

Agricultural Services Provided by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and State Programs-Projects to Producers in Menoua Division, West Region of Cameroon

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Abstract – Improving the agricultural production of family farms through the supply of agricultural services is a fundamental concern at the center of reflections focused on rural development. The disengagement of the State, due to the economic crisis of the 80s favored the introduction of private structures in the supply of agricultural services. It is therefore wise to identify them and analyze the agricultural services they provide. To this end, surveys were conducted in the Menoua division using two interview guides and three questionnaires with 29 support structures and 291 beneficiaries (91 producer groups and 200 individual producers). The qualitative and quantitative data obtained were subject respectively to content analysis and analysis using SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Science) software. This study shows that the financing service, especially the supply of inputs, is the most requested service (85.55% of respondents). But it is more training and technical advice that are the most offered (85.19% and 81.48%). This shows that the most awaited service offer is not in line with the pressing demand of the beneficiaries. Also, the inputs provided by private structures are more effectively used thanks to close monitoring, than those from state structures which are sometimes distracted. However, these services offered have enabled beneficiaries to improve their practices (42.21%), their yields (33.56%), and even their income and living conditions (28.77%). The majority of service providers (62.96%) have financial difficulties in effectively providing the services requested by beneficiaries. For 14.81% of service providers, some beneficiaries divert coffee-cocoa support to direct them to other crops or to sell them. To improve agricultural production based on the quality of services, the State must, through a consultation platform, consolidate the agro-pastoral advisory system, support private service providers and ensure the financing of agriculture through the implementation of its project to create an agricultural bank. Producers must make better use of the services received and no longer divert them, organize themselves into stronger structures in order to benefit from economies of scale, adopt the practice of organic farming which would make them less dependent on conventional inputs costly, develop strategies for empowerment and self-financing of their activities because aid washes their backs and it falls to them to wash their bellies.

Keywords – NGOs, State Programs/Projects, Organizations of Agro-Pastoral Producers, Service, Agricultural Production.

I. INTRODUCTION

The development of the rural environment is one of the fundamental concerns of the governments of sub-Saharan Africa countries due to its contribution to the national economy. This rural sector plays an undeniable role in the economic and social stability of these countries, thanks to its contribution to job creation, income-generating activities and food security. In the National Agricultural Investment Plan (PNIA) in 2014, the National Institute of Statistics (INS) reiterates that the primary sector remains the engine of the Cameroonian national economy for its contribution to GDP (45% in 2009) while the industrial sector contributes only 27.6 %.

In this sector, 55% of the essential sources of public and private investment constituted by the export earnings from raw materials that have propelled Cameroon's growth over the past decades came from agriculture. Food crops remain relatively the largest providers of this wealth and jobs. In 2009, within the primary sector, it had the best growth rate (62.8%) followed by industrial agriculture and export (12.8%). This sector occupies more than half of the active population and also has ripple effects on other sectors. Indeed, agriculture represents a major challenge in national demographic balances insofar as its development is able to limit the flow of rural exodus (SDSR, 2016).

From 1960 until the crisis of the mid-1980s, agricultural activity experienced a policy administered in a paternalistic way by the State upstream and downstream. Subsequently, agricultural policy experienced a dismantling of state activity with the Structural Adjustment Programs (PAS) and the New Agricultural Policy (NPA) implemented in 1990 (Ondoa, 2006). Since 2003, several reforms and orientations of the national economic policy have been made, including among others the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (DSRP) in 2003, the Rural Sector Development Strategy Paper (DSDSR) in 2005, the New State Financial Regime (NRFE) in 2007, the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (DSCE) in 2009, the Detailed Program for the Development of Agriculture in Africa (PDDAA) in 2013, PNIA in 2014 and the update of the Rural Sector Development Strategy in 2016. All these approaches had a common denominator, namely economic growth, primarily via the agricultural sector through actions such as good provision of agro-pastoral services. A 2008 evaluation of the Sectoral Strategy for the Rural Sector Development since 2005 shows that although it has allowed the Government to maintain macroeconomic stability and achieve positive growth rates until 2008, but the overall growth profile has fallen short of the level hoped to achieve a substantial reduction in poverty. In fact, it has not favored the obtaining of better yields, because of the non-use of efficient inputs, the poor cultivation practices, the aging of orchards and the active rural population, the lack of rural infrastructure and funding (DSCE, 2009).

According to the World Trade Organization (2013), Cameroon continues to show shortages in supply year after year and continues to import manufactured products, petroleum oils and large quantities of cereals and others. PNIA (2014) notes that in 2012, the trade deficit of XAF 1142.7 billion is explained by imports (+3.6%) higher than exports (+2.2%). Exports mainly concern cotton, sawn timber and cocoa, which represent 3.4%, 6.5% and 9.2% of national exports respectively. Despite the lack of reliable data, the low production of food products can be observed through the rise in household consumption prices and the high imports rate of certain food products, mainly cereals such as rice, which represents 4.7% of total imports. The national production of potatoes, for example, was 220,000 tons in 2005 and 229,000 tons in 2009, much lower than the national demand which is approximately 1,000,000 tons and that of the CEMAC zone which is close to 2 500,000 tons (IRAD, 2012). However, with the crisis of the mid-1980s, some states, including Cameroon, adopted the structural adjustment plan, which led them, among other things, to disengage from their support functions to producers, notably the supply of inputs, the marketing of products, agricultural advice, training and others, which were transferred to private actors who, according to them, were better able to provide these functions. These multiple actors include Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Producer Organizations (POs) and other operators. Despite the weak negotiation on the modalities of transfers between the state and rural producers, farmers' organizations have been particularly targeted and empowered to assume these functions (Mercoiret, 2006). Several laws, including Law No. 90-53 of 19 December 1990 on freedom of association, Law

No. 92/006 of 14 August 1992 and its implementing decree No. 92/455/PM of 23 November 1992 on cooperatives and ICGs, and Law No. 99/014 of 22 December 1999 governing NGOs, will enable the State to promote the expansion of these organizations. In 2007, in the management of public finances, the New State Financial Regime (NRFE) saw a shift from a logic of means based on the search for budget regularity to a logic of performance based on the effectiveness of public action through the establishment of program budgets, which will promote the multiplicity of state projects and programs.

