



ANNUAL REPORT

CASAD-Benin

2017



www.casad-benin.org

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EDITORIAL

THANK YOU TOO ALL THOSE WHO GOT INVOLVED IN OUR ACTIONS



Dear friends,

From Benin, our volunteer teams in the field are improving the lives of hundreds of people every day, with a special focus on women and girls.

The eradication of poverty and food security rural communities are all challenges for NGOs around the world. 132 million is the appalling number of victims of extreme poverty, conflict and natural disasters that have needed support around the world. NGOs have set themselves different missions at the national level in order to achieve a planet where the suffering of communities is alleviated while referring to the SDGs.

During the year, CASAD-Benin has impacted four (04) Sustainable Development Goals through its actions: (1) : End poverty in all its forms everywhere ; (2) : End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture ; (5) : Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; and (8) : Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all.

Over the next few years, CASAD-Benin will transform itself to support rural communities. We will continue to be flexible to optimize our efforts and resources. We will continue to operate in rural communities while building the capacity of our teams and supporting rural communities. We will develop stronger positions in our advocacy efforts to improve the employability of youth.

It is in these directions, with commitment, strength and conviction, that CASAD-Benin will continue its mission. And that will be done thanks to your support! Whether you are donors, supporters, private or public partners, I sincerely thank you.

Ambaliou Odountan OLOUNLADE,
Executive Director of CASAD-Benin

TRIBUTE TO



**Marius
GBEDOKPOSSI**

Director of CERIDAEP

Words seem very derisory in this sad moment. The emotion is strong for the entire CASAD-Benin team and for everyone. The CASAD-Benin team remembers Marius as a coach, an extension agent capable of passing on the most difficult concepts of his research. We also remember his unflinching struggle in the service of a peasant school serving all communities and for the advocacy of fish farming training, shared activist commitments, the joy of working together on training youth in agricultural entrepreneurship; and above all the memory of the caring, humane and warm man.

For us, a thought for Marius a thought for all those who shared his thoughts and experience.

Farewell, Noble and dear partner call back to God so quickly, Regretted collaborator listened to all!

Our sincere condolences to your family.

CASAD-Benin team.

2017: THE MAJOR AXES

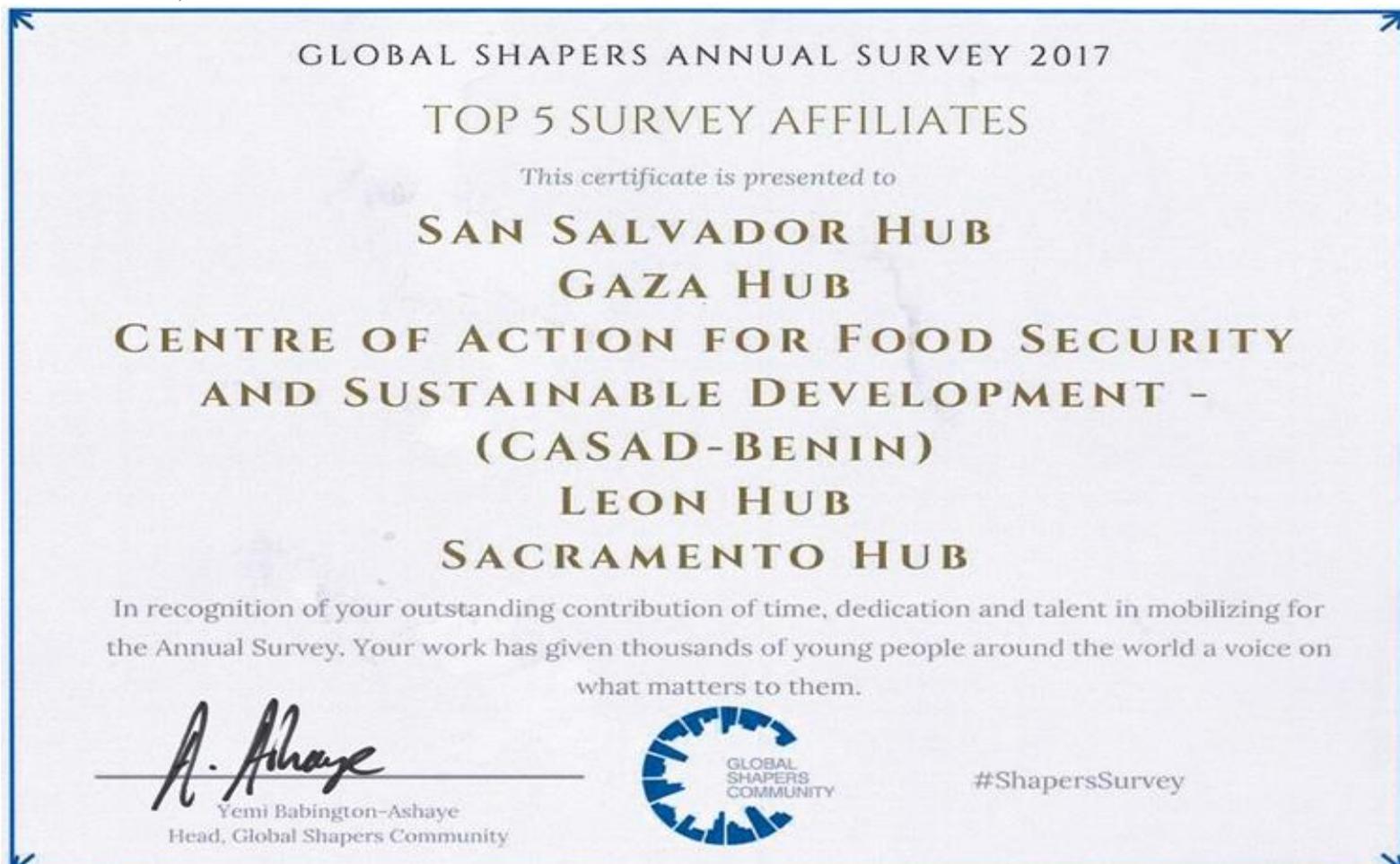
The major axes of 2017 are as follows:

- (CASAD-Benin's active participation to the 2017 Global Shapers Survey, which ranked it 3rd in the world among the top five Survey Affiliates;
- CASAD-Benin's contribution to the implementation of the Vegetable Production Support Project and resilience initiated by the NGO NEW LAND marked the year 2017 and;
- the selection of CASAD-Benin to present its research results on the analysis of the effectiveness of agroecological practices for sustainable agriculture in Benin to " Ecology Across Borders: Joint Annual Meeting 2017" in Belgium marked the year 2017.

CASAD-Benin wins 3rd place in the top five Survey Affiliates worldwide

CASAD-Benin's participation in the Global Shapers Survey 2017, an initiative of the World Economic Forum (WEF), enabled 866 young People from Benin to express the clear vision of the world in which they want to live: a world where the values of equity, equality, integrity responsibility are the basis of a universal social contract for inclusive development.

http://www.shaperssurvey2017.org/static/data/WEF_GSC_Annual_Survey_2017.pdf (ref p. 40)



Our activities in 2017

ENVIRONMENT

FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE

CASAD-Benin helps rural communities to enhance their resilience

**120
Million**

120 million people could fall into poverty by 2030 if nothing is done to fight climate change.

**300
People**

CASAD-Benin has helped 60 households (with an average of 5 people per household), or more than 300 people through its Environment and Climate Change programme.

Improving the resilience of rural communities

Climate change is already under way. CASAD-Benin helps rural communities better understand and adapt to climate change that is undermining their livelihoods.

Our approach is to help communities better manage natural resources over the long term and move toward more resilient agroecological practices based on their endogenous knowledge.



Glazoué-Benin : Support project for gardening crop production and enhancing resilience.
© CASAD-Benin

Glazoué-Benin

IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE ON AGROECOLOGY

📅 JUNE 2016 – DECEMBER 2018

👤 100 BENEFICIARIES

In Benin, agroecological practices are now part of farmers' farming practices. This allows farmers to cope with the constraints of agricultural production.

CASAD-Benin has improved farmers' knowledge of agroecological practices through the organisation of citizen debates around agriculture with ecologist farmers of the Multi-stakeholder Platform for farmers 'innovation Promotion in Benin. This debate, referred to as « La nuit de l'agro-écologie » was an opportunity for farmers to explain the meaning of their commitment and for citizens, to meet those who daily practice agro-ecology, to discover their practices and to discuss them.

