

Editorial

By Mamadou Alimou BARRY

Dear readers,

In line with its editorial line, the eleventh issue of the quarterly newsletter « **DABA** » deals with challenging issues whose main focus is the development of post-modern farming. Consequently, the Editorial Committee of the quarterly newsletter of the Agripol section of Enda Diapol has insisted on topical issues.

A part of the Horn of Africa has been faced, for quite some time, with one of the worst famines the continent has ever been subjected to during these last twenty years. To fully grasp this unprecedented situation which has become recurrent in this part of the world, under the heading « *Behind the scenes* », our Editorial Committee sheds some light on the real causes of a tragedy which has been claiming so many victims.

« *Breaking news* » talks about the results of a workshop organized from July 26 to 28 by the National Council for Rural Consultation (Cncr), the Senegalese NGO Federation (Fongs), and the Initiative for Long-Term Rural Agriculture (Ipar). The objective of the workshop was to identify investment challenges and to concur on approaches and methodologies that need to be prioritized in order to affect the implementation of the national agricultural investment program (Pnia).

All experts have recognized, since Cancun and, later, Hong Kong, that Africa has been badly affected by distortions caused by subsidies Northern countries allocate to their farmers. It resulted in the setting-up of a cotton sub-Committee, a body of the World Trade Organization (WTO) which is specifically responsible for cotton issues during trade negotiations. However, although they receive great attention from negotiation authorities, cotton issues are far from being resolved. This, despite some cases that have set a legal precedent (Brazil) and which can inspire African negotiators. Based on this assessment, some defenders of the cotton sector with WTO recommend a change of strategy. To get a better grasp of this issue, **DABA** has invited an expert. Under the heading, *Cross perspectives*, Dr. El Hadj Diouf, a lawyer and Executive Director of the Organization 2Acd, shares with our readers his vision and discusses the strategy to be adopted.

In Africa, many human and environmental problems are caused by the use of pesticides. In order to remedy the

situation and effectively reduce the use of chemical products, several methods have been tried. One of those methods is the Integrated Production and Damage Management (Gipd). « *Alternatives* » talks about the method for fighting and monitoring parasites and recommends as well an intelligent use of pesticides; this, thanks to natural crops protection means.

In this issue, our Editorial Committee devotes its heading « *Testimony* » to Mrs. Atangana Elisabeth, the President of the Cameroonian Farmers' Organizations (Propac) and of the Pan-African Farmers' Forum (Paffo). During the interview, Mrs. Atangana shares with us her ideas on the various policies which are being implemented at the regional level, as well as the role the farmers' organizations play during the drawing-up, implementation and monitoring of agricultural policies.

Before our last quarterly newsletter issue of the year, the team of the Agripol section of Enda Diapol presents under the heading « *Focus on* », the National Agricultural Insurance Company of Senegal (Cnaas) whose specialty is agricultural risks cover.

Enjoy your newsletter!

DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN SENEGAL

Stakeholders advocate a better Pnia implementation

p 3

THE AFRICAN COTTON ISSUE AND WTO

The last option!

p 4

TESTIMONY

Mrs Elisabeth ATANGANA,
Chairperson of PAFFO -
Pan-African Farmers Forum -

«The introduction of Gmo in Africa calls for some caution and more objectivity »

pp 7-8



FAMINE IN EASTERN AFRICA

Real-life case of climate change consequence

Displaced populations, sick and emaciated children; are the alarmist forecasts on climate change effects in Africa becoming a reality? This is the question experts are asking today in relation to the famine which is raging in the Horn of Africa. According to the UN, this emergency requires for the time being, USD 1.4 billion worth of additional help.



29.000 dead children, 500.000 severely malnourished children and more than 12 million people from Somali, Djibouti, Ethiopia and Kenya on the brink of death! The Horn of Africa is indeed a sad case because of the unprecedented drought that has been occurring there. One of the worst droughts the region has faced in sixty (60) years, and which could be one consequence of climate change.

