

*PRESENTATION ON METHODS AND
APPLICATIONS OF THE AGRICULTURE
EXTENSION IN CAMEROON*



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	Capitale d'État (plus de 700 000 hab.)		Voie ferrée
	Plus de 1 000 000 hab.		Aéroport, aérodrome
	Plus de 100 000 hab.		Limite de région
	Plus de 50 000 hab.		Limite de département
	Plus de 20 000 hab.		Bertoua Capitale de région
	Autre localité		Banyas Chef-lieu de département
	Route principale		Barrage, chute
	Route secondaire		Marais, terrain inondable
	Autre route et piste		Parc national ou réserve



CAMEROUN

Océan Atlantique

Guinée Équatoriale

Guinée Équatoriale

Gabon

Congo

Chad

Nigeria

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INTRODUCTION

◆ Tentative means of some concepts used in the presentation:

□ *Farmers' organizations*

- this concept is referent to different forms of organizations (legalized or not) of farmers' associations (Common initiative groups, unions or federations, professional farmers groups, etc;

□ *Microproject of production or project of production*

- Could be the same concept depending on the size of project we are refering to;

□ *SMS, subject matter specialists;*

□ *ZEW, zonal extension workers;*

□ *SS, sector supervisors;*



I-introduction

- ◆ Cameroon is geographically located in Central Africa, in the bottom of Gulf of Guinea, on the western facade of Africa.
- ◆ It is situated between 2nd and 13th degrees of North degree of latitude, and between 8th and 13th degrees of degree of longitude.
- ◆ It covers an area of 47,5 million hectares(475 000 km²) for a population estimated about 20 million inhabitants and 34,0 inhabitants/km².
- ◆ It is boarded to the North by the Republic of Chad, to the South by Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Congo, in the East by Central African Republic and on the West by Nigeria.

I-introduction

- ◆ Agriculture is the main activities of the population(*60-70 % of active populations*) and it contributes for 20% in the GDP (Gross Domestic production).
- ◆ The arable lands is estimated bout 7,2 million hectares among which only 1,8 millions hectares are really cultivated.
- ◆ irrigable potential of the country is estimated about 240. 000 hectares, actually less than 33 000 hectares is covered.

I-introduction

- ◆ Cameroon has 5 agro ecological zones where different types of crops grow:
 1. *the Soudano-Sahelian, with 400 to 1200mm of rain a year;*
 2. *the High Guinean savannahs: about 1500mm of rain a year;*
 3. *the High Western Trays: 1500 to 2000mm of rain a year;*
 4. *The humid Forests with monomodal rainfed: 2500 – 4000 mm a year*
 5. *Forests with bimodal rainfed On 1500 - 2000 mm / year with 2 distinct humid seasons (two farming season periods a year*

I-introduction

- This diversity of climate implies a diversity of crops. more than 100 types of crops divided into staple crops and cash crops.
- The main staple crops included: Corn, Cassava, Banana plantain; sorghum, Rice, sweet and Arish potato, millet, Groundnut, peanut etc ;
- The main cash crops included: Cocoa, Coffee, Banana of desert, Rubber, Cotton, Pineapple etc,

I-introduction

- In the above figures, the agricultural extension system plays a key role;
- agricultural advisory services is one of the important mission of the ministry of agriculture and rural development and, the ministry of livestock, fisheries and animal industries in their respective contribution for the economic growth in the country;
- In the institutional point of views, three principles actors work together in close collaboration to achieve the goal.
- *Public agricultural extension services and Private agricultural extension services and beneficiaries, research institutes.*

II-POTENTIALITIES OF CAMEROON IN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION DOMAINS

- In the institutional point of view, the agricultural extension advisory service is beyond the ministry of agriculture and rural development and, the ministry of livestock, fisheries and animal industries in their respective contribution for the economic growth in the country;
- Beside this, there are many agricultural research institutes working closely with agricultural advisory services. Namely, IRAD (agricultural research institute for development) under which there are 5 regional specialized centers according to agro ecological of the countries, CIRAD, ICRAF, IITA, INS, IRGM, IRPM, MIPROMALO, etc.
- Such as CARBAB, specialized in Banana and plantain, Dibamba center, in palm oil, Ekona center in cocoa and Banana, just mentioned a few;
- Higher education ministry and the ministry of research and innovations contribute for the issues;

II-POTENTIALITIES OF CAMEROON IN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION DOMAINS

- Many state (10) and private universities and high schools(15).
- Many agricultural schools ((under graduate (9), senior (3) and engineering (3));
- Many state companies (cotton development authority Cameroon development corporation, rubber development company, cocoa development authority, palm oil development company, rice development companies...);
- Many farmer's organizations (level 1, 2 and 3). About 150 000 farmers' organizations or professional organizations;
- Many NGO's (CANADEL, IGZ, WWF,) and other private agricultural advisory services(SAILD, Voix du Paysan, CNOP-CAM, PLANOPAC...);
- All those institutions are working closely with the state representative to give support to farmers in various domains concerning the ruling of their respective activities.

II-POTENTIALITIES OF CAMEROON IN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION DOMAINS PUBLIC EXTENSION STAFFS IN THE FIELD

REGIONS	NUMBER OF ZEWS	NUMBER SECTOR SUPERVISORS (SS)	NUMBER OF SUBJECT MATTER SPECIALISTS AT DIVISIONAL LEVEL (SMS)	NUMBER OF SUBJECT MATTER SPECIALISTS AT REGIONAL LEVEL	TOTAL
ADAMAOUA	166	20	25	5	216
CENTER	446	71	44	5	566
EAST	193	21	18	5	237
FARTH NORD	364	46	17	5	432
LITTORAL	156	20	20	5	201
NORTH	192	25	18	5	240
NORTH WEST	265	34	35	5	339
WEST	376	45	39	5	465
SOUTH	133	26	20	5	184
SOUTH WEST	169	22	29	5	225
TOTAL	2460	330	265	50	3105

II-POTENTIALITIES OF CAMEROON IN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION DOMAINS

- ◆ Number of staff of public research institutes:
- ◆ Researchers: 705;
- ◆ Assistant of researchers : 893;
- ◆ techniciens: 154;
- ◆ 5 specialized public research centers;
- ◆ Bilateral and multilateral support involved in the financement of various projects and programme in agriculture in general and in agricultural extension and research programmes in particular (over 40 projects and programmes are actually going on);
- ◆ More than 20 rural Radios and telecommunication centers;
- ◆ Public (01) and private TV channels (08);
- ◆ More than 100 different varieties.

III-EVOLUTION OF THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SYSTEM IN CAMEROON

During three last decades, according to the international conjuncture, the agricultural activity knew deep changes in its development, changes characterized by the evolution in the systems of farming of the peasants.

All these changes and evolution of the institutions and systems of farming of the peasants pursued the same goals namely:

- ◆ *to increase the agricultural production and to improve its quality, as well concerning the products of export as the food crops, animal productions and halieutics;*
- ◆ *to increase the incomes of the peasant;*
- ◆ *to develop the agricultural products by transforming them in the country.*

III-EVOLUTION OF THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SYSTEM IN CAMEROON

- ◆ Cameroun didn't escape from the international changes and evolutions of the institutions and systems of farming of its peasants.
- ◆ This situation led the government of Cameroon to take a certain number of measures within the framework of the new agricultural policy in the years 1985-1986, new agricultural policy supported by the World Bank, the IMF has been set etc.
- ◆ The objective of this policy is to create an favorable environment to revamp the agricultural production, to ensure food security and especially to improve the productivity of the farms and to reduce their costs, in order to make these agricultural products more competitive on the markets.

III-EVOLUTION OF THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SYSTEM IN CAMEROON

In order to harmonize their interventions on the ground, two ministries in charge of agricultural extension jointly signed in 1997, a Declaration of the National policy of the Agricultural advisory services and its strategy of implementation.

