The training session was the occasion to explain the organization of an apiary to the FFS trainers and to improve their skills on accurate apiculture practices: how to locate and control eggs-laying, how to understand, diagnose and treat any existing problem within the apiary, etc. The training was particularly relevant as it will help the beekeepers to manage their hives and limit the mortality rate in honeybee colonies. In the end, every trainer was very satisfied with the two-day practical application of their skills on the hives.

Interviews

Fabrice Nlandu Mbungu, 3rd year student at the Kimpemba FFS

My name is Fabrice and I am a 3rd year student at the Kimpemba FFS. This year, I am preparing the MFB project: “My First Business”. My schoolyear is going well but I find the MFB project quite difficult. Hopefully, the trainers are present and supportive. They taught me some crop production (respect of row spacing, seed selection and crop protection) and breeding techniques (production of concentrate feeds and hive management). My final project (MFB project) is to plant one hundred fruit trees on my father’s field and to develop a plant nursery to sell seedlings on the Kimpemba market.

Ahmed Sona, technical courses trainer at the Kimpemba FFS

I am a trainer at the Kimpemba FFS. I am in charge of all technical courses. Each year, I develop a calendar of agriculture activities with my class. The calendar is based on the Central Kongo seasons. Therefore, we have planned when to start every crop production and what is needed for the production in terms of seeds, material, etc. This calendar helps us to improve the management of the FFS garden and to anticipate on future activities. I have understood how to use and implement such calendar thanks to last summer’s pedagogical training!

Technical training of trainers

Technical trainings of trainers are organized at least once per year in a training center or at the facility of a partner company. Each session enables trainers to update their agriculture skills and knowledge thanks to the expertise of technical professionals. In the end, all FFS and IFER students will benefit from the improvement of their teachers’ skills through an improved training!
Located in the region of Central Kongo, Kimpemba was chosen to be FFS of the month. Indeed, the school has shown a great autonomy of its trainers and a remarkable management of its activities. Our field coordinator, Pierrick Kakema underscored “the initiatives taken and the energy of the Kimpemba trainers”.

The FFS Trainers – Ahmed, Landry and Ferdinand – have implemented an annual calendar of the activities that enables them to anticipate their needs in supplies and seeds for technical activities. They also have divided technical and general courses according to their respective knowledge and skills. Thanks to their commitment and energy, twelve students’ parents have been active in following-up their children’s training and two parents / teachers’ meetings have already been organized since the September school start. General issues were discussed such as the organization of activities and courses and the progress of their children. In September 2017, Kimpemba’s students and teachers already stood out by building a fence around their experimental garden. Soybeans, corn and manioc are now out of reach of the goats, sheep and pigs wandering in the village! Therefore, students only have to follow the progress of their production.

Meanwhile in the other countries...

The IFERA takes part in the International Agriculture Fair of Abidjan

Last year, on November 20th, all students from the IFERA training center of Yamoussoukro, along with the pedagogical team, attended the International Agriculture and Breeding Fair organized in Abidjan (SARA 2017). While visiting the major event on West African Agriculture, every student had the opportunity to learn about the innovations displayed in the different exhibition stands: Regions and Districts, International, Agrisupplies, Innovations, Products, Nature, Life and Forestry, Machinery and Breeding. During the visit, 1st year students could also network with their 3rd year school mates, who are currently preparing to take the CAP exam in January 2018.

First FFS and IFER Alumni Forum in the North West region of Cameroon

The first FFS and IFER alumni forum took place in Kumbo in December 2017, in the North West region of Cameroon. More than fifty participants attended the event and some of them even brought samples of their products to showcase their achievements.

During the day, alumni and rural entrepreneurs shared their experiences and Government representatives delivered a presentation on the existing aid schemes for young farmers. The whole day was held in a peaceful and friendly atmosphere enabling alumni to network and discover agriculture support programs.