

Enhancing cowpea productivity and income for sustainable livelihood of resource-poor farmers

Project Code: SC/05/CP/USAID/2010-13/

Objective:

Background/Rationale:

Cowpea is a key crop for resource poor farmers and rural women in subsistence farming systems in these areas as it performs well under low resource endowment. In addition, alternative crops are not directly available. The crop has a high potential for both food and nutritional security and rural poverty reduction because of its high protein content and the market value of grains. Cowpea residues are an important fodder resource for small ruminants. As a legume, it contributes to soil fertility through its nitrogen fixing abilities. The willingness of farmers to cultivate cowpea is clearly shown by all production and market trends in the region. Cowpea production has been growing over the last 15 years in all Sahelian countries and cowpea grains became gradually also a cash crop. Currently, cowpea production in Africa amounts to approximately 2.5 million tons and is cultivated on more than 8 million hectares.

Project Outputs:

1. Technologies and innovations to enhance cowpea productivity promoted
2. Cowpea technologies and innovations are identified and disseminated
3. Innovation platforms created
4. Actors' capacity strengthened
5. Access to inputs market information and cowpea product enhanced

Project Funding Type: Commissioned project

Participating institution and country location:

1. INRAB Bénin: Roger Ahouansou, Email: gnankis@yahoo.fr; Tel: +22997986253 ;
2. INERA Burkina Faso Dr Malick Ba, Email: baniango@yahoo.fr
3. SLARI Sierra Léone: MOSERAY, Moses Tamba, Email: mosesmoseray03@yahoo.com.Sg / mosesmoseray03@gmail.com; Tel: 00232 76 357 807/00232 33 416 466 ;
4. CSIR Ghana : Samuel Adimado Tel: +233277776313;

Lead Institution: Alpha Oumar KERGNA, IER, Mali Coordonnateur régional du Projet Mali akergna@yahoo.fr 00223 76 35 67 48 ; 00223 20 22 37 75

Project duration: 2010-2013

Starting date: October 2010

Ending date: 2013

Source of funding: USAID

Amount of funding: 600 000 \$