In 2017, Menoua division had 2,639 Pos, 20 State Programmes/ Projects and around twenty NGOs working in the agro pastoral field (DDADER Menoua, 2017). There are also about forty private operators selling inputs and agricultural equipment, whose advisory support to agricultural producers is not negligible. Among these multiple actors, there are NGOs such as: CIPCRE, GADD, BREAKING GROUND, ERA CAM and others, POs such as CAPLAME, PLANOPAC, APASPO and others as well as private operators (SEMAGRI, PHYTO PRO and others). Significant support staff that can give convincing results insofar as they provide multifaceted services to producers, partly assuming the functions abandoned by the State after several decades of supervision, marked by an administered policy (Guillermou, 2005). These service providers all operate in the same space, sometimes iteratively with the same beneficiaries. But these producers still have dissatisfaction and difficulties in the production actions and becoming independent without external support, also the quantity produced does not always follow these interventions at the desired way, and producers remain poor. This leads to question the adequacy between the services provided and the needs of farmers. Through an analysis of agricultural services, this article aims to contribute to a better understanding of how NGOs, state structures and producer organizations intervene in agricultural production. It will thus identify while characterizing them, the various actors offering agricultural services to producers, determine the agricultural services provided, the effects of the services on the beneficiaries, the difficulties in providing the services and the prospects for improvement.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.1. Area of the Study

The NGOs-associations of the study were chosen in the West region while the state programs-projects, the POs and individual producers were chosen in Menoua division. Menoua is one of the eight division of the West Cameroon region. Located between 5° and 5°5 North latitude and 10°05 East longitude, it is limited to the North by the Bamboutos division, to the West by the Lebialem and Koupè Manengouba divisions, to the South by the Mungo division and to the east by the Haut-Nkam, Mifi and Hauts-Plateaux divisions. With an area of 1380 km², Menoua has six sub divisions namely Penka-Michel, Nkong-Ni, Dschang, Fongo-Tongo, Santchou and Fokoue, six municipalities and twenty-one village groups.

Figures 1 present distribution of POs and individual producers of the study in Menoua division.

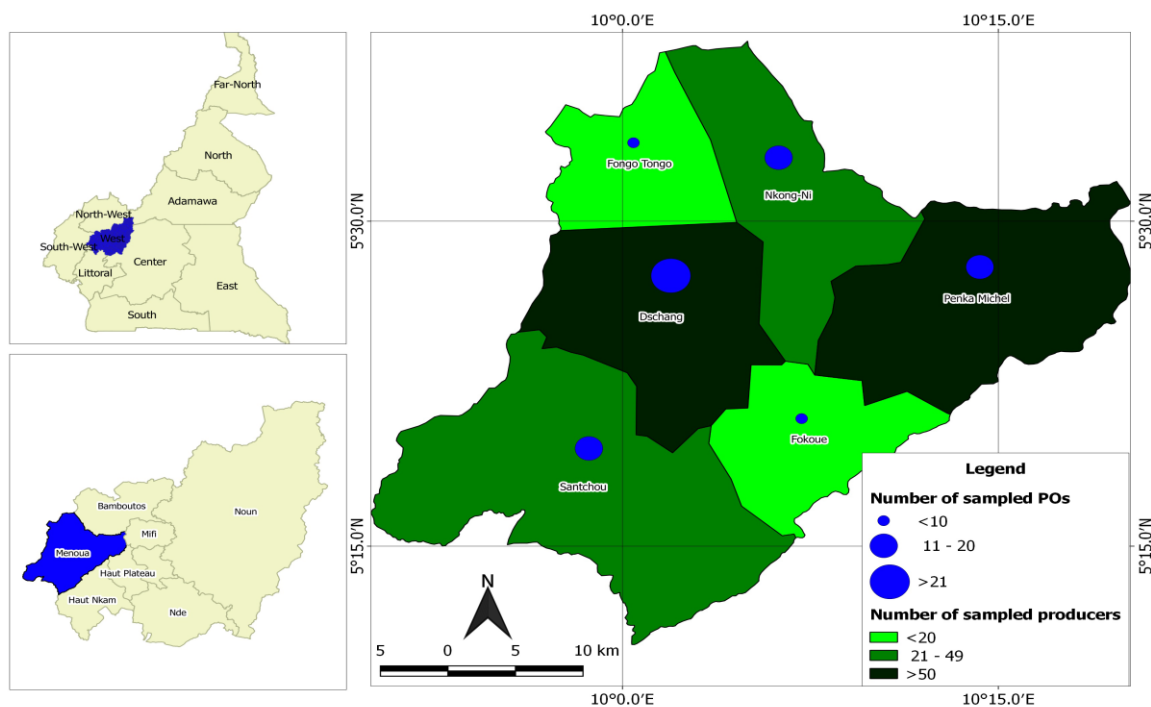


Fig. 1. Breakdown of the numbers of POs and individual producers surveyed by sub-division of Menoua division.

Source: Administrative map of Cameroon.

2.2. Population of the Study

Population of the study consisted of four state programs-projects, 22 NGO-associations, 91 POs and 200 individual producers. To sample them, we first consulted the directory of program-projects in the decentralized services of MINADER and MINEPIA, the repertoire of NGOs/associations drawn up by NGO GADD in 2015, but not published and we also conducted exploratory surveys in the study area. Then, in a reasoned method, we selected four programs-projects, namely:

- PCP-ACEFA which is the flagship program currently with a global approach to exploitation, a technical and economic advice in addition to financing of POs productive projects;
- PPDMVCC, PAUEF 2C and PALAF 2C which are program-projects intervening specifically in the coffee-cocoa sector.

Then, always by a reasoned method, we chose 22 NGOs-associations from the West region. The selection criteria were as follows: NGOs with activities related to agriculture, base of intervention located in the Menoua or NGO related at least with a structure based in Menoua and availability to speak with us. In each structure, we worked with the main manager or any other manager familiar with the operation of the structure.

Then, for the choice of the 91 POs and the 200 individual producers, we first made a random choice which was followed by a reasoned or social recognition method. In each PO, we worked primarily with the delegate or the treasurer or the general secretary. In short, one of these three managers who was willing to receive us. Despite of this initial instruction, we found ourselves in some POs working with more than one manager. But far from being an obstacle, this plurality of respondents was a source of enrichment of our data insofar as one supplemented the information provided by the other.

