

REPUBLIC OF BENIN

-----



**Organisation Béninoise Pour la Promotion de l'Agriculture Biologique  
(OBEPAB)**

-----

## **Project**

**Mainstreaming Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) into  
National Policies, Strategies and Programmes in Africa**

**Technical annual report for 2017**

Reporting Period: January to December 2017

### **Supported by**



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC

<b>Table content</b>	<b>Page</b>
1. Introduction .....	2
2. Methodology.....	3
3. Major achievements .....	4
4. Challenges of EOA Implementation in Benin.....	7
5. Lessons to be learnt in EOA Implementation in Benin.....	7
6. Recommendations and Conclusions in EOA Implementation in Benin.....	7

## 1. Introduction

Agriculture is the basis of the national economy. It occupies almost 70% of the active population and contributes 38% of GDP. However, current production systems, farmers use mostly chemical fertilizers for soil fertilization and synthetic chemical pesticides for plant protection. Chemicals are used for food storage. Chemical inputs cause huge damage to human health and the environment. One of the alternatives to deal with problems caused by current production systems in conventional agriculture is the ecological and organic agriculture.

In this context, the initiative Ecological Organic Agriculture adopted by the Heads of African States to address the food security challenge paved way for the Project on Mainstreaming Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) into National Policies, Strategies and Programmes in Africa. Currently the project is being implemented in 8 countries, 4 in Eastern Africa countries of Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Uganda and West African countries of Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Benin.

In Benin, the coordination of this project is implemented by OBEPAB who is the Country Lead Organization leading the project at the national level while 3 other organizations lead in the implementation of the project at the pillar.

The project is implemented through 6 pillars as follows:

The EOA Initiative is being implemented through six interrelated pillars complementing each other in addressing different aspects of ecological organic farming in the Initiative. The six pillars are;

1. **Research, Training and Extension:** Aims to contribute towards the attainment of the Initiative's objectives by investing in research activities that improve livelihoods of smallholder farmers engaged in EOA.

2. **Information and Communication:** Aims to use information and communication strategies to sensitize farmers, stakeholders and the public on the value and practices of EOA and link the farmers as partners to policymakers, researchers, and development agencies through an integrated information delivery system.
3. **Value Chain and Market Development:** Aims to increase market access through improved rural infrastructure and other trade-related interventions among smallholder EOA farmers.
4. **CLO :** there is real power in collaboration, but it is not always easy. This pillar is charged with managing the initiative's networks and partnerships as it will need to work with individuals, institutions and other sectors. It is vital to understand better how to work together to make a difference in the world of EOA.

In Benin, the implementation of pillar 1 is coordinated by OBEPAB while pillars 2 and 3 are coordinated respectively by PASCiB and CRASTEDA organizations while Pillar 4 is coordinated by OBEPAB. During the year 2017, several activities were implemented by the 4 pillars that constitute the project.

## **2. Methodology**

The activities commenced by the Country Lead Organization organizing for a stakeholders meeting to revise the 2017 work plan and budgets. The meeting involved all actors in the Pillar Implementing Partners organizations. The Pillar Implementing partners implement the key Pillar Strategic Areas as mentioned above. While some specific activities such as some research topics are implemented by individual researchers with strengths and specialization in those areas. The activity overall coordination is done by the CLO in charge of the overall implementation.

### 3. Major achievements

An analysis of the level of achievement in programme implementation at the national level shows that 100 of activities planned for 2017 were implemented as per the tabulated analysis below:

<b>Output Code</b>	<b># of activities planned for 2016</b>	<b># of Implemented Activities</b>	<b>% of implementation</b>	<b># of unimplemented activities</b>	<b>Reason for non-implementation</b>
<b>Output 1.1:</b> Increased knowledge of research into use, needs and priorities about Organic practices in the entire value chains available	4 activities planned	4 activities implemented	100% implemented	0 % unimplemented	-
<b>Output 1.2:</b> Capacity for organisation and implementation of EOA practices developed and strengthened	4 activities planned	4 activities implemented	100% implemented	0% unimplemented	-
<b>Output 1.3:</b> Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced	2 activities planned	2 activities implemented	100% implemented	0% unimplemented	-
<b>Output 2.1:</b> Awareness and knowledge of	4 activities planned	4 activities implemented	100% implemented	0% unimplemented	-

<b>Output Code</b>	<b># of activities planned for 2016</b>	<b># of Implemented Activities</b>	<b>% of implementation</b>	<b># of unimplemented activities</b>	<b>Reason for non-implementation</b>
the value and practices of EOA is increased					
<b>Output 2.2:</b> Extension and communication support systems are strengthened	4 activities planned	4 activities implemented	100% implemented	0% unimplemented	-
<b>Output 2.3</b>	1 activity planned	1 activity implemented	100% implemented	0% unimplemented	-
<b>Output 3.1:</b> Access to market information and data on EOA products increased (30%)	8 activities planned	8 activities implemented	100% implemented	0% unimplemented	-
<b>Output 3.2:</b> Capacity in value chains development for EOA products enhanced	8 activities planned	8 activities implemented	100% implemented	0% unimplemented	-
<b>Output 3.3:</b> Enhanced capacity in quality assurance for supporting collective marketing of organic	3 activities planned	3 activities implemented	100% implemented	0% unimplemented	-

<b>Output Code</b>	<b># of activities planned for 2016</b>	<b># of Implemented Activities</b>	<b>% of implementation</b>	<b># of unimplemented activities</b>	<b>Reason for non-implementation</b>
products to the domestic, regional or export markets enhanced					
<b>Output 3.4:</b> Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced	2 activities planned	2 activities implemented	100% implemented	0% unimplemented	-
<b>Output 4.1:</b> Fully functional National Platforms with Steering Committees established and strengthened	9 activities planned	9 activities implemented	100% implemented	0% unimplemented	-
<b>Output 4.2:</b> Capacities of Country Lead Organizations (CLOs) and Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs) to perform their functions strengthened	3 activities planned	3 activity implemented	100% implemented	0% unimplemented	-
<b>Overall</b>	52 activities planned	52 activities implemented	100% implemented	0% unimplemented	All activities planned in 2017 have been done

#### **4. Challenges of EOA Implementation in Benin**

All the actors involved in Ecological and Organic Agriculture are unanimous on the fact that the challenges related to EOA are enormous. The challenges are political, social and cultural. The need to move towards political dialogue in order to have more EOA legislation and implement EOA regarding the Benin strategic plan for agricultural sector development (PSDSA) and the future orientation agricultural law. On the social level, there is a need for awareness-raising so that the people become the main defenders and consumers of products derived from the EOA. From a cultural point of view, the discourse must go in the sense that organic products are not for the rich people, the EOA is again well suited or adapted for small producers.

#### **5. Lessons to be learnt in EOA Implementation in Benin**

- Due to fact that there is start up meeting gathering various stakeholders has been useful for the implementation of pillars;
- Need to have a group to implement a pillar instead of one single organization for the visibility of action and sustainability;
- It is difficult to involve many people in a research as some need to be done by individual researchers;
- Carry out research is not only time consuming but also funds consuming. Therefore, there is a need to be more focus on specific research activities;
- The validation of research results is a long process that depends on crop cycle and the repetition of experimentation;
- When left alone, PIP report lately. The strategy which is working better is to gather them from time to time for the report writing
- Progressive involvement of needed actors at the right time.

#### **6. Recommendations and Conclusions in EOA Implementation in Benin**

Many (52) activities were planned for 2017 and 52 activities have been done. During this period new actors have been identified and they contribute to implementation of some activities. The main activities are related to : assessments to organic livestock systems in order to identify the bottlenecks of and designs research protocols to address them; assessment of analyze the Knowledge gaps needs and consumers' motivations and



willingness to pay organic vegetable product; effect of liquid bio fertilizer ABC Grower on tomatoes, pineapple and basilica; the need assessment of organic cotton producers and extension agents; the analysis of the curricula with regard to the training needs in EOA; produce of communication materials (T shirt, hats, EOA newsletter) ; producers trained of the using of smart phones social network to inform and communicate on EOA; updating of the database and the national directory of organic promoting organizations, establishment of an SMS platform for organic farmers, support to organic selling points with new selling equipments, organization of a training session for 15 extension agents, service providers and lead farmers; organization of a follow up of the 2016 people trained on organic certification facilitation; participation in international organic conference Biofach; Strengthen PIPs capacities for technical report written, and M&E strategies; the Sensitization of new stakeholders specially the Farmers and extension agents from northern region of Bénin and policy document targeting EOA. With respect to this, the government is now fully involved in the production and selling of organic cotton.

## **RESEARCH TRAINING AND EXTENSION PILLAR (PILLAR 1)**

### **Major Achievements of Pillar 1**

In pillar 1, the major achievement are: i) assessment to organic livestock systems in order to identify the bottlenecks of and designs research protocols to address them; ii) assessment of analyze the Knowledge gaps needs and consumers' motivations and willingness to pay organic vegetable product; iii) effect of liquid bio fertilizer ABC Grower on tomatoes, pineapple and basilica, iv) the need assessment of organic cotton producers and extension agents, v) the analysis of the curricula with regard to the training needs in EOA.

### **Challenges of Pillar 1**

Challenges are to better communicate the results of proven research in EOA to make available to users of research results. Another challenge is to identify endogenous knowledge about EOA. The capacity building of farmers on good Ecological and Organic Agriculture farming practices should continue for a better yield of EOA crops. Support the training programme of EOA and introduce among curricula training at the university. The assessment to organic livestock systems is a challenge.


## **Lessons learnt for Pillar 1**

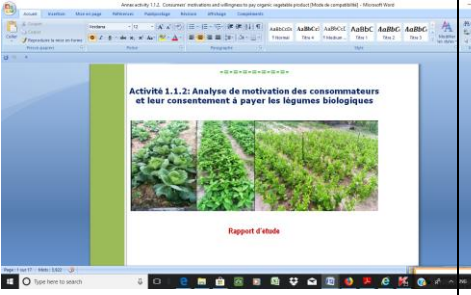

- The participatory approach of Producers-Researchers-NGOs is a good approach for an effective implementation of the pillar;
- The involvement of the researchers in the research on EOA makes research more credible and scientific;
- The validation of research results is a long process that depends on crop cycle and the repetition of experimentation;
- Collaboration between researchers and farmers in research results in good ownership of research results by farmers.

## **Conclusions and Way forward**

The ways forward: to carry out research on tchotchokpo (palme oil cake) and Benin food spray on cotton farming, using participatory approaches; elaboration of pamphlets to be used to raise awareness of training structures to integrate organic and ecological livestock production into training curricula and the support activity implementation.

Detailed Analysis of Programme Achievements as per the Programme Logical framework

		<b>PILLAR 1: TRAINING, RESEARCH AND EXTENSION (RTE)</b>			
<b>Project Title: Mainstreaming Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) into National Policies, Strategies and Programmes in Africa</b>				<b>Reporting Period: January-December 2017</b>	
<b>OUTCOME 1: Ecological Organic Products and related knowledge along the value chain is increasingly documented, updated and actors capacitated to translate it into practices and application.</b>					
Outputs	Indicators (log frame)	Baseline	Progress between reporting period	Project Targets	Analysis, Remarks
<b>Output 1.1: Increased knowledge of research into use, needs and priorities about Organic practices in the entire value chains available</b>					
<b>Activity 1.1.1</b> Conduct in-depth assessments to document available EOA research into use	Assessing the capacities of organic livestock systems in order to identify the bottlenecks of and designs research protocols to address them	Not documented before	Assessments to organic livestock systems (diversity, typology, folk perceptions, purposes in locals communities, socio-economic patterns for adoption, breeding species, ethical and cultural)  (See annex activity 1.1.1. Assessment to organic livestock systems for the report)	Protocol and document of Bottlenecks and designs research Study report	This study makes it possible to note that the notion of organic farming is still very little known. Livestock breeder who experiment ecological and organic livestock have not yet been trained in the field. Each one relies on his endogenous knowledge to practice ecological livestock