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III-EVOLUTION OF THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SYSTEM IN CAMEROON

- ◆ the definition of a national policy of agricultural extension adapted to the real need of the farm constitute the major target of reforms institutional framework of the intervention of the State. the main trends assigned to this new policy of agricultural extension are related to:
- ◆ *coherence of the programs of agricultural extension;*
- ◆ *responsibilization of the peasants and other actors;*
- ◆ *increased responsibilization of the non-governmental organizations;*
- ◆ *institutional support to the agricultural professional organizations.*

III-EVOLUTION OF THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SYSTEM IN CAMEROON

- ◆ in order to achieve its goal, the government defined a strategy based on the basic principles of effective and efficient agricultural advisory services, on the definition of a methodology, the institutional framework and the mechanisms of coordination.
- ◆ These basic principles of new agricultural extension system relay on:
 - ◆ **(i)The professionalism:** *the staff in charge of advising and giving appropriate supports to the peasants must be gifted of professionalism in order to allow those to improve the productivity and their production. That supposes that staff in charge of advisory service must be a specialist on the matter.*

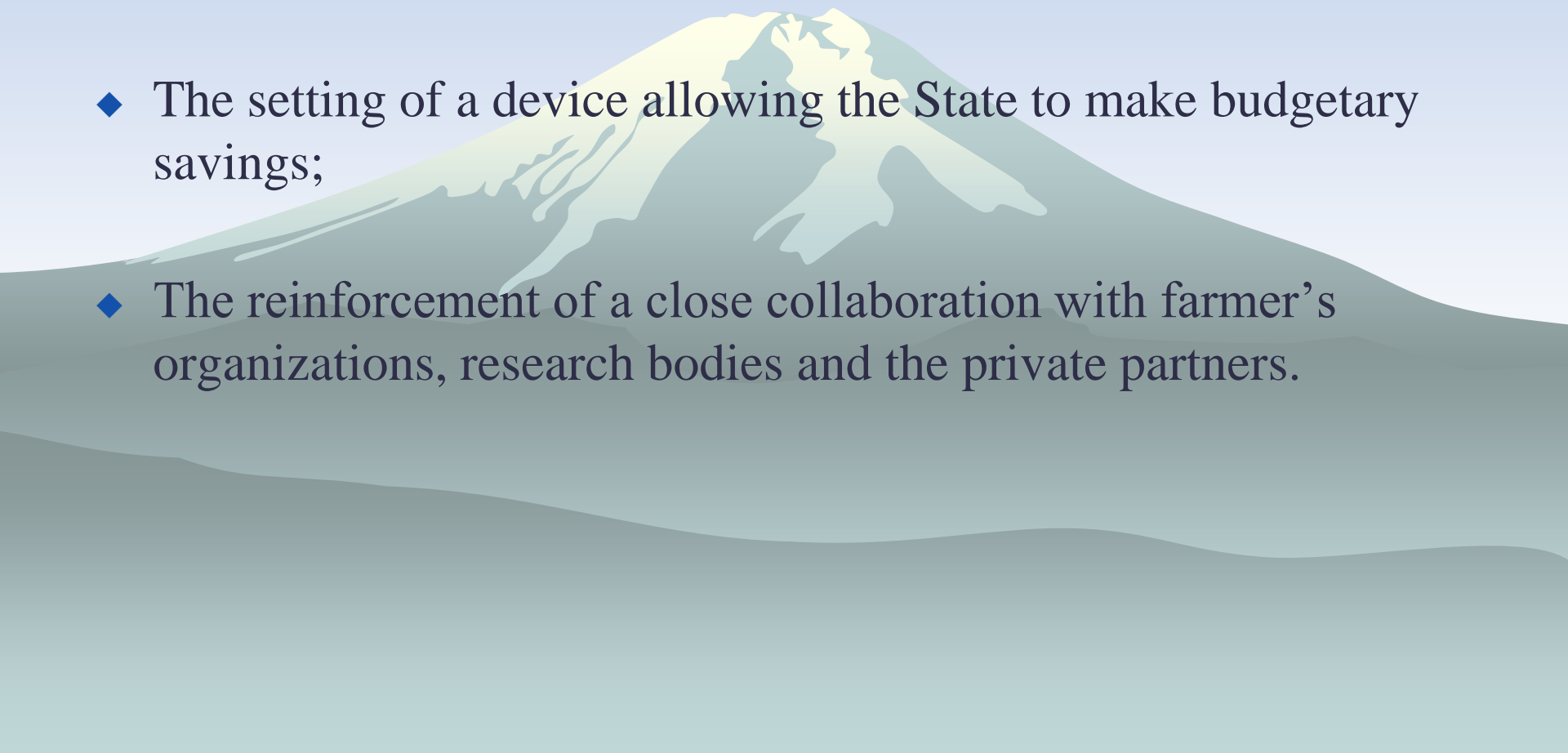
III-EVOLUTION OF THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SYSTEM IN CAMEROON