True, in this region, drought is not an isolated event insofar as it takes place in the area every 8 to 10 years. But the harshness of the current situation as well as its earliness makes it exceptional. It may then be due to

climate change observed these last years. As a matter of fact, according to meteorological data from 1960 to 2006, yearly average temperatures have increased by 1°C in Kenya and by 1.3°C in Ethiopia, thus causing an increase in the frequency of warm days. Consequently, the current drought is caused by poor shortfalls recorded over the last ten (10) years. Even worse, no shower was recorded during the two last raining seasons. The «little» raining season, going from October to December, as well as the «major» raining season, which goes from March to June, have been completely dry periods, thus causing the death of

livestock and preventing any agricultural activity. It can be added to that the quasi structural vulnerability of the region where land yields are quite below the needs of populations.

If we add to that the risks of flooding expected when rain starts again along with their foreseeable consequences, namely the washing of soils and the loss of foodstuff stocks, etc., one should anticipate again a reduction of the region's capacity to meet its needs if the drought cycle does not end. By the way, according to "Cultivating a better future", an Oxfam report published in May 2011, « the climate effects and the latest drought periods around the world, herald a decline in cereal production and, therefore, an increase in agricultural prices». For instance, in 2010, an unprecedented heat wave caused a 40% drop in wheat harvest in Russia, compelling the State to impose exports restrictions. Similarly, other extreme meteorological conditions like devastating flooding in Pakistan and Australia, drought in Brazil and torrential rains in Indonesia have pushed up world prices and disrupted national productions. Nevertheless, the consequences of the incidents in these areas have been less devastating because of the effectiveness of emergency actions by concerned States; which is not obviously the case in Africa.

Due to this global uncertainty, it is urgent to invest in populations' adjustment to climate change; this in order to further prepare them so that they can meet extreme meteorological phenomena whose recurrence and unforeseeable consequences will keep increasing.

Marina Isabelle G. BAMBARA



DABA

A Quarterly newsletter
on agriculture and biotechnology.

Director of publication: **Moussa MBAYE**
Coordonnator: **Mamadou Alimou BARRY**
Redaction Team: **Mamadou Alimou BARRY - Abdoulaye KONE - Wédémi Karine Raïssa OUEDRAOGO - Marina Isabelle G BAMBARA - Claire DUBROCA - Miriam KEITA - Moussa TALL**
Layout: **Noma Camara**

Contacts :

ENDA DIAPOL, Sicap Sacré Coeur Transition 4,
villa n° 8773 - B.P. : 7329 - Dakar - **SENEGAL**
Tel. : (221) 33 825 36 20 -
Fax : (221) 33 825 36 32 -
E-mail : agripol@endadiapol.org -
Web: <http://www.endadiapol.org>

DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN SENEGAL

Stakeholders advocate a better Pnia implementation

From July 26 to 28, Dakar hosted a national workshop on agricultural investment in Senegal. It was attended by actors of the National Council for Rural Consultation (Cncr), the Senegalese NGO Federation (Fongs), the Initiative for Long-Term Rural Agriculture (Pnia) and Action Aid. It dealt mainly with the implementation of Pnia measures.



How can investment be better targeted in farming to enable them have a real trigger effect on the development of family farming? This is the major concern the actors of the National Council for Rural Consultation (Cncr), the Senegalese NGO Federation (Fongs), the Initiative for Long-Term Rural Agriculture (Pnia) and Action Aid were called to ponder. It happened during a workshop that took place from July 26 to 28 at the Hotel Ndiambour in Dakar, Senegal.

Its main objective was to identify investment challenges and concur on approaches that need to be prioritized in order to have an impact on measures relating to the implementation of the Long-Term Rural Agriculture (Pnia). The participants discussed the program's actions and debated ways needed to direct the program's implementation towards

three directions which resulted from farmers' debates: a real support to family farms and women; a secured access of family farms to land and natural resources preservation. In order to succeed, they had to take into account the following: first, the identification of political instruments capable of ensuring sustainable investment concerning family farms, second, the creation of a strategy that gives priority to consultations between stakeholders during the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Long-Term Rural Agriculture (Pnia) program; and

third the approach to be adopted in order to ensure cohesion between the measures of agricultural policy defined in the Pnia, and other policies concerning the sectors of rural development, agro-industry, trade and industrial policies, etc.

