

Revitalization of Innovation Platforms in Togo : Rice, Soya, Tomato

Report

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DIGEST

In implementing a strategy for the adoption of research results by producers, five innovation platforms (IPs) have been set up, one per region in Togo. Each of them is co-facilitated by the facilitators of the framework structures of the Togolese Institute of Agronomic Research (ITRA), the Support Advisory Board (ICAT) and that representing the central administration in the regions. All of these innovation platforms (IP) rely on the Integrated Agricultural Research for Development (IAR4D) approach through the System Research Support Facility (DARS), which is an intervention strategy implemented in place as part of research and development. As a prelude to the creation of each IP, two workshops have been organized. The aim of these workshops was to strengthen the capacities of the facilitators of the framework structures on the specific concepts and principles of the IAR4D approach. Rice, soya and tomato IP's have been created. Following these workshops, a roadmap was adopted, IPs were put in place with the development of action plans and implementation modalities. The implementation of the activities of these IPs made it possible to raise awareness, train key players on the IP concept and facilitate contractualization between actors. In IP's of rice, the rice varieties that adapted to climate change were introduced and training on the quality of paddy rice was provided. At the level of the tomato platform, diagnosis were made on diseases and pests, and technical itineraries with the producers allowed them to realize their bad practices. Regarding IP's of soya, training on post-harvest operations was carried out and selected varieties were introduced. As a result, changes have been noted.

Keywords:

Innovation Platforms, Value Chains, Rice, Soya, Tomato

Introduction

In the coming years, African agriculture will face the challenge of meeting the needs of a rapidly growing population. Hence, the need to increase food production and incomes to sufficiently ensure food security. In Togo, among the main crops that should lead to this food security and the improvement of producers' incomes are rice and the main imported commodities are tomato and soya. Rice ranks third among cereals grown in Togo. Its domestic production covers 40% of the needs of the population (DSID, 2012). Soyas are grown in all parts of the country, but the central region is in first place. The cultivated varieties are intended for the various transformations (cheese, milk, skewer), alternative source of proteins for food. Tomato, for its part, occupies an important place in the production of vegetable crops in the food of the populations and is of economic importance. With a view to improving the productivity of priority crops (maize, rice, cassava, market gardening, legumes, poultry and small ruminants), five innovation platforms (IPs) have been set up, one per region including PI rice, PI soya and PI tomato.

In the process of implementing the revitalization of the rice, soya and tomato innovation platforms, two stages were chosen: the first concerns the information and awareness of the actors and the second, the actual platforms animation. In accordance with the roadmap, the previously developed action plan has been updated and adopted by the different links of each IP. Thus, the planned activities followed one another after the observations of the coordination at the regional level. In this process of revitalization, based on the IAR4D concept, each of the actors played a definite role. All stakeholders have realized the relevance of IAR4D and commit to its operationalization in logic of synergy of actions to develop for the IP success. The convincing results from the pilot phase of implementation of the platforms plead for their use for a better impact of the research work. As a result, the Innovation Platform (IP) is an effective tool for addressing the socio-economic and institutional problems that actors face.

1. Location of Reinvigorated Ips

Figure 1 show the sites of the various revitalized Platforms.

