



Education challenge amid COVID-19 pandemic









IECD's teams mobilized to maintain contact with the students

The global health crisis related to **Covid-19** has led to **a significant impact on the activities** of the Agriculture Training Program. In accordance with the guidelines of the Ivorian and Cameroonian authorities to contain the epidemic, all the training centers were closed and most of the students had to end their internship. **In Côte d'Ivoire**, on March 16th, the Ministry of National Education, Technical Education and Vocational Training ordered the closure of all schools. Since July 10th, they have started to reopen. **In Cameroon**, schools also reopened on June 1st, after more than two months of closure.

The closure of the schools led to a necessary **reorganization and postponement of activities**. However, the training centers' pedagogical teams and the monitoring coordinators remained mobilized to maintain the link with the students as much as possible. For example, the trainers regularly called the students and organized WhatsApp groups to share pedagogical contents. In addition, despite the circumstances, trips have been organized within the provinces in order to follow some students' activities especially those in third grade. All activities are carried out while respecting the basic sanitary measures.

RESULTS OF THE PROGRAM IN 2019

-  **24** vocational training centers supported
-  **709** young people trained including **24%** of women
-  **104** trainers trained
-  **91%** of graduates are integrated (employment or pursuing studies)
-  **100%** of the schools have didactical gardens and **40%** schools have a chicken coop
-  **14** schools have boarding homes, which represents **47%** of the centers

For further information about our actions, please see our 2019 annual report [here](#).



Students in class at the FFS in Apprompron (Côte d'Ivoire)



Practical workshop in Afféry IFER (Côte d'Ivoire)



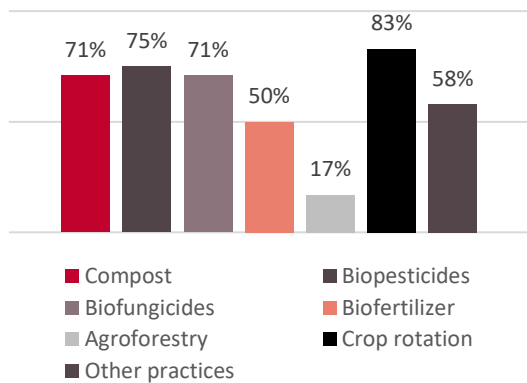
Students in class at the FFS in Ndélélé (Cameroon)

IN OUR CENTERS, DAILY AGROECOLOGICAL PRACTICES

To produce healthy food and to protect the environment, **agroecological techniques** are integrated into daily practices in training centers supported by IECD. The agroecological practices are included in the theoretical courses or practical workshops (didactic gardens, chicken coop, pig farming).

For example, the soil is fertilized with **organic fertilizer** from composting workshops carried out in the centers. **Crop rotations** are also planned in order to keep the land fertile and not to drain the soil. Students learn how to make **biopesticides** and **biofungicides** from natural plants (garlic, peppers, ginger, neem, etc.). **Mulching systems** are installed to limit the use of herbicides and to maintain soil moisture.

CENTRES IMPLEMENTING AGRO-ECOLOGICAL PRACTICES



GRADUATES CONCERNED ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT

The integration survey conducted among **former students** of the program was the opportunity to **assess how the environmental issues** are taken into account in their professional activities. Thus, most graduates practice agriculture **without chemical inputs** (23%) or **well-reasoned agriculture** (31%). 53% of the graduates declared that they implement a crop rotation system. In addition, 50% of the graduates owning a farm **fertilize their fields with manure or compost**.

This trend reflects the **willingness of young people** to integrate respect of their environment **into production methods**. This dynamic is particularly strong in Côte d'Ivoire where 75% of graduates said that they use these types of agriculture.



Evaluating the integration of young people

In 2019, a survey was conducted in Cameroon and Côte d'Ivoire in order to **assess the integration of former graduates of the Agricultural Training Program**.

76% of the 238 graduates surveyed are currently working and **15%** are continuing their studies.

Among the young people in employment, **81%** work in agriculture and/or animal farming, and most of them are involved in various cultures.

This survey shows that :

- ✓ **50%** are engaged in market gardening, **49%** in other food crops, **31%** in cereals, **38%** in cash crops (former students often cultivate several crops).
- ✓ Chicken coop is the main type of farming practiced by graduates - **53%** - followed by small ruminant farming (sheep, goats, pigs) - **46%**.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- ✓ August 2020 : Open day at Afféry IFER (Côte d'Ivoire) and Kienké, Ndélélé and Batouri FFS (Cameroon)
- ✓ August 2020 : Area coordinators seminar in Mbalmayo (Cameroon)
- ✓ August 2020 : Seminar to review training plans following the coronavirus crisis (Cameroon)
- ✓ August 2020 : Back-to-school seminar (Côte d'Ivoire)



“ Agro-ecology is, for me, the best way to produce food while protecting natural resources in order to offer the population healthy and cheaper products. By practicing agro-ecology, we make sustainable agriculture where the waste from one production unit become a raw material for others. In this system, nothing is thrown away, everything is transformed. Therefore, since its creation, IFERA has been training young people in this way of cultivating the land. Any producer would benefit from adopting these good practices with the aim of limiting the degradation of our environment. »

Romualdo Prudencio, Trainer at Yamoussoukro IFERA since 2018 (Côte d'Ivoire)

Thanks to our financial and technical partners!