

NEWS TRANSFERT #12 - OCT 2018

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LA NEWS TRANSFERT

## THE CHALLENGES OF VALUE CHAIN FOR POTATOES IN MADAGASCAR AND NIEBE IN BURKINA FASO



### FIFATA GROUP ORGANIZES ITSELF TO FIGHT POTATO DISEASES

Since 2009, potato growers in the Highlands region of Madagascar have been suffering from *Ralstonia Solanacearum* infection. It is a bacterium that has infected the soil (via water and diseased seeds) for several years causing plants to wither and potato tubers to rot (even pigs no longer want them!).

In order to fight this significant loss of food and income for members, the Fifata group has formed a network of multipliers and constructed storage buildings to provide access to locally healthy seeds. Thanks to Arvalis' mission in 2015 and FN3PT in 2018 as well as a considerable organizational effort of Fifata's group, a significant increase in production has raised. Nevertheless, several challenges remain to be met (cold storage of seeds, rigorous health controls, etc.).

From 2016 onwards, production has significantly improved. Previously, 1 are produced 80 to 100 kg of potatoes, when it was not 100% destroyed by "Ralstonia". Currently, the same area can produce up to 250 to 300 kg of potatoes. Other producers sell local potato varieties at 500 Ariary per kg. By contrast, in case of healthy seeds of a good quality and improved variety, ware potatoes are sold at 1000 to 1300 Ar per kg.

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**To learn more**

### THE TRANSFORMATION OF COWPEA INTO FLOUR IN BURKINA FASO

Traditionally grown in Burkina Faso in association with cereals, cowpea was a food crop mainly reserved for family self-consumption and local markets. A significant part of the production is now destined for sale on urban markets and for export to the coastal countries of the West African sub-region, which are in great demand. The product can act as a lever to position family farms on an exit trajectory of subsistence logic.

In order to diversify market opportunities for cowpeas and reduce the work of processing cowpeas into flour for women, the Pissila cooperative initiated an experiment in flour production and the incorporation of this flour into local bread. It allowed verifying consumer interest. Thanks to the support of a specialized company, the percentage of incorporation (15%) as well as the manufacturing process have been defined.

Reflection sessions allowed the cooperative to choose its business model based on the business plan proposed by APME.2A and Fert.



Cowpea bread held by the president of the transformation committee of the Pissila cooperative

The equipment for a cowpea-processing unit into flour is currently on order; the unit should be operational in November.

It should be noted that it is planned to set up 4 other processing units in 4 other Fert partner Farmer Organisations.

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## THEMATIC NEWS



#### WORKING GROUP

##### INFORMATION SYSTEMS IN FARMER ORGANISATIONS (ISFO)

Develop or improve the monitoring-evaluation of projects towards "farmers' and their FOs' decision-making information systems ": this is the aim bringing together the members of this transversal working group.

Guiding and adjusting the services and activities of a FO requires its leaders to have access to important information and to understand it: the evolution of the number of FO members, their satisfaction, the cost of production, market prices, volumes produced within the FO, the effectiveness of services. These are the examples of indicators that can influence the decision of its leaders and managers. However, the logic of "project" financing has implicitly oriented the monitoring and evaluation systems towards the production of reports for technical and financial partners, at the expense of the farmers who are the most concerned of the decision-making support in their FOs.

In Burkina Faso, Kenya and Madagascar, the members of the working group will try to develop support practices to strengthen the control of decision-making processes within FOs by the leaders and executives that they support. This will involve (1) better identification of information needs in FOs, (2) analysing current tools and their consistency with information needs, (3) building new simple co-tools and/or adjusting those currently used. The training and strengthening of the skills of the actors and users of these information systems and their results will, of course, be cross-cutting needs to which they will seek to respond in their specific contexts.

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Next working meeting: November 19 by Skype

## PORTRAIT OF THE MONTH



Mr. Mwenja, a farmer on 5 diversified hectares (corn, cabbage, spinach, garlic, wheat and potatoes) is the president of NAFSA, an association of 650 small producers and second secretary of the CGA platform in Narok County

**MR. BERNARD MWENJA****MEETING IN KENYA**

**How do you see the future of agriculture in your country?** As in the rest of Kenya, agriculture must increase in value added. Personally, I am installing an irrigation system to intensify and be able to install my 3 children on market gardening and processing. I believe in it.

**What do you like about CGA?** CGA brings us together. Its demo plots allow farmers to learn best practices and exchange information (e.g. how to choose the most suitable varieties).

**CGA in the future?** CGA should install even more demo plots to reach more farmers. We want it to work with other structures to enable farmers to gain bargaining power for input purchases and collectively sell their crops.

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**PHOTO CONTEST****CALL FOR PHOTO**

**THE THEME:** from the field to the plate : agriculture and food

**YOUR PARTICIPATION:** send your best photo to [fert@fert.fr](mailto:fert@fert.fr) before December 15th

**SELECTION:** a jury will meet to select the best one

**THE AWARD:** your photo will appear on the front page of the next News TransFert

**PARTICIPATE****CHECK YOUR AGENDA**

**10-17** | Nov.

**Study trip to Burkina Faso**

Farmers Leaders Training (MDG)

Miadana & Baby

**11-17** | Nov.

**CGA follow-up and support mission to Kenya**

Augustin

**11-17** | Nov.

**Study seminar in Turkey**

Ceffel (MDG)

Ida

**11-19** | Nov.

**Study trip to France**

on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Afdi Rhône-Alpes

Rova (MDG)

Francis and Eugene

**12** | Nov.

**TransFert meeting in Madagascar**

Fifata Group

during Joseph's mission

**12-17** | Nov.

**Mission to Ivory Coast**

Steven

**17-25** | Nov.

**IFOCAP Mission**

Training Economics

Fekama (MDG)

JJ Loussouarn

**19** | Nov.

**Information System Group Meeting (ISFO)**

Via Skype

**3-7** | Déc.

**Mission to Tanzania - Adepak Follow-up and support**

Steven

**10** | Déc.

**Group Viability Meeting**

Via Skype

**19** | Déc.

**Next News TransFert**



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