









# Summary

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## **INTRODUCTORY NOTES**



## Patrick Teixeira CERFAM Director a.i.

frica has a plethora of good practices and promising local solutions that deserve to be better known, recognized, and replicated in support of regional and national efforts to fight hunger and malnutrition. Knowledge management, south-south cooperation and country capacity strengthening can play a central role to facilitate and leverage countries' access to these successful experiences.

Launched in 2019 in Abidjan, the Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM), is the result of the strategic partnership between the government of Côte d'Ivoire and WFP that aims to support the efforts of African countries to develop and implement sustainable policies and programmes to end hunger and combat all forms of malnutrition.

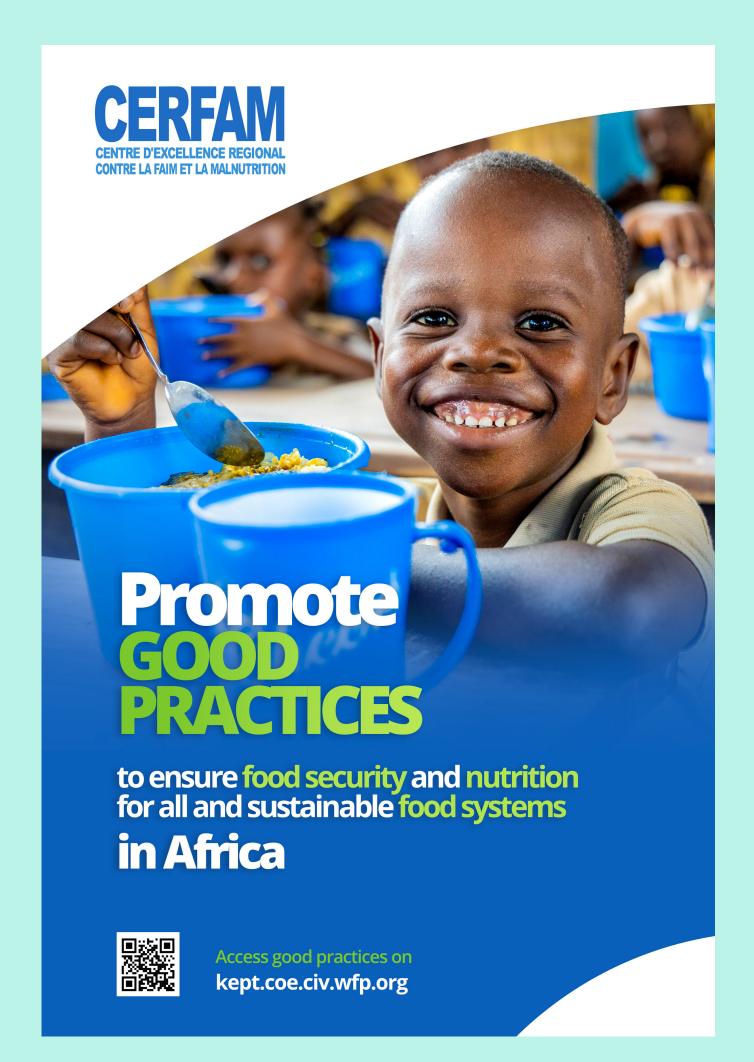
CERFAM was mandated to contribute to the discussions by investigating where were the good

practices with higher impact, what were the gaps, the needs, the challenges and opportunities. As a platform for exchange, partnership and south-south cooperation, CERFAM allows countries to have access to the best available expertise to support their efforts in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2.

CERFAM acts as a catalyst and a hub of good practices and innovative solutions against hunger and malnutrition in Africa by facilitating access to knowledge and expertise and promoting knowledge exchange to transform those good practices and lessons learned into real and concrete opportunities.

Since November 2020, CERFAM has launched a knowledge exchange platform- KEPT, a digital platform that celebrates African innovations by facilitating the documentation and dissemination of high-impact and sustainable good practices developed across Africa. CERFAM also facilitates the mobilization and deployment of technical expertise for the replication and scale up of these good practices.