<p><b>Activity 1.1.2</b> Identify knowledge gaps needs and priorities by gender in the development of specific EOA value chains</p>	<p>Assessing the consumers' motivations and willingness to pay organic vegetable product (in order to identify awareness raising strategies)</p>	<p>Not documented before</p>	<p>During June 2017, a consultant has been recruited to analyze the Knowledge gaps needs and consumers' motivations and willingness to pay organic vegetable product. Make use of administration of questionnaires and focus group discussions. <b>(See annex activity 1.1.2. for consumers' motivations and willingness to pay organic vegetable product report)</b></p>	<p>Study report submitted</p>	<p>The main determinants of consumer WTP for organic vegetables are i) income level, ii) Steadiness/firmness, iii) taste, iv) color , v) lack of damage, and vi) nutritional value</p> 
<p><b>Activity 1.1.3.</b> Create and regularly update a data base of EOA research into use at national level in close liaison with networks</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>-</p>
<p><b>Activity 1.1.4</b> Validate research findings in EOA practices</p>	<p>Experimenting ABC Grower and products of Bio phyto on tomatoes, pineapple, based on participatory approaches</p>	<p>Not documented before</p>	<p>Installing a demonstration/ research plots using ABC Grower and products of Bio phyto on tomatoes, pineapple and basilica: determining the effect of bio fertilizer type on the production. The experimental design was a random block with 4 treatments and 3 repetitions <b>(see Annex Activity 1.1.4a and b_ Validate research findings in EOA practices)</b></p>	<p>Study reports produced</p>	<p>For example, two fertilizers to bring to the culture of the tomato at two different stages of development: 2nd and 8th week of culture</p> 

<b>Activity 1.1.5</b> Document application of local knowledge to development of EOA	Establishing demonstration plots on tchotchokpo (palme oil cake) and Benin food spray on cotton farming, using participatory approaches	Not documented before	A consultant has been recruited to carry out this study. Demonstration plots on food spray on cotton farming in Kandi  (Annex Activity 1.1.5 food spray on cotton farming experimentation)	Experimentation Report	The effectiveness of the food spray has been tested on organic cotton and 12 facilitators from Farmer Field School and 15 producers have been trained on this technology.
<b>Output 1.2: Capacity for organisation and implementation of EOA practices developed and strengthened</b>					
<b>Activity 1.2.1</b> Identify training needs for EOA actors by gender (producers, extension agents, marketers, processors, regulators and consumers) in the value chains	Update of training need of actors involve in the organic cotton producers and extension agents	-	Training need of organic cotton producers and extension agents identified  (See Annex Activity 1.2.1 Update of training need for report)	Study report available	Need to reinforce or built capacity organic cotton producers and field agent capacity
<b>Activity 1.2.2</b> Support periodic reviews of curricula and training materials for relevant training institution with stakeholders (Practitioners, institutions and policy makers).	Review short course training curricula based on identified training need for organic and ecological cotton	A pilot training course on EOA was given to 40 agricultural professionals	The analysis of the curricula with regard to the training needs in EOA have been done  (See Annex Activity 1.2.2 & 1.2.3. Update of training need for study report)	Study report and recommendations available	The analysis of the curricula with regard to the training needs in EOA showed a weak diversification of the training offer in EOA which remains too concentrated on the aspects of production. Organic and ecological animal production is not yet well developed, so there is no training on organic and ecological animal production
<b>Activity 1.2.3</b> Sensitize stakeholders about the recommended EOA curricula and training materials	Curricula validating workshop	Not documented before			
<b>Activity 1.2.4:</b> Support development of	-	-	-	-	-

EOA training programs and materials based on training needs assessment and curricula reviews					
<b>Activity 1.2.5:</b> Support short course trainings for targeted actors in EOA value chain to build capacities on identified gaps. The issue of seed also needs to be considered.	Training for 40 organic cotton producers and extension agents using curricula developed	-	40 organic cotton producers and extension agents have been trained  (See Annex Activity 1.2.5: Training report)	Reports on the training workshop	This training on pest management and integrated management of soil fertility in organic production will allow producers to improve their yield which is not yet important
<b>Output 1.3: Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced</b>					
<b>Activities 1.3.1+1.3.2</b> Conduct M&E and support activity implementation	Develop and implement the M&E strategy (bimonthly report, field visits, and workshop of pillar members) Support activity implementation		The semester 1 and 2 for 2017 EOA pillar 1 plan activities were monitored (See Annex Activities 1.3.1+1.3.2 monitoring report)	Report on M&E field visits available	-
<b>Activity 1.3.3:</b> Prepare annual and progress reports	Annual and progress reports prepared by pillar coordinator and submitted to CLO	-	-	-	-

## **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION PILLAR (PILLAR 2)**

### **Major Achievements of Pillar 2**

The major achievements of pillar 2 are: i) a new communication strategy paper developed in collaboration with all project stakeholders; ii) production of communication materials (T shirt, hats, EOA newsletter) ; iii) producers trained of the using of smart phones social network to inform and communicate on EOA ; iv) Creation of the site web for communication about EOA; v) the equipment for the centre of documentation on EOA.

### **Challenges of Pillar 2**

Pillar 2 challenges are to:

- lobby for the effective implementation of the EOA activities included in the Strategic Plan for Agricultural Sector Development (PSDSA) and
- Mobilize additional fund to carry out more actions in favor of the Ecological Organic Agriculture in Benin?

### **Lessons learnt for Pillar 2**

Due to the lack of a formal contract with certain structures in the past years, the activities are carried out very late. But with the existence of the partnership and contracting system, the activities are carried out. Involve more media in the EOA communication and clearly define their roles and responsibilities allows good visibility and efficiency in carrying out activities. The involvement of all stakeholders, especially political decision-makers, is essential to anchoring EOA in national agricultural policies. Regular monitoring of the stakeholders (producers, journalists, extension agents, etc.) made it possible to assess the progress made in respect by the stakeholders and to identify the constraints or bottlenecks that persist in the implementation of the activities.

### **Conclusions and Way forward for Pillar 2**

Continue to raise public awareness of the importance of EOA, which is more sustainable and the consumption of ecological and organic products is safe for human health.

Door-to-door communications and community radios communications will be done to increase for more impact of activities and to organize exchange workshop on EOA and related items gathering producers, advisory service, researchers, media people.



