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ANNUEL ACTIVITIES REPORT 2024



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ATDA	: Territorial Agency for Agricultural Development
COP	: Conference of Parties
GREDD	: Sustainable Development Research and Expertise Group
SDGs	: Sustainable Development Goals
NGO	: Non-Governmental Organization
PAAFMU	: Project to Support the Empowerment of Urban Women Market Gardeners
PTA	: Annual Work Plan
SAJEV	: African Youth Week for Green Jobs



SUMMARY

This document presents the five (05) projects implemented by GREDD-ONG during the year 2024. Indeed, from January 2024 to December 31, 2024, the GREDD PTA saw a physical execution of 55.56% of the planned projects, due to insufficient financial resources. Overall, the conferences organized on agroecology and green entrepreneurship in a context of climate change were very beneficial for young people who acquired theoretical and practical notions on agroecology, green entrepreneurship and sustainable development. Projects such as the project to support the Kocari group in integrated market gardening production and the project to support the empowerment of urban women market gardeners at the SOUROU cooperative have strengthened the role and autonomy of the beneficiaries as socio-economic and environmental actors in development in Parakou.

Looking ahead, GREDD plans to collaborate with other organizations and seek technical and financial support from institutions and social partners for a broader and greater impact of its interventions.

PRESENTATION OF GREDD

Created on February 6, 2021 and registered in August 2023, GREDD-ONG was published in Benin's Journal Officiel on January 15, 2024. It is a non-profit organization, working to promote equitable, resilient and environmentally friendly development.

Vision:

To be a lever for the sustainable social and economic development of populations in an environmentally respectful manner, and a framework for the exchange and sharing of experiences for young people.

Mission:

To promote the sustainable social and economic well-being of vulnerable populations in an environmentally respectful manner, to work for female leadership and the development of young people.

Objectives :

Promote environmental protection through sustainable resource management;

Promote sustainable and intelligent agricultural production (agroecology, integrated agriculture);

Promote leadership and empowerment of women and young people;

Contribute to the development of the agri-food sector and food security;

Contribute to the development of young people's technical and practical skills.

Areas of intervention :

The NGO intervenes in several areas: the environment, scientific research, agricultural extension, advocacy, education and empowerment of women and young people.

Activities :

GREDD-ONG activities include:

Awareness-raising and practical training for young people on climate issues and eco-citizenship;

- Advice and extension of agricultural innovations to farmers;

- Reforestation and organization of clean-up days;

- Support for women's empowerment;

- Organization of thematic webinars and advocacy.

Targets:

GREDD-ONG works with a diverse public : farmers, women and young people, pupils and students, local elected officials, researchers and public decision-makers.

Values :

Its core values are based on citizen participation, equity and social inclusion, innovation, scientific rigor and environmental sustainability. Through a holistic approach based on the co-construction of knowledge, GREDD-ONG intends to act as a catalyst for socio-economic and ecological change, actively contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Benin.



PREAMBLE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear partners,

We are very pleased to share with you this annual report for the year 2024, which outlines our actions for the benefit of vulnerable communities in order to contribute to their socio-economic and environmental development. Indeed, faced with major environmental challenges with their corollary serious socio-economic consequences, GREDD-ONG implements various actions aimed at supporting rural communities and vulnerable populations so that they can manage and sustainably use their territory. To this end, for this year 2024, several actions for environmental protection, women's empowerment and youth capacity building have been carried out. This is an opportunity for us, on behalf of the entire staff, to express our gratitude to all our partners who continue to show their moral, technical and financial support. This exercise is for GREDD a mirror that makes its entire team and partners revisit the highlights that marked 365 days of activities in 2024. The production of this activity report at GREDD level is matured by the concern for the reissue of the accounts. It allows us to mark a virtual stop as part of a dynamic of strategic self-assessment. Then it reassures as to the achievement of the objectives assigned to the NGO at the time of its creation. The projections become a controlled exercise that is inspired by the forms and weaknesses of the organization. The production of this information, evaluation and projection document is therefore an exercise that responds to an imperative of drafting accounts and proof for all our activities.

Executive Director



Yovo Expedit TCHIGO



1. Introduction

In Benin, women and youth constitute a significant segment of the population, in terms of agriculture, demographics, and economics. Yet, they continue to face socioeconomic and environmental challenges that compromise their development and full participation in the country's sustainable development. Particularly in rural areas, women often have limited access to productive resources such as land, credit, agricultural inputs, and technology, even though they provide a vital share of agricultural production and family food security. Young people, for their part, are affected by high unemployment, growing insecurity, and marginalization in decision-making processes. Added to this are vulnerabilities exacerbated by the effects of climate change, ecosystem degradation, land insecurity, and the low resilience of local agricultural systems.

