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.)

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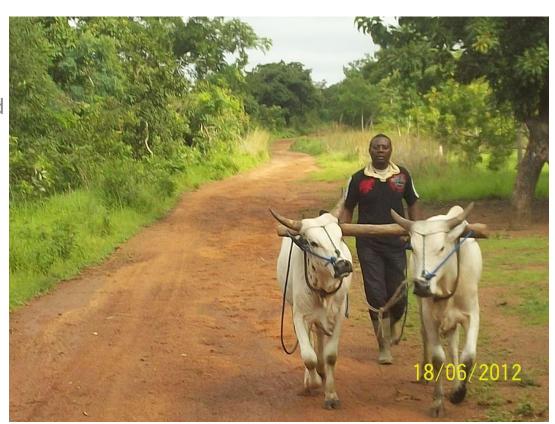
PROGRAM From my farm (Tchaoun Fora) and my organisation (ORAD), we pursue the following program:

- ➤ 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 inacceptable aspects of industrial agriculture.
- The setting up of a community garden.

RECOMMENDATIONS & PERSPECTIVES

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.

PERSPECTIVES

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

