

A. OVERVIEW

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

❖ Health & Nutrition Program

- **Training women animators of Dékpo and Kissamey on how to produce moringa powder.**

In order to make the Nutrition Unit of Dékpo epicenter operational, training was organized from Monday 26 to Friday 30 September 2016 for 26 women/men animators including 5 men and 21 women (12 participants came from Dékpo and 14 from Kissamey). The involvement of animators from Kissamey epicenter allowed them to get training with the view to starting moringa powder production in their epicenter as an income generating activity.

- **Producing dried Moringa leaves powder in the epicenters of Avlamè, Wawata and Gohomey**

Activities aiming to promote Moringa started with the production of dried Moringa leaves powder in the epicenters of Avlamè, Wawata and Gohomey. In total, 3,125g of powder were produced in Avlamè, 68 kg in Wawata and 25 kg in Gohomey. The powder produced in the three epicenters was made available to children under 5 who are monitored as part of the Health and Nutrition Program's activities at the epicenter of Avlamè and at the health units of the epicenters of Kissamey and Dasso.

- **Renewal of the Managing Committee of the Health Center (COGECS) of Gbegourou epicenter**

A joint mission involving THP-Benin staff and the staff of the Parakou-N'dali sanitary zone allowed organizing the village General Assembly for the renewal of COGECS following the recent resignation of the former president of the committee. That assembly gathered participants from all the villages and hamlets of the area covered by the health unit of Darnon (GUESSOU, DARNON, ATAGARA, Camp Peulh, and Douroubé), local officials of Darnon (village chief

and councilors) and the board of the epicenter committee. Thus, in line with the procedures and texts of the health zone on the composition and the functioning of COGECS in the Republic of Benin, the Managing Committee of the epicenter's Health Unit was elected and established. It must be emphasized that only the position of president and treasurer were renewed.

▪ **Sensitization of partners on integrated sexual education – HIV/AIDS control**

A total of 03 sessions of sensitization were organized in the epicenter of Bétérou. In total, 824 partners including 502 women took part in it, coming from the 10 partner villages of Bétérou epicenter.

▪ **Vaccination campaign at the epicenter and in the villages of Bétérou and Kissamey**

A Vaccination campaign is underway in the epicenters of Bétérou and Kissamey for the 3rd quarter and beyond. This campaign is led by the Heads of the epicenters' Health Units with the support of women Health and Nutrition animators across partner villages. An average of 1,500 children is expected to be vaccinated in each epicenter by the end of the campaign.

❖ **Micro Finance Programme**

▪ **VCA workshop for the sensitization of loan recipient partners of the rural banks**

Five Hundred Fifty Three (553) partners including 410 women loan recipients from the 14 rural banks were trained and sensitized on the efficient management of loans and a good monitoring of their activities. Those sensitization/training sessions allowed reminding loan recipients of need to strictly respect the loan reimbursement deadlines to ensure the rural banks' cost-effectiveness. The sessions were run by the bank managers and the credit committees and aim to build the capacities of loan recipients on how to manage loans and ensure the profitability of their activities. This activity also aims to support loan recipients to generate substantial revenues from their activities so as to pay back their loans.

▪ **Rereading and correcting procedure manuals in order to submit applications afresh for the licensing of the rural banks**

A consultant was recruited to have a fresh reading of and to correct the procedure manuals so as to conform them to remarks of the agency surveilling Decentralized Financial Services as part of preparations for a fresh license application for the rural banks.

❖ Social Mobilization and Education Program

▪ **Legal recognition of the Association Epicenter of Bétérou**

The Association Epicenter of Bétérou was registered during the third quarter of 2016 by the Parakou administrative offices. The association's registration number is 2016/065/PDB/SG/SAG/DASCCS of 07 September 2016. With that achievement, it can be said that all the indicators with a fatal nature are reached for the epicenter's self-reliance.

▪ **ICT training for the youth**

A total number of 122 young people including 49 girls took part in an ICT training organized at the ICT centers of the epicenters of Avlamè, Ouissi, Kissamey, and Akpadanou. Indeed, the youth were mobilized during the school holidays to learn the use of computers in the training centers established to that effect.