Glazoué- Benin

RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

📅 FEBRUARY 2017 – NOVEMBER 2018

👤 60 DIRECT BENEFICIARIES AND 300 INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES

The rural community in the hilly area “les collines” lives mainly on agriculture and livestock. But farmers are no longer able to meet their basic needs because of the upsurge of climate change crisis. CASAD-Benin helps reduce food and nutrition insecurity of the most vulnerable populations. Under the initiative of the Support project for gardening crop production and enhancing resilience « Projet d'Appui à la Production Maraîchère et de Renforcement de la Résilience (PAPMaRR) » of New land NGO, CASAD-Benin has been associated in the Agroecology component. CASAD-Benin, with its team of experts in Agroecological practices, has enhanced the adaptation abilities of gardening crop women farmers to climate hazards by training on more resilient agroecological practices based on their traditional knowledge.



DECENT WORK

ACCESS TO YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

CASAD-Benin builds youth capacity in agricultural entrepreneurship

**600
Million**

600 million jobs will have to be created over the next 15 years to maintain employment rates.

**120
Youth**

CASAD-Benin has improved the employability of 120 young Beninese through its initiation and training of young people in agricultural entrepreneurship project (PIFJEA)

Youth employment the fastest way out of poverty

Youth unemployment remains high and the quality of jobs is worrying. CASAD-Benin improves the employability of youth and gives them better access to contribute to businesses through the promotion of employment in miscellaneous sectors.

Our approach is to :

- Train young job seekers in personal development, writing CVs, cover letter ;
- Promote the spirit of entrepreneurship among youth ;
- Train youth on writing a bankable business plan;
- Encourage and guide young project leaders towards project financing structures such as FNPEEJ Benin, ANPE, ANPME and Alidé Microfinance



Takon-SAKETE: Initiation and training of young people in agricultural entrepreneurship project. © CASAD-Benin

COTONOU- Benin

PROMOTE KNOW HOW OF YOUNG GRADUATES

📅 AUGUST 2017 – ONGOING

👤 ALREADY 50 BENEFICIARIES

The Beninese company has evolved a lot in recent years and it has gradually advanced towards increasingly unstable environments, leading to an exacerbation of competition, the race for profitability and innovation and, more generally, new requirements in terms of competitiveness. This instability of the economic environment will lead to rethink models of management based on skills. It is through this new management model to give Beninese businesses employees capable of optimally achieving their objectives and to ensure transversal skills within the Organization that can be deployed in various positions.

Accordingly, the Beninese company has a limited interest in the development of employability, so it needs above all a high-performing staff.

Therefore, CASAD-Benin has set itself the objective of developing the employability of all jobseekers and in particular graduates on all types of skills in order to limit the social impact of an employment loss.

From 2017 to date, fifty (50) graduates received training on personal development, CV and cover letters writing. This project requires funding and institutional strengthening to achieve his goal.

National level (Benin)

TRAIN YOUNG IN AGRICULTURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

📅 FEBRUARY 2016 – JUNE 2017

👤 70 BENEFICIARIES

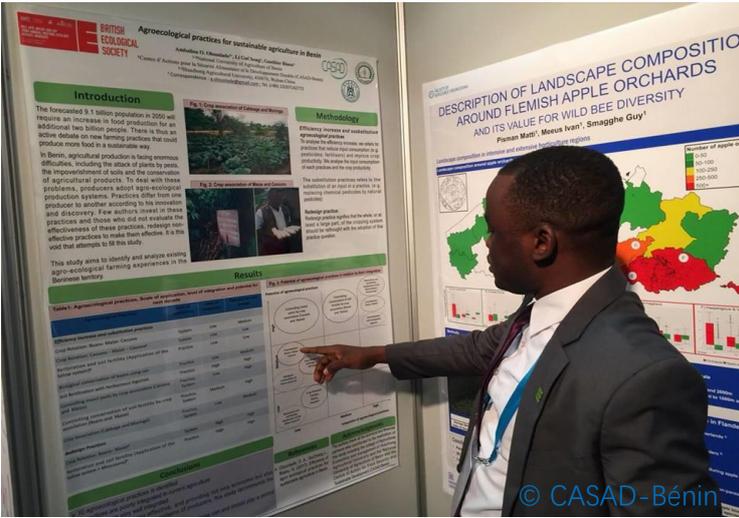
Food insecurity and youth unemployment are a challenge that governments are facing. The mismatch between training and market demand means that the number of jobless youth is increasing day by day. According to the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis (INSAE), only twenty-two point two percent (21.2%) of young people are employed, of which fourteen point seven (14.7%) are irregular workers. Faced with this situation, which intensify youth poverty, agricultural entrepreneurship is a solution that cannot only help these thousands of young people to self-employ, but also contribute to reducing food insecurity. CASAD-Benin, aware of this issue took the initiative of initiation and training of young people in agricultural entrepreneurship project (PIFJEA). The main objective of this project is to contribute effectively to eradicate food insecurity and unemployment by promoting youth entrepreneurship in Benin.

