

Peer education promotes mutual nutrition learning and agri-food entrepreneurship among women in the agro-pastoral areas of northern Benin



Ilimath Lafia & Georges Djohy

### Research Unit on Agro-Pastoral, Humanitarian and Food Systems (UR-SAPHA), National School of Statistics, Planning and Demography

(ENSPD), University of Parakou (UP), Benin

# **INTRODUCTION**

- Peer-to-peer learning is a mutual training strategy that involves actors in collaborative learning to acquire knowledge and develop skills needed to effectively solve societal issues.
- NaviNut project used a trandisciplinary approach to codevelop, package and label two traditional foods with a view to combating child malnutrition and promoting income-generating activities for women.
- Peer education was carried out by local women leaders to ensure that NaviNut's achievements were shared and scaled up.
- $\rightarrow$  The study aims to analyse the impact of peer nutrition education on their knowledge of and attitudes towards child nutrition and agri-food entrepreneurship among women.

# RESULTS

Peer nutrition education improved women's knowledge and child-feeding practices.





Beneficiaries, including 2748 mothers of children reached by the program, 300 of whom were closely backtopped and monitored, confirmed that their child feeding practices had changed.

## Some testimonials from beneficiaries

"Thanks to this training, our traditional foods are valued because they are packaged and labeled" Delphine SABI WANGA

"I'm satisfied with the organization of the activities, as they help preserve our traditional foods by raising awareness on their value" Gado OUMAROU

# STUDY AREA

- Banikoara District (Agro-Ecological Zone II/ Benin Agricultural Development Pole No. 2/ Main Cotton Basin)
- Nikki District (Agro-Ecological Zone III/ Benin Agricultural Development Pole No. 4/ South Borgou Food Zone/ Cottonfood-cashew diversification zone)

## METHODS

- 10 women leaders selected
- 150 community training sessions carried out
- 300 follow-up sessions with mothers of children conducted
- Participant observations
- Follow-up questionnaire completed by the 10 women leaders
- Photo & video voice study
- **Descriptive statistics**
- **Content analysis**

# CONCLUSION

- Peer education offers significant potential for empowering women in the agropastoral zones of northern Benin with regard to nutrition and agri-food entrepreneurship.
- Support to women entrepreneurs in terms of training in the management of small food businesses could help boost their motivation and reinforce the sustainability of their initiatives.



### **Correspondence:** Ms. Ilimath Lafia

Research Unit on Agro-Pastoral, Humanitarian and Food Systems (UR-SAPHA) National School of Statistics, Planning and Demography (ENSPD) University of Parakou (UP), Benin Email: lafiailimath@gmail.com / ursaphabenin@gmail,com



Initial Kpankpannu

## Improved Kpankpannu





Traditional foods, once threatened with extinction, are now seen as promising business opportunities to promote healthy and sustainable diets.





Acknowledgement:

