

Project title : SAP - The traceability of the world leader at the service of cashew nut cooperatives

Project place	Project cost	Role in the project	Technical and financial sponsors	Dates
Côte d'Ivoire	10 300 €	Technical assistance	Chigata, GIZ, ACi - African Cashew Initiative	October 2013 - December 2015

Project's goals and results

Main goals

Test, evaluate and improve a traceability software with SAP barcodes dedicated to producer organizations (cooperatives)

As part of the African Cashew Initiative (ICA) and initiated by funding from the German Cooperation (GIZ), RONGEAD and its partner in Côte d'Ivoire, the NGO Chigata, have been collaborating since 2014 with the international publisher of SAP software for the deployment and evaluation of software tools developed by SAP for the professionalization of cashew marketing activities in rural areas. The project deployed by RONGEAD and Chigata involves cashew producers via their organizations, thanks to the use of a specific version of the SAP Rural Sourcing Management (RSM) tool. This tool allows you to record any transaction carried out by a producer organization, thus facilitating the monitoring and analysis of flows across the cooperative. Three producer organizations were included in the project, making a total of 1,534 producers. Each organization has dedicated agents to capture transactions within the mobile application, allowing the organization to maintain its usual management style and compare results. The designated officers received training in the use of the application, deployed on terminals provided by SAP (around twenty in total), with RONGEAD and Chigata as facilitators. The latter ensured a permanent follow-up of the behavior of the actors vis-à-vis the tool on the ground (monitoring, bugs, feedbacks of the users, proposals and discussions on the possible optimizations and improvements of the tool, reinforcement of the capacities of the agents, etc.).

Specific objectives

Rural Sourcing Management (abbreviated RSM) is a non-standard software developed by SAP for the tracking of transactions in agricultural commodities trading. It was born of the will of SAP and its partners to use technology to reduce poverty in the rural world. It is adapted according to the needs of the various partners involved in the various pilots made in Africa. It is a tool that comes in the form of a mobile application and that allows to record multiple information necessary for the management of transactions in agricultural activities.

- Work in partnership with ICA, SAP, Chigata and producer organizations (COOGES, CPNK and COWONA) in Côte d'Ivoire to implement pilot projects in the field of cashew marketing in Côte d'Ivoire Ivory
- Consider collaborating with Fairtrade Africa (FTA) and Fairtrade International (FLO)
- Collect information on transactions and prices at the producer group level in order to use it for the Rongead / Chigata Market Information System
- Distribution of information to producer groups by mass SMS

Beneficiaries

3 cashew producer organizations CPNK, COWONA, COOGES 1534 producers

Results

At the end of the two years of the pilot and several field activities, the results obtained are encouraging:

R1. The application has matured (functions more adapted to the rural world, increased flexibility, intuitive interface, etc.) thus making its use more user-friendly for the targets

R2. Improved application resulted in higher transaction volume in 2015 than in 2014

R3. The partners therefore evaluate the possibilities of evolution of the software by including the implication of new actors to lead to a more efficient system

Activities

The activities carried out by RONGEAD as a field facilitator for producer organizations are:

A1. Assist producer organizations in coordinating activities in the field

A2. Participate in periodic prototype software development cycles in consultation with SAP and organizations

A3. Collaborate with FTA and FLO experts

A4. Participate in periodic reviews and evaluations with SAP

A5. Provide feedback related to SAP field experimentation (at project launch and end of project)