▪ **Monitoring the output of VCA workshops at the epicenter of Offè**

The VCA sessions held during Q2 in Offè have induced, as a token of the epicenter partners' commitment, the establishment of a community farm per village. THP-Benin provided the required for an agreed farming area of 41 ha of Moringa and short cycle maize has been grown on 35 ha.

▪ **Strengthening leadership in the priority epicenter**

A total number of 87 people including 33 women in Avlamè, 95 people including 36 women in Bétérou and 127 people including 48 women in Kissamey have been trained during an exchange and sharing session on basic elements, planning basic notions so that they could wisely prepare for their imminent self-reliance and develop the 2017 annual budget.

▪ **Starting the literacy process in Dasso and Lahotan**

A total of 1,400 learners distributed in 40 centers (including 700 in Lahotan and 700 in Dasso) have been enrolled to take part in the literacy classes which will begin in Q4 2016. To that effect, the required contacts have been taken and discussion were held with municipal officials in charge of literacy at Savalou and Ouinhi for the effective start of the training/refresher training since the literacy classes open from the beginning of Q4 2016.

❖ WEP Program

▪ **Talks with model mothers, religious leaders and local officials of priority epicenters for the establishment of village councils for the preservation of children's rights and to fight against violences done to women (VDW)**

A total of 41 people participated in those talks. It was a participatory process, including brainstorming, presentations, testimonies, and syntheses on various subjects such as:

- Women and girls's socio-economic status in Benin, mainly in the northern area;
- causes and consequences of men – women inequality;
- forms and impact of VDW (including child marriage) on strengthening gender inequality and poverty;
- basic and universal rights of children;
- Provisions of the law 2011-26 of 9 January 2012 on the prevention and the repression of violences made to women and girls in the Republic of Benin.

At the end of these exchanges, the village council was established. It includes local officials, religious leaders and notables, community relays, members of board of administration which will lead epicenter activities from self-reliance. At Bétérou epicenter, the board of administration has been charged to ensure the coordination of the actions of the village councils. An action plan will be developed for sensitization actions to be conducted among partner populations against VDW.

▪ **Sensitization in the epicenters to promote women/girls's rights and to fight against VDW**

Today 69% women in Benin have faced at least a case of violence in their life. These violences include psychological violences, forced marriages, sexual aggression, kidnappings, material privations, blows and wounds or mutilations (reliefweb.inf, 2011). Given that situation, the WEP program conducted actions to promote women/girls's rights and to fight against VDW during the current quarter. Nine (09) epicenters were targeted as part of the interventions including: Avlamè, Kissamey, Bétérou, Dasso, Akpadanou, Zakpota, Ouissi, Tré and Dékpo epicenters. Among the activities conducted, there are capacity building sessions and educative talks on VDW. The aim is to eventually reduce gender related inequalities as well as VDW (namely verbal, physical and sexual violences) among partner communities. In total 349 people participated in that activity. Populations' participation in each epicenter is as follows:

- Bétérou : 30 participants including 11 women (09 relays, 04 peers, 04 model mothers and 13 members of the board of administration) ;
- Avlamè : 33 participants including 12 women (11 relays, 12 peers, 09 local official and 13 members of the board of administration)

- Zakpota : 46 participants including 23 women (26 relays, 11 local officials and 09 members of the board of administration)
- Dasso : 51 participants including 17 women ;
- Akpadanou : 39 participants including 21 women ;
- Kissamey : 61 participants including 33 women (14 relays, 14 model mothers, 20 local officials and 13 members of the board of administration) ;
- Dékpo : 58 participants including 16 women (28 relays, 19 local officials and 11 members of the board of administration) ;
- Ouissi : 56 participants including 19 women ;
- Lahotan : 33 participants including 12 women.

▪ **Organization/performance sketch/telefilm on risks and negative effects of early marriage as part of the beginning of activities of the Project “Her Choice ” across the targeted epicenters**

THP-Benin implements the Project “Her Choice” which aims to fight against early marriage and genital mutilations over 5 years (starting from 2016). This year, the Project is implemented in 03 epicenters (Klouékanmè, Lahotan and Gbégourou). Among the activities planned for this year is the staging of an educative sketch on the manifestation and the negative effects of early marriage.



Representation theatrale effet negative mariage enfant à Gbégourou

So, a professional comedian has been recruited to write and stage a play on the causes and negative impacts of early marriage. The play entitled “Unchained Destiny” involved the drama performance group “le BAOBAB” in the writing and the staging of the scenario in the epicenters of Klouékanmè, Lahotan and Gbégourou. “Le BAOBAB” have also trained young girls and boys partners of the epicenters mentioned above on how to produce drama for two days . They include:

- 04 girls and 06 boys at the epicenter of Gbégourou;

- 05 girls 08 boys at Lahotan ;
- 05 girls and 05 boys at Klouékanmè ;

The play "UNCHAINED DESTINY" was staged in the epicenters with a strong involvement and participation of local officials and partner populations. The youth trained also staged in their respective epicenters a play entitled "In the Skin of a Woman," inspired by "Le BAOBAB" group and adapted to the realities of each community. The population mobilized included women/girls, men/boys, Old Men, local officials, wise men/notables and religious leaders, representatives of CPS and other partner organizations within the communities, etc. It is estimated at more than:

- 300 people in Klouékanmè (including more than 180 women) ;
- 200 in Lahotan almost 120 women ;
- 800 in Gbé gourou including more than 500 women.

The impacts expected from that activity have been achieved in a wide range and translate in:

- a large mobilization at low cost in the 03 epicenters in inspite of the activity taking place in a agricultural production season.
- denouncing a social fact of which everyone is accomplice and guilty at various levels and degrees blatantly and poignantly;
- the emotional shock provoked at the level of all social groups: children, youth, women, men, local officials, religious leaders, etc. (some spectators were so moved that they wept);
- the commitment of numerous local stakeholders to join THP-Benin in combating the phenomenon in their community;
- the wish of populations and local officials to see THP-Benin support the replication of that activity in all epicenters and partner villages;

- the state of general satisfaction among populations regarding the choice of "drama" as a communication tool on the subject.



- Vue partielle pendant le theatre

❖ Food Security Program

▪ **Working session with the Managing Committee of Agricultural Material of GBEGOUROU (COGEMA) : Assessment of the use of the tractor for the 2016-2017 agricultural campaign**

In order to inform the GBEGOUROU epicenter committee on the activities of COGEMA for the 2016-2017 campaign, an accountability session was organized on 02 August 2016 in the meeting room of the epicenter. All the committees of the epicenter (village committee, pole committee and coordinating board) and 03 village chiefs (DARNON, BINANSSI and ALAFIAROU) took part in that session. Indeed, agricultural materials (tractor, plough and rotavator) made available to the epicenter of GBEGOUROU by THP-Benin for the mechanization of farming operations in the epicenter allowed ploughing in total 67 hectares in 5 villages and in support to 124 farmers for the current farming campaign.

▪ **Organization of reforestation activities by the youth of Klouékanmè epicenter**

With the technical support of the communal service in charge of forestry and the protection of living environment, the youth of Klouékanmè epicenter took the initiative to undertake reforestation on the road of Klouékanmè epicenter. That initiative is taken by the epicenter's youth committee and has been supported by THP-Benin who financially supported the acquisition of plants to be

put in the ground. The technical aspect has been taken into account by the foresters. In total 400 eucalyptus plants have been planted as part of the initiative.

❖ Entrepreneurship Development Program

▪ **Participation of THP and its entrepreneur partners in the Independence and Innovation Fair 2016**

Seven (07) small entrepreneurs including 02 women from the epicenters of Kpinnou, Wawata, Akpadanou and Tré participated in the Independence and Innovation Fair 2016. The fair which run from 18 July to 07 August 2016 at the General Mathieu KEREKOU Stade de l'Amitié in Cotonou aimed to (i) improve visibility of THP-Benin and epicenters' micro companies (ii) improve the turnover of epicenters' small entrepreneurs while presenting quality products and well packaged (iii) explore business relationships. THP-Benin's participation in that fair also aims to support the Agency for Promoting Investments and Exportations (APIEx) in its objective of ensuring the promotion of products made in Benin. During that annual commercial event, participating entrepreneurs exhibited their various products and established profitable business links with visitors and other entrepreneurs. They also visited other vendors at the fair in order to improve the quality and penetration of their products. The partners involved in the fair were satisfied with the turnover got from it and the expansion of their markets to new clients.