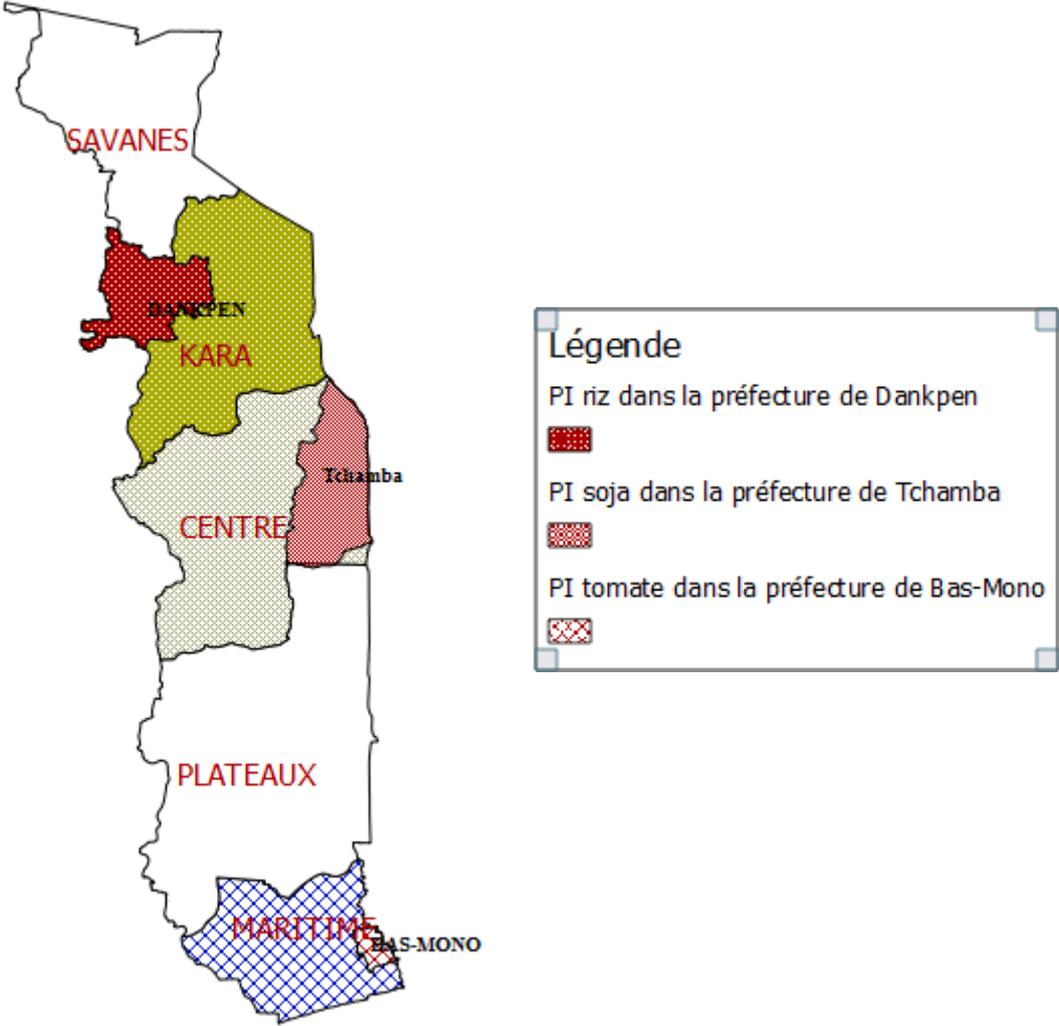


Figure1: Sites of Platform Revitalization

2. Actors of the Innovation Platform and Their Roles

Table 1: Role of IP actors

Actors	Role
Research (ITRA)	Coordination, Technology Delivery, Facilitation and Capacity Building
Extension (ICAT, NGO)	Animation, support-advice
DRAEH	Facilitation, monitoring and evaluation
Producers	Production, sale
Commercialization	merchants
Transformers	Processing and marketing of processed products
Carriers	Ensure the distribution of products and inputs
Input Providers	Provide inputs to producers
Microfinance	Grant credits to key players
Mass-media	Communication
Local authorities	Institutional support

3. Mapping reinvigorated PI value chains

Value chain mapping traces the functional relationships between the different actors involved from producers to consumers.