The distribution of respondents (NGOs, POs and individual producers) is presented respectively in Table 1 and 2.

Table 1. Distribution of NGOs-associations surveyed by location.

N°	Structures	Location
1.	ADI	Dschang
2.	ASA	Dschang
3.	ADEID	Bafoussam
4.	APADER	Bangangte
5.	APASPO	Dschang
6.	APDEL	Dschang
7.	ASDEG	Bafoussam
8.	BREAKING GROUND	Dschang
9.	CEPDEL	Dschang
10.	CIPCRE	Bafoussam
11.	CODAS CARITAS	Bafoussam
12.	CPF	Bafoussam
13.	CREFISAC	Dschang
14.	ERA CAM	Dschang
15.	ERUDEF	Dschang
16.	GADD	Dschang
17.	GRAD	Bangangte
18.	HORIZONS JEUNES	Dschang
19.	MEMORIAL FLAVIA	Dschang
20.	PIPAD	Dschang
21.	PLANOPAC	Dschang
22.	TOCKEM	Dschang (Bafou-Tsingbeu)

It should be noted that in the context of service providers, we also chose in a reasoned method, a level 2 PO, called CAPLAME whose main activities are related to the coffee sector.

Table 2. POs and individual producers surveyed.

Arrondissement	Dschang	Penka-Michel	Nkong-Ni	Santchou	Fongo-Tongo	Fokoue	Total
OP	30	17	15	14	9	6	91
P	50	52	38	25	20	15	200

Legend: OP: Number of POs surveyed, P: Number of producers surveyed.

2.3. *Data Collection and Analysis Tools*

Secondary sources data have been processed and organized around the research axes of the study. The collection of data from primary sources was done through observations and surveys using 3 questionnaires and 2 interview guides. The triangulation of data sources was used. For the analyses, the content analysis, the descriptive statistics processes and the qualitative analyzes were used to analyze the interview guides and the questionnaires. SPSS.17 software (Statistical Package for the Social Science) was used. All these data have been restored by comments, figures and tables.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1. *Identification and Characterization of Actors Involved in Agricultural Service in Menoua*

Within the framework of this study, service providers are NGOs-associations, state programs and projects as well as CAPLAME, which is a second-level PO. The beneficiaries are grassroots POs and individual producers. To better understand the provision of agro-pastoral services by these actors, it was wise to first identify them and then study some of their characteristics. Thus, the providers were characterized in relation to their year of creation, the areas of intervention and services, the approaches and strategies of intervention as well as their financial partners. Then for the POs, it was the years of creation, the activities carried out as well as the sources of financing of the activities that interested us. For individual producers, we looked at gender and age in the level of involvement in agro pastoral activities, the level of schooling, field operations related to the most used type of man labor, the modes of land acquisition as well as the sources of financing.

4.1.1. *Characterization of NGOs-Associations, State Programs-Projects*

1) *Period of Creation*

The 2000s marked an effervescence for most (55%) of the NGOs and all the program-projects in the study. Indeed, the different political and economic orientations set up after the disengagement of the State are at the origin of the proliferation of these actors. Guillermou (2005) notes that as of June 30, 2000, West Cameroon officially had 1,794 GICs, 39 unions and one federation. Then, many NGOs, with diverse scopes and objectives, appeared to intervene in this environment, also promoting the emergence and supervision of these POs. In fact, alongside these private actors to whom the State has ceded its input supply, marketing and other functions, the State itself intervenes not only by guiding policies, but also by ensuring in part the supply of tangible and intangible services through programs and projects.

2) *Areas of Intervention and Services*

The areas of intervention of NGOs are multiple, namely: agro-pastoral, health, advocacy and others. They are also pluriactive even if the 22 NGOs-associations of the study each have the agro-pastoral component in their activities. Also, all the study's project-programs operate only in this area. This was also one of the selection criteria. These results are consistent with those of Fataki et al. (2016), where the researchers also highlight several areas of intervention of the NGOs in the study as well as the pluriactivity of some of them. In this agro-pastoral field, NGOs and program-projects provide several services, including information/sensitization, training, agro-pastoral advice, advice, input supply, project financing and others.

3) *Intervention Strategies and Approaches*

The structures of the study have several strategies and intervention approaches, including:

- Strategic networking;
- The program-project approach;
- The “farmers’ fields school” approach;
- The “coaching” approach;
- The “pilot village” approach;
- The approach of the Christian faith;
- The gender approach;
- The support approach for the visually impaired;
- The organic farming approach.

Among these approaches and strategies, while some are specific to given structures that of networking is transversal to all structures. Indeed, the structures seek partners for both financial and technical support, especially for the implementation of their programs and projects.

4) *Financial Partners*

Speaking of financial partners, all the 22 structures surveyed claimed to have at least one among the 63 listed structures that provide them with financial support. These partners can be institutions made up of several countries, i.e. within the framework of multilateral cooperation such as the European Union (EU), the World Bank (WB), the FAO, UNICEF or can come from a single country or belong to bilateral cooperation. In this register, we can cite: the GIZ, Brot fur die welt and others. Among these structures, PPLM comes first with 23%, followed by the EU with 19%, then come the FAO, BM, GIZ, UNICEF, SLCD (Lay Service for Development Cooperation), the Swiss government with 9% each. There are also national partners such as: MINADER, MINEPIA, MINPAT, the AFOP program and the town hall of Bangangte with 9% as well. The rest of the partners (49) each come with 5%.

A classification of these financial partners in relation to their origin is presented in Figure 2.

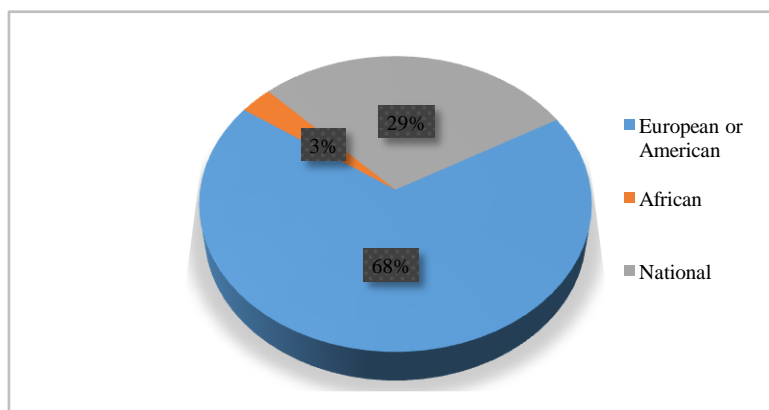


Fig. 2. Source of the financial partners of the structures surveyed.

