a regular basis. From there, ROPPA will gradually develop this instrument.

We could have recruited consultants and called for experts to collect and manage this information in order to secure the production of this report. Nevertheless, we have chosen the most demanding way: getting it done through collaboration with

the 13 national platforms, the leaders of the network and their technical staff, through a dialogue with a few resource people who are committed to maintain the quality of the process. By so doing, we have certainly achieved a different type of report and no doubt a less sophisticated one that researchers and experts would have produced, but which could certainly be more read, taken ownership and used by farmer stakeholders who contributed to its co-production. The objective of the Observatory and this report is in fact to provide FOs with a reference framework which will enable them to know where they belong to. They must be the first beneficiaries from this Observatory. When we decided this orientation in March 2016, we made the bet that we would manage to elaborate this way a sufficiently solid report to show that ROPPA is a good "observer" of the farmers realities, and that the mobilization of the quick strengths of the network in this process was going to give a new impetus to the dynamics of ROPPA. This bet shows that we have largely won. The essential of the content of this report rests indeed on the contributions of the 13 national platforms that were all greatly involved and provided extremely rich national reports. One can see obvious signs of the interest in, and the strong motivation of, ROPPA different stakeholders for this process in the rigorous respect by a very tight calendar that permitted in 14 stages to achieve the production of the present report, as well as the seriousness and the quality of the work provided to gather the contributions that nourished it.

We know that this first report has some limitations, but it has the merit to exist whereas there is not much that gives a regional vision on family farms in West Africa, and that there is nothing that gives an analysis by FOs of the current situation of family farms in West Africa and the sensitive questions that bring to broad daylight the knowledge of these situations. This 2016 OFF report of ROPPA does not intend to provide answers to all the questions, but it can be an immediate farmer contribution under the regional and national policies and programs that are right now being defined or readjusted. It must also be an information source that can be used in the short, medium and long term to better understand the conditions, behaviors and strategies of the West African family farms, in order to provide adequate assistance to their transformations. It can thus be used and valorized by FOs and their organizations under their strategic reorientations. It can be also done by decision-makers under public policies and programs and by technical and financial partners during their interventions.

This first OFF report of ROPPA intervenes in a context marked by structural changes which are strong demographic growth, urbanization of farm zones, climate change, civil insecurity and the thrust of radicalism (terrorism, nationalism). These changes impose a new look on socioeconomic models, production systems, and governance of the productive resources at different levels (family, communal, national, international).

It also intervenes at a time when the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, launches the second phase of the regional agricultural policy on the horizon 2025 (PRIASAN and PNIASAN 2nd generation) under which 7 major stakes have been identified to be taken in charge by regional and

national instruments: (i) to ensure food security and sovereignty; (ii) to better integrate the nutritional dimension; (iii) to affirm and to develop the supplementary/specialization in agricultural fields in the regional space; (iv) to promote sustainable intensification models, to reduce climate impacts and to adapt to climate change; (v) to increase the resilience of family farmers; and (vi) to better scale their priorities at the regional level; (vii) to manage their relationships. It is therefore at a crucial moment that ROPPI decided to publish this report that is a production of farmers' knowledge to be used first by family farmers through farmers and producers' organizations at the grassroots level.

This process would not have been well conducted without the attention given to, and the collaboration of, Public Authorities that, in every country, facilitated the access of the platforms to information and displayed their interest in their work, without the support of the technical and financial Partners which provided support to ROPPI in the construction of its Observatory (ECOWAS, WAEMU, IFAD, European Union, Swiss Cooperation, AFD, SOS FAIM, Fondation de France, Hub Rural). I thank them on behalf of ROPPI.

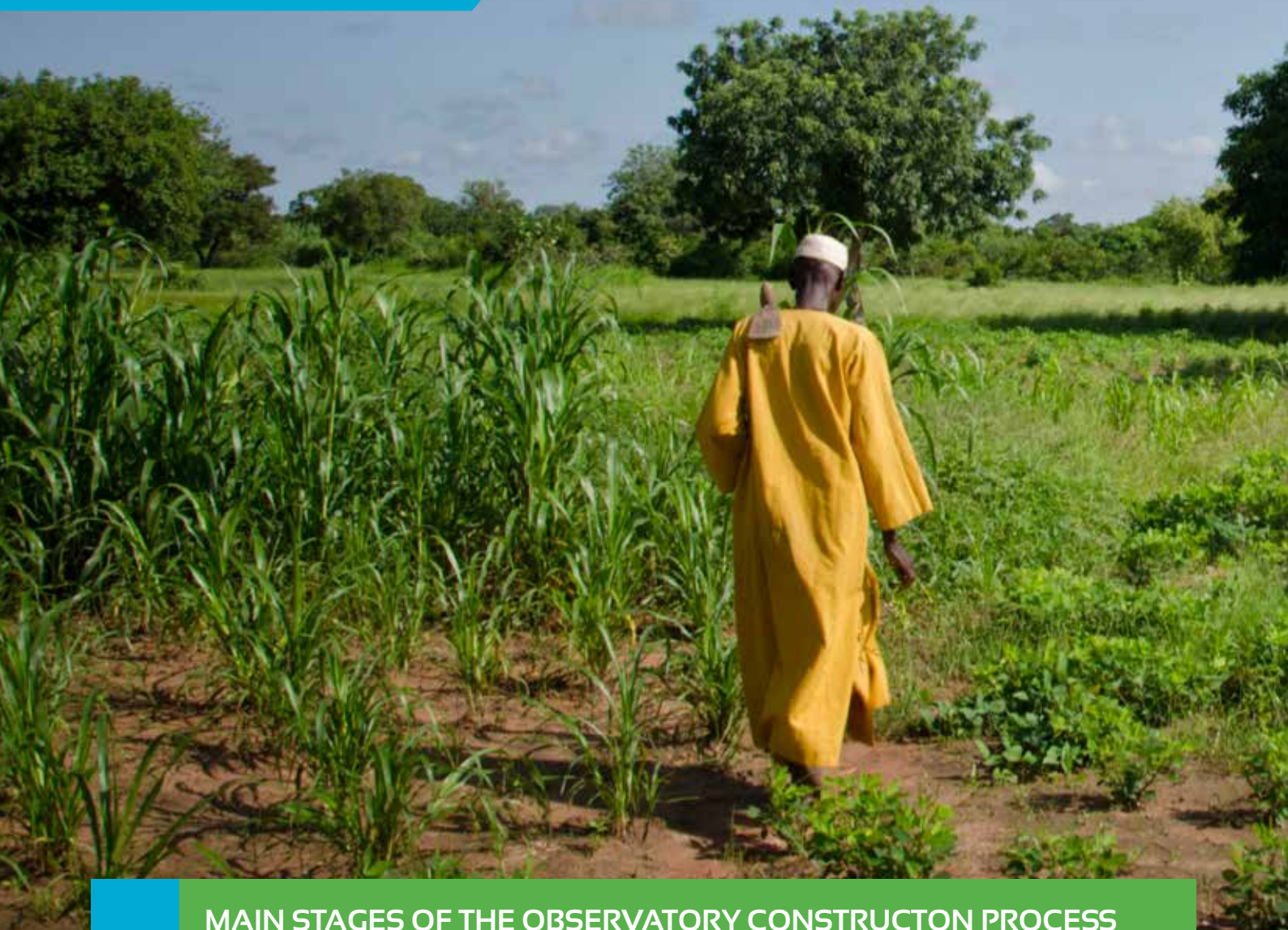
I also greet the national farmers Platforms which strongly contributed to this production through their inputs and commitments illustrated by meeting the planning requirements, and especially thank the 13 focal points who lead the processes in their respective countries. My acknowledgments also go to the Board of Directors, the Executive Bureau and the Secretary General in charge of the Observatory for the follow-up and monitoring conducted around the question of the implementation of OFFs, as well as the Executive Secretariat for their responsiveness and their continued commitment throughout the entire process. In my acknowledgments, I cannot overlook the resource people who left no stone unturned and whose effort and contributions met our high expectations. My acknowledgments also go to the networks of farmers partners organizations (APESS, RBM, CORET) with which we work together.

I finally thank in advance the readers of this first report for the contributions that they will be able to help ROPPI faithfully strengthen and improve this West African Farmer Observatory of family farms with what we call the "fundamentals of the farmer movement": to place the farmer in the heart of everything that we do and construct together.

May the results of this work and your contributions help strengthen family farms so that tomorrow we will still have farmers who are proud to be so, who continue to feed the populations of our region appropriately while earning their living in a dignified way.

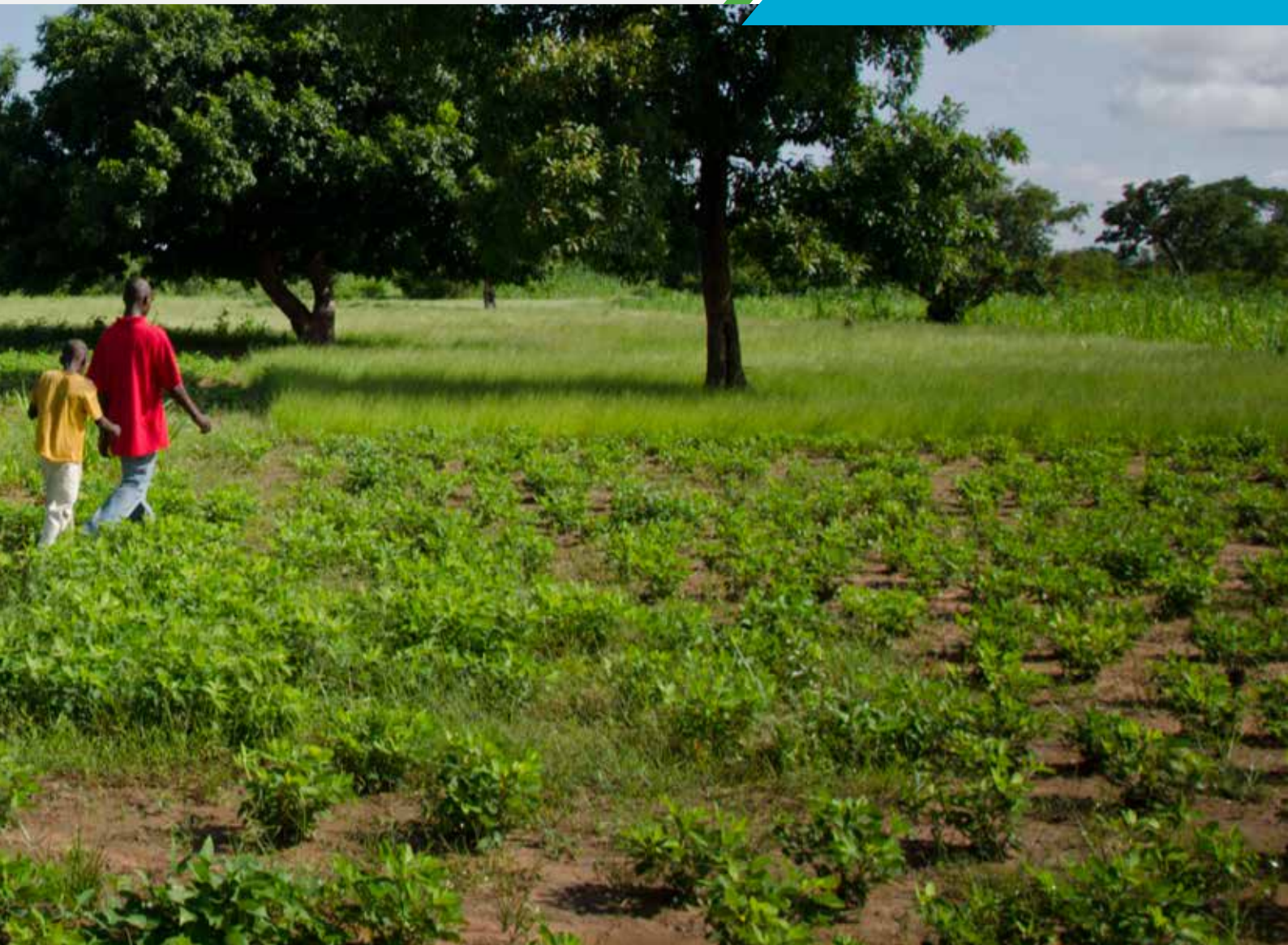
Djibo BAGNA
ROPPI PRESIDENT





MAIN STAGES OF THE OBSERVATORY CONSTRUCTION PROCESS OF FAMILY FARMERS BY ROPPA

1. A period of gestation that begins from the creation of ROPPA in 2000, with the first ideas on its "Farm identity Card". Already ROPPA was very conscious of the interest to observe FF in order to better know them and to better represent them. This is how ROPPA leaned on FF studies conducted in Senegal under its first negotiations with WAEMU on the Agricultural Policy of the Union (PAU, 2001).
2. The first attempt to establish OFF in 2004 leans on the experiences in Mali (Observatory of Cotton and studies-test of the CNOP-MALI), in Senegal (LFOA and Project EXFAM) and the one of AGRHYMET to elaborate a first installation of the regional Observatory. This installation was subject to a commented fund request and repeatedly reviewed by different stakeholders (CIRAD, DDC Switzerland, FIPA, independent resource people), without leading to however to an effective implementation.
3. The revival of the farm identification card project marked in 2007 by the launching of training activities and the setting up of software with the supports of AGRHYMET, CILSS and USAID. This greatly dependent process of an external appraisal did not succeed.
4. a period of frost, between 2007 and 2010, marked by the absence of specific actions at the level of ROPPA concerning CIR and OFF
5. The second revival attempt of OFF started in 2011 by the valorization of a characterization survey of follow-up and monitoring experiences of family farmers in West Africa. This revival is integrated into the general dynamics of ROPPA marked by a new five-year program and foresees some exchanges with other regional networks such as APSS and RBM. Between 2011 and 2014, the idea germinates to distinguish under the Observatory, the follow-up and monitoring of FOs and the follow-up and monitoring of FOs; the



opportunity is given to the platforms to test various tools validated by ROPPI FOs questionnaire, FOs questionnaire, and simplified assessment of FOs). Some important progress is noted during this period at the level of some platforms, but don't enable ROPPI to pull a substance out of it.

6. The process recovered a new breath in 2014 with a sequence of events and circumstances (the Brussels Symposium on FOs under the International Year of Family Agriculture, the Sixth ROPPI convention, etc.) that led in 2015 to the Cotonou workshop that clarified OFFs, through the assessment of dynamics in progress in the 13 national platforms members of ROPPI. The Cotonou workshop allowed important progress, especially the identification of fields that OFF must cover (follow-up and monitoring of FOs; follow-up and monitoring of the farming seasons, follow-up and monitoring of FO/State partnerships). It also permitted to go beyond the question of tools
- and to keep the principles pragmatic, conferring to ROPPI the possibility to propose some themes for the contributions of the platforms, and to play the functions of funding and comparison of the contributions of the platforms. A roadmap was elaborated for the implementation of these recommendations.
7. To create a dynamic that will quickly set in motion this option, ROPPI decided in March 2016 to mobilize the observation tools and processes already available at the level of its national platforms and the regional level to elaborate a first report. It constructed to this effect a device involving its 13 platforms, members of the Executive Bureau and the Board of Directors of the Network to collect information and to produce this report with the support of focal points in every country, made up of a regional core partially composed of the technical staff of ROPPI around the Secretary General and resource people identified to support this process. The respect of the calendar given in guideline permitted to achieve one year later the first report of the Observatory.

The decision to elaborate in 2016 a regional synthesis on the follow-up and monitoring of family farms, the follow-up and monitoring of the farming season, the farmers-based systems of family farms support and the dynamic of FOs, appears in the “roadmap for the facilities of the regional Observatory of family farms”. These were elaborated in October 2015 at the end of an important workshop with respect to the «balance and perspectives of the Observatory» organized by ROPPA in Cotonou. It proceeds from the political will of ROPPA already expressed the previous year at the time of its sixth Convention in Niamey to unblock a project that has been working hard since 2004 to come into fruition (see framed section of the previous page). The method chosen was to oblige itself to produce on a regional scale farmers’ knowledge in relation with the purpose of this Observatory while already using the existing channels in the network and to publish them as the first report of the Observatory under fast deadlines in order to lean on this first experience to progressively strengthen the technical and institutional capacities of this instrument. As the President of ROPPA reminded it in his foreword, the objective of this Observatory is to contribute to publish the knowledge produced by and for farmers on the dynamics of family farmers in order to adapt services and supports directed to them and policies at different levels¹. The first report of ROPPA Observatory embodies this willingness



Regarding knowledge produced by peasants

A methodology was defined in February 2016 by a restricted team to drive out this first exercise in the line of the Cotonou workshop. It is described in a «guidance note» that has been discussed and was validated in March by the Executive Bureau of ROPPA. A «regional core» made up of 4 staff members of the Executive secretariat of ROPPA² and the Executive Secretary took in charge the follow-up and monitoring of the process. The main features of the approach that have been set in motion are the following:

- the data that feed this report have been collected by focal point and farmer animators in the 13 countries of the region where ROPPA has some platforms based on

a template indicating 40 points to fill on the grounds of the situation observed at the local and national level and on the present practices of FOs.

- The «focal points» from the national platforms belonging to the organizations farmers have been chosen in every country. They met in Thiès in April 2016 to establish a common understanding of the focal points; to inform and test the template on Senegalese farmers. The mission entrusted these focal points to revive the collection and validation process of field data in every country while leaning on OF members of ROPPA national platforms.

¹ In 2015, the Cotonou workshop formulated in the following way ROPPA's objective by securing an Observatory: «To have a device that allows the production and valuing of knowledge based on agro-sylvo-pastoraland fisheries family farms in West Africa thanks to farmer devices which promote access to information and decision making within these farms, enabling the grassroots Fos and their crest organizations to adapt their services and supports to these EFs, and strengthen the political advocacy of both the platforms and ROPPA».

