

Review Article

Evolution of institutional support for agricultural entrepreneurship in Benin

ABSTRACT

Agricultural entrepreneurship (AE) has been a viable development option promoted by Benin government. This study aims to analyze the institutional environment supporting AE with a focus on innovation within enterprises through laws, and implementation of programs and projects. The data was collected and analyzed using content analysis of documents such as program/project reports, narratives, decrees, orders, and policy documents from various ministries. The results indicate that the institutional framework of Benin did not place particular emphasis on supporting agricultural enterprises. Reforms were initiated lately in 2006 to provide specific support and ensure the emergence of small and medium-sized agricultural enterprises. Laws were enacted, and programs and projects were conducted during the implementation of the reforms. A thorough analysis of the actions regarding AE reveals that the government interventions primarily addressed components including the propensity to innovate and the practice of innovation of the agricultural enterprises. The propensity to innovate did not particularly interest the agricultural enterprises. Reflections led to the integration of the propensity to innovate into support actions because of the increasing failure rates of young agricultural enterprises. Support for innovation was not completed on one type of intervention. Building on the importance of the propensity to innovate, the capacity to innovate, and the practice of innovation, in entrepreneurial success, efforts should continue to be made to create a more favorable institutional environment. Policies will also aim to simultaneously target the three components of innovativeness to provide a better chance of survival for young AE. Case studies will help achieve this goal.

Keywords: Agricultural entrepreneurship, institutional environment, innovation, Benin

1. INTRODUCTION

Employment and job creation for youth remain high issues in developing countries [1]. Despite the economic growth recorded in recent years in African countries, the structural change of African countries is still low, and most of the countries fail in creating high productive jobs [2]. Young people are considered as machines used to propel the progress and development of any community [3]. Thus, when they are trained and equipped with entrepreneurship skills, they will explore the available opportunities in their environment to become independent workers in their own businesses rather than job seekers [4]. Moreover, if agricultural entrepreneurs can innovate in their companies, this will quickly drive Africa's economic and social transformation [5].

The issues related to youth employment, and particularly to agricultural entrepreneurship in sub-Saharan Africa, have received much attention in recent years [6][7] [2]. Overall, these authors demonstrated that agriculture is the main source of foreign exchange in sub-Saharan African countries, and agricultural entrepreneurship of young people is on the one hand essential to reduce unemployment, and on the other hand to allow their empowerment for their individual, societal and national developments. The option of agricultural entrepreneurship for youth unemployment can also respond to food security issues [8], which remain a major challenge for African' states. Furthermore, the success of agricultural entrepreneurship

cannot be distinguished from the political, regulatory, institutional and economic environment in which entrepreneurs usually operate [9] [10].

Beninese government has recently been involved in the facilitation of agricultural entrepreneurship in Benin. Laws and decrees have been adopted, and several projects and programs have been implemented to promote agricultural entrepreneurship. However, it is still difficult to know their real effects on the settlement of young entrepreneurs, despite the proportion of unemployed (72%) of people aged between 15 and 35 in Benin (INSAE, 2015). Moreover, the contribution of measures taken by Benin government, and the reason of their implementations for the reduction of unemployment rate and to guarantee young people entrepreneurial success is still unclear.

Further studies showed that the internal factors hindering the development of agricultural entrepreneurship are the lack of skills and experience, psychological capital [11], goal orientation score [12], managerial aptitude and access to financing [13]. In addition, external factors disfavor the development of agricultural entrepreneurship, these factors include macroeconomics, competition, globalization, crime and corruption [13], the regulatory framework [14], government policy in the promotion and development of entrepreneurship [15].

In Benin, investigations on the impact of programs and projects have focused on the installation of beneficiaries and the number of created businesses [16]. However, with the evolution of the market and globalization, it is important to go beyond these basic impact indicators and to move forward with other indicators that allow young beneficiaries to face errors, make decisions for the account of his business and to meet the challenges. These various skills sought after for the young entrepreneurs are decisive for entrepreneurial success and can result, according to [17], in the innovativeness of the young entrepreneurs. For these authors, the innovativeness of the entrepreneurs can be understood as a combination of the entrepreneur's attitude (propensity) and aptitude (capacity) to innovate, and their practice (habit) of innovation. However, studies on the intervention approaches of projects and programs linked to innovation among young entrepreneurs are limited despite the efforts made since the 2000s to give more voice to the beneficiaries of projects and programs in research and development [18]. The present study sets to fill this gap by taking a critical look at the intervention approaches of projects and programs implemented in Benin for the promotion of agricultural entrepreneurship among young people. In short, the objective of this study is to synthesize the effect of agricultural policies on the stimulation of innovation among farmers in Benin.

