The contribution of a small scale African leafy-vegetables processing unit for a more resilient future of women gardeners in Togo.

Yawa Minnie Elodie FOLLY, Entrepreneur, Founder, ADILI vegetables processing unit, Togo

Introduction

African leafy vegetables (ALVs) are:
- outstanding sources of micronutrients in the world.
- underutilized in Togo due to the deficient in the strategies on processing (40% losses in 2019, INSEED, Togo).
- produced mainly by women.

With COVID-19, fresh food local markets restriction make worse the situation:
- Important loss of ALVs (perishable) harvest due to a lack of processing method.
- Increase of the financial problems of women gardeners.

Objectives

Small-scale ALVs processing unit which aim at:
- ensure a stable revenue to women gardeners (main producers of ALVs, vulnerable) by buying directly their harvests.
- reduce losses and extend ALVs shelf live.

Implementation steps

- Invest in a processing unit.
- Select and strengthen a women gardeners cooperative.
- Identify the appropriate local and external markets for the processed products.
- Design the work scheme between the cooperative and the unit.
- Train the actors of the project (operators, farmers...).

Results

Test results
- Kitchen and materials furnished for production.
- The harvest of 02 women directly purchased.
- 100 kg of amaranths and 100 kg of jute leaves processed (215 frozen boxes sold).

Project results expected
- Women in the cooperative have improved their sales and their life.
- The unit have introduced innovation for local and export market standards.

Needed cost

- Cooperative selection and strengthening
- Processing unit investment
- Training of actors
- Market analysis
- Production and sales
- 19,935 €

Assumptions

Government favor to entrepreneurship, sales will not increase faster as production

Contact Details: Yawa Minnie Elodie FOLLY
e-mail: minnieleodie@hotmail.fr  Cellphone: +228 99 44 53 23