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In cooperation with :



Support Program for Rural Development in cotton regions of Cameroon (ABC-PADER)

In Cameroon, the program ABC-PADER aims at increasing the economic performance of private actors in the agriculture and livestock sector in the country's cotton region by considering production systems adapted to climate change.

The challenges

Cameroon's cotton basin, which includes the Far North, North and Adamawa regions, is considered the area with the highest poverty rate in Cameroon. It is marked by a demographic crisis that generates conflicts over access to natural resources, significant internal migratory movements, a progressive loss of soil fertility that hinders the sustainable and economic use of productive land, a security crisis and unclear land rights, particularly for women and young people.

In the cotton basin area, about 80 % to 85 % of the population lives from agriculture and livestock, and almost a third of this population lives directly or indirectly from the spin-offs of the cotton sector. Infertile soils already account for 25-30 % of the usable agricultural area (about 1.7 million hectares) and the increase in population has led to a decrease in cultivable land. This situation, which is the cause of conflicts between farmers and herders and the strong pressure on forests and parks, also has repercussions on climate change.

Our approach

The programme ABC-PADER is the result of cooperation between Cameroon, the European Union and the Federal Republic of Germany. It is based on a participatory approach and benefits from the realisations of the previous programme. To achieve its objective in a sustainable manner, the programme ABC-PADER employs a "faire-faire" approach which means building the capacity of stakeholders, so they adopt the lessons learnt and teach their peers. Its objective is to improve the economic performance of private actors in the agriculture and livestock sector by envisaging production systems adapted to climate change.



Project Name	Support Program for Rural Development in cotton regions of Cameroon (ABC-PADER)
Commissioned by	Co-funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the European Union
Project regions	Adamawa, North, and Far North
Project Manager	Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT)
Project Owner	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER)
Duration	September 2020 – December 2024
Budget	19.4 Million Euro (12.725 billions FCFA)

The programme ABC-PADER implements a transformative approach in terms of gender and Leave-No-One-Behind to support women and youths particularly affected by poverty as well as other marginalised people. Its target groups and main beneficiaries are the 150,000 cotton farmers, food crop producers and herders in the Adamawa, North and Far North regions.



Picture on the left: A sweet potato farm

Picture on the right: Raw cotton

Dr. Andrea Bahm
 Programme Director (ABC-PADER)
andrea.bahm@giz.de

Picture on the left: Feeder for small sheep and goats

Picture on the right: A tree nursery



Our key partners include amongst others MINEPAT (contracting authority), MINADER (lead executing agency), SODECOTON (delegated executing agency) CNPCC-C, the delegations of the sectoral ministries, cooperatives, MEADEN/MIDIMA, the councils and research institutions (IRAD), ONACC, micro-finance institutions, local NGOs and agro-pastoral schools/training centres.

Our fields of action

To achieve the overall objective, ABC-PADER focuses on the following 5 fields of action:

1. Land tenure security and sustainable land management - The aim is to ensure a regulated and secure use of land, pasture, water and forest resources in some 8 selected municipalities. The goal here is to prevent conflicts, promote investment, sustainably increase productivity in agriculture and livestock and generate higher incomes.

2. Agricultural finance and entrepreneurship – The focus of this field of action is to trigger an increased use of banking services in rural areas, facilitate access to financing for producers and breeders and promote entrepreneurship.

3. Improved sustainable productivity through climate-smart agriculture – The purpose is to improve the productivity and sustainability of cotton, rotational food crops and livestock farming by considering the effects of climate. This field of action also includes the digitalisation of information-sharing and capacity-building for producers' and breeders' organisations.

4. Sectoral policy and inter-institutional dialogue – The goal here is capacity building for public actors, the private sector and civil society in the fields of agriculture and livestock. This field of action also promotes the setting up of adequate consultation frameworks and dialogue forums with the aim of adapting the framework conditions in the sectoral policies.

5. Agro-pastoral vocational training - The aim is to extend the range of vocational training courses in line with the needs of the agriculture and livestock sector. This will improve the employability of young people and strengthen the capacity of schools in terms of gender and digitalisation.

Key results to be achieved

Through the implementation of the planned activities in 8 municipalities in the Adamawa, North and Far North regions, the following key results are expected at the end of the programme:

- 42,000 producers increase their yields and income by 10%;
- 500 new jobs are created;
- 300 transformers increase their turnover by 10%.

In summary

The programme ABC-PADER will entail working with the various partners at the macro, meso and micro levels to tackle the changes taking place in the cotton basin. All this is aimed at improving the socio-economic situation of the population, women and youth, by promoting an inclusive, equitable and sustainable development.

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Registered offices Dag-Hammarskjöld Weg 1-5
65760 Eschborn
Germany

Support Program for Rural Development in cotton regions of Cameroon
(ABC-PADER)
Derrière l'usine Bastos, près du restaurant Cosy Pool
P.O. Box 7814 Yaoundé, Cameroun
E: cm-developpementrural@giz.de
T : +237 683 74 95 19
Authors : Léa Ndeme, Marieke Terhaar et Francine Tchouta
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Mailing addresses of
the two BMZ
headquarters

BMZ Bonn
Dahlmannstraße 4
53113 Bonn
T: +49 (0)228 99535-0

BMZ Berlin
10963 Berlin
Allemagne
T: +49 (0)30 18 5350

poststelle@bmz.bund.de
www.bmz.de