The CODE-WA project is funded by BMZ, co-ordinated by University of Hohenheim, and executed by ICRISAT in cooperation with NARS and local to regional farmer organisations (FOs) in Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso and Ghana. It develops strategies for West African farmers to adapt to climate variability. Emphasis is on increasing biodiversity at the crop and variety level, thereby reducing vulnerability to unpredictably variable climate. Two major approaches have been developed, which allow a relative fast adoption of new options at the farm and village scale: The Opposite Pyramide Approach and the Vertical Farmer Exchange Visit.

### Opposite Pyramide Approach

In the first year a high number of crops and varieties are proposed to the collaborating FOs. The FOs decide about the options they would like to test. During the cropping season farmers regularly visit the field experiments. At the end of the season a participatory evaluation takes place laying the base for the options to be tested in the second year. In the second and third year the number of options is consecutively reduced but the cropped area increased. This allows the farmers to test crops and varieties at relevant scales and under real conditions and prepares a smooth transition from testing to adoption.

### Vertical Farmer Exchange Visit

The collaborating FOs decide about the topics to be dealt with during the exchange visit and are responsible for preparation and execution of the presentations, supported by the researchers. Also venue and timing are chosen by the FOs. While in the first year topics covered farmer organisations and cash crops, the second year focused on staple crops. 2011 will cover minor crops. Contents are increasingly oriented to practice. This includes excursions to farmer fields, irrigation schemes as well as communautary radio stations. But also preparation of various dishes from introduced crops is decisive to give a perspective to their use. Culinary tests complete activities to increase acceptance of new crops and cultivars, with the final goal to enhance biodiversity in farmer's field.