



Workshop 3 - Agriculture - Coalition for agriculture, food and reforestation in Africa

Climate Chance Summit 2019 – Africa

Key ideas from workshop 3:

- The importance of bringing together **local populations** and biodiversity via agriculture projects that contribute to local economic development
- **Education of local populations** to combat deforestation and land impoverishment (e.g. through the dissemination of information by a community radio station; through the creation of farmers' cooperatives in Burkina Faso).
- Importance of **promoting / sharing** innovation (challenge of sharing innovations in agricultural practices to reduce the use of pesticides / chemicals and promote the use of natural fertilizers) and **to involve the private sector more** in the preservation of biodiversity (concerning agriculture, deforestation ...)
- Importance of defining a legal framework for the protection of biodiversity in representative bodies of the community and ensuring the application of these laws
- Importance of **agricultural diversification** (e.g. bamboo cultivation) Need to strike a balance between harvesting and sustainable use of resources in order to combat soil impoverishment
- The current transition in agriculture must ensure **food sovereignty and security**.
- 90% of farmers are small producers: Challenges regarding the quality and quantity of production.
- Challenge of mobilising youth
- Areas where action is needed: education, innovation, law enforcement/compliance, community management, need for policies on food issues that allow for the creation of currently missing links between actors.

ROADMAP (defined in Abidjan)

Where are we now?

- Preponderance of family farming
- Subsidies for agriculture are decreasing
- Land degradation and desertification are increasing
- Success stories
- Training opportunities
- Agro-ecology, credible alternative

CLIMATE **CHANCE** Support the mobilisation of non-state actors and promote their common expression



- Smart agriculture in Africa

Where do we want to go?

- territorial approach to link urban & rural
- Waste management
- Structuring sustainable sectors

How to get there? (road map)

- dissemination of information
- Training
- Articulation of actors

INTRODUCTION

Paul Currie: moderator. (paul.currie@iclei.org), ICLEI Africa, support local governments.

Few presentations to start then reflecting on our own experience: Interactive room, Sharing practices. Interconnectivity of agriculture, food and reforestation

Romain Crouzet: (Background about the coalition)

Creation Climate Chance in 2015. Since 2017 there have been Climate Chance summits in Africa. Open platform: actors at the local level. Solutions are at the ground level in cities, NGOs and companies. Put together actors that are not used to be together/to talk

9 coalitions => doing the workshops, thinking long term strategies.

Coordinator is ICLEI (defined the road map in Abidjan)

Make the road map more concrete. Ideas and insights/inputs from the public => how can we work better? Trying to find more resources and people to make it work.

Paul Currie: After, let's talk about practices that we find interesting (break: exercise => sharing experiences with neighbour)

- **Cécile Rénier from NOE**

"Biodiversity is a key for climate". Agriculture has an impact on biodiversity and NGOs therefore have a very important role to play in safeguarding this biodiversity.

For example, the NGO NOE: works on the preservation, conservation of natural areas, with communities. It encourages the sustainable use of natural resources and works mainly with communities living on the periphery of protected areas.

The NGO works to link local economic development and biodiversity. This is done through the establishment of "**CREMA**" = **Communities Resources Management Area**. Their main problem is their capacity to be self-financing.

In concrete terms, a "sustainable" practice can be broken down into different forms: organic production that respects the environment, improved practices increasing yields and reducing the impact on the environment. Formal partnership agreements with the private sector should be encouraged. A Conservation Agreement with the private sector is needed to preserve the environment. And finally, the private sector must commit to contribute to biodiversity conservation.



'The aim is to create synergy between economic development and biodiversity'.

Question 1: how does it work? A CREMA is a system of local governance and therefore a legal system of decision-making where communities decide to act together for the preservation of the environment. A CREMA is backed by a constitution and by-laws, and deals with all matters related to natural resources. It is a system where people vote for their representatives. Two representatives per village will then sit at the CREMA Executive Committee; **funding is the key**. A CREMA has a resource management plan, which includes a patrol and arrest system. All the problems encountered by the Committees are related to money. It is not mandatory for value chains to work with a CREMA, and that is why they try to involve the private sector as much as possible.

