Ismaël Sawadogo, 18 years old, alumni of the Toupah FFS

In 2016, after completing my training at the Family Farm School (FFS) of Toupah, I wanted to apply my skills and knowledge right away. I first started with a few crops and 3 rabbits to make a little money. Then I built my first henhouse (21m²) which had a capacity of 240 chickens. I quickly realized that in one month I could earn 125 000 FCFA (190 €) with an initial investment of 60 000 FCFA (90 €). Two years ago, I have started with 60 chicks, and now I can feed, look after and sell 400 chickens. I am very proud of what I have learned at the FFS and I am grateful to my trainers who trained me and pushed me to start my own business.

Vincent Anodjo, Manager of the Agriculture Integrated Unit of Toupah, SAPH

As a key actor contributing to Ivory Coast’s development, SAPH has made concrete commitments to support sustainable development. Together with our stakeholders, we have implemented several community-based initiatives such as the Family Farm School (FFS) project of Toupah. For us, supporting the FFS means standing up for education and professional training. As a company, it is very important for us to help local communities as far as we can. Investing in vocational training will help young people to build themselves a better future. That’s why it is essential that the FFS network exists and progressively takes off.
The Ivory Coast Family Farm Schools Platform (PEFACI) took part in the 22nd World Trade Fair organized in Lyon, France, from the 1st to the 4th of February 2018. Invited by the International Association of French-Speaking Regions (AIRF), the PEFACI represented the Bélier Region of Ivory Coast and showcased its agriculture vocational training activities.

The Bélier Delegation was constituted by Jean-Bedel N’Guessan, the PEFACI Deputy Chief Operating Officer (DCOO), Christian Koffi and Herbert Kouakou, two IFERA students. The Bélier Delegation co-hosted the stand of the Lyon Pressin Horticulture and Landscape Gardening High School and took part in several discussions on agriculture vocational trainings. The group was also interviewed by Radio Pluriel, a local radio, to describe its vocational training activities in Ivory Coast. At the end of the event which gathered more than 116,000 visitors and participants, the FFS team exchanged on structuring partnership opportunities with international training centers.

Meanwhile in the other countries...

Cameroon – Let’s start the trainers’ competency-based assessment

In Cameroon, the assessment of FFS trainers’ teaching skills have started in the North West in January, in the Littoral and the South in March, in the Far North in April and will be extended to the East in May. These evaluations assess the trainers’ capacities to prepare and conduct courses according to the Competency-based approach (CBA), at the heart of the Agriculture Training program at IEC.

All in all, more than 25 trainers have already been assessed and the pedagogical team has identified several points that will be strengthened in the upcoming trainers’ training sessions. Congratulations to Anastasie Ngo Gwem and Emile Wobenso of IEC Cameroon vocational training department!

In DRC, third-year FFS students have completed their training internship!

Niclette, Pelaji and Hornelly have carried out a four-week internship on apiculture at Kisantu’s botanical garden. They were supervised by professional beekeepers such as Brother Mansala who has built the apiary of the Technical Institute of Horticulture and Agriculture. During their first professional experience, they have learned to master the different activities related to the management of an apiary. In the upcoming weeks, third-year FFS students from Ngidinga will build an apiary in their school’s teaching garden and start their first income generating activity (IGA).