A theoretical and analytical framework was necessary to successfully carry out this study. According to [19], program theory consists of two elements: normative and causal. Normative program theory focuses on program structure and encompasses planned intervention, intended effects, and implementation, all linked to program values. This normative theory consists of premises, principles and/or complementary propositions used by the actors involved to explain and guide social action. Program causal theory, however, targets the cause-and-effect mechanisms underlying the relationship between the planned intervention, implementation and expected results. It links together empirical knowledges regarding this causal relationship, i.e. their nature, the involved factors and the contextual conditions that influence them. The combination of the normative and causal theories can help to identify the essential elements of the program and to evaluate the validity of the intervention model with regard to the mechanisms underlying the expected effects [20].

Program theory has been applied to programs and projects in favor of youth entrepreneurship in Benin. From the analytical framework proposed by [17], it can be assumed that the institutional framework (socioeconomic context, public policies and legislation) affects innovation among young people entrepreneurship through development programs and projects and current legislation. Referring to [21] and [22], the political environment for the implementation of development programs and projects favors the mobilization of capital (social, economic, cultural and symbolic), the deployment of resources (social, economic, cultural and symbolic) and the resolution of the challenges or bottlenecks faced by young agricultural entrepreneurs.

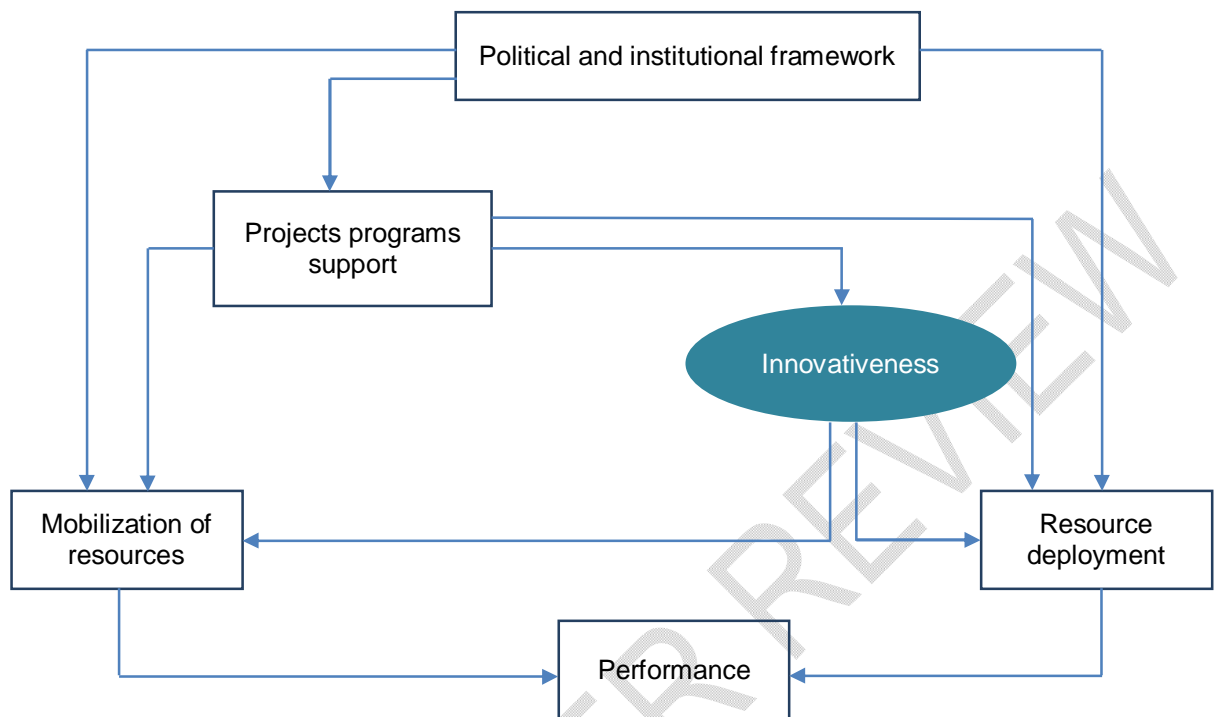


Figure 1: Analytical framework deduced from the analytical framework of Aloukoutou and Moumouni - Moussa (2024)

A historical approach was used for the presentation of the results.

2. METHODOLOGY

▪ Documents analysis

The literature review focused on projects and programs involved in the promotion of agricultural entrepreneurship in Benin. The main documents used were program/project reports, stories, decrees, orders and archives of the following Ministries: Planning and Development, Justice and Decentralization, Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Living Environment and Development Sustainable Agriculture, Livestock and Fishing, Small and Medium Enterprises and the Promotion of Employment, Social Affairs and Microfinance. In addition, scientific articles related to the research objective were downloaded and synthesized using the following keywords: employment AND agricultural entrepreneurship AND Benin; Promotion AND agricultural entrepreneurship AND Benin in the Google scholar and Google search engines. In total, we screened 115 documents.

▪ Document content analysis approach

The identified documents were evaluated using critical analysis method. By definition, the critical analysis of a fact (elements, phenomenon, situation, intervention, etc.) is an intellectual exercise which helps to objectively determine the strongness and weakness of facts [23][24]. The critical analysis of documents was carried out in four main steps: (1) overall assessment of the document (reading and appreciation of the content in relation to the different notions/themes of interest), (2) description (synthesis of the content of the documents to draw the elements relevant to the analysis), (3) analysis (objective interpretation of the authors' points of view in relation to the notions/themes of interest) and (4) assessment.

3. RESULTS

3.1. Regulation and institutions of agricultural entrepreneurship in Benin in relation to innovation

The data was analyzed following the successive significant events in entrepreneurial life in Benin since independence to date, to better understand how the implemented agricultural policies stimulate innovation among agricultural entrepreneurs in Benin. These include the promotion of entrepreneurship through investment, authorization of private sector and the promotion of small and medium-sized agricultural businesses.

- **Promoting entrepreneurship through investment**

The Investment Code was the flagship decree which marked the beginning of political involvement in entrepreneurship. Drawn up in 1961, the decree of the 1st Investment Code concerns companies in all economic sectors. Apart from the tax advantages granted to all new companies (A and B), a series of other advantages were granted particularly to companies whose importance for the economic development of the country was considerable [25][26]. National companies, contributing to the development within the framework of the objectives of the Interim Plan 1971-1972, to the economy of territorial planning, and to the recovery of the trade balance were encouraged through the new Investment Code of January 8, 1972.

- **Authorization to practice in private sector**

As part of the Structural Adjustment Program (SAP), Benin was forced to eliminate the automatic recruitment of graduates in progress since the 1970s, and to reduce the number of civil servants [16]. Therefore, an authorization was required to get involved in private sector since the national conference in 1990. Thus, Benin Republic designed a new vision in the field of employment through the liberalization of the economic sector and the political landscape since 1990, namely: (i) the preparation of the workforce and the management of job-creating projects, (ii) the promotion of private initiative and the transmission of know-how to young people in the artisanal sector; (iii) promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and small and medium-sized industries (PMI).

With regard to the laws/decrees voted/adopted from 1990-2006, the new Beninese investment code based on law N90-002 of May 9, 1990 amended by law 90-033 of December 21, 1990 and supplemented by decree (October 8, 1998) and implementing decree (December 9, 1998) grants significant advantages to local and foreign investors whose activity contributes to the development of local resources, the creation of jobs and added value. As a result, various organizations and institutions have taken charge of incentivizing, promoting and facilitating investments [27]. Those are for instance the:

- (i) Investment Promotion Center (CPI) created in 1998 to encourage the development and promotion of investments;
- (ii) Business Formalities Center (CFE) known as the "One-Stop Shop" created in 1997 within the Benin Chamber of Commerce and Industry which is responsible for carrying out the formalities for the incorporation of commercial companies;
- (iii) Directorate of Support for the Private Sector (DASP) within the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Employment Promotion, whose mission is to encourage private initiatives and support the development of the sector private;
- (iv) Benin Business Opportunities Observatory (OBOPAF) responsible for collecting information and identifying business opportunities and ensuring their facilitation to potential investors, (v) the Private Investors Council in Benin (CIPB) created in 2002 which plays a role of advisor and lobbyist to the administrative and political authorities of the country and
- (vi) ANPE, created by decree n° 2003-224 of July 7, 2004 and officially launched on 27 April 2004 whose mission was to "contribute to the development and implementation of the National Employment Policy".

In November 1994, an initiative was launched by the government, with the support of development organizations (UNDP, MICAC, ACDI, ILO, UNIDO), for the adoption and implementation of a bold development policy of the private sector (ADB, 2005). The program aimed to improve the business environment, strengthen institutions, boost support for businesses and improve the self-development capacities of the private sector. This followed the creation of development and research-training centers (CARDER, DANA, CERNA/UNB) and operational institutions (Bureau d'Appui aux Artisans, UTRAFFL, CERAD-International, programs/ projects). These institutions provided advisory support and strengthen technical capacities.

However, special conditions were created to agricultural entrepreneurs and business owners can benefit from this support. Another encouraging element is the creation of the financial structure for Promotion and Support for the Development of Micro-Enterprises (PADME) in 1993 by the government to provide financial support to small and medium-sized enterprises.

- **Promotion of small and medium-sized agricultural businesses**

In 2006, the advent of the regime of change led to a global and in-depth diagnosis of the agricultural and rural sector to defining an appropriate development policy. It was the beginning of the orientation of State actions on agricultural entrepreneurship. This diagnosis reveals that Beninese agricultural and rural sector faced significant natural, structural and economic constraints despite the enormous potential and assets available to the country [28]. Overall, the limits of public power interventions in the agricultural sector were reflected as the non-existence of an agricultural orientation law, the inadequacy of taxation on agricultural businesses, the absence of incentive measures for entrepreneurship agricultural sector, the inorganization of the agricultural input supply chain (excluding the cotton sub-sector), the inadequacy of the agricultural credit and financing system and the absence of an insurance system to manage sector risks agricultural (PSRSA, 2011). Thus, Benin clearly promoted small, medium and large agricultural businesses. The objective was to bring about the emergence of agricultural businesses of the SME/SMI agribusiness type through popularization and traditional advisory support activities, the promotion of entrepreneurship, the improvement of intervention capacities of professional training institutions such as universities (FSA, EPAC, FA), agricultural schools (Sékou, Ina, Adja- Ouèrè, Kika) etc., and other training structures such as the SONGHAI Project, Rural Promotion Centers (CPR), etc.; and agrarian reform to secure arable land in all agroecological zones.

Thus, many laws were voted in the field of agricultural entrepreneurship, and the National Agency for Small and Medium Enterprises was created following Decree No. 2008-5, 14 of September 8, 2008. Law No. 2013-01 of August 14, 2013 establishing the land and state code in the Republic of Benin and its implementing decrees were adopted. Likewise, in 2017, Law No. 2017-15 modified and supplemented Law No. 2013-01 of August 14, 2013 to fully allow agricultural companies to carry out their activities. Thus, the National Land and Land Agency (ANDF) responsible for implementing the land and land policy defined by the State was created in 2014. Apart from these institutions for the promotion of entrepreneurship, the government of Benin improved the business environment by facilitating the creation of businesses through the adoption of texts that simplified businesses formalization, especially the removal of obligation to constitute a minimum share capital and the consultation of notary during the creation of Limited Liability Companies (SARL), the reduction of costs and duration of formalization of companies. These include:

- Decree No. 2014-220 of March 26, 2014 relating to the modalities for the creation of Limited Liability Companies (SARL) in the Republic of Benin,
- Decree n°2014-194 of March 13, 2014 amending decree n°2009-542 of October 20, 2009 relating to the creation, responsibilities and operation of the Single Window for Business Formalization (GUFÉ)
- Interministerial decree n°019/2010/MC/MJLDH/MEF/MTFP/DC/SGM/SP of July 16, 2010 regulating the formalities relating to the declaration of the entrepreneur for the creation, modification of companies, and the exercise of all entrepreneurial activities in the Republic of Benin,
- Memo 318-c of May 15, 2013 from the General Directorate of Taxes and Domains relating to the obtaining and validation of the Unique Tax Identifier (IFU) which allows the generation of the IFU number directly to the GUFÉ the same day online today. The same note exempts the bank identity statement (BIS) as a prerequisite for obtaining the IFU.

Since 2016, agricultural financing programs for the promotion of agricultural businesses was implemented. Indeed, by decree No. 2007-652 of December 31, 2007 relating to the creation, attributions, organization and operation, FNPEEJ whose mission is to facilitate the access of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and young people to the means and tools of production through credit was modified by decree registered under Case No. 192/14 adopted by the Council of Ministers during the meeting of July 2 and 3, 2014. Since Wednesday April 15, 2020, members of the government decided to change FNPEEJ into a Youth Entrepreneurship Development Agency (ADEJ).

In addition, Decree No. 2017-304 of June 21, 2017 covers the creation, attributions, organization and operation of the National Agricultural Development Fund (FNDA). Law No. 2016-17 of October 4, 2016, helped to create Chambers of Agriculture in the Republic of Benin, supplemented by Decree No. 2018 - 333 of July 25, 2018 approving the statutes of the National Chamber of Agriculture from Benin. Likewise, there is decree 2017-101 of 02/27/2017 approving the creation of Territorial Agricultural Development Agencies.

Overall, most of the laws in the field of agricultural entrepreneurship were voted after 2006. Unlike previous policies, which focused more on the investment code, the State implemented laws/decrees that mainly favored the access to economic resources (own funds, credits, subsidies, etc.) and to social capital

(social networks, partnerships, etc.) for agricultural entrepreneurs. Table 1 (see appendix) summarizes in detail the institutional and regulatory framework for the evolution of agricultural entrepreneurship in Benin. For business innovation, very few laws were voted other than those related to intellectual property.

3.2. Programs/projects implemented as part of the promotion of AE and component of innovativeness taken into account

The concept of innovation started gaining momentum in Benin since 2016. Actions were previously taken by the government to facilitate innovation and innovativeness within businesses. However, these actions were more structured and more specific to the promotion of small and medium-sized agricultural businesses.

State interventions in the field of agricultural entrepreneurship were carried out through projects and programs. The intervention approaches of these programs/projects were generally the strengthening of technical capacity through training, facilitation of financial access, access to the market, support/donations of materials and small equipment, and mental and psychological coaching. These intervention methods lead to three forms of intervention related to innovativeness: interventions with actions affecting the strengthening of the propensity to innovate, those acting on the capacity to innovate, and those acting on the practice of innovation (see table 2 in the appendix).

Actions on the propensity to innovate were quite recent and used coaching as an intervention method to forge the entrepreneurial spirit. The objective was to provide first-time entrepreneurs of a new type, imbued with cardinal values and having a high sense of patriotism. It was necessary to develop among future entrepreneurs the fundamental bases of entrepreneurship which consists of (i) better understanding of the concept of entrepreneurship and its associated risks, the efforts, etc., (ii) internalizing all these elements to better decide whether one still want to undertake entrepreneurship or not. This focus on the propensity to innovate among potential entrepreneurs. We can cite the Deprogramming-Reprogramming and Connection to Entrepreneurial Intelligence Project, and the Agricultural Entrepreneurship Promotion Project for the socio-economic transformation of areas rural areas in Benin.

