Volume 4 No: 10 (2019)

Evaluation of the Inventory of Endogenous Knowledge on the Production and Conservation of Peanut in Togo

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May 2019

ISSN 2550-3359

Citation
Alpha T., Bonfoh B., Djagba. A, Adabe Kokou E., Lare R., (2018). Evaluation of the Inventory of Endogenous Knowledge on the Production and Conservation of Peanut in Togo. FARA Research Report Vol 4 No 10 PP9.

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ISSN: 2550-3359

Introduction

Peanut is a legume that comes into the diet of men in various forms. In the 1960s, India, China and West Africa were the only three continents that produced the most peanuts with each continent producing about35%, 19% and 18% of the total amount respectively, representing a total of 72% of the world production. Most peanuts are produced by small scale farmers.

Togo's production of peanuts is indicated to range from 12,000 tons in 1961 to 9,000 tons in 1962 (LABROUSSE & GODRON, 1965). This variation in national production is still observed today, from 25,972 tons in 2001, to 38,244 tons in 2004, to 26919 tons in 2006, and to 47,369 tons in 2012 (DSID, 2012).

There is often a deficit in peanut consumption in southern Togo. In the southern parts of the country, most crops are used for consumption as fresh peanuts. Peanut production in the Northern regions however produces more peanuts thereby reducing the deficit recorded in the southern sector (Ministry of Rural Development, 2000).

Material and Method

This survey was conducted using fact sheets (see appendix). The survey covered the two northern regions of the country namely the Savannah region and the Kara region. A total of 60 farmers were surveyed at a rate of 30 per region.

In some localities focus groups were organized to share experience and consensus on farmers' opinions.

Results

Marital status of peanut farmers

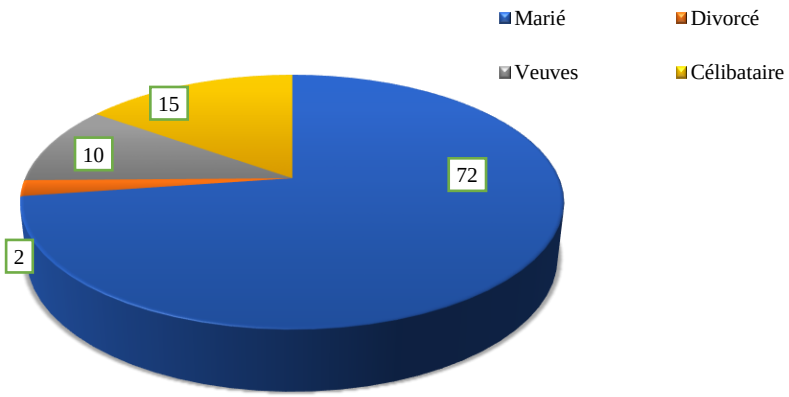

Figure 1: Sectors showing the proportion of peanut farmers according to their marital status

The survey found that for peanut cultivation, over 72% of the peasant farmers aremarried. Family labor is in great demand for activities such as sowing, weeding and harvesting. Given all these activities to be put in place in record time they are forced to do mutual help, to ask for help for plowing and sowing. For plowing, the majority of peasants use draft oxen to keep them on schedule. Some categories of people who do not have oxen for harnessed culture rent draft oxen, help each other or ask for help when preparing the drink (tchakpa or tchouk) or prepare food by killing a pig or a small ruminant depending on the size of the guests or the size of the field. . Indeed the first priority for peasants in the Savannah region is the establishment of cereals such as millet which takes (3-6) months to mature, corn and sorghum. They also make cotton.