It is in order to address these structural and environmental challenges that the Sustainable Development Research and Expertise Group (GREDD) has developed and implemented, during the year 2024, an Annual Work Plan (AWP) structured around its fundamental missions. This plan is part of an intervention logic based on the promotion of sustainable solutions and a participatory approach. Indeed, during the year 2024, GREDD has implemented a set of activities structured around several priority areas:

- (i) training and capacity building for farmers and young people on agroecology and green jobs;
- (ii) community awareness on ecological issues;
- (iii) the organization of webinars;
- (iv) the implementation of pilot projects.

The organization has thus reached several hundred direct and indirect beneficiaries, and has strengthened its contribution to the ecological transition, the resilience of agricultural systems and the empowerment of historically marginalized groups.

This annual report is prepared with a view to accountability, capitalization and strategic projection. It aims, on the one hand, to report on the implementation of the PTA 2024, by evaluating the activities carried out, the results obtained, the lessons learned as well as the challenges encountered. On the other hand, it aims to draw up an analytical assessment of the initiatives undertaken during the year, in order to better guide future actions, strengthen partnerships and consolidate the impact of the NGO at the local and national levels. This report therefore constitutes a faithful and rigorous synthesis of the actions carried out by GREDD-ONG during the year 2024, and is part of a dynamic of continuous improvement and alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the local and national levels.

2. Methodology

The preparation of this annual report was based on a rigorous methodology, combining internal documentary sources, field feedback, and visual aids. The process began with the systematic collection and analysis of monthly and quarterly reports produced by technical advisors and coordination teams. These documents made it possible to structure the data around the main activities carried out in 2024. At the same time, regular discussions were organized with field supervisors to clarify certain information, validate performance indicators, and gather qualitative testimonies on the results achieved.

The methodology also incorporated the analysis of field photographs, carefully archived throughout the year, as well as the inclusion of summary tables to visualize the results in quantitative terms. These visual aids served to enhance the readability and traceability of the actions undertaken. All content was structured according to the strategic axes defined in the 2024 Annual Work Plan, thus ensuring consistency between the programmatic objectives and the results presented. This participatory and iterative approach aims to guarantee the reliability, transparency, and scientific quality of the report.

3. Summary presentation of the status of implementation of activities

3.1. Youth capacity building conference on the theme of "Agroecology for sustainable consumption and production".

Reminder of the context

This conference was part of the vision to rethink current agriculture by adapting it to the challenges related to food security and the environment but also to support the implementation of the resolutions adopted at COP28 in Dubai for sustainable consumption and production. Thus, GREDD NGO in collaboration with Agroecology Coalition organized a conference (webinar) on the theme "Agroecology for sustainable consumption and production" on Monday, January 15, 2024.

Project objectives

This online conference aimed to:

- Strengthen young people's knowledge of the principles and practices of agroecology: raise awareness and train participants in agroecological approaches so that they can integrate these methods into their agricultural or community projects to promote sustainable, resilient and environmentally friendly agriculture.
- Encourage youth engagement in sustainable food systems: motivate young people to become key players in the transition to responsible consumption and sustainable local production, by promoting short supply chains, organic products, and the reduction of food waste.
- Promote the creation of local agroecological networks and initiatives led by young people: create a space for dialogue, exchange of experiences and networking between young people, experts and stakeholders in the sector, with a view to supporting the emergence of innovative local initiatives in agroecology.

Activity and results

This conference was attended by 59 stakeholders from different organizations (universities or research centers, NGOs or International Organizations, civil society) and several countries (Niger, Haiti, Benin, Nigeria, Togo, Chad, Congo, Belgium and Mali). Two experts in the field, Doctor Emile FRISON, Professor at the University of Agricultural Sciences of Gembloux and Senior Advisor to Agroecology Coalition and Engineer Bienvenu Akowedaho DAGOUDO, PhD student in Agroecology and Food Systems at the African Center for Agro -Ecology and Livelihood Systems of the Uganda Martyrs University presented papers on this theme.