² Nadjirou SALL, Ousseini OUEDRAOGO, Mahamadou OUEDRAOGO, Loïc BARBEDETTE – «Orientation note for the implementation of the Cotonou roadmap» (February 2016, 40 pages). This note explains in 14 stages the process leading to the regional report starting from the contributions of each national platform; it basically contains the agenda and a small guide for the production of the contributions of national platforms.

- A wide choice was given to every platform to decide its own way of data collection based on its practices. Several created an Observatory committee of «family farmers» composed of representatives of FOs members. Some conducted land tenure investigations or organized focus groups with informants coming from FOs. Others used the available documentation, most organized «workshops» bringing together members of the platform to control the data and to clear some appreciations.
- Monitoring and extension support tours were conducted in every country by members of the regional core that established a permanent phone contact. These members organized in their countries with leaders of the platform or the OFF committee a workshop to validate their national contribution at the end of the month of June.
- The 13 platforms contributions were timely received by the Executive Secretariat within the established deadlines. They were subject, under the control of the regional core, of a summary that was translated into 3 languages and sent back to the 13 platforms for discussion and validation. This stage took place in September, and every platform was able to bring complementary information regarding the outcome of the farming season and the soldering. A first version of the regional report integrating these new contributions was written then in the setting of a writing workshop to which participated, besides the regional core, focal points from 5 platforms, some leaders, ROPPI members and four resource people (two interns from the farmer movement, two external). The farmer component thus dominated this editorial work.
- The following stage gathered the farmers responsible for making up the Executive Bureau of ROPPI and the technical team of the Executive Secretariat to reread the draft report collectively and to produce the findings of this report that were the fruit of a very animated collective work and a big wealth of experience. A new version of the report was put together, and presented to the Board of Directors of ROPPI that validated it in November 2016.

One sees on the one hand that the process of producing this report is stimulating and that the main source of its contents comes from the grassroots farmers world or from the reflection of farmer leaders, and on the other hand, that all along this process the contents of this report was under the control of the leaders national and regional farmers network.

Knowledge generated for farmers

Themes developed in this report were well thought out and defined since the Niamey convention, then at the Cotonou workshop, between farmer leaders according to the centers of interests of the farmers: the construction of the report was therefore guided by a perspective of use of its content by farmers' organizations to support farmers. The first beneficiaries of this report are the leaders and technicians of the platforms

and the regional network who, by jointly building it, have produced the knowledge that they have been able to mutualize throughout the various stages of the process. Due to their position within the farmer movement, they are able to use this knowledge in delivering their responsibilities and sharing it within their respective organizations. Besides, ROPPI will lean on the knowledge gathered in this report to value this «contagion effect» and supply its training activities of farmers' organization leaders, namely within the framework of its farmers' University. According to its design and as we can see, the Directory's revival process therefore gets into an overall strategy for the regional network capacity development.

The benefits from this report and those to come for the family farms will not be immediate, but they should be significant.

On the one hand, one can expect that the use of the generated data and the enrichment brought by the comparison of the various national experiences help to better target the services provided to the family size farms by farmers' organizations, public institutions and NGOs. In the spirit of ROPPI and the Cotonou workshop, the production of continuous knowledge on family farms initiated by this first report should make it possible to especially refine practices of local support and extension for family farms. That's the reason why one of the themes of this report deals with this type of service.

On the other hand, the meeting of the observation of the dynamic of family farms, the monitoring of the farming seasons and the monitoring of policies will help fuel farmer organizations' contribution to the political dialogue for a better definition and implementation of national and regional policies for the benefit of family farms.

Finally, ROPPI wants to lean on the farmer knowledge produced in this report and the next ones to develop a deeper cooperation with research so as to define themes and approaches that meet the expectations of family farms or anticipate on them.

Groupings by regional sub-units

Depending on the nature of the information provided by FOs and in order to show family farms' performance in the latest farming seasons, an empirical geographical grouping, subdivided into four sets of countries sharing certain natural or socio-political features, was used.

- Countries of the Sudano Sahelian belt (NIGER, BURKINA FASO, MALI)

These three countries have no coastal access. They have two or three large agro-ecological zones (Savannah, Sahel, Sahara - but Niger and Mali's inputs do not deal with the Saharan zones), and they are likely to be affected by the terrorist threat. These are cereal-based countries where pastoralism or agro-pastoralism is of a paramount importance, but are unequally informed in this report.

- Coastal countries of the West Atlantic coast (SENEGAL, GAMBIA, GUINEA BISSAU)

With a more or less marked savanna component, these three countries are at the edge or astride a forest area. The share of pulses (groundnuts for Senegal and Gambia) and arboriculture (fruit trees, cashew nuts, particularly in Guinea Bissau) is highly developed, with important pastoral activities and fishery resources. In these countries, there are significant differences between the coastal zone and the hinterland. They are also high-migration countries.

- **Forest-dominated coastal countries recently affected by Ebola fever (GUINEA, SIERRA LEONE, LIBERIA)**

This group is cyclical in relation to its reference to the epidemic of Ebola fever (MVE)³, but appears to be significant over the last two seasons (the disorganizing effects of the epidemic are still significant in 2016). These countries share favorable natural conditions (high potential). The proportion of tubers is important in their agricultural production. Except for Guinea, the breeding of large ruminants is very limited by climate constraints. The impacts of civil wars are still felt in Sierra Leone and Liberia. Land-related competition

with the FOs of industrial plantations and the firms' action are significant.

- **Coastal countries on the South Atlantic belt (CÔTE D'IVOIRE, GHANA, TOGO, BENIN)**

These countries are the umbilical cords of countries without coastal access. They have a strong natural potential that is conducive to diversification and are an attraction, which make them areas welcoming migrations and transhumance, thereby making them areas of land-related tension (land-related problems) and conflicts (farmers breeder). In these countries with a strong economic and trade activity, family farm is not politically supported. The issue of the «modernization» of agriculture and livestock farm is very sensitive, and the agribusiness model is little questioned.

Option to emphasize, in this first report, the aspects of family farm in relation to food sovereignty

It was not possible to include in this first report all the dimensions of the family farms' economy. We have therefore decided to focus on a perspective in relation to their contribution to our countries' food sovereignty, with particular emphasis on the monitoring food production from family



³ This epidemic also impacted agriculture and the food situation in Southern Senegal because the land borders of affected countries were closed, which particularly disturbed certain regional weekly markets in Southern Senegal, like Diaobé market.

farms and how farming seasons meet food needs. Two reasons can justify this option. On one hand, the observation of family farms strategies shows that their prime concern is to ensure their food security. On the other hand, the fight for food sovereignty is at the heart of ROPPI's political priorities. The new name given to the ECOWAP regional agricultural investment program for 2016/2025 shows that food security and nutrition are at the top of the agenda of regional priorities.

However, other aspects are already covered in this first report, and ROPPI aims to focus the spotlight of its Observatory from other perspectives in future years and reports (e.g. focus on commercial crops, funding family farms, technological innovations... the themes will be specified later)

In this report, the focus on food crops does not exclude taking into account the importance of cash crops.

Farmers' organizations that are ROPPI members do not ignore the importance of the inputs from family farms into the production of cash crops⁴. These crops play an important role in the West African economy, and they are generally well informed by competent services and institutions. Cash crops are the driving sector of the economy for most West African countries because they importantly contribute to the GDP and represent the first sector that generates income for the population and the State: in Mali, 45% of the GDP and 75% to export revenues, in Benin, 36% of the GDP's structure. A few examples can support this importance:

- The world cocoa production is topped by Côte d'Ivoire (1.75 million tons for the 2014/2015 season) followed by Ghana (5th largest cocoa producing country in the world with a 696,000 tons produced).
- Burkina Faso, a leading African country for cotton production and the 9th in the world, produced 272,000 tons for the 2015/2016 season. The 2015/2016 season production statistics rank Côte d'Ivoire 2nd (with 134,000 tons), Mali 3rd (with 127,000 tons) followed by Benin (107,000 tons).
- For the 2015/2016 season, West Africa came first among cashew nuts producing zones in the world with a production exceeding 1,350,000 tons of raw cashew nuts, before Asia (India, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia). From early 2000, the sub region has been experiencing a strong growth of its production (nearly 10% per year on average). This growth is driven by a stronger interest from producers for export-oriented arboricultural crops that require little work, and that comes in addition to other yearly crops (cereal, groundnuts, cotton, etc.) and that sell easily. Cashew nut has become West Africa's second agricultural export resource since 2012.

For these three crops, the results are mostly from family farms and ROPPI's next reports will take care of these aspects relating to cash crops that represent major inputs for FOs themselves and for countries' economy. However, cash crops will be indirectly discussed in platforms contributions in three ways: through the orientation of family strategies toward cash crops, through the subsidies by public policies, and through land-related competition between food crops and cash crops.

It is clear that ROPPI's ambition is not a small one. To fully realize it, the outstanding effort, that the President emphasized in his foreword that made it possible to « jointly build » this added value, must be sustained. The latter goes down as a milestone of ROPPI's desire to rekindle its directory and the breakthroughs it creates, but ROPPI is also fully aware of the weaknesses of this first step.

Scope and weaknesses of this first report

- From ROPPI's point of view, the value added by this first report of OFF about the production of knowledge on family farms consists in three main features on which attention is needed.
- The information and knowledge that it brings together reflect a lived experience, farmers and their representatives' perceptions. If some data collected are unprecedented, particularly those stemming from farmers' monitoring systems and direct surveys conducted by FO, and those relating to follow up practices, most of them are already known (FO sometimes learnt on the source that they usually consult or that they discovered on this occasion). But the richness of his report (including in some indicative shortcomings that show what the FOs are currently less sensitive to or the current weakness of their information) is that the use of the data conveys a farmer point of view and helps the other stakeholders to know it and take it into consideration. Therefore, it can enrich dialogue with farmers.
- The collective reading in the platforms and at the regional level of this report's first data led national and regional ROPPI leaders to further critical issues on the model of family agriculture, its viability, family farms environment, the scope and weaknesses of FOs' actions toward these farms. ROPPI has decided to include this reflection in the report so as to be able to share it, which is an original option and it accepts the risk for the sake of openness and invitation to deepen the debate on the family farm and the future of the rural world. The conclusions reached by these internal reflections are detailed in the final chapters of each of the booklets that complement this synthesis.
- This report, supported by inputs from 13 countries, is not an additional report neither a compilation of

⁴ In the strategies of family farms and depending on market opportunities, some food crops got a dual nature of food crops and cash crops. For example maize, groundnuts and onion.

national reports or sector-based reports, but a regional report that allows for regional comparisons. In the various booklets that complement this synthesis, we can find comparative tables based on wide zones that provide new summary images and provide interesting insights.

ROPPIA's decision to publish this first report without waiting for all the conditions to be satisfactory helped to prevent a pitfall: delaying once again the production of results. However, it results in a number of imperfections, particularly how to inform family farms, which is still too general. What are missing in particular are:

- a distinction of the analysis depending on the categories of family farms and agro-ecological zones (this was only possible for Senegal, that defined its own typology)
- a quantification of family farms, which would have made it possible to provide information on the importance and weight of family farm and its contributions to the national economies
- taking into account all the activities of family farms (including cash crops, non-agricultural activities and inputs, family consumption, farm management of natural resources)
- an in-depth look at the investments made by FOs and the debt helping to determine who is investing and on what? Who gets into debt and why?
- better understanding of family farms of pastoralists and fishermen.
- accuracy on the references of the external documents used by the platforms, unequally informed in the contributions.

Some elements of macro-economic analysis are missing to provide an explanation for the dynamics of family farms in some zones permitting to take in account the effects for family farms of transborder exchanges (for example the importance of import/export flows of crop products), or to appreciate the policies; a larger analysis of public measures of support to family farms is missing (customs tariffs, support to credit etc.). To account for the dynamic of family farms in some areas, there is no macroeconomic analysis elements that allow to take into account the impacts of cross border trade on agriculture (for instance the volume of the import/export of food products; to assess the policies there is no wider analysis of public supports for family farms (customs duties, credit support, etc.) It is only as things move on that these shortcomings are noticed and people learn from experience. This is to confirm ROPPIA's decision to build its Observatory in a progressive way. This also leads the orga-

nization to clearly identify the first area in which it will have to invest so that to consolidate the Observatory: improving the monitoring systems of family farms by FOs, which will help improve their capacity to inform the Observatory on the dynamics of FOs.

However, the ability of the Observatory to process data from the field also depends on the improvement of national statistical systems (namely agricultural censuses) which currently do not provide an appropriate basis to apprehend family farms and to sample farmer surveys. ROPPIA also expects from the readers and users of this first report suggestions and inputs that will enable it to improve the performance of its observation systems.

Presentation of the report's structure

The final report of the OFF, validated by ROPPIA organs, was in the form of a very rich document of more than 150 pages, but difficult to handle. It was therefore decided, when time came to publish it, to split it up to facilitate its use without losing anything of this richness.

- This summary allows to understand in a smaller format all the dimensions contained in the final report and its appendixes (agricultural campaign, dynamics of family farms, peasant practices to support family farms, policy monitoring, political action by FOs, FOs monitoring practices) and to present the conclusions drawn by ROPPIA on the further consolidation of its Observatory. It is meant for wide dissemination and does not go into the details of the observations. The latter are reproduced in 4 booklets which launch a collection that the Observatory proposes to complete annually through new publications.
- This summary is completed by 4 booklets (Booklet 1: OBSERVATION OF THE DYNAMICS OF FAMILY FARMS, Booklet 2: OBSERVATION OF FARM SUPPORT-COUNSELLING FOR FAMILY FARMS, Booklet 3: MONITORING OF PUBLIC POLICIES ON FAMILY FARMS AND EFFECTIVENESS OF FARM ACTION; Booklet 4: FOLLOW-UP AND MONITORING PRACTICES FOR ROPPIA MEMBERS). Their content is quickly described in the summary of the report at the beginning of this synthesis. These booklets are where the comparative tables between the 13 countries are found.

These booklets can be read and used separately and ROPPIA will communicate it to readers of the synthesis on request.

TABLES OF THE OBSERVATORY'S FIRST REPORT	
BOOKLET 1: OBSERVATION OF THE DYNAMICS OF FAMILY FARMS	BOOKLET 2: OBSERVATION OF PEASANT SUPPORT-COUNSELING
<p>COMPARATIVE TABLE A: THE 2015/2016 SEASON (indicative data according to the analysis of the platforms)</p> <p>COMPARATIVE TABLE B : TRENDS IN THE PROGRESS OF THE RESULTS OF FAMILY FARMS (2015/2016)</p>	<p>COMPARATIVE TABLE A: FARMERS' PRACTICES OF LOCAL SUPPORT-COUNSELLING</p> <p>TABLE B : MAIN NATIONAL POLICIES (according to the platforms inputs)</p>
BOOKLET 3: MONITORING OF PUBLIC POLICIES IN RELATION TO FAMILY FARMS AND EFFECTIVENESS OF FARMER-BASED ACTION	BOOKLET 4: MONITORING PRACTICES OF ROPPA'S FO MEMBERS
<p>TABLE A: MAIN NATIONAL POLICIES WHICH NATIONAL PLATFORMS ARE INVOLVED IN (based on inputs from platforms)</p> <p>TABLE B : MAIN NATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN RURAL AREA</p> <p>COMPARATIVE TABLE C: RECENT POLICY POSITIONS OF ROPPA PLATFORMS</p> <p>COMPARATIVE TABLE D: MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED THROUGH THE POLITICAL ACTION BY ROPPA PLATFORMS</p> <p>TABLE E: VARIOUS PROGRAMS, INSTRUMENTS, PRIA 1 MEASURES WHICH ROPPA IS INVOLVED IN</p> <p>TABLE F: ROPPA'S POLICY ACTION AT REGIONAL LEVEL AND ITS KEY RESULTS FOR FAMILIY FARMS</p>	<p>TABLE A: SEASON MONITORING PRACTICES OF ROPPA's FO MEMBERS</p> <p>COMPARATIVE TABLE B: CURRENT FAMILY FARMS MONITORING PRACTICES BY ROPPA's FO MEMBERS</p> <p>COMPARATIVE TABLE C: FARMER PROXIMITY SUPPORT AND ADVICE PRACTICES</p> <p>COMPARATIVE TABLE D: NATIONAL WATCH POLICY SYSTEMES AND PRACTICES</p> <p>TABLE E: SUMMARY OF MONITORING PRACTICES OF ROPPA's FO MEMBERS</p>

In the summary as in the booklets, the content of the observations is generally presented at three levels: the data of the report are regrouped by regional subsets, in every subset they are summarized by themes, and it is at the level of the themes that they are possibly detailed by country. This presentation was chosen rather than a country analysis to value the regional dimension of the report.

The reflections and findings of FOs are presented at the end of chapters 1 to 3 and in chapter 4 of the present summary. They are the subject of the last chapter of every booklet.

The contributions of the platforms and the deliberations of a workshop by the Bureau and the Executive Secretariat of ROPPA held in Tenkodogo (Burkina) in November 2016 constitute the main source of the contents of this report (the names of countries quoted in notes or between parenthesis signal the contribution of the country platform). They are based on the follow-up and monitoring practices of FOs presented in booklet 4 of the general report («THE FOLLOW-UP AND MONITORING PRACTICES OF FOs MEMBERS OF ROPPA»). .

