

Construction en synergie avec les milieux socioprofessionnels de masters innovants en agronomie durable en réseau dans 3 EES de l'Afrique de l'Ouest

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

A two year master's degree programme, conforming to the LMD system has been developed, implemented and accredited in Benin, Ivory Coast and Niger. The programme has strengthened linkages between the participating Higher Education Institutions providing specialisations which students are able to take advantage of and receive credits for at their home institutions. The programme has also encouraged the collaboration of agricultural sector stakeholders with universities to produce quality graduates.

BACKGROUND

The employability of graduates from West African countries is relatively low.

The main reasons for this situation are the inadequacy of training programmes at Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) linked to the employment needs and a lack of dialogue between academic and socio-professional circles. In this context, the project aimed to develop a strategy based on a constructive dialogue between these different partners. This was done on the basis of a diagnostic survey, both at national and regional level in the context of the international LMD (Licence-Master's-Doctorate) reform in order to propose relevant curricula at master level.

Dialogue between academics and professionals has not always been easy. By utilising a participative approach with stakeholders in the development of the new masters allowed for the establishment of a co-operative approach to the trainings. An additional challenge was attracting females who account for only 18% of African agricultural scientists.

The aim was to improve innovation of graduate studies in agronomic sciences and match the training of future scientific professionals with the requirements of the agricultural and environmental sectors.

METHODOLOGY

Stakeholder analysis and participation

A two-year master's degree in the LMD model was developed. The first year was the same for each HEI and covered the general field of 'Agricultural production'. The second year varied per HEI.

Identification of academic and training content

Content was identified by the needs analysis conducted and designed using a participatory approach to ensure relevance and adherence to the LMD system.

Training for faculty and laboratory technicians

Faculty staff and laboratory technicians need to be sufficiently qualified and have a sound understanding of the LMD system, including the design and delivery of courses. Trainings were delivered on how to organise, manage and monitor work placement schemes.

Academic exchanges

To formalise links between HEIs, students were enabled to pursue a specific curriculum of their choice in one of the partner HEIs whilst obtaining the diploma M2 of their establishment of origin.

Gender strategy

Implementation of specific measures to integrate women into masters programmes. Concrete actions were put in place to encourage a proactive HEI policy.

Management Training

Training elaborated for the management of international projects.



Presentation of books at the Université Abdou Moumouni (FAUAM), Niger.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

October 2013 – October 2017

CONSORTIUM

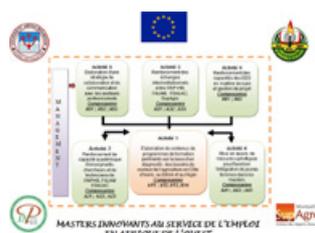
- Institut National Polytechnique Félix Houphouët-Boigny, Ivory Coast
- Université d'Abomey-Calavi, Faculté des Sciences Agronomiques (FSAUAC), Benin
- Faculté d'Agronomie-Université Abdou Moumouni (FAUAM), Niger
- Montpellier SupAgro, Institut national d'études supérieures agronomiques de Montpellier, France

PROJECT CONTACT

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PROJECT WEBSITE

http://www.inphb.edu.ci/site_old/Magrinn%20-%2020125%20z125/index.php



RESULTS

→ Outputs

Capacity building

- 3 master curricula designed:
 - Niger: Plant production.
 - Benin: Agricultural entrepreneurship.
 - Ivory Coast: Agribusiness.
- 2 masters implemented in Niger and Ivory Coast with 29 students (14 female).
- 1 master awaiting the resumption of classes in Benin with 10 students (6 female).
- 3 computer rooms (1 per country) to facilitate student learning.
- 1 videoconferencing room for the common communication platform in Ivory Coast.
- 3 computer servers (1 per country).
- 70 university staff (5 female) trained in designing and delivering online courses.
- 50 laboratory technicians (14 female) trained in efficient laboratory management.
- 3 administrative staff trained in supporting graduates in finding a job and to follow their progress in their careers.
- 20 staff trained in project management (3 female).
- 7 staff trained in financial administration (4 female).
- 1 collaborative management platform for the exchanges between teachers and

students from the 3 countries and the online delivery of courses.

Infrastructure

- 3 computer rooms (1 per country) to facilitate student learning.
- 1 videoconferencing room for the common communication platform in Ivory Coast.
- 3 computer servers (1 per country).

Visibility

- 1 website.

↑ Outcomes

- Partner HEIs have academic and technical capacity to deliver a regional LMD master programme in sustainable agriculture.
- Partner HEIs have the administrative capacity to manage academic mobility and work placement programmes.
- HEIs possess expertise and resources to produce master level graduates with current and relevant skills.

🎯 Impacts

Usage

- The methods developed to devise new curricula have been recognised at the institutional level and adopted by other faculties including the School of Agronomy and School of Industry. The developed models are being replicated at the regional level.

Policy implications

- The number of females enrolled in the master programme has increased. The most spectacular example is that of Niger, where the open master has 10 registered females out of a total of 22 students

(45.45%). In terms of the integration of graduates into employment, the rates will be revealed due to the participation of sector stakeholders in the elaboration of trainings, course content and work placements.

- In Ivory Coast, the project methodology used was cited as an example of good practice by the Cabinet Director of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

Sustainability

- Two of the open masters have been approved institutionally and are integrated into the academic offer of these institutions. The third master is in the process of accreditation.
- The three open computer rooms reinforce existing resources and the videoconferencing rooms facilitate exchange between the three institutions.

TESTIMONIAL



Prof. Benjamin Yao,
Director of the doctoral
School of INP-HB,
Ivory Coast

“This project was a great experience for us. We contributed to increasing the capacity of our institutions in terms of human resources and equipment and we are proud to have raised awareness of the importance of gender in our institutions. We have helped increase the ratio of female students. We hope that scholarships will be given to start doctoral studies and as a result more women will be integrated into the teaching staff.”



Capacity building of laboratory technicians at the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences of Benin.



Project Closing Ceremony.

ACP-EU Co-Operation Programmes in the fields of Higher Education and Science, Technology and Research

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