PILLAR 2: INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION




Project Title: Mainstreaming Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) into National Policies, Strategies and Programmes in Africa


Reporting Period: January-December 2017


**Outcome 2. Producers are systematically informed and made aware about the EOA approaches and good practices and motivated to apply them by having access to strengthened advisory and support services**



Outputs	Indicators (log frame)	Baseline	Progress between reporting period	Project Targets	Analysis, Remarks
<b>Output 2.1: Awareness and knowledge of the value and practices of EOA is increased</b>					
<b>Activity 2.1.1</b> Conduct gap analysis in information and communication strategies	Develop adapted training material for journalists training on EOA	None	The modules have been developed to train communication specialists who are also likely actors In order to induce a real change of behavior in the promotion of the EOA  (See Annex_Activity_2.1.1_communication strategies document)	Clear training modules to better equip journalists to communicate and inform about EOA in Benin	-
<b>Activity 2.1.2</b> Develop sensitization and communication strategies	Elaborate a policy brief on EOA for decision markers	None	A new communication strategy paper developed in collaboration with all project stakeholders. (See Annex_Activity_2.1.2_Assessment report of the communication strategy document)	Sensitization and communication strategies document available	A validation and appropriation workshop has been done by all key actors of the Initiative.  Assessment report of the communication strategy document of pillar 2



<p><b>Activity 2.1.3:</b> Prepare and avail information and communication materials</p>	<p>Produce communication materials (T-shirts Calendar, leaflets ... ) during campaigns of sensitization and distributed them</p>	<p>4 kakemonos available</p>	<p>100 EOA t-shirts with awareness messages and 100 hats available  (See Annex Activity 2.1.3 for t-shirts and hats picture )</p>	<p>T-shirts and caps produced to inform and sensitize population on the consumption of organic products</p>	 <p>These different materials make it possible not only to make the EOA initiative more visible, but also to enhance the understanding and the adherence of the implementing actors to the objectives pursued.</p>
<p><b>Activity 2.1.4:</b> Sensitize EOA stakeholders and actors in the value chain through workshops, media, websites</p>	<p>10 Radio broadcasts on ecological issues and chemical poisoning</p>	<p>Irregular communications on EOA</p>	<p>Creation of the site web for communication about EOA <b>web site:</b> <a href="http://www.pascib.org">www.pascib.org</a></p>	<p>-</p>	 <p><a href="http://www.pascib.org">www.pascib.org</a></p>
<p><b>Output 2.2: Extension and communication support systems are strengthened</b></p>					
<p><b>Activities 2.2.1:</b>  Improve support communication infrastructure (farmer resource centre's, information hubs, websites, databases and other data/knowledge</p>	<p>Repair and equip the centre of documentation on EOA</p>	<p>A database on knowledge systems EOA is developed and online to Benin</p>	<p>The documentation and information center in organic agriculture received a lot of books related to agro ecology and organic agriculture  (See Annex Activity 2.2.1. _Centre of documentation on EOA</p>	<p>Repertory of information and communication infrastructures and their needs available</p>	 <p>The documentation and information center in organic agriculture is</p>

repositories)			picture)		frequented by students and agronomists. This support in new books on EOA will increase the attendance of this library
<b>Activity 2.2.2:</b> Train farmers and extension agents in the use of innovative communication strategies	Train farmers and extension agents in the use of innovative communication strategies	Document of innovative communication strategies.  45 farmers, 25 extension agents and 05 communautes radio agents trained in use of innovative communication strategies.	On June 2017 at Bel Azur Hotel Grand Popo, 15 producers have been trained on the use of smart phones and social networks to inform and communicate on EOA  <b>(See Annex_ Activity 2.2.2. for the trained report)</b>	25 producers leaders are trained on the using of smart phones social network to inform and communicate	 <p>This training has improved producers access to the market for organic producers through ICT use</p>

<p><b>Activity 2.2.3:</b></p> <p>Prepare and avail policy briefs and guidelines on ICT applications in EOA to relevant policy makers and other stakeholders</p>	<p>Prepare and avail policy briefs and guidelines on ICT applications in EOA to relevant policy makers and other stakeholders</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>A special EOA newsletter is developed and available</p> <p><b>(See Annex_ Activity 2.2.3. EOA newsletter)</b></p>	<p>A EOA newsletter and guidelines available</p>	 <p>The issues of this newsletter are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote information and communication about the project and good visibility</li> <li>• Ensure better sharing and dissemination of information between actors</li> <li>• Promote ownership, understanding and visibility of the actions, progress and achievements of the project</li> </ul>
<p><b>Activity 2.2.4:</b> Create linkages and partnerships among actor organizations involved in transfer and dissemination of EOA practice</p>	<p>Organizing exchange workshop on EOA and related items gathering producers, advisory service, researchers, media people (ReJEB)</p>	<p>01 training session with 10 agents of radios communities on communication strategies for the EOA</p>	<p>On 07 August 2017, the workshop of validation and appropriation of the communication strategy document on EOA was held at the KTA hotel.</p> <p><b>(See Annex_ Activity 2.2.4 for workshop report)</b></p>	<p>Workshop Report available</p>	<p>-</p>

<p><b>Activities 2.3.1 +2.3.2</b></p> <p>Conduct M&amp;E and support activity implementation</p>	<p>Organize bimonthly meeting for management of pillar Bimonthly report Visit of the PIPs to different EOA sites to collect information to avail to the public</p>	<p>M&amp;E activities for those activities : sensitization and communication strategies development</p>	<p>Follow-up mission of the producers trained on the use of ICT to better promote EOA</p> <p><b>(see Annex _ Activities 2.3.1 +2.3.2 _M&amp;E activity)</b></p>	<p>A monitoring and evaluation strategy document available</p> <p>Report on M&amp;E field visits submitted</p> <p>Pillar management meeting reports</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">   </div> <p>The main difficulties concern the relatively short time to ensure the implementation of activities and the budget lines of some activities too weak to fully realize these activities</p> <p>Findings on the on the use of ICT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Almost all trained producers use the calendar or agenda of mobile phones to plan an activity. The use of this tool has helped to improve the implementation of the agricultural calendar in time.</li> <li>- Producers use WhatsApp to share market information and soil and pest management information with each other.</li> <li>- Not all producers have an android. Those who own have difficulties related to the activation of Internet packages and the recharge of the phone battery case that does not</li> </ul>
--	--	---	---	---	--

					have easy access to electricity.
<b>Activity 2.3.3:</b> Prepare annual and progress reports	-	-	-	-	-

### VALUE CHAIN AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT (VCMD) PILLAR 3

#### Major Achievements of Pillar 3

It has been planned for 2017 many activities distributed between many actors or organizations involved in the implementation of the pillar 3 for this year. The organizations involved in the implementation of the pillar 3 for this year are:

1. Centre de Recherche et d'Assistance Technique pour l'Environnement et le Développement Agricole (CRASTEDA), pillar implementation coordinator
2. HEVETAS Swiss Inter corporation Bénin staff,
3. Centre International d'Expérimentation et de valorisation des ressources Africaines (CIEVRA),
4. Association pour le maintien de l'Agriculture Paysanne (AMAP),
5. Cabinet d'expertise et d'Appui-Conseils en Agriculture et Développement Rural et Durable (CECAGRID)
6. Centre de Séchage des Fruits Tropicaux (CSFT)
7. Agri Bio Afrique

The main activities carried out in 2017 are: i) the updating of the national database of actors in organic farming, ii) Finalizing the process of connecting the national database to the regional one, iii) Collection, synthesis of market information on organic products and their dissemination through the web and the SMS system, iv) Creation of a selling point for the sale for organic products in Parakou and around, v) Consumer awareness material production through Kakemono, vi) organization of exchange visits for the benefit of EOA producers on the current best practices, vii) Elaboration of two (2) technical economic sheets for the producers of the EOA, vii)

---

Organization of a training session for extension agents, service providers and lead farmers, ix) Follow-up of organic certification facilitators for products formed in 2016, x) support for the organization and participation of the parties at national and regional trade fairs, xi) organization of a training session on the use of the internal control system (ICS) and guarantee system (PGS) for market access, xii) support for the implementation of implementation of the third-party certification approach, and xiii) Organization of monitoring and evaluation for other EOA promoting organizations.

### **Challenges of Pillar 3**

The first challenge met during 2017 is linked to the system of communication to producers via the leaders of their network. The leaders don't allow direct communications from other EOA actors towards their producers. This attitude appears as a limitation to information for producers. CRASTEDA is still looking for the better way to get direct information systems with the producers groups.

The second challenge is the disbursement of funds to the pillar 3 without respect to the amounts required for the semester's planned activities. This doesn't facilitate an easy implementation of the planned activities.

### **Lessons learnt for Pillar 3**

The lessons learned are from the communication challenge with producers insides organic promoters' networks is that one shouldn't neglect the fact that all organic promoters are reluctant to allow a free access to market information to their producers. So one should lobby them before the establishment of any communication system on market information with their groups of producers.

### **Conclusions and Way forward for Pillar 3**

The implementation of the Value chain and Market development Pillar of the EOA project during the year 2017 is ongoing well in Bénin. The results achieved are due to on time release of fund for this year comparing to previous year. We thank OBEPAB for the coordination at national level and and Biovision Africa Trust for the 8 countries coordination work.

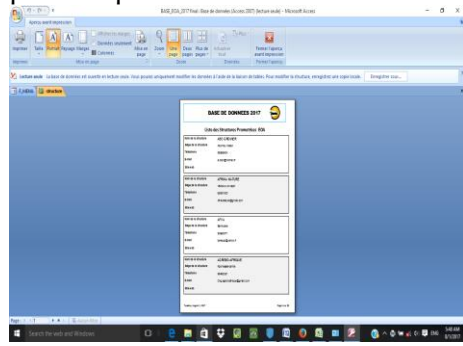
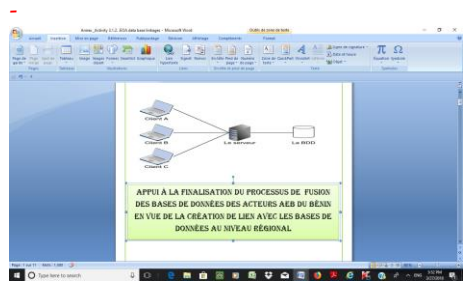


PILLAR 3: VALUE CHAIN AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT



Project Title: Mainstreaming Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) into National Policies, Strategies and Programmes in Africa

Reporting Period: January-December 2017

OUTCOME 3: A substantially increased share of organic quality, quantity products at the local, national and regional markets is achieved


Outputs	Indicators (log frame)	Baseline	Progress between reporting period	Project Targets	Analysis, Remarks
<b>Output 3.1 Access to market information and data on EOA products increased (30%)</b>					
<p><b>Activities 3.1.1+ 3.1.4:</b> Continue and update national database of actors (producers, processors, traders, consumers, regulators) in the EOA value chains and train stakeholders on the use of the tools for collecting market information and data</p>	<p>Update the data base of actors (actors (producers, processors, traders, consumers and regulators). Publishing a directory of EOA promoting organizations in Benin and their products</p>	<p>No database on EOA actors</p>	<p>Database updated and a national EOA promoting organizations directory elaborated containing over 78 EOA promoting organizations <b>(See Annex _Activity 3.1.1. +3.1.4. national EOA data base)</b></p>	<p>National database up dated.</p>	<p>The database is established and contains data about 78 organic product promoters</p> 
<p><b>Activity 3.1.2:</b> Create linkages between the national databases and the other databases at regional and global levels - AUC, FIBL, IFOAM</p>	<p>Create linkages between the national databases and the other databases at regional levels – (west and east Africa)</p>	<p>Poor linkage between national EOA actors and others at regional and international level</p>	<p>Linkage between the 3 databases of the 3 EOA pillars in Benin established <b>(See Annex _Activity 3.1.2. .EOA data base linkages)</b></p>	<p>Linkage between the national database and other databases at regional and global levels - AUC, FIBL, IFOAM</p>	


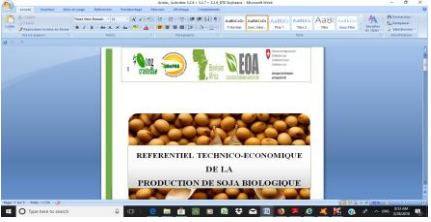



					The process of linking the national database to the regional databases is still ongoing with the CLO's webmaster.
<p><b>Activities 3.1.3+ 3.1.5</b></p> <p>Develop, adapt and update tools for collecting market information and data and support stakeholders to collect, analyze and disseminate market information and data</p>	Hire a consultant to update market information on main organic products and to Assist organic stakeholder's groups in the use of market information and data updated and SMS information service for stakeholders recorded in the directory.	Organic market information not available to main organic stakeholders	<p>About 100 of organic farmers are in this information platform and the update of the directory of organic input is also ongoing for dissemination to them.</p> <p><b>(see Annex_ Activities 3.1.3+ 3.1.5_ Organic market information)</b></p>	Easy access to organic market information for all stakeholders in the following value chains : organic pineapple, vegetable production soya bean, rice, paw-paw.	
<p><b>Activity 3.1.6:</b></p> <p>Support establishment of at least 3 organic farmers markets in every participating county</p>	Create a selling point for EOA products in Parakou	3 organic selling point established in Cotonou before 2014	1 new organic and ecological farmer market created near the new office of CRAFTEDA at Togoudo. This selling point equipped with shelf to facilitate a separation between organic products and non organic products in the shops.	Improve of selling places to highlight organic products in selling shops	 <p>A total of 6 new EOA selling points created at end of 2017 by the EOA project. Then a total of 9 EOA products selling points available in Benin in 2017</p>



