Nos Séminaires

PRECOS

RESUME

25/05 - **Supplemental irrigation from farm ponds to mitigate rainfall variability in the Sahel: Farmers' preferences and Institutions' goals in Burkina Faso**

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In Sahelian countries, where rainfed agriculture accounts for more than 95% of cultivated land, rainfall variability has a negative impact on agricultural production. Supplemental irrigation using a farm pond is an innovation to better cope with the water deficit in these Sahelian countries. However, even if rainwater harvesting in ponds is an old practice in Burkina Faso, farmers were not used to irrigate crops during the rainy season. Most of the farmers considered that irrigating rainfed crops during rainy season is a taboo.

Since 2012, the government of Burkina Faso and some local and international organizations have provided small financial and technical support to promote the adoption of supplemental irrigation using farm ponds. Currently, there are several hundred of such ponds.

This study analyzes the change of farmers' behavior, by focusing on farmers' preferences and the role of institutional actors. 33 farmers located in five regions of Burkina Faso, and 18 institutional actors were interviewed. The data from the survey allowed to identify and compare the social representation of supplemental irrigation of farmers and institutional actors. Results show that, institutional actors have an influence on farmers' social norms in the adoption of the innovation, but there is a gap between farmers' preferences and institutions' goals. Our study shows that farmers can change their social norms to adopt an innovation, if they have some preferences for the characteristics of the innovation.