



Better organisation to produce and market quality market garden produce in the Gbêkê region

Context

Market gardening, an interesting source of income for producers in Gbêkê

The Gbêkê region in central Ivory Coast is an agro-climatic transition zone where export crops (cocoa, cotton, etc.) are less present. This region has large areas of rain-fed cultivation due to the rural exodus and less pressure from perennial crops. Food crops and market gardening are therefore more developed. Its chief town Bouaké, the country's second largest city, is also an important commercial crossroads with, in particular, the presence of West Africa's main wholesale market.

The contacts made by Fert in 2019 with producers in the region highlighted the importance of market gardening as a potential source of income and the scope for progress in technical, commercial and organisational terms. Thus, a partnership has been built with Urmag, a union created in 2014 that brings together some fifteen producer groups.

Objectives

Quality market garden produce to supply the local market

Improving the technical and economic performance of market gardeners

Organise better access to production factors (inputs, irrigation equipment, etc.)

Establish effective marketing systems

IVORY COAST

- Gbêkê Region
- Capital : Yamoussoukro



1 FO
regional

15
village groups

450
market gardeners,
60% of whom are
young people and
20% are women



Actions

Services supported by the Urmag

In order to improve the quality of market garden produce, Urmag and Fert are working together on :

- the implementation of local agricultural advice through a network of relay farmers;
- monitoring school fields and demonstration plots;
- training producers on improving agricultural practices and introducing agroecological practices.

Producers are also supported in managing their farms through the development of technical and economic advice. The activities focus on improving economic services to member producers, particularly through the establishment of marketing support services and access to production factors (inputs, irrigation equipment).

News

Training of relay farmers

CAPACITY BUILDING



Within Urmag, 30 producers have been identified by their peers for their technical skills and educational approaches. These relay producers, alongside the agricultural advisors, are essential for ensuring effective and sustainable local agricultural advice. The relay producers have farming know-how combined with new techniques that they themselves have tested. As intermediaries between the FO and the producers, the relay producers facilitate the development of services that best meet the needs of the members.

Training sessions are regularly organised to build their capacities on agricultural advisory issues: how to produce better, how to manage their farms better, etc. how to produce better, manage their farms better, organise themselves better collectively and add value to their products.

BUDGET :

155 000€

average annual budget

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Fert is connected to the French professional grain growers organizations and is a member of the international alliance AgriCord.



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