



Tropentag, September 16-18, 2015, Berlin, Germany

“Management of land use systems for enhanced food security:  
conflicts, controversies and resolutions”

## Mapping and Management of the Main Watering Points Planned for the Nomadic Cattle in Benin

DODJI PAOLO A. ARMEL LESSE<sup>1</sup>, JONAS DJENONTIN<sup>2</sup>, IBOURAIMA YABI<sup>3</sup>, BRICE TENTE<sup>3</sup>,  
MARCEL HOUINATO<sup>1</sup>, SINSIN BRICE<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*University of Abomey-Calavi, Dept. of Sciences and Technics of Animal Production, Benin*

<sup>2</sup>*University of Parakou, Animal Production, Benin*

<sup>3</sup>*University of Abomey-Calavi, Dept. of Geography and Planning, Benin*

<sup>4</sup>*University of Abomey-Calavi, Laboratory of Applied Ecology, Benin*

### Abstract

The breeding, second economic activity after agriculture in Sudanese Africa contributes to food security in pastoral and agro-pastoral communities. This breeding is still extensive and largely based on the use of natural resources for cattle feeding and watering. In order to increase its contribution in these countries economy, the promotion of a policy of creating agro-pastoral has been set up in the decades 70–90. The aim of the various programs of this policy was to secure mobility in a dynamic planning of the territory and to guarantee the continuity of appropriate management of the structures and the pastoral areas. Despite the development of a pastoral water infrastructures programme in the north of Benin, the preoccupation of pastoralists and agro-pastoralists still focuses today on improving watering points in existing grazing areas. For a better assessment of the available, an exhaustive inventory of the area water infrastructures is done and reported on a map with the ArcView software from the repertoire of the waypoints recorded with a GPS. The Analysis of the management of the water infrastructures was realised thanks to interviews addressed to 180 actors determined previously thanks to SWOT tool. These questionnaires were treated with Sphinx plus software. In total 152 water infrastructures comprising dams, rivers and wells has been inventoried in the study area. The results coming from the description of these infrastructures allowed to point up their functionality or not and the quality of their maintenance. The difficulties of accessing to these infrastructures and the uses of the other water points saved for non pastoral uses have also been highlighted. It comes out from these analyses that the absence of the access roads to the water points and their settlement by some vegetables are the main concerns of the nomadic breeders. Indeed, the settlement of the corridors is source of numerous conflicts between farmers and breeders and the difficulties of accessing the water infrastructures particularly reduce their importance in the breeding activity of the study area.

**Keywords:** Food security, natural resources, pastoralism