

Communication N° 8

SAÏDOU A., TOTIN E., **KPERA N.**, KOSSOU D., 2011. Progress made by the Concertation and Innovation Groups in addressing institutional constraints in water management in Benin. In: van Huis A., Röling N., Youdeowei A. (Eds.) Proceedings of the CoS-SIS Bamako, Mali, Workshop, 25–28 October 2011, 76–79.



CoS-SIS Convergence of Sciences
Strengthening Agricultural Innovation Systems
Programme

Mid-term Evaluation and Adjustments in the CoS-SIS Programme

Proceedings of the CoS-SIS Bamako Workshop
October 25-28, 2011

Editors

Arnold van Huis, Niels Röling
& Dominique Hounkonnou



WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY

WAGENINGEN UR

Contents

Introduction	2
Background and Objectives of the Workshop – <i>Arnold van Huis</i>	
Participation	
Program structure	
Workshop Outputs	4
• Understanding the CPT process – report of the RA Workshop – <i>Janice Jiggins</i>	4
- <i>Update on application of CPT.</i>	
- <i>Theory development</i>	
- <i>CIGS and CPT</i>	
- <i>Future development</i>	
• Reflections on institutions and institutional experimentation– <i>Thomas W. Kuyper</i>	16
• Reflections from the CoS-SIS Mid-term Evaluation – <i>Jon Daane</i>	22
• Lessons Learned from Diagnostic Studies – progress in the preparation of NJAS special Issue - <i>Janice Jiggins</i>	27
• Learning within the CoS-SIS Program about the CIGs Story Telling by PhD Students	30
• Learning within the CoS-SIS Program about the CIGs Story Telling by Research Associates	76
• Observations on Cross cutting Issues – <i>Laurens Klerkx</i>	116
• Emerging CoS-SIS Issues – OPEN SPACE	118
• Concluding Remarks – <i>Arnold van Huis</i>	120
Annexes	123
• Workshop Programme	
• List of Participants	

Learning within the CoS-SIS Program about the CIGs - Story telling by Research Associates

CoS-SIS Benin

Progress made by the Concertation and Innovation Groups in addressing institutional constraints in water management in Benin

Saïdou Aliou⁽¹⁾, Totin Edmond⁽²⁾, Kpera Nathalie⁽²⁾ & Kossou Dansou⁽³⁾

¹⁾ Research Associate CoS-SIS Benin, 04 BP 1510 Cadjèhoun Bénin.

saidoualiou@gmail.com

²⁾ PhD student in water management domain, CoS-SIS Benin

³⁾ National coordinator of CoS-SIS Benin, 01 BP 526 RP Cotonou Bénin.

Recall of the institutional constraints

In the inland valley at Covè and Zagnanado districts in the South Benin, poor maintenance of the irrigation canals and farm equipments (collectively used), market outlets for local rice ,unbalanced power relation between farmers and traders, access to specific inputs for rice cultivation and access to credit at preferential rates and terms were the institutional constraints raised by smallholder farmers. Conflict between herders and farmers, credit and lack of governance are the institutional constraints identified in the agro-pastoral dams at Nikki district in the northern Benin. The CIGs in the two areas is carrying out institutional change experiments using the causal process approach.



Cattle drinking water in the dam of Sakabansi in the northern Benin



The president of the PMT attending a CIG meeting at Nikki



Water of the dam at Sakabansi in the northern Benin is also used for domestic purposes



Rice field at Bamè in Southern Benin



Agropastoral dam at Fombawi in the northern Benin

Figure 1.1 shows actors involved in the CIG in the inland valley and the interrelation between the actors. The inland valley CIG members are consists of an agric-engineer (TS-AGRN of CeCPA Covè and Zagnanado), extension (TS-PV of CeCPA Covè and Zagnanado), representative of rice producers' organization at national level (CCR-B) and department level (UNIRIZ), representative of gardeners' organization, representative of local rice traders, representative of vegetable traders. The representatives of INRAB (national agricultural research institute), CLCAM (credit institution at local level), DGR (agric-engineer at national level) & DAGRN (agric-engineer at department level), SONAPRA, town council and representative of Chinese Cooperant were appointed to join the CIG. It is observed with the CIG activities that, strong interactions have been established between actors which do not formally collaborate in the past e.g. UNIRIZ and CCRB representatives and extension service, UNIRIZ and CCRB representatives and local rice traders, extension service and local rice traders, rice producers and organization of rice producers.

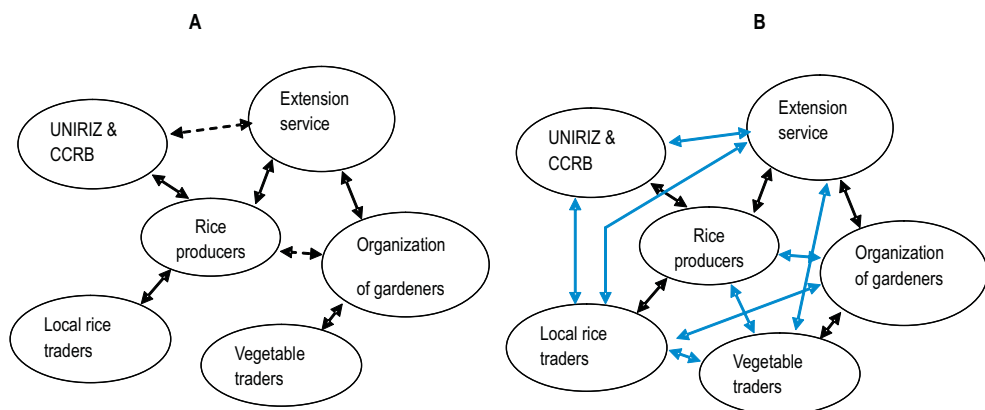


Figure 1.1. Diagram showing actors involved in the CIG for the inland valley at the beginning (A) and the current situation (B) and the relationships between them.

