The Research and Training Platform in Partnership “DP-PCP Agroforestry Cameroon”

A research platform for the development of sustainable and efficient agroforestry systems in Africa

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For more information
Document on the scientific framework of the DP-PCP Agroforestry Cameroon (44 p).
An innovative tool for agricultural research in Cameroon

A group of partners to strengthen research/higher education links and more effective responses to development challenges.

The will to work together to generate a new dynamic and to create a critical mass of multiple skills.

A common goal: produce scientific knowledge to more effectively meet the expectations of Cameroonian farmers.

A shared scientific topic: agroforestry systems.

A collective background

- **2002**
  4 partners from agricultural research and higher education in Cameroon decided to work together in a Research Platform in Partnership.

- **2005**
  Founding of the “Grand Sud Cameroun Research Platform in Partnership” and signing of a specific agreement for a 10 years period.

- **2005-2010**
  Implementation of research projects and activities leading to:
  - the construction of multidisciplinary research teams,
  - the establishment of participatory research approaches,
  - the setting up of experimental and training networks.

- **2010-2011**
  Assessment and thematic refocusing of the “Grand Sud Cameroun Research Platform in Partnership” on agroforestry systems.

A collegiate management

The DP-PCP Agroforestry Cameroon is managed by 2 bodies where a representative of the 4 founding institutions seats:

- an Organizing and Monitoring Committee (OMC)
- a Coordination and Animation Unit (Unit)

The Chairman of the OMC and the Coordinator of the Unit come from one of the 4 founding institutions. The Unit draws up the annual activities report and the action plan for the following year, which are both submitted to the OMC for analysis and approval.

An ambitious scientific project

The objective of the DP-PCP Agroforestry Cameroon is to contribute to improve the living conditions of rural populations in Cameroon by developing sustainable and efficient agroforestry systems.

A framework of proposals enables different teams of researchers to undertake a range of research activities on agroforestry systems. Five research topics have been adopted (Figure), with the following expected results.

- **Topic 1.** The dynamics of the different agroforestry systems are characterized and the multiple factors behind their growth, stability or, conversely their decline, are identified.

- **Topic 2.** Household strategies underlying agroforestry systems dynamics are analysed. The place, role and impact of these systems in farm management are examined.

- **Topic 3.** Agroforestry systems performances are assessed to better understand the trade-offs between the different ecosystem services provided, and to identify levers that enable their improvement.

- **Topic 4.** The possible ways to improve agroforestry systems are tested in order to design new systems, on an action-research basis using experiments and modelling.

- **Topic 5.** The economic levers within supply chains, markets and the overall environment of the farms are identified for more effective commercial development of the products and services provided by agroforestry systems.

An internationally oriented research Platform

Since 2012, the teams of researchers involved in the Platform have strengthened their partnership with:

- CNRA and the University of Cocody in Côte d’Ivoire, and the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana (CORAF project “Optimizing productivity and perennial intercrop diversity tradeoffs in West and Central African cocoa farms”);
- ICRAF and the Coffee Research Foundation in Kenya, and the Horticultural Technical Center of Tamatave in Madagascar (Europaid project “Enhancing food security and well-being of rural households through synergy between improved agroforestry systems and food crops”);
- Some bridges are currently being built between the research teams of the DP-PCP Agroforestry Cameroon and those of the DP-PCP Mesoamerican Scientific Partnership Platform “Agroforestry Systems with Perennial Crops”, located in Costa Rica, which also study coffee and cacao agroforestry systems.