- ◆ **(ii) *The unicity of the framework of intervention.*** This supposes that each agent on some level that it must depend only on one senior in rank.
For example the agent of basic agricultural extension is the only one in permanent contact with the peasants.
- ◆ It is him who must transmit all the messages, the task of all other staffs specialized in agricultural extension consists in supporting him by the means of training and advices.
- ◆ **(iii) *The access to all the peasants***
- ◆ **(iv) *The close connection with agricultural research institute and other organizations of support.***
- ◆ Periodic meetings should be held between researchers, other organizations of support and agricultural extension workers to implementing actions that have been planned.

III-EVOLUTION OF THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SYSTEM IN CAMEROON

- ◆ (v) *The regular and continuous training of the agricultural extension workers;*
- ◆ (vi) *A dynamic agricultural extension services system*
- ◆ that means that the system of agricultural extension defined in a given particular moment has to change by taking account of the emergence of new partners able to deal with certain activities.
- ◆ All these basic principles of agricultural extension were implemented according a coherent and a dynamic methodological approach, including:

III-EVOLUTION OF THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SYSTEM IN CAMEROON

- ◆ The progressive assumption of responsibility of the activities with character permanent by the farmer's organizations or the private partners;
 - ◆ The setting of a device allowing the State to make budgetary savings;
 - ◆ The reinforcement of a close collaboration with farmer's organizations, research bodies and the private partners.
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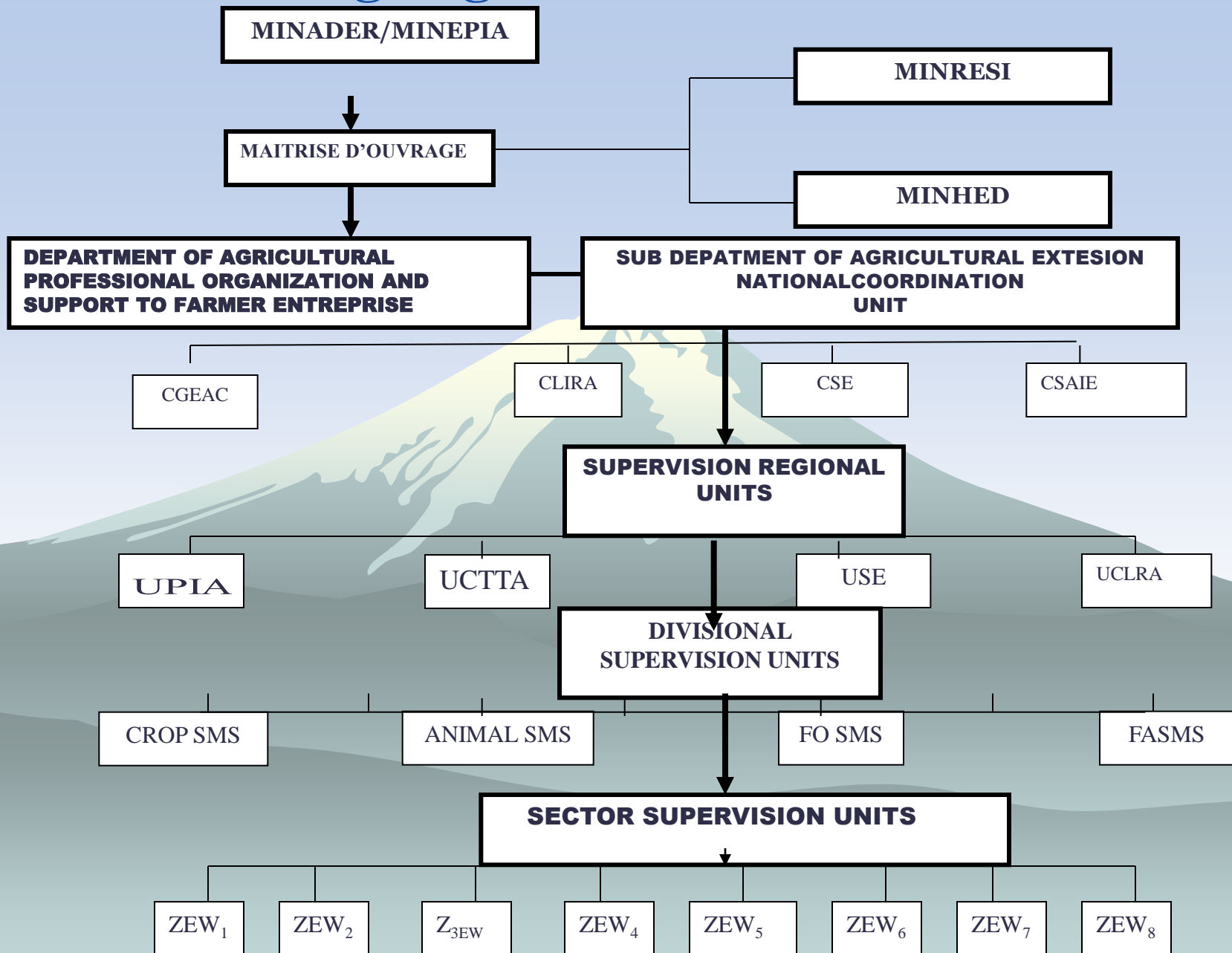
III-EVOLUTION OF THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SYSTEM IN CAMEROON

