

FOOD & BUSINESS APPLIED RESEARCH FUND

INFANT FOOD FROM LOCAL RESOURCES AS PATHWAY FOR A BETTER FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN BENIN (INFLOR)

Consortium Members

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Project description

Objective: Nutritionally improved, safe and affordable infant foods from local resources for urban and rural consumers’ communities

Expected impact: Healthy infants with increased resilience to morbidity and mortality

Methods: Use of socio-anthropometric and participatory approach combined with analytical methods and advanced foodtech.

Impact activities and preliminary results

- 45 promising local food ingredients identified, characterized and mapped by agroecological zones of Benin
- 314 infant flours listed on local markets and at household level
- Ingredients used to formulate these existing flours are in the range of cereals, legumes and fish
- Local food resources are not yet fully valorized in the infant food formulas both at industrial and household levels
- 03 novel food formulas developed: 1 for industrial exploitation and 2 generic formats for agroecological zones
- 01 launching workshop; 04 steering committee meetings and 03 follow up meetings organized
- 02 participatory sensorial evaluations of developed products realized
- 03 manuscripts prepared for publication in refereed scientific journals
- 03 posters prepared for presentation at international workshops



Opportunities and challenges

- ✓ Existing consortium organization with adequate expertise to conduct an applied research on infant foods development based on interdisciplinary approach
- ✓ Existing market for selling improved local infant flours
- ✓ Availability of a wide diversity of food ingredients to be valorised
- ✓ Ensuring that the nutritionally-adequate formulated infant foods are sensorially and culturally acceptable and affordable to vulnerable groups who need them most