The capacity to innovate was a component of innovativeness on which most of the implemented projects worked through the strengthening of technical and managerial capacities and the facilitation of access to financial funds. These projects aimed to strengthen the employment of young people through the development and implementation of adapted training to the needs of entrepreneurs to improve their production capacity and their income. This is the case, of the Program to support the development of learners training in the fourteen communes of the departments of Ouémé and Plateau, and the Program for the Integration of Unemployed Young People in Agriculture that aimed to help the “unemployed” to set up on their own in agriculture, individually or in association. Alongside this vision of the project, the aspect of individuals' predisposition to entrepreneurship was not taken into account. Any unemployed individual will benefit from this support if they meet certain selection criteria. However, only training could not allow young entrepreneurs to truly establish, as they also need financial and material support. Thus, the Microfinance and Marketing and Market Gardening Development Support Projects supported agricultural businesses through the sustainable facilitation of access to financial services or to a subsidy necessary for the continuation of their activities. This subsidy mainly involved the supply of production inputs and the construction of agricultural infrastructure such as the construction of buildings to house processing activities, the acquisition of new equipment (PAFIRIZ, PDAVV and Pro Agri).

A third category of projects and programs used approaches based on actions to support the marketing of agricultural products, improving the quality and competitiveness of production, placing on the market new product market, to encourage young entrepreneurs to innovate in their businesses. These projects focused on the practice of innovation in companies. In this category we found the Private Sector Development Support Project which mainly aimed to improve the environment and the competitiveness of businesses in Benin; and the Milk and Meat Sector Support Project in the Northern departments Atacora, Donga, Zou and Collines, which enabled beneficiaries to improve production conditions and market access, process milk and meat products and access better quality animal products.

4. DISCUSSION

Several projects and programs have been implemented to support the promotion of agricultural entrepreneurship; and those before 2016 included actions contributing to strengthen innovation capacity of young entrepreneurs. These actions included the provision of technological packages, training, facilitation of access to financing, donations of materials and equipment and advisory support. Once support is provided, young entrepreneurs had duty to initiate and manage changes in their units. These

programs/projects supporting agricultural entrepreneurship therefore offer a potentially useful strategy for young people to access and create employment opportunities [10]. However, these types of support were insufficient to bring innovations that could limit the improvement of agricultural businesses. Focusing on controllable factors (training, financing, technological packages, etc.), program/project interventions often fail to take into account the constraints imposed by the natural, institutional and economic context [11] which defines the implementation and effectiveness of knowledge creation procedures [29] and innovation [30]. The implemented support approaches did not promote collective learning through, for example, co-creation.

Strengthening the propensity of young entrepreneurs to innovate was not taken into account for a long time. It was lately after 2016 that orientations towards personal and psychological development and risk management emerged in programs supporting youth entrepreneurship. These results confirm those of [31] who found that the propensity of producers to innovate in sustainable land management is rarely taken into account and reinforced unlike their capacity to innovate. Concerning the propensity to innovate, actions should be taken to support entrepreneurship to sharpen a keen sense of curiosity, a greater willingness to take risks and a more active involvement in the use of ICT. The projects leading to these results were those adopting a mixed method combining capacity building, the provision of management tools, and close monitoring of entrepreneurs [32]. Thus, boosting the innovativeness of young entrepreneurs in such a changing and complex world requires special attention on their practices, capacities and their propensity to innovate. [33] reported that the unlock of the innovativeness of young entrepreneurs in a changing world result in the need to work on all three elements simultaneously. Proximity monitoring generally aims to encourage entrepreneurs to innovate, and adapt to changes in the market. This conclusion is also highlighted by [34][35][36]), in their studies on the role of proximity monitoring on innovation in small and medium-sized businesses. Proximity monitoring can lead to a progressive mental reprogramming of the entrepreneur, to a positive inclination, and to gradual taking of risks, etc.

Overall, the three components of innovativeness, the propensity to innovate, the capacity to innovate and the practice of innovation might not be dissociated if we want to achieve entrepreneurial success. This is consistent with the conclusions of [37][38] [39], who highlighted an interdependence of the three components of innovativeness, and the importance of considering them in an integrated manner to achieve positive results and guarantee success in innovation. [40], following their study on the boosting of young entrepreneurs' innovativeness in a constantly changing world, also concluded that working simultaneously on the three aspects of innovativeness is important to promote the success of young entrepreneurs. The young entrepreneurs who have succeeded so far were those able to develop these three components. It is important from this condition to know how they succeeded in making capitalization where many others failed.

