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# 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 regions by fostering climate-smart production systems.

## 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 change 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 builds on the achievements 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.



<b>Project Name</b>	Support Program for Rural Development in cotton regions of Cameroon (ABC-PADER)
<b>Commissioned by</b>	The European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
<b>Project regions</b>	Adamawa, North, and Far North
<b>Contracting Authority</b>	Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT)
<b>Lead executing institution</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER)
<b>Duration</b>	September 2020 – December 2024
<b>Budget</b>	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.



*Pictures from left to right:  
A cotton farm  
A groundnut farmer  
Students grafting mangoes*



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*Picture from left to right:  
Post harvest process for the cashew fruit  
A female breeder  
Female breeders producing a lick stone  
for their animals*

Our key partners include amongst others MINEPAT (contracting authority), MINADER (lead executing institution), SODECOTON (delegated executing institution) 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 aim is to strengthen entrepreneurship and the use of bank services in rural areas. In addition, access to finance for producers and breeders, particularly women, is facilitated by developing financial products adapted to their needs.

**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 achieved

Through the implementation of the planned activities in 8 municipalities, the following key results have been achieved:

- **3,543** farmers trained in entrepreneurial skills, good agricultural/husbandry practices (GAP/GHP) and nutrition;
- **76** female processors (artisanal and semi-industrial) trained to produce finished and semi-finished products from groundnut and sesame;
- Integration of the watershed approach in the finalized and validated Methodological Guide for the Elaboration of Local Plans for Sustainable Development (PLADDT);
- Two (2) studies carried out on traditional land management practices and consultation frameworks;
- **14** vocational training manuals have been developed in the agro-pastoral and agro-food sectors and are being introduced in the portfolio of vocational training in Cameroon.

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