

for INOFO 2014

SEMENCES PAYSANNES

the farmers own seed

AGRICULTURE ECOLOGIQUE

Organic Agriculture

Who I am

Forenames and surname : Omer Richard AGOLIGAN

•Country : BENIN

•Town : Djougou (North-West, 460 km from Cotonou)

•Profession: farmer

•Fonction / Organisation: responsible for TCHAOUN FORA (my agro-ecological farm), President of ORAD (*Organisation des Ruraux pour une Agriculture Durable*) =organisation of peasants for sustainable agriculture, Member of Benin national farmers union (*La Synergie Paysanne*), Member of the West Africa committee for farmers seed (COASP.)

•E-mail: omeragoligan@yahoo.fr

•Téléphone: 00229 95949349

•Address : *BP 342 Djougou, Benin*

PROGRAM

From my farm (Tchaoun Fora) and my organisation (ORAD), we pursue the following program:

- Development of Farmers own Seed production and the continued refusal of GMO seed
- Promoting the adoption of the organic mode of production.
- Pursuing the Campaign for Food Sovereignty.
- Participating in creating the network of Organic farmers organisations in Bénin, in Africa and beyond..



ACTIVITIES

- Promoting & producing farmers seed (selection & propagation).
- Promoting the use of animal traction ; training in agro-ecology.
- Developing endogenous knowledge & skills : building of granaries and training in storage techniques.
- Reafforestation
- System of intensive rice culture (*Système de Riziculture Intensive, SRI*)
- Promoting the consumption of traditional local foods.
- Raising awareness of OGMs and of Landgrabbing.



RESULTS

Several vanishing species & varieties of cultivated plants have been saved.

Farmers are now refusing synthetic fertilisers & pesticides and are adopting organic practices.

Farmers are participating in fairs & exchanges, in our villages, in Bénin & beyond.

Community gardens have been set up.

Committees have been set up to watch out for GMOs & Landgrabbing



ADVANTAGES & ACHIEVEMENTS



- Input autonomy (seed, soil amendments, plant protection products).
- Economic gains (spending less money).
- Community storage facility for farmers seed.
- Introduction to Bénin of the all-purpose farm implement chassis : the « *Kassine* ».
- Programme of participatory research with scientists & farmers (Project: *Laboratoire hors murs* =Laboratories without walls)
- Dialogue between the young and the old, about endogenous knowledge & skills.
- Rebuilding of coherent social networks.
- Better complementarity of animal husbandry and field crops.
- Better understanding by farmers of the unacceptable aspects of industrial agriculture.
- The setting up of a community garden.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continue to demand better protection & support for farmers & farming.
- Reinforce farmers movements so they can better influence agricultural policy in favour of small family farms.
- Establish more granaries & farmers seed centres, for greater cultivated biodiversity.

RECOMMENDATIONS & PERSPECTIVES

PERSPECTIVES

- Make of my farm *TCHAOUN FORA* a training centre for Agro-ecology.
- For the 2014-2015 farming season, *TCHAOUN FORA* & *DRAD* begin production of seed (carrot, cabbage, beetroot, radis...)
- Promote the intensive rice growing system (*Système de Riziculture Intensive, SRI*)
- Testing breadmaking with local cereals.