Looking ahead, the consolidation of the gains and the expansion of the work to leverage the good practices will require join efforts and contributions from relevant stakeholders to bring the synergies, the integration, and the complementarities from their various domains of expertise. In this respect, CERFAM is committed to strengthening its partnerships and to building strong alliances with regional and national institutions, with the UN agencies and a wide range of development actors to leverage the huge potential of good practices and lessons learned to advance the SDG agenda and the Agenda 2063 of the African Union.





In providing its services, CERFAM looks for evidencelessons learned to advance towards SDG2 in Africa. based good practices, especially those generated in South-south cooperation and capacity strengthening Africa, and expertise in food security and nutrition are at the core of CERFAM modus operandi and are areas, especially from the Global South, to support key components to advance the fight against hunger African countries' efforts and investments to achieve **SDG2 Zero Hunger and the Africa Union** Agenda 2063.

## **CERFAM'S KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE PLATFORM (KEPT)**

their national capacities, knowledge management, documentation and sharing of good practices and

and malnutrition. CERFAM proposes a dual service

offer:

Since 2019, CERFAM has been developing the mechanisms, tools and methodology to collect and document good practices, through a dedicated, user-friendly and innovative Knowledge Exchange Platform-KEPT. CERFAM's Knowledge Exchange Platform (KEPT) has four main components:



1



## Good Practice database

i) Submit good practices and share with stakeholders in areas related to food security and nutrition. External experts review and validate good practices submitted.
ii) Access good practices reviewed by a Committee of Experts in the thematic.
Users can learn from the good practices to design/run their own projects/programmes.



2

## **Expert Roster**

i) Register as a technical expert to provide technical assistance. The experts will be part of a pool that may be mobilized and deployed to provide technical assistance in planning, designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating programmes or to review potential candidates for good practices. ii) Users can access basic information about CERFAM's Expert Roster. Users can also request technical assistance from CERFAM to replicate good practices with support from registered experts.

3



## **Expert forum**

Discuss technical questions with experts and/or other practitioners and share insight through a dedicated forum.



4

## Replicate, scale-up and follow-up

Follow up on the implementation (replication, upscaling, etc.) of good practices facilitated by CER-FAM



**07**Documented practices



70
Users registered on KEPT platform



10
Practices currently being analyzed



20 Experts mobilized for the review of good practices submitted; KEPT is an unique opportunity to expand access to certified good practices with a robust body of evidence on improving food security and nutrition.

KEPT is an effective knowledge management tool that can play a central role in facilitating and leveraging countries' access to successful experiences, which can be scaled up, customized and/ or adapted to other contexts.

KEPT will include good practices from across the African continent, which has a plethora of good practices and local solutions that deserve to be better known, recognized, and can be scaled up to support national efforts to fight hunger and malnutrition.

#### WHAT MAKES A GOOD PRACTICE?

Good practices are interventions, business practices, processes or methodologies with proven or potential evidence of impact on food security or nutrition. The following aspects are considered in the guideline to identify and select good practices.

According to CERFAM's methodology, good practices can be classified into three levels:

#### **LEVEL 1: Innovative Practices**

Innovative practices may not yet be supported by statistics or formal evaluations. However, they could have already been tested and logically demonstrate a certain level of effectiveness. They could also have been implemented as pilot activities, new techniques or technologies exhibiting promising but with minimal evidence of results.

#### **LEVEL 2 : Successfully Demonstrated Practices**

This category of practices has been proven successful, with tangible results, in a given context. Although the practice has only been tested in that context, it has transferable features for other contexts or settings. However, it can also present a risk if applied in a different context.

#### **LEVEL 3: Replicated or Scalable Good Practices**

Practices at this level have demonstrated that they generate desired results in multiple contexts. They are qualified as a good practice and may be widely disseminated for adaptation and adoption by others.





### WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA OF A GOOD PRACTICE?

CERFAM assesses practices based on the following nine criteria:



**Effectiveness** 



**Feasibility** 



Accountability (Good governance & transparency)



**Efficiency** 



Innovation and learning



Replicability and adaptability



Relevance



Sustainability and scaling up



Partnership and multi-sectoriality



#### **EFFECTIVENESS**

The criterion of "Effectiveness" tests whether the practice works and achieves measurable results. CERFAM measures the extent to which the practice's objectives were achieved or are expected to be achieved and figure out the major factors influencing the achievement of identified objectives.



#### **EFFICIENCY**

«Efficiency» measures how well were resources used by the programme in achieving its outcomes. A good practice should demonstrate that it applies cost-effective methodologies in its implementation, including showing the link between activities and results. Moreover, there is great need to factor social and environmental impacts into the cost of interventions.



#### **RELEVANCE**

The proposed practice must address priority problems related to food security and nutrition. Additionally, the context, in which the practice has been carried out, should be clearly considered.



#### **FEASIBILITY**

The practice should not be complex, so target groups can quickly and easily understand and benefit from it.

Different factors, including human, financial, and environmental factors, should be considered and addressed to ensure the practice is technically feasible. The good practice should be easy to learn and to implement.





## INNOVATION AND LEARNING

Innovation refers to the component of a good practice perceived as new. It not only includes new technology or technique, but also managerial process and participatory approach. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) during and after project implementation may provide an opportunity to learn from the experience and improve similar initiatives in the future.



## SUSTAINABILITY AND SCALING UP

The good practice should have a durable effect on its target groups, even after the withdrawal of project interventions. Moreover, the practice should demonstrate potential for scale up with success factors and lessons learned identified through research or practical experience.



#### ACCOUNTABILITY (GOOD GOVERNANCE AND TRANSPARENCY)

The project should be transparent with clear structure for participation, management and decision-marking. Information should be readily and always available to stakeholders. Moreover, the project should have explicit funding sources and avoid any conflict of interest.



## REPLICABILITY AND ADAPTABILITY

The practice should show potential for replicability and therefore be adaptable to achieve similar objectives in various situations. Evaluation may assist in identifying the conditions of replicability. With clear conditions of replicability, good practices can be replicated and adapted by other practitioners in different or similar contexts.



9. PARTNERSHIP AND MULTI-SECTORIALITY

Participatory approaches are essential as they support a joint sense of ownership of decisions and actions. The proposed practice should involve and foster collaboration among several stakeholders, especially local communities and national or local authorities, to ensure the practice is transferred at local and national levels.

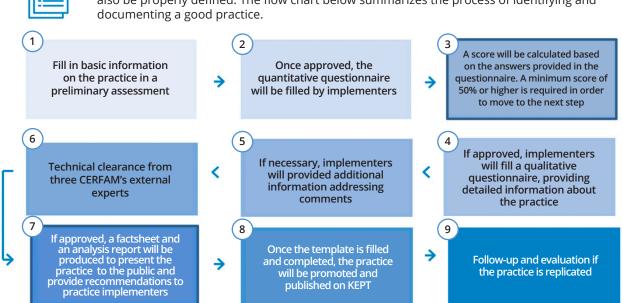




#### WHAT IS THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR A GOOD PRATICE?



When it comes to the identification of good practices, a well detailed and defined workflow of the whole process should be established. The role of each stakeholder in the process should also be properly defined. The flow chart below summarizes the process of identifying and documenting a good practice.





# CÔTE D'IVOIRE: STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES' RESILIENCE FOR ENHANCED FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

#### **Context**

The World Food Programme is implementing a project aiming to improve livelihoods and strengthen the resilience of households. To achieve these objectives, women farmers' groups need the right technologies and training to support and promote sustainable food production, improve post-harvest handling, improve food processing and preservation, and improve the marketing options for their products. Availability of additional resources would contribute to the efforts already underway and allow further expansion of support to include additional groups of female farmers.