5. CONCLUSION

This study synthesizes the evolution of support for entrepreneurship, particularly agricultural entrepreneurship in Benin. It highlights the level of consideration of support for the development of youth innovation in the promotion of agricultural entrepreneurship. The findings reveal that the legislation lowly addressed agricultural entrepreneurship, which remained broad and was applied to all types of businesses in Benin. However, most of actions promoting and developing businesses focused on agricultural entrepreneurship. The recent interventions focused in similar areas and affected the capacity to innovate and the practice of innovation, while the propensity to innovate was completely considered as an achievement. Support for innovation had never been completed on one type of intervention. Building on the importance of these three components (the propensity to innovate, the capacity to innovate and the practice of innovation) of innovativeness in entrepreneurial success, the policies of this latter should rethink the support for agricultural entrepreneurship by acting simultaneously on the three interconnected elements of innovativeness. The Beninese state should ensure the synchronicity and complementarity of the projects and programs implemented in favor of agricultural entrepreneurs. We propose that support actions be designed in such a way that the same program, or, if not possible, different programs are provided to agricultural enterprises in a complementary manner, so that the effects simultaneously influence the three components of innovativeness during the same period. Case studies of the success of young agricultural entrepreneurs could serve as a basis for further analysis.

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APPENDIX

Table 1: Regulatory and institutional framework

	Nature	Object	Periods
Regulatory framework	Decree	1st Investment Code developed and ordered	1961
	Decree	Investment Code of January 8	1972
	Law	No. 90-002 of May 9 relating to the Investment Code	1990
	Law	No. 90-033 of December 24 amending articles 34, 41, 43, 47, 49, 51, 59, 62 and 74 of Law No. 90-002 of May 9, 1990 on the Investment Code	1990
	Decree	No. 98-453 of October 8 establishing the terms of application of Law No. 90-002 of May 9, 1990 relating to the Investment Code modified by Law No. 90-033 of December 24, 1990.	1998
	Stopped	No. 38/MPREPE/DC/SG/DPI/SACI of December 9 relating to the procedures for requesting approval for the privileged and special regimes of the Investment Code	1998
	Decree	ANPE, Created by n ° 2003-224 of July 7 and officially launched on April 27, 2004	2004
	Decree	No. 2007-652 of December 31, 2007 relating to the creation, responsibilities, organization and operation of the FNPEEJ °192/14 adopted by the Council of Ministers at its meeting of July 2 and 3, 2014.	2007
	PRESCRIPTION	No. 2008-04 of July 28 amending articles 11 and 33 of law no. 90-002 of May 9, 1990 on the Investment Code and establishing by addition of articles 47-1 to 47-3 regime "D" relating to heavy investments	2008
	PRESCRIPTION	No. 2008-06 of November 5 modifying Ordinance No. 2008-04 of July 28, 2008 and establishing through articles 47-4 to 47-8 the "E" regime relating to structuring investments	2008
Decree	National Agency for Small and Medium Enterprises (ANPME) was created following decree No. 2008.5,	2008	

		14 of September 8	
	Interministerial order	No. 019/2010/MC/MJLDH/MEF/MTFP/DC/SGM/SP of July 16 regulating the formalities relating to the declaration of the entrepreneur for the creation, modification of businesses, and exercise of all entrepreneurial activities in the Republic of Benin	2010
	Law	No. 2013-01 of August 14 relating to the land and state code in the Republic of Benin and its implementing decrees were adopted.	2013
	Memo	318-c of May 15 of the General Directorate of Taxes and Domains relating to the obtaining and validation of the Unique Tax Identifier (IFU) which allows the generation of the IFU number directly to the GUFÉ the same day even online today 'today.	2013
	Decree	n°2014-220 of March 26 relating to the terms of creation of Limited Liability Companies (SARL)	2014
	Law	No. 2016-17 of October 4, made it possible to create Chambers of Agriculture in the Republic of Benin	2016
	Law	No. 2017-15 amended and supplemented Law No. 2013-01 of August 14, 2013 to fully allow agricultural businesses to carry out their activities.	2017
	Decree	No. 2018 - 333 of July 25 approving the statutes of the National Chamber of Agriculture of Benin	2018
Institutional frame	National	CADER	1969,1975,2013
	International	BIT (Employment for women in urban areas)	1990
	National	PADME	1993
	National	Business Formalities Center (CFE) known as "One Stop Shop"	1997
	National	Investment Promotion Center (CPI)	1998
	National	Council of Private Investors in Benin (CIPB)	2002
		ANPE	2004
	National	FNPEEJ/ADEJ	2007
	National	National Agency for Small and Medium Enterprises (ANPME)	2008
	National	National Federation of Small and Medium Enterprises (FENA-PME)	2010
	National	Federations of young business leaders of Benin (FEJEC)	2011
	National	National Land and Land Agency (ANDF) responsible for implementing the land and land policy defined by the State	2014
	National	ANEAB	2016
	National	ATDA	2017