Figure 2 shows that the financial partners of the NGO-associations of the study coming from Europe or America are in the majority, unlike national or African structures which come respectively in second and third position. In this majority, German or Italian structures are in the lead with 16%, followed by Belgian, French and British structures with 9% each. The Netherlands follows immediately with 6%. Only two structures which are Care Benin/Togo and ICW come from Africa.

This financial support enables beneficiary structures to finance the projects of producers who request their support; but also, to ensure certain internal operating expenses (salary and others). These results show that NGOs-associations in the South are more financed by institutions or organizations in the North. This analysis is consistent with the results of Fataki et al. (2016) where the majority (87%) of NGOs working on the ground in Minova in Congo were foreign even if in the present case, it is rather partners who support local NGOs.

As for the program-projects, 75% (PAUEF2C, PALAF 2C and PMDVCC) are financed by the Cocoa and Coffee Sector Development Fund (FODECC), whose resources come from levies on cocoa and coffee exports. The PCP-ACEFA is financed by the French Development Agency (AFD) through the Debt Reduction and Development Contract (C2D) and the Cameroonian State, which pays the salaries of the agents working in this program. The SDSR (2016) shows that Cameroon has several external financial partners intervening in the rural sector and which can be identified by the framework of their interventions: multilateral cooperation, bilateral cooperation and sub-regional cooperation.

4.1.2. POs

With regard to POs, their characteristics are presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Characteristics of POs.

PO creation period			Main Activity/Sector of the PO			PO Funding Sources		
Creation Period	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Main Activity/ Sector of the PO	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Funding Sources	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1996-2001	17	18,68	Maize	31	34,07	Financial contribution from members	67	73,63
2002-2007	32	35,16	Pigs	15	16,48	Financial contribution from members + external support	10	10,99
2008-2017	42	46,15	Marked gardening	14	15,38	Financial contribution +profits from activities	9	9,89
Total	91	100,00	Production and grouped sale of cocoa and coffee	11	12,09	Profit taken from the activities carried out	3	3,30
			Grouped sale of products	8	8,79	Membership	2	2,20

PO creation period			Main Activity/Sector of the PO			PO Funding Sources		
Creation Period	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Main Activity/ Sector of the PO	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Funding Sources	Frequency	Percentage (%)
			and supply of inputs to members			fees + donation		
			Potato	7	7,69	Total	91	100,00
			Flesh chicken	4	4,40			
			Transformation of members' nuts into palm oil and group sale	1	1,10			
			Total	91	100,00			

1) *The Period of Proliferation of POs*

Data analysis shows that it is from the 2000s that there is a proliferation of producer organizations with peaks in 2002, and from 2006 to 2010. (Ndassi, 2011; Tchoupou, 2013) show that the peak creation and formalization of POs is between 2005 and 2010. These years correspond to periods of institutional change as Achancho (2012) points out. Indeed, it was during this period that Cameroon adopted the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and the Rural Sector Development Strategy Paper whose update in 2005 declined it into a series of operational programs and projects. However, the majority of these programs and projects that provide multifaceted and above all financial or material support to POs, suggest during their information and awareness-raising phases that their preferred targets are formal POs. This is how they will accentuate the process of legalization to seize these opportunities. We can say like Mercoiret (2006) that most of them were driven from outside. This is also why Guillerrou (2007) notes that some observers have assimilated this rise in power of POs as a strategy for capturing external aid and others have rather thought that it arrives to play a role in supervising the rural world where the state has withdrawn.

2) *Activities Carried out by POs*

For Rondot and Collion (2001), producer organizations can have technical-economic functions, defense of members' interests and local development. The POs surveyed are at the grassroots level and all perform technical and economic functions within which plant production covers 80%. Within this, the maize sector occupies a prominent place with 34.07% in the activities of POs. This corroborates with the DSDSR (2005) where it is noted that the majority of farmers cultivate a relatively high number of food crops within which most of them (72%) cultivate maize. This diversification of cropping systems is a strategy adopted by agro pastoral producers to limit risks and deal with food insecurity or price fluctuations.

Among the POs surveyed, only the "GIC PROPABA" in Bale in the district of Santchou processes nuts into palm oil. This activity is marginal within POs, as Ndassi (2013) points out. The reason is the lack of very expensive processing equipment and not easily acquired by POs' own resources; which suggests the problem of financing infrastructure for the processing of agricultural products in POs. Producers are sometimes forced to sell their products at harvest at low prices because of the short-term perishability of most. However, the

transformation would increase the lifespan and an added value on the products. It thus falls into the register of innovative services to be promoted. POs also carry out activities to supply members with agricultural inputs as well as group sales of products. Moreover, these are functions that have been assigned to them since the withdrawal of the State, even if they have not been sufficiently prepared for these responsibilities, as Mercoiret (2006) asserts.

3) *Sources of Funding*

Members contribute more than 74% to finance activities in their POs. These resources can come from the income generated by the activities carried out or can be deducted directly from the source after a service rendered by the PO to the members. They can also come from calls for funds from members depending on the cost of the investment to be made. Guillermou (2005) argues that group solidarity promotes the individual equipment of members, who, thanks to mutual aid and contributions, build piggeries in turn. Also, group purchases and sales allow them to achieve economies of scale.

However, there are some contributions from outside such as PCP-ACEFA, NGOs and microfinance. These contributions must be used in accordance with the supplier's specifications because each donor has areas in which it directs the financing. This is no doubt the reason why Benoit (2000) asserts that the conceptions of the donors prevail over those of the beneficiaries and the solutions they bring to them put them in a situation of material and psychological dependence. Beneficiaries are performers whose primary capacity is to absorb aid, which sometimes breaks their autonomy.

4.1.3. *Individual Producers*

For individual producers, we considered demographic profile, main activity and land tenure.