## **Project objectives:**



Improve income of smallholder farmers through support to agricultural production, reduction of post-harvest losses and development of stable markets.

Strengthen the structuring and organizational capacities of groups.





Increase supply of local products to provide balanced and diversified meals in school canteens; Improve knowledge of group members and communities on Essential Nutrition Actions (ENA), to promote the adoption of good nutritional and hygiene practices in communities, including school canteens.



## **Methodological approach**

#### Component 1: Increase and diversify production from a nutritional standpoint

- Distribution of material and equipment to support market gardening and the production of high-value crops
- Training in good agricultural practices
- Distribution of fences to protect fields
- Distribution of irrigation kits and maintenance of existing wells to provide access to water

## Component 2: Improve processing and marketing capacities to increase income and reduce post-harvest losses

- Supply processing equipment
- Training on equipment management and negotiation techniques and marketing skills

## Component 3: Strengthen the organizational and structuring capacities of groups

- Improving community life through training
- Developing understanding and application of legal documents
- Fostering knowledge on roles and responsibilities of elected officials.

#### **Component 4: Nutrition-sensitive support**

- Diversifying food production and consumption
- Awareness raising on behaviours supporting improved maternal and child health
- Reinforcing capacities to screen for child malnutrition
- Promoting and adopting «essential nutrition actions» through community radios and communities



#### **RESULTS ACHIEVED**

The introduction of crops, such as tomatoes and onions, have helped increase income of women's groups. Women therefore have the means to send their children to school.

A women's group, interviewed in October 2020, reported total sales of six (6) million FCFA and a donation of one (1) million FCFA to the local school to finance its school canteen program.

A portion of the production is donated by women's groups to school canteens (12% of production), and recorded as community contribution.

These donations, made possible through increased income, provide school meals to schoolchildren.

#### TARGETS REACHED



0 456

4 377

#### **RESULTS**



600%
Increase in production up



of food made available to school canteens across 40 schools reaching 3,000 schoolchildren



135%
Increase in income

Increase in income among producers



small producers supported, 93% of whom are women in 2019-2020

#### **PARTNERS**

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development National Rural Development Support Agency Bureau de Formation et de Conseil en Développement Bureau de Vente des Producteurs Local communities Direction des Cantines Scolaires (DCS)



The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is one of the most fertile countries on earth, with the potential to not only feed all its inhabitants, but to also export food commodities. The country records approximately 80 million hectares of arable land – the second largest cultivable area in the world after Brazil – as well as approximately 50 percent of the continent's water resources. Despite its vast natural resources, the DRC faces the most severe hunger crisis in the world. According to findings from the 18th Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), 21.8 million people in the DRC currently face severe food insecurity. In Tanganyika alone, this proportion reaches 1.5 million people. The DRC continues to experience prolonged conflict – particularly in the east of the country – contributing to large-scale population displacements, disrupted agricultural activities and impeding access to markets, schools and healthcare. In Tanganyika, clashes between armed groups and inter-ethnic conflicts, further aggravated by the impact of recurring agricultural and climate shocks such as erratic rainfall,floods and landslides, have led to massive populations' displacement, disruption of livelihoods, and have damaged the economy and social fabric.

## **Project objective:**



Strengthen the resilience of smallholder farmers and vulnerable populations to different shocks and stressors related to climate change and conflict through agricultural value chain development and support to social cohesion and gender equity.

## **Methodological approach**

#### 1 - Livelihood recovery and poverty reduction

- Capacity strengthening of smallholder farmers to locally produce, handle and sell quality agricultural commodities at affordable prices
- Technical training to restore productive assets and boost agricultural production
- Infrastructure construction and;
- Support to farmers' organisations (FO).

#### 2 - Gender equality and women empowerment;

- Functional literacy training, financial services coupled with capacity strengthening to implement alternative income generating activities.
- Creation of Dimitra Clubs to enhance women's leadership and ensure their participation in decision-making processes both at household and community levels.