At the end of the deliberations, participants made a number of proposals aiming at affecting the implementation of Pnia in favour of family farms, and particularly for the sake of women. They identified opportunities for exchange and dialogue between various stakeholders in order to further the debates concerning strategies to be implemented for solving the main strategic challenges family farms (Eaf) are confronted with. Finally, participants set up an action plan for a better monitoring of the Detailed Program for African Agriculture (PDDAA), which is the continent-wide counterpart of Pnia.

Fifty persons attended the workshop. Some were from the public or private sector; others represented Ministries involved in rural development, civil society, the parliament, media, academia, etc.

Abdoulaye KONÉ

The approach to be adopted in order to ensure cohesion between the measures of agricultural policy defined in the Pnia, and other policies concerning the sectors of rural development.

● Cross-perspectives

THE AFRICAN COTTON ISSUE AND WTO

The last option!

The Cancun summit partially revealed the discrepancies produced by subsidies Northern countries allocate to their farmers. Despite a will demonstrated by WTO to solve once for all this injustice, the African cotton issue has not yet reached its outcome; this, despite many strategies implemented by its defenders. Based on the above facts, changing course has become a must. Let's look at a decade of unfruitful negotiations and new ways to explore for future promising meetings.

Ever since African countries started making a connection between the problems of the cotton sector, the fall in the price of cotton at the international level, and American subsidies, they have been looking for a way to solve this problem. After many negotiations, the decision of giving priority to a sector-based Initiative, instead of submitting a case to the Trade Conflict Resolution Tribunal (Ord) was taken in 2003. This initiative had its merits and shortcomings. Its major merit was the introduction of the African cotton issue to WTO.

WTO has not planned any compensation outside its settlement system, while African countries have not issued any complaint.

Its main shortcoming was the fact that it excluded the possibility of a conflict with the United States of America. Since then, the issue has been dragging on. Current circumstances do not offer any option other than litigation to African countries.

The languishing African Cotton Issue with WTO

As part of their sector-based Initiative, African countries have mainly studied four options with WTO. These failed for various reasons:

1. They asked to be compensated for in order to deal with the emergency situation prevailing in the sector on the continent. It was not conclusive insofar as WTO has not planned any compensation outside its settlement system, while African countries have not issued any complaint.
2. They also requested a special status for their cotton to get a preferential treatment in terms of market access. But it was soon noticed that this approach



by **Dr El Hadji A. DIOUF**,
Executif Director of Agence Africaine pour le
Commerce et le Développement (2ACD),
Geneva – Swiss. E-mail : elhadjidiouf@2acd.org

could not succeed. Indeed, within the framework of WTO, a special product relates to a defensive interest linked to the protection of a vulnerable sector. Thus, a special product is subjected to a system of preferential and differentiated treatment. It can only be applied in case the product in itself is not entitled to immediate competition on the international market; which is not the case as

Africa could be seen as giving the impression of begging for something which was owed to her, by directing the Initiative towards the declared option of poverty reduction.

far as African cotton is concerned.

3. They adopted, as a strategy, an association between trade (subsidies) and development (poverty reduction) issues with the hope of solving the issues within WTO. Yet, the latter soon declared themselves incompetent on aspects that deal with development. By directing the Initiative towards the declared option of poverty reduction, Africa could be seen as giving the impression of begging for something which was owed to her.
4. They made the exclusive choice of negotiation, instead of litigation approach admitted by the WTO system that could ensure positive results, as it happened with Brazil. The latter won the case against the United States of America in relation to the same issue. They found a trade agreement that suited both parties, excluding all the others. The WTO system allows that. This agreement is strictly private. The postponement of the application of retaliatory measures is an option offered to the winning party. It is in tune with the flexibility of crossed retaliation measures which aim at ensuring the settlement which suits the most its interests. Fair enough!