For the agro-pastoral dam, the CIG (Figure 1.2), consisted of representatives of herder organization at district level (UCOPER), local extension service (CeCPA through the TS-PV, TS-Pêche, TS AGRN and the RCPA), representative of the town council, representative of gardeners' organization, representative of the dam management committee, organization of fishermen and farmer organization at district level (UCP) are member of the CIG while, PADPPA project and SNV (Dutch NGO) were contacted to join the CIG.

The current situation shows interaction between extension service and UCOPER, organization of fishermen and UCOPER and with organization of gardeners, organization of gardeners and the town council. However, the CIG activities have improved relations between gardeners and municipally (due to the fact that dam water are polluted, town council decided to transfer this activity to the downstream).

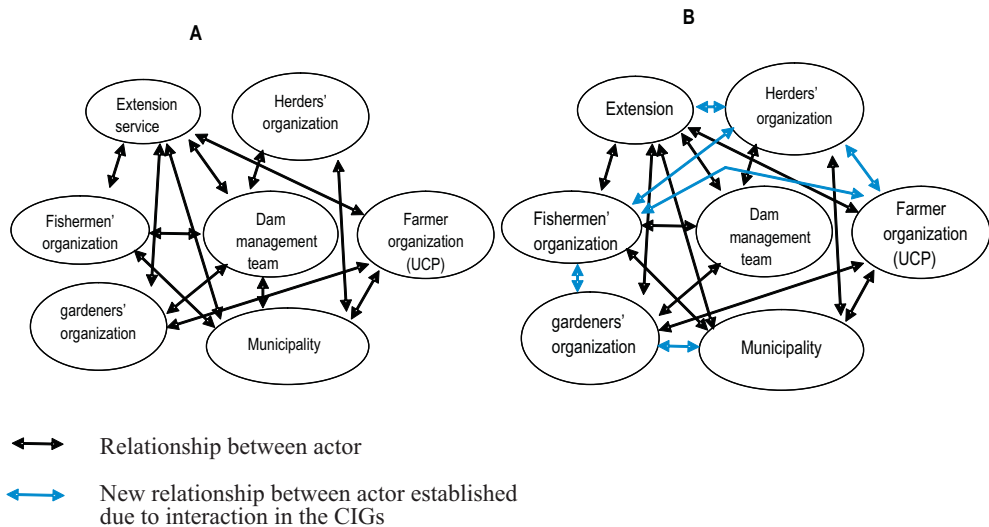


Figure 1.2. Diagram showing actors involved in the CIG for the agro-pastoral dam at the beginning (A) and the current situation (B) and the relationships between them.

Institutional experiments conducted by the CIG

Discussion about maintenance of the irrigation canals addressed the issue of lobbying the regional extension service (CeRPA) in order to review the task of the agric-engineers at regional level (DAGRN) to assist farmer at local level as operated before the reform of the agricultural sector in Benin. Formally, there was a technician working in the field with the farmers for the maintenance of the irrigation canal. Discussion on market outlet for the local rice focused attention on the development of

strategies to facilitate access to markets for the local rice by linking rice producers directly to markets and avoiding intermediaries

A lobbying strategy for policy makers at national level was developed involving the project management team (PMT) in order to promote the locally produced rice.. In this context the CIG is considered an institution which organizes information sharing on rice marketing issues that policy could change. Activities carried out are related to information brokerage on opportunities that exist (e.g. negotiation with SONAPRA in charge of the rice processing factory for a formal contract for paddy rice), and analysis of aspects of the market structure which need to be changed. The type of experiment going on here is an in-depth case study. As the initial situation has been documented during the exploratory and diagnostic study, changes that happened could be documented in term of power relationship, market structure for local rice, diversification of rice product according to the consumers demand.

In the agro-pastoral dams, the CIG is engaged in negotiation and resolution of conflicts over water resources management Adoption of the dam management plan which is a document presenting rules, norms, and sanctions of dam resource use is an opportunity for regulating the movement of livestock, organization of farming activities around the dam in order to reduce water pollution, good governance in the management of resources.. The research methodology is based on With / Without approach where the initial situation is that observed during the exploratory and diagnostic studies which will be compared with the situation when the dam management plan is applied.

Key events that may affect CIG activities

It was noted that in the inland valley: government cabinet meeting of 10 September 2011 decided to fund the management of the inland valley by providing FCFA 600,000,000. Therefore, on 24/09/2011 the Hon Minister of Agriculture visited the area to present this fund to the project, all of the CIG members attended the meeting; on 5/10/2011 the PMT visited the agro-pastoral dam CIG in the north at Nikki.

IFDC has introduced super granular urea at Koussin-Lélé; end of the PADPPA project which is promoting fish culture in the agro-pastoral dam, draft of the agro-pastoral dams management plans were initiated but not adopted by the stakeholders. The PMT members meet the general secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture to discuss issues raised by CIG members during the field visits.

A letter has been sent to the PMT by the CIG to remind them to the contact Chinese embassy to extend China cooperation to the whole area of Covè-Zagnanado.