Through the PIFJEA project, the rural youth are convinced that agricultural entrepreneurship is a powerful source of income and access to employment. (ref)

<http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/comment/7699>

Conferences and workshops

CASAD-Benin participated in several conferences and workshops at both the national and international levels to contribute to the debates on policies related to poverty alleviation and food security in agricultural households.



A member of CASAD-Benin, Mr. Ambaliou O. OLOUNLADE, was invited by the British Ecological Society in the « Ecology Across Borders: Joint Annual Meeting 2017. » from 11 to 14 December 2017 to share with the global scientific community the results of research conducted by CASAD-Benin on the effectiveness of agroecological practices in Benin.



Agroecological practices for sustainable agriculture in Benin
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Introduction
 The forecasted 9.1 billion population in 2050 will require an increase in food production for an additional two billion people. There is thus an active debate on new farming practices that could produce more food in a sustainable way.
 In Benin, agricultural production is facing enormous difficulties, including the attack of plants by pests, the impoverishment of soils and the conservation of agricultural products. To deal with these problems, producers adopt agro-ecological production systems. Practices differ from one producer to another according to his innovation and discovery. Few authors invest in these practices and those who did not evaluate the effectiveness of these practices, redesign non-effective practices to make them effective. It is this void that attempts to fill this study.
 This study aims to identify and analyze existing agro-ecological farming experiences in the Beninese territory.

Methodology
Efficiency increase and substitution agroecological practices
 To analyse the efficiency increase, we refers to practices that reduce input consumption (e.g. pesticides, fertilisers) and improve crop productivity. We analyse the input consumption of each practices and the crop productivity.
Redesign practice:
 Redesign practice signifies that the whole, or at least a large part, of the cropping system should be rethought with the adoption of the practice question

Results
Table 1: Agroecological practices, Scale of application, level of integration and potential for next decade

Agroecological Practices	Scale of application	Level of integration	Potential for next decade
Efficiency increase and substitution practices			
Crop Rotation: Beans- Maize- Cassava	System	Low	Medium
Crop Rotation: Cassava- Maize- Cassava ^a	System	Low	Low
Restoration and soil fertility (Application of the fallow system) ^b	Practice	Low	Low
Biological conservation of beans using can	Practice	Low	Medium
Soil fertilization with herbaceous legumes	Practice	High	High
Controlling insect pests by crop association (Cassava and Maize)	Practice, System	Low	High
Controlling conservation of soil fertility by crop association (Beans and Maize)	Practice, System	Medium	High
Crop association (Cabbage and Moringa)	Practice, System	Low	Medium
Redesign Practices			
Crop Rotation: Beans- Maize ^a	System	High	High
Restoration and soil fertility (Application of the fallow system) ^b	Practice	High	High

Fig. 3: Potential of agroecological practices in relation to their integration

Potential of agroecological practices

High: Controlling insect pests by crop association (Cassava and Maize), Controlling conservation of soil fertility by crop association (Beans and Maize), Crop Rotation: Beans- Maize^a, Soil fertilization with herbaceous legumes

Medium: Crop Rotation: Beans- Maize- Cassava, Crop association: Cabbage and Moringa

Low: Restoration and soil fertility (Application of the fallow system)^b, Crop Rotation: Cassava, Maize, Cassava^a

Low Medium High
Integration of agroecological practices

Conclusions
 > 10 agroecological practices is identified
 > 6 practices are poorly integrated in current agriculture
 > 4 practices are very well integrated
 > These practices being effective, and providing not only economic but also the sustainable solution to the problems of producers, this study recommends the spread of practices for mass adoption.
 > The study concludes that agroecological practices can and should play a central role to provide sufficient food in Benin.