▪ **Sensitization session of south and center epicenter partners on entrepreneurship incubation**

In total, 366 partners including 188 women were impacted by the sensitization on entrepreneurship incubation across 11 epicenters (Kpinnou, Dékpo, Gohomey, Klouékanmey, Avlamè, Za-kpota, Dasso, Lahotan, Ouissi, Tré, and Wawata). The aim of the activity is to get participants to have a sound knowledge of attitudes and behaviors which inhibit or make their income generating activities prosper. Through group works, participants identify realities and social behaviors that inhibit agricultural entrepreneurship development and those that allow it to prosper. On the ground of that knowledge they develop alternative solutions to adapt their cultures, attitudes and behaviors to entrepreneurship principles. Following that session, some meetings were planned to be organized at village level to help create a conducive environment for the emergence of sustainable enterprises, on the one hand, and to identify dynamic relays to ensure the

sustainability of the Program's actions.



Séance sensibilisation à Lahotan

▪ **Working session with Mono/Couffo epicenters' entrepreneurs on their communication tools in the framework of an open house**

Following the coaching session conducted with entrepreneurs of the epicenters of Kpinnou, Gohomey, Kissamey, Dékpo, and Klouékanmè in June 2016, a working session was organized on 26 September at Kpinnou epicenter. That session, attended by 14 entrepreneurs, aimed to assess the level of readiness and to identify partners' needs in order to contribute pertinent solutions for a successful Open House (OH). After presenting their difficulties related to the designing of communication tools, it has been decided that all the partners who wish to exhibit their products at the OH must finalize and send their communication tools proposition to the Program no later than 15 October 2016 for the production of the models. External organizations which operate in the same geographical area as the epicenters wishing to partake in the OH have been listed by the entrepreneurs so that invitations might be sent to them. Finally, it was decided that a documentary should be produced on the activities of the five epicenters' small entrepreneurs. That documentary which is to be shown to OH participants the day of the event will enlighten them on small entrepreneurs' difficulties and the activities of those epicenters.

▪ **THP's support to the training of the young MAJs of ABPF on the prerequisite of entrepreneurship**

To support the youth in human capital development, ABPF requested THP's support to the workshop they organized from 19 to 28 September 2016. That 8 day training (which devoted 03 days to entrepreneurship run in three session with 03 groups of youth on 19, 22, and 26 September), aimed to contribute to effectively empower the adolescents and youth of MAJ (Youth Action

Movement). The training sessions allowed 91 participants to understand what the prerequisite for entrepreneurship are, to discover available opportunities existing in entrepreneurship in Benin, and to take the commitment to create and manage enterprises. Finally, ABPF thus requested THP through its Entrepreneurship Development Program to give a support for the monitoring of those young people on the ground.

▪ **Participation in the International Exhibition of Innovation and Opportunities (SIIP)**

From 21 to 23 September at the Palais des Congrès in Cotonou, an International Exhibition of Innovation and Opportunities (SIIP) was organized by MIRINO Communication. THP-Benin responded to the invitation and was represented by two (02) Program Officers. The event's objective is to create conducive framework for meetings, opportunities, negotiations, workshops, training, coaching and stands for advertisement and exhibition of products and services. In total, seven (07) themes were developed: (i) the 21st century entrepreneur: psychological and managerial qualities, (ii) commercial exchanges in the framework of regional economic unions (UEMOA, ECOWAS): Opportunities and threats, (iii) Governance and companies' performance: the stakes of the OHADA law, (iv) Management and leadership of companies' executives and managers, (v) Certification system, certification product: case study of IS 9001 version 2015, (vi) Companies taxation in Benin and Public-private partnership approaches, what must be known and how to resort to it, (vii) Start up Small and Average Companies and Small and Average Industries in Benin facing digital development and the need to protect their inventions: what procedures are there and steps to be taken. At the end of the Exhibition, a certificate for participating was given to THP-Benin.

❖ **Monitoring and Evaluation Program**

▪ **Conducting data collection as part of the final internal evaluation in the epicenters of Bétérou, Avlamè and Kissamey.**

In total, 806 households were interviewed in the framework of that data collection across 03 epicenters. In each epicenter, the collection impacted all partner villages. In addition to administering the questionnaire to households selected at random (quantitative method), group discussions were organized to add a qualitative aspect to the evaluation and will allow answering some questions which will arise from the processing of the quantitative data. In total, 07 thematic group discussions were organized in each epicenter including: 02 group discussions with the youth, 02 with women and 02 with men.

