

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

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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 womens.

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

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