<b>Activity 3.1.7:</b> Support organization and participation of stakeholders in the national, regional and international trade fairs	Participate in the 4th West African Organic Conference 2017, and other regional fairs.	Irregular stakeholders' participation in national, regional and international trade fairs but 2 participants to SIAO in Burkina FASO and 6 to the Beninese 2016 ending year's exhibition.	On December 2017, participation of 02 2 pillar's representatives to the fourth west African Conference in Mali	Participation of 2 pillar's representatives in national or regional trade fairs	The participation of 02 pillar members was supported by the CLO
<b>Activity 3.1.8:</b> Conduct consumer awareness through media, promotional materials, mobile phones	Edit a kakemono on EOA products	Irregular and scarce promotional campaign on EOA products	Edition of a kakemono one CRASTEDA and the EOA project to raise public interest on organic activities <b>(See Annex Activity 3.1.8 kakemono)</b>	A kakemono on EOA products is used during meetings by CRASTEDA	Better highlight of EOA activities in Bénin. CRASTEDA is reaching hundreds of people through its day to day activities meaning that the kakemono is broadcasting EOA message to hundreds of people.
<b>Output 3.2: Capacity in value chains development for EOA products enhanced.</b>					
<b>Activity 3.2.1:</b> Conduct value chain mapping and analysis for EOA products	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Activity 3.2.2:</b> Conduct training in Value Chain Development and Marketing for at least 10 Master Trainers (MTs) taking into account gender and youths	-	-	-	-	-

<p><b>Activities 3.2.3+ 3.2.4:</b> Support MTs and TOTs conduct national TOTs trainings for extension agents, lead farmers and service providers on value chain development</p>	<p>Organize 1 TOT training session for 15 extension agents, service providers and lead farmers on value chain development and representative of EOA</p>	<p>15 extension agents, service providers and lead farmers trained on value chain development</p>	<p>15 extension agents, service providers and lead farmers trained on value chain development  <b>(See Annex_ Activity 3.2.3&amp;3.2.4. for TOT Training report)</b></p>	<p>A TOT training session organize for 15 extension agents, service providers and lead farmers</p>	 <p>Each trainee is coaching about 20 farmers, meaning that this training will impact about 300 new farmers.</p>
<p><b>Activity 3.2.5 + 3.2.1 +3.2.2 :</b> Facilitate exchange visits for actors to cases of best practices</p>	<p>Facilitate exchange visits for actors to cases of best practices in the north Benin</p>	<p>6 Exchange visits for actors to cases of best practices organized  Done at Boukoumbé in the northern region of Benin</p>	<p>Exchange visits to the soybeans and sesame producers in Tanguieta and Kouandé (Atacora region, North Benin)  <b>(Annex Activities 3.2.5 + 3.2.1 +3.2.2_ exchange visit)</b></p>	<p>At least 1 exchange visit undertaken and report submitted showcasing best practices.</p>	<p>These visits showed the potential of organic soybeans and sesame in intercropping with organic cotton (more than 2500 organic cotton producers concerned)</p>

<p><b>Activities 3.2.6 + 3.2.7 + 3.2.8 :</b> Train stakeholders in entrepreneurship, development of business plans and support strategic business linkages with green investors</p>	<p>Assist the previous EOA promoters who were trained in 2015 and 2016 in the implementation of their business plans and help them to get financial assistance</p>	<p>2 EOA promoters are trained in entrepreneurship and development of business plans and also are successfully</p>	<p>2 Referential Technico Economic developed for soybeans and mango juice and send to potential business actor in organic sector  (see Annex_Activities 3.2.6 + 3.2.7 + 3.2.8_RTE Soybeans and mango)</p>	<p>-</p>	 <p><b>RTE mango</b></p>  <p><b>RTE Soybean</b></p> <p>The technical-economic reference of organic soybean production through best cultural practice can increase soybean production and profit</p> <p>The technical and economic reference of organic mango juice processing will allow the development of the organic mango juice market</p>
<p><b>Activity 3.2.9</b> Document in booklets, brochures, video clips and audio clips and share through media and workshops /events best practices in the value chains of EOA commodities</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>-</p>

Output 3.3: Enhanced capacity in quality assurance for supporting collective marketing of organic products to the domestic, regional or export markets enhanced					
<p><b>Activity 3.3.1:</b> Train 8 local organic inspectors</p>	<p>Assess the progress of the 2016 training course on the organic certification facilitators trained</p>	<p>A training session for 10 organic certification facilitators</p>	<p>A follow up of the 10 organic certification facilitators trained in 2016 is organized as an on-field activity</p> <p>(See Annex _ Activity 3.3.1_training course on the organic certification facilitators)</p>	<p>Local inspection capacity increased</p>	 <p><b>Training of local organic certification facilitators</b></p> <p>During 2017, added to the local facilitators trained by CRAFTEDA in 2016, one local inspector is trained by ECOCERT.</p>
<p><b>Activity 3.3.2</b> Train and Facilitate at least 16 producers associations nationally in the use of Internal Control System (ICS) and Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) for market access</p>	<p>Assist 2 new farmers groups in the north of Benin in the use of Internal Control System (ICS) and Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) for market access</p>	<p>3 organic producers associations (VIVA Matekpo, Agribio Afrique and organic pineapple producer's group) trained on Internal Control System (ICS) and Participatory Guarantee System (PGS)</p>	<p>Support to organic soybeans producers organization for the PGS certificate documentation</p> <p>(See Annex _ Activity 3.3.2_Certification par tierce)</p>	<p>Support two (2) organic groups for ICS and PGS certification</p>	<p>Internal Control Systems (ICS) were set up for 2 groups of organic soybean production in Northern part of Benin for third-party certification</p>
<p><b>Activity 3.3.3</b> Facilitate implementation of third party certification approach</p>	<p>Implementation of third party certification approach facilitated</p>	<p>Support pineapple producers network (REPAB) and pineapple processor (FRUIT TILLOU) for third party certification (ECOCERT)</p>	<p>02 organic soybeans producers prepared for third party certification</p> <p>(See Annex _ Activity 3.3.3_ Third party certification)</p>	<p>2 farmers groups certification annually</p>	