▪ **Capacity building for the epicenter monitoring and evaluation animators**

A total, the capacities of of 61 animators (including 10 women) were built during this quarter. Indeed, in the imminent prospect of the self-reliance of 03 THP-Benin epicenters, a capacity building session was organized in each epicenter on the notions of planning and monitoring and evaluating epicenter activities in order to facilitate the implementation of 02 activities at epicenter level.

CHALLENGES

▪ The main challenge of the quarter is taken by the Mobilization Program which saw through the registration process of the Association Epicenter of Bétérou. In effect, at the outcome of the administrative processes and formalities required, the epicenter of Bétérou has acquired its institutional self-reliance and has a license delivered by competent authorities. It thus turns, in line with the law of 1901 on non trading organizations, an Association recognized by the State, named "ASSOCIATION EPICENTRE DE BETEROU"

INNOVATIONS

▪ One of the innovations of this quarter is that the new approach in building epicenters allowed identifying and determining in advance villages, in Offè, where epicenter compartments had to be built to respond to needs efficiently and with precision. The advantage in this is that THP-Benin will not have to make any unproductive investment as the years go by.

▪ During the quarter, the Entrepreneurship Development Program took an initiative called the youth entrepreneurship incubation strategy which allows analyzing attitudes and behaviors which could inhibit or facilitate the success of entrepreneurship. The initiative aims to determine the young people committed to entrepreneurship on the one hand and to make small entrepreneurs emerge.

▪ The Lahotan epicenter committee board took its own initiative to have two (2) tables and eight (8) chairs made for the meeting room of the epicenter.

▪ Besides the 06 strategies developed in the document of the Project « Her Choice » to face the phenomenon of early marriage, THP-Benin proposes an approach which targets the people's emotions and incites them to abandon early marriage practices. In other words, this approach aims to induce a strong emotional charge through drama, a powerful means of sensitization. That is what

pushed into the production of play during the running quarter on the causes and the negative impacts of early marriage. The play entitled "Unchained Destiny" was performed in the three target epicenters of the project including Klouékanmè, Lahotan and Gbégourou, supported by the staging of a similar scenario by the youth (girls and boys) trained to that effect.

- The Avlamè epicenter, which became Association Epicenter of the District of Avlamè (AEAA) took the initiative of designing a logo and a stamp. All the members of the board of administration took the commitment to give some maize for sales so as to generate some revenues. That initiative has been shared with the pole and village committees so that they may willingly take part in it. Some partners who received fertilizers and seedlings made a subscription of 500FCFA per bag of fertilizer and 50FCFA per oil palm seedling as a contribution to the epicenter activities.

- An investment in the purchase and sale of pesticides (herbicide and insecticide) is made with the view of generating revenues to the epicenter. Also, animators who monitor children under 5 undertook the production of dried Moringa leave powder. This will allow them to support children weighing activities across villages on the one hand and the epicenter on the other hand.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Drama is a formidable information, education and communication tool for an actual change of behavior. In fact, drama contribute among other things
 - a large mobilization at low cost
 - a denunciation of social realities which are taboos in a playful way;
 - an unequivocal presentation of messages so as to make them accessible to all social groups (illiterate, educated, children, youth, adults, and old people);
 - to provoke an emotional shock that can lead to a rapid change of behavior.

All that aside, drama is well appreciated by all and is not boresome when it is well performed.

B. ADVOCACY & ALLIANCES

▪ Workshop for developing the operationalization and implementation strategy of the educational Common skills base in Benin, organized by the Center for Research and Action in Non Formal Education Development (CRADENF) at Chants d'Oiseau in Cotonou,

The objective of this workshop was:

- to provide a device for developing the operationalization strategy of the Common skills base (SCC) that integrate Non Formal Education;
- develop a roadmap for the impletation of the SCC.

