

Conduct research in BENIN

SBC Food For Progress Sustainability Assessment Introduction

The Stakman-Borlaug Center is conducting a sustainability assessment of three closed Food for Progress agriculture assistance projects. The SBC works closely with our evaluation partners at The Improve Group, to design evaluation questions, create an overall evaluation methodology and plan, and over the winter/spring of 2019 will be conducting field visits to gather data before writing the final reports in summer 2019.

This sustainability assessment is using case study research methods to answer questions related to the sustainability of project and intervention results.

Goal of case study research

The fundamental goal of case study research is to conduct an **in-depth analysis** of an issue, within its context with a view **to understand the issue from the perspective of participants**. The essential requisite for employing case study stems from one's motivation to illuminate understanding of **complex phenomena**.

Seek the particular more than the ordinary

Project Information

Benin

We are looking for students with expertise in; Small-scale horticulture, postharvest practices, extension training, and working with farmers associations or cooperatives.

Background

Benin is bordered by Togo to the west, Nigeria to the east, and Burkina Faso and Niger to the north. It has an estimated population of at least 10.9 million (2016). Benin has enacted important economic and structural reforms. Benin's economy relies heavily on its informal re-export and transit trade to Nigeria, which makes up roughly 20 percent of GDP, and on agriculture. The tertiary sector as a whole accounts for 50 percent of GDP, while agriculture accounts for about 25 percent of GDP and 45 to 55 percent of employment. The economy is characterized by informality, representing an estimated 65 percent of the total economy and over 90 percent of the labor force.



Partners For Development Food For Progress Project 2011-2015

The Growing Resources for the Enhanced Agricultural Enterprises and Nutrition (GREEN) project, led by Partners for Development worked with Beninese farmers' associations to train vegetable growers in improved production techniques and postharvest management, and provided access to financial services while improving understanding of market-driven production.

Objectives of the project we are evaluating

- **Increase Vegetable Production and Improve Marketing Skills** among smallholder farmers through training and extension.
- **Improve Value Chain and Postharvest Skills** by building the capacity of farmer associations to provide improved services to their members.
- **Increase Financial Services Provided to Targeted Smallholders** by increasing access to loans and training in business/financial management.

Evaluation Questions

What existing conditions are needed for sustainability?

- Are results more sustainable in low, or middle-income countries?
- What conditions set up market linkages for success?
- How does the combination and sequencing of activities influence sustainability?

What factors of the design lead to sustainability?

- What types of project design are most conducive to success?
- To what extent were local stakeholders involved in project activity design?

What factors about the implementation lead to sustainability?

- How do local partnerships contribute to sustainability?
- What factors lead to training results being sustained?

How valuable to communities are the project activities or practices that have been sustained?

- To what extent have project activities or knowledge, attitude, behaviors continued?

How valuable to communities are the project impacts that have been sustained?

- To what extent have project impacts (positive or negative) continued? (e.g. wellbeing, youth engagement, urban migration, school attendance, diet diversity, market health, environment, income)
- How did beneficiaries respond to subsequent shocks? Is that response attributable (for good or bad) to the project?

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