International Agricultural Consulting Company

Training Farmers in Agroecology to Strengthen Their Resilience to the Impacts of Climate Change and Improve Food Security in Togo

International Agricultural Consulting Company

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228 90 34 83 84 / 92 62 07 08
direction@sicatogo.com
Lomé, Togo. Neighborhood: Bè-Kpota, opposite the mosque

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

- **SICA**: International Agricultural Consulting Company
- **NGO**: Non-Governmental Organization
- **SME**: Small and Medium Enterprise
- **USD**: United States Dollar

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Executiv Summary

The project of the **International Agricultural Consulting Company (SICA)**, an SME based in the Maritime Region of Togo, aims to strengthen farmers' resilience to the impacts of climate change. The initiative focuses on **agroecology training** to mitigate the effects of droughts and floods that threaten agricultural productivity, rural incomes, and food security.

Since 2023, the project has trained **1,500 farmers** (including 40% women and 30% youth) and aims to reach **10,000 beneficiaries by 2030**. To date, **USD 500,000** has been mobilized toward a target of **USD 5 million**. Results show increasing adoption of **resilient practices** (agroforestry, composting, water management) and an **average reduction of agricultural losses by 20%** in pilot areas.

The approach combines **traditional knowledge and modern innovations**, promotes **women and youth inclusion**, and relies on **participatory monitoring**. This experience serves as a **replicable model** for other regions in Togo and West Africa.

I. CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION

Togo, a West African country with a strong agricultural vocation, is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Agriculture plays a central role in the national economy, contributing approximately **40% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** and employing nearly **65% of the active population**. It is thus the primary source of income and food security for the majority of Togolese households.

However, this vital sector is severely threatened by increasing climate variability and extreme weather events:

- **Prolonged droughts**, reducing agricultural productivity and causing crop losses.
- **Recurring floods**, particularly in plains and valleys, destroying crops, degrading soil fertility, and undermining livelihoods.
- **Rising food insecurity**, a direct consequence of unstable production and reduced agricultural income.

These phenomena directly affect:

1. **Farming communities** across the country, whose economic and social survival depends on family farming and small-scale farms.
2. **The International Agricultural Consulting Company (SICA)**, which collaborates with producers throughout Togo and relies on the stability of their production to ensure the viability of its supply chain.

SICA thus faces a dual vulnerability:

- Widespread weakening of agricultural holdings across all regions.
- Threats to the economic and social sustainability of its own operations.

In response, SICA justifies its project by the need to adopt and disseminate **sustainable and resilient agricultural practices** nationwide. The ambition is to **transform agricultural production systems** by strengthening farmers' capacities to manage natural resources, reduce climate risks, and sustainably improve food security in Togo.

II. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The project implemented by SICA aims to **strengthen climate resilience and sustainably transform Togo's agricultural sector**. Its objectives are as follows:

Global Objective:
Contribute to the resilience of Togo's agricultural and food systems against the impacts of climate change while sustainably improving rural livelihoods.

Specific Objectives:

1. Train **10,000 farmers by 2030** in the adoption of climate-resilient and locally adapted agricultural practices.
2. Reduce agricultural losses due to droughts and floods through sustainable water, soil, and biodiversity management techniques.
3. Improve **food security and rural incomes** by increasing agricultural productivity and diversifying household income sources.
4. Promote **sustainable and environmentally friendly agriculture** through the dissemination of agroecological methods, ecosystem preservation, and reduction of emissions from agricultural activities.

III. PROJECT INTERVENTION AREA

The project is implemented in **Togo's Maritime Region**, specifically in the **Gapé-Étoé commune**, a rural area with high agricultural potential. This area was selected due to its heavy reliance on agriculture and high exposure to climate change impacts. Most households operate small family farms averaging **one to three hectares**, typically managed using traditional methods with limited access to modern inputs and technical services.

Gapé-Étoé faces major challenges threatening food security and economic stability. Alternating **prolonged droughts and seasonal floods** disrupt agricultural cycles, leading to significant yield reductions. **Soil degradation**, caused by erosion, intensive cultivation, and loss of natural fertility, further decreases productivity. The near-exclusive dependence on subsistence farming heightens household vulnerability to climatic and economic shocks, causing recurrent food insecurity.

The targeted area includes family farms, local agricultural cooperatives, and farmer groups central to the local economy. Although active, these organizations remain weakly structured

and require technical support to improve governance, organizational capacities, and modernize production practices. **Women play a key role**, particularly in vegetable production and artisanal processing, significantly contributing to food security and community resilience.

The project intervenes to **strengthen local adaptation capacities** and introduce sustainable, resilient agricultural practices. Gapé-Étoé serves as a **pilot area** to test and validate agroecological approaches tailored to local realities. Results and lessons from this phase will facilitate gradual expansion to other communes and regions, contributing to Togo's national goal of sustainable agricultural transformation.

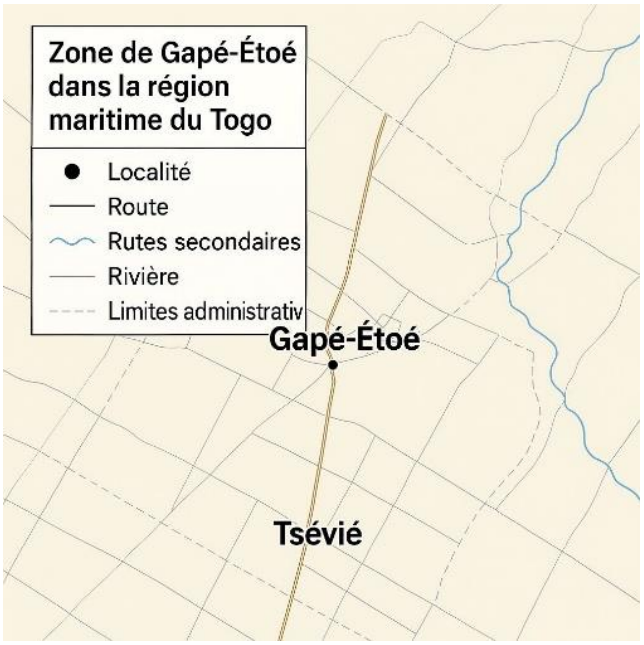

Figure 1: Map of the Project Intervention Area (Gapé Etoé, Togo)

IV. PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS AND GOVERNANCE

The project is implemented by **SICA**, an agricultural SME, which serves as the main implementing body and is responsible for overall coordination, administrative and financial management, and monitoring & evaluation.

Beneficiary farmers, primarily small family farms, form the heart of the project. Special attention is given to **women and youth**, who play a key role in agricultural production and local processing but are often underrepresented in capacity-building programs.

The project collaborates with **partner NGOs** specializing in training and technical support. These organizations provide expertise in agroecology, sustainable natural resource management, and community development. Their role is crucial in providing localized support and transferring skills adapted to local realities.

Suppliers of improved seeds and agricultural equipment are also involved to ensure farmers have access to quality inputs and tools for modernizing agricultural practices.

Public institutions, including agricultural technical services and local authorities, actively participate in project governance. They provide institutional anchoring, facilitate alignment with national policies, and contribute to the sustainability of project outcomes.

Finally, **funding partners**, including international NGOs, cooperation programs, and financial institutions, support the project through financing, logistical support, and sometimes technical assistance. Their contribution ensures scaling up and sustainability of results.

The governance of the project is **participatory and inclusive**, involving all key actors to foster collective action for agricultural resilience and sustainable development in Togo.

V. BASELINE SITUATION

Before project implementation, the agricultural situation in the intervention area was characterized by multiple challenges undermining farm resilience and increasing rural vulnerability. Agricultural yields were declining due to climatic hazards such as prolonged droughts and recurring floods. This weather instability disrupted production cycles and reduced staple crop productivity.

Farmers increasingly depended on **chemical inputs** (fertilizers, imported pesticides), which were costly, environmentally damaging, and contributed to indebtedness and vulnerability.

Agroecology and environmentally friendly production techniques were marginal. Few farmers had knowledge or training to adopt alternative methods for better resource management and climate resilience.

Local communities exhibited high **economic and food vulnerability**, with subsistence farming, low incomes, and insufficient production and marketing infrastructure leading to persistent food insecurity. This situation threatened both household stability and the viability of local supply chains.

VI. PROJECT INTERVENTION STRATEGY

The project adopts a **participatory and phased intervention strategy**, focused on **capacity building and adoption of sustainable agricultural practices**.

Key approaches include **practical agroecology training** covering sustainable water management, agroforestry, organic fertilization through composting, and integrated crop protection. Training is hands-on and tailored to local realities to facilitate rapid adoption.

Figure 2: Diagram of the Agroecological Training System

Agroecological demonstration fields serve as pilot sites and collective learning spaces. Farmers experiment with new techniques, compare results with conventional methods, and help disseminate best practices in the community.

A **participatory monitoring system** involving farmers ensures continuous assessment and adaptation of interventions to real field needs, enhancing accountability and sustainability.

Knowledge dissemination uses **local radio and digital tools**, reaching a wide audience and ensuring consistent communication of best practices.

Special attention is given to **women and youth inclusion**, key actors in agricultural transformation, to improve food security, promote social equity, and strengthen community resilience.

Funding mobilization is planned progressively, with a target of **USD 5 million** to support project activities, expand to other areas, and ensure sustainability.

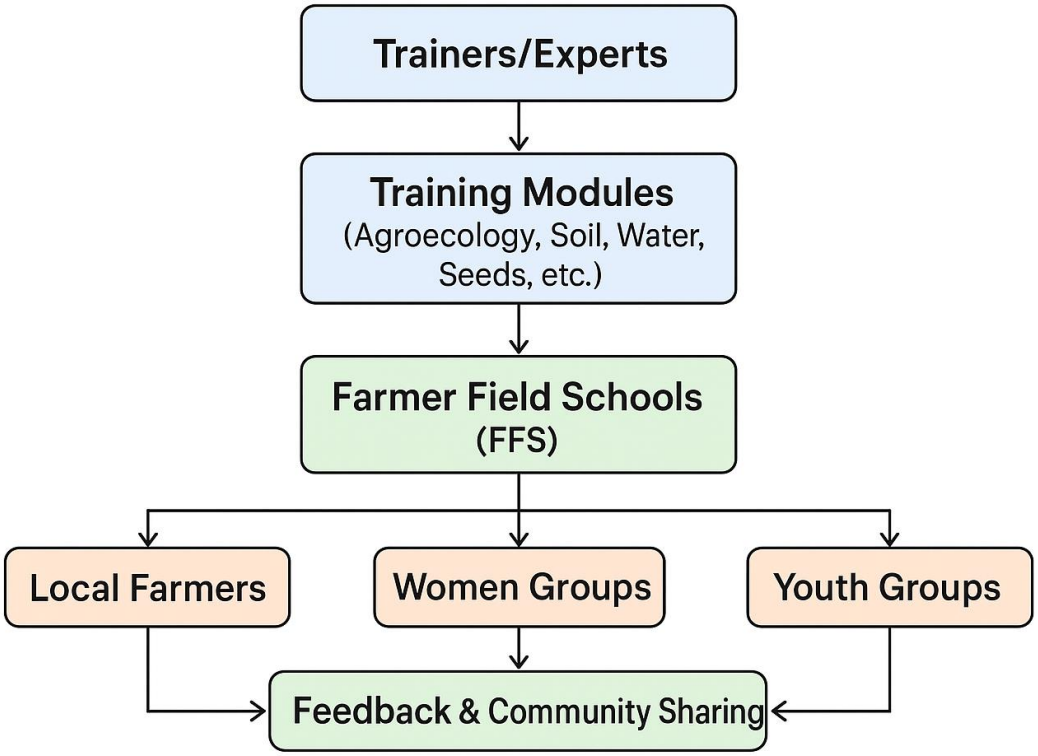

Figure 2. Diagram of the Agroecological Training System

❖ **Detailed Budget by Territorial Area (USD)**

Intervention Area	Training	Demo Fields	Equipment & Inputs	M&E	Total
Lomé & Surroundings	120,000	150,000	80,000	50,000	400,000
Rural West Zone	100,000	100,000	70,000	30,000	300,000
Rural East Zone	90,000	120,000	60,000	30,000	300,000
Total (2025-2030)	310,000	370,000	210,000	110,000	1,000,000

VII. MAIN PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The project's activities aim to **strengthen farmers' capacities** and promote **sustainable, climate-resilient agriculture**:

- **Practical and theoretical training sessions** on agroecological techniques, soil and water management, agroforestry, composting, and crop diversification.
- **Agroecological demonstration fields** for hands-on experimentation and community learning.
- **Distribution of improved local seeds** to enhance food security and reduce dependence on expensive imported inputs.
- **Awareness campaigns** via local radio, digital tools, and community meetings to encourage adoption of best practices.
- **Organizational strengthening** of farmer groups, improving governance, solidarity mechanisms, and dissemination of innovations.

Figure 3: Agroecological Demonstration Field

VIII. EXPECTED PROJECT RESULTS

By 2030, the project aims to:

- Train **10,000 Togolese farmers** in agroecological, climate-resilient practices.
- Reduce agricultural losses in intervention areas by **30%** through soil conservation, water management, resilient seeds, and crop diversification.
- Increase rural household incomes by **20%**, improving livelihoods and reducing economic vulnerability.
- Ensure **SICA's supply chain stability** through secured local production.
- Improve **community-level food security** by diversifying production systems and reducing dependence on imports.

IX. PROJECT MONITORING AND EVALUATION

A **rigorous monitoring and evaluation system** ensures transparency, effectiveness, and sustainability.
Key performance indicators include:

- Number of beneficiaries trained, with emphasis on women and youth.
- Adoption rate of agroecological practices.
- Financial resources mobilized for project activities.
- Socio-economic and food security impacts.

Operational monitoring includes quarterly and annual reports, while **independent external evaluations** at mid-term and project end assess relevance, effectiveness, and overall impact.

X. LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Key lessons include:

- **Participatory approach** enhances ownership and sustainability.
- **Integration of traditional knowledge** with modern innovations improves efficiency and acceptance.
- **Active participation of women and youth** is critical for success.
- **Continuous monitoring** ensures correct application and allows rapid adjustment.
- **Diversified funding** strengthens financial sustainability and project impact.

These lessons provide a foundation for future programs in Togo and other regions facing similar climate and agricultural challenges.

XI. ANNEXES

Supplementary annexes provide additional information and illustrate project implementation:

- **Company Form**: administrative information about SICA.
- **Visuals and Photos**: images of demonstration fields, training sessions, and beneficiary testimonials.
- **External Links and Resources**: selected online materials on agroecology and climate resilience.
- **Reference List**: documents consulted for project design and implementation.

These annexes support understanding, dissemination, and capitalization of project achievements.