



BENIN

INNOVATIONS IN AGROECOLOGY

PREMIUM HORTUS

Like many African countries, Benin has had a rapid increase in its urban population, with high demand for garden produce, such as fruits and vegetables. Large quantities of fertilizer and chemical inputs are used, and the distribution system remains very traditional, and lacking in modern agricultural technology. This causes significant water and soil pollution, biodiversity loss, and low productivity, while increasing population vulnerability to climate change, and price spikes.

Food insecurity affects 33.6 percent of households, while acute malnutrition affects 16 percent of children under 5, and chronic malnutrition affects 44.6 percent of children in the same age group.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INNOVATION

PREMIUM HORTUS is an agroecology technology platform in Africa, specializing in the e-commerce of agroecological products, organic production and producer support.

Available as a web, mobile platform and payment card, "Premium Hortus" allows you to subscribe, choose, order, and pay online, so as to get home-delivered fruits, vegetables, and organic products safely. In this way, users can control their consumption, reduce waste, donate or transfer food, and receive a food insurance credit.

With its organic horticulture, PREMIUM HORTUS allows producers to access specific biofertilizers, natural seeds, technical frameworks, and green business training, using agricultural technologies and communications.



DESIGN AND SHARING OF THE INNOVATION

PREMIUM HORTUS is an open and collaborative innovation model for strong sustainable impacts, which conforms with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), agroecology principles, and intellectual property standards. Since 2016, PREMIUM HORTUS and its partners have been operational in Benin: an experimentation and organic horticulture site; prototypes of web platforms; and mobile, credit card and crypto-currencies dedicated to agroecology. Considering its experience, PREMIUM HORTUS has good implementation prospects in Africa and UN Countries

BENEFIT FOR FAMILY FARMERS AND FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

PREMIUM HORTUS is an agroecological innovation that strengthens the resilience of family farmers, increasing access for all to healthy foods, in a healthy environment.

Many young and women family farmers can access technical support, optimize their agricultural productivity and reduce post-harvest losses of up to 50 percent. They benefit from a short circuit, and market their small quantities of products more easily. Thus, the population can enjoy low-cost organic food, at steady prices, and improve their nutritional security.

SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

In line with SDGs (1, 2, 6, 11, 12, 13 and 15), PREMIUM HORTUS enhances professionalization, facilitates climate change adaptation, and empowers farmers from all backgrounds. Through responsible production and consumption, PREMIUM HORTUS reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and preserves the soil, water, biodiversity and health of more than 400 000 African households.



LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Local agroecological practices and innovations can be scaled up to achieve the SDGs. PREMIUM HORTUS is a profitable, replicable Green Technology based on the principles of agroecology, which can be supported by organizations, state and non-state actors, and investors.