

FOOD & BUSINESS APPLIED RESEARCH FUND

Strategic diffusion and marketing of promising varieties of plantain–Republic of Benin

Consortium Members

Berthe Eléonore Nanoukon, Coordinator, Cité des Bananes, Private Company
Bonaventure Ahojuendo, Scientific and Research Leader, University of Abomey-Calavi
Paul Struik, Scientific Leader at international level, Wageningen University
Jean Baptiste Adimou, Development Organisation, Advocacy and Diffusion activities, GERME NGO

Project description

The aim of this project is to promote plantain production and processing to ensure food security and generate income to practitioners. This project endeavors to bring together actors from various knowledge backgrounds including practitioners, as well as scientists to select promising plantain varieties and produce healthy planting material; design a mechanism for strategic dissemination of materials; develop appropriate processing technologies to deliver plantain-derived products that meet the requirements of national and international markets; explore markets for new plantain-derived products. Ultimately, this project will ensure an intensive production and marketing of promising varieties of plantain through the development of best agricultural practices that support the rapid diffusion of three selected varieties of banana / plantain; the establishment of four diffusion poles of plantain varieties to supply two thousand farmers in three years in five districts; the development of new plantain product markets at

Impact activities and preliminary results

Exploratory studies and field visits:

- Dominance of mixed cultivation of plantain and other banana varieties
- Plantation of plantain with other crops sharing the same pests
- Absence of private and public structures in production of propagating materials
- Absence of distribution and supply systems of propagating materials
- Processing units very few and not well developed

Literature review: no accurate data regarding the total acreage of plantain, the number of plantain growers

Baseline studies ongoing

Collection of plantain accessions ongoing

Meetings with other projects members working on plantain and banana

Opportunities and challenges

Opportunities

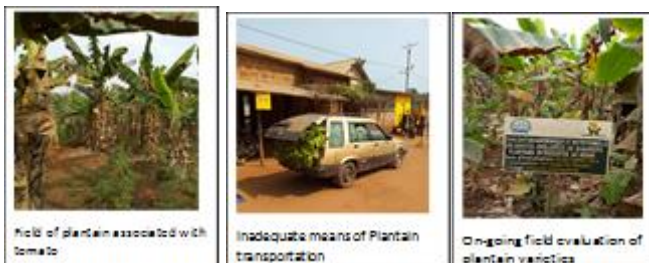
- Partnership with several ongoing projects focusing on banana and plantain in the country

Challenges

- Evaluation of the total acreage of plantain
- Morphologic and genetic characterization of plantain accessions
- Participatory field evaluation
- Establishment of four poles of diffusion of plantain varieties
- Establishment of supply systems of plantain varieties
- Development of new plantain derived products
- Development of new market of plantain derived products



Three most produced and marketed varieties



Non-recommended production and transportation practices

Field evaluation



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands



Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research
WOTRO Science for Global Development