3.1 Mapping the rice value chain in Dankpen in the Kara Region

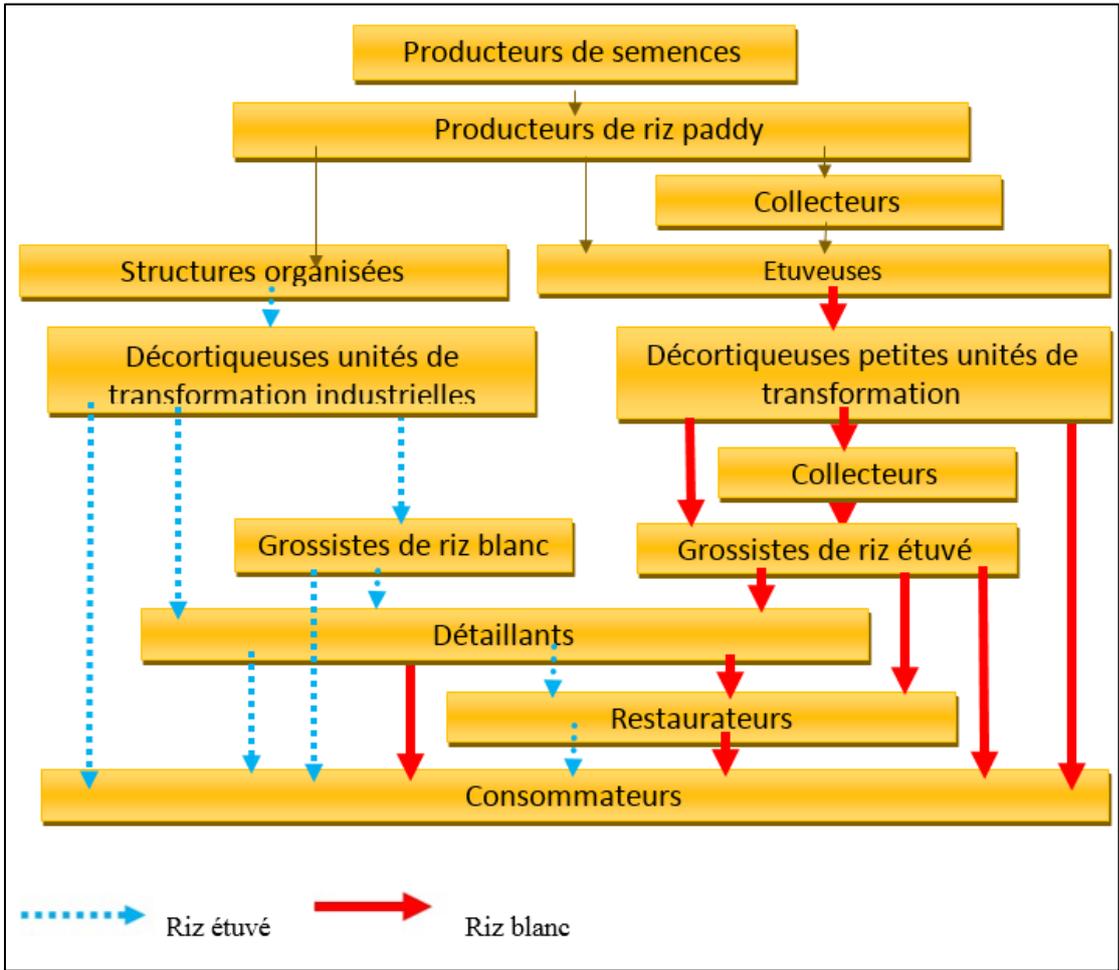


Figure 2: Dakpen Rice Value Chain Mapping

3.2 Soya value chain mapping in the Central Region

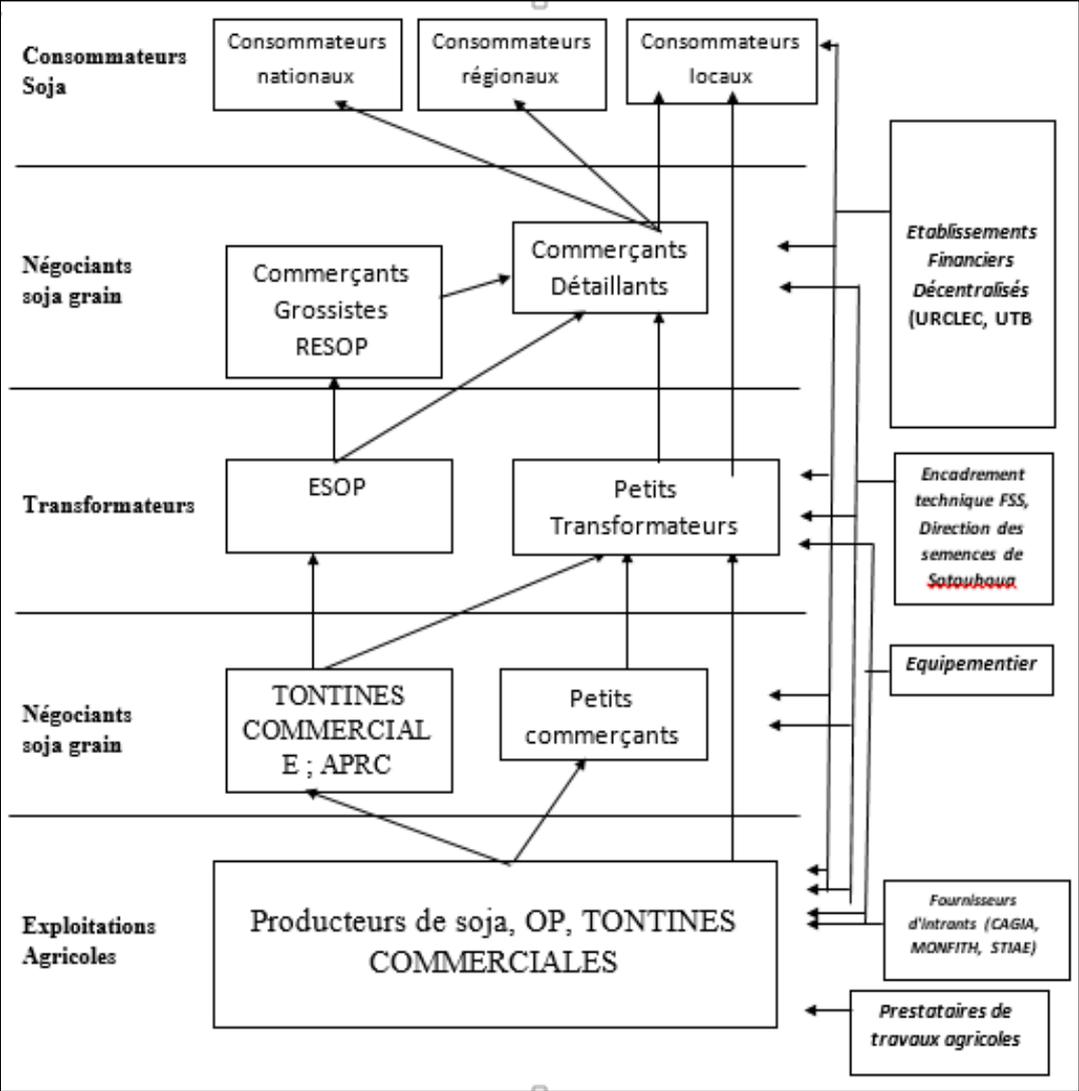


Figure 3: Mapping the soya value chain in Tchamba

3.3 Tomato Value Chain Mapping in the Maritime Region

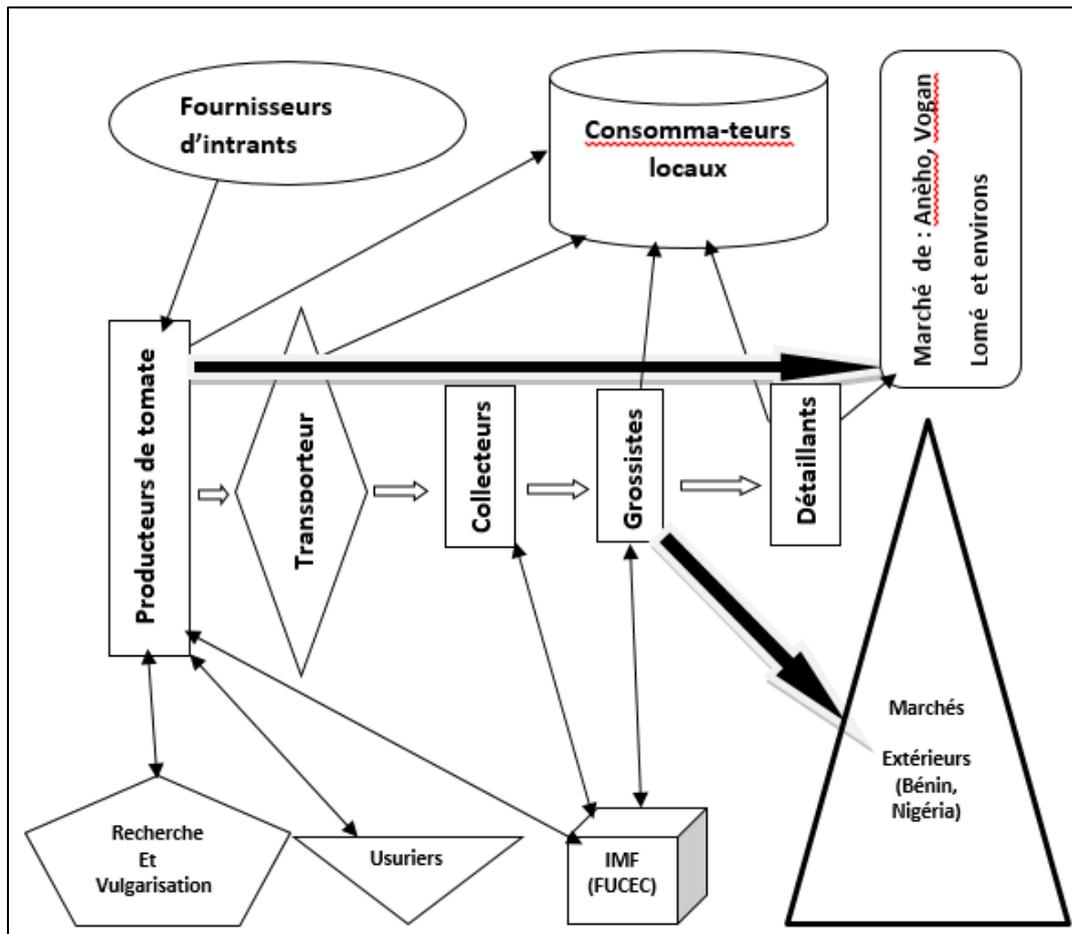


Figure 4: Tomato Value Chain Mapping in the Bas-Mono Préfecture

4. Activities Carried Out

The implementation of the activities of these IPs made it possible to raise awareness, train key players on the IP concept and facilitate contractualization between actors.