THE FOLLOW-UP AND MONITORING PRACTICES OF FOS MEMBERS OF ROPPA													
FOLLOW -UP PRACTICES OF FOs MEMBERS OF ROPPA	COUNTRIES OF THE SUDANO SAHELIAN BELT			WESTERN ATLANTIC COASTAL COUNTRIES			PREDOMINANTLY FOREST COUNTRIES (struck by Ebola fever)			SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COASTAL COUNTRIES			
	Niger	Burkina	Mali	Senegal	Gambia	Guinea Bissau	Guinea	Sierra Leone	Liberia	Côte d'Ivoire	Ghana	Togo	Benin
<i>Follow-up and monitoring of agricultural campaign</i>													
Use of national statistics only													
Some FO members generate data													
PFN follows directly the campaign in person (tours)													
<i>Follow-up and monitoring of family farms</i>													
No follow-up and monitoring													
Segmented and sector follow-up and monitoring													
Multidimensional follow-up and monitoring													
Follow-up and monitoring by agro-ecological zone (ZAE)													
In some ZAE													
<i>Follow-up and monitoring through support and advisory devices to family farms</i>													
No peasant CFO													
Existing peasant CFO devices													
<i>Watch on policies</i>													
Strong policy Watch													
Partial policy Watch													
Watch not developed													
Absence of Watch													







CHAPTER 1 : OBSERVATIONS ON FAMILY FARMS

CHAPTER 1 : OBSERVATIONS ON FAMILY FARMS



These observations are detailed in Booklet 1 of the 2016 report («OBSERVATION OF DYNAMICS OF FAMILY FARMS»); the observation systems are described in Booklet 4 («MONITORING PRACTICES OF FOs MEMBERS OF ROPPA»)

1

THE 2015/2016 AGRICULTURAL CAMPAIGN

Farming seasons provide a backdrop against which the behavior of family farms can be observed in relation to climatic conditions and the state of natural resources, changes in markets and the implementation of public policies.

The monitoring of the seasons by FOs enables them both to adjust their support to family farms, to supplement the data provided by the national season monitoring systems in which they participate in most countries, and to appeal to the public authorities.

Their practices in this area are unevenly advanced in different countries, and by inviting its various national platforms to gather information on the 2015/2016 season, the revival of ROPPA Observatory was stimulating and encouraging

(1) General trend observed

The trend appears to be generally better than the average of the last five campaigns for cereal production (confirmation of the RPCA data).

Better results in most countries: From a farmer's point of view, the 2014/15 season has been bad in 7 countries⁵ due to poor rainfall or the impact of the Ebola epidemic. For the 2015/16 season, 8 countries⁶ had season which was better than the previous year. In some countries⁷ (Togo and Be-

nin), there was a slight decrease in production compared to the previous season, but this did not affect food security.

A relatively well supported hunger gap: For the 8 countries⁷ which provided information, the hunger gap of 2016 had a similar duration in the Sahel countries as in the previous year (3 to 4 months depending on the agro-ecological zones). Most families were able to prepare two meals a day. Some events, however, have worsened the difficulties of the lean period. Floods could be noted in some countries⁸, population movements linked to political unrest⁹ and severe malnutrition in areas of armed conflict in Mali and Niger.

(2) Comments on the results of the agricultural season

Four key factors explain the good results of the last campaign. (i) The overall rainfall in all countries except Ghana and Benin where rainfall deficits have been reported and some pockets of drought in other countries, (ii) the measures taken by the Member States translated by measures of support to production means of family farms (iii) the strong responsiveness of the FFs, which is illustrated by the significant progress that the FFs have made between two farming seasons and (iv) the action of the FOs through the provision of services that have facilitated access to public support for FFs.

⁵ Niger, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia

⁶ Niger, Mali, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia

⁷ Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Côte D'ivoire, Togo

⁸ Reported in Burkina Faso, Mali and Guinea Bissau

⁹ Burkina Faso: 29.000 Malian refugees in the provinces of Soum and Seno.



Different countries have limited the trend towards improved outcomes. Among these factors are the natural disasters linked to the persistence of the consequences of the Ebola epidemic¹⁰, floods and poor rainfall distribution¹¹, to the lack of rainfall¹² and attacks by localized and less important crop pests on the whole, and social calamities, in particular terrorism-related insecurity, population movements in the Sahel-Sudan belt and the distant aftermath of the war in certain countries¹³. In addition, there are weaknesses in the implementation of policies restricting access by FOs to support for inputs and equipment¹⁴.

Yet generally speaking we observe:

- crop pest attacks and pest risks were well under control overall compared to the 2014/2015 farming season;
- the negative effects of rainfall variations were overcome with appropriate government support resulting in the appropriate response of family farms;
- the lack of significant consequences for farmers in price fluctuations of agricultural products on the international market like in 2008;

- The food situation remains precarious in some countries (Niger) due to the inaccessibility of the deficit areas, but without a major food crisis. Deficits have often been offset by imports and food aid.
- In the majority of countries, the action of the State and of the development agencies allowed to amplify the favourable trends and to mitigate the effects of the unfavourable factors, which caused the results of this season.

(3) Conclusions

- The first lesson ROPPI learned from this season is that the positive effects of natural factors can be valued or their negative effects mitigated by the action of producers and the public authorities and that the Observatory should give itself the means to follow this action.
- The second lesson learned by ROPPI from this first regional exercise of analysis of a season is the interest of developing this function of monitoring the agricultural campaigns in the various countries for the patterns of the campaign shed gives more light on both the performances of family farms and the impact of policies.

¹⁰ Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia

¹¹ Burkina Faso, Gambia, Guinea Bissau

¹² Ghana, Benin

¹³ Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire.

¹⁴ Guinea, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Benin



2

ORIENTATIONS AND RESULTS OF FAMILY FARMS DURING THE LAST AGRICULTURAL CAMPAIGN

In all countries, family farms provide the bulk of agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries production. Their results are both determined by the conditions under which the season is conducted, and determine the results of the season. The observation of family farms which is the main purpose of the OFF therefore makes it possible to refine and supplement that of the seasons. For each of the groups of countries included in this report, the main results produced by family farms will be presented from the point of view of food security (food production and animal production) and marketing¹⁵. Then, the synthesis of the information provided by the platforms on the factors explains these results (favorable, unfavorable, and ambivalent).

(4) The orientations and results of family farms in the Sudano-Sahelian belt (NIGER, BURKINA FASO, MALI)

Results generally positive at the level of FFs.

General tendency towards self-sufficiency, and often surplus food production highlighted by the platforms of the three countries compared to the previous season. This is particularly true for cereal production, which has been generally good. Schematically, the FFs of the Sahel zones improved their results compared to the previous season and released surpluses. On the other hand, the FFs of the Sudanian zones have recorded poor results and are often in deficit. FFs recorded crop losses due to rainfall irregularities in the South Sahel and South Sudanian zones.

Increase in livestock production in FFs reported in all three countries. In Niger, national statistics indicate that cattle, sheep and goat production have been particularly important and increasing (particularly for sheep). In Burkina Faso, livestock farmers benefited from favorable livestock / cereal exchange terms. The same is true in Mali where the increase in livestock production is observed at the level of FFs and is reflected in big ruminants in particular by an increase in milk production and in animal sales.

Good introduction in the market and revenue growth in the area of marketing. Surplus production in all three countries stimulated the marketing of food crops (including cereals) and the livestock of family farms contributed to increase the family's cash income. However, access to different markets remains difficult for producers under the current conditions (strong influence and / or competition of traders, collectors and resellers, low negotiating capacity of producers and their organizations, lack of information on markets, etc.

External factors that have contributed to these good results in Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali

External factors that have been successful have included natural factors (including good rainfall throughout the season), the role of State incentives through policies of subsidy for agricultural inputs (fertilizers and seeds) and their supply, the effectiveness of preventing crop attacks despite some minor localized attacks of grain-eating birds, locusts and crop diseases in some countries. In addition, there was progress made in the organization of the markets, which allowed the marketing of productions of FFs through three

¹⁵ These results are detailed by country in Booklet 1 (OBSERVATION OF DYNAMICS OF FAMILY FARMS)

types of markets (local, institutional, cross-border and sub-regional) and improvement of actions in support to FFs (Extension, training, advice to the family farms) provided by FOs, the State, NGOs or international aid projects ...

Factors that limited the achievement of good results in these three countries

Besides the general problem of scarcity of agricultural labor, other factors limiting good production are often localized and have not affected all family farms. National platforms pointed the problem of insecurity which is gaining ground with the rise of terrorism, the combined effects of fertility problems and the pressure on space usable by some FFs, inadequacies in the delivery of services to FFs by the State and localized natural hazards (related to rainfall and minor attacks of locusts or grain-eating birds on crops).

(5) The orientations and results of family farms in the coastal countries of the West Atlantic coast (SENEGAL, GAMBIA, GUINEA BISSAU)

Results of FFs better than those of last agricultural campaign.

The upward trend in food production is observed in the three countries where FF results are expected to be higher than in the 2014/15 season. For the 2015/2016 season in Senegal, the exploitation of the results of the 2300 FFs followed (of which 600 in the groundnut basin) which is still partial, reveals an upward trend in FF production for rice, groundnuts and cereals, but a drop for industrial tomatoes. These results are confirmed by official statistics. In the Gambia, family farms increased their agricultural production by 10%. In Guinea

Bissau, where rain fed agriculture is practiced with only one annual crop cycle, FFs have also significantly increased their production compared to the previous season for most crops, including rice and dry grains.

Increase in animal production of FFs. In Senegal, the 2015/2016 campaign is marked by growth in the livestock sub-sector. Difficulties in supplying fish during the 2016 harvest indicate that there has been no recovery in artisanal fisheries, which is suffering from competition from industrial fisheries (which is increasing). Predominantly bovine and sheep farm has been increasing in Guinea-Bissau since 1970 in the Eastern and Northern zones (95% of the ruminant population). Very few FFs live on artisanal fisheries (3,500 artisanal fishermen in the North and South areas). The country's important marine fishery resources are mainly exploited by nationals of neighboring countries or industrial fishing units.

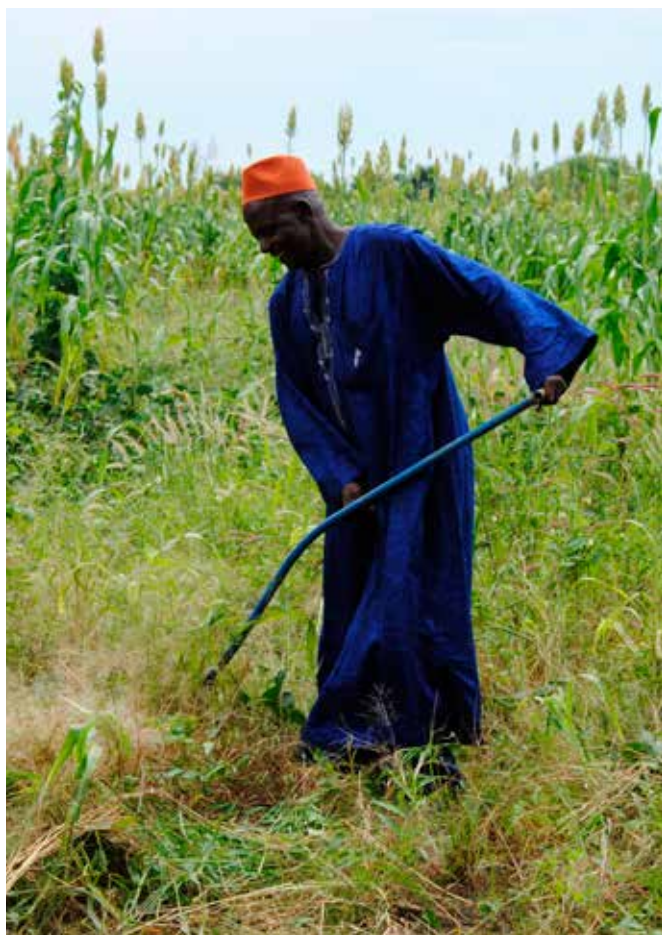
Improved marketing conditions in 2 out of 3 countries: In Senegal, the ensuing market introduction rate in the FFs was higher for the 2015/2016 season, which resulted in surpluses, in contrast to the previous season which was difficult. In contrast of onion producers who have benefited from the national market protection policy; Fruit and vegetable producers were able to sufficiently supply the markets; the supply of meat was simply insufficient at the time of the holidays. Only the groundnut market has experienced difficulties, except for FFs which have seized the opportunity of Asian markets to sell above the official price. This good marketing rate is stimulated by the national policy favoring the multiplication of the weekly markets (loumas), the institutional markets that favored the marketing of rice and the practice of contract markets (tomatoes, cotton, rice, maize, peanuts, seeds, milk). In the Gambia, groundnut was properly marketed and paid cash at a satisfactory price (equivalent to 150F / kg). Improved marketing practices are part of the national policy outlook («Vision 2020»), and the future priorities of the Gambian FOs. On the other hand, in Guinea Bissau, it is the intermediaries who imposed their rules to the FFs through the imposition of their prices and do not ensure the regular marketing of the production.

Factors that have contributed to good results in family farms in Senegal, the Gambia and Guinea Bissau:

The good rainfall in Senegal and the Gambia, and soil fertility in Guinea Bissau, have played a positive role overall, but in a differentiated way according to the area. Facilitation by States of access to inputs (seeds, fertilizers), effects of infrastructures made and support to FF equipment, intensification of support and support provided by FOs, the State and certain NGOs to the FFs have strengthened the achievement of good results.

Factors that limited the capacity of progression of FFs in these three countries:

Among factors limiting the ability of FFs to progress, FOs report: (i) the widespread fertility degradation in various forms in all three countries, (ii) low level of equipment of FFs, (iii) The trend towards space saturation accentuated by land grabbing affecting usable areas and causing tensions on land, (iv) insufficient support of input subsidy policies and deficiencies in the delivery of services to FFs, (v) exposure of FFs to natural hazards even during successful seasons.



Ambivalent factors:

At least two factors contribute to improving the financial performance of FFs, but have perverse effects. Firstly, it is the low cost of the workforce on which the Gambian platform draws particular attention. It makes it possible to limit production costs but poses a clear problem of social equity and contributes to demotivating youth towards the professions of agriculture.

The second issue is the development of the farming of the cashew tree in Guinea Bissau where the extension of these plantations happens on areas formerly occupied by food crops and to their detriment with negative effects on fertility. This ambivalence of export crops is found elsewhere, particularly in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire, with other speculations (Para rubber trees, palm oil trees, etc.)

(6) The orientations and results of family farms in predominantly forest countries recently affected by Ebola fever (GUINEA, SIERRA LEONE, LIBERIA)

A resumption of the contribution of FFs after the epidemic shock

A net increase in food production. In Guinea, we noticed a resumption of agricultural production. During the 2014/2015 season in the 2 regions affected by the EV epidemic (Maritime Guinea and Guinea forest region), FFs contributed half of the national rice production and accounted for 37% of the national maize production with yields of 1.15 T / ha. In the two regions not affected by EV (Middle Guinea and Upper Guinea), FFs contributed 63% of national maize production and accounted for the other half of domestic rice production.

Despite the unavailability of data on the results of the FFs during the 2015/16 season, when the FFs benefited from measures to revive crop production, the Guinea platform experienced the revival of agricultural production, notably rice, maize and vegetable crops that have enabled FFs to make reserves and increase their incomes. In Sierra Leone, the results of the 2015/16 season carried out by the platform

on three sites are increasing in terms of quantity and quality (judged to be above average), but yields have remained average, and the losses were high. Food production does not cover domestic needs (large imports, including rice). In Liberia, the field survey carried out by FOs with farmers who had been supported (leading farmers) in the 2015/16 season showed that in three agro-ecological zones the supported FFs had surpluses, but the FFs remained in deficit with poor results for rice and cereals in the Coastal Plains area.

A slower rise in animal and fishery production. According to information from farmer sources in Guinea, livestock husbandry still allowed in 2014/15 to provide 10-month coverage to agro-pastoral FFs. However, there were significant losses during this season, particularly for poultry farm. Due to the preventive measures taken to contain the epidemic, livestock farm has been slowed down throughout the country. At the fishery level, the 2014/2015 farming season and the other sectors were also affected mainly at the landing stages on the coastline leading to the desertion of the fishing villages. In Sierra Leone, livestock production is relatively marginal and is not sufficient to meet national needs. At the national level, poultry represents the largest share of livestock production. According to the platform, the contributions of fishery products constitute an important contribution to the national economy. It is also an important source of employment and income for rural FFs. The maritime artisanal fishery by the fishermen's FFs is competing with capital-intensive and foreign-dominated industrial fisheries. In Liberia livestock inputs are marginal, and less than those of hunting. There is very little cattle breeding. The breeding of small ruminants before the EV epidemic comes after that of pigs and poultry. Livestock is mostly developed in the Lower Tropical Forest area.

Fisheries contribute significantly to food and national GDP. For the 4 counties studied, the results of the inland fishery (often practiced by women) are lower compared to previous surveys. Artisanal sea fishing practiced mainly in 3 counties generates direct or derived jobs with fish processing. It is subject to competition from artisanal fishermen from neighboring countries and industrial fishing.

In some cases, supply tends to keep up with the demand at the level of the marketing of the production. This is the observed consequence of the delay effects of the EV epidemic. **External factors that favored revival in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia.**

In all three countries, natural conditions have generally been favorable to the revival of production (abundance of water, good fertility, important deposits of fishery resources). In addition to these natural conditions, we can emphasize the return of security, post-Ebola structural rehabilitation measures and access to land in Guinea and in the areas of Northern Savannah and Upper Highland Tropical Forest in Liberia.

Factors that limited the scope of the revival in these three countries:

Factors limiting the scope of the resumption of production for the benefit of FFs include the «delay effects» of the Ebola epidemic, which deprives some FFs of the agricultural workforce, the disorganization of the rural world, deficiencies in the application of revival measures and services provided to FFs, under-equipment of FFs which remains a hindrance to the improvements in cropping practices, tensions in space and land conflicts, and some unimportant natural hazards (Extreme heat surges and floods in Sierra Leone and landslides in Lower Guinea).

(7) The orientations and results of family farms in the coastal countries of the South Atlantic seaboard (CÔTE D'IVOIRE, GHANA, TOGO, BENIN)

Relatively stable results, but some downward trends.

Declines in food production despite stable food security in all three countries. On the basis of the analysis of the weekly results in Côte d'Ivoire, farmers are seeing the decline in their food production (in particular for cassava and plantain), contrary to the forecast of an overall 9% increase in agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries announced by the State services. In Ghana, there is stability in the quantity and quality of production; The FFs debt was low. Food production in Togo has generally been in surplus but productivity has remained low. Except for legumes, it is slightly lower than in the 2014/2015

season, and sorghum and millet recorded sharp counter-performances (a decline of more than two-thirds of production). In Benin, delays in rainfall and low coverage of fertilizer requirements have led to an overall decline in food production.