THP-Benin took part in that workshop on behalf of the National Network of Private Operators for the Promotion of Literacy and Languages (ReNOPAL) of which we are a founding member and holds the office in charge of communication, and also as a Representative of organizations involved in non formal education in Benin. The workshop also recorded the participation of the secondary school inspectors, Chiefs of staff representing the Ministers of primary secondary and tertiary education, linguists and didacticians;

▪ Participation of the Parakou Regional Office in the establishment of the departmental concertation framework for reproductive health and family planning (SR/PF) interventions at the Parakou Departmental Health Directorate,

The establishment of the departmental concertation framework for reproductive health and family planning (RH/FP) interventions recorded the participation of the Borgou/Alibori Departemental Health Director, the Head of Mother and Child Health Service, the Head of Departmental Public Health Service, the Head of hospitals, nursing and midwifery cares, doctor coordinators of hospital zones and NGOs involved in RH/FP in the departments where THP-Benin, ABPF and PSI operate. The establishment of that framework aims to coordinate, ensure the monitoring & evaluation of the implemetaion of RH/FP interventions, and to write an annual report on the progress achieved in family planning matters in the departments. That committee is presided by the Departmental Health Director. THP-Benin is henceforth member of the framework.

▪ Participation of the Bohicon Regional Office in a meeting with the Manager of the Centre for Social Promotion (R/CPS) of Dassa, as part of the collaboration between THP and the government's decentralized structures.

The following are the conclusions of that meeting:

- On the request of a BORNEFonden mission to ensure the nutritional monitoring of children in the district of Tré and Paouignan, the R/CPS recommended a THP-BORNEFonden alliance given that THP already operates in the area with that activity. But the mission rejected that recommendation. Then, the R/CPS suggested to them to carry their nutritional monitoring activity on to cover villages which are not covered by THP;
- The R/CPS submitted an initiative to the assessment of THP. The initiative aims to utilize Tré epicenter's rooms for the production of dried Moringa leave powder. The production will be done by people living with HIV/AIDS (PL/HIV). Indeed the CPS has a Moringa farm that it intends to value by creating incoming generating activity for PL/HIV.

▪ **NGO ALDIP visits the Board of Administration of the Association Epicentre d'Avlamè**

The Board of Administration of the Association Epicenter of the District of Avlamè (AEAA) received in August 2016 a delegation of six (06) members including the Executive Director of NGO ALDIP Benin which is based at Bohicon and also operate in Avlamè area.

▪ **Working session between UNFPA and THP-Benin at the UNFPA office**

Three members of THP-Benin staff (the Country Director, the Partnership Development and Resources Mobilization Officer, and the Health and Nutrition Program Officer). The agenda of the meeting was as follows:

- Presentation of the project for strengthening and improving nutrition and reproductive health actions in THP-Benin's epicenters ;
- Presentation of the protocol of the 5th edition of the moringa promotion campaign.

The Country Director presented the project for strengthening and improving nutrition and reproductive health actions in THP-Benin's epicenters. The presentation was met with much interest from UNFPA representatives.

▪ **Working session between the National Council for Food and Nutrition (CAN) and THP-Benin**

The Country Director (assisted by the Health and Nutrition Program) presented a brief summary on the results of the 4th edition of TMT Days campaign. Also the protocol of the 5th edition was presented to the CAN representatives.

They agreed to all the expectations of THP-Benin and expressed the wish that the 5th edition gets under way according to the timeline. To do this, it is expected that: (i) the involvement of NGOs in partnership with CAN as part of PMASN for the replication of the campaign at various levels, (ii) the holding of a concertation meeting with all the stakeholders who will be involved in the campaign's implementation, (iii) sharing with CAN a clear note on the content of the caravan and various messages to be disseminated all along the campaign in order to harmonise them among all participants, (iv) holding a press conference in the second half of September 2016 to announce the event, (v) sharing the budget with CAN for the implementation of the campaign as soon as possible so as to analyse every possible funding opportunity.

▪ **Participation of THP-Bénin in a workshop of the gender group organized by the DPGF (Directorate for the Promotion of Women and Gender) of the Ministry of Labor, Civil Service and Social Affairs, on 7 July 2016 at the Centre Saint Anouarit of Calavi.**

Besides THP-Benin, UNFPA, ABPF, the gender units/focal points of the various Ministries, etc.

