



Cooperative Business School (CBS) 2.0 Youth

ABF – Business Support Facility for Resilient Agricultural Value Chains

General context and approach

Since 2010, more than 1.9 million African farmers have been trained in Farmer Business School (FBS). Several evaluations reveal that FBS triggers the registration of producer organizations. Individual entrepreneurs achieve more market power and economies of scale if their producer organizations provide business services to them professionally. To seize this opportunity, the now concluded Sustainable Smallholder Agri-Business Program (SSAB) developed with support from the European Union the Cooperative Business School (CBS) in 2016. Agri-Business Facility for Africa supports interested parties to introduce, customize and manage CBS in large scale.

CBS is a one-week training for management teams of producer organizations. CBS builds on the FBS and PBS training. Participants develop their knowledge and skills with practical examples about business services. Technical and economic viability are premises for successful business services

CBS in a nutshell – Form follows function!



Project name	Agri-Business Facility for Africa Co-implementing the Joint Action "Business Support Facility for Resilient Agricultural Value Chains"
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Implementing Partners	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

CBS principles and success factors

The comprehensive CBS training handbook covers:

- Market orientation and understanding of value chains,
- Concepts of viable business services for members, their costs, and benefits,
- Potentials and approaches for youth employment,
- Strategic and financial management of agricultural producer organizations,
- Institutional frameworks, leadership, and group administration,
- Toolkit and Excel toolkit for application.

CBS can easily be adapted to different value chains and contexts of other countries. This makes the development affordable for programs, organizations or companies that want to strengthen agricultural producer organizations and their service delivery.

The following are CBS success factors:

- Adult and discovery learning approach
- Building on FBS training
- Focus on business services
- Handbook in simple language
- 50 Tools to develop, plan and implement business and technical services

Outreach

- 5 country curricula with emphasis on cocoa.
- CBS has been adapted to rice by CARI and Green Innovation Centre (GIC) in Nigeria, to potato and maize by GIC in Nigeria, to cocoa and potatoes by GIC in Côte d'Ivoire and Cameroon respectively, non-timber forest products by PROFE Cameroon, Pineapple by PRODRA in Togo, and coffee, honey and spices by PRADA in Madagascar.
- More than 19,300 managers and members from more than 3,000 producer organizations have been trained.

- Requests to support introduction of CBS in Ghana, Tanzania, and Ethiopia.
- CBS with emphasis on Youth employment developed with Sector program Youth Employment and SNRD Africa.

Impacts

CBS is effective. This is shown by the first evaluation in 2018 under the now concluded program SSAB. Impacts reported by trained producer organizations comprise:

- More transparent management and administration
- More viable and attractive services for members
- Group sales of cocoa have more than doubled thanks to GAP, better quality and prices negotiated
- Members receive better input at lower prices from bulk procurement
- More members and mergers of cooperatives
- New buyers and off-taking agreements
- Access to loans from banks.

SOCOOP PROFICAN (Cameroon):

'Following FBS in 2015 and CBS training in 2018, we improved our group management. Members are proud of changes in their life thanks to increased income: All members pay school fees, 56 members opened accounts, 26 renewed their houses, 68 bought mobile phones and 16 motorcycles. Group sales of 91 tons (2017) reached a value of 78,168,000 FCFA. In 2018, we developed an internal credit system on 22 million FCFA with support of a buyer. We have aligned with OHADA, the corporate law of francophone countries in West and Central Africa.'

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