Copier

THEME

Agroécologie pour une consommation et production durable
" Agroecology for sustainable consumption and production "



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SG GREDD-ONG

15 Janvier 2024

Google meet

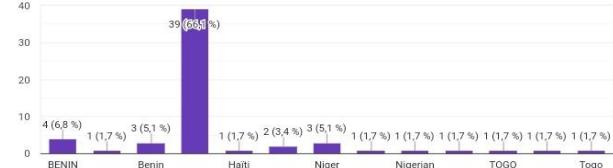
15h 30 GMT +1

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Photo 1: Webinar 1 poster

Pays
59 réponses



Copier

Institution
59 réponses

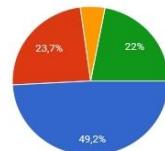


Photo 2 : Breakdown of participants

Dr. Emile Frison's presentation focused on the role of agroecology in the global food system and sustainable management. He demonstrated through his presentation that agroecology, through its 13 principles, represents the pillar of a sustainable food system, from production to consumption. He then presented the Agroecology Coalition, a coalition for the transformation of global food systems through agroecology. It operates in several African countries with the aim of accelerating the transformation of food systems through agroecology.

The second presentation was given by engineer Bienvenu Akowedaho DAGOUDO, and focused on the importance of agroecological practices in ensuring food security. Thus, after a presentation of the main bases of agroecological practices, followed a description of the fundamentals of agroecology and food systems. Finally, Mr. Bienvenu described the different phases and dimensions that define food security and the opportunities that agroecology offers in the sustainability of food systems. Some agroecological innovations adapted to African agrarian systems were presented with success examples from Uganda and Benin

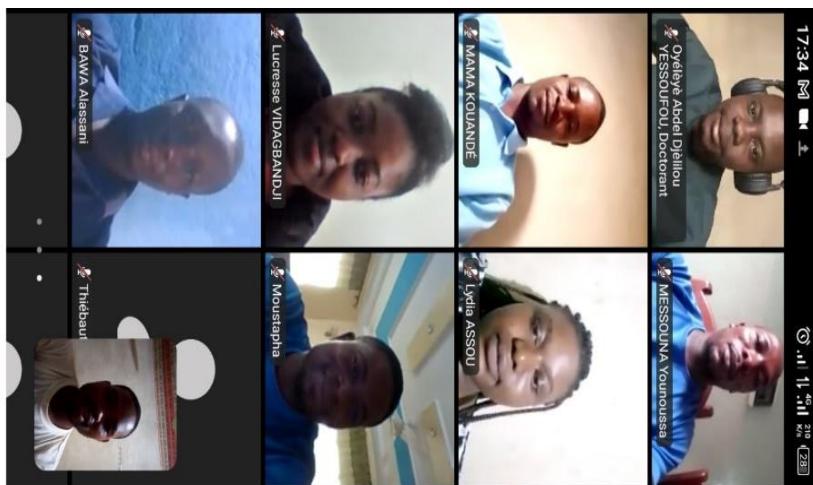


Photo 3 : Image of some of the participants



At the end of this conference, young people were better informed about the principles of agroecology, sustainable agricultural practices, ecological soil management, biodiversity, and sustainable food systems, and more experienced in environmental protection. The conference also contributed to a change in young people's perceptions about the importance of responsible consumption and social justice in food systems. Finally, this conference stimulated the emergence of agroecological projects and initiatives (community gardens, sustainable cooperatives, awareness platforms, etc.), thus creating a multiplier effect at the local level.

3.2. Conference on the theme “Green entrepreneurship in a context of climate change”.

Reminder of the context

In a context marked by a growing gap between the training provided in universities and the real needs of the labor market, and faced with the increasingly extreme effects of climate change which generate numerous socio-economic challenges, many young people find themselves in a situation of unemployment. In order to promote self-employment among these young people, GREDD, through its strategic axis dedicated to the empowerment of women and young people, implements various support projects. It is in this context that an online conference was organized on February 23, 2024, for young Africans, on the theme "Green entrepreneurship in a context of climate change."

Project objectives

The objectives of this conference were to:

- Raise awareness among young people about the opportunities offered by green entrepreneurship: Introduce participants to the multiple possibilities for creating sustainable jobs in sectors linked to the green economy, with an emphasis on innovative and ecologically responsible solutions to climate challenges;
- Strengthen the capacities of young people in the design and management of eco-entrepreneurial projects: Provide young people with the tools, knowledge and good practices necessary to develop and implement entrepreneurial initiatives that respect the environment and are adapted to local realities;
- Encourage the engagement of young people in the ecological transition and sustainable development in Africa: Stimulate the active involvement of young people in building a green, inclusive and resilient economy, by promoting the exchange of experiences, networking and the emergence of young environmental leadership.