▪ **Organizing the press conference on the official launch of the moringa promotion campaign**

THP-Benin through that press conference launched of the 5th edition of the TMT Days campaign. The press conference also allowed converging attention and actions of all stakeholders who are interested in promoting Moringa in order to ensure larger scale actions. Two main presenters entertained the press: Professor KAYODE, Professor at the University of Abomey-Calavi and Pascal DJOHOSSOU, Country Director of THP-Benin. After a brief reminder on the specificities of the previous campaigns, the theme of this year was announced as being: "Moringa for nutrition and in youth entrepreneurship".

▪ **Participation of THP-Benin in the independence fair 2016**

In order to ensure a better visibility THP-Benin participated in the independence fair 2016 at the state de l'amitié Générale Mathieu KEREKO. It took place from 18 July to 07 August 2016. It also offered an opportunity to announce the 5th edition of the TMT days campaign whose theme is: "Moringa for nutrition and in youth entrepreneurship". The various activities conducted during that fair are:

- Presentation of THP Benin and its intervention programs ;
- Caravan for tasting the various food made with moringa during 9 days (Stuffing with softened moringa leaves, porridge enriched with moringa powder, moringa bread, cereal bread);

- Sale (seed of moringa, dried powder of moringa leaves, guide of moringa powder production, etc.).

The stand of THPB and the caravan had registered about 3000 visitors.

▪ **Participation of THP-Benin in the initiative « Farmer of a day, Farmer for ever »**

AgriProfocus through its communities of innovation (Food and Nutrition Security, Youth and Entrepreneurship, Research and Practice, Gender and Value Chain) in collaboration with Hunger Free World Benin, NGOs BOUGE, Promote Benin and Hunger Free World organized on Tuesday 26 July 2016, the second edition of the day of experiences exchange on youth agricultural entrepreneurship with the theme: "Farmers of a day, Farmers for ever". In total, 80 young men and women agricultural entrepreneurs took part in that activity and came from NGOs BOUGE, Hunger Free World Benin, Promote Benin, THP-benin (6 young people from Avlamè and Wawata) and AgriProFocus. The objectives of that activity were:

- to have a visit to share experiences at the centre for integrated development of the NGO BOUGE at Sékou ;
- to allow participants to get involved with farming by conducting a farming activity (snail farming, irrigation and preparing seed beds, etc.);
- to sensitize households on the nutritional and economic values of Moringa;
- to make available to households selected by Hunger Free World Benin moringa seedlings recuperated at Promote and carry on with planting them in the selected households;
- to promote the AgriProfocus network and the opportunities that it offers young agricultural entrepreneurs.

▪ **A brief summary of an interview of PPE/THP with a FAO consultant**

As part of the implementation of the project GCP/RAF/494/MUL of "promotion of decent jobs for the youth in rural areas and agricultural and agribusiness entrepreneurship", an interview was given to a FAO consultant (Mr AGOSSOU Gaston) on July 8 in order for him to collection information on the program Entrepreneurship with the view of designing a map of institutions, value chains, firms that support youth employment related activities (with a peculiar focus on agriculture and agribusiness) and to make recommendations for the pursuit of the implementation of the project. To that effect, the activities THP conducts in the area of rural youth promotion and agribusiness entrepreneursip have been outlined during the interview. Exchanges focus on the following items: (i) Program and project underway for the promotion of employment and entrepreneurship in agriculture and agribusiness (ii) objective of the target

group; (iii) Strategies and complementarity synergies of the various projects used for achieving objectives; (iv) Assessment of program's achievement and perspectives; (v) New areas to focus on and current situation of the youth and the Small and Average Enterprises supported by THP-Benin. On the same occasion, two documents of the program were updated and made available to the FAO consultant to support the information already given to him. Those documents are on the following themes: (i) support to first-time entrepreneurs: the experience of the pedagogical fund at THP-Benin; (ii) Create incitative poles for the establishment of business links: a THP-Benin approach to develop entrepreneurship.

▪ **Presentation of the protocole of the 5th edition of the TMT Days campaign to the UNFPA**

The running protocol of the TMT Days campaign's 5th edition has been presented to the resident representative of the UNFPA. Caravan has been chosen as the communication means to implement this year's campaign. It allows making a "good noise" around nutrition. It was also specified that having joined that activity, the GIZ will be a partner to the campaign and actions will be implemented in Natitingou, its intervention area. The UNFPA resident representative quite well appreciated the communication means chosen which he thinks will definitely have an impact among communities. He suggested to: (i) develop an audiovisual document on the running of the caravan; (ii) involve women and men animators, who are positive deviants, in the running of the caravan so that they may carry on with activities afterward.

