

Performance of agricultural innovation support services : the case of cocoa agroforestry in savannah in Cameroon



ISCR ICCO 2022

Nawalyath SOULE ADAM, UMR Innovation, 73 Street Jean François Breton, CEDEX, Montpellier, France
Ludovic Temple, UMR Innovation, 73 Rue Jean François Breton, CEDEX, Montpellier, France
Syndhia Mathé, CSIR-STEPRI, PO box CT 519, Accra, Ghana
Blundo-Canto, Genowefa, UMR Innovation, 73 Street Jean François Breton, 34398 Montpellier CEDEX 5, France

Contact
nawalyath.soule_adam@cirad.fr



ISCR ICCO 2022

1. An explanation of the emerging conditions of agroecological innovation

Agroforestry, a form of agroecological practice is recognized as an answer (HLEPE, 2019) to the need of transformation of agriculture required by the challenges of food security, climate change and population growth (FAO, 2022). But hindrances to transition towards agroecological practices are of institutional nature (Doré et Bellon, 2019).

In developed countries, the performance in the trajectory of AEIs is dependent on the support farmers receive from policies or stakeholders (Moraine et al., 2018). What are the emerging conditions of agroecological innovation processes in developing countries ?

3. A qualitative three-stage data collection

- ✕ 41 individual interviews
- ✕ 9 focus group
- ✕ 1 Validation workshop

4. A combination of structural and historical analysis

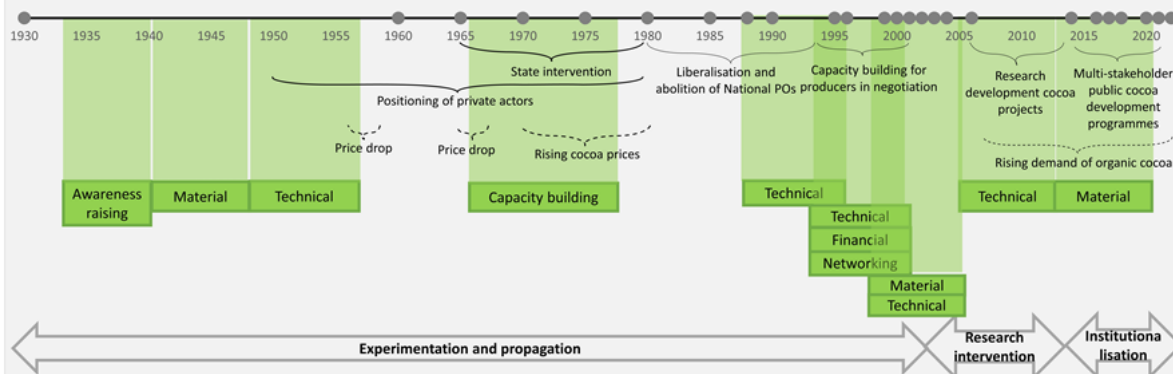
- ✦ Innovation history (Douthwaite & Ashby, 2005) : international and national context
- ✦ Characterisation of services : scope and type of providers

2. Cocoa agroforestry in degraded savannah in Cameroon as an agroecological innovation

- ✦ is a risky experiment in semi-arid zones of Central and Eastern Cameroon since savannahs are considered to have insufficient rainfall for cocoa cultivation (Jagoret et al., 2018).
- ✦ allows the reduction of phytosanitary products and fertilizers' use thanks to reduced fungal contamination risks (Jagoret et al., 2018).
- ✦ favors the diversification of farmers' income (Jagoret et al., 2012) from the first year thanks to association with plantain (year 1 to 3).
- ✦ allows to maintain the vegetation instead of causing deforestation as in other countries.



5. Emergence supported by communitary actors, informal specific and formal generic support services



6. Discussion

- ✦ Communities and civil society support ownership of innovation.
- ✦ Specific formal services have emerged from the recognition of innovation.
- ✦ The structure of the processes are dependent on the macro-institutional context
- ✦ The macro-institutional context gives rise to services within the framework of development projects and programs dependent on external funding.

7. Recommendations and implications

- ✦ The supplied services should allow the recognition of existing innovations or the co-construction of others by mobilising local actors.
- ✦ Local policies should favour empowerment vis-à-vis external funding in order to anchor innovations in a sustainable way.
- ✦ Cocoa producers should be oriented toward savanna to diversify their revenues
- ✦ CAFs in savannah farmers should be targeted by support services to limit their exposure to risk