- ◆ The implementation of current system through the national agricultural extension program knew two quite distinct periods marked by the passage in February 2002, from a classical agricultural extension methods using the approach of T and V (*Training and Visits*) to better targeting the willing of the farmers around the microprojects of production carried out by farmers' organizations.
- ◆ Thus in 1987, with the support of the World Bank, a pilot operational program was created to implement in concrete manner the new orientations of the national policy of agricultural extension for three years duration. It was the National Agricultural Extension and Training program (NAETP) in 3 regions.

III-EVOLUTION OF THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SYSTEM IN CAMEROON

- ◆ After its positive the evaluation, the program moves to the National Agricultural extension program until 1997 that became National Agricultural extension and research program, by the entry of the agricultural research institute for development (NAERP);
- ◆ To operate efficiently on the field, the nationwide was divided into:
- ◆ Agricultural extension zones (*5 to 10 villages*) ;
- ◆ Sub-divisional agricultural extension area (*4 to 8 zones*);
- ◆ Divisional agricultural extension area (*5 to 7 sub -divisions*);
- ◆ Regional agricultural extension area (*4 to 10 divisions*);
- ◆ National executive coordination (*all the operational units of agricultural extension within the country*);

Organigramme du NAERP



III-EVOLUTION OF THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SYSTEM IN CAMEROON

- ◆ At the beginning of the program, the appointed ZEWs (zone extension workers) worked with key farmers leading 5 to 10 farmers, using the popular methods of “*Training and visits*”.
- ◆ *Setting up the demonstration units on various topic or new techniques to introduce;*
- ◆ *Setting up on farm tests and trials under the supervision of researchers;*
- ◆ *training sessions regularly have been organized for the keys farmers and staffs (workshops,)*
- ◆ *Organizing field’s days where farmers, researchers and extension workers were invited to discuss;*
- ◆ *Programming and monitoring;*

IV-NEW APPROACH OF THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND RESEARCH PROGRAM

- ◆ The implementation of current system through the national agricultural extension program knew two quite distinct periods marked by the passage in February 2002, from a classical agricultural extension methods using the approach of “*training and Visits*” to better targeting the willing of the farmers around the microprojects of production carried out by farmers' organizations;
- ◆ From this date, the NAERP directed its method of intervention towards a new approaches of agricultural extension and facilitation which brought to farmer's organizations (OP) beyond the technical advices and training, services hereafter:

IV-NEW APPROACH OF THE OF NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND RESEARCH PROGRAM

- ◆ *supports in the institutional fields;*
- ◆ *supports in the management of the family farm enterprises;*
- ◆ *supports in infrastructures/productive equipments,*
- ◆ *supports for development of the contract farming by facilitating the comparison, the negotiation and the signing of contract between the farmer's organizations and other actors of rural development,*
- ◆ *Supports with the other actors through the contracts/subcontracting of agricultural extension activities with ONGs, the Rural Communities and Professional associations of producers.*

IV-NEW APPROACH OF THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND RESEARCH PROGRAM

- ◆ It was also the beginning of the introduction of the methods and the tools (booklet, saving bank, account documents ...), precisely tools of advisory to the agro-pastoral family farm enterprises having received supports in infrastructures/equipment;
- ◆ The changes thus raised make it possible to better clarify the role of the State, the increasingly important place of the producers' organization in the current activities, as well as the various mechanisms planned to make it possible these organizations to play an important role in particular:

IV-NEW APPROACH OF THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND RESEARCH PROGRAM

- ◆ the assumption of responsibility of farmers to be part of the associated costs to agricultural extension activities;
- ◆ the approach of methods of advisory seems more in adequacy with the political orientation characterized by the disengagement of the State of the functions of production, marketing and the progressive integration of the producers at the market;
- ◆ the board of trustees aims as much making of tools adapted to the needs for the producers as the setting-up in a new way of making of the agricultural advisory, by integrating economic dimension or aspects in an agricultural extension activities which seems too technical and rigid;
- ◆ There are:

IV-NEW APPROACH OF THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND RESEARCH PROGRAM

- ◆ *Diagnosis of the producers' organization and their operating system,*
- ◆ *Planning (formulation itself of the microproject of production and programming (development of the plan of implementation (operational plan) starting from strategic planning (short-term vision of the OP),*
- ◆ *Implementation itself of the project of production,*
- ◆ *Follow-up and evaluation,*
- ◆ *Assessment allowing to capitalize the lesson before entering the preparation of new farming season.*

IV-NEW APPROACH OF THE OF NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND RESEARCH PROGRAM

(i) Preparation of the new farming season, some activities below have to be taken.

- ◆ the assessment of the past farming season for the old farmers organizations;
- ◆ the diagnosis of the new farmers' organizations;
- ◆ the diagnosis and the establishment of the reference for the new OP;
- ◆ the formulation of the micro project of production;
- ◆ the implementation of project framework;
- ◆ The monitoring and the evaluation scheme.

IV-NEW APPROACH OF THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND RESEARCH PROGRAM

The points to be discussed during the preparation of new farming (three days) are the following:

First day:

- ◆ *evaluation of the past framing season;*
- ◆ *Diagnosis of the Producers' organization (new),*
- ◆ *Diagnosis and the establishment of the references for the new OP;*

Second day:

- ◆ *Restitution and validation of the results of the diagnoses and the elements of evaluation to be capitalized with the participation of concerned farmers*

IV-NEW APPROACH OF THE OF NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND RESEARCH PROGRAM

Third day

- ◆ Formulation of the **microproject** of production.
- ◆ These three days turn around a logic tests that are:
- ◆ *To understand (diagnoses of the OP and their operating system); •*
- ◆ *To organize itself (planning, programming, including the shared responsibilities between the speakers); •*
- ◆ *To act, to implement, to follow, evaluate, correct and establish the assessment*

IV-NEW APPROACH OF THE OF NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND RESEARCH PROGRAM

(ii) DIAGNOSIS OF FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS

The main purposes of this process is:

- ◆ to obtain more informations on the identity and the life of the farmer's' organization;
- ◆ to identify the assets, the problems/defects/forced that could involved in its operation;
- ◆ To facilitate the formulation of microprojects of production and later how easy to be implemented on the field;
- ◆ To elaborate a tentative framework;
- ◆ To facilitate the monitoring and evaluation.

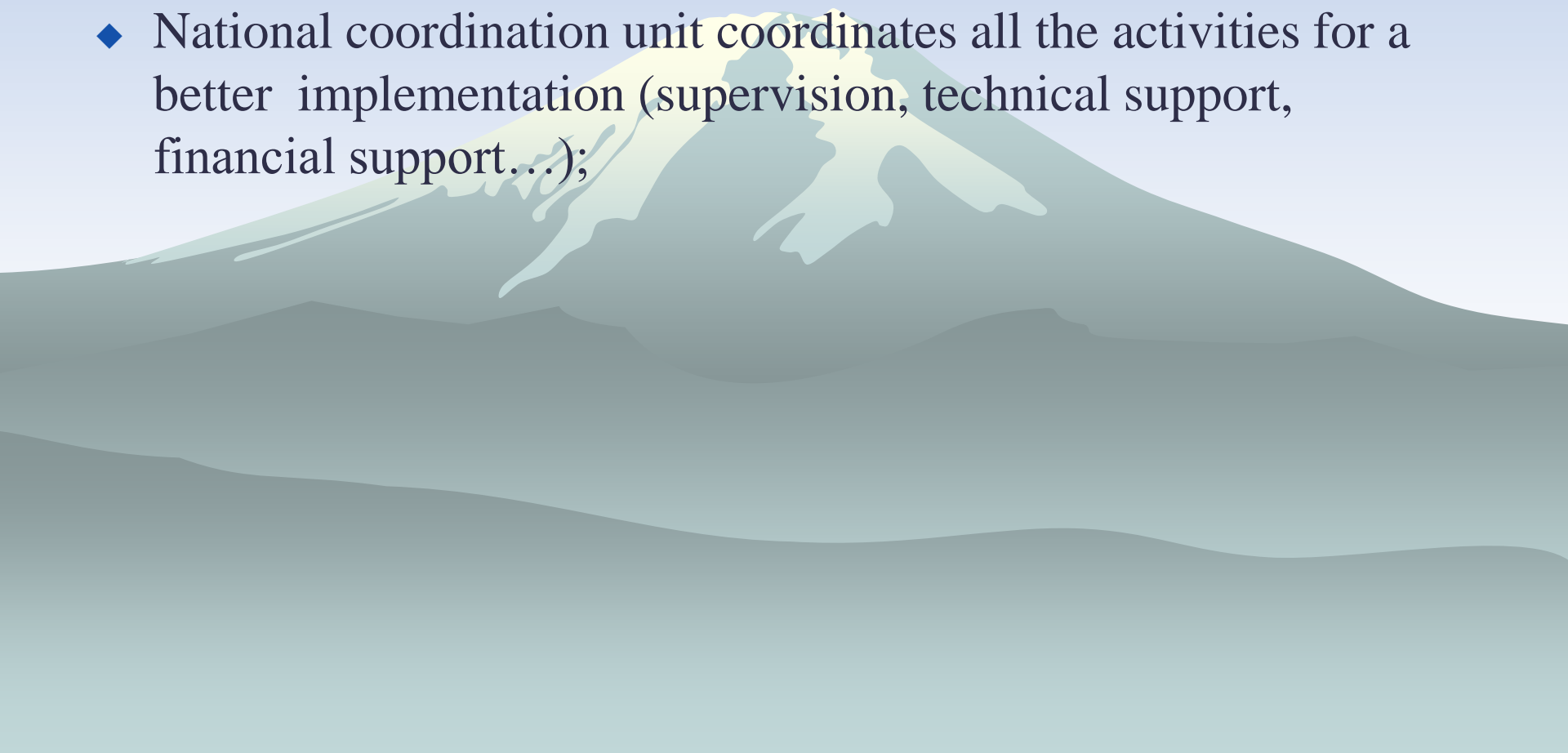
IV-NEW APPROACH OF THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND RESEARCH PROGRAM