#### 3 - Peacebuilding and conflict mitigation;

- Awareness raising sessions and community dialogue activities to enhance inclusive community engagement and gender equality.
- Staff inclusion from different ethnic groups.

#### 4 - Inclusive finance.

 A community-based savings and loans initiative aiming at facilitating beneficiaries' access to rural finance opportunities as a means of durable resilience.



#### **RESULTS ACHIEVED**

#### **Support to community-based organizations**

- Establishment and capacity strengthening of 720 FOs, with 30% of women represented in management committees.
- 20 Early Warning Committees, 22 Peace Committees, 146
   Dimitra Clubs and the Community radio of Kabalo created to enhance discussions and trust among ethnic groups

#### Agricultural value chain development

- In 2020, 10518 beneficiaries received training through 141 Farmer Field Schools
- In 2020, 386 085 metric tons of agricultural products stored and marketed and 199 660 Mt sold.
   60% of the participating FOs engaged in collective sale.
- Construction of 4 community infrastructures, 2 community markets and 100 Km of feeder road rehabilitated through the Food Assistance for Assets approach.
- 100% of the beneficiaries adopted improved Post-Harvest Management (PHM) techniques.
- Around 77% of FOs have access to appropriate storage units.

#### Women's empowerment

- According to 90% of women interviewed, their living conditions have changed and the community social assets have improved.
- Over 8000 women can now read, write and calculate after receiving literacy training.
- 800 women supported with income generating activities
- Over 800 awareness-raising campaigns organized to fight discrimination and gender-based violence.

#### **Financial capacities**

 88% of FOs have access to 348 operational village savings and loans associations. Over 51 000 USD have been saved and 17 000 USD worth of loans have been granted to members.

#### **TARGETS REACHED**



households reached (12,000 in Kabalo, 6,000 in Nyunzu) <u>Q</u> 90 000

beneficiaries including 47% of women

#### **RESULTS**



/20 ners organization:

farmers organizations Created and strengthened



10518

beneficiaries trained through 141 Farmer Field Schools in 2020



**1419** ha

of community fields cultivated 800 women supported in income generating activities



10 500

households supported in food production & 5 000 in nutrition-sensitive vegetable production

04

Community infrastructures built

02

community markets established

#### **PARTNERS**

World Food Programme Food and Agriculture Organisation



# RWANDA: DRYCARD, AN INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY TO REDUCE POST-HARVEST LOSSES AND INCREASE THE INCOMES OF SMALLHOLDER FARMERS

#### **Context**

In developing countries, mould growth on foods can result in post-harvest losses and unsafe food for consumption. Aflatoxins caused by mould are carcinogens, damaging consumers' health. When not properly dried, food products are prone to mould growth. However, smallholder farmers do not have access to cost-effective mechanisms to assess dryness. Farmers who are able to assess dryness prior to storage can reduce their postharvest losses and provide consumers and their families with safe and high-quality foods.

An user-friendly and affordable device to assess dryness of grains, Drycard enables smallholder farmers to measure the dryness of their products and its suitability for storage. Using Drycard to access dryness allows farmers to take preventive measures to reduce mould growth and postharvest losses. The traditional electronic moisture meters, which are often expensive (ranging from 10 to 2000 USD) for smallholder farmers in developing countries, requires regular calibration. Meanwhile, Drycard only costs 1USD and its user guide is available in local languages, making the new technology accessible and easy to adopt. Additionally, using Drycard is relatively easy and does not require extensive time to learn how to use it.

## **Project objective**



To assess food dryness prior to storage and therefore contribute to improved quality of food

### **Methodological approach**

DryCardTM incorporates a cobalt chloride humidity indicator strip that changes color depending on the level of relative humidity.

In July 2018, four cooperatives in Rwanda received 120 Drycard units as part of a value chain development project. The distribution was followed with an assessment in November 2019.