Activity and results

This online conference allowed 35 young people from various fields and several countries to learn about green entrepreneurship. Two presentations were presented to the young people, one



on "Green Entrepreneurship as a solution to climate change" by Ir. François N' Dah , Head of the Avrankrou Municipal Unit (ATDA7) and the second on "Green Entrepreneurship and Youth Employability" by Msc . Adrien Heviego , REJEVE-Benin Coordinator.



Photo 4 : Webinar 2 poster

Regarding Mr. François N'dah's presentation on Green Entrepreneurship: A Solution to Climate Change, the speaker explained that green entrepreneurship represents a lever for sustainable innovation that allows young people to create value while protecting the environment. By investing in eco-responsible activities, sustainable agriculture, recycling, and renewable energy, we reduce our ecological footprint while generating jobs. It is also an effective way to meet the needs of vulnerable communities. Africa, rich in resources and youth, must seize this opportunity to build a resilient, inclusive economy that respects its natural capital.

The second presentation demonstrated that green entrepreneurship now represents a strategic response to the growing challenges of youth unemployment and climate change. In an African context where the majority of the population is young, it is imperative to promote local skills through sustainable initiatives. Agroecology, renewable energy, waste management, and urban agriculture are all promising sectors that combine economic value creation and environmental preservation. Drawing on his experience, he concluded that green jobs can strengthen youth employability. At the end of this conference, young people acquired relevant information on the importance of green jobs and the tools to embark on green jobs to build an autonomous, responsible youth force that contributes to sustainable development in Africa.

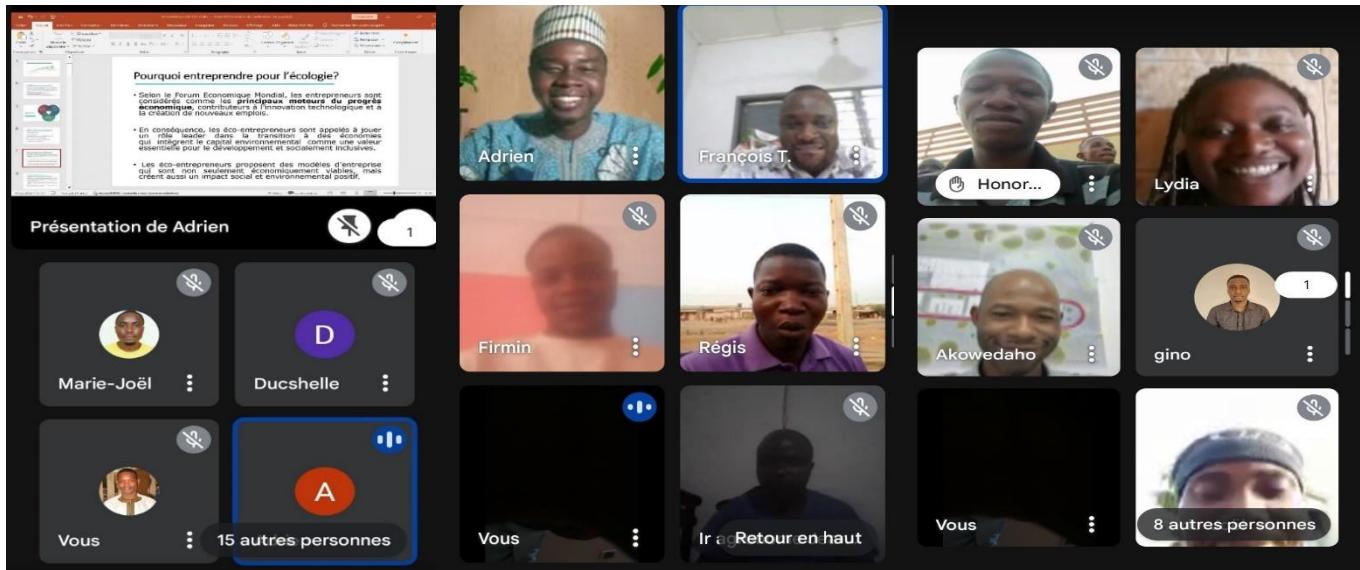


Photo 5 : Participants in the video conference

3.3.Kocari group support project for integrated market gardening production in Parakou

Reminder of the context

In Benin, agricultural production faces various challenges such as soil infertility, pest attacks, low productivity, and difficult access to markets. The market gardening sector, particularly urban market gardening, also faces these challenges, which cause enormous damage to producers. Integrated agricultural systems represent an innovative approach to addressing these global challenges of food security, agricultural sustainability, and climate resilience. This project to support integrated market gardening production at the KOCARI group in Bannikani, northern Benin, was designed to provide technical support for climate-resilient vegetable production.