Output 3.4: Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced					
<b>Activities 3.4.1+ 3.2.9 :</b> Conduct M&E and share lessons on value chain development of EOA product	Undertake continuous M&E of the implementation of activities by conducting site field visits under this pillar and sharing lessons on value chain development of EOA product		The first plan semester and second semester activities were monitored  Field visits in Ouémé and Plateau departments  (See Annex _Activities 3.4.1+ 3.2.9 _ Field visits in Ouémé and Annex _Activities 3.4.1+ 3.2.9 _ Field visits in Plateau)	M&E reports submitted, field reports and progress reports	These activities made it possible to envisage the development of synergy between the structures visited, the EOA project and the NGO CRASTEDA with a view to strengthening the initiatives underway in these regions.
<b>Activity 3.4.2:</b> Prepare annual and progress reports	–	–	-	-	–
Travels cost	–	–	–	–	–
Administration cost	–	–	–	–	–

## SUPPORT AND CEMENTING PILLAR (PILLAR 4)

### Major Achievements of Pillar 4

The major achievements of pillar 4 are: i) Stakeholders meetings for EOA activities implementation and planned budget, ii) participation in Biofach; iii) Benin EOA website updating, iv) Strengthen PIPs capacities for technical report written, and M&E strategies; v) the Sensitization of new stakeholders specially the Farmers and extension agents from northern region of Bénin, vi) policy document targeting EOA, vii) organization of M&E towards pillars 1, 2 and 3 and other EOA promoting organizations.

---

#### **Challenges of Pillar 4**

The challenge is to get all actors implementing the pillars of the project to become more visible in their activities and how project activities can have more impact on the population. Another challenge is to facilitate the development of Public-Private Partnership for the EOA. Organize regional fora to better inform people, the products of the EOA in Benin and to draw inspiration from the initiatives of the Africa sub-region in the OEA. And finally continue lobbying the Ministry of Agriculture for the effective inclusion of EOA in Beninese agriculture.

#### **Lessons learnt for Pillar 4**

- Due to fact that there is start up meeting gathering various stakeholders has been useful for the implementation of pillars
- Need to have a group to implement a pillar instead of one single organisation for the visibility of action and sustainability
- When left alone, PIP report lately. The strategy which is working better is to gather them from time to time for the report writing.

#### **Conclusions and Way forward for Pillar 4**

The main issues encountered are related to reporting the activities carried out by the different actors involved in the implementation of the project. More than 10 institutions are involved in the implementation. All the lessons learned will help to better guide actors and activities in the year 2018.



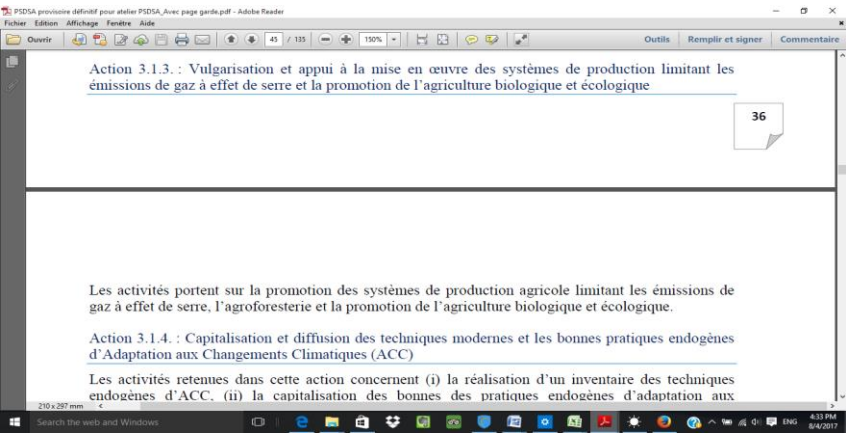
**PILLAR 4: SUPPORT AND CEMENTING EOA PLATFORM: STEERING, COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT**

**Project Title: Mainstreaming Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) into National Policies, Strategies and Programmes in Africa**


**Reporting Period: January-December 2017**

**OUTCOME 4: Fully functional multi stakeholder platforms at the national level, mutually agreeing on well coordinated and concerted action to inform public policies and investment plans in favour of EOA**

Outputs	Indicators (log frame)	Baseline	Progress between reporting period	Project Targets	Analysis, Remarks
<b>Output 4.1: Fully functional National Platforms with Steering Committees established and strengthened</b>					
<b>Activity 4.1.1:</b> Develop the TOR and Rules of Procedures for the National Platforms and Steering Committees facilitated by the CLOs	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Activity 4.1.1+4.1.2:</b> Organize at least one meeting for bringing together country partners to share experiences and lessons	Organize 02 meetings to share experiences in the implementation of 2017 work plan, review and adjust it		From 01 to 02 June 2017 at Paraclet Hotel at Bohicon in the centre Benin, one meeting took place with PIPs to review the implementation of 2017 work plan and to elaborate technical progress reports for semester 1.  (Annex_Activity_4.1.1+4.1.2a,b 2017 for TOR and workshop report)		Strengthen PIPs capacities for: TOR and technical progress report redaction, and M&E strategies

