



ACTIONS POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET LE DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE

Strategic Plan

2014 – 2018

Synthesis



Going Forward...



www.aced-benin.org

National context

Benin is a small country whose population is estimated at 9 million people. The country is one of the poorest in the world with an annual per capita income of 752 dollars in 2012. The Human Development Index of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) ranked the country 166th out of 187 countries considered in 2013. Poverty remains widespread in the population and the economy, undiversified, remains highly vulnerable to external shocks.

Benin has developed in March 2011 the third generation of the Growth Strategy for Poverty Reduction which aims to make Benin an emerging country by 2025. The objective of promoting diversified, efficient and modern agriculture ensuring food security is clearly expressed in that main policy document. In general, the strategic orientations of ACED meet the national strategy of the country in terms of increased food security and poverty reduction.

Why this Strategic plan?

Since its inception in 2009, "Actions pour l'Environnement et le Développement" (ACED) have mainly implemented activities in Benin on food security issues which is one of the major concerns of the country. The strategic plan development has been motivated by the observation that despite the helpful actions of ACED, it lacks a comprehensive strategic framework. The absence of such framework reduces the effectiveness and sustainability of the institution actions and its ability to mobilize resources. It is expected that the strategic plan provides that framework for the next five years (2014-2018) and allows the institution to better focus its efforts on the achievement of development goals.

Challenges & Opportunities

Climate change is a major challenge for food security in Benin where agriculture is mainly rain-fed.

The food situation in Benin like in other developing countries remains precarious and does not meet the food needs of a predominantly rural population. This situation is worsened by the combination of many factors like the rapid population growth associated with environmental degradation and the adverse effects of climate change.

However, there are some opportunities that could help to overcome these challenges in relation to food security. These include taking advantage from agricultural value chains, the potential of Information, Technology and Communication (ICT) and the national and international context that places a strong emphasis on food security.

« *Agricultural value chains and Information and Communication Technologies are opportunities for improving food security in Benin.* »

ACED

Positionning

During the next 5 years, ACED will continue to focus its activities on improving food security in Benin. We will support small-scale farmers to increase their productivity and agricultural income. Thanks to its experience on the issues of climate change and the relevance of these issues for food security, ACED will work to reduce the vulnerability of farming communities to climate variability and change. Finally, ACED will promote the use of Information Technology and Communication (ICT) in agriculture.

Vision

ACED seeks to be a leading institution in empowering agricultural communities for increased food security and poverty reduction

Mission

To improve food and nutritional security in Benin in a sustainable environment

Programme 1

Agriculture & Food Security



This programme supports small-scale farmers for a more profitable agriculture

4 strategic focuses

Improving agricultural value chains performance

This axis aims to improve the performance of agricultural value chains by studying the most important and relevant agricultural commodities in order to correct malfunctioning elements and assist disadvantaged stakeholders for a more equitable distribution of the added value.

Improving the production of smallholders' farms

This area of intervention aims to facilitate the access of smallholders' farmers to agricultural knowledge and technological innovations and support them in improving farming systems. The objective is to achieve a more productive and environmentally-friendly agricultural systems to increase yields and incomes.

Post-harvest management

The focus is on supporting rural producers and households in developing effective techniques to manage the post-harvest part of their production through innovative storage and agricultural processing.

Improving nutrition security of communities

The objective is to improving nutrition security of vulnerable communities by adapting agricultural production to nutrition needs.

To support vulnerable communities in coping with climate change

3 strategic focuses

Adapting agriculture to climate change and variability

The objective is to strengthen the resilience of agriculture to climate change and variability using endogenous and modern strategies to improve agricultural productivity. The adaptive capacity of small-scale farmers will be improved.

Reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases

The objective is to promote and implement initiatives that can reduce greenhouse gases emissions and improve communities' livelihoods and food security.

Mainstreaming climate change issues into policies

This is to inform, communicate and share knowledge on climate change issues at all levels (local, national and international) with key stakeholders involved in policy and decisions making to ensure climate change adaptation and mitigation are considered.



Programme 3

ICT for Agriculture

This programme aims to promote the use of ICT for agricultural development

3 strategic focuses

Access of farmers to markets through ICT

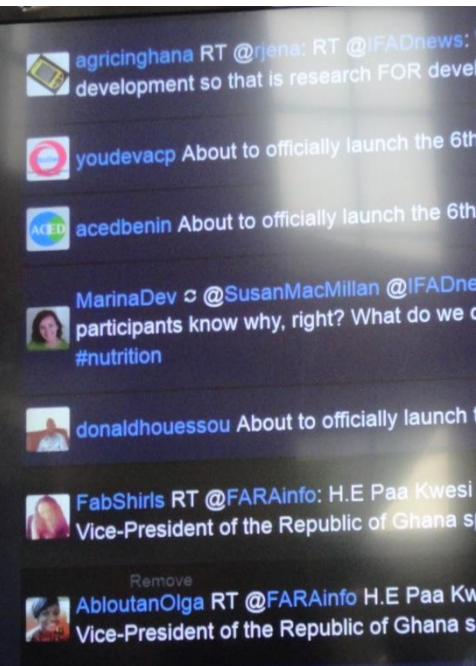
Through this component, ACED supports key stakeholders in improving agricultural products marketing using information and communication technologies. Focus will be made on small-scale farmers.

Use of ICT tools by agricultural stakeholders

This aims at taking advantage of the potential of existing and emerging information and communication technologies for the agricultural sector. Stakeholders will be assisted in using ICT tools including web2.0 tools to improve their performance.

Agricultural Knowledge Management

This component is throughout the entire strategy of ACED and splits into two parts. The first is to facilitate the aggregation and enhancement of achievements made in the field of food security in Benin. The second component is to support the "Agriculture and Food Security" and "Climate Change" programmes in managing the knowledge generated by them.



Implementation

In implementing this strategic plan, ACED will focus on **partnership** to boost a multi-stakeholder process to deal with different identified challenges. Fundraising and capacity building will also be focused by the organization to ensure that human, financial and material resources are available to achieve its mission. **Monitoring and evaluation** and **knowledge management** will also be key elements for next five years. This will help to measure outcomes and enhance the knowledge management. Among others, **youth** and **women** will continue to be key stakeholders in our actions.

« ... youth and women will continue to be key stakeholders in our actions. »

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