Project objectives

The objective of this project was to :

- Promote sustainable agroecological practices within the Kocari group : Encourage the adoption of techniques such as crop association, trap crops, crop rotation and the use of animal manure in order to improve productivity while reducing the use of chemical inputs.
- Strengthen the agroecological resilience of market gardening systems in the face of biotic pressures: Reduce the vulnerability of market garden crops to insect pests and diseases through integrated biological and preventive control methods.
- Increase the technical and economic capacities of local producers: Train members of the group in innovative integrated production practices, with a view to sustainably improving their yields, their income and their food autonomy.



Photo 6 : Integrated market garden production

Activity and results

Our support to the Kocari group consisted of training market gardeners on innovative integrated production practices, on integrated biological and preventive control methods (crop association, trap crops, crop rotation, compost production and the use of animal waste). The support also consisted of technical support and regular monitoring of producers in the implementation of agricultural innovations in integrated biological and preventive control. At the end of this project, the 20 producers supported saw their crops less attacked by insects and pests, and yields and productivity were improved.



Photo 7 : Overview with the growers

Table 1: List of supported producers

Nom et Prénoms des producteurs	Contacts	Nom et Prénoms	Contacts
1-MACHOUDOU Bachirou	97-20-80-59	11-YACOUBOU Imourou	96-78-52-81
2- KORAGOUNOU Abdoulaye	61-66-19-52	12ABOUBAKARI Gafarouf	66-21-47-14
3-YACOUBOU Aliou	95-22-00-62	13-MAMA Djamiou	68-93-74-19
4-ABDOU Raoufou	66-22-68-34	14-ABDOUL Djaniou	68-79-63-33
5-IBOURAÏME Adamou	96-69-12-23	15-ISSIFOU Bassitou	55-65-97-41
6-KARIM ADAM Song	95-13-80-91	16-ABDOUL Madjid	65-10-59-41
7-ALASSAN Yonousa	94-72-16-90	17-DOSSA Eugéne	68-53-18-45
8- FATAOU Mohamed	91-13-00-98	18-IMOUROU souléman	58-87-83-08
9-SALIFOU Gatha	64-99-73-75	19KOUAKOU Allassane	98-41-55-92
10- MALICK Mohamed	67-07-73-98	20-AMADOU Safiou	95-73-59-76

3.4. African Youth Week for Green Jobs (SAJEV)

Reminder of the context

Africa is home to almost 1.4 billion people, over 60% of whom are under the age of 25. However, in the rural and urban areas where these young people reside, employment prospects remain limited, fuelling uncertainty as to whether this human resource can be effectively exploited. Although the rural and agricultural sector is a mainstay of the continent's economy, its potential remains under-exploited: barely 25% of arable land is developed. What's more, the effects of climate change, such as droughts, floods and heat waves, are further weakening resource-dependent communities, compromising their food security, health and economic stability. Against this backdrop, green jobs are a promising way forward. By promoting entrepreneurship and innovation in sustainable sectors, Africa can create economic integration opportunities for its young people, and thus strengthen the dynamics of inclusive and resilient development. In order to train these young people in green opportunities, the Semaine Africaine des Jeunes pour les Emplois Verts (SAJEV) was initiated by several NGOs, including GREDD.

Project objectives

The aim of SAJEV is to strengthen young people's skills in green jobs to facilitate the implementation of their professional and entrepreneurial projects.

More specifically, it aims to

- Develop young people's practical and theoretical skills in green jobs.
- Support the creation and formalization of green businesses through entrepreneurial and financial management training.



Photo 8 : Logo of African NGO partners

Activity and results

512 young people registered for this event, and 215 were able to pay the participation fee and follow the event. The event took place in two phases, an online phase and a face-to-face phase. The first phase took place from September 16 to 19, 2024 in different sections. During the face-to-face phase, several activities were developed, such as the manufacture of organic fertilizers (compost and bio-fertilizers) for soil conservation and restoration, and an introduction to the installation of renewable energies. At the end of the event, participants acquired theoretical and practical knowledge of agroecology and green entrepreneurship. The 215 participants mastered the manufacture of organic fertilizers and the installation of renewable energies. The manufacture, distribution and use of organic fertilizers by producers has reduced the use of chemical inputs and had a positive impact on soil conservation and health.



