



The "One Health" concept to support cocoa agroforestry in Cameroon

E. Transitioning to Food Security and Health

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The conventional intensification of agricultural practices (pesticides, energy, chemical fertilisers) based on the homogenisation of agriculture (variety, cropping systems, production function) is a source of increasing risks and threats to human health (exposure to pesticides), animal health and environmental health (biodiversity). It is becoming essential to renew the conceptual frameworks that guide public policies in order to transform agricultural practices by taking into account their consequences on the health of humans, animals and ecosystems. This systemic and integrated vision of health structures the evolution of the "One Health" concept. Its operational translation in the context of African countries and in Cameroon requires the constitution of knowledge communities (scientific and non-scientific). This experiment documents how 'One Health' can be designed as an interactive field of application between these communities on agroforestry. It mobilises bibliometric analysis, semi-structured interview surveys and the organisation of webinars in cocoa-based agroforestry systems that tend to be pesticide-intensive and whose extension is a source of deforestation in tropical environments. The results highlight how the mobilisation of the "One Health" concept allows: (i) to define the health of agroforestry ecosystems as a lever for the agroecological transition and (ii) to prevent the risks of emergence of various diseases linked to deforestation. They underline the need not to focus or reduce "One Health" initiatives on infectious diseases of humans and animals alone, but the interest for the governance of agricultural practices to extend it to the constitutive relationships of integrations between cultivated ecosystems and food systems. In conclusion, the experience confirms how the notion of a health structures renewals in the interaction of knowledge communities (scientific, public governance and rural communities) in the governance of orientations (project design, institutional strategies) more favourable to the socio-ecological sustainability of cocoa production.