Good results for livestock but lower catches for fishing. In Togo, where 90% of FFs farm in combination with agriculture and satisfy 2/3 of national requirements, the number of ruminant head counts is increasing. It is the same in Benin, but it stagnates in Côte d'Ivoire. Poultry farm is growing in Togo and slightly increasing in Côte d'Ivoire, where it is not able to meet demand. The decline in artisanal fisheries catches is reported in Côte d'Ivoire, Togo and Benin. As in the other coastal countries of West Africa, artisanal marine fisheries suffer from increasing competition from industrial fishing. The crisis in artisanal fisheries has had an impact on fish processing, mainly by women (reported in Ghana). The decline in inland fisheries and fish production is mentioned in Benin.

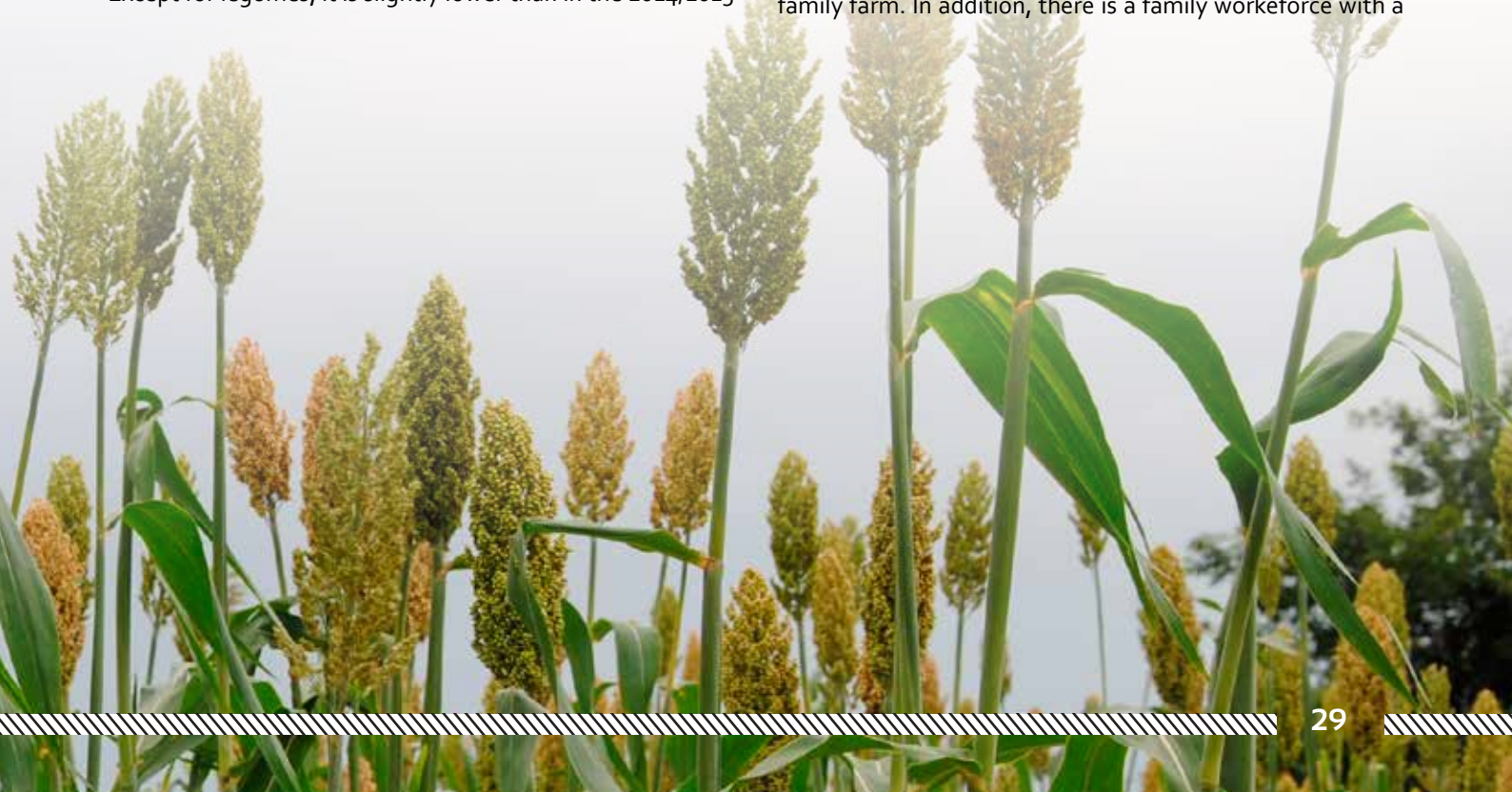
Varying market introduction according countries, in the context of increasing integration of FFs into the market.

The marketing of products in Côte d'Ivoire is one of the farmers' concerns because of the lack of market organization, which benefits intermediaries. The FFs therefore recorded significant losses in revenue, thus affecting the profitability of farms. In Ghana, marketing was good in coastal and transitional areas due to market opportunities in the Accra market and major cross-border markets. In Togo, FFs have been able to supply rural markets with adequate and high-quality food at generally satisfactory prices for producers and consumers.

Based on a good network of local and cross-border food markets, and the multiplication of livestock markets, marketing has been satisfactory in Benin. It benefits in particular from the opportunities offered by the large urban centers and Nigeria.

Many factors a priori favorable to family farm in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and Benin...

In these countries, the existence of quality spaces, and a priori accessible to family farms, is a factor favorable to family farm. In addition, there is a family workforce with a



strong female component, with an increasingly high level of qualification, an economic dynamism and a relative security which should be conducive to family farm.

... But in these countries, these positive factors are thwarted.

Among the main thwarting factors is the difficulty of the FFs to take advantage of the natural assets, resulting in low productivity. These include the accentuation of climatic variations affecting rainfall, the deterioration of natural production capital, the shortcomings of the family labor

force, the inadequacy of agricultural equipment and the lack of adaptation of credit which limits investment capacity. In addition, there are difficulties for FFs to take advantage of usable space and the risks of social tension linked to poor land management and land conflicts, the feeling of exclusion of farmers from economic prosperity due the lack of appropriate support from the State. The farmer know-how and the support of farmers' organizations remain the primary means used by the FFs to develop their strategies and develop the initiatives that enable them to live.





3 STRATEGIES OF FAMILY FARMS

The term «family farm strategies» refers to the types of orientations and avenues they choose to achieve the objectives they pursue given the opportunities and constraints facing them. Knowledge of these strategies, to which a farmer Observatory is particularly in good position to contribute, is essential to build appropriate support and extension approaches. Each national platform of the ROPPA organized analytical workshops in June 2016, which provided information on (i) the drives of the family strategies, (ii) their orientations and (iii) Implementation procedures.

(8) The drives of the strategies of family farms

Three main drives have been identified by the platforms:

The first drive is the main motivation of the family. The primary motivation for family farm is to sustainably cover its food and health needs from its agro-forestry and pastoral incomes. Once this security requirement has been satisfied, the family seeks to improve its income and has a concern to transmit its heritage. These motivations can undergo evolutions and / or be combined.

The second drive is to adapt to the opportunities or constraints that lead FFs to define their choices according to fluctuations in climate and rainfall, changes in the market and opportunities of access to support.

The third drive is based on the mechanisms of solidarity which are manifested through mutual assistance in the work or contributions of migrant workers and migrants. Some platforms observe a trend towards the degradation of this solidarity.

(9) Orientations of family strategies.

Securing the family farm and increasing the incomes of the FF constitute the two main orientations of family strategies. Securing FF is the basic orientation, insofar as it is this that first encourages FFs to seek to increase their production. Then, a whole series of sub-strategies can be implemented, most of which are based on a form of diversification and can be added according to different dosages depending on constraints and opportunities. The objective of increasing the incomes of the FF will be sought after by the FFs once security is assured, or according to the opportunities.

(10) Procedures of implementation of family strategies.

Decision-making within the family and the support of FOs are the two main implementing strategy procedures of the FFs identified by the platforms. Traditionally, the head of the family makes the main decisions and ensures the supply, follow-up and monitoring of the activities, but there is a shift towards collective decision-making modes involving all members of the FF. As far as FOs are concerned, FFs make use of the proximity services of FOs of which they are members, participate in farmers' consultations and benefit from the benefits of the advocacy actions they have helped to develop.

4

ROPPA'S CONCLUSIONS ON THE OBSERVATION OF THE BEHAVIOUR OF FAMILY FARMS DURING THE 2014-2015 AND 2015-2016 AGRICULTURAL CAMPAIGNS: HOW TO STRENGTHEN THE SUSTAINABILITY OF FAMILY FARMS?

Each commission in charge of the OFF in each national platform reviewed the data collected on the behavior of family farms to validate them and draw conclusions at ROPPA's request on the issues of the viability of FFs as well as their attractiveness. During a retreat organized in Burkina Faso in November 2016, the Executive Bureau and the Executive Secretariat of ROPPA reviewed these reports of the platforms in order to draw conclusions at the regional level that deal with 4 levels: 1) the multifunctional dimension of the FFs as a basis for their viability, 2) the perception by the national platforms of the viability of the FFs and the conditions that determine it, 3) the analysis of the attractiveness of FFs for the States, women and youth in rural areas, 4) the constraints to be lifted in order to make FFs more attractive to youth and women and to improve their sustainability.

(11) The multifunctional dimension of FFs constitutes the basis for their viability and resilience.

Observations show that family farms do not only have production functions, but a set of interrelated functions that contribute to their resilience and sustainability. The works of the farmers highlight 5 main functions:

- *Agro-pastoral and fisheries production*, which according to the agro-ecological zones and the categories of farms contribute in different proportions to the food security of families and to the formation of their incomes.
- *Satisfaction of food needs and consumption* and the family: the meal remains the first level of socialization of the family, and the allocation of incomes of the family farm between the various expenditure items has a direct impact on the economic balance of the family farm and the distribution of its effects on youth and women in particular.
- Perceived as an important element of family strategies, the increasingly frequent contribution of *non-*

agricultural activities or the contributions of *exodus and migration* is in some cases superior to that of production in the management of the needs of the family. It is mainly provided by women and youth and can help to avoid debt, and in some cases to invest.

- *The management of natural resources* at the farm level guarantees the renewal of its agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries production bases. The trend towards diversification of plant and animal production and their association enhances biodiversity.
- *The transmission and preservation of cultural knowledge and values* contribute to the reproduction of the family farm. They influence the decisions and behaviours of different members of the family.

(12) Perception of the viability of family farms by ROPPA member platforms: a conditioned viability.

According to the assessment of the 13 national farmer platforms that are members of ROPPA, family farms can be viable, but this viability is conditional. In the four groups of countries, the platforms identify the same five types of factors that promote or limit performance, but they differ from different areas. These are natural factors (agro-ecological conditions, climatic hazards, or calamities accentuated by climate change), economic factors (access to markets, methods of financing and access to credit, or access to economic infrastructures), technical factors (level of equipment and access to technical and technological innovations), political factors (public and commercial policy orientations and quality of their implementation, some platforms also focus on civil security), And the dynamism and strategies of the families, which are reflected in the initiatives and options that FFs can take on their own scale on production practices, management and exploitation of production factors and family human resources, or by consumer choices.



In particular, the platforms believe that the sustainability of FFs depends on their attractiveness to youth and women on the one hand, and on the interest of the States on the other hand

(13) In order to improve the viability of FFs in a sustainable way, they must be made more attractive to youth and women

If the youth do not find their interest in the family farm, they will not take over farm when their parents are no able to take care of it. This is a matter of concern for the future of these farms. Women who contribute to the economy of family farm are essential and can be discouraged by the difficulties they have in gaining access to land, and when they access it (female head of household), there is the issue of its security.

The conditions for the FF to retain youth and women: In order for the FFs to keep youth and women, the platforms highlight several conditions. These include the access of youth and women to family patrimony (access to land, flocks, canoes), the possibility of obtaining a satisfactory monetary income through access to remunerative markets, the existence of appropriate technical and financial support, access to quality training, recognition and valorization of the farmer's status and improvement of the living environment. Besides the control of external factors that determine the viability of FFs, platforms and ROPPI stress on family strategies, particularly the governance of FFs which, when poorly combined with other factors, may be a barrier to the attractiveness of FFs for youth and women.

Developing sub-sectors can meet the aspirations of youth and women in rural areas: These are the sub-sectors of the dry season market gardening, enabling diversification / increase of incomes and improvement of food, poultry farm

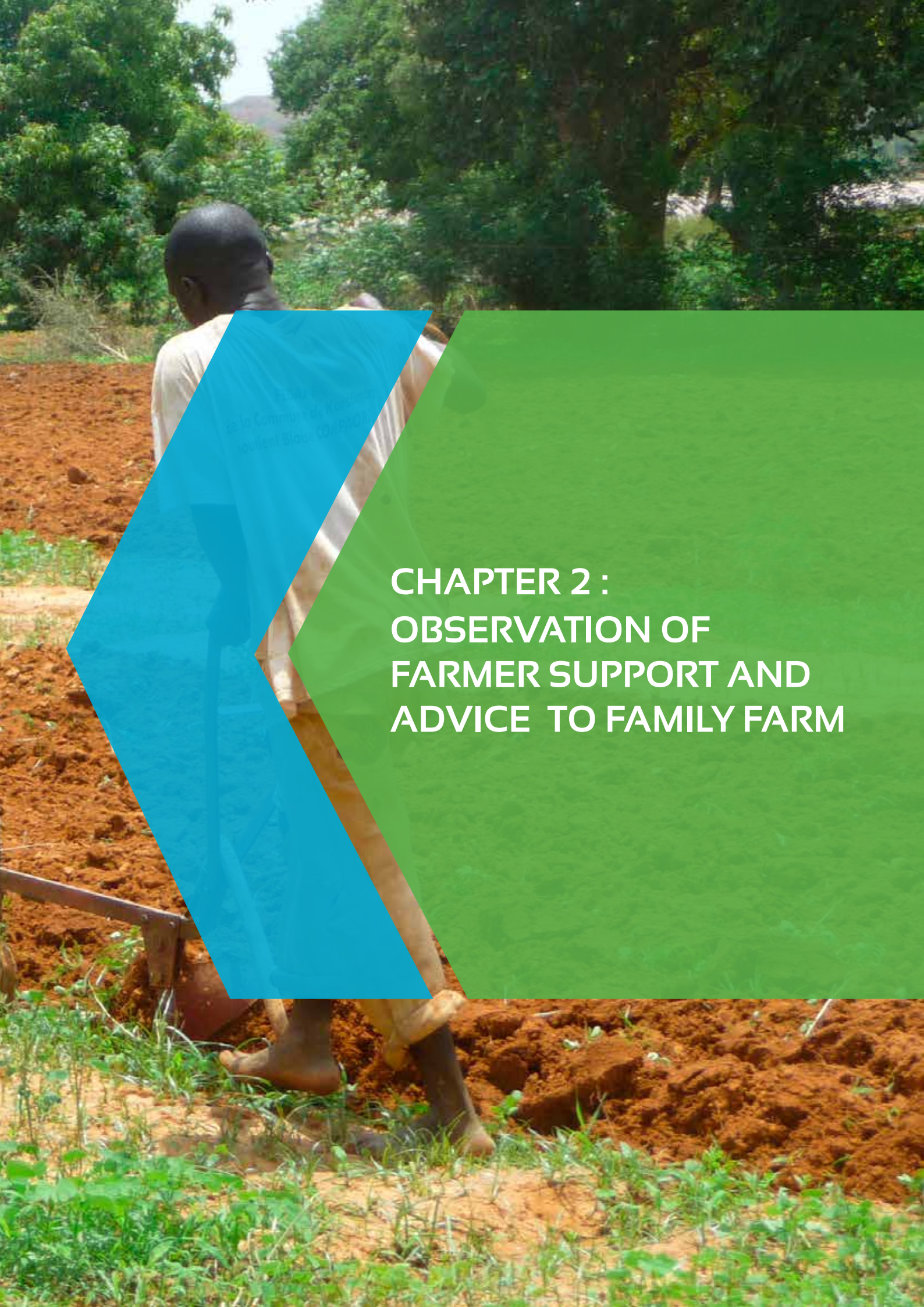
or sheep fattening, which are also regular sources of income, and product processing which in most countries is a niche of self-employment for rural women.

(14) FFs of interest to States in terms of their contributions to the economy and to national societies.

In general, platforms agree that their states have four main reasons for focusing on family farms, which are the dominant mode of production in the 13 countries where they operate:

- First, FFs make an essential contribution to the national food and improving their results can make it possible to achieve self-sufficiency in food, through their own consumption and the marketing of their products;
- Secondly, they contribute to stability and social balance by providing jobs in rural areas, supporting the elderly and the disabled, and limiting the exodus to cities;
- FFs also contribute to the country's national wealth and GDP
- Finally, FFs improve public revenues, notably through foreign exchange inflows related to the export of agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries products, or the payment of local taxes.
- State support for removing constraints and creating the conditions for family farms to succeed and be attractive should be required.





CHAPTER 2 : OBSERVATION OF FARMER SUPPORT AND ADVICE TO FAMILY FARM

CHAPTER 2 : OBSERVATION OF FARMER SUPPORT AND ADVICE TO FAMILY FARM¹³



5

SITUATION OF THE CURRENT OFFER OF SUPPORTS AND ADVICE TO FAMILY FARMS¹⁶

The sustainability of FFs depends to a large extent on their results, which will be strengthened by services offered to them, market stimulation and the framework conditions ensured by the implementation of policies favorable to family farms.

The services offered to the FFs are, on the one hand, economic services and, on the other hand, the qualifying services among which advice is part. FOs themselves provide these types of services directly to the FFs and sometimes create a specialized framework for providing economic services or are attentive to their accessibility when they can be provided by non-revenue public or private actors. Knowledge of practices supporting FFs complements and clarifies the behavior of FFs and appears to be the purposes of an Observatory of family farms.

