

## **Dairy Technology Adoption Perception in Burkina Faso, West Africa: the Importance of Responsibility in Demands Identification**

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**Problem statement** - Embrapa has been requested by the Brazilian Federal Government to contribute to the development of the agricultural sector in several developing countries. This is called South-South Cooperation (SSC). To the Government of Burkina Faso the project “Strengthening Burkina Faso Dairy Farming” was conceived in 2009 and implemented between 2012 and 2017. The project was coordinated by the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and co-executed by the National Center for Multiplication of Animals (CMAP) from Burkina Faso. The central problem of the cooperation was the extensive traditional system, practically nomadism, involving more than 70% of the herd with a 700 kg of milk per lactation of approximately 210 days.

**Objective** - Sustainably forage production to improve its effect on feeding, reproduction and health of dairy cattle.

**Method** - In the project two Demonstration Units (DUs) were established. One at the Loumbilâ Experimental Station and one at Samandeni. In these regions, the rainfall is of 500 and 1000 mm of annual rain respectively. As one of the feeding bases nurseries of Mexican elephant ear palm (*Opuntia tuna*) were made. In addition, the areas for rotational grazing were demarcated. Data exchange between teams from both countries was also organized and simple equipment was brought from Brazil. In 2013, eight burkinabe technicians were trained in Brazil. Within the concept of the Brazilian SSC, the physical implementation of the project and payment of the technicians salary would be the responsibility of each country. As well as the development and adaptation of appropriate solutions to that reality. It was stressed that the Brazilian solutions should not be simply copied. A production manual was developed for a production system to be adapted by burkinabe technicians. The Embrapa

and ABC teams strived to present solutions and jointly discuss actions without imposition.

**Results** – The forage palm showed good adaptation to that reality. Field Days were implemented and seedlings, spread on private properties (photo). The project did not reach the goal of feeding the entire selected herd to the point of increasing production and improving reproduction. In two years of implementation and data collection, it had only results for four of the 20 cows in Loumbila. Discussion of project specifications and demands was inefficient during the project. It occurred more intensely only in the last mission (2017) when it was reported by CMAP that the number of 20 cows was too large for the reality of most producers. Health data was lacking for broader action.



**Implications** – With palm and capacity building, CMAP is better able to cope with the challenge of improving dairy production in the country.. The project was successful in palm deployment and awareness of discussion and drafting prior to start. The responsibilities of authorities and project implementation staff need to be very clear to achieve the planned objective.