1) *Demographic Profile of Producers*

Among the 97% of educated respondents, 45% only have the CEP (primary education certificate). This low level of education is not a strength for these producers who need to better understand the type of service to request based on their real needs. These results are consistent with those of Fongang et al. (2021) where not only the agricultural population is also aging, but also has a low level of education which is a barrier to the adoption of technological innovations. Young people (21-30 year old) who make agriculture their job are rather rare (8.4%). On the other hand, the age group between 41 and 60 years and over is the most involved (63%); this regardless of gender. Today, among agricultural workers, there are both men and women who are well involved in field work. This testifies to the reconversion of roles in rural areas where men have become food producers working in the field like women with whom they sometimes dispute the occupation of plots of land. During the surveys, we met male heads of families who force their wives to complete, according to the time window, the operations of their plots before starting theirs. Those who violate these rules are prohibited for a given period from exploiting the land made available to them. They are therefore obliged to respect these rules to preserve this right of use as well as their social value. Ndami (2017) notes that in Bamileke society, access to land was the basis of the economic autonomy of women who ensured food security for men and children; not cultivating the land was unworthy of most women.

2) *Main Activity/Domain, Mode of Tenure of Cultivated Land and Labor Intensive Operations*

Data related to this paragraph are presented in Table 4.

Table 4. Main activity, mode of tenure of cultivated land and labor intensive operations.

Main Activity			Mode of Tenure of Cultivated Land			Labor Intensive Operations		
Main Activity	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Mode of Tenure	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Labor Operations	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Farmer	160	80	Legacy	84	47	Plowing and harvesting	106	53,00
Breeder	5	2,5	Purchase	44	22	Plowing and weeding	36	18,00
Official	12	6	Provision	23	11,5	All operations	58	29,00
Trader	8	4	Rental	21	10,5			
Carrier	3	1,5	Don	18	9			
Mechanic	3	1,5						
Teacher	2	1						
Student	2	1						
Hairdresser	5	2,5						
Total	200	100	Total	200	100	Total	200	100

a) Main Activity/Domains

The majority of respondents have agriculture as their favorite activity or domain, unlike 17.5%. The motivations of most (47.00%) to make agricultural activity their main job is due to the fact that it is a profitable activity and one is in control of oneself. Indeed, agriculture has enormous risks; but with technical expertise and a little luck on the side of climatic hazards, we can start to have an investment return from the third month for short-term products such as market gardening (tomato, cabbage, etc.), certain food crops (beans, fresh maize) or livestock products (broilers).

b) The Mode of Tenure of Cultivated Land

The areas exploited vary between 0.02 and 30 ha with an average of 6.7 ha. This average hides large differences insofar as more than 70% exploit areas ranging from 0.02 to 0.8ha. Producers with large areas meet in the Santchou subdivision with coffee and cocoa orchards. The mode of acquisition of land by inheritance is the most common. These results are consistent with those of Fongang et al. (2021). However, the analysis reveals gender discrimination in the distribution of land inheritance in the sense that the women who have had the privilege of receiving it represent only half of the men. It is all the same an evolution of mentalities insofar as in the last twenty years, women did not have the right to land inheritance. This is why Ndami (2017) asserts that the dynamics of land appropriation remain largely influenced by the gender inequalities that structure society as a whole and control of land still eludes the majority of women who are yet the main users.

c) Labor-Intensive Field Operations

Plowing and harvesting are very labor-intensive and force producers to use hired labor from outside. The daily-

-y cost of a man day, which is the amount of work done by an individual in a working day, which is 8 hours in our environment, varies from 2500 to 3000 FCFA and more depending on demand. This raises the problem of the mechanization of agriculture. If we want to solve this problem at the level of agro pastoral family farms that have permanently associated cropping systems, it would be wise to opt for small tillers that could better adapt to said systems. This would inevitably reduce the work of women and children who remain the main source of family labor on these farms.

3) *The Mode o Financing*

Producers finance their activities themselves with their own funds from previous harvests or through loans contacted in tontine groups, common initiative groups or the former “Mutuelles Communautaires de Croissance (Community Growth Mutuals)” (MC²) today “Mutuelle Financiere de Developpement (Mutual Financial Development)” (MUFID). These structures grant them short-term campaign loans (lasting one year) at annual interest rates of approximately 14%, on the basis of the micro projects drawn up and whose repayment is made with the sale of products. These analyzes are consistent with the FAO report (2012) which states that producers are the biggest investors in their farms alongside the Government or donors since their contribution is respectively 4 and 50 times higher than that of the Government and donors, foreign development assistants. However, campaign financing can also come from the public investment budgets of the ministries in charge of rural development such as MINADER and this through projects such as PALAF 2C or PAUEF2C which grant inputs to producers. The PCP-ACEFA finances producers with infrastructure (henhouse, pigsty) or production equipment in the form of subsidies. But the proportion of the producers surveyed having received these various supports through their POs is only 5%.

4.2. *Agricultural Services Provided*

Table 5 below presents the agricultural services most offered by NGO-associations, state program-projects (PCP-ACEFA, PPD MVCC, PAUEF 2C, PALAF 2C) and CAPLAME to POs and individual producers.

Table 5. Agricultural services provided to POs and individual producers.

Service title	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Training	23	85,19
Technical advice/ Extension of technical innovations	22	81,48
Support/follow-up	13	48,15
Input supply	10	37,04
Technical-economic/management advice	7	25,93
Drafting of projects	7	25,93
Funding of beneficiary projects	7	25,93
Infrastructure and/or production equipment	7	25,93
Marketing support	7	25,93
Information/Awareness	6	22,22
Agropastoral advice	4	14,81

Service title	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Capacity Building	4	14,81
Facilitation in obtaining credit	4	14,81
Collective Infrastructures	4	14,81
Support for product conservation	3	11,11

a) Training

This table shows that training is the most offered service, as evidenced by 85, 19% of respondents. This analysis is the same as that of Ngapgue (2002) in Foubot where out of five services provided to farmers, 3 or 60% had a link with training. Indeed, among the service providers in the study, 88.89% offer this service in which the technical aspects occupy a prominent place. Technical training covers:

- Techniques of production,
- Management of soil fertility: rational use of conventional fertilizers and the use of organic fertilizers,
- In organic farming, the manufacture and use of organic pesticides (kitchen ash, *Titonia* sp, *Caliandra* sp and others). As for this organic farming, 24.14% of the survey structures are involved in it. These are: GADD, ERACAM, CIPCRE, CODAS CARITAS, CPF de Mbouo, ERUDEF and GRAD;
- Production of Plants from Stem Fragments (PIF) which is done by CIPCRE;
- Techniques of production of medicinal plants which is done by CIPCRE, CODAS CARITAS and PIPAD;
- The processing techniques of cassava, soybean which is done by GADD, CIPCRE and GRAD;
- Training in village poultry farming by GADD and CPF. It is within the framework of the ProCISA that the GADD carries out this training;
- The formulation of feed for pigs, broiler chickens and others;

Training generally consists of a theoretical phase followed by practice. Figures 3 and 4 below illustrate these two phases of a training on organic agriculture by the GADD.



