

Bambara bean: a high-potential groundnut









Mechanization of processing





Path of change
This is the description of the intervention logic





ONGOING INITIATIVES

These are actions structured around a shared vision to achieve the objectives of the intervention

Impacts_

of change
These are the direct or indirect long-term social, economic or environmental effects generated by the intervention.







DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

These are specific objectives to be achieved through intervention to achieve the vision of change



Creation of the Bambara bean sector





KEY PLAYERS

These are structures with legal status or individuals who carry out actions in the field of its intervention







Agronomic and policy strategies to support legume diversification in cropping systems (NEMO project)



DEVELOPMENT OBSTACLES

These are elements that stand in to way of the intervention's objective





Cultivated on small areas

Rising demand







PRODUCING COUNTRIES These are the geographical areas of intervention





OPPORTUNITIES

These are favourable actions or moments that facilitate the achievement of the intervention's objectives





Contribution to soil fertilization





BAMBARA BEAN

VIGNA SUBTERRANEA

Key information



PRODUCTION OF THE GROUNDNUT IN AFRICA IS ESTIMATED AT AROUND 0.3 MILLION TONNES PER YEAR. IT IS THE THIRD MOST IMPORTANT GRAIN LEGUME.

- Extremly hardy, it can be cultivated in arid climates and grows well on poor soils.
- By enriching the soil through nitrogen fixation, it improves fertility, justifying its integration into crop rotations.
- Bambara groundnut is mainly cultivated by women on small plots of land.
- Though it requires low agricultural inputs, production is time consuming. There is no mechanized solution available for harvesting.
- The actual average yields are significantly lower than potential yields.
- Moreover, negative beliefs associated with the crop in parts of Africa may influence production volume.

BAMBARA GROUNDNUT IS CONSIDERED AS A "COMPLETE FOOD" CONTRIBUTING TO FOOD SECURITY:

- A promising substitute for animal proteins.
- Balanced composition of macronutrients: carbohydrates, proteins, lipids.
- Rich composition of micronutrients: minerals, phytochemicals.
- In Madagascar, the groundnut is recognized and used for its medicinal virtues.
- The Bambara groundnut reaches maturity before other crops and therefore plays a role in food security during the "hungry season"
- Though it's grown mainly as a subsistence crop, it can be stored when dried and sold when needed.





Bambara bean sector:



Canning of Bambar groundnut from Madagascar



THE TRADE OF RAW AND PROCESSED BAMBARA GROUNDNUT IS MOSTLY INFORMAL

- Sold in local markets and along roadsides.
- Bambara groundnuts are bottled as snacks or processed into flour

THERE ARE FEW INITIATIVES TO FORMALIZE PROCESSING AND SALES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. FOR INSTANCE:

- Canned Bambara groundnut is available in Madagascar and
- in Zimbabwe
- Pastries are sold in shops in Zimbabwe