For this first report, ROPPA chose to focus the analysis on the delivery of a single type of qualifying service, the proximity support and advice which, although not the most widespread, is intended to be the one which is closer to the realities of the FFs since it is based on an analysis of the farm and must enable the FFs to improve their practices. Moreover, the survey carried out by the ROPPA shows that the FOs which offer it rely on the very concrete knowledge that the advice to the FFs helps them to have, in order to better target the other services that they deliver or cooperate with the other existing agricultural services. The support and advice is thus particularly promising with the prospect of promoting the FFs, which is that of the ROPPA Regional Observatory.

Based on the inputs of its platforms, ROPPA provided an update on current farmer-based farm practices and situates

them in relation to other non-farm practices. It is the purpose of this chapter and that of booklet 2 which supplements it.

(15) In 5 countries, advisory services to family farms with far-reaching farmer governance are operational: BURKINA FASO, MALI, SENEGAL, GUINEA, BENIN

In **BURKINA FASO**, the first management advice service began its activities in 1992 within the National Federation of Naam Groups (FNGN) with the support of AFDI. Today, three federations (FEPA-B, UGCPA / BM, UNPC-B) members of the CPF practice the Advice to Family Farms (AFF). The AFF ensures awareness, support and extension in agricultural technology, support and extension on management, decision support, and facilitates training for FFs. In Burkina Faso, 6,510 FFs were reached by the 3 federations in 2015. As for the advice on accounting management (COGES), it benefited 350, 000 FFs from the cotton growing zones. Advice is provided by FO leaders, endogenous facilitators, FO and CPF technicians, and government officials. 7 AFF farmer mechanisms have networked; they are the only ones that are fully functional in Burkina Faso. Sometimes they receive assistance from government officials. The system is endogenous and inexpensive.

In **MALI**, management advice was experimented in the 1980s by the extension services of the CMDT with the support of research (IER). The farmer practice was developed by the Association of Farmer Professional Organizations (AOPP) as

¹⁶ These observations are detailed in the Booklet 2 of the 2016 report («OBSERVATION OF SUPPORT AND ADVICE TO FARMER FAMILY FARMS»); The advisory support arrangements are described in Booklet 4 («MONITORING PRACTICES FOR ROPPA MEMBER FOs»)

of 2009 after a farmer model of AFF with the aim of enabling them to better identify and know their heritage, their work schedule, better understand and control the expenditures of FFs, and learn how to calculate the economic profitability of their farms. The advice deals with technical aspects related to agriculture, livestock, logging, management tools supplemented by literacy education and exchange workshops. The AFF is provided to the heads of member farms by 96 trained farmer facilitators. 444 FFs are monitored in 7 of the 8 regions of Mali. In some cases, FOs are involved in the management of advice systems created in the framework of projects through the Ministry of rural development.

In **SENEGAL**, the farmer support and advice system has been built around the experience of the FONGS-Peasant Action from 1998 (LFFA approach). Advice and Support is based on the principle of proximity and on a general approach. The Family Assembly is the framework for analysis and decision-making. Facilitation is provided by an endogenous facilitator who helps the family make a "simplified assessment" to measure its ability to ensure its food security and to project itself in the future. Today, 2,300 agricultural, pastoral and fishermen FFs spread over the 6 agro-ecological zones of the country are currently in this process. For the national platform, the sustainability and the impact of this system resides in the political commitment of the FOs in relation to the promotion of the FF, the existence of endogenous facilitators and the frameworks of inter-farmer exchanges. Collaborations have been established with the research, the three bodies in charge of agricultural advice and the support program for Agricultural Development and rural Entrepreneurship.

In **GUINEA**, the AFF was initiated from 2004 on in Middle Guinea by the Farmers' Federation of Fouta Djallon (FPFD) with the support of the AFD. At present two member federations of the CNOP-G practice the agricultural advice in cooperation with the National Agency for the Promotion and Advice of Agriculture (ANPROCA). The system of the federation of FOs of Lower Guinea, centered on rice, allowed to follow 361 FFs within the framework of the food security project of Lower Guinea. The mechanism of the Fouta Djallon farmers' federation, focused on the management advice, reached 1062 FFs, including 779 women. Advice is provided by FO members, relay farmers and field agents of ANPROCA (National Agency of Promotion and Agricultural Advice) when needed. For the CNOP-G, the viability of these systems depends on the degree of structuring of the OPA, the existence of networks of the liaison farmers, the existence of technical units within the FOs, the insertion of the AFF in the planning of the OPA. From the point of view of their financing, their sustainability depends on the organization of collective marketing and the mobilization of internal resources.

In **BENIN**, a country that has been hosting AFF reference experiments since 1995 and where advice systems specifically aimed at breeders are in the making (ANOPER), that is the Federation of the Unions of Producers of Benin (FUPRO) which has the longest practice of AFFs (as of 2005). The

FUPRO system has two components. The advice to family farm component aimed at building the capacities of producers and their families and helping them to rationalize their decisions. 20 advisors support the producers in the field and 2 coordinators coordinate the activities at the level of the umbrella structure. 5,000 members have been reached by the AFF component. The management advice component of FOs concerns the training of elected officials and technicians of the FOs on governance, resource management, input management, production monitoring, marketing monitoring and strategic management. Its approach is based on the conducting of a self-evaluation. 30 FOs are beneficiaries. The platform considers that the financing of the farmer mechanisms constitutes their cardinal weakness. To compensate for this, in 2012 FUPRO laid the basis for a "specific fund for the sustainability of the advice" and defined in 2014 a "development plan for the AFFs and CDG". A national agricultural advice strategy was defined in 2008 by the State of Benin; It is mainly implemented through projects and programs, in particular those in which the FOs are involved.

(16) In 4 countries, farmer systems are partially functional or in the making: NIGER, LIBERIA, COTE D'IVOIRE, GHANA

Since the 2000s, NIGER has been marked by a wide variety of services and advice to farms that have developed without links to each other at different scales and approaches. Some are still provided by State actors, others by national and international NGOs, and others by private actors. The striking phenomenon is the growing affirmation in this landscape of practices and advice mechanisms initiated by FOs.

Among the main farmer mechanisms on a national scale, there are 6 federations and associations that are involved in the farmer field schools, the development of analytical and management capacities, advice on securing their pastoral activities, conflict management and individualized advice on the basis of simplified assessments. At the regional level, there are three systems that develop management advice activities around warrantage, inputs advice and agricultural advice. The Network of Chambers of Agriculture (RECA) also develops advice activities in support of the mechanisms of the FOs or in complement with them. All these mechanisms rely mainly on external funding.

The linkages between the various mechanisms are currently very weak and the studies carried out by the governmental initiative i3N indicate that they suffer from fragmentation and have a low coverage rate. i3N plans for the intensification of the system of support and advice for farms and the Strategic Plan 2015/2018 of the Niger farmer Platform also plans the building of the capacities and support mechanisms of the FOs while opening up avenues to improve their funding.

In **LIBERIA**, there are extension practices close to the AFF in several programs and projects. The commitment of the national platform in one of these programs constitutes a

farmer experience of support / advice which could lead to the emergence of a farmer AFF mechanism. The FUN also provides information and advice to farmers through radio broadcasts, provides technical services to FFs and FOs through 15 platforms in the 15 counties of the country and promotes exchanges between farmers. In 4 counties, it ensures administration as a technical implementation agency of the ASRP (Agriculture sector rehabilitation project) a system of advice through a network of leading farmers. 5,340 FFs benefited from this support. According to the national platform, even if the model of knowledge transfer through leading farmers is a success, it is very dependent on the means provided by the project and the farmers, who do not yet understand the economic value of the improvements. It is therefore not clear at this time whether this model can be reproduced outside the scope of a project or not.

In **Côte d'Ivoire**, farm advice were regarded as a marginal activity in the regional studies and exchanges carried out in the early 2000s, but they were to be boosted by the national platform (ANOPACI and the authorities particularly through the creation of the Inter-trade Fund for Research and the Agricultural Advice (FIRCA), which is intended to finance applied agricultural research, extension, technical advice and management advice to farms, and the National Agency for Rural Development Support (ANADER), which offers management advice to the FFs in the form of technical support and advice in farm management, enabling the farmer to control and optimize his production costs and in the form of training workshops on farm management and to build the management capacities of the farmer.

The national farmers' platform proposes to integrate its action in a perspective of modernizing family farm through the development of the management advice and a market information system to enable the farmer to take good business decisions to improve his income. For ANOPACI, the complementarity between the public system of ANADER and the farmer system suffers from the lack of application and adequate follow-up and monitoring of public initiatives. Also the contribution of private players, especially of the platform remains weak and not very noticeable due to lack of financial resources. A framework for dialogue between the agricultural sector and the Civil Society of Côte d'Ivoire to link the public support and advice system to the farmer system has been set up under the NAIP, but is not currently working optimally. In perspective, ANOPACI's 2010/19 development plan provided for the creation of a support service for the access and organization of the agricultural advice.

In **GHANA**, State action is based on a low-density extension system that promotes the modernization of agriculture. Support for small farmers is mainly provided by NGOs and FOs. We note a beginning of farmer practice of AFF through the FOs members of the platform which have set up mechanisms of loans to help the farmers increase their production. Inter-farmer exchange visits on best practices are often organized on various themes. The Ghana Federation of Agricultural Producers, one of the Ghanaian farmer federations, has an AFF mechanism that supports the grassroots extension agents who are members of FOs. However, this mechanism is not very functional and is clumsy. The State technical services contribute to the training of local FO agents through the district Bureaus of the Ministry of Agriculture.



(17) In 4 countries, there are not yet farmer advice mechanisms for FFs: the GAMBIA, GUINEA BISSAU, SIERRA LEONE, TOGO

In the **GAMBIA**, as there is no support and advice mechanism and in a political context more favorable to large scale producers than to Family farms, the platform (NACOFAG) has opted for the creation of seed co-operatives in order to allow farmers to have quality groundnut and corn seeds across the country. 4 seed cooperatives have thus been created. NACOFAG also participated in the creation of a program of 454 vegetable gardens that benefited 56,655 women. In perspective, the platform intends to build the capacities of its members as well as its institutional and human resources before developing a system of Advice to the Family Farms.

Like the Gambia, Guinea Bissau's national platform does not have a farmer support / advice system. It develops, through their facilitators, a collaboration of the member FOs with the structures that provide advice and support. The platform is also working with the weather service, which provides advice that has proved particularly useful in avoiding the effects of flooding caused by Hurricane Fred in 2015.

In **SIERRA LEONE**, the AFF is not yet in place, but various forms of support can reach the FFs. In the context of humanitarian emergencies and the absence of an agricultural policy aimed at supporting FFs (till 2015), FO initiatives are not forthcoming. In parallel with its advocacy work for farmers, Sierra Leone's farmer platform is seeking, through evaluation studies, to identify the needs felt by FFs, to provide them with technical support and help them manage land disputes that affect them. To this end, NAFSL develops collaborative relationships with State structures, agricultu-

ral research institutes, NGOs and CSOs and with the media. However, it faces the fact that the FOs are marginalized by the public authorities and which have very little involvement in their actions.

In **TOGO**, the national platform does not currently have a farmer advice and support mechanism, and advisory services are mainly provided by non-farmers. These are public institutions: the Institute for Technical Advice and Support (ICAT), which provides technical support to farmers and their organizations (more than 53,000 FFs have benefited from support and advice of ICAT and from the distribution of input and seed kits of the PADAT Project); The Directorate of Training, Dissemination of Techniques and Professional Organizations, which advises on the structuring of FOs.

Several non-governmental programs are also involved in this field, in particular: the service and producer organization company which provides support and advice to 20,000 FFs in the framework of economic production and marketing groups ("commercial tontines"), "Farmer business school" which implements a farm management approach geared towards the development of business to maximize profits (12,356 producers reached).

In the medium term, the Coordination of Togolese Farmers' Organizations and Agricultural Producers (CTOP) intends to develop its farmer support and advice mechanism for FFs. The existing think tanks within its Board of Directors could define the guidelines for the development of this mechanism. However, it should be stressed that through its decentralized institutional arrangement and its network of technicians, CTOP already provides informal support / advice / training to its members on various issues.





6 FIRST ACHIEVEMENT AND PROSPECTS

Not all countries have farmer support and advice mechanisms, but all FOs develop more or less formalized support and advice practices for their members.

(18) Main lines of actions for the development of local farmer support and advice practices for FFs

The dominant characteristics of FO practices in local support and advice to FFs.

The descriptions given by FOs in terms of advice to FFs show that the practices go in three directions:

- Technical advice aims at improving agricultural practices or introducing innovations in a more or less formalized way. It is practiced by all FOs, either through farmer-to-farmer exchanges or organized by the FOs, but mostly through the farmer facilitators present in the majority of FOs, and in some cases by specialized technicians who oversee the farmer facilitators.
- The management advice, which is aimed at helping decision-makers in the field of farm, is practiced in «advice groups» which can be supplemented by individualized follow-up and monitoring by FOs. These FOs provide farmers with tools to characterize their farms and management tools and, together with their farmer facilitators, monitor the farm's season plan. It is the main entry point of the FOs of BURKINA FASO, GUINEA, CÔTE D'IVOIRE and BENIN, but practices evolve through experience and farmer demand. The trend is to diversify the services offered.
- The *overall advice to the FFs*, which supports the involvement of the whole family in the various dimensions of the life of the farm to carry out its evolution project (MALI, SENEGAL).

Legal advice to the FFs is beginning to develop, in particular on aspects concerning the land security of FFs.

The approaches and tools used are linked to the prevailing orientation in terms of advice and to the farmer experience of the FOs, which often leads to the crossing of methodologies. The farmer input favors oral and practical practices, while inputs from external actors have introduced written tools.

Four types of stakeholders intervene in the *advice to farmers*: (i) *Grassroots actors* who provide advice to FFs (endogenous facilitator or farmer relays, and often FO leaders); (ii) *actors supporting grassroots actors* (technicians from the FO and / or public technical services, NGO advisers, and resource people in support of farmer facilitators); (iii) *a steering system* provided by a technical unit of the FO or a joint steering committee that coordinates, evaluates the advice and monitors / trains advisors; (iv) *actors in technical support to the farmer system* (agricultural research and in some countries public structures of "advice to FOs").

There are four types of financing for advice to farmers: (i) the contribution of technical and financial partners, (ii) the contribution of the FOs from the commercial activities of the FO, the MFIs but also through the in-kind contribution of the voluntary work of endogenous facilitators and leaders, (iii) the contribution of the beneficiaries in kind, or through contributions, and (iv) the contribution of the State, which is made differently in different countries, directly or indirectly through the provision of technical staff, or advice-related support. Several platforms are considering the creation of specific funds to streamline AFF funding.

Results of advice to family farms. Feedback from the platforms shows that the impact, in terms of the number of farms directly affected, is very variable but overall quite low. The effects of dissemination from farmer to farmer through spontaneous or organized exchanges by FOs amplify this impact when the farmer support and advice is not structured within the framework of a project but falls within the fabric and permanence of the action of the FO and the voluntary commitment of its members

The targeted observations made by the FOs highlight four types of results that they attribute to the proximity of the FF that the advice allows: significant improvement in farm results (reported in four countries where close monitoring has been made: Guinea, Burkina Faso, Mali, Ghana); Change in technical practices and economic management of FFs, which has an impact on improving outcomes (reported in five countries: Mali, Guinea, Mali, Benin, Ghana); the transformation of the way of reasoning and of the relationships systems (reported in three countries: Mali, Guinea and Senegal) and the benefits derived from this practice by the FOs, which acquire through it a better knowledge of family farms enabling them to better help them to transform themselves and to better defend them.

(19) The development of local farmer support and advice systems

The inputs from the platforms provide valuable insights into how a specific farmer expertise has gradually emerged in the field of local support for family farms within the overall landscape of the West African agricultural advice. ROPPI will build on this experience to support the evolution of current or emerging systems.

The birth and governance of farmer mechanisms. The development of support and advice practices in FOs is one of the consequences of structural adjustment and disengagement of States. In the most advanced cases, the initiative came from "driving" federations, which developed a pioneering practice at the grassroots level and then played a leading role in the development of larger-scale mechanisms. As for the governance of farmer mechanisms and the intervention of national platforms, they are governed by the principle of subsidiarity. The federations have their own system of steering their advice system, which is placed under the authority of the governing bodies of the FO (Executive Board, Board of Directors, General Assembly). The supervision of the orientation and the operationalization of the advice is essentially farmer driven. National farmers' platforms are currently involved differently in different countries in the process of building farmer support and advice mechanisms for FFs. In 2016, we have a diversified landscape of farmer farm advice systems based on field experiments and gradually strengthening through the consolidation of FOs' mechanisms. This landscape seeks in a very flexible way its coherence in the frameworks of consultation and joint action that constitute the national platforms.

At the regional level, ROPPI offers to the platforms a framework for exchange and stimulation that will be strengthened with the furthering of the development of the regional OFF of family farms.

The interpenetration of farmers' devices and strategies with other devices and strategies. The practices and peasant systems of support and advice on which OFO has a vocation to bring a particular enlightening appear in a large range of practices and devices of advice to farms delivered by State services, programs and projects, and by the private sector (national and international NGO, survey Bureaus, inputs suppliers, etc.).

The contributions of the platforms highlight strong interpenetrations between these different systems that can be analyzed from three points of view: influence in approaches and tools, mutualization of human resources, definition of strategic and political orientations. There is no partitioning of principle between farmers and state-controlled devices or strategies or other strategies. But in practice reports do not present themselves the same way according to situations and still need to improve.

Synergies to be constructed The elements highlighted by the observations of FOs obviously show that peasant and non-peasants advisory devices need to lean one on the other and cannot act efficiently in an isolated manner.