Question 2: Aside from reforestation, what does Noé do?

Noé provides technical and financial support to local NGOs to develop sustainable supply chains in partnership with the private sector. The organization tries to ensure that production is done in a sustainable way so that it does not collapse due to poor water and soil quality. Sustainable agriculture affects everyone in the same area and benefits the whole ecosystem. It is better to preserve the environment than to try to repair the damage.

"Sustaining the ecosystem is always worth it".

Question 3: How to prevent people from entering protected areas if CREMA has no interest in them? Problem of rubber plantations?

The problem is to create a protected area so that people do not enter the forest. All this is part of the negotiations within the CREMA. As for rubber plantations, the Committee must promote the diversification of agriculture. Stop the dependency on cash crops, fostering food crops is the key to me'.

- **Community-based projects in Nigeria, the aim being to preserve forests**

Finding: coastal areas are very much affected by pollution, and communities are partly responsible for the destruction of this area. So how can we raise awareness for the preservation of wildlife?

Question: What are you doing to educate communities about wildlife protection?

Awareness can be raised through whatsapp. We need to set up a monitoring system, work with states, and build on a national movement against the effects of climate change that focuses on the forest. There is a **challenge of educating local populations**: training must be set up so that people know which species should be protected and thus preserve wildlife, such as turtles, for example. More than 20,000 families will benefit from the protection of the forest; it is these populations who must protect the environment.

- **Patrick Akowuah**

In Ghana, 80% of the population uses wood for cooking, which creates soil and forest degradation. Forests enrich the soil and we burn them.

Today we see a degradation of the plants, of the landscapes. The small-scale miners are totally destroying the soil. There is a problem of **unproductive land because of the palm oil, and the plantations extend over 300 acres. There is a need to strike a balance between harvesting and the sustainable use of resources, including diversification of agriculture**. Studies on agricultural land and soil yields prove this (loss of soil moisture, biomass issue). Planting criteria must be respected, and decomposition must be allowed to prevent erosion. Land should not be burned (he teaches other techniques). Sediment can



be used to feed the whole plantation. Burned land is also much less profitable. Technique of 'cover planting' to replenish the necessary biomass.

Interventions: innovation in agricultural practices

- Use the leaves of the neem tree as a natural pesticide, this helps to protect rice crops (just squeeze the leaves).
- Encourage farmers to share their organic resources and waste.
- The rice. After the harvest, the leaves can be given to the livestock.
- community mapping
- Concerning maize crops: project on the use of organic matter or natural fertilizers to grow them. The aim is to discourage people from using carbon-based fertilizers or insecticides for plantations; willingness to encourage farmers to practice resource and waste exchange
- The challenge of **reforesting forests** because we benefit from many forest products.
- Various projects in Tamale (Ghana) for the **preservation of the forest in the centre of the city**. **Possibility of entrusting the management to community** leaders who would apply a simple rule "when you cut, you plant".
- **Problem with the use of glyphosate:** the majority of farmers use this chemical which impoverishes the soil and endangers resources (snails, plantains...). Shouldn't it be banned?
- Develop the use of local seeds and 'mixed cropping' (mixing different crops in the same area).
- **Food Sovereignty**

Debate on pesticides use in Ghana.

- Cassava cultivation: difficulties linked to river pollution, loss of plantations, need to buy back good quality grains again.
- Concerning chemical substances: the regulation is very strict but recalcitrant growers use them tjs. They can be denounced to the authorities because it is forbidden to use them.
- Vegetable production. The use of chemical pesticides is sometimes linked to consumer demand: they are more interested in the appearance, the appearance of the product rather than its quality. However, chemical methods can leave an aftertaste that does not please the consumer: there are alternative methods that do not affect the vegetable and give it a neutral taste (e.g. the use of onions, garlic can chase away small insects without changing the taste).
- We all talk about ways to produce with respect for nature, **but there is also the issue of food sovereignty.**
- Benin - For some years now, a cattle farm that needs a lot of water has been deteriorating. The educational **role of community information radio**, helped by the public authorities to raise awareness among the population: spreading the idea of crop rotation, the necessary reduction in the number of oxen... The radio can also serve as an information relay, especially to warn of the arrival of the rains.
- **In Ghana, promotion of bamboo cultivation:** introduce bamboo in all crops (avoid a single crop => do not put all the eggs in the same basket). Technical demonstrations to communities, advice, joint collaboration as the aspects of climate change are diversified. Use different species of bamboo for different purposes.

Finding: Overview of the work done by an NGO (agricultural producer in West Africa) on agriculture in West Africa

Where are we now?



- Agriculture affects many sectors. It is the largest economic source in West Africa (territorial approach).
- Estimates that 90% of farmers are small producers = difficulty to work together? Challenge concerning the quality and quantity of production.
- The current transition of agriculture must ensure food security. It is necessary to increase production and ensure **food sovereignty**.
- Subsidies for agriculture are decreasing, we have to adapt to be able to increase funding, because there is a decrease in soil quality in Africa: need to adapt.

Success stories:

- In Burkina Faso, there has been an increase in the number of cooperatives created by farmers to talk about land degradation. Concretely there are more than 100 hectares restored. Objectives: raising awareness on the lack of financing, the will to relieve women who work a lot, the problem of the departure of young people.
- Central African Youth for the climate: creation of easy-to-use kits, farmers are looking for ways to adapt to climate change, but very few organisations are ready to invest.
- Need for credible alternatives in agro-ecology, e.g. fish farming - profitable use of organic products. Question of training opportunities: case of Cameroon, Niger: training in agroecology, training in the use of fertilizers, especially for women in rural areas.
- Intelligent agriculture issues: an alliance of 2,000 people, 200 organizations (example: green plantation administrator), farmers are helped by technological means that inform them, for example, when it is going to rain.

Where do we want to go?

Local approach to link urban and rural areas, strategically adjusted to African context

- A shift in practices: many challenges for Africa
- Goal: "to speak with one united voice"
- Gather different actors from the same branch, mobilise youth via resources
- Waste management: advocacy. Benin. How can we establish a link between the volume of waste and energy production? (**'flow of waste to become a flow of energy'**). Example with cocoa, as a natural model: leaves must be left to fall from trees as they are then used as fertiliser, this enables crop rotation
- Restructuring of important sustainable sectors: since 2009 cooperatives have been meeting in workshops to discuss pilot projects. Capitalizing on these projects

After the implementation of these projects, it is necessary to redo a group work, to find what is missing, additional ways to reach the objectives.

HOW TO GET THERE? (What is missing to accomplish our goals?)

- **Community management.** Communication on climate change: We need to rely on influential people, such as religious leaders, politicians, etc., to conduct a common communication strategy to reach rural people.
- Lack of linkages between the different actors: we need to find out how to really bring people together, how to engage them, in order **to create policies related to food issues.**
- Food sovereignty issue



- Talking about **the implementation of laws**: making sure that the law is really respected, that it is applied on the ground. Example of plastic waste thrown into the sea: what is the maritime police doing to ensure protection? Strengthening laws and **governance**.
- Laws have already been passed but it is also a question of attitude, the ability of decision-makers to respect the law will impact on local populations. Problem: decision-makers do not respect the laws?
- Promotion and **support of innovation**: fertiliser use...
- Education issue, **knowledge sharing**

Group work for example on "how to reinforce law?", "support for innovation".. Then pooling all proposals. Example of some group work: "TRAINING" (*What are the key things that we would need to do? What is required?*)

- Sustainable funding
- Human resources/capacity
- Contents and manners of training
- Assessments before training material
- Sharing knowledge of what climate change is about
- Education (at a very young age) : Identify the targets of the training
- Community => there are schools at the heart of the community
- Specific messages
- Do Reviews but how often? We have to look at the SDG
- Monitoring the training and adapt to the context

