

Food science and technology dissemination in Africa: the case of the SATTIFS cooperation project

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Abstract

Africa is the poorest and economically marginalized continent in the world. In that, severe underdevelopment conditions, as unproductive farming systems, lack of adequate human resources, weak research capacity and inconsistent policies and key infrastructures, affect agriculture, the most important economic sector. Furthermore, poor production and post-harvest management practices result in poor quality agricultural products. Mycotoxins and pests contamination of foodstuff is a dramatic issue representing a serious constraint that affects economic development and severely reduces the capacity of agricultural production to satisfy food consumption demand and ensure food security, quality and safety.

The Project SATTIFS (“Strengthening innovation and technology dissemination for sustainable development in cereals, cocoa and coffee value chains in Western and Eastern Africa”) actively involves 5 partners:

- University of Molise and Regional Agency for Environment Protection of Molise (Italy),
- University of Gulu (Uganda),
- University of Energy and Natural Resources (Ghana),
- Bioeconomy Africa in cooperation with University of Mada Walabu (Ethiopia).

The Project implements training and dissemination activities to address the issue of competencies’ deficiency at production, post-harvest and processing levels, and to promote food security and socioeconomic development in Uganda, Ghana and Ethiopia, by enhancing knowledge of science and food science technology and innovation capacities.

The Project foresees:

1. establishment of research network;
2. establishment (including technological equipment) of 3 Centres for Innovation and Technology dissemination (CITED) in each ACP partner Country;
3. implementation of training and dissemination activities to identify technology limitations and to customize validate and promote appropriate technologies, providing sufficient technical skills.

Training activities involve not only the staff of the CITEDs, but also all the main actors of the agricultural sector (farmers as well as artisans, mechanics and blacksmiths) to disseminate selected technologies.