

# Funding Agricultural Research to Connect Local Communities to Global Markets: Experiences from Benin (West Africa)

Ismail M. Moumouni, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, e-mail: [ismailmm@gmail.com](mailto:ismailmm@gmail.com)  
 Bernard Agbo, ProCGRN GTZ Benin, e-mail: [bernard.agbo@firstnet.bi](mailto:bernard.agbo@firstnet.bi)  
 Annemarie Matthes, GTZ Eschborn, e-mail: [annemarie.matthes@gtz.de](mailto:annemarie.matthes@gtz.de)



## Introduction

Open access of developing countries to global markets needs to be addressed by policy-makers. However, low cost and high quality production and processing remain prerequisites for competitiveness on national markets and international markets. Connecting local communities to global markets requires the improving of innovations to support the commodity network development. For that purpose, Benin's agricultural research has developed an innovative funding and management strategy. To investigate its present contribution to enhance the access of local communities to global markets, semi-structured interviews were carried out with leaders of the public research organization (INRAB), development projects, farmer organizations and NGOs. Successes and remaining challenges are presented below.

## Funding and management approach



## Successes + success factors

### Research progressively organized by regions and main value chains

- Political ranking of value chains
- Value chains and related constraints identified with farmers in each region on the basis of market & local potentials
- Research results on markets, marketing and performing technologies organized by value chains
- Intensification and improved research on key issues for each value chain

### Bankable technologies

- Quality and continuity of research results improved
- Increased supply of research results resolving constraints identified by farmers and their organizations
- Bankable technological packages transformed in commercial extension material

## Challenges

### Effective dissemination

- Pluralistic and performing extension system
- Operational linkages between NARS and extension
- Input provision for non-cotton value chains

### Quality management at NARS level

- Relevant criteria, procedures for assessment
- Incentation mechanisms

### Use of international knowledge

- Access to international inform. & knowledge systems on markets and science
- Systematic use of relevant innovative possibilities for production & processing
- Partnerships between NARS and regional & international research organizations

### Sustainable funding for efficiency of adaptive research

- Financial contributions of National and District Government, donors and farmer organizations to operating budgets to use human resources efficiently
- Creation of a National Fund for agricultural research

### Investment in strategic research

- Program-based funding of strategic and prospective research for sustainability and future competitiveness within National Fund for agricultural research
- Research on institutional arrangements for technology development and dissemination, service arrangements, marketing