The cooperatives distributed the Drycards mainly to farmers, who had purchased storage equipment and were willing to aggregate their production at the cooperative level.

According to beneficiary farmers, they mainly used the Drycard to access dryness of their maize prior to storage, and in some cases prior to selling their maize.



#### **RESULTS ACHIEVED**

When used properly, Drycards provide reliable and satisfactory results, therefore contributing to appropriate dryness levels for maize and improved quality. Thanks to the dryness information provided by Drycard, farmers were able to take appropriate actions including leaving the maize to further dry and ensure it meets standard quality for storage and market sale. Additionally, over 50% of target farmers were willing to share their Drycard with fellow farmers who did not receive one.

The Rwandan government has acknowledged the usefulness of the Drycard.

According to the comparative test conducted by the Rwanda Standards Board, Drycard is a good tool to evaluate dryness of grains, although it has yet to be tested with other grains, aside maize.

The Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board conducted a validation process in March 2019 with 24 cooperatives.

Results from the assessment led the Rwandan authorities to consider Drycard an inexpensive and easy to use tool and recommends its use for scale-up.

#### **TARGETS REACHED**



120 farmers

from 4 cooperatives

#### PRATICE OBJECTIVE



To test food dryness before storage and contribute to improved quality of food

#### **RESULTS**



Drycard is considered reliable and satisfactory tool, contributing to appropriate drying of maize and improved quality for sale.

#### **PARTNERS**

Agricultural cooperatives and Drycard distributor



### Context

A large producer and consumer of cassava, the Republic of the Congo is prioritizing exchanges on improved technologies and innovation for the cassava value chain. Despite the importance of cassava for food security and nutrition in the country, a significant portion of the population still relies on traditional, manual methods to process cassava and to produce transformed products, including gari.

The traditional processing method is very time-consuming, exhausting and inefficient. Some processes, roasting and grating for examples, require intensive physical labour and present high risks of injury. Furthermore, the variety of cassava products offered is limited, thus limiting access to markets and income. Investing in exchanges among African countries on new technologies and products, adapted to the context of the Republic of Congo and manufactured locally, will help improve food and nutrition security and reduce poverty in rural areas.

## **Project objective**



Improve the cassava value chain in rural areas

## **Methodological approach**

Upon joint request from the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Government of the Republic of the Congo, and facilitated by the Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM) in Côte d'Ivoire, experts and technicians from Côte d'Ivoire and Benin are working with Congolese entities to improve the cassava value chain, increase the productivity of smallholder farmers, and diversify their sources of income.

Experts and beneficiaries collaborated in sharing resources and techniques. Since November 2019, this collaboration has helped introduce new technologies, exchange good practices, and share knowledge and experience in the manufacturing of machines (equipment and tools to boost quality production of gari and attieké) and cassava processing.



#### **RESULTS ACHIEVED**



#### **Local technicians**

trained to build equipment for cassava processing



mastered the process of processing cassava into gari and attiéké



#### Sets of equipment

acquired in the target communities following training



### The target groups

adopted good nutrition practices associated with cassava products



## Reduced duration of the Gari production process

The process of production of gari was reduced from 72 hours to 48 hours with increased quantity and improved quality.

#### TARGETS REACHED



## 60 farmers

and 28 technicians from 12 agricultural cooperatives



#### PRACTICE OBJECTIVES

Improve the cassava value chain in rural areas



#### **RESULTS**

1) 7 model machines produced. 2) 12 groups of cassava producers trained



#### INTERVENTION AREA

Brazzaville and the department of Bouenza in the Republic of Congo

#### **PARTNERS**

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Côte d'Ivoire Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Benin Institute of Tropical Technology in Côte d'Ivoire CERFAM

WFP Congo



# CHAD: MULTI-SECTORIAL COLLABORATION LEVERAGES LOCALLY PRODUCED COMPLEMENTARY FORTIFIED FOOD TO FIGHT MALNUTRITION

#### **Context**

Like other Sahelian countries, Chad continues to face food and nutrition insecurity. This insecurity often leads to significant negative effects on the national educational and sanitation systems. The causes of chronic malnutrition are multidimensional and interconnected; notably, they are often tied to insufficient incomes, weak sanitation systems, lack of access to safe and diverse foods, inadequate hygiene practices and other challenges related to the socioeconomic context.