Percentage of farmers who produce livestock

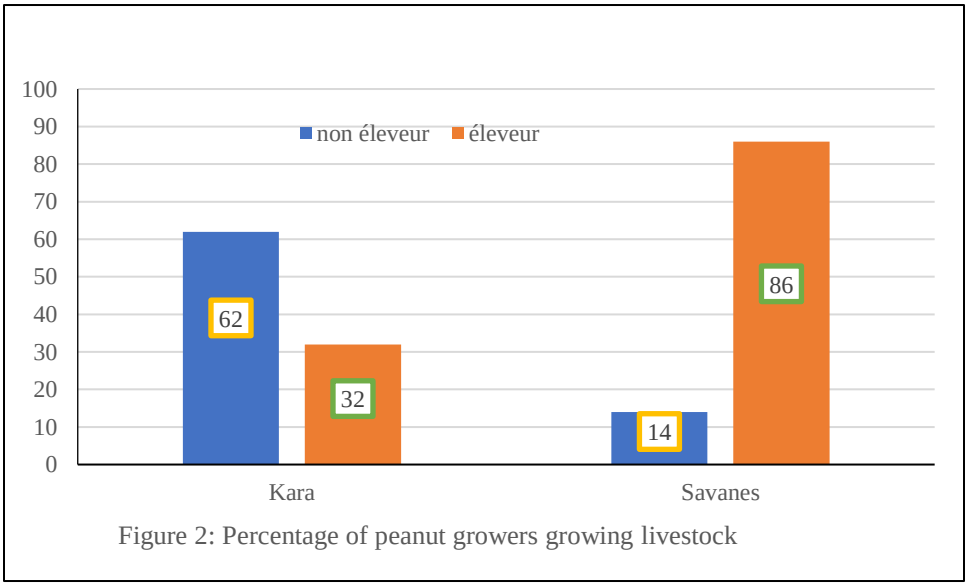

Figure 2: Percentage of peanut growers growing livestock

According to the survey, 86% of respondents in the Savannah region are into livestock production (poultry and small ruminants sometimes cattle (draft)) while in the Kara region this rate is 62%. In the latter region, the breeding of draft oxen is very low among the farmers surveyed.

However, less than 10% of respondents say they use animal waste (droppings or droppings) to fertilize the peanuts. The reason they indicated was the remoteness of the plots often reserved for the cultivation of peanuts. Indeed, in these regions, cultivable land close to home is often used to set up cereals (millet or maize) from the first rains.

Respect of the installation and maintenance technical itineraries

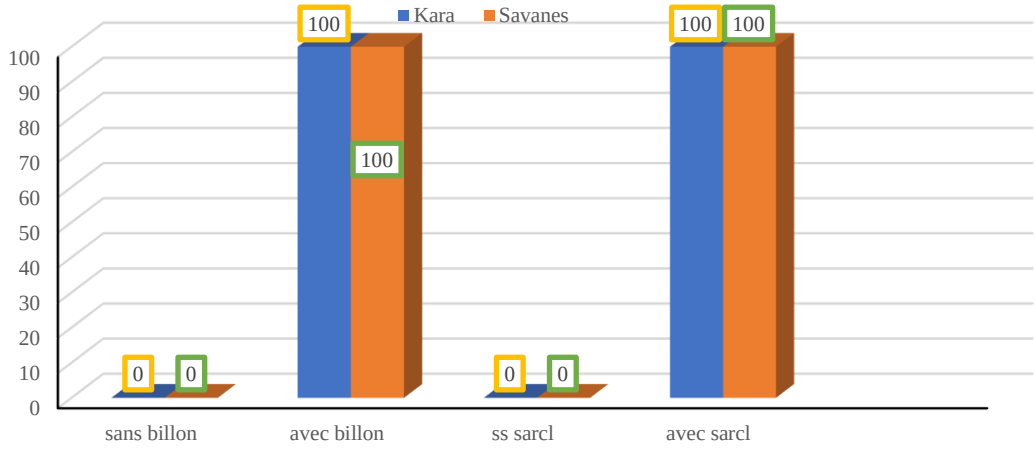

Figure 3: Histograms showing the proportions of farmers respecting certain technical itineraries

In these areas, there is only one peanut growing season thus the winter season. No zone was arranged to make crops against season.

Farmers make ridges to sow peanuts. These ridges are made either with the daba or with the plow of the harnessed culture. No farmer ever rented a tractor to make ridges to sow peanuts.

In the Savannah region, the ridges are often not large and therefore the sowing is done on a single line. While in the Kara region, the ridges made are usually broad and can be sown in two lines. Weeding is done by all the farmers and the period of weeding poses problems. Maintenance work on other crops, especially cereals and cotton, takes more time for farmers.

In these areas, the use of selective herbicides for peanuts is not reported by any of the producers surveyed. The majority is unaware of the existence of herbicides. Hoe weeding is the only way of weeding. , It is done once when the weeds are grown Some claim to do maintenance only with the cutter to avoid digging up the roots of the plants. The size of the large superstores can be explained by the multiplicity of field work in certain regions and by the density of the population in certain areas (Kara, Dapaong).