Fig. 3. The oritical training on the manufacture of organic.



Fig. 4. Field demonstration of compost making.

b) Technical Advice

Technical advice is similar to technical training and covers, in addition to the above-mentioned aspects, the following: the choice of good seeds, phytosanitary treatment, and the choice of speculation or types of

association available for the use of compost, cultural techniques and others. Third service requested after the supply of inputs and the financing of projects by 60.69% of respondents, technical advice is the second service offered after training. These results are contrary to those of Fataki et al. (2016) where most of the services to producers were linked to the supply of inputs of resistant varieties and breeds (cassava cuttings, banana stems, and goats), hoes and machetes. However, these results are consistent with those of Dugue et al. (2017) who show that technical advice dominates in the supply of agricultural extension advice.

c) Supply of Inputs

About inputs, the order of priority is as follows: fertilizer, seeds, phytosanitary products, quality day-old chicks and piglets of good breed. This service, which is the most requested as confirmed by 85.22% of respondents, was offered according to 34.25% of respondents; and this by 10 structures out of 27, or 31.04%. These structures are: PPDMVCC, PAUEF 2C, PALAF 2C, GADD, BREAKING GROUND, ERA CAM, MEMORIAL FLAVIA, PIPAD, ERUDEF and CIPCRE. Fongang (2008) notes that farmers' expectations of agricultural development organizations revolved more around the service of facilitating access to agricultural inputs. This author had made similar observations on previous work carried out in 1998, still in West Cameroon, on peasant reactions to proposals for structuring their environment.

d) Project Financing

Funding is granted for the construction of piggeries and henhouses, the acquisition of production equipment (motor pump, watering can and others) and to cover operating costs. This well-solicited service (63.57%) is poorly offered and this by 6 structures, i.e. 22.22%. These structures are: GADD, BREAKING GROUND, PIPAD, CREFISAC, Tockem and PCP-ACEFA. These results show the weak financing that the activities of the agricultural sector undergo. Despite the commitment made by African Heads of State in Maputo in 2003 to devote at least 10% of their national budget to agriculture, results remained mixed in 2014 and only 13 countries devoted at least one year to agriculture, less than 10% of their budget for a period of five years (Wade and Ndiang, 2014). Cameroon is counted among the countries that have not achieved this objective because despite the efforts made to increase the investment budget, until 2012 and 2013, it allocated only 4.3% of total expenditure planned to the four ministries in charge of the rural sector (PNIA, 2014). It is also for this reason that Claquin and Chabane (2013) think that agriculture, especially food production, has long been penalized in favor of industrial agriculture in the countries of the South, unlike those of the North, which continue to finance theirs. UNDP (1997) notes that in 1995, these industrialized countries devoted a total of 182 billion dollars to agricultural subsidies, unlike poor countries which not only do not finance their producers well, but which open their economies to unfair competition from highly subsidized.

4.3. Some Case Studies of the Strategies Used

For this section, we have chosen the strategies of GADD and PAUEF 2C.

4.3.1. GADD Strategies and Approaches

As for the GADD, it offers training, financing, technical and other support services through networking strategies and approaches coupled with that of program-projects. In partnership with other structures, the GADD manages 6 programs or projects, namely:

- Women's Entrepreneurship Support Project (PEF) co-managed by BREAKING GROUND, which provided the funding and the GADD its technical expertise through the design of training modules, the training of beneficiaries and the technical monitoring of activities. The training was organized in sessions of 35 participants each. Each session lasted 6 weeks and included 12 modules which are: business plans, leadership, accounting, planning, operating account, drafting of the project, preparation of a balance sheet, evaluation, marketing, design, project cycle and practical exercises. At the end of the training, the participant benefited from a credit which varied from 200,000 to 500,000 FCFA with an interest rate of 5% for a year to finance his micro-project. For the financing of this project, a partnership protocol had been signed with the Mutuelles Communautaires de Croissance (Community Growth Mutuals) (MC²) of Foto and Foreke-Dschang, which received the funds from the BREAKING GROUND project and made them available to the beneficiaries who from the training, had a bankable project. At the beginning BREAKING GROUND put a start-up fund of 7,000,000 FCFA. 230 women out of 315 trained, i.e. 73.02%, benefited from the financing of their projects relating to: agriculture, livestock and other income-generating activities (IGA). BREAKING GROUND financed these IGAs in the form of credit in Dschang, in Menoua. On the other hand, in Ngaoundere in Vina, it was in the form of subsidies of which the beneficiary provided 20% and BREAKING GROUND 80%. Subsequently, the women became empowered and approached loans without resorting to GADD or BREAKING GROUND. This training started in July 2014 and ended in 2017 when the donor (BREAKING GROUND) stopped funding. However, the GADD would like to relaunch this project and seek new partners for the Nzong village (Foto-Dschang).
- Raffia Valorization Program (PRR) funded by the Secular Service for Cooperation and Development (SLCD) and the Free University of Brussels (ULB). This project has two components, namely: the regeneration of the raffias that the GADD provides thanks to a nursery set up in the Batsengla village in the district of Nkong-Ni (see figure 5), the economic and social revaluation of the raffias, in particular the raffia sap which is an organic drink bottled and marketed by the GADD. The GADD provides its expertise by carrying out a study on the raffia development plan. Where there are, he arranges so that they do not die. Where they are destroyed, it regenerates with plants from nurseries. To date, 11 ha of raffia have been regenerated and a raffia sector cooperative of 20 winegrowers has been set up. This exploitation of raffia also makes it possible to carry out drinking water supply projects in the villages (figure 7).



Fig. 5. Nursery of raffia palm plants.



Fig. 6. Collection of raffia sap.



Fig. 7. Provision of drinking.

- The organic farming promotion project (PrOBIO) in Menoua division is financed by Brot für die welt and the GADD provides its expertise in the conduct of activities in the field as well as the technical monitoring of producers. The GADD proceeds through an awareness workshop where producers who want to convert to organic practice are identified. The training is done in 2 phases (theoretical in the classroom and practical

in the field). During the theoretical phase, producers are trained in organic farming with its principles, which are to produce without the use of conventional pesticides. They are also trained in setting up a Participatory Guarantee System (PGS), a step that will contribute to the certification of products. During the practical phase, the demonstration plots of the tests of each producer are identified. They are the ones who choose their plots (300m² minimum for each) and one of the 9 speculations resulting from the market study. However, there are those who prefer the intercropping system of potatoes and maize. Then, seeds are made available to them. They are also trained in the manufacture of biological pesticides based on: papaya leaves, Desmodium, Pennisetum purpureum, Tithonia, calliandra, kitchen ash and others. For this training, 103 producers were trained and 82 are in the field in production. During training, we gave 10,000 FCFA to each participant for refreshment and transport.

- The Green Innovation Center project for the agro-food sector (ProCISA) in partnership with the GIZ through the MINADER PRPPT where the GADD also provides training and support. This project concerns two value chains: potato production techniques in conventional agriculture and the integrated pig and village chicken system. GADD recruited 14 young engineers from FASA, including 6 women. It has a field school at the MINADER farm in Penka-Michel. Also, in each sub division, it chooses the field of a volunteer producer for the demonstrations in order to reduce the expenses related to the subsidy and this constitutes their counterpart to the training.

It is the Farmer Field School (FFS) approach which is an innovative approach. Each training session is made up of 35 to 40 producers at most. Following the training, the GADD, through the financial support of ProCISA, buys certified potato seeds, droppings, chemical fertilizers and pesticides which it distributes to producers. To date, 15 GICs, a union of GICs and the 6 cooperatives of potato producers in Menoua have already received this training and support, which amounts to 5 million FCFA.

For the pigsties, they are built at the producers on stilts and the local hens below feed on worms and maggots from the decomposition of pig faeces, while depositing their own. All this organic waste helps fertilize the fields.

It should be noted that the GADD provides close technical monitoring of these activities by field visits to the various beneficiaries. The frequency depends on the activity. This is the “coaching” approach.

4.3.2. *PAUEF 2C Strategies and Approaches*

The mission of this project was to ensure the fertilization of coffee and cocoa orchards. The program strategy was to work with POs that requested support. These were forwarded by the district focal point to the departmental focal point who compiled these requests with the divisional delegate of agriculture and rural development then, the latter signed the slip and the files were sent to the national coordination in Yaounde. In the specifications of the project, it was a question of the fertilizers arriving in two stages: April and September, which correspond to the periods of fertilization of the orchard. But the fertilizers sometimes came in February of the following year and it was not regular. Also, there were beneficiary POs whose names were not on the starting list brought up in Yaoundé. As for the fertilizers received, the data for 2014 and 2015 were not available, but rather those for 2016 and 2017. In 2016, 47 POs received for the first campaign, 1,200 bags of 50 kg of fertilizer in dated June 23, 2016, which should be spread in April. On behalf of the second campaign, 42

POs received 1,400 bags of 50 kg of fertilizer on December 22, 2016, for fertilization scheduled for September 2016. In 2017, there was only one distribution on October 18, 2017: 1400 bags for 35 PO. In 2018, the project donated foliar fertilizers. At 70%, it was the same POs that received this support. However, in February 2021, the POs received fertilizers planned for 2019 and that was the end of the activities of this project in the field. Note that some crooked beneficiaries make commercial transactions with these fertilizers despite the sales ban as mentioned on the bag in picture 6 below.



Fig. 8. PAUEF 2C coffee-cocoa fertilizer.

As in the offer of PALAF 2C pesticides, not only is this support insignificant in relation to the areas to be fertilized, but it comes at the wrong time. These results show that each structure has its own intervention strategy or approach. The supply of inputs or the financing of projects is done in the form of subsidies in public structures unlike in private structures where these are more repayable credits even if there is input support in the form of donations during the practical phase in the peasant fields. Despite this, we have the assurance that the inputs provided by the private structures are actually used; which is not always the case for public structures where support is often distracted. The private sector deserves to be strengthened in order to offer more services to family farmers, real agents of development in the agricultural sector. It is also for these reasons that the SDSR (2016) affirms that one of the first articulations of the State advocated by Vision 2035 is to establish partnership contracts with the private sector which is recognized as the engine of growth, and with which a synergy of actions is necessary to achieve the long-term objectives of the development vision.

4.3. *The Effects of the Services Received on te Beneficiaries*

The data analysis showed that the services offered to the beneficiaries brought technical, economic, financial and organizational improvements to the beneficiaries.

➤ *Technical Effects*

The technical aspect, especially the improvement of practices, is the aspect where respondents claim to have had the most effects (42.86%); which enabled them to improve their production and yields as declared by 36.13% and 35.29% of the beneficiaries respectively. They manifest themselves in several ways of which we can cite among others:

- Producers who now know how to choose the right seed and who respect seeding densities. A maize producer affirms that he has gone from 6 kg of seeds on 4800 m² to 10 kg since the recommended density in an associated cropping system is 20 kg/ha compared to 25 kg in pure culture. Also, this producer practices a reasoned fertilization. With these practices, its yield increased from 1.5 tons/ha to 2.5 tons/ha.

- Others have improved techniques in pig farming by respecting bio security measures and improving feed. With these practices, they no longer experience red mullet or swine fever. In addition, their sows give birth twice a year.
- We note market gardeners who have improved phytosanitary treatment techniques by respecting doses and who alternate fungicides or insecticides to avoid plant resistance.

19.33% have adopted innovations such as hybrid seeds. Let's listen to this producer: *"Before, I didn't use hybrid seeds; but thanks to the advice, I use them for tomato (Rio power), pepper (Tibesti) and cabbage (Green coroner). Also, I do off-season crops that I water thanks to the group's motor pump financed by ACEFA. My income has increased although I cannot say exactly the amount"*.

➤ *Economic and Financial Effects*

The improvement of the economic and financial aspects is measured by the increase in income (25.21%) and the good management of activities. Let's listen to these respondents:

- A producer in the Nkong-Ni district: *"Before, we didn't take notes. Now we take notes and it allows us to see what we won, what we lost and why we lost. And there, the advisers help us to correct our errors for the next campaigns. It also helps us to see the activities that give us more money. Before, I only grew peppers, cabbage and tomatoes as crops more intended for marketing since our group had funding from ACEFA for equipment for market gardening. Thanks to the advice, as I did not have enough space, I added poultry farming (broilers and laying hens) as well as pigs. I'm satisfied because my annual income is about 5 million today against less than a million before 2009. This allowed me to ensure the education of my children and to build new houses"*.
- A producer in Fongo-Tongo: *"To produce, I do my operating account and the cash budget; so that I know the amount I have to spend. If I don't have, I already know how much to borrow from the MC². When I sell my products, I divide the money: what I have to repay the loans to MC², what I have to reinvest, what I have to spend on the family, what I have to save. For the past three years, I have borrowed 1,000,000 FCFA each year from the MC² of Fongo-Tongo; I repay on time and I save at least 10,000 FCFA"*.

➤ *Organizational Effects in Groups*

The improvement of the services provided in the groups has allowed an evolution in the associative life, the administrative and financial management of the group. Each members of the management committee knowshis functions (16.81%), the meetings are regularly held with the participation of at least two thirds of the members and are accompanied by the minutes that all the participants sign. Formerly dishonest members participate now in due contributions and group work.

All the effects observed contribute to the improvement of the living conditions of producers, which is measured through: the schooling of children, which is better ensured (35%), access to health care (30%) and the repayment of loans within the deadlines (4%).

4.5. *Difficulties in Providing Services*

Among the difficulties related to the provision of services, we can mention two of them, namely:

- *Lack of Financial Resources:*

62.96% of support structures, including 50% of NGOs, do not have enough resources to respond to requests from beneficiaries, especially for 18% since the cessation of funding by donors. These results are consistent with those of the PNIA (2014) which shows that national NGOs are still weak due to a lack of financial and technical resources alongside international NGOs that have the desired capacities. Nevertheless, these structures play an important role by providing their capacities and experiences through local support to POs and grassroots rural communities.

- *Diversion of Destination of Support Received by Beneficiaries (14.81%) and Difficult Recovery of Allocated Funds:*

Some producers use coffee-cocoa fertilizers or pesticides on maize or sell them despite awareness raising. The versatile agents of change (APCs) of Tockem, the GADD to name but a few, sometimes have difficulty in recovering the credits granted to the beneficiaries.

4.6. Prospects for Improving the Service Offer

We have seen that the most offered service (training/technical advice) comes after the financing requested by the producers. But these services have nevertheless enabled some producers to improve their practices and even their production, even if we remain below the majority. The study proposes that an effective service offer that should have a very positive impact on agricultural production is that linked to agro pastoral advisory services which also includes the socio-economic aspects which are harmed in favor of the technical aspects, as noted by Dugue et al. (2017). We will start from a participatory diagnosis with the producer to define his priorities and see the lever on which to press. The State, through a framework of consultation with all the actors involved, must carry out reflections in this direction. The State must ensure the financing of agriculture as required by the Maputo clauses in 2003. It must also support the private sector whose support activities for producers are not negligible since they do part of the work of the state. The realization of the project to create the agricultural bank where loans will be offered at subsidized rates should be another priority of the State. To compensate for the diversion of coffee-cocoa inputs in favor of maize and others, the State could adopt, among other things, the strategy used in Burkina Faso where Bazie et al. (2020) show that shortcomings in the management of cotton fertilizers have been overcome by the introduction of a mechanism for the rationing of fertilizers for cotton and maize. Indeed, per hectare of declared cotton, a producer receives three bags of cotton NPK and one bag of corn NPK. Thus, the repayment constraint leads producers to respect the planned rationing. The popularization of organic agriculture with the use of unconventional inputs is an interesting avenue to explore. Producers must use the supports in compliance with the service provider's specifications, creating stronger structures that can enable them to achieve economies of scale. Finally, the search for their financial autonomy must be at the heart of their concerns because aid washes their backs, but they have the heavy responsibility of washing their bellies.

IV. CONCLUSION

This study on the supply of agricultural services to producers in the Menoua division relied on NGO-associations, state program-projects as well as POs and individual producers. The NGO-associations are multi-active, although they are primarily for agricultural sector. The overall strategy of 29.62% of NGO-associations

is based on strategic networking. The financial partners are 69% of European or American origin; which shows that the NGOs/associations of the South are more financed by the institutions or organizations of the North. The study shows that it is from the 2000s that we observe a proliferation of NGOs, state programs and projects as well as producer organizations which come to play the role of overseeing the rural world where the State is disengaged. All the POs surveyed exercise technical and economic functions within which plant production covers 80%. Their multi-activity is a strategy for limiting risks and coping with food insecurity or price fluctuations. 74% of POs finance their activities themselves by appealing for funds from members and the profits generated by the activities; which shows that agriculture is poorly funded. The low level of education of the producers limits them in the analysis of the services to request which punctuate with their real needs. Regarding land acquisition, the inheritance mode is the most common. As for the services provided, training is the most offered service (85.19%), far ahead of input financing (37.04%) which is nevertheless the most requested service (85.55%). This shows that the agricultural service offer is not in line with the expectations of producers. Speaking of approaches in the supply of inputs, the state structures proceed by subsidies while the private structures grant credits. But the effective use of the inputs or credits provided is more assured when the offer is made by the private service, thanks to close monitoring, unlike the private sector where these offers are sometimes diverted. However, the services offered have enabled 42.86% and 35.29% of beneficiaries to improve their practices and yields respectively, as well as their income and living conditions. Difficulties related to the effective provision of services include: the lack of financial resources of private structures, the non-existence of the service requested in the specifications of suppliers, the resale or the diversion for certain crops of the inputs received. The issue raised in this study encourages thinking about a mechanism for the massification of agropastoral advice and massifiable financing of agriculture, especially family. It would be desirable to conduct a multisectoral policy, create a consultation platform including actors from other public and private domains whose actions are necessary for agricultural growth, support the private sector (PNIA, 2014) and promote organic farming. These strategies would contribute to a sustainable agricultural service offer that should have a positive impact on agricultural growth.

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