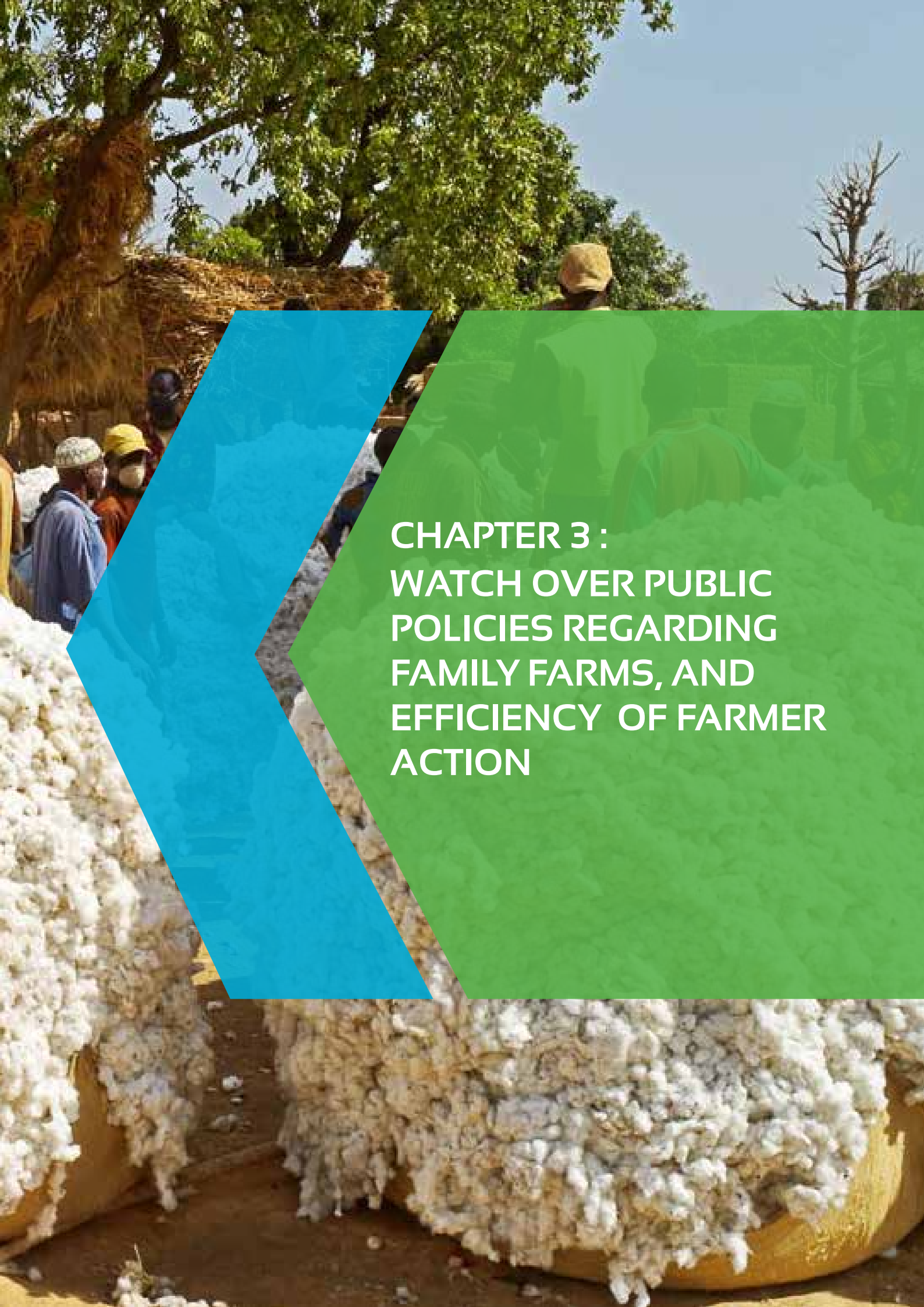
On the one hand FOs have a relation of proximity with peasants and developed a know-how that gives them a comparative advantage in relation to non-peasants operators. On the other hand, most public technical services do not have sufficient human resources anymore to reach family farms and cannot set in motion their strategy or go through other non-state-controlled stakeholders.

For these reasons ROPPI has been working since 2015 under the PAMFO project (project of support to the modernization of family farms) to the development of national proximity support systems to FO (SNAAP/FO) based on the collaboration between OF and public institutions. It invites the States to co-construct synergies and partnerships that would make the support and advice to family farms more global and more accessible, with FOs in the front line.

It is in this perspective that successive declarations of FOs and ROPPI, in Brussels (2014), Dakar then Cotonou (2015), recommended: the following

- widening up and developing farmers approaches to come with the transformations of family farms better while leaning on their achievements and experiences;
- setting up lasting and efficient national systems of rural agricultural and farming advice based on a FOs / States / Research / private sector partnership;
- providing support to the setting up of lasting financing mechanisms for agricultural advice according to a principle of public/private partnership;
- setting up a regional and international cooperation and exchanges framework between stakeholders on the knowledge capitalized on features and transformations of the various types of family farms.





CHAPTER 3 : WATCH OVER PUBLIC POLICIES REGARDING FAMILY FARMS, AND EFFICIENCY OF FARMER ACTION

CHAPTER 3 : WATCH OVER PUBLIC POLICIES REGARDING FAMILY FARMS, AND EFFICIENCY OF FARMER ACTION¹⁷

The results of the family farms do not only depend on their strategies and the way of which they are sustained by the proximity support and extension systems of which it was just question in the previous chapter. They are also strongly conditioned by the policy orientations and their implementation.

According to the prevailing roles sharing system within ROPPA, whereas the FEDERATIONS and their dismemberments that are the ones playing the operational role of proximity support, FARMERS PLATFORMS and ROPPA they are the ones representing and defending the interests of farmers at the political level. To fulfill this mission, they endow themselves with Warning instruments on policies that are more or less developed according to the countries, but that constitute, with the follow-up and monitoring of the farming seasons and the follow-up and monitoring of family farms and their support, the fourth element of the Observatory of ROPPA.



7

WHAT FOS SPECIFICALLY POINTED OUT REGARDING THE EFFECTS OF RECENT NATIONAL POLICIES ON FAMILY FARMS

The current effects of policies identified by FOs in different countries through the monitoring of crop-years and family farms are mainly linked to the implementation of production and marketing support, the creation of infrastructure, the access to funding and land tenure security measures.

(20) Improved use of seeds and other inputs by family farms through subsidization.

Coupled with the fairly good rainfalls beneficial to the 2015/2016 crop year, public subsidy policies undoubtedly contributed to improved yields in many cases.

In the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian belt, the effects of large public subsidies are globally perceptible. Input subsidies (fertilizers and seeds) provided by the government to the three countries of the Sudano-Sahelian belt helped achieve a significant increase in market gardening production in Niger, boost the results of the agricultural production of family farms and the regeneration of orchards in Burkina Faso, and intensify production and reduce costs in Mali. However, these subsidies had little impact on cereal production as well as livestock and fisheries in Niger, their distribution also faced problems of targeting, and the most vulnerable farms were poorly supported in Burkina Faso. In Mali,

¹⁷ The observations of ROPPA Watch on policies are detailed in Booklet 3 from the 2016 report («WATCH OVER PUBLIC POLICIES REGARDING FAMILY FARMS, and EFFICIENCY OF FARMER ACTION»). The devices for policy Watch are described in Booklet 4 («FOLLOW-UP PRACTICES OF FO MEMBERS OF ROPPA»)

areas occupied by rebels (Kidal) did not benefit from inputs. **In Western Atlantic coastal countries, special emphasis was placed on subsidizing quality seeds.** Support by public authorities enabled the three Western Atlantic coastal countries to benefit from improved availability of quality seeds (Senegal and Gambia) and from improved rice and market gardening seeds (Guinea Bissau). However, the quantities of seeds and fertilizers made available to family farms were much lower compared to the needs (Senegal). In addition, the late availability of inputs that disrupted the crop calendar in Guinea Bissau, and subsidy operations, were a favor to bigger producers in Gambia.

Public support was provided to family farms in predominantly forest countries under post-Ebola rehabilitation programs. These public supports, which have been provided in the form of subsidies to inputs (Guinea), supply of rice seed and chemical fertilizers (Sierra Leone) or the increase of quality rice seed production (through the implementation of the Agricultural Development and Infrastructure Program - Liberia) have improved the productivity of recipient family farms. However, it appears from the assessments that the low number of family farms that benefitted from subsidies, the late availability of often unusable seeds to family farms and the non-involvement of FOs in input distribution operations have limited the effects of these subsidies (Guinea, Sierra Leone). In Liberia, FOs have could not appreciate the real impact of policies insofar as they are not involved in their development.

Contrasting public commitments in Southern Atlantic coastal countries. Inputs subsidies provided by the Governments of the Southern Atlantic coastal countries have led to an increase in the use of improved seeds and fertilizers in three countries (Ghana, Togo and Benin). In Côte d'Ivoire, on the other hand, there is no specific policy for subsidizing seeds and inputs. For countries benefiting from input subsidy operations, the overall fertilizer use rate remains low. There is also the non-involvement of FOs in input distribution operations in all countries with delays in the delivery of fertilizers and seeds to family farms (Benin, Ghana), as well as the poor targeting of beneficiaries and political deviations in communication (Togo).

(21) EQUIPMENT and INFRASTRUCTURE enhancement

Public policies have had an effect on the quantitative increase in production in this domain. Support for equipment enhancement is often complementary to support for inputs and within the same programs. The limits observed are then the same. Tractor use support programs encountered problems in all countries (Niger, Mali, Senegal, Ghana, Benin).

Consistent support, but often poorly oriented in the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian belt. The effort of the government to enhance the equipment and infrastructure in the three countries of the Sudano-Sahelian belt so that to facilitate access to agricultural equipment to the largest number of family farms, involved tillage equipment (tractors, plows, etc.), livestock and irrigation equipment, the construction of storage and breeding infrastructures, the development of market gardening sites (Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali). However, it appears from FOs' assessment that equipment had a small impact on family farms where they were directed to agribusiness stakeholders rather than family farms (Niger). In Mali, there is a poor diversification of distributed equipment and a lack of fairness in distribution. In Burkina Faso, on the other hand, the results achieved during the year are relatively satisfactory overall, despite the numerous difficulties inherent in the functioning of the structures.

A lower intensity of equipment support to family farms in the Western Atlantic coastal countries. The facilitation of access to agricultural equipment and infrastructures for the family farms in the Western Atlantic coastal countries has been directed towards tillage equipment (tractors, plows, etc.), the creation of storage warehouses (Senegal, Gambia) and the supply of small equipment (PVC pipes in Guinea Bissau). However, even if these supports are in line with the needs of the family farms, the quantities of equipment remain inferior to the needs and agribusiness is often favored in the creation of infrastructure related to market gardening (Senegal, Gambia). Late provision of small equipment on farms was noted in Guinea Bissau.

Public support for equipment and facilities backing post-Ebola rehabilitation in predominantly forest countries. As part of post-Ebola rehabilitation programs, public support for facilities and management has been registered for the benefit of family farms. These include the supply of equipment (tractors, cassava graters, etc.) and the development of hydro-agricultural facilities, as well as the opening-up of production areas and the rehabilitation of feeder roads (Guinea, Sierra Leone). FOs assessments highlight the low number of family farms benefiting from this public support and the non-involvement of FOs in these equipment operations (Guinea, Sierra Leone). Liberia recalls, as it did with regard to seeds and inputs, that agriculture is not one of the Government's major priorities.

Supports guided by different political priorities according to the governmental views of agriculture in the Southern Atlantic coastal countries. Government support for equipment and infrastructure in the Southern Atlantic coastal countries involves tillage equipment including tractors (Be-

nin, Ghana) and different types of equipment for agricultural products processing (Benin, Togo). In Benin, for example, 165,000 farmers (40% of whom are women) should benefit from this support for processing equipment. The rehabilitation, the maintenance of rural roads and the development of social and irrigation infrastructure are reported in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. On the whole, however, there is a low level of technical and financial implementation of these equipment support programs in countries with low involvement of FOs. According to farmers, most tractors subsidized by the Government are not of good quality (Benin) and the needs of the family farms for support in the area of animal-drawn cultivation remain unsatisfied (Ghana, Benin, Togo). For Côte d'Ivoire, there is a lack of specific policy for family farms.

(22) Specific policies in the field of animal and fishery production

The analysis of these policies was less thorough for this first report by the platforms which often simply listed them.

In the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian belt.

According to the inputs of the national platforms, policy documents in the field of animal and fishery production exist in the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian belt. These include the ordinance on pastoralism, instruments for securing livestock and pastoralism adopted in May 2010 (Niger, where the process of implementing the legislation is lagging behind), the National Sustainable development policy on livestock-oriented towards family farms and fisheries policy defined in 2014 (Burkina Faso). In Mali, the taking into account of livestock production was reported under the 2015 equipment subsidy program and the equipment support for fodder processing. As regards fisheries, the 2014 law determined the principles and conditions of fishing and aquaculture in Mali.

In Western Atlantic coastal countries. Some policies and projects / programs in the field of animal and fisheries production are appropriate in the Western Atlantic coastal countries. Specifically, can be mentioned, the national self-sufficiency sheep program, the projects to support the modernization of livestock sectors and the development of family poultry farm, as well as the fisheries policy aiming at structuring and integrating the aquaculture chain and the sustainable management of fishery resources through fisheries management. According to FOs of Senegal, these various projects and programs enabled the improvement of breeds and the reinforcement of the sanitary and food security for the livestock but the impacts are minimal for the majority of family farms of breeders. As for policies on aquaculture production which is increasing, they want to attract youth to this activity, however it is found that the Senegalese Emerging Plan rather encourages the arrival of new private players in the fisheries sector.

In Guinea Bissau, it appears, from what platforms say, that the livestock sector, in particular the meat sector, is already well structured and under the supervision of the Veterinary Service. Also a Poultry Policy defined by the Directorate

General of Livestock is in the start-up phase in this country. Artisanal and industrial fisheries are licensed by the Ministry of Fisheries.

In predominantly forest countries. Guinea's animal production policy focuses on the development of improved livestock systems according to species and natural regions and on the improvement of the conditions of traditional breeding systems through the valorization of products and sub-products. It should also be stressed that the Ebola disease had consequences on livestock and fisheries in these three countries (Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia).

In Southern Atlantic coastal countries. The policy in the area of animal and fisheries production in Togo is centralized in the national agricultural investment and food security program. The ASAP project has contributed to the decline in poultry mortality through the immunization of small ruminants and poultry against plague and Newcastle disease. Sheep, goat and poultry breeders were also distributed. In support of continental fisheries production, the COFREPECHE project conducted various training sessions and acquired and distributed improved breeding stock, and subsidized feed.

The inputs from Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana platforms did not provide information on this aspect.

(23) Support for the marketing of family farms products

The dominant orientations in the area of market opening and commercial competition have ambivalent effects on family farms. FOs are particularly concerned about the negative consequences of the ratification of the interim EPAs on family farms.

Slight effects of support for the marketing of products at the level of family farms in Sudano-Sahelian countries. Support to the marketing of products at the level of the family farms of the three countries of the Sudano-Sahelian belt aims at facilitating product access to national, regional and international markets through defined policies for this purpose. Although some opportunities exist through mutual agreement markets (WFP PAP, government institutional markets), FOs think that the national marketing policy often favors imports that compete with family products on markets (Niger). In Burkina Faso FOs do not see any positive effects of the national policy of growth poles creation around markets, for family farms.

Liberal orientation of support to the marketing of products in Western Atlantic coastal countries. According to FOs, public investments are more directly oriented towards agribusiness with a tax exemption regime which is more favorable to commercial farm than to family farms.

The reactivation of commercial activities after the end of the Ebola epidemic in predominantly forest countries. In order to encourage the resumption of commercial activities,

strategies and programs have been initiated by public authorities to support the marketing of agricultural products for the benefit of family farms in predominantly forest countries. These include the lifting of bans on the movement of goods and people during the Ebola episode that freed trade and allowed family farms to start selling their products to urban centers, (Guinea) and the launching of programs to support the marketing of agricultural products (Sierra Leone, Liberia). According to FOs, sometimes, the government makes decisions contrary to the ECOWAS Treaty, by prohibiting the export of certain agricultural and fishery products (Guinea).

Few specific support or effects reported in the Southern Atlantic coastal countries. Moderate support for the valorization and marketing of agricultural products is reported at the level of family farms in Togo and Benin (construction of 350 conservation and marketing infrastructures in Togo, creation of marketing infrastructures and a specialization center for maize productivity in Benin). In Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, no specific program for family farms is reported.

(24) Access to funding

With financial liberalization policies, financial services are the responsibility of market and private financial institutions. Farmers' organizations are attentive to 3 evolutions

The evolution of national and regional tools: integration and harmonization from the top

- National and regional agricultural banks: Farmers have not benefited greatly from the action of agricultural banks whose products are not adapted to the needs of the FFs and which are often for them synonymous with indebtedness. Several of them have disappeared or have undergone changes (Niger, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire). FOs note the tendency of disappearance of their specialized role in favor of private banks which open decentralized agencies and especially decentralized funding systems.
- National networks of microfinance institutions: They are of an associative nature and exist in all countries. Through the local funds of their members, they offer small loans that are of great use to FFs and that often reach them through women but do not allow investment. Some FOs have sought to create their own national networks (Senegal, Burkina Faso), but have encountered difficulties because of the stiffness of supranational regulation.
- National and regional funds: Some national funds are directly aimed at strengthening the capacity to grant loans to farms or to finance agricultural investments. Others, such as the FIRCA in Côte d'Ivoire or the FNAA in MALI, provide financial support for services offered to family farms. FOs have been very active in monitoring the design of these funds and paying attention to their inclusion in Agricultural Policy Laws. However,

they find that in most cases their operationalization is slow to take place.

ECOWAP has planned the creation of a Regional Fund for Agriculture and Food (RFAF / ECOWADF), of which three Bureaus are designated to directly or indirectly strengthen the production capacity of family farms, but the one that concerns the most directly FFs is not functional. ECOWAS has also set up a Regional Fund for Agricultural Development (RFAD).