References
 Olounlade, O. A., GuCheng L., Biau, G. (2017). Efficacy of agro ecological practices for sustainable agriculture in Benin.

Acknowledgments
 The authors thank all the technical and financial partners who contributed to the realization of this study including the college of Agricultural Economics and management of Huazhong Agricultural University and the National University of Agriculture of Benin and the Centre of Action for Food Security and Sustainable Development (CASAD-Benin)

2018 Outlook



Takoni-SAKETE: Initiation and training of young people in agricultural entrepreneurship project. © CASAD-Benin

☞ Implementation of year 3 of the strategic plan of CASAD-Benin

CASAD-Benin is entering the third year of the implementation of its 2016-2020 strategic plan. CASAD-Benin will continue to focus on the defined themes and priorities. The actions of CASAD-Benin will mainly focus on small-scale farmers while working on the external factors that influence the efficiency of their production systems. During the third year, we will also work to strengthen our partnerships. We focus on long-term partnerships that contribute more to the achievement of our strategic objectives than to the specific objectives of a project.

☞ Youth access to employment

CASAD-Benin will continue to build the capacity of youth in agribusiness through its projects; with a particular emphasis on young women. CASAD-Benin will work with partners to support and installation of youth trained in agribusiness. In the same perspective of youth capacity building, CASAD-Benin will operationalize the OpportunitYoung platform to not only provide information, training opportunities, internships and conferences in the agricultural field, but also develop various themes such as agricultural entrepreneurship, agro-ecology, successful examples of peasant innovations and the drafting and management of a business plan. CASAD-Benin wants to develop through the OpportunitYoung Platform, training modules focused on specific capabilities.

☞ Improvement of farmers' resilience in Benin

CASAD-Benin will continue to support farmers in Benin. By capitalizing on farmers' innovations, our experiences and results of participatory research, new partnerships will be established to better enhance the resilience of farmers to environmental, climatic and anthropogenic pressures. Farmers' innovations will be emphasized to capitalize on them and promote sustainable family agriculture.

CASAD-Benin team in 2017

- **Board of Directors**

Position / Function	Name	M / F
President	Fiacre Dègbégnon ADANDONOU	M
Secretary	Christine ADOUNSI	F
Treasurer	Florent ADOUNSI	M

- **Executive direction**

Position / Function	Name	M / F
Executive Director	Ambaliou O. OLOUNLADE	M
Director of Programs	Koffi Moïse B. SODJINOU	M
Deputy Director of Programs	Adikath ABIOLA	F
Program Manager and Communication	Alidou IMOROU ASSOUMA	M
Deputy Program Manager and Communication	Alice Mahougnon SAKOU	F
Accountant	Houéffa Marietta Andréa GNIMAGNON	F
Secretary	Waliatou Anikè BADAROU	F
Animator	Damien ADANDONON	M

- **Auditors**

Position / Function	Nom	M / F
1 st Auditor	Kifouli OLOUNLADE	M
2 nd Auditor	Elie Bohiki ISSIOTAN	M

Partners in 2017

- CERIDAEP Agro pastoral Centre
- Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, University of Abomey-Calavi (FSA/UAC)
- French Ministry of Agriculture, agri-food and forest.
- New Land NGO
- Union of young modern farmers NGO (UJAM-Benin)
- PUXIN

We are grateful to all the partner institutions with whom we have worked during the year 2017.



About CASAD-Benin

The Centre of Actions for Food Security and Sustainable Development (CASAD) is a non-profit organization focused on Participatory Action Research and working for poverty alleviation and the promotion of food security. In 2015, CASAD-Benin adopted a strategic plan (2016-2020) which guides its actions.

Vision: To be a recognized institution of public utility, efficient and undeniable in terms of rural communities' capacity building to increase food security and promote sustainable development.

Mission: To improve food and nutrition security and support sound management of natural resources through knowledge management, facilitation, capacity building and; the empowerment of rural communities and professional farming organizations.

Our programs

- **Agriculture and Food Security:** Experimenting and innovating with smallholders for sustainable family farming;
- **Environment and Climate Change:** Improving people knowledge on the adoption of sustainable biodiversity management practices;
- **Education:** Improving the quality of children's education by strengthening the material resources of public institutions;
- **ICT and Agriculture:** Supporting smallholders in agricultural knowledge management using ICTs.

Contact us

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