The UNFPA will partake in the implementation of the 5th edition of the TMT Days campaign and could use THP-Benin's epicenters to that effect because it does not operate in specific areas in the country. THP-Benin will share the campaign implementation protocol with the UNFPA as well as the budget of its implementation in two communities as soon as possible.

D. PARTNER STORY

Story of Julien KPODEME; Epicenter of Lahotan

His name is Julien KPODEME, born at Sègbèya, a village of the district of Lahotan, Savalou. Julien is 35, married to two (02) women and has 6 offsprings including 2 girls. He has been a Lahotan epicenter partners since the starting of activities within the community. His main activity is farming. Below is his story of his partnership with the epicenter.



➤ Before the partnership

« Before THP-Benin's involvement with the community, I was into farming but I had to reinvest all my revenue into purchase foodstuffs because I only cultivated cotton. That situation made me spend a lot on food mainly during the lean season when food is very costly. Despite that I kept tilling hectares of cotton because I saw no

alternative to my traditional way of doing things. But from the moment we started the partnership with The Hunger Project-Benin in my village, my situation changed enormously and I became aware of the many alternatives I have.

➤ After the partnership

« First of all I would like to say that when THP started prospecting and mobilizing to get the partnership on track with us in this district, I hardly believed what they told us especially the projects/programs because I had seen many NGOs come in the community to do the same mobilization and after that nothing happened. But it was quite the opposite with THP which earned much credibility within my community. Today my perception of farming is completely altered following the various thematic VCA training sessions conducted by THP-Benin for the community of Lahotan. I now understand that I can grow many crops at a time. This has the advantage not only of stopping me from having to buy foodstuffs but also of limiting loss risks related to diseases which particularly attack a crop in a given season. Since two (2) years now, in addition to cotton, I have been growing maize, yam, pepper, soya, cassava, and pigeonpea. For example for the current farming season I have tilled 1.5 ha of cotton; 2 ha of maize; 1 ha of soya and 0.5 ha of pepper and all of them are combined with pigeonpea with

the intent of fertilizing the soil. I am very happy with THP's advent in my village and I sincerely thank THP-Benin's staff and investors for making this happen".

E. HUMAN RESOURCES & TRAVEL

<p>Staff Changes</p> <p>Please list any arrivals or departures and a brief summary of the reasons.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Extended Absences</p> <p>Please list the Senior Management Team's vacation dates, as well as any other staff members' long-term absence, including maternity leave)</p>	<p>The National Head of Programs took his annual leave from 08 to 26 August 2016,</p> <p>The Entrepreneurship Development Program Officer took her maternity leave from June to the end of August 2016</p>
<p>Staff Development</p> <p>Please list any staff member trainings or professional development activities.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Epicenter Visits</p> <p>Please list the epicenters and the number of staff visits in parentheses next to them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Akpadanou (8) • Avlamè (15) • Bétérou (14) • Daringa (1) • Dasso (7) • Dékpo (9) • Gbégourou (3) • Gohomey (3) • Guinagourou (1) • Kissamey (17) • Klouékanmè (4) • Kpinnou (3) • Lahotan (9) • Offè (3) • Ouissi (8) • Tré (5) • Wawata (5) • Zakpota (8)

F. Next Quarter Priorities

- Finalizing the development of de l'élaboration of the Mémorandum of Understanding between THP-Benin and Concerned Communes ;
- Participation of epicenter partner entrepreneurs in the regional UEMOA fair and the 2016 Trade Fortnight
- Finalizing the formalization of the Association Epicenter of the Districts of Avlamè and Kissimey;
- Carrying on sensitizations on violence done to women in Avlamè and Zakpota epicenter partner villages;
- Validating the partnership convention between the Ministry of Health and THP-Benin and sign the convention;
- Commissioning the Moringa powder production unit of Zakpota ;
- Implementing the cofunding project of CAN/UNFPA on the promotion of moringa;
- Implementing strategy 2 of the project « Her Choice » ;
- Evaluating the Project/Section “Women and youth leadership and governance inn THP-Benin's epicenters.