Hyacinte Ehora, 21 years old, former student of Apprompron FFS

I’m a representative of the first graduated students at Apprompron FFS. I prepared my last-year project (MPE) on the multiplication of banana’s rejections by the PIF method because rejections of quality are lacking in my village. I successfully presented this professional project before a jury in July. Since then, I have received many orders that I cannot satisfy yet. I have a germoir and I wish to build a second one with a capacity of 100 rejections. I am also producing eggplants over 400m² the revenues of which allow me to maintain my banana trees: I just harvested four (4) boxes of 40 kilograms!

Arsène Goué, FFS network coordinator at the PEFACI

As an agriculture technician, I became coordinator of the Center and South networks of the PEFACI in December 2016. I supervise the Séhiza, Assinzé, Touphas and Tiéviesou FFS and support the trainers in the development of their schools and carrying out of activities. This support includes the preparation of the courses, the prospection of professionals to contribute to the training and the maintenance of the FFS experimental garden and chicken house. In 2017-2018, I will duplicate the FFS practical activities in the FFS of my network. My ambition is to develop local partnerships with local farms in order to guarantee internship of quality for our children.

Over 500 farm owners trained in Ivory Coast over the school year

During the 2016-2017 school year, 541 farm owners (including 20% of women) benefited from trainings in Ivory Coast to improve their production methods. 17 trainings were organized in 11 villages where FFS are implemented and the themes were based on the identified needs and opportunities of those villages. Many trainings covered the multiplication of banana’s rejections by the PIF method and chicken breeding - building of the chicken farm, manufacturing of food, management tools. Other trainings were been organized on snail farming et the manufacturing of compost out of cacao waste. Those trainings take place in the evening, over one or more sessions, to allow participants to work on their field during daytime.

A survey was conducted at the beginning of this year to measure the impact of these trainings. The number of participants with a parcel dedicated to market gardening had risen by 40%, less than a year after the training on this theme (June 2016). Moreover, 35% of them were using the yields follow-up sheet for their field and the cash book, whereas almost none of them did so before the training.

Interviews

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Adult trainings

Beyond the integration of rural youths, FFS aim to contribute to the development of the villages in which they are implemented. Moreover, a strong implication of the local population in the schools is a guarantee of their sustainability. The technical trainings for adults contribute to these objectives through the assimilation of the methods learned by the FFS students, in order to improve the living standards of the producers.

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The 18 students of the IFERA, in Yamoussoukro, achieved their second year of training this summer. This year, the emphasis was placed on practical activities with the implementation of a vegetable garden, a chicken house and a compost in the experimental garden of the IFERA. During class as well as in boarding school, the students have shown assiduity, motivation and a growing interest for the courses related to animal and vegetal productions.

The training plan this year included an initiation to the transformation of agricultural products and the valorization of production wastes. As part of those courses, the students benefited from study visits at the TRANSFORM pilot center near Abidjan.

The trainers were able to better assess the level of the students thanks to a mock exam organized in June 2017. They identified the strengths and weaknesses of the IFERA students, based on which they will implement individual tutorials starting in September 2017. The upcoming school year will be dedicated to the specialization of the students and the preparation to the CAP examination. For their specialization, students will do a 6-months internship, beginning in January 2018, on the agricultural or farming theme of their choice.

Meanwhile in the other countries...

Cameroon trainers ready for the upcoming school year!

This summer, the teams in Cameroon focused their efforts on the reinforcement of trainer capacities and the preparation of the upcoming school year. In order to improve the training provided to the FFS students, 24 trainers benefited from internships in fish and chicken farming, agroforestry and market gardening; 40 trainers were trained to the dual pedagogy methodology. Moreover, a national seminar brought together all of the trainers of the network, some FFS association members as well as representatives of FFS promoteurs (diocese, regional FFS federations) and technical partners (PROCEFFA, PLANOPLAC, ACEFA, etc.) in order to decide together on the primary goals of the upcoming school year.

In DRC, the Ngidinga FFS students successfully defend their final projects

In June, the third-year students of the Ngidinga FFS defended their final project, “My First Business” (MPE), in front of a jury composed of a Superior Agronomical Studies Institute’s teacher, a ground coordinator and a FFS pedagogical specialist. Each student presented his/her professional project, which they had worked on throughout the year with the support of their trainers, and which was based on the activity they wished to develop: chicken, goat farming and beekeeping. The jury visited each of their farm to assess the implementation of their activity and the use of management tools. They encouraged the trainers to further their efforts in students follow up, for the 19 students who will defend their MFB in the Kong Central FFS in June 2018.