Density of sowing

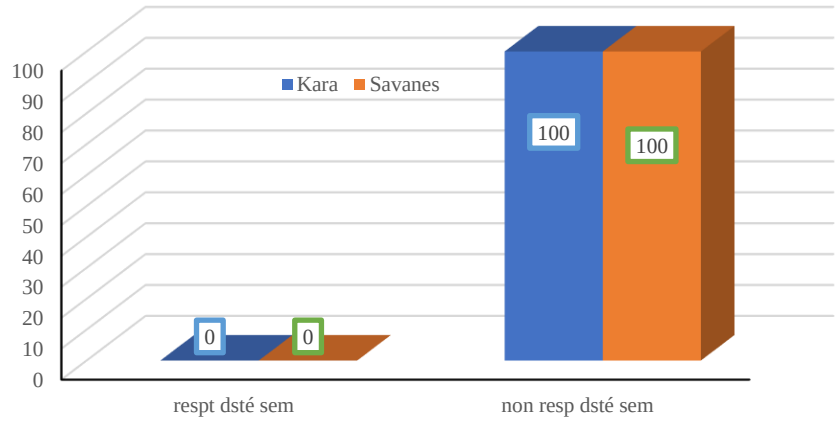

Figure 4: Percentage of farmers complying with research-recommended planting density

According to the results of the surveys conducted with growers, none of them respect the recommendations of seedling density research. This is because the pockets are made by women. Most often in these areas, producers sow very closely. This is contrary to Labrousse and Gordon's claim that farmers usually sow peanuts too far apart. In Africa, we often find only 3 to 10 feet per square meter: a recent survey in Senegal revealed that the average is 7 feet per square meter. In Madagascar implantation is closer: 10 feet / m2 are often reached or exceeded.

Women are responsible for making piles with sticks and children or other younger women plant peanuts at a rate of one seed per pouch. Farmers talk more about the lack of training or awareness, and therefore the lack of support services.

Sowing period and area

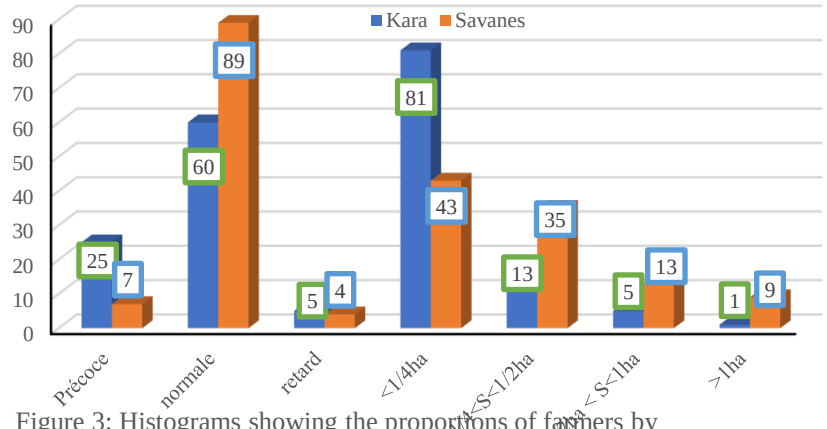

Figure 3: Histograms showing the proportions of farmers by planting time and area harvested for groundnuts

In the Kara region, nearly 25% of the peasant indicated that they plant at the first rains because for them, the sale of fresh peanuts to sellers generates much revenue around that period. In the Savannah region, 7% indicated they plant at the first rain. The variety grown at this time is the short cycle variety (90 days).

The majority of farmers sow peanuts in June or early July given the short time of the winter season.

Farmers who indicated to sow in the second half of July in both regions are less than 5%. They sow early peanuts with a 90-day cycle.

In relation to the cultivated area, the majority of peanut farmers are smallholders. They exploit surfaces of less than a quarter of a hectare. In fact, the farmers reserve the majority of the land for the cultivation of cereals and cotton.

Some farmers grow peanuts on new clearings or on fields where millet have been harvested for three months. Peanuts are grown in late June or early July depending on the arrival of the rains during the season.

