Hub-and-Spoke System For Empowering Women & Youth to Improve Foods and Nutrition and Expand Markets for Grains in West Africa

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Introduction

• Research/Development Institutions (INRAN, Niger; Purdue University)

• Our aim/Goal is to create successful Hub-and-Spoke food innovation systems, using food processing and nutrition-related technologies, to:
  • Expand local markets for grains (millet, sorghum & legumes); process technologies and formulation emphasis
  • Support entrepreneurship (urban & rural), and women and youth capacity building and empowerment through farmers & extension related & private
  • Improve nutrition – locally focused market-driven fortification; promotion through nutritional or health-related attributes in local foods
  • Create scale-up model for technologies end-users (Farmers; NGO’s; private; projects)
Current activities

Rural Food Innovation Centers
- Basic food processing technologies
- Women associations
- Detailed training – processing/nutrition
- Establishment of rural markets
- Testing improved varieties (millet, sorghum, legumes)
- Co-creation Innovation
- Market access for smallholder farmers
- Sustainable aspect

Central Food Innovation Center at INRAN
- Food processing technologies
- Research & Development (R&D)
- Women association
- Testing improved varieties (millet, sorghum, legumes)
- Detailed training – processing/nutrition
- Staff – food technologists, economist, nutritionist, communication specialists

Hub-Spoke Food Innovation Model

Diffusion out to remote villages

Tera, Niger

Lebda, B. Faso

Gadan Iya, Maradi, Niger

Sherkin Haoussa, Maradi, Niger

Falwell, Niger
Key Achievements/Outputs

- Central, urban and rural hubs & spokes established in urban and rural areas
- Women Empowerment in urban and rural
- Gain market access for smallholder farmers
  - Establish rural markets for processed foods
- Improve nutritional status
  - Process nutritionally-enhanced foods that children want to eat, and with varieties farmers want to grow
- Women and youth empowerment (>500)
  - Gain in knowledge
  - Creativity enhancement
- Driver for adoption of new value-chain crop varieties (more than 15 millet varieties tested)
- Business development – social and private entrepreneurship development
  - Continuous training and technical support
- Increase income
- Improve livelihoods
Future goals:
How to scale-up Hub-Spoke Model?

Main Pillars:
1. Central “Hub” food innovation center
2. Urban & Rural “Spoke” food processing and innovation centers
3. Communication between Hub and Spoke Teams
4. Data collection and documentation

And replication in other rural urban areas and countries.....
where we work, Who we are and our partners
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Thank you!