Photo 9 : Images of training participants

3.5. Project to support the empowerment of urban market-gardening women in Parakou

Reminder of the context

In Parakou, rapid urbanization and economic insecurity limit women's access to productive resources and decent employment opportunities. Market gardening, mostly carried out by

women, remains poorly structured, with a predominance of informal activities. These women also face a number of challenges, including inadequate access to water, lack of suitable equipment, poor mastery of agro-ecological techniques and difficulties in selling their produce on urban markets. Faced with these constraints, the SOUROU cooperative's project to support the empowerment of urban market-gardening women aims to provide these women with organic fertilizers, and to strengthen their technical and entrepreneurial capacities, in order to secure their livelihoods, improve their productivity and promote their socio-economic inclusion. This project is thus part of a dynamic of urban resilience, gender justice and agro-ecological transition, in response to current sustainable development challenges.

Project objectives

The objectives of this project were to :

Strengthen the technical capabilities of women market gardeners in agroecological production, in particular through the use of compost and biochar, with a view to promoting sustainable, environmentally-friendly agriculture.

-Improve the productivity and quality of market garden crops through the adoption of organic practices, significantly reducing dependence on chemical inputs.

-Facilitate women producers' access to growing urban markets, by enhancing the value of organic vegetable production, in order to increase the added value of their production and their commercial insertion.

-Strengthen the financial autonomy and economic resilience of women market gardeners, by promoting their inclusion in sustainable and equitable value chains.



Photo 10 : Supporting women with organic fertilizers

Activity and results

At a total cost of 2,500,000Fcfa, this project involved providing 300kg of organic fertilizer in two phases and 5 liters of liquid fertilizer to women market gardeners. These market gardeners also received advice and regular monitoring over a 5-month period. During the implementation of the project, these women were also given training in market access and agricultural contracting, so that they could easily sell the vegetables they produced. By supporting the women with organic fertilizers and agricultural advice, the project has reduced the market gardeners' dependence on chemical inputs, and increased the women's climatic resilience, yield and productivity. In effect, the project has improved women's finances and living conditions. Overall, the project reached 100 direct and indirect beneficiaries in the town of Parakou.



Photo 11: Training women in agro-ecological practices and production monitoring

4. Outlook

In view of the results obtained and the observations made in implementing the 2024 Annual Work Plan, 2025 should be devoted to continuing to mobilize human and financial resources, but above all to structuring its activities. GREDD also plans to develop other partnerships with other organizations or technical and financial institutions in order to increase its activities in the field. To enhance the organization's visibility, GREDD plans to create digital communication platforms to facilitate exchanges with its partners.

For a wider impact of its activities, the year 2025 will also be devoted to drafting and submitting climate, social and economic projects. Finally, we call on technical and financial partners to place their trust in the GREDD team by providing funding and other support.

5. Conclusion

2024 has been a decisive year in the life of GREDD-ONG. Indeed, 2024 gave the whole team reason to dream bigger and believe in a better future. While it's true that GREDD relies almost entirely on its own personal efforts, the fact remains that we've made lightning progress with some hopeful projects. The year 2024 was marked by the implementation of strategic initiatives reflecting GREDD's ongoing commitment to sustainable development, community empowerment and the promotion of green entrepreneurship. Through its various interventions, the organization has been able to combine local action with a global vision to meet the challenges of climate change, food insecurity and unemployment among young people and women.

The conference on agro-ecology raised awareness and strengthened the capacities of young people in relation to the challenges of responsible production and consumption. The conference on green entrepreneurship raised awareness of the economic opportunities offered by green sectors in a critical climate context. The project to support the Kocari group in Parakou illustrated the operationalization of integrated and resilient agricultural practices, based on sustainable local knowledge. In addition, the Semaine Africaine des Jeunes pour les Emplois Verts (African Youth Week for Green Jobs) provided a dynamic framework for theoretical and practical training, promoting the professional integration of young people in green industries. Last but not least, the SOUROU cooperative's project to empower urban market-gardening women has strengthened their role as major economic players.

These achievements testify to GREDD-ONG's essential role as a catalyst for positive change. By capitalizing on these achievements, the organization is resolutely projecting itself into the future, with a renewed ambition to promote solutions that are inclusive, ecological and have a lasting impact.



Appendix



Photo 12 : GREDD-ONG team in the field



Photo 13 : GREDD-ONG team at the Campus