

EXTENSION MODULE FOOD SECURITY IN TOGO

Experiences from the implementation of the global projects Green Innovation Centres in the Agriculture and Food Sector and Food Security and Resilience Strengthening



BACKGROUND

The second phase of the global project *Green Innovation Centres in the Agriculture and Food Sector* (GIC) began in 2019 with an implementation focus on core, extension and cross-cutting modules.

While the three core modules (local innovation systems, capacity development, sustainable agribusiness) were implemented in all country packages, some of the seven extension modules (food security, agri-finance, organic farming, natural resources, animal health, renewable energies, tenure rights) were able to supplement the respective country packages. There were three possible "implementation modes" for the extension modules: For the "integrated extension modules", the budget, implementation and reporting were the responsibility of the GIC itself and the impacts were recorded in the respective impact matrix of the CP. For the "external modules" (interface), the budget, implementation and reporting were the responsibility of another SI AGER project, which also recorded the impacts. In the "Joint Modules" (cooperation), joint implementation was carried out by the GIC and another SI AGER project, with a clear definition of who makes

which contribution (budget and implementation). The objective formulated in all modes was to provide complementary support to the GIC target group.

The GIC country package (CP) Togo (ProCIV) was one of two country packages that had a food security extension module. This was implemented by the Togo service package (ProSecAI) of the global programme *Food Security and Resilience Strengthening* (ESRS). This extension module was implemented in interface mode and ran from 2019 to 2023. This paper aims to document the experiences with the "extension module" implementation mode and the specific impacts of the "extension module for food security" in Togo.

The paper is also intended to contribute to the *Knowledge Continuity* of SI AGER's two largest global projects. Furthermore, it aims to inform the debate on 'integrated solutions' throughout the organisation, as the extension module can be seen as an early example or predecessor of an integrated solution and thus provide helpful input for the future design of integrated solutions in line with the GIZ 2028 vision.



CLASSIFICATION OF THE TWO PROJECTS INVOLVED

THE TWO GLOBAL PROGRAMMES AT A GLANCE

GREEN INNOVATION CENTRES IN THE AGRI-FOOD INDUSTRY



- 10/2014 – 03/2026
- 16 country packages
- 21 agricultural value chains

FOOD SECURITY AND RESILIENCE BUILDING



- 10/2014 – 09/2026
- 12 country packages

GOALS



- Sustainable increase in agricultural production and income for 1.6 million smallholder farmers
- Creation of 21,000 new jobs (FTE) – 50% for young people and 35% for women
- Train and educate 2,300,000 people (with a focus on women 35% and young people 20%)
- Contribution to overcoming hunger and malnutrition for a total of 2.4 million people

GOALS



- Increase the dietary diversity of 747,200 nutritionally vulnerable women (15–49 years) according to the Individual Dietary Diversity Score (IDDS)
- Improving the nutrition of 215,725 young children (6–23 months) by 10% or 15% respectively according to the Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD)
- Reduce the proportion of 50,000 supported households categorised as severely food insecure according to the Household Food Insecurity Experience Scale (HFIES) by 10%
- Better anchoring of the topic of nutrition in national and decentralised structures

APPROACH



- Dissemination of innovations along the entire agricultural value chain
- Strengthening local structures to identify, communicate and disseminate innovations
- Cross-national learning through North–South and South–South exchange formats (e.g. working groups, training courses, university cooperation)
- Complementary focus on six thematic extension modules and five cross-cutting modules

APPROACH



- Multisectoral (health, agriculture, social security)
- Improved availability of high-quality food
- Improved utilisation of available food
- Improved hygiene

DIE BEIDEN LÄNDERPAKETE IN TOGO

CP GIC: PRoCIV



- 11/2014 – 03/2024
- Budget: € 21,500,000
- Regions: Maritime, Plateaux, Centrale, Kara, Savanes

CP ESRS: ProSecAI



- 03/2015 – 09/2023
- Budget: € 19,090,000
- Regions: Maritime, Kara, Plateaux

GOALS



- Increase in income and productivity in 40,000 smallholder farms by an average of 40 % in the soya and cashew value chain and by 30 % in the peanut value chain
- Employment growth through at least 1,650 newly created jobs
- Education and training for 80,000 smallholder farmers and 3,000 members of companies

GOALS



- Increasing the dietary diversity of 28,500 women (15–49 years) according to IDDS by half or one food group
- Improving the nutrition of 7,700 infants (6–23 months) according to the Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) by 10% or 15% respectively
- Increase the proportion of women using promoted hygiene practices by 20%
- Strengthening nutrition governance at national and regional level

APPROACH



- Yield increases in the value chains soya, peanut and cashew through the use of innovations
- Improved education and training programmes for local processing and marketing
- Facilitated access to inputs, especially improved crop seedlings
- Promotion of good agricultural practices (GAP) and organic farming
- Facilitated access to market information via digital media

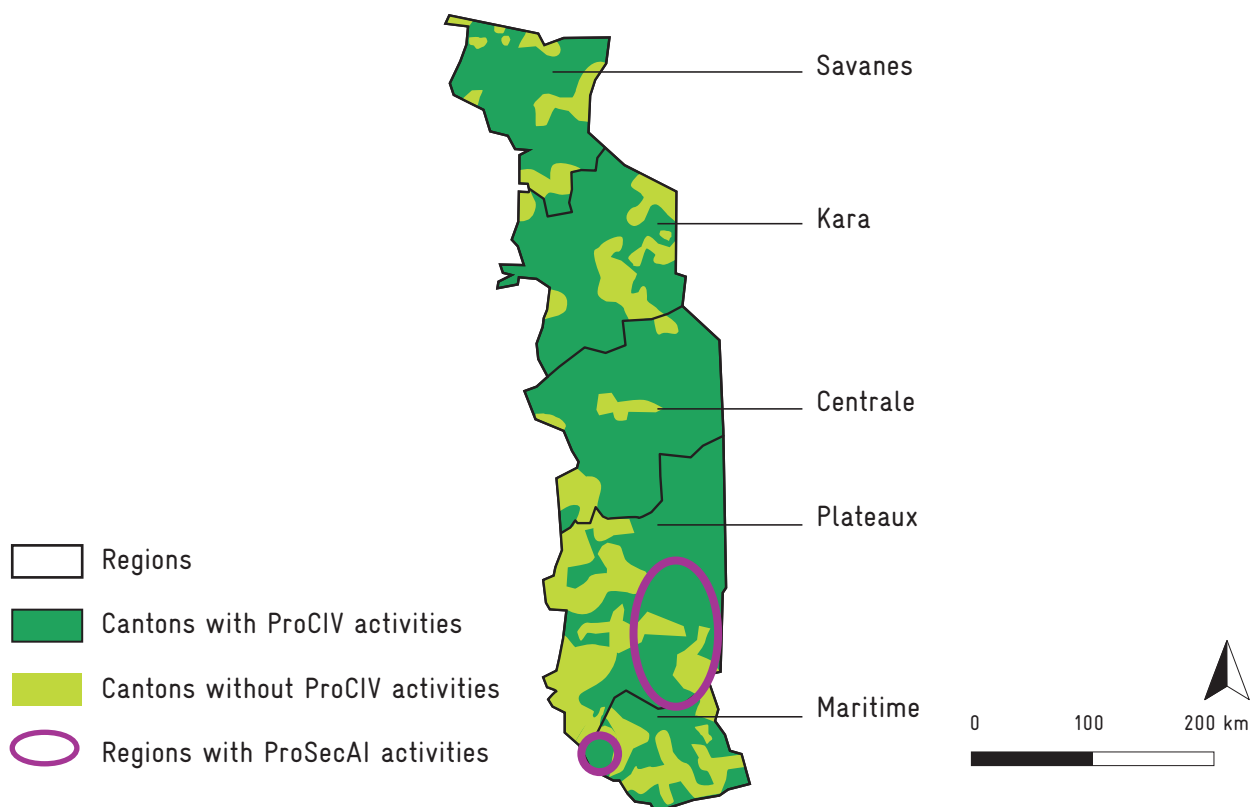
APPROACH



- Skills development of service providers in the agricultural and healthcare sector
- Access and availability of high-quality food at household level
- Behaviour change in nutrition and hygiene
- Policy advice on multi-sectoral coordination for food security and better anchoring of the topic in specialised ministries

GRAPHIC OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT AREAS

Cantons of Togo where ProCIV and ProSecAI are active



CONCEPTION AND REALISATION OF THE EXTENSION MODULE IN TOGO

The extension module was reviewed in early 2019 in close coordination between the two projects involved and incorporated into the respective proposals for amendments to the country packages. The BMZ gave its approval by June 2019. In October 2019, the joint operational plan was validated by the relevant partners, whereby the GIC steering unit was represented in the operational planning. From November 2019, monthly coordination meetings were organised between the two projects, and throughout the entire implementation process, representatives of both country packages took part in the operational planning of the other CP. In their annual project progress reports, both CPs reported on the implementation status of the extension module.

The aim of the extension module was to enable the target group of GIC Togo to benefit from the established approaches of ProSecAI in order to improve their nutritional situation. The focus was on enhancing the diversity of the diet of farming households, particularly women of reproductive age (15-49 years) and their children up to the age of 2. The target group included 4,000 women in the Maritime and Plateaux regions.

ProSecAI's measures were the same as those for its own target group. The CP cooperated with the same governmental and non-governmental advisory services for agriculture and health, trained the governmental and non-governmental advisors and intermediaries for both target groups together and utilised the demonstration field (*Farmer Field School/Champs Ecole Agricole*) and *Animateur endogène* (AE) approaches. Various challenges arose during the conceptualisation and implementation.

With regard to monitoring, it was clear that the effects for the target group of the extension module should be monitored separately, but the question remained as to how this should look in detail. Should the extension module have its own impact matrix? Or should the impacts be mapped in a separate output? Or should the values for the EM target group be shown separately for each indicator in the existing ProSecAl impact matrix? And which of the CPs should report in what way? IDDS and MAD were also defined as indicators for the extension module during the audit. However, it was unclear whether the impact of the EM should also be recorded separately at other levels, such as the module target indicator on hygiene behaviour or at output level.

Excursus – IDDS (Individual Dietary Diversity) and MAD (*Minimum Acceptable Diet*)

IDDS and MAD are module target indicators of the ESRS. They are internationally recognised indicators. The IDDS indicates on a scale of 1 to 10 how many food groups a person has consumed in a defined period (e.g. the day before the survey). This allows conclusions to be drawn about whether the child has eaten enough food and how often. If children are fed a sufficiently varied diet and often enough, it can be assumed that they are adequately nourished.

In practice, the monitoring of the extension module was integrated into the ProSecAl impact matrix by reporting the values for the EM target group separately for the module objective indicators on IDDS, MAD and hygiene practices, as well as for outputs 2.1 (cultivation of vari-

ous crops at household level), 3.1 (increase in nutritional knowledge at TG level), 3.2 (improved utilisation/processing at TG level) and 3.3 (increase in hygiene knowledge at TG level). The reporting was therefore carried out by updating the ProSecAl impact matrix as part of the annual PFB and was coordinated with ProCIV.

Various questions also arose when selecting the target group. It was a given that the target group was to be the ProCIV target group and that it was to be selected according to vulnerability criteria, for which the availability of data was limited. However, different approaches had to be combined:

ProSecAl worked primarily with women and did so at village level, i.e. all women in a village (aged 15–49) were potentially involved in the activities. ProCIV, on the other hand, worked with so-called *Champs Technique d'Innovation* (CTI), whose members did not necessarily all come from the same village, and conversely, not all producers in a village were necessarily members of the CTI. This was solved by the ProSecAl sticking to its village-based approach and working in selected villages that had a CTI (17 villages in the Maritime and Plateaux regions). Another question that arose was which structures could be used for implementation. Here, where possible, we worked together with the same NGOs. An increase in the number of staff required by the implementation partners and additional training courses had to be considered, which in this case also had an impact on the corresponding output indicators (number of intermediaries to be trained). Another learning experience in this context was to consider any additional personnel requirements for the instrument concept of the project itself at an early stage.



RESULTS AND EVALUATION OF THE EXTENSION MODULE

The expansion module achieved positive results in almost all cases. At module target level, the actual values for dietary diversity of women and meal adequacy of infants at the end of implementation not only

exceeded the respective target value for the extension module, but were also (slightly) better than the target values of the comparison group. Only the indicator for hygiene behaviour was missed (as was also the case for the 'classic' ProSecAl target group). At the level of the output indicators, three out of four target values were exceeded. Only one was narrowly missed.

THE RESULTS PER INDICATOR IN DETAIL

MODULE OBJECTIVE INDICATORS

The dietary diversity of 4,000 food-insecure women (aged 15–49) supported by the programme as part of the extension module has improved from 3.8 to 4.3 food groups according to the IDDS.



→ Actual value
Endline survey
03/2023:

4,9

The proportion of infants (6–23 months) in the households supported by the extension module who receive an appropriate meal frequency and diversity according to MAD has risen from 15% to 25%.



→ Actual value
Endline survey
03/2023:

57%

The proportion of the 4,000 women who apply 10 of the 15 nutritionally relevant hygiene practices has risen from 3% to 23%.



→ Actual value
Endline survey
03/2023:

5%

OUTPUT INDICATORS

The proportion of households in the extension module that grow 50% of the 6 crops promoted (soya, Vit. A sweet potato, moringa, papaya, Vit. A maize, leafy vegetables) has risen from 22% to 72%.



→ Actual value
Endline survey
03/2023:

88%

80% of the women supported by the programme (and additionally addressed men) confirm an increase in knowledge regarding appropriate nutrition for pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers and infants..



→ Actual value
Endline survey
03/2023:

77%

60% of the women supported adopt one of the favourable practices in the use, preparation and processing of food (new recipes, new foods, more chicken and egg in the diet, new processing techniques, etc.).



→ Actual value
Endline survey
03/2023:

73%

60% of women (and additionally addressed men) confirm an increase in knowledge regarding the propagated hygiene measures that are relevant for the nutrition and a clean environment of small children.



→ Actual value
Endline survey
03/2023:

68%

Both global programmes carried out an evaluative study (EVAS) for their respective country packages, which also dealt with the extension module. In the case of the ProSecAl EVAS, the extension module was even one of three focus topics of the evaluation.

With regard to the evaluation criterion of *coherence*, this EVAS came to the conclusion that the cooperation between the two country packages as part of the extension module has strengthened the coherence in the implementation of both projects and increased synergies within the cluster.

Under the criterion of *effectiveness*, EVAS identified the fact that ProSecAl was able to build on a better initial situation (compared to the ProSecAl target group, which was not part of the extension module) with regard to good agricultural practices among the target group as a possible success factor for the good results. In some cases, the same households were reached as by ProCIV and it was assumed that their nutritional situation was improved by the increase in income achieved through ProCIV measures. However, it was criticised at this point that there was no common M&E system and no differentiated statements on overlaps between the target groups were possible. It was therefore not possible to analyse the extent to which both projects reached the same households in reality, so that they could actually derive complementary benefits from both projects.

On the other hand, the fact that the local implementation partners in the agricultural sector (e.g. model farmers) were largely the same for ProSecAl and ProCIV was emphasised as a positive aspect, which simplified the implementation.

The *relevance and transferability* of the "extension module" strategy, in which food security measures are implemented in intervention areas of an agricultural project (without a separate focus on food security), was assessed in a differentiated manner:

If the aim is to improve the nutritional situation of the target group of another project that only has a pure agricultural or value chain focus, for example, the example of Togo has shown that the extension module instrument can be used to achieve this objective. Whether building on the work of an agricultural or value chain project is advantageous for achieving nutrition goals could not be fully clarified in the Togo case, even though there are indications of this in the results. The electronic contract/settlement file also found that an even greater congruence of the target groups could have been established and the positive results/synergies of the two country packages in the GIZ self-initiated measures could have been better documented in order to better understand the success factors and consequently be able to make recommendations for future projects.

The *sustainability* of the approach was assessed quite positively. The potentially limiting factor of the short implementation period of two years did not appear to be a problem in this specific case. According to the target groups interviewed in the electronic contract/settlement file, there were no major concerns with regard to seed production/availability, women's access to land or communication on behavioural change in terms of nutrition and hygiene. The intermediaries still felt able to support them and adapted the approach from collective awareness-raising activities to needs-based individual counselling. In addition, some health centres had integrated the costs of cooking demonstrations into their own budgets.



SUCCESS FACTORS

In retrospect, the joint planning and close dialogue between the two teams in particular were identified as success factors for the success of the extension module. The very close coordination and the joint approach right from the planning process were crucial for the good set-up and smooth start of the implementation of the extension module. The participation of representatives from the steering units in the review missions for the modification offers of both country packages and in the respective operational planning was also helpful in this regard. Continuous close (informal) coordination between the projects was also important thereafter, both at the level of the country packages and at the level of the steering units. In cases where questions and challenges arose at country package level, the steering units were also involved at an early stage, which favoured prompt clarification and resolution. Another success factor in the design and implementation was the early and clear communication with the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development on the planning and implementation status. Equally important was the mutual coordination in reporting on the extension module in the respective project progress reports.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finally, several conclusions and recommendations can be derived from the experience with the food security extension module in Togo.

One important lesson learnt concerns the monitoring systems of the projects involved in such a constellation. These should be better harmonised: If separate or different monitoring systems exist, these should be supplemented so that specific information is collected on the degree of overlap and the impact on the specific target group being addressed.

An extension module is a good instrument for leveraging synergies between projects. In this case, in addition to economic objectives (as the original focus of the global project GIC), important food security objectives were also achieved. If one asks whether the extension module instrument was more efficient in improving the nutritional situation of a vulnerable target group than if a food security project had implemented measures on its own, the experiences provide a differentiated answer:

If the alternative to an extension module for a project with a different thematic focus is a stand-alone food



security project, the extension module does not necessarily bring efficiency gains – although there are certainly indications that building on ProCIV measures has facilitated or strengthened the successes in this case and made them more sustainable. However, if we think further in the direction of modular projects that do not themselves have country measures, this approach has proven its worth. Projects with specific expertise that are confronted with declining funds in their sector should work towards leveraging

their expertise in modular integrated solutions so that they can be implemented without independent country measures and achieve positive effects in this way. From a conceptual point of view, the expansion module in Togo can thus feed important experience into the current development of “integrated solutions” as a forerunner.

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