Use of manure in peanut culture

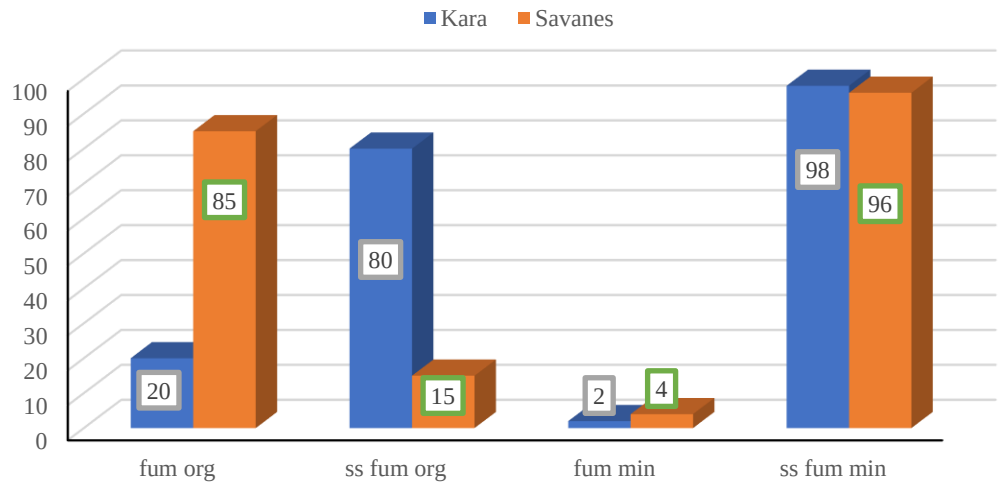

Figure 4: Histograms showing the proportions of farmers using organic manure or mineral fertilizer

The survey revealed that farmers in the Kara and Savannah regions are unaware of the need to use mineral fertiliser in peanuts production. The use of organic manure is very much observed in the Savannah region. Breeders do not apply organic manure directly to the. Peanuts, they first apply it to the and hope that peanuts will benefit from the after effect of waste decomposition.

Most farmers were unwilling to apply mineral fertiliser. The reason they imdicated was the ignorance of the peasants on mineral fertilisers and the non-availability of the recommended fertilizer for this crop. Some farmers are ready to use if the fertilizer is available and at an affordable cost.

Endogenous knowledge of different varieties

Farmers differentiate the different varieties of peanuts grown.

Type of seed used

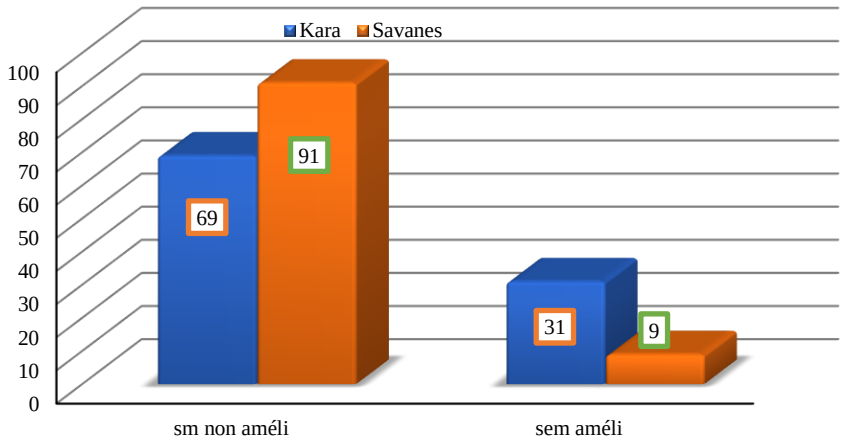

Figure 5: Histogram showing the proportions of farmers using or not improved seed

Most growers indicated they do not use improved seeds. In fact, improved seeds such as the large-seeded variety often called SORAD by these producers is not very widespread in the Savannah region. Farmers stated that, these seeds are not very succulent like the local variety and that they are late. Given the short winter periods and planting of cereals, farmers prefer to grow the early variety that is highly valued by consumers.

Some farmers indicated the lack of availability of improved seeds, and the high cost of these seeds to be the reason why theory do not use these seeds

Organization of the processing sector

The different ways to process peanuts are:

- Processing into peanut paste after oil extraction;
- The transformation into appetizers by the good women also after extraction of oil;

Difficulties listed

- Absence of selected seeds adapted to agro-ecological conditions and resistant to diseases;
- Lack of commercial seed multipliers such as maize or rice;
- Disease Infestation of the of peanut plants;
- Difficulties in drying / preserving peanuts;
- Insufficient extension workers or technology transfer on the technical routes of peanut cultivation;
- Absence of the local market
- Absence of national fertilizer specific or adapted to the cultivation of peanuts;
- Thefts in the fields;
- No organization of actors (especially producers and processors) of peanuts;
- Lack of policy to revive peanut production;
- Lack of water reservoirs for off-season production;
- Insufficient production to meet demand for available oil mills.

Approach solutions

- Facilitate the creation of peanut producer groups;
- Train extension workers on the technical routes of peanut farming;
- Select local varieties resistant to diseases to promote them;
- Subsidize the price of seed of improved varieties available;;
- Evaluate farmers' needs for improved seeds, fertilizers and pesticides to make them available at the time of cultivation.

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