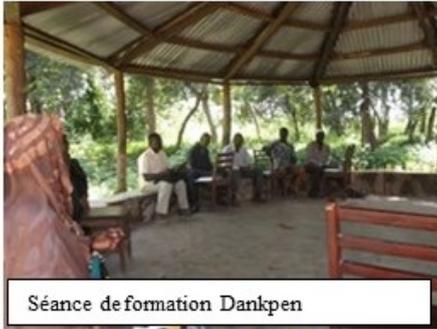
For internal and external facilitation, in addition to management services, a management committee has been set up in each IP and provides day-to-day management and facilitation. It holds regular meetings on the life of the platform, but also technical meetings and animation (meeting on the development of the team contract, etc.).



Comité de gestion de la PI riz de Dankpen



Séance de sensibilisation à Dankpen



Séance de formation Dankpen



Comité de gestion à Tchamba



Séance de formation à Tchamba



Comité de gestion de la PI tomate Bas-Mono



Séance de sensibilisation Bas-Mono



Séance de formation Bas-Mono



Diagnostic participatif Bas-Mono

Specifically at the riceIP level, four new high yield rice varieties (NERICA 1, NERICA 4, NERICA 7, NERICA 8) proposed by the research were introduced. At the IP tomato level a participatory diagnosis with the producers was carried out on diseases and pests and technical itineraries. An improved variety of soyas has been introduced.

Conclusion

Sensitization, participatory diagnosis and the introduction of some technologies were the key activities carried out in the implementation of these IPs. Despite these efforts, much remains to be done with all innovation platforms until they are independent of the financial support of the management structures.

