



Centre d'embouche ovine utilisé pour la formation des éleveurs de mouton à Ouedo-Calavi - © G. Gantoli

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## Support to Pan-African Reform Processes in Agriculture Development (NEPAD/CAADP)



# Benin

### Key economic data

Population, 2014	10 m
GDP per capita, 2014	US\$ 805
Agricultural sector (percentage of GDP), 2014	32.4%
Growth in agriculture (average, 2014)	2%
Youth unemployment, 2014	7%

Sources: World Bank, Statistical Institute Benin

## Promotion of agricultural technical vocational Education and Training (ATVET) with the support of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)

### Context

Agriculture and related activities continue to be the mainstay of a large share of Africa's population. With 45% of its population employed in agriculture in 2010 (International Labour Organisation), Benin is no exception, and thus serves as a valid example of agricultural policy-making in Africa.

In order to ensure a productive and innovative agricultural sector, as well as food security for the population – in the face of climate change, soil degradation and increasing population pressure – the meaningful education and training of all people involved is of the utmost importance.

However, ATVET did not always receive adequate attention by African policy-makers in the past. Ideally, this education and training would not only include farmers, but all professions involved in agricultural value chains. Now, in the second decade of putting into action the African Union's (AU's) CAADP (under the heading 'Sustaining the CAADP Momentum'), the decisive role of ATVET in boosting productivity and achieving the CAADP annual growth rate target of 6% in agricultural gross domestic product (GDP) has been acknowledged.

A major obstacle to an efficient ATVET system in many countries is the lack of a systematic approach

to it. This is because it is often subsumed under technical vocational education and training (TVET) in general or delinked from TVET under agriculture. In addition, authority over ATVET is fragmented over several ministries. In Benin, three different ministries are directly or indirectly involved in the design of ATVET policies, namely the ministries of Higher Education and Research, Agriculture, and Secondary Education.

The responsible institutions often do not possess the capacities required for meaningful reform measures, such as the revision of curricula to reflect labour market needs. Furthermore, many policies in place do not equip graduates with the skills that are actually needed. It is in this context that GIZ supports the African Union's New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), which has been tasked by the AU to coordinate CAADP implementation across the continent, in the development of more coherent and focused policies for ATVET, particularly for women and young people.

These groups were identified as the drivers of development, but their needs have often not been adequately considered.

CAADP



Séance de formation continue sur la vaccination de la volaille dans le village de Kpanroun - © 2014 G. Gantoli

## Project

The project supports relevant government bodies in the inclusion of ATVET into their national agriculture investment plans (NAIPs) and national qualification frameworks (NQFs). Furthermore, individuals and institutions are trained on the basis of pilot measures. These relate to selected value chains (VCs), and include VC-specific training and training of the trainers (ToTs). The pilot measures include the development of occupational standards, the respective curricula and the relevant training material.

Special attention is given to aspects of informal, non-formal and formal learning and the respective links between these forms of training. This takes into account the specific characteristics of agriculture as a small-scale, often family-led and community-based sector in which the youth is traditionally often trained and educated in informal and non-formal settings.

Additionally, all reform measures and recommendations are developed in close cooperation with a broad array of stakeholders, such as farmers' associations, training providers and private sector representatives. These, together with the relevant ministries, form the core of the national ATVET committees the project helps to establish.

Ultimately, the two activity areas (NAIPs and NQFs) at national level will reinforce each other and help to deeply embed reform measures within national systems. The two-level approach will also support consolidation at the continental level.

An important project partner in Benin is GIZ's Promotion of Agriculture Programme.

## Results

In Benin, the project was launched in May 2014. Training centres for the implementation of pilot measures were selected on the basis of an institutional analysis. Workshops were held with the aim of expanding curricula for the two selected value chains (rice and meat). An economic analysis was done and indicated valuable opportunities for employment.

On a policy level, the project has facilitated the establishment of a committee that has started to work towards the inclusion of agriculture into the National Qualification Framework. Furthermore, trainers were trained on value chains and

mechanisation. The project employs the synergies and experiences of the good practices of training and innovation centres in the agricultural sector. After an overview study of the agricultural training centres in Benin, these good practices were made available nationwide by establishing a knowledge management system.

The project provides basic studies that are currently used to improve the national strategies for training in agriculture. Many technical tools for modular training are also being developed. The partner training centres will be linked to agricultural private enterprises to create better practicing conditions for trainees.



Séance d'évaluation participative avec les jeunes en formation au Lycée Agricole Mèdji de Sékou à Allada - © 2015 G. Gantoli