Source: Documentary research, 2020

Table 2: List of Beninese government support for agricultural entrepreneurship and innovation component taken into account

No.	Support name	Start date - End date	Key areas/components of intervention (Yes/No) 1= Capacity building; 2= Financial support; 3= Market access; 5= Other (specify)	Methods used	Propensity to innovate (will, curiosity, inclination to risk)	Ability to innovate: (knowledge, ideas (attitudes), mobilization of support (information, resources, institutional support, etc.))	Practice of innovation (processes, habits, innovations developed)
1	Apprenticeship training development support program – (PAFPA)	01/09/2011 - 31/08/2015	1	Training		*	
2	The Local Development Support Project (PADEL)	1996 -2001	1,2			*	
3	The Income Generating Activities Project (PAGER)	Officially launched on September 13, 1996; December 31, 2003	1, 2	Do-do approach		*	
4	Microfinance and Marketing Project (PROMIC)		1,2,3			*	*
5	Benin Rice Sector Support Project (PAFIRIZ)		5 material supports	Participation of promoters in all stages: identification of promoters; pre-selection of promoters and their projects; support		*	*

No.	Support name	Start date - End date	Key areas/components of intervention (Yes/No) 1= Capacity building; 2= Financial support; 3= Market access; 5= Other (specify)	Methods used	Propensity to innovate (will, curiosity, inclination to risk)	Ability to innovate: (knowledge, ideas (attitudes), mobilization of support (information, resources, institutional support, etc.)	Practice of innovation (processes, habits, innovations developed)
				for preparing files; the final selection of projects; carrying out work carried out by the promoters prior to the investment; carrying out developments and other infrastructure works; and the installation of the planned equipment.			
6	Agriculture Promotion Programs (Pro Agri), green innovation centers for the agri-food sector (Pro CIVA)	Total duration: 2011 to 2017 and 2017-2020	1,2,5(materials)	Training on business management, networking, local monitoring	*	*	*
7	The Program for the Integration of the Unemployed into Agriculture (PISEA)	1997-2003	1,2			*	
8	Private Sector Development Support Project (PADSP)	August 31, 2000-December 31, 2007	1,2,3			*	*

No.	Support name	Start date - End date	Key areas/components of intervention (Yes/No) 1= Capacity building; 2= Financial support; 3= Market access; 5= Other (specify)	Methods used	Propensity to innovate (will, curiosity, inclination to risk)	Ability to innovate: (knowledge, ideas (attitudes), mobilization of support (information, resources, institutional support, etc.))	Practice of innovation (processes, habits, innovations developed)
9	Agricultural Diversification Support Program: PADA		1,2,3			*	*
10	Market Gardening Development Support Project: PADMAR		1,2,3,5 (structuring, organizational and economic empowerment)	The implementation of the components will be essentially based on (a) facilitators who will lead the market gardening tables; (b) Technicians specialized in market gardening (TSM) at the municipal level; (c) relay market gardeners will be trained and supported at site level to supervise their peers on basic subjects.		*	
11	Support project for the milk and meat sectors (PAFILAV)	(2009-2014)	1	Training		*	*
12	Food Production Support		1, 2, 3			*	

No.	Support name	Start date - End date	Key areas/components of intervention (Yes/No) 1= Capacity building; 2= Financial support; 3= Market access; 5= Other (specify)	Methods used	Propensity to innovate (will, curiosity, inclination to risk)	Ability to innovate: (knowledge, ideas (attitudes), mobