

## IN THIS ISSUE

### A word from the editor

Innovative Entrepreneurship in Cameroon: The solution to creation of sustainable start-ups, by **Bibiana MBUH TAKU**

The Economic empowerment of widows in Africa: The case of Fako Division – Cameroon by **Francisca HONGLA BIAKA**

Food processing as a driver of agricultural development by **Cyril KFEBAN FONDZEVEM**

Technical & Vocational Education: Entrepreneurship, a way forward for a sustainable development and employability **Bertrand YIBUKWEN MBENG**

L'entrepreneuriat féminin est un facteur clés du développement de l'Afrique **Samiatou MFOMBAIN**

Women & Resilience by **Marie Angele ABANGA.**

L'Entrepreneuriat Agricole au Cameroun: Le rôle de l'ingénieur de procédé par Bah Yadji **MOHAMADOU**

Training of Scopelnsight cooperative assessors: A voice from Kaolack – Senegal,

**Henriette SAMBOU**

## A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

**Diversity Management & Consulting Ltd, a Cameroon based bilingual Business Development Service Provider that was founded in March 2009 has stood the test of time having survived through a harsh business environment.**



**D**iversity Management & Consulting Ltd, a Cameroon based bilingual Business Development Service Provider that was founded in March 2009 has stood the test of time having survived through a harsh business environment. As we move with giant strides towards our 9th anniversary, we have decided to do what we do best with the global business community: share business experiences and success tips.

The key to our success is the ability to anticipate the desires and needs of our customers by proposing affordable innovative services and products sustainably. Communication is one of our

premium tools and this is most important even so as we seek to be drivers rather than followers in this digital age.

We are therefore, delighted to introduce our newest tools:

The new Diversity Management & Consulting website <https://www.dmcintltd.com>. This website will guide you through our innovative business management & development solutions.

<https://cba.dmcintltd.com> is the page for our innovative capacity building solutions which brings learning to you at your chosen location, time, language and at your convenience.

Our free bilingual quarterly newsletter, the INTR'NOV will be made available to you at the click of your mouse. It will share ideas on topics of interest ranging from entrepreneurship, gender and economic empowerment of women and the girl child, Agripreneurship, youth entrepreneurship, sustainable development and capacity building.

This maiden edition of INTR'NOV has very interesting discussions with contributions from some leading stakeholders in innovative entrepreneurship, social entrepreneurship, gender & women entrepreneurship, agribusiness and food processing.

Enjoy and let us have your feedback!

**Bibiana MBUH TAKU**

**CEO/Diversity Management & Consulting Ltd.**

# Innovative Entrepreneurship in Cameroon:

## The solution to sustainable start-ups

by Bibiana MBUH TAKU

Cameroon is struggling with implementation of job creation policies aimed at reducing youth unemployment, reducing poverty and stimulating economic growth. One of such strategies has been to reduce or eliminate business registration bottlenecks to encourage the creation of Small enterprises. However, many small enterprises are being created but the truth is that the rate of extinction of such businesses before the age of two to three years has not reduced. While the ranking of Cameroon in the World Bank's "doing business" index might have improved overall over the last 4 years as of November 2017, the country's unemployment rate increased from 4.37% (2015) to 4.51% (2016). Many factors might have contributed to this increase in unemployment despite the investment incentives and creation of new businesses. What is quite apparent is that most SMEs either have difficulties taking off or they may take off and not survive beyond 2 years. This paradox can be explained by several challenges that include:

The fall in living standards of Cameroonians which reduces the ability to procure products and services offered.

The un-friendly business climate that stifles business development and growth.

The new businesses offer products and services whose value proposition do not integrate potential changes in consumers' behaviours and desires in response to current or anticipated changes in technology.

However, recently, we have witnessed the emergence of a young and vibrant category

of entrepreneurs willing to dare by using digital tools and vessels to offer products and services. A case in point is the young entrepreneurs' programs and projects of the "Silicon Mountain" of Buea. While this group has the potential of becoming a success story in leading Cameroon out of the Start-ups "still births" and "graveyard", the everlasting problem of lack of creativity looms over the "Silicon Mountain": the fear of "copy cats". Besides, just at the point when the Silicon Mountain was creating waves and attracting the interest of Cameroon diaspora, internet was suspended from the region for 3 months and this dealt a blow that was near fatal. Until this date, internet is not a given as there is still fluctuation between suspension and poor or inconsistent connectivity. Therefore digital entrepreneurship which is the order of the day in the global market is uncertain in Cameroon.

The question now is: "Could digital innovative entrepreneurship" be the remedy to the creation of sustainable start-ups? My answer is yes!:

The living standards of Cameroonians may be falling in the context of un-friendly business climate but an innovative entrepreneur should be able to deliver value proposition for products and services to an existing and/or created market capable of expanding market share within the national and regional market. Cameroon is in a "hybrid" position between the Central African Region and the Western African Region. A potential market for quality goods and services "made in Cameroon" is very huge.

Most businesses are created without prior market studies and motivated by perceived success or profitability of



similar businesses. There is no strategy to penetrate the market or create new markets. Consequently the creation may result in a "still birth" or "early death". Market studies and associated strategies are helpful but additionally creativity and innovative entrepreneurship is the solution.

An innovative entrepreneur can anticipate changes in consumers' behavior by anticipating the impact of evolution in technology on consumers' desires.

In conclusion, at the micro and macro level, innovative entrepreneurship must challenge and replace the status quo if Cameroon must attain the objective of creating sustainable start-ups as the driver of jobs creation and economic prosperity.

# ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WIDOWS

By Mrs Francisca HONGLA BIAKA



## Justification (Why?)

The Fako Division has witnessed consistent economic growth over the past years, resulting in rapid transformation. Increased commitments to women's empowerment have resulted in broad-minded dogmas. Despite best efforts, however, some gaps remain. Observations indicate towards the presence of relegation within societies which are otherwise known for their strong social fabric and spirit of kinship. One such group that requires urgent attention is of widows.

The well-being of a woman continues to be tied to her marital status whether she is single, divorced or widowed. Widows remain amongst the most vulnerable members of society. They face discrimination across the globe, irrespective of cultures, religion, ethnicity or whether they live in developed or developing countries. In a traditional patriarchal society, where the identity and value of a woman is determined through her husband, widowhood is about much more than losing a husband. From changing the way she dresses to being treated with contempt by family members, especially in her marital home, there is a lot that she has to bear, often without complaining. She becomes a social pariah barred from participating in family events and is often denied property rights. Humiliation, harassment, loneliness, abandonment there is nothing that a widow in Cameroon does not have to

encounter. However, when the going gets tough, there are those who rise up to the challenges, whatever the odds.

Article 55 of the UN Charter provides for the "universal respect for and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion". These rights are also included in the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) of 1979, the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (1967), the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against women (1993) and all other human rights treaties. Article 2 of the CEDAW puts a duty on states to "agree to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of elimination of discrimination against women"

In a number of communities in Cameroon, customary law demands that widows (especially young widows) should marry one of the brothers of the deceased or one of his male relatives or someone nominated by them. This practice is known as the levirate law and is still prevalent today amongst many communities around Cameroon. Refusal often leads to persecution (regular beatings or emotional blackmail), but agreement may also bring other traumas into the life of the widow when she becomes little more than a slave for the rest of the family especially if the person is being married into a polygamous family.

Despite the fact that the UN has made it clear that universal human rights (including women's rights) take precedence over customary law and most constitutions since 1990s discrimination in the law and in practice still persist. As members who are traditionally perceived as being a burden and ill-fated to the family, widows in the division are often relegated to a status of the 'unwanted insiders'. The 'triple burden' that they have to contend with, in the form

of stigma associated with widowhood, severe constraints on access to resources, and sexual vulnerability, makes them one of the most marginalized and vulnerable communities in the country. This is an obvious contrast to their male counterparts, who are not subject to similar socio-economic exclusion within households. The problems that confound widows are therefore manifestations of the extreme gender inequalities that are characteristic to the subcontinent, where widowhood is persistently viewed as a social stigma.

## Recommendations (How?)

Handouts in form of gifts, be it in kind or in cash will definitely not solve the economic problems encountered by widows. Economic empowerment programs have to be put in place and it involves two major interrelated components. These include microfinance & vocational/skills training. Using this integrated approach, this economic survival model has the potential to lift widows out of poverty and contribute to their economic empowerment.

### Microfinance

Microfinance is the provision of banking services, mainly loans, at a smaller scale than conventional banks. It can be considered as a financial backing, which is the provision of credit to home-based small-scale economic activities. Although small, short term loans (microcredit) are the most common service, others exist such as savings (njangis) & insurance.

### Vocational/ skills training

Recognizing that more than cash is needed to sustainably economically empower women, capacity building and skills training provides widows with a range of resources and supports to establish a microenterprise to sustain themselves and their families. In addition to loans, women are provided with skills training to aid them in setting up their businesses, according to their interests.

For example, widows seeking to raise poultry or small livestock will receive training from licensed veterinarians in breeding, nutrition, and disease detection.

Widows seeking to set up vending enterprises (buyam sellam) will be drilled on how to buy wholesale and sell retail, inventory management, and best customer service practices.

Other widows can be trained in hairdressing, soap/detergent making, feedstock production, and food production etc. Along with vocational training, financial literacy training can be given to all widows engaged in economic activities.

In addition to increasing income and economic self-sufficiency, Donors/NGOs/ Government Agencies must strive to nurture a sense of community and a group spirit of

solidarity amongst widows, whom are often isolated and marginalized.

Furthermore, representatives from the relevant government agencies can conduct informational sessions to educate widows about their rights and entitlements, including pensions, health insurance, and educational assistance for their children. Women are encouraged to support other women once they have achieved self-reliance, helping to promote sustainability as well as a thriving network of support.

Given the important role of agriculture in the economy, the Cameroon government should step up support to women working in the agricultural sector, and provide them with the necessary resources, services and extension facilities in recognition that women play a key role in terms of production, food security, and environmental sustainability

Within the context of supporting the growth of women's enterprises from SMEs to corporate businesses, agencies involved in empowering widows should put in place a facility that encourages joint ventures and partnerships among widows in business at the regional and international level.

It is essential that all members of society are treated equally whatever the marital status of the person in question. Better understanding is required of the violence endured, the humiliation experienced and the vulnerability and poverty that widows often find themselves in so that when cases do come to court, widows are given the same rights as all human beings. The legal, cultural and social status of widows should be mainstreamed in all discussions on the status of women.

## FOOD PROCESSING AS A DRIVER OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Cyril KFEBAN FONDZEVEM

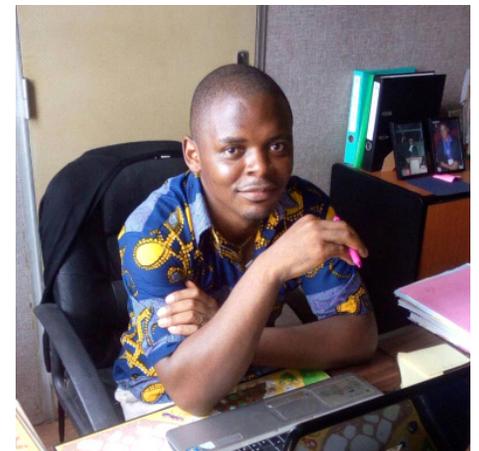
**L**arge quantities of cereals and pulses, tuber crops, fruits and vegetables go to waste in Africa. According to FAO, 18 – 30 % cereals and pulses, 30 – 45 % of tuber crops, 50-55 % of fruits and vegetables go to waste. This loss mainly occurs during postharvest handling, distribution and processing (FAO, 2011).

Constraint to market access, also poses a health risk related to mycotoxin contamination from inadequate handling of foodstuffs. Agro-processing can contribute to a reduction of postharvest losses, enhanced food safety, nutrient content and quality, as well as stability in food supply, increased shelf life and convenience by making foods easier to handle and prepare.

Developing capacity in food-processing technologies has proven to be a catalyst to crop and livestock production. Successful

processing projects in Asia, Latin America and Western Africa have demonstrated that farmers can rapidly increase their production as new markets emerge and that by adopting a demand-driven approach to the production system, a sustainable development process can emerge (ASARECA, 1998). For example, the progressive mechanization of cassava processing in Cameroon is enabling farmers to transform the bulky perishable cassava root crop into a storable, low-cost food known as gari. This has popularised gari, increased cassava production and caused gari production technology to be spreading to several localities, as there are more and more local producers of semi-automated equipment to transform the cassava at the local level.

Food processing supports the development of nutrient dense foods. For example, blending staples that are rich in carbohydrates, with foods of complementary nutritional value and applying suitable processing procedures, can lead to the creation of more nutrient-rich



energy-dense foods, which can be used as supplementary feeding, especially for infants and young children. Legumes when blended with staples increase the nutrient density because they are high in protein, minerals and vitamins and lower in starch than regularly consumed staples (USDA, 2011).

Processing increases the economic value of agricultural commodities and could

support income diversification for farming communities if properly implemented. Micro and small-scale processing may be of particular importance for smallholder farmers who can complement their food intake and other needs by extending the shelf life of commodities, especially when harvests are plentiful or markets are saturated. However, a planned programme for processing agricultural produce at the household level should be considered and implemented for households that are most at risk of malnutrition.

Constraints to the development of agro-processing industry

The development of the agro-processing sector in several African countries and perhaps in other developing countries is hampered by inadequate human capacity in food technology and equipment design and manufacture and related after sales services such as provision of spare parts and maintenance support. The cost of procuring processing equipment is generally very high, making it almost prohibitive cost-wise for setting up agro-processing enterprises, as most equipment have to be imported and are generally over-sized. Lack of appropriate packaging and absence of labeling standards also make it difficult for enterprises to produce highly acceptable and competitively-priced packaged products. Attractive presentation is critical for market penetration and consumer acceptability, especially in light of the availability of diverse, well-packaged imported foods.

Strong linkages between producers, processors, service providers and the market are critical to the success of agro-processing enterprises, but currently, such linkages are limited and weak. This is aggravated by subsistence agricultural production systems, characterised by farmers growing a variety of crops in limited volumes. This model does not support a strong agro-processing sector, which requires large quantities of a consistent supply of quality raw materials. Seasonal availability of raw materials is also problematic given the high dependence on rain-fed agriculture.

Local demand for locally processed food

products is also rather limited because of the perception of low quality, insufficient marketing and lack of awareness in many cases of the nutrient content of such products.

Diversity Management and Consulting Services

The purpose of Diversity Management and Consulting (DMC) center is to champion the development of new value-addition food businesses based on observations conducted within Africa and train youths to develop practical and entrepreneurial skills. We look forward to making a landmark that will have its impact felt in the developing economies.

Services and Facilities

DMC offers a platform for students, recent graduates and other interested individuals to venture into entrepreneurship. This is geared towards offering an insight to processing and providing technical support to boost their capacity in production, marketing and business management. The services provided by DMC to the interested potential entrepreneurs and other food industry clients include product development, training in food processing, food analysis and technical advice especially on aspects of quality management, processing and packaging.

Potential Outcomes

DMC looks forward to facilitating the development of new food processing enterprises and expanding the variety of agro-based food products on the market, derived from maize, cocoa, soy bean, plantain.

DMC is ambitious about the creation of direct jobs in production and marketing of value-added food products. This will develop a market for agricultural raw materials, enhancing farmer incomes and stimulating agricultural production.

The incumbents will receive practical training, enhancing their technical and entrepreneurial skills to strengthen business knowhow.

Given the importance of agriculture to the economies of African and other developing countries, investment in agro-processing is critical to stimulating agricultural development. An extension is being sought to inculcate and continue viability of food processing, given its relevance to the long-term development of African small and medium agro-processing enterprises and the corresponding pull for increasing agricultural productivity and earnings of smallholder farmers.

**Technical & Vocational Education: Entrepreneurship, a way forward for a sustainable development and employability** (Bertrand YIBUKWEN MBENG)



**U**nemployment is a major problem in our economy, youths who are considered to be creative and dynamic in ideas are major job seekers. Within them, some are talented with great business ideas, others have acquired skills either through vocational training or apprenticeship. Despite these potentials that if exploited or put to practice the economy will experience lots of invention, innovation, job creation and a sustainable development, there are still shocking rates of unemployment, poverty level and low living standards. Also, youths nowadays easily go from jobs that offer their competences to jobs that they know nothing about. The reason for this some will say, is the lack of Capital to invest in their domain of competence or technical know-how, which is why they would

# L'entrepreneuriat féminin est un facteur clés du développement de l'Afrique

Samiatou MFOMBAIN

*need to get involved in anything to raise money (Capital). Again, even those who struggle to raise capital lack managerial skills (i.e being organized in terms of cost, finding markets for their products as well as a good management of capital) and as a result, they become limited in vision and expansion of their technical skills to enterprises.*

*However, these common setbacks to entrepreneurship among youths like sources of financing, basic managerial skills and markets for various products or services can be addressed by both the public and private sector. The public and private sector can partner with youths or entrepreneurs through the creation of investment programs that will facilitate, guarantee or create sources of financing of their projects. More so, institutions should be created that will enhance capacity building of the young entrepreneurs. This will enable them to acquire basic managerial skills that they will use to transform their skills, ideas to goods or service as well as getting them to the market. Managerial skills will go as far as broadening their visions of wanting to build sustainable projects that can emerge to enterprises. This will lead to the job creation and a high level of employability. Again, vocation training, apprenticeship and the professionalization of higher education should also be promoted in order to impact the population with a driving force to entrepreneurship and more job creation. Entrepreneurship is a key factor to job creation, sustainable development, social conditions and should be encouraged in any aspiring economy.*



**E**n dépit de la place centrale qu'elles occupent au sein de notre société et de la famille, les femmes africaines demeurent les principales victimes de la pauvreté. Contrairement à ce qui se passe dans certains pays développés, où les suppressions de postes concernent d'avantage les hommes, la crise en Afrique réduit surtout les possibilités d'emploi des femmes, premières victimes des contractions d'effectifs. Le rôle majeur que joue les femmes dans l'économie n'est plus à démontrer. Le développement de l'entrepreneuriat féminin a un impact positif significatif sur la réduction de la pauvreté des ménages.

L'amélioration du système éducatif et l'accès des femmes à la formation tout au long de la vie sont des défis que nous devons relever. La scolarisation des filles est très à la traîne par rapport à celles des garçons. Plus de filles africaines doivent aller à l'école et elles doivent y rester assez longtemps pour acquérir des savoirs nécessaires à l'action

professionnelle.

Présente dans l'économie informelle, les femmes manquent de financement, ce qui représente un frein au développement de leur initiative entrepreneuriale. Assurer leur indépendance économique et financière est dès lors une étape indispensable afin de libérer les forces créatrices de richesse en Afrique. Nous devons favoriser la mise en réseau des initiatives, afin qu'elles puissent bénéficier des conseils des personnes possédant de l'expérience dans le monde de l'entreprise. Nous devons également créer un pont entre les porteurs de projets et les investisseurs, et favoriser toutes les initiatives qui vont dans ce sens.

Si les femmes sont victimes des inégalités et des injustices, elles sont aussi des acteurs clés du changement, puisque la pauvreté les concerne tout particulièrement. Aucun progrès véritable ne pourra être obtenu sans leur participation active.

# Women and Resilience: Personal essay via my Maternal Grandmother's Life

Marie Angele ABANGA



**R**esilience when used in human relationships, refer to people who have the ability to recover readily from illness, depression, defeat, or other kinds of adversity. According to Rose Gantner Senior Director of Health Promotion with UPMC Work Partners and a famous Wellness consultant, author and speaker: "for many women, resilience is a strength considered essential. Both women and men need resilience to deal with difficulties in life. But, women often need more resilience than men to overcome traditional obstacles placed in their way, in order to advance in the business world. Too many women, however, are not aware of the amount of resilience they do possess".

I couldn't agree less with Ms Gantner, it took me to near lose my sanity and life before it dawned on me I had all the resilience deep within to bounce back. Where did all this resilience I now have come from we can wonder? I think I have always had the resilient capacity needed to bounce back in life, I just didn't know on whose shoulders I stood, my genealogical resiliency for example and of course my own inner spirit and strength.

I want to in this paper talk about my genealogical resiliency which has largely formed the dynamic and enterprising woman I am every day growing into. I hope to equally inspire and motivate other women reading this maiden and very important newsletter by the unique

Diversity Management and Consulting Firm Limited (founded by none other but my Mother), to be aware of the characteristics of resilience and the power they have to build and maintain their own full capacity of resilience.

I am limiting myself to tracing back to my grandmother because I not only met her and adored her and learnt so much from her, but also because she set precedence several times over in her fulfilling life. Here is a recap of my grandmother Helen Atabong Asaba Fontem, classificatory princess of the Fontem Royal Dynasty of the Lebialem Division in the South West Region of the Republic of Cameroon.

It is recorded in the anthology of memories written on her demise titled "Helen Atabong Asaba Fontem: The Life and Times of a Humble Servant", that my grandma fondly known as 'Andepe' meaning Independence for her championing of both the country's independence and a woman's economic independence, was born sometimes in 1925, and brought up in the Azi Royal Palace. The foreword to this anthology is written by none other but HRM The Fon of Fontem, HRM Fontem NJIFUA. What I have summarized from the different recollections in the memoir and what I also know of my grandma is this: Grandma never went to school, but knew what women's rights ought to be.

She fought for her economic empowerment, left a failed marriage, sent her girls to school, fought for inheritance rights and became the first woman in her village to be allowed to inherit property. She rallied women into the first women co-operative ever, and was the pioneer president of women wing of the local chapter of the ruling party when the country

finally attained its independence. Is this resilience or what! This is just a recap but her powerful legacy lives on. Twelve contributors to the memoir I mentioned for Grandma talk and celebrate her hollistic prowess and central role she played in the life of the palace (as a most trusted confidant and adviser of the Fon), and that of the entire community of course not leaving out her family (including so many adopted children).

If we take a minute to look at some of the main characteristics of resilience, we could then look at our pictures and decide on what we could do to work on our resilience capacity.

## Some Characteristics of Resilience

**A sense of purpose.** Without a sense of your purpose in life, you lack a driving force. So, how do you know what your purpose is? Ask yourself: What do I do that others value? In what ways and by whom am I needed every day? What in my life has the most meaning? The answers will reveal your purpose.

**Perseverance.** Giving up is always the easy way out. Resilient people demonstrate the ability to stick to things and get them done.

**Equanimity.** Stay balanced. Understand that regardless of the situation it is never entirely bleak nor entirely positive. There's a middle ground that allows you to see all possibilities and will help to give you the optimism needed to make things better.

**Self-reliance.** Belief in yourself needs to be realistic to be helpful. Remember the challenges in the past that

you have met successfully and those that were less successfully met. You can learn from both experiences and develop problem-solving skills that help to build self-reliance.

Existential aloneness. To be truly resilient, you need to be able to live with yourself. You can also call this, "being comfortable in your own skin." Truly resilient people need to have this ability. You need the sense that, if necessary, you can go it alone and take a course of action that may not be popular, but which you believe in.

#### How to Maintain Resiliency

Take care of yourself. Feeling good is an essential part of feeling able to be resilient. Eat right, exercise, and try to stay in good health. Dr. Wagnild calls it, "Putting your own oxygen mask on first." You're no good to yourself, your business or anyone else if you don't take care of yourself.

Seek and give support. Giving back to others is a way to reinforce resilience in your life.

Remain fully energized in life. Stay engaged, stay involved, keep doing the things that interest you.

Balance work and life. Too much work or too much fun can throw off your balance.

I encourage us all to always remember, that our resiliency always gets tested and affirmed as a result of some challenge. It is often not possible to have an empowering and resilient journey while clinging on to a 'comfort zone or lane' – we must dare to dare just like my beloved Grandma Helen Atabong Asaba did.

# ENTREPRENEURIAT AGRICOLE AU CAMEROUN: LE ROLE DE L'INGENIEUR DE GENIE DES PROCEDES

Bah Yadjji MOHAMADOU



L'agriculture familiale ne parvient toujours pas à satisfaire convenablement les besoins alimentaire et économiques des populations concernées. D'où la nécessité de la faire évoluer en agribusiness. Mais ce passage rencontre une tonne de difficultés d'ordres naturel, technique, économique et culturelle. Les contraintes qui bloquent la production sont entre autres l'accès aux intrants (engrais, semences améliorées), difficultés d'accès aux techniques agricoles modernes, vieillissement de la population rurale et insuffisances des infrastructures d'appui au développement du secteur rural (route, magasins de stockage), difficultés de commercialisation de la production due à la chaîne de commercialisation trop longue. Il existe un potentiel que l'agriculture offre mais les producteurs ne sont pas capables de transformer afin de diversifier les besoins des consommateurs. Ainsi nous allons vers une perte progressive de la place de notre agriculture sur le marché domestique car nous importons aujourd'hui plus que nous en consommons.

Le génie de procédés se présente comme une solution sine qua nomen à ces difficultés sus mentionnées. Aujourd'hui l'ingénieur en

génie de procédés est en prise directe avec les grands défis de notre pays qui se voit émerger en 2035 : maîtrise de l'énergie, économie numérique, utilisation optimale des matières premières, transformation/production. Et ce dernier possède les atouts afin de répondre aux attentes de notre société particulièrement dans les domaines de la production, ingénierie, études, recherche et développement mais aussi de stimuler les exportations des produits de consommation dans la sous-région.

Le développement de l'agriculture rural en agribusiness peut être boosté grâce à l'apport de l'ingénieur de procédés.

Le Cameroun renferme une grande diversité en matière du génie de procédés grâce à son Ecole Supérieure des Sciences Agro industrielle (ENSAI) de l'université de Ngaoundéré, qui forme des ingénieurs de conception en Agro Industrielle, en Maintenance Industrielle et productive, en Chimie Industrielle et Génie de l'environnement. Ces ingénieurs interviennent durant tout le processus d'élaboration, production, transformation distribution et certification du produit finis destiné à la consommation interne et l'exportation.

Intégrer l'ingénieur de procédés dans le domaine de l'agriculture Camerounaise permettra de donner les moyens techniques tout en créant les conditions meilleures de la production en passant par la transformation jusqu'aux produits finis.

Sur la chaîne de production l'ingénieur intervient durant tout le processus :

De la mise en place du projet en élaborant un cahier de charge bien défini en accord avec la ligne de production de l'agriculteur.

La prise des connaissances des difficultés rencontrées par chaque type d'agriculteur (types de cultures envisagées) en mettant sur pied un cahier de charge pour relancer et assurer un bon rendement sur la continuité. Ceci va passer par les points tels que l'essai de nouveaux produits à l'échelle de laboratoire en faisant référence aux plans d'expériences et formulations, le choix de types de cultures pour chaque zone, le type d'intrants afin d'optimiser le rendement tout en mettant l'action sur le respect de l'environnement.

Mises en place d'un processus de technologie propre allant dans le sens d'améliorer les techniques précédemment utilisés par les agriculteurs locaux, tout en donnant une ouverture sur la transformation des produits agricoles en nouveaux produits finis pouvant s'imposer sur le marché de proximité et envisager une extension sur le marché de la sous-région.

L'ingénieur de procédés a aussi les capacités de concevoir les équipements de transformation et de fabriquer les équipements « made in Cameroon » nécessaires. Il facilite la procédure de certifications du procédé auprès des autorités compétente en préparant les documents d'autorisations détaillés et le manuel d'assurance qualité sur le processus de transformation et l'hygiène et qualité des produits finis.

Cette transition de l'agriculture familiale en agribusiness va permettre de créer des emplois nécessaires pour enrayer le chômage endémique des Camerounais, réduire l'exode rural en facilitant l'autonomisation et la responsabilisation de la jeunesse. Nous devons nous inscrire dans une vision prospective pour booster ce secteur, en assurant un véritable changement structurel au niveau de l'agriculture rural, passage des

techniques rudimentaire à des procédés plus modernes répondant aux exigences des marchés mondiaux et promouvoir aux cotés des petites exploitations agricole l'émergence de grandes exploitations susceptible de constituer un socle solide au développement de l'entrepreneuriat des jeunes, de donner à ce secteur les moyens de transformer ces produits par eux même et de se moderniser. Cet appui de l'ingénieur de génie de procédés va renforcer sur le plan technique les subventions en milieu rural obtenu du gouvernement.

Ainsi le gouvernement Camerounais et les institutions d'appui doivent désormais faire intervenir l'ingénieur de génie de procédés dans les différentes politiques de stratégies d'accompagnement et de renforcement de capacité des agriculteurs et les organisations des producteurs. Ceci va générer des défis importants mais aussi les opportunités, pour les économies en développement et en transition dans lesquelles le secteur agro-industriel se conforme à une compétition de plus en plus rude et se heurte à la volatilité des marchés devant répondre à l'évolution des marchés mondiaux et promouvoir l'emploi durable dans le secteur agro-industriel.

## UNE VOIX DE KAOLACK: FORMATION DES EVALUATEURS SCOPEINSIGHT

Henriette SAMBOU



**L**a formation sur les méthodes d'évaluation selon l'approche SCOPEINSIGHT avec la Formatrice Mme BIBIANA TAKU m'a fait passer des moments intenses qui ont beaucoup changé ma vie personnelle et professionnelle. En effet, cette formation m'a donné la force mentale et les aptitudes professionnelles requises pour évaluer quatre (04) Structures dont deux (02) Unités de transformations et deux (02) Organisations des producteurs de mil dans ma zone d'intervention . La réussite de ce pari n'était pas évident au départ mais mon abnégation et l'expérience acquise ont renforcé ma confiance en mes capacités à réaliser toutes sortes d'évaluations ici au Sénégal et partout ailleurs.

Merci à l'équipe SCOPE INSIGHT et à Bibiana, une grande professionnelle évaluatrice en SCOPEINSIGHT que je suis devenue aujourd'hui. J'ose en ce moment dire que grâce à cette formation reçue, je suis capable d'évaluer toutes sortes de structures mise à ma disposition pour une évaluation et même créer ma propre entreprise que j'évaluerai chaque année avec objectivité. Merci beaucoup à Mme BIBIANA AKU et LINDA ANN et même à SCOPEINSIGHT pour ce que cette grande personne que vous avez fait de moi.