<p><b>Activity 4.1.3 :</b> Sensitize various actors and stakeholders in the country about the value of EOA in development</p>	<p>Sensitize 30 new stakeholders specially the private sector people, Farmers organizations and other NGOs people. Priority is given to people coming from the northern part</p>	<p>Three sensitize workshops were done</p>	<p>- A multi stakeholders' workshop at COTEB Hôtel at Parakou held on 19 to 20 June 2017 with 34 participants. It is also an opportunity to understand deeply the EOA project document and for exchanges on advantage EOA  (Annex_Activity_4.1.3_Workshop_report_2017)</p>	<p>Workshop report</p>	<p>Sensitize organic cotton producers, conventional cotton producers, organic vegetable producers and extension agents from who came from northern part of Benin about the value of EOA in development. During this meeting, participants got the opportunity to understand deeply the EOA project document.</p>
<p><b>Activity 4.1.4 :</b> Undertake policy gap analysis on the current policies as related to EOA development</p>	<p>Policy gap analysis on the current policies as related to EOA development undertaken</p>	<p>No policy initiative exists before targeting EOA.</p>	<p>Policy gap analysis on the current policies as related to EOA development updated  (See Annex Activity 4.1.4. EOA Policy gap document updated)</p>	<p>Policy gap document updated</p>	<p>Policy gap document are used for Lobbying and inclusion of EOA into "Plan Stratégique pour le Développement du Secteur Agricole"</p>
<p><b>Activity 4.1.5</b> Lobby for inclusion of EOA into national policy making processes, strategies and investment plans.</p>	<p>_ Distribution of new policy gap analysis document and research result to policy makers at local and national level</p>	<p>Decision makers were not aware about the importance of EOA and why to promote it</p>	<p>Meeting with municipalities authorities at Centre Anouarite 30 and 31 may 2017  - Distribution of policy gap analysis document to policy makers at local level  - Organisation of policy dialogue  (See Annex Activity 4.1.5. and 4.1.5. b. Benin EOA Strategy Plan distributed)</p>	 <p>Inclusion of EOA into "Plan Stratégique pour le Développement du Secteur Agricole", cf. Page 36 Action 3.1.3.</p>	



<p><b>Activity 4.1.6</b> Develop long term goals and strategies for the National Platform facilitated by the Steering Committee and CLOs</p>	<p>Costing workshop of EOA Strategic Plan for Benin stakeholders</p>	<p>No strategy plan for EOA</p>	<p>Costing of EOA Strategic Plan <b>(See Annex Activity 4.1.6. Costing of EOA Strategic Plan)</b></p>	<p>Costing EOA Strategic Plan budgeted available</p>	<p>The cost of EOA Strategic Plan is 530 000\$  Orientation of activities and guidance over years</p>
<p><b>Activity 4.1.7</b> Develop directory and database of members of the national platforms and development partners</p>	<p>Update Database of members of the national platforms and development partners and organic products</p>	<p>01 data-base of the members of the national platforms and development partners exists.</p>	<p>A new database of members of the national platform and organic products developed <b>(See Annex _Activity_4.1.7_EOA members Data Base_2017)</b></p>	<p>Database of members of the national platforms and development partners and organic products available</p>	
<p><b>Activity 4.1.8:</b> Support participation in regional fora</p>	<p>Support a government officer to attend BIOFACH 2017 at Germany</p>	<p>Participation of national, regional and international fair conferences. National fair at Cotonou on December, Biofach in Nuremberg (Germany) in February, SIAO in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) on November</p>	<p>- Support 4 members with agricultural ministry secretary to attend to the BIOFACH from 13 to 19 of February 2017 at Nuremberg, Germany  <b>(See Annex Activity 4.1.8. Report attendance of EOA partners to BIOFACH)</b></p>	<p>Report Visit and boarding pass available</p>	<p>Two German companies are actually planning to export products from Benin. The deputy minister is actually like an ambassador of organic initiative in her ministry and have enough tools to understand the concerns and take appropriate decision</p>

<p><b>Activity 4.1.9:</b> Create website for visibility of the initiative and information sharing</p>	<p>Contract with IT technician to manage the website</p>	<p>Only some blogs and social networks exist.</p>	<p>EOA Benin website updated by IT technician who manage frequently the website Website link : <a href="http://www.eoabenin.org">http://www.eoabenin.org</a> <a href="https://blogboan.wordpress.com">https://blogboan.wordpress.com</a></p>	<p>Functional website</p>	<p>The website is designed; it needs to be animated and updated.</p>  <p><b>Benin EOA website</b></p>
<p><b>Activity 4.1.10:</b> Prepare annual work plan and budget through participatory processes</p>	<p>Organize CLO's meetings with the implementing partners Prepare work plans and budgets for the next financial years issues</p>	<p>National platform meeting together with 4.2.2 with 15 participants. Review and Validation of 2016, 2017 studies</p>	<p>Annual work plan and budget were planned through participatory processes <b>(See Annex Activity 4.1.10 for 2018 work plan and budget)</b></p>	<p>-</p>	<p>Fifty activities are planned in 2018 and will be conducted by NGO, researchers, consultants, private sector, etc.</p>
<p><b>Output 4.2: Capacities of Country Lead Organizations (CLOs) and Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs) to perform their functions strengthened</b></p>					
<p><b>Activity 4.2.1:</b> CLOs prepare contractual agreements and disburse funds to PIPs</p>	<p>–</p>	<p>–</p>	<p>–</p>	<p>–</p>	<p>–</p>
<p><b>Activity 4.2.2:</b> Strengthen capacity of CLOs and PIPs in project coordination and implementation</p>	<p>Capacity of CLOs and PIPs in project coordination and implementation strengthened</p>		<p>Meeting on December 2017 for Strengthening capacity of CLOs and PIPs and M&amp;E activities</p> <p><b>Annex Activity 4.2.2 and 4.2.3.+4.2.4_ Strengthen capacity of CLOs and PIPs</b></p>	<p>EOA technical progress report semester 1 and 2 submitted with different technical reports</p>	<p>-</p>

<b>Activity 4.2.3:</b> Facilitate development of criteria for selection of PIPs	–	–	–	–	–
<b>Activity 4.2.3.+4.2.4:</b> CLOs convene at least two national platform meetings a year for PIPs and other stakeholders	National platform meeting together with 4.2.2 with 15 participants in Abomey and in Parakou. Review and Validation of all 2016 and 2017 studies workshop		Meeting on December 2017 for Strengthening capacity of CLOs and PIPs and M&E activities  <b>Annex Activity 4.2.2 and 4.2.3.+4.2.4_ Strengthen capacity of CLOs and PIPs</b>	Meeting reports Work plans and budgets for 2018 submitted	-
<b>Activity 4.2.5:</b> CLOs and PIPs conduct project supervision, support, monitoring, evaluation and reporting to executing agencies and other stakeholders	Conduct project supervision, support, monitoring, evaluation Report to executing agencies and other stakeholders	No systematic monitoring plan exists before.	All activities which are planned for all pillars in 2017 were monitored and this annual report has been written	Annual EOA report for 2017 available	42 supporting documents (annexes) available
<b>Activity 4.2.6:</b> Prepare annual work plan and budget through participatory processes	–	–	–	–	–
<b>Other Pillar Costs</b>					