Complaining to WTO as an ultimate option

Non extensible deadlines, an advantageous momentum

The United States of America have planned a new Agricultural Law for 2012. Their agreement with Brazil is quite an encouraging one. This new law will greatly reduce their subsidies and its effects on international trade, including the

Emerging countries like India, Brazil and China have been using the system effectively against their trade partners who would have protectionist tendencies.

shares of the African market. It certainly will not be contentious. It will lead to the obsolescence of previous agricultural laws. Their effects do prevail even if the subject is outdated. Any African complaint would then be null and void and the arguments aimless. This will cancel any possibility for an African complaint against the United States of America in the specific field of cotton subsidies. If African countries were to lodge a complaint with Ord, it is extremely important they become aware of the fact that the preparation and action deadline allowed them in 2003 will have expired by 2012. They have to act right now or never!

Recovering one's rights, by oneself or altogether: «the collective complaint» option

African countries seem to think that a complaint against the United States of America would be unfriendly. Yet, enmity is not a characteristic of the WTO system in terms of complaint settlement. Since the Complaint Settlement Organ of WTO was established in 1995, the United States of America have lodged a complaint against the

European Union 19 times; and so have the UE by 32 times. That has not affected at all the intensity of trade exchanges between the two countries. By the way, emerging countries like India, Brazil and China have been using the system effectively against their trade partners who would have protectionist tendencies. The latter are «fought» within WTO to compel them to further open their market and for better trade. Under the circumstances, a «collective action» would be beneficial to African countries. WTO's rules allow that by taking charge of a series of individual complaints, subsequently aggregated. It is an approach that has a major advantage of «diluting» the enmity towards the United States of America and dissipating any fear of individual retaliation.

Wining a case with WTO. What next?

Should African countries win the case against the United States of America, they could expect two things. First, the withdrawal of the contentious American agricultural law; second they would have the big privilege of seeing a past damage accepted and evaluated on this basis, as was the case for Brazil. This damage has been assessed to be USD 1.2 billion for the 2001/2010 period. This amount will not necessarily be paid to African countries. But this very assessment could be used as a negotiation instrument to determine retaliation measures. Better, even if the payment of compensation is not the rule under the WTO system, the existing agreement is about an amount of 143.3 million dollars to be disbursed every year by the United States of America to Brazil; which is a precedent that could well be applied to African countries.

● Alternatives

INTEGRATED PRODUCTION AND DAMAGE MANAGEMENT (GIPD)

An approach dedicated to a healthy and sustainable agriculture in Africa

Predators constitute a real «headache» for agricultural producers. Very often, their control requires several chemical treatments, thus increasing production cost. In view of the recurrence of parasitic attacks, it is crucial, beyond predators' destruction, to integrate the « prevention» component.



In view of the problem of predators, a new solution is being experimented with. It is the Integrated Production and Damage Management (Gipd). This approach aims at ensuring best parasite control. Developed in order to definitively solve the nagging issue of insects, the initiative aims at «*integrating appropriate measures to prevent the appearance of dangerous populations and maintaining the use of pesticides and other types of interventions at economically justified levels; this, by minimizing threats to human health and the environment*».

According to the International Code of Good Practices for the distribution and of use pesticides, the objective of the integrated fight against predators is to secure a healthy agriculture that is mindful of agro-ecosystems. It gives priority to natural mechanisms against predators. That is why, in its implementation, the Gipd integrates the application of good agricultural

practices. It is based on four pillars.

The first consists in producing healthy crops. Indeed, a healthy plant is stronger and, consequently, better equipped to resist attacks by predators and diseases. It is also more productive. To succeed, several conditions must be met, namely the use of good

varieties, the improvement of soils, the management of water and the rotation of crops, among other things. The second consists in understanding and keeping natural enemies as beneficial insects. In fact, the so-called «*natural enemies*» are dangerous only to insects that attack plants. That is why they are called the «*producer's friends*». So producers must, through regular observation of agro-ecosystems, identify natural enemies and their role, and avoid using toxic pesticides that can destroy them and exacerbate problems connected to predators. The third pillar consists in regular observation of fields. According to the Gipd approach, producers manage their crops on the basis of information on the current situation of fields. The so-called «*calendar treatments*» for the control of predators are not authorized. Producers must check the conditions of fields, particularly the soil, plants and predators, at least once a week;

this, in order to react at the right moment through the picking up of eggs and the destruction of infected plants for instance. The last pillar consists in seeing that the producer knows well all his fields. As a matter of fact, family farmers with a good knowledge of Gipd are not only capable of improving their agricultural practices thanks to experimentations, but are also capable of passing on their knowledge to other producers.