In Chad, infants generally eat a mushy porridge with limited essential nutrients, such as iron and zinc. Due to the increasing vulnerability of the population, very few households have access to nutrient-rich foods.

Launched in 2016, the joint local production of complementary fortified food (PRO-FORT) programme aims to strengthen resilience of the most vulnerable households by supporting food-processing through the promotion of local products. The PRO-FORT programme also aims to reduce chronic malnutrition among children aged 6-24 months by making dietary supplements available, while aligning with national and international quality standards.

### **Project objective**



Strengthen the resilience of the most vulnerable households by improving access to, availability, and utilisation of high-value nutritive complementary food for children aged 6-24 months

## **Methodological approach**

The PRO-FORT programme uses an integrated and intersectional approach to reduce chronic malnutrition in the project's targeted provinces:

**Result 1:** Create a favorable environment for local production of fortified food.

**Result 2:** Strengthen production, processing and marketing capacity of food supplements (fortified flour for infants) made with local products.

**Result 3:** Implement a social marketing strategy to promote the "Infants and Young Children Feeding (IYCF)" initiative.



#### **RESULTS ACHIEVED**

- Four production units of fortified infant flour established and functional since December 2019;
- The Hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP)
  quality control system of the MANISA flour is
  established and functional in the West Mayo-Kebbi and East
  Mayo-Kebbi provinces;
- Capacity strengthening of 1269 farmers structured into umbrella organizations and associations for the production of high-quality corn, soy, peanuts, and black-eyed peas in increased quantities.
- Seven farming centers and 20 farming organizations created and trained on best agricultural practices.
   Support is also offered for the required operations for the ingredients of the fortified food supplements (MANISA), notably corn, black-eyed peas, soy and peanuts;
- Authorisation to commercialize the MANISA flour received from the Chadian Ministry of Public Health;
- The regulation of commercial substitutes to breast milk was expanded and approved by the National Assembly of Chad and officially announced as law by the Head of State;
- The scaling up guide for the "Hospital Friends of Babies (IHAB)" initiative is expanded and validated;
- The national initiative "Infants and Young Children Feeding (IYCF)" and its expansion are approved by the Ministry of Public Health.

#### **TARGETS GROUPS**



**RESULTS** 



04

Production units of fortified infant flour established



farmers' organisations receiving capacity building



**INTERVENTION AREA** 

East Mayo-Kebbi and West Mayo-Kebi provinces, Chad

#### **PARTNERS**

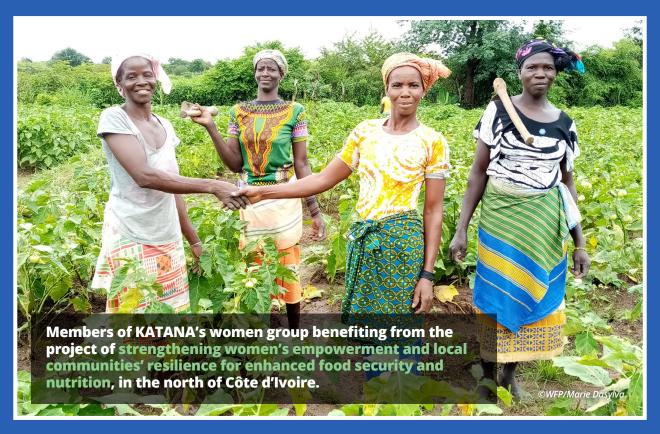
WFP FAO

World Health Organization (WHO) Ministry of Public Health

Ministry of Production, Irrigation and Agricultural Equipment European Union

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) National Technical Agencies







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