

Unraveling the role of Farmers' Organizations in the promotion of agroecological techniques in Burkina Faso

Authors

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Abstract

Agro-ecology has been recognized as a potential solution to solve actual challenges of agriculture production by offering multiple economic, social, and environmental benefits of agricultural systems. The concept is variously defined by scientific and political actors as a science, a movement, and a practice. The aim of agroecology is to develop agroecosystems with minimum dependence on synthetic inputs thereby increasing farmers' control over their productive resources. This development is mostly facilitated through the actions of intermediaries' bodies such as Farmers' Organizations in the context of developing countries. Thus the aim of this study is to unravel the role of Farmers' Organizations in the promotion of agroecological techniques in Burkina Faso. A multiple case study approach was used to understand the reason and the process of the Farmers' Organizations' promotion of agroecological techniques. The results from the case studies reveal that the Farmers' Organizations' promotion of agroecological techniques is mostly related to one of these three goals: enhancing the productivity of commercial crops; improving the resilience of subsistence farmers; and enhancing both the productivity of commercial crops and the resilience of subsistence farmers. Farmers' Organizations fulfill these goals by providing the necessary economic and technical support services to their farmers. The study concludes by suggesting areas for further research related to the detailed description of farmers' adoption of agroecological techniques in a country like Burkina Faso.

Biography - Aboubakar Iyabano

Aboubakar Iyabano is a Ph.D. candidate under a joint EU doctorate program between Wageningen University (Knowledge, Technology and Innovation Group) and Montpellier SupAgro. His dissertation topic is entitled "Farmers' Organizations as intermediaries for the diffusion and adoption of agroecological innovations in Burkina Faso". Prior to starting the Ph.D., he worked on the sustainable oil palm development project based on the inclusion of smallholders' plantations in the development of agro-industrial plantations in the Congo Basin. He also worked on the socio-economic analysis of the cocoa value chain in Cameroon.

Topic Areas

Agroecology