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The challenges of farmer training: the example of French-speaking West Africa

The technical farming teaching systems set up in most West African countries following the independence movement in order to train agricultural development managers are experiencing a deep-seated crisis. New training players have appeared in the rural world in recent years—NGOs, farmers' or village organisations and private bodies—and implement new training facilities that are well integrated in the local environment. However, they are often scattered and little or not at all integrated in national policies.

Reflection on the position, role and organisation of training facilities in rural environments seems essential today at a time when international bodies are reaffirming the need for competent, sustainable human resources that are well organised and well equipped at the public, private and professional levels. Analysis of rural development issues is essential for determining lines of development for farmer training.

(Also available in French)

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