- ◆ Actually, the operational agricultural extension units working nationwide are set in the below figure:
 - ❖ *Agricultural extension zones: 2460 staffs*
 - ❖ *Sector supervisions: 330 staffs*
 - ❖ *Divisional supervisions: 265 staffs*
 - ❖ *Regional supervisions: 50 staffs*
 - ❖ *National coordination unit: 30 staffs*
- ◆ In the fields, zonal extension workers working closely with farmers' organizations are responsible of implementing an average of 15 -20 microprojects per annum;
- ◆ About 8-12 farmers' organizations per year to be followed.

IV-NEW APPROACH OF THE OF NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND RESEARCH PROGRAM

- ◆ In their respective zone, they ZEW can follow individual farmers (medium or big) without any restriction;
- ◆ But during the preparation of farming season, they have to consider the situation;
- ◆ Along the process of implementing the microproject, montly framework is regularly being established by the ZEWs with the collaboration of concerned farmers' organizations and send it to the sector supervisor;
- ◆ Sector supervisor also has to establish its own montly program according the programs he received from all ZEWs;
- ◆ At the divisional level, subject matter specialists (4) are incharged of giving technical support to the staffs (ZEW, SS);

IV-NEW APPROACH OF THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND RESEARCH PROGRAM

- ◆ At regional level, staffs in their respective role regularly supervise the activities of the staffs under them;
 - ◆ National coordination unit coordinates all the activities for a better implementation (supervision, technical support, financial support...);
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IV-NEW APPROACH OF THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND RESEARCH PROGRAM

- ◆ During this current farming season, the program is present in 15000 villages over the total of 18000 villages nationwide;
- ◆ About 18 900 farmers' organizations were targeted among which 6 350 female farmers's organizations will be accompanied in the setting works of 24,400 microprojects of production;
- ◆ for each microproject, an operational plan of implementation is elaborate with the participation of the producers;
- ◆ in this operational plan of implementation, the responsibilities for each party are clearly mentioned;

IV-NEW APPROACH OF THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND RESEARCH PROGRAM

- ◆ for this purpose, the extension staffs (*Zonal Extension Workers, Sector Supervisors and subject matter specialists*) shall prepare their action plans on the basis of these operational plan of implementation of the various projects under their responsibility;
- ◆ In other hand, the producers must also prepare in collaboration of the zonal extension workers their action plans of implementation of their projects of production by releasing the responsibility of each members;
- ◆ Within a year, the zonal extension workers accompany in the implementation of micro projects an average of 8 to 12 farmers' organizations ;

IV-NEW APPROACH OF THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND RESEARCH PROGRAM

- ◆ this operational device makes it possible for the three parties (producers, researchers and extension staffs) to better evaluate the activities undertaken and to release the responsibilities and to make the suitable corrections if necessary;
- ◆ This is why, the program of agricultural advisory services is not only in charge of reinforcing technical capacities of the producers, but also to follow the activities undertaken and to evaluate the level of their implementation according to a well established periodicity;
- ◆ the final evaluation intervening during the framing season preparation which takes place from October to December each year;

Field work on upland rice development as the result of good collaboration of researchers and extension advisory services



Field work on upland rice development as the result of good collaboration of researchers and extension advisory services



During field days with some farmers



IV-CONCLUSION

- ◆ During the past 25 years, the national system of agricultural advisory services knew deep changes. Passing from the system “*training and visits*” with a method of agricultural extension of mass communication to a agricultural extension targeted better around the projects with objectives clearly defined;
- ◆ it was also the period of the increased responsabilisation of the producers around their projects of production;
- ◆ Involvement of many actors working in good collaboration (research institutions, farmers organizations, NGOs...etc);
- ◆ The responsabilization of farmers in their respective roles;
- ◆ The introduction of new concepts like economic costs, accountability, profit, bank notes, responsibility, cash flow etc;
- ◆ Profesionalism of the agricultural advisory services.

CAMEROON REPORT

◆ THANK YOU