Furthermore, the Gipd approach contributes to capacity building for extension workers and producers on practices conducive to yields improvement and environmental protection. It encourages the use of organic matter instead of synthetic chemical pesticides. Within the framework of the sub-regional program of Gipd which has covered eight West African countries since 2001, producers are trained through Farmers School Fields (CEP) on sustainable techniques for large-scale agricultural production.

Finally, Gipd constitutes an alternative to the use of pesticides which is often, a source of human poisoning in case of misuse. It aims at promoting the biological fight against predators and at improving soil fertility while preserving crops profitability. Therefore, Gipd can be considered as a stepping stone to a sustainable and equitable agriculture in Africa.

Wédémi Karine Raïssa OUEDRAOGO

Mrs Elisabeth ATANGANA,
Chairperson of PAFFO: - Pan-African Farmers Forum -

«The introduction of Gmo in Africa calls for some caution and more objectivity»

Mrs Elisabeth Atangana is an agriculturalist whose specialty is pig and chicken farming. For over thirty years, she has devoted herself to development issues. In 1993, she founded the Chasaadd-M Vocational Training Centre for Farmers in Mfou. She is currently the Chairperson of the National Consultation of Farmers Organization of Cameroon (Cnop-Cam). As PAFFO's Chairperson, she has been leading since 1998 the structuring process of the Central African Farmers Movement, (Propac). In this issue, Daba is interviewing the elected Chairperson of Paffo.



DABA: Can you tell us what has led to the creation of Paffo?

Mrs Elisabeth ATANGANA: As you know, Paffo stands for Pan-African Farmers Organization. It has just been created thanks to the initiative of a group of West, Central, Eastern and Southern African regional farmers' organization leaders. Maghreb countries have also joined the initiative. It must be noted that the above-mentioned organizations were created at least three decades ago. Their objective is to help rural farmers become autonomous and seek together solutions for their members' needs, at local, national, regional and continental levels. But it is only in 2003 that they have decided to come together in order to exert maximum influence on decision-making processes; the objective being to harmonize their point of views and speak with one voice to have an impact on policies related to the farming sector; so that the living conditions in the rural world could be improved.

What are the priorities of PAFFO?

Paffo's priority is to serve as an intermediary in the implementation of African Union policies/programs for the farming and rural sector in relation to food security and sovereignty, quality and quantity of production, access to market, income and employment; all of this in rural

producers' interests. Also, it is committed to building farmers' organizations (Ops) capacities, and influencing policies, strategies, programs and projects in relation to the farming and sustainable rural development sector. Finally, Paffo will work for the reinforcement of the strategic institutional capacities of Ops. In our opinion, this reinforcement should not be limited to the acquisition of operational, logistics, training and vocational structuring means of OPs. It must go farther in terms of in-depth identification of empowerment needs for farmers' organizations as institutions capable of providing proximity and sustainable socio-economic services to grassroots people.

How did Ops get involved in the drawing-up and implementation of the different farming policies initiated in the different regional groups?

The participation of Farmer organizations in the drawing-up and implementation of the different policies and farming strategies initiated in the different regions is a crucial need. Participation had always existed even if its scale varied in relation to some regions. What must be noted though is the political will of regional organizations (Ceeac, Cemas, Ecowas, Waemu, Comesa) to bring in

representatives of regional farmers organizations to different works in the framework of the detailed Program for Agricultural Development in Africa (Pddaa/Nepad). However, it is important to note that Ops should first work on the formulation of their propositions with the participation of all farmers. This participation requires significant resources which are not often available. Insufficient technical and financial resources continue to be a constraint for regional farmers' organizations as well as a challenge Paffo should meet.

Agricultural policies of Waemu, Ecowas, Cemas, Ceeac as well as the detailed program of agricultural development of Nepad have not yet produced the expected results. What does Paffo intend to do to reverse this trend?

Paffo is working on the drawing-up of its five-year strategic plan and various sector-based plans. But, already, through regional farmers' organizations, we have been able to identify a certain number of challenges that need to be met. Among them is the challenge of food security and sovereignty which is a major objective for African Ops. Consequently, we need to tackle the problems of small producers in relation to access to resources, production factors, land and market. We will address the issue of human

resource development by providing a vocational professional training and a mastery of techniques and new technologies to farmers. We will help promote investments to create an added value to local productions in order to improve their competitiveness on local, national, sub-regional as well as international markets. However, we will ensure to couple productivity, sustainable resource management and preservation of the biodiversity and environment. This will be achieved necessarily through the integration and reinforcement of the economic power of women and youths who need an environment that can act as an incentive to enable them to take over. To see that happen, African countries will have to increase the investment budgets they allocate to agriculture and the rural sector in line with the Maputo commitments to boost agriculture so that it can become the engine of African economies, a major driver of sustainable employment for youths.

We should also work on the creation of an appropriate social protection assistance system with a broad vision regarding the life and activities of people who live in rural areas.

As Paffo's Chairperson, what do you think about the introduction of GMO into African agriculture?

The issue of GMO is still a source of debate in Africa. As a key decision-maker of Paffo, our duty is to get the much-needed information from African and international experts that can shed a light on the advantages and disadvantages that GMO would have on African agriculture and the health of the populations. Unfortunately, the majority of countries are not yet equipped with the necessary technical instruments. Africans need to be cautious and objective in regards to GMO. ■

The current issue of the newsletter has been achieved with the support of:



Oxfam

FOCUS ON...

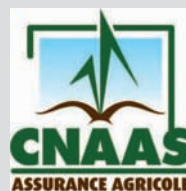
CNAAS- SENEGAL'S NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL INSURANCE COMPANY

Agricultural insurance for the farming world

For some years now, primary sector actors have been faced with the impacts of climate change on which agricultural activity depends nowadays. Aware of that, the government of Senegal, in partnership with insurance companies, farmer's organizations and the national private sector, has created Senegal's National Agricultural Insurance Company (CNAAS). Its mission is to remedy the numerous difficulties the farming world is confronted with.

Created in 2008 with a capital of CFA 1.5 billion, Senegal's National Agricultural Insurance Company (CNAAS) has specialized in the cover of agricultural risks. Its main mission is to work with primary sector actors, namely farmers, breeders, fishermen and forestry workers, among others, to better address natural and meteorological disasters which have been happening in Senegal these last years.

In order to successfully fulfil its mission, Cnaas has developed a wide range of products and services which will ensure the covering of risks related to the practice of agricultural activities. It offers the following products: all-risks cattle mortality insurance, cattle mortality by accident insurance, poultry mortality insurance, specific crops insurance, all-risks crops insurance, rainfall shortfall insurance. Nowadays, these products enable farmers and breeders to get the protection they need against the risks which are related to natural disasters and, in doing so, to guarantee their earnings which are subject to uncertainty. As part of its desire to



support Cnaas and bring as many farmers as possible to take an insurance policy against agricultural and breeding risks, the State decided to devote 50% subsidy to

farmers and breeders. As an illustration, a farmer will spend only CFA 1.500 instead of CFA 3.000 to insure one hectare of cultivated land. And when a disaster occurs, this same farmer will be compensated for up to CFA 200.000, Mr. Pape Amadou Ndiaye, Managing Director of Cnaas, recently explained in an interview.

It must be noted that according to national statistics, about 60% of the working population of Senegal earn their income from agriculture. This activity alone contributes to the country's Gross National Product (GDP) up to 10%. Despite its important economical role, the agricultural sector still involves most of the vulnerable people in Senegal, namely farmers and breeders. The latter live in a continuous precarious situation. Indeed, Cnaas' creation could well be a godsend for primary sector actors.

Mamadou Alimou BARRY