The development of proximity funding systems: the funding of FFs depends directly on the performance of the SFD

- The spectacular development of decentralized funding systems: due to the fact that the implementation of local funds or mutual societies is done from the base, the local basis of these systems and their flexibility have enabled them to root deeply into the rural world and reach the FFs. For FOs, the limits of these systems are especially in the area of investment credit. FOs found out that these systems are currently experiencing a slowdown and are looking for a second breath.
- Some public initiatives to promote community funding: the creation of village banks is announced in Sierra Leone as part of the Smallholder Farm Products Marketing Program. FOs found out that many of these banks are dysfunctional, thus preventing villagers from accessing credit.
- The majority of FFs continue to use informal credit: traders' credit, family or neighborhood loans, tontines.

The appearance of mobile money products: a revolution whose effects are still difficult to measure. The success of using the mobile phone to make financial transactions and access credit has been very rapid in the rural world. It is able, as illustrated by the "Liberia Agriculture Transformation Agenda" of LIBERIA, to upset the data of the systems of social relations and economic exchanges of FFs and summons FOs.

(25) LAND TENURE SECURITY

The explosive nature of land access and land tenure security issues, which are the source of many conflicts, prompts states to seek to reform their land legislation. FOs pay close attention to these reforms, which have a direct impact on the security of family farms, and they are in some cases associated with their design.

Search for legislation to secure farms and reduce conflicts in Sudano-Sahelian countries. Two of the Sudano-Sahelian belt states have defined new land tenure policies over the past decade. These include the Rural Land Tenure Law adopted in Burkina Faso in 2009 and the agricultural land policy defined in Mali in 2014 in application of the 2006 Agricultural Policy Law. In Niger the 1993 Rural Code continues to govern access to land and its use.

FOs note some difficulties in funding these policies and the persistence of land conflicts (Burkina Faso), or conflicts of competence between traditional chiefs and local communities (Niger).

Competition on land potentially or currently unfavorable to family farms in countries on the West Atlantic coast.

The three coastal countries are waiting for new land policies. In Senegal they are awaiting for a land reform announced in the 2004 LOASP and which is being prepared by the new National Commission of Land Reform in which FOs are now participating. In the Gambia, the current regulatory framework is not favorable to securing the land rights of FFs. Finally, in Guinea Bissau, a quarter of the land is grabbed by a small number of big farmers who are often absentees (ponteiros).

New land legislation in preparation in predominantly forest countries. Currently governed by the Land and Domain Code (1992), the new land legislation in preparation in Guinea should redesign the legal basis for private investment and small-scale family farm in Guinean agriculture. In Sierra Leone, a national land policy that provides for better protection of women's rights is also being developed. In Liberia, the new land law is expected to be passed in 2016. For FOs, the negative effects of current legislation on FFs revolve around the difficulty of access to land for women and youth, land grabbing by large plantations, recurrent land conflicts in the three countries (Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia).

The weight of legacies and the conflicts of interest to overcome in coastal countries of the South Atlantic Coast.

Still governed by ancient land laws, Togo and Côte d'Ivoire are preparing new legislation. A preliminary draft of a new land code codifying access to land and land transactions was validated in 2015 in Togo, thus laying the foundations for a comprehensive land and property reform. In Côte d'Ivoire, the new law on rural land is also being prepared. In the other two coastal countries where policies have been adopted, delays are noted in their implementation. In Ghana, where land grabbing threatens family farmers, a land administration project was defined in 2003 for the implementation of the national land policy defined in 1999. In Benin, where land grabbing is also a threat to family farms, a new Land and Domain Code of Benin was adopted in 2013.

FOs report that the consequences of legislation often unfavorable to FFs are the source of land disputes. This is the case in Côte d'Ivoire between food crops growers and rubber planters. In Ghana, these conflicts are linked to the large-scale land grabbing by multinationals or the Diaspora that threatens family farmers in some areas. In Togo the settlement of land tenure issues rests heavily on traditional chieftdoms that, while regulating social relations, may also be an obstacle to the modernization of land rights systems.





8

RECENT ACTION OF ROPPA'S PLATFORMS ON NATIONAL POLICIES AND THEIR MAIN RESULTS

(26) Action of ROPPA platforms at national level.

Themes on which farmers' platforms have recently emerged. Information feedbacks permit to identify 11 themes on which platforms have taken actions in order to influence policy. They relate to: (i) access of FFs to inputs and equipment, (ii) orientation of agricultural policies in favor of FFs, (iii) defense of family farm model, (iv) land tenure, (v) marketing of products, (vi) funding of agriculture and FFs, (vii) agricultural council, (viii) programs for women and youth, and vocational training, (ix) organization of the agricultural profession, (x) climate change, (xi) and revival of the sectors.

Forms of political action by the platforms: FOs carry out lobbying and consultations with decision-makers, participate in consultative and political dialogue frameworks or ad hoc national commissions, organize and participate in events such as Agricultural fairs, fairs or farmer days allowing platforms to meet national decision makers at the highest level. They also organize advocacy campaigns, peasant demonstrations, and coalitions according to needs and communication activities that prolong the watch on policies and are also part of their different strategies of influence.

(27) Main results of the political action of national platforms

Strategically, the types of results targeted by platforms are gradually: (1) to be heard, (2) to position themselves in the decision systems, (3) to slow down adverse developments, (4) to obtain policy commitments (general policy...), (5) to achieve concrete results for FFs.

Political influence actions of platforms thus go in three directions: FOs seek to (i) participate in the formulation of policies and / or framework programs for the development of the agricultural sector; (ii) in policy reviews in which they are associated, influence the reorientation of policies / mecha-

nisms and strategies already developed by the State when they are unfavorable to FFs; (iii) conduct permanent monitoring and lobbying to advance the integration of farmers' interests into new policies and their implementation.

Four types of results benefiting directly or indirectly to FFs were obtained in this way through political action of national platforms:

- Strengthening production capacity of family farms. The actions taken by the platforms on this issue of improving the productivity and incomes of small producers have had effects on: (i) facilitating access to public subsidies, mainly on the distribution of fertilizer and agricultural equipment (Togo, Senegal, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger), (ii) the creation of mechanisms for access to agricultural inputs (Benin, Senegal, Togo, Guinea Bissau) and (iii) the implementation of hydro-agricultural developments (Senegal, Niger, Mali, Benin, Burkina Faso).
- Improved selling of agricultural products from family farms through the removal of certain tariff barriers, the establishment of periodic freezing mechanisms carried out by FOs with the State, the support of FFs for participation in major commercial events. It is important to mention the revival of the slogan "consume local" in Niger, the abolition of non - regulatory taxes on fishing in Niger, the upgrading of rice and onion in Senegal through the regulation of markets and the abolition of premiums on Electricity in the Vallée du Fleuve (River Valley).
- The creation and development of agricultural funding mechanisms. Diversified actions of platforms have improved the access of family farms to agricultural credit. Advocacy by the platform in Mali has made it possible to include small producers not only in steering the agricultural development fund, but also in improving

their access to resources. The FOs of Togo, Senegal and Benin have also developed an advocacy that led to the implementation of mechanisms allowing the funds existing in their countries to support the access to the infrastructures for the storage of agricultural products.

- Increasing the awareness of public authorities to family farms. In most of the member countries of the network, this increased sensitivity, which has an indirect effect on government attention to family farms, was noted. The participation of national platforms in the management and implementation of agricultural policies (Ni-

ger, Benin, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali) has contributed to this awareness. The legitimization of family farm is reflected in the development of agricultural policy laws, the process of which is completed or underway in seven countries. The strengthening of the position of FOs is observed in several countries, for example in Mali where the platform has been recognized as a public utility organization, which means that it is considered to be capable of receiving a public mandate and carry out actions of national scope for the benefit of the peasant world.



9

REGIONAL POLICIES AND THE GENERAL FRAMEWORK WHICH INCLUDE NATIONAL POLICIES

(28) The regional framework which include national policies

This framework is known by ROPPA's national platforms. It is fairly standardized and strongly determined by the strategic orientations inspired by major donors.

At regional level, this framework is defined by the process ECOWAP / CAADP (ECOWAS), PAU (ECOWAS) and a number of continental and international commitments (Maputo, Malabo, ODD, etc.). While most states have met the commitments made in Maputo in 2003, questions remain about the structure of public spending related to agriculture. All of them have entered the PDDAA / CAADP process launched on this occasion, and their national agricultural policies are therefore part of the ECOWAP program, in which they implement the regional agricultural investment program in their National Agricultural Investment Programs (NAIP). PRIA and NAIP came to an end in 2015 and will be

redefined in the context of ECOWAP's 2025 prospects. Countries also benefit from the West African Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP), initiated by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for the benefit of member countries, with financial support from the World Bank (IDA) and a range of regional programs (which are analyzed in booklet 3 completing this synthesis¹⁵).

For pastoral livestock sector, the driving programs are the Regional Program for support of pastoralism in the Sahel, financed by the World Bank (PRAPS, 2015), which started in 2016 and involve 4 member countries of ROPPA (Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal), and the Regional Program of Investment in favor of Livestock in Coastal Countries (PRI-DEC), also supported by the World Bank Group, covering 4 countries of the network (Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin). ROPPA is currently involved in the following PRIA 1 projects / programs, instruments and measures: regional food security reserve, Programs for the priority development sectors

¹⁵ booklet 3 : «Watch on public policies regarding family farms and Efficiency of farmers' action»

(WAEMU), GAFSP, ARAA project portfolio, Irrigation in the Sahel, PAPROSEM, support for rice offensive, etc.

At the national level: specific policy documents, NAIPs and their direct or indirect programmatic variations are largely linked to regional policies. The inventory was made by the platforms and is presented in booklet 3 supplementing this report.

Soon, for 7 countries: Agricultural Orientation Laws (NIGER, BURKINA FASO, MALI, SENEGAL, GUINEA, CÔTE D'IVOIRE, BENIN)

NAIPs have provided funding for the development of Agricultural Orientation Laws in several countries. Senegal and Mali had played a pioneering role in defining an overall legislative framework setting out the major political orientations of their country for the agricultural sector through the

2004 agro-sylvo pastoral Policy Law in Senegal and the 2006 Agricultural Orientation Law in Mali. Farmers' organizations in these countries have played a decisive role in their development. Since then, Côte d'Ivoire has adopted its AOL -CI in 2015, Guinea, which launched its process in 2008, is on the verge of completion, Burkina Faso, which launched its own in 2013, already has a preliminary draft of Orientation Act on agro-sylvo-pastoral, halieutic and fauna. The Agricultural Orientation Law (AOL) of Niger is being drafted, and the project of Benin, planned in its PSRSA, started in 2016. The definition and adoption of these AOLs should mark a major political step forward for family farm. Their real scope depends on the adoption of their implementing decrees, which in some cases are not expected, and the consequent definition of agricultural policies.



10

ROPPA RECENT ACTION ON REGIONAL POLICIES AND MAIN RESULTS

(29) ROPPA's intervention approach

Contribution to policy formulation: The various strategies developed collectively and / or individually by the members of the network, in collaboration with CSOs and other networks of FOs, partners and allies, made it possible mainly to take into account the proposals of farmers' organizations in the various policy papers for rural and agricultural development. Its arguments are based on concrete proposals aimed at taking into account the concerns and needs of the FFs. The expertise and anticipatory capacity developed by ROPPA and its partners in this field, coupled with the will of regional policy makers, means that the formulation of most sector policies is really involving FOs / CSOs.

Influence on Policy Review: ROPPA and its partners and / or allies have also contributed to a strategic review of some on-going policies, strategies and / or programs that did not adequately address the concerns of family farm development.

(30) ROPPA's action on ECOWAS policies and their national implementation

ECOWAP 2005 :

Upstream of ECOWAP, FOs have not been associated with CAADP definition, but ROPPA has heavily involved itself in the preparation of ECOWAP 2005 and then in its implementation in order to move forward five themes related to advocacy: (i) recognition of agricultural family farm as a

basis for the development of West African agriculture, (ii) promotion of food sovereignty, (iii) priority to regional market (iv), land tenure security, (v) and involvement of FOs at all stages of policy and program formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

ECOWAP + 10 and the preparation of the 2nd generation of NAIP: Since 2016, ROPPA has been participating as a future signatory of the 2nd generation of PRIA pact on behalf of the regional FO networks to the formulation and implementation of the construction of PRIA and the 2nd generation NAIPs. At the insistence of ROPPA and the other networks of FOs and CSOs, provisions were made in the methodological guide to ensure that certain concerns or limitations of the first generation of NAIPs and PRIAs are taken into account, in particular (i) effective participation of FOs in countries (ii) gender; (iii) funding of agriculture; (iv) family farms. Proposals were made to clarify the roles of the various stakeholders in the institutional framework for the implementation of PRIASAN. Some ROPPA tools such as the FF Observatory are taken into account in the actions to be supported. ROPPA also notes with satisfaction the inclusion of fisheries sector in PRIASAN and in the priority orientations for NAIPs.

(31) Main results of the network at regional level.

Over the past three years, the influence of the network at the regional level has led to three main categories of results:

- Increasing the accountability of FOs in the implementation of regional sectoral policies and programs. At this level, there is the regular and structured participation of FOs in the steering of ECOWAP and PAU, which has contributed to the implementation of policy instruments favorable to FFs. On the other hand, we note responsibility awareness of fisheries stakeholders for the setting up of a framework of exchanges and steering of development policies with respect to the sector in West Africa.
- Negotiating and obtaining mandates for the implementation of regional programs sensitive to FFs. Thus, on the proposal by FO networks, a livestock program was developed in addition to ECOWAP. Besides, concerning the defense of the rights of FFs for the production of their seeds and the conservation of their genetic pool, ROPPA and its partners have been mandated to implement two projects for the production and distribution of certified seed by FFs.
- Defending the concerns and demands of family farms in trade policies and strategies. In particular, there is (i) an ECOWAS commitment under PRIA 2nd generation to monitor the impact of the application of the new ECOWAS-WAEMU TEC on West African agriculture; (ii) the promotion of a business environment favorable to family farmers' access to family markets in West Africa, by not signing the EPA agreements, (iii) obtaining the commitment of research institutions to create a permanent framework for discussion with FOs, (iv) and the development, with IFAD, of an area for consultation, farmers discussions and support to the governance of IFAD's strategies.

(32) ROPPA's assessment of the implementation of regional policies

Most national policies that farmers' organizations have appreciated the effects on family farms are part of the NAIPs supported by regional policies and programs, particularly by PRIA first generation. Through its policy watch, ROPPA monitored and assessed the implementation of these regional programs.

Portfolio Project of the Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food: The project has contributed to the launch of several calls for projects for the benefit of the FFs and the implementation of capacity building actions on various themes with respect to the concerned stakeholders.

- **Assessment:** *Weak performance of the Agency in the use of resources devoted to the implementation of the project portfolio due to administrative challenges, but also to the procedures and conditions related to the support of financial and technical partners.*

Regional Food Security Reserve: Calls for tenders have been launched for capacity building of stakeholders. Two tenders were also launched for the delivery of cereals for the Regional Food Security Reserve.

- **Assessment:** *Slow process. The current level of performance in project / program management is also low.*

Programs for priority sectors development (UEMOA): Support achieved mainly for the benefit of public projects / programs.

- **Assessment:** *Weakness in the monitoring of initial orientations (sector approach) and reorientation towards a global approach aimed at food security (PCD-TSAN). Weak monitoring and evaluation of results*

Regional Program for Support to Pastoralism in the Sahel (RPSPS) supported by the World Bank: Training of stakeholders, support to public programs / projects, contractualization with APESS and RBM for carrying activities, implementation of activities aimed at the improvement of the institutional environment of pastoralism.

- **Assessment:** *Delay in the execution of the program, low relevance of the program established by the regional stakeholders including ECOWAS and WAMU with regard to the reality of the livestock and the stakeholders who invest themselves in the region*

Regional Livestock Investment Program in Coastal Countries, 2016 (PRIDEC): Formulation in the process of being closed; Process carried out by RBM on behalf of all the networks.

- **Assessment:** *project remains focused on pastoralism and takes into account livestock as a whole*

World Program for Agriculture and Food Security, World Bank, 2010 (GAFSP): Support to several public and private projects / programs in West Africa; Support to small producers' projects carried out by their organizations.

- **Assessment:** *promotion of a participatory and inclusive approach favoring the participation of FOs in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of programs. Representation of ROPPI and other CSOs and FOs networks in the COS. Difference of opinion within the group of partners regarding the model of agriculture to be supported.*

Irrigation in the Sahel: Formulation of the project in its final phase after a long consultation in the region; Achievement of numerous studies. Vision based on a renewed approach to irrigation projects.

- **Assessment:** *Willingness to ensure good participation of FOs, CSOs and communities. The project is slow to materialize.*

Support project to production and to a sustainable distribution of certified seeds in West Africa (PAPROSEM): Support to the production and marketing of certified seeds in 7 countries; Capacity-building and support for the structuring of certified seed-producing farms; building the capacities of FOs involved in the production and distribution of certified seeds

- **Assessment:** *highlighting the important role of FOs in the production and distribution of certified seeds and effective reinforcement of the capacities of FOs involved in the production and distribution of certified seeds, but delay in the execution of the program linked mainly to financial partner procedures and to the research organization in charge of monitoring the implementation of the project. Poor ownership of the project by some national platforms. Results vary widely from one country to another.*

Support to rice offensive: Support to the action plans of FOs in 4 countries aiming at building the capacity and the level of adoption of certified seeds.

- **Assessment:** *Slowness in implementation process.*

(33) Comments on the recent results of ROPPI's political action:

With the advent of structural adjustment programs, the States of the region disengaged in 1994 from the agricultural extension sector. This situation led farmers to take charge of their problems directly.

And this is how a structured farmer movement has developed, starting with the family farmer who defines his needs and let them be carried out by FOs (groups, associations, cooperatives, etc.) which have gradually consolidated and become effective to defend the interests of farmers. The results highlighted in this first report of OFO demonstrate this effectiveness.

Over years, the West African farmer movement has expended and taken a scale that has facilitated the strengthening of farmers' leadership, particularly within ROPPI around its directors. This leadership gained through mutual capacity building developed by the various stakeholders constitutes one of the strengths of the network. It has allowed the emergence of a critical mass of committed and competent leaders, determined to protect the interests of the peasants: it is for them a matter of survival. These leaders have been able to draw on resource people who have made themselves available to accompany them and technically support the peasant movement.

These results have been possible thanks to a favorable political environment, marked by the impetus given by the Maputo and Malabo agreements, which have created a strategic opportunity reinforcing the action of peasant movement.

Finally, the openness of the partners and their availability to support remains one of the important factors for the success of the action of FOs and the results that it has recorded.





11

CONCLUSIONS: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES TO WHICH ROPPA SHOULD BE PARTICULARLY CAREFUL

The information produced by the national platforms has permitted to identify different themes on which ROPPA should be particularly attentive to itself and to public policies. Nine points underlined in the reports of platforms and evoked by the majority, not to say by all the platforms are all sensitive questions because they are cross-cutting and the answers remain to be found in relation to them. ROPPA should seek to clarify its positions and anticipate these issues because the future of family farm remains dependent on the responses that will be made in this respect.

(34) Question 1: WHAT MODEL OF AGRICULTURE SHOULD BE PROMOTED?

In most West African countries, Governments are often tempted to favor the model of industrial agriculture, whereas we know that the first objective of the industrial sector with a high capital injection is not food security, neither the fight against poverty, nor sustainable development, but profit.

- *This «temptation» of some policies to favor industrial agriculture with a high capital injection to the detriment of family farm invites ROPPA to clarify its position with regard to the (i) renewal of performance approach of FFs; (ii) information on the current investment capacity of FFs and identification of actions that can strengthen it, (iii) questioning on the funding issue of family farm, (vi) the reaffirmation of the network's commitments to promote the production and consumption of local products originating from FFs, (v) the unlocking of a liberalized system made complex in order to promote inter-regional trade and the definition of a position in relation to the mastery of public / private partnerships and (vi) the question of the role of family farm model for youth and ROPPA's concept of family farm modernization.*

(35) Question 2: WHICH SPACE MANAGEMENT AND WHICH PLANNING OF THE TERRITORY?

The implementation of each model of agriculture engages the question of the space on which it is implemented. The observations made by the countries highlight two very revealing aspects of the issues for FFs of practices or policies related to the allocation of space. This is partly due to the risk of land grabbing by firms or large operators and, on the other hand, to the ongoing definition in several countries of spatial planning schemes around «development poles».

- *ROPPA must therefore develop, in order to have a capacity of watch and proposal around these issues and preserve the interests of family farms, deepen its reflection and develop skills in land use planning and in the management of common property.*

(36) Question 3: HOW TO RENEW NATURAL RESOURCES AND ANTICIPATE ON CLIMATE CHANGE?

Observations made on the behavior of family farms indicate a declining fertility trend in countries that were once considered to be fertile.

- *This concern is not new. It invites ROPPA to clarify its positions in relation to (i) the management of shared resources, (ii) farmers resource-destructive practices, (iii) GMOs, (iv) agrofuel development, and (v) building links with research on the emergence of new health attacks on crops and animals.*

(37) Question 4: WHAT TO DO IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE?

The importance of these sectors, which contribute significantly to nutrition and to the supply of animal proteins in families' diet, is no longer to be demonstrated. The fishing sector also attracts youth and generates jobs. However, this sector is also one of those where competition between industrial and artisanal fishing has the greatest negative impact on both the depletion of fishery resources and the destruction of family fishing.

- *This assessment leads ROPPI into seeking to extend to the maritime field its reflection on (i) managing shared resources (ii) developing its follow up capacities in the field (iii) and increasing its proposal capacity, namely on continental fishing and fish farming.*

(38) Question 5: WHAT LIVESTOCK FARMING POLICIES AND WHAT MANAGEMENT OF PASTORALISM?

The release of the first OEF report enabled ROPPI to improve its analysis of livestock farming and pastoralism which represent both strategic activity sectors for many countries in the region and a major source of concentration and revitalization of local economies.

- *ROPPI finds it necessary to make its position clear with regard to the orientation of livestock farming policies (i) to make proposals as far as the management of pastoral common/shared resources is concerned (ii) to clarify the responsibility of the OPs in the report dealing with farmers/cattle breeders (iii) to improve the issues of cross-border mobility of herds and to deal with cross-country pastoralism (iv) and to make proposals as to the development of pasture lands.*

(39) Question 6: WHAT CONTRIBUTION CAN ROPPI MAKE SO AS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT WOMEN IN THE POLICIES?

We notice in the contributions of the platforms to the EFs functioning that women's role is seen through their active participation at every level in farming-silvicultural-pastoral and fishing production in the family farm. Despite difficulties, nearly every government has adopted policies aiming at giving equal access to men as well as women. However, implementing such policies encounter difficulties. Therefore, it appears that the issue of gender equality relates to Human Rights; it is also a requirement for socio-economic development.

- *In this respect, ROPPI should suggest, (1) an analysis of the evolution of women in EF, it should also (ii) make a new proposal about the status of the EF members (iii) and link this matter to the democratization of the society.*

(40) Question 7: HOW TO BRING ABOUT A BETTER CONSIDERATION OF THE YOUTH IN THE POLICIES?

Today, youth are not only more and more numerous but their level of instruction is improving as well. They represent a potential, an opportunity for economic and social development. However, the lack of jobs for the youth is a source of problems. Yet, the policies meant for the youth are not up to the challenge. Therefore, the concerns among the farmers amounts both to the lack of interest from many rural areas youth in farming which contribute to accelerating exodus towards the cities and to decreasing family manpower but also with regard to taking over the farm once the parents pass away.

- *These assessments and analysis urge ROPPI to (i) analyze deeply the evolution of youth's situation within family farms, (ii) work on a critical analysis of policies meant for youth, (iii) be able to understand the reasons behind the youth leaving the family farm and (iv) reflect on ways and means to make the family farms more attractive, spot and focus on the successful family farms and showcase them.*

(41) Question 8: HOW TO TACKLE THE ISSUE OF SECURITY IN RURAL AREAS?

With the increase of in the number of conflicts, thefts attacks and land security concerns, the issue of insecurity becomes essential in rural areas. The consequences for family farms are mentioned in the contributions from most countries.

Therefore, ROPPI should list the different types of current insecurity in rural areas and identify the ways and means the POs can contribute in reducing insecurity.

- *ROPPI should stand out against namely (i) insecurity caused by armed conflicts (ii) land insecurity (iii) insecurity caused by conflicts between farmers and cattle breeders (iv) properties and individual insecurity, and (v) sanitary insecurity.*

(42) Question 9: HOW TO REINFORCE ROPPI CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEFINITION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICIES?

Despite obvious improvements, discrepancies and a few shortcomings still remain in the implementation of policies. Most of them, when they do not focus basically on the development of productivism-based farming to the detriment of family farming, there are shortcomings in their implementation.

- *In this respect, ROPPI should take action among others about (i) training and reinforcing the capacities of the leaders and the POs belonging to the network so as to understand them better (ii) the functionality of its policy watchdog systems and their capacity to ensure the long term follow up (iii) revitalizing the platforms and make them a reality namely during the farming campaign (iv) and the accuracy of what the follow up consists in.*





CHAPTER 4 : PROSPECTS FOR ROPPA REGIONAL OBSERVATORY

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This first assessment is experimental: ROPPA was seeking to test its capacity to initiate better knowledge of family farming through testing the different types of products, the interest they would bring about both within and outside the farmers' movement and from there, develop a consolidation strategy in line with its strategic plan. This strategy has three major objectives that outline the prospects deriving from the experience:

- *To develop the use of this first assessment.*
- *To consolidate the Observatory.*
- *To take advantage of the ensuing dynamics to strengthen ROPPA coherent strategies.*



12

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE USE OF THIS FIRST ASSESSMENT

(43) Internal development:

According to the category taken into account (regional network, national platforms, federations/ cooperatives and grassroots OPs belonging to the platforms), the use of information and reflections from the assessment should, on the one hand, enable the OPs to target better the services they bring to their members (services to the platforms for regional network and services to family farms through the organizational chain that reaches them at the national level) and on the other hand drive their political action.

The first condition that should be met so as to enable ROPPA OP members to benefit from this first report (and the ones to come) is not only to have it widely spread between them but they also make of it their own. For this to happen, ROPPA should rely on the different steps that led to collecting the report data (regional small groups,, focal points, OEF committees wherever they area) so as to organize national then regional restitutions/self-assessment aiming at clearly connecting the action themes of the platform and its sub points and report themes (turning the report into

booklets will make it easy) and assess the functionality of this first report as well as the process used by every platform to participate in its production. ROPPA will also have the report for discussion in the different sectors of the network (at the level of sectors, cattle breeding, groups of women and youth).

The questions raised by the report on the viability of family farms, as well as the sensitive “9 transversal questions” identified as from ROPPA old policy, will continue to lead to the internal reflection at the different levels of the network.

(44) External development:

Sharing the findings in the report should enable to improve genuinely ROPPA debates and dialogue on matters related to family farms with regional institutions (UEMOA, CEDEAO, CILSS...), States, technical services, technical and financial partners, NGOs and

the civil society organizations, the other POs, training and research.

Two approaches will be implemented so as to support the development of the report at the level of these actors and partners.

On the one hand, the current synthesis will be widely circulated while the booklets that will make it complete will be available for those who find it useful for them and will ask for it.

On the other hand, the network will, according to their object, introduce in the meetings with themes it promotes or participates in a specific presentation prepared within a smaller committees, elements of the report that are useful during the debates and will increase the participants’ awareness on the importance of information about farmers made available. A special attention should be given to this type of developments in the meetings of the prevention and management of food crisis Network (RPCA), the ones we have with the partners who supported ROPPA Observatory process.



13

CONTINUING TO BUILD THE OBSERVATORY

(45) Relying on the “memory of the Observatory”

The motivations behind the memory on the Observatory.

What is at stake in setting up the memory of the Observatory of ROPPA family farms is to enable ROPPA and its national platforms to start from its experience to continue the process of building an Observatory.

The decision to start the work on the reconstitution of the Observatory memory namely the different stages of its construction was taken during the 2015 Cotonou workshop. Three major motivations were behind the decision: (i) to learn from our success and our limits to build the Observa-

tory as from our experiences, (ii) to compare the evolution of the project with that of ROPA Institutional life and its uneven evolutions, and (iii) and claim loudly: we live in an international environment that is interested in the creation of observation mechanisms of the family farm; we do not want people to focus on us without referring to our sources and origins.

As a political tool, the memory of the Observatory will be a reference in the dialogue with regional and international institutions that are willing to support farming while making a difference among the sectors the one of family farming: this will allow to show how ROPPA is seeking, through many trials and error, to find a satisfactory answer to the following

question: "how to give some information on the specificity of family farming?" This memory should equally improve the OP framework/ROPPA research. It will make the dialogue with other existing farming observation mechanisms easy.

How will the work be done?

The work on the Observatory memory on family farming already started in 2016 through a paper documentary in which nearly fifty documents were gathered. The work will continue. A meeting to define the methodology, to gather information and/or sources of information and to agree on a road map will trigger the process of the observation building process.

(46) Reinforcing the capacities of the actors of the Observatory

The actors and the capacities to be reinforced

The pillars of ROPPA farmers' Observatory are the national platforms and their and their sub-groups: they are the one who provide the Observatory with data as from their follow ups (of family farms, farming drives, watching over the policies).

The first report shows that two types of capacities require to be reinforced:

- The follow up capacities: the detailed analysis of follow up processes in BOOKLET 4, which completes the synthesis, shows there are three cases: some platforms have efficient follow up mechanisms, others have partial or very early stages mechanisms and others have not got any yet.
- Processing and the good use capacities of the data collected: ROPPA would like to bring every platform to be able to release national reports on observation, on a regular basis, that could be published and become autonomous in improving and valuing knowledge on farmers within the family farms.

Moreover, going to the end required the process of co-writing the first report, as from follow ups in the field, to be done at a general level by the regional group technical team and at the level of each country by the national platforms focal points. Those who were involved in the process coordinated, facilitated, communicated, worked on the methodology, on the planning, managed, followed up processed and integrated data collected and drew the best. Each task corresponded to a specific capacity that resulted into reality through experience and practice and should be reinforced.

Three methods of capacity development:

- The first method of capacity development already used to write this report is PRACTICE (learning by practicing). It is part of the farmers' method of learning and we will continue to use it.
- When finding out the capacity reinforcement needs in some platforms and the existing competences in other platforms, self-assessment/restitution practices will make it easy to implement a second method: EXCHANGES. Most of the OPs have already acquired experience.
- Moreover, ROPPA FARMERS' UNIVERSITY (UPR) will create training modules in connection with the Observatory functioning requirements of family farms. Production and improving the knowledge are already among the retained themes and an example of implementation could be the management of the knowledge as from the observatories reports.

(47) Developing the Observatory step by step

As the different follow up, processing, coordination and management tasks of this tool are consolidated; the Observatory bodies will be clearly defined. The institutional development of the Observatory will therefore be progressive. However, the time will come when it will look possible and necessary to make it official the overall organization of this tool, its procedures, its ways and means of collecting and processing, of spreading, of funding so as to make it regular and permanent its functioning. ROPPA does not wish to go ahead with it too early in order to avoid freezing the Observatory building dynamic and find the means to adjust this tool to the realities of the farmers: it learnt a lot from its past experience in this respect. On the other hand, we can already anticipate on some requirements the Observatory, once finalized, will have to meet so as to begin with putting in place some steady elements (observation tools, plans, follow up and spreading tools and so on) that will make the Observatory permanent cornerstone. We should bear in mind the Observatory should enable to make comparisons anytime to give information about the specificities of the different types of family farms and policies and about the tendencies of the evolutions.

One of these elements that already looks like to be retained as a permanent one will be the agricultural campaigns follow up which represent the common cornerstone to the family farms dynamics and the watchdog in the implementation of policies¹.



14 REINFORCING ROPPI STRATEGIC COHERENCES

(48) Bringing about coherence between ROPPI's big projects as from the Observatory results.

ROPPI sixth convention, held in Niamey in 2014, had mobilized the network on five "big projects": relaunching the family farms Observatory, activities in the framework of dialogue about the policies, the one of an OF executive/Research, redefining the farmers' university and the business forum.

Since then, actions have been taken in connection with each of these projects without having links between them. It appears today, considering the results of the Observatory methods that the input of its first report and the following ones will make it possible to move and improve the themes, and the approaches, targeting partners, participant farmers of each of the other big projects. We have already mentioned direct links to be established between the FRAMERS' UNIVERSITY and reinforcing capacities in connection with the Observatory. ROPPI also intends to organize an OP/RESEARCH ROUND TABLE to identify the farmers' requests as from themes coming from the 9 transversal questions and the updated sensitive points in the Observatory first report. This option calls for the improvement of relations with the RPCA, whose reports are fully used by the executive secretariat but on the overall, they are not enough used by the national platforms.

The results of the reflection on policies presented in booklet 3 will directly contribute to improving the FRAMEWORK OF DIALOGUE ON POLICIES. Finally, the focus in the future observation cycles on the issues of products development and sending them on the market should make it possible to help improve the BUSINESS FORUM. The Observatory project aims at becoming the common access to the other big projects and therefore contributes to have them become coherent.

(49) Defining a new communication strategy

The experience of co-construction and production of knowledge on farmers initiated by the Observatory is a very encouraging opportunity to reflect on adaptation of ROPPI system of communication. As a matter of fact, we notice that the genuine issues the Observatory faces so as to give information and spread 2 them actually apply to the other sections of the network. Therefore, it is a communication strategy common to every ROPPI section that can be modified as from the needs of the Observatory. A group of reflection on the setting up of an appropriate communication system will start working on it.

Here are the questions: Who should communicate with whom? How to put, in the first place, in the flow of communications? What should we communicate on, why and for whom? What languages, which tools and channels should be used (they should be diverse, visual, factual...)? How can communication make it easy to break up the barriers and bring together synergies within ROPPI, and to strengthen transversal internal communications? On which successful practices and experiences can we rely on (nourishing Africa, other campaigns...)? What means are necessary?

(50) Implementing the ROPPI new strategic plan

By developing "strategic plans", ROPPI gives itself a tool that makes its actions coherent so as they all focus on turning into reality the political vision and its strategic priorities. ROPPI had already made a priority the transformation of family farms in its five-year plan 2012/2016. It is now clearer how, in the next plan it is to submit to its partners for funding, the family farms Observatory will be essential to having coherent actions to the benefit of the "family farms that feed Africa".



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THE OBSERVATORY UPCOMING REPORTS

(51) Plans in 2018: an improved observation report

The evaluation processes and the assessments of the first report as well as the comments and suggestions that its external spreading will provoke, will enable in 2017 the identification of improvements to be seen in the next reports. Therefore, actions aiming at reinforcing the capacities will be implemented. Basically, they will focus on improving the follow up practices; however, the schedule will not allow the regular implementation during the 2017 campaign. Therefore, it is during the 2017/2018 campaign that a report similar to the first one, but with improved follow up capacities developed by the platforms and ROPPA, will be produced by the Observatory. It will be able to put more emphasis particularly on aspects that were not enough dealt with in the first report. The options in this respect are still available. This Observatory third report will enable to make comparisons in the future with regard to observations carried out in 2016.

(52) A medium-term report in 2017

The 2017 report will therefore be a medium-term report whose nature remains to be determined. But anyway, it will certainly be a clearer report than report number 1 because the energies are more mobilized on reinforcing the capacities. The orientation remains open; it could be:

- An OEF consolidation progress report about capacity building actions assessment.
- or a thematic report continuing ROPPA reflection on one of the identified sensitive issues in the 2016 report.

In both cases, it will also give medium-term results during the 2016/2017 campaign (which will allow to continue to mobilize platforms on the observation and keep elements of comparison in the future) that were not detailed. We will focus, for instance, on welding 2017, which give essential indications on the 2016/2017 campaign.

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