

## Access to education, our core priority



### 602 students enrolled for the 2020-2021 school year !

Despite a complicated year in 2020, the Agriculture training program is more than ever committed to provide good quality training for the youth. Indeed, in rural areas, vocational training **is still not very accessible to young people**. In Cameroon, only 21% of them have been enrolled in a vocational training, compared to 46% in urban areas. In Côte d'Ivoire, young people enrolled in a training in agriculture represented only 0.2% of the youth enrolled in technical education and vocational training in 2016-2017 (MENETFP).

In order to address this situation, IECD and its partners **are taking concrete action to facilitate access to vocational training**. At the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, the program's training centers welcomed **602 students**:

- 270 students in Côte d'Ivoire, including 52 young women (19.2%)
  - 332 students in Cameroon, including 137 young women (41.2%)
- At the beginning of the previous school year (2019-2020), the training centers in Côte d'Ivoire welcomed 349 young people: this drop in enrollment is largely explained **by the economic consequences of COVID-19** as well as the political tensions at the end of the year 2020 related to the presidential elections. On the other hand, in Cameroon, 254 students were enrolled at the start of the 2019-2020 school year: **this is a substantial increase** in enrollment, reflecting the **daily work of the teams on the ground** to implement quality training, despite a difficult context.

#### 2020 KEY FACTS



**Pedagogical follow-up** by phone while the centers were closed



Organization of **remedial internships** for the students during the summer 2020



**2 training sessions** for internship supervisors on the dual-pedagogy



**5 Open Doors** days



Structuring of a **Guidance, Employment and Integration Office** in Cameroon



**Official approval** of the Yamoussoukro center as a vocational training institution (MENETFP)



Study visit in Njombe (pineapple processing)  
(Cameroon)



Drip irrigation system at Toupah FFS  
(Côte d'Ivoire)



Student at Nadelélé FFS  
(Cameroon)

## TRANSMITTING THE TASTE FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Youth professional integration after the training is the Agriculture training program main concern.

**Entrepreneurship** is the outcome for young graduates, as 55% of graduates involved in a professional activity become entrepreneurs after their training. Therefore, it is essential that they are trained in farming and husbandry techniques as well as in business management.

In order to ensure successful training, the trainers themselves must be able to **transmit the enthusiasm and the taste for entrepreneurship** to their students. This is why **31 trainers** from the PEFACI benefited from **entrepreneurship training** in December 2020, in order to strengthen their capacity to support young people in setting up a profitable business. During this training, led by our partner Côte d'Ivoire Enterprise and Development (CIED), the emphasis was put on the importance of understanding market needs as well as assessing costs and available financial resources.

Monitoring tools were also considered and adjusted to the realities of the activities initiated by the youth. In 2021, efforts **will continue to promote entrepreneurship to young people**, so that they can start their professional activity with confidence.



Field trip to the [TRANSFORM](#) center in Tiassalé (Côte d'Ivoire)



Training fields of the Dizangué center (Cameroon)

## MINI-COMPANIES ON THE MOVE IN CAMEROON

The Dizangué center (Littoral) has been selected as a pilot center for **the experimentation of mini-companies**. The objective of this project is to develop students' entrepreneurial mindset, with the support of Cameroon Enterprise and Development (CED). During the first phase of the project, the operational team and the trainers received **training in entrepreneurship pedagogy**. In January, the second phase started, after casting students by group: each group had to develop a mini-company project, from its conception, to its implementation and evaluation. Most groups have chosen to prepare a field for vegetal production. To achieve their purpose, students receive support from two of their trainers, who benefit themselves from ongoing training from CED in entrepreneurship pedagogy. This innovating pedagogical initiative allows young people to learn in a concrete way about business management, in order to be better prepared for their entry into the labor market.

Check again in a few weeks for the mid-term review of this project!

## In Côte d'Ivoire, elections under high tension

2020 has been a particularly troubled year in Côte d'Ivoire.

Indeed, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the school year, given that schools were closed from March to May. In October, schools had to close their doors again and to postpone the start of the 2020-2021 school year due to the presidential elections in late October.

There have been sporadic riots in some areas, forcing field teams to restrict their travels.

In this context of uncertainty, parents were reluctant to enroll their children at school, which led to a decrease in the number of young people enrolled in training centers.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR !

- ✓ **March 22<sup>nd</sup>** : Competency-based evaluation of trainers in the East region (Cameroon)
- ✓ **March 25<sup>th</sup>**: Start of the 2021 integration survey data collect
- ✓ **March 26<sup>th</sup>**: Alumni Forum in Yamoussoukro (Côte d'Ivoire)
- ✓ **March 30<sup>th</sup>**: training of internship supervisors (Côte d'Ivoire)
- ✓ **April 19<sup>th</sup>**: training of trainers (Côte d'Ivoire)
- ✓ **April 19<sup>th</sup>**: Training of trainers in Bafoussam (Cameroon)



“ I am a student in vegetal production enrolled in the 3rd year of the training (GCE). This year, I am proud to have succeeded in growing tomatoes which I always failed in previous years. We are in going to start a mini-company at the center. My group has chosen to produce maize, because in the dry season, this product is rare in the area. I am happy because everyone in the group is committed. Initially, I thought it would be impossible, but after talking with my friends, I realize that everything is possible. We are seven young people in the group, and I really think that we will succeed. »

**Dorothee, 3<sup>rd</sup> year student at Dizangué training center**

Thanks to our technical and financial partners for their support !

