



# Local Innovation Support Facility (LISF) as a catalyst for farmer creativity in developing innovative solutions for food and nutrition security in Northern Benin



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## CONTEXT

- Local Innovation Support Facility (LISF) is an alternative assistance mechanism based on small funds providing access to finance for low-resource innovative farmers to promote and improve their local innovations.
- As part of the Eli-FaNS “Expanding the promotion of local innovation for food security and healthy nutrition to strengthen resilience with a focus on women” project, Prolinnova-Benin and its partner organisations set up LISFs at two action-learning sites in northern Benin.
- The LISFs set up aim to build the capacity of smallholder farmers to innovate within the framework of multi-stakeholder partnerships promoting joint experimentation or participatory innovation development (PID).
- This paper analyses the extent to which the LISFs were taken up by grassroots actors and their impact on food and nutrition security.

## ACTION SITES AND APPROACH

- Two districts in northern Benin affected by food insecurity and child malnutrition (Bembéréké & Tchaourou) selected.
- A qualitative approach used for mapping out the LISF implementation process from launching the call for proposals to setting up the funds.
- 17 applications/requests received and reviewed by local multi-stakeholder committees based on criteria locally set by grassroots actors.
- Open-ended interviews conducted with 07 innovators LISF recipients, including 05 women, as part of follow-up and backstopping visits.
- Content analysis carried out.

## CONCLUSION

- LISFs help small-scale farmers to develop their capacity for innovation.
- Enhancing the value of endogenous knowledge and farmer creativity through improved agricultural investment capacity supports food innovation and entrepreneurship.
- These results can help shape actions and policies aimed at integrating local innovation and participatory innovation development approaches into agricultural research and development.

## PRELIMINARY RESULTS

- Multi-stakeholder partnership around LISFs contributed to targeting local food and nutrition innovation priorities (eg: soya yoghurt, flavoured shea butter, improved cashew apple juice, bone-based pesticide, spicy groundnut fritters and basil leaf-based chicks adoption).



- Fair assessment of LISF requests and transparent communication on funds allocation boosted farmer innovators’ self-confidence and creativity.



- LISFs boosted farmer innovators’ investment capacity, with positive effect on productivity and income.



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