

Master Thesis in Agricultural or Environmental Sciences

Which factors and processes control the upscaling of results of research for development projects from the local to the regional and national scales? An analysis of the YAMSYS project in Côte d'Ivoire.

The inter- and transdisciplinary research for development YAMSYS led by the group of plant nutrition of ETH (see project description at <http://www.r4d.ch/modules/food-security/sustainable-yam-cropping> and <https://yamsys.org/en>) co-developed from 2015 to 2021 with a large number of actors, agricultural practices for improved yam production in two sites in Côte d'Ivoire and two sites in Burkina Faso.

The YAMSYS project is now completed. However, as in many projects of this type, there is a danger that if results are not upscaled at regional/national level and remain at local level, the acquired knowledge might erode and disappear with time. Nevertheless, at the end of the YAMSYS project we could already observe positive spillover effects at regional effects in both countries. The agricultural practices developed in the project were first validated in a region where YAMSYS had not been active and are now scheduled to be implemented in two large rural development projects. More recently, the GIZ (the German agency for development) started a discussion with the Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques en Côte d'Ivoire (CSRS, the most important partner of the YAMSYS project in this country), to implement practices developed for yam on cassava. We are of course delighted to see the very positive echo the YAMSYS project has, but we do not understand the processes that led to the uptake of our results by large projects.

The objective of this MSc thesis will be to understand the processes and the factors controlling them that led to the uptake of YAMSYS approach and results in large projects to be conducted by regional and national authorities in Côte d'Ivoire with funding from American, French, and German development agencies. It will be important to assess whether the reasons explaining this uptake can be generalized to other situations resp to assess how context dependent these reasons are. We hypothesize that understanding the reasons of this success will allow to develop a blueprint that will facilitate the uptake of technologies developed in the frame of other research project for development.



Potential methods: Document analysis; experts / stakeholder interviews; focus groups; workshops

Requirements: Very good knowledge of French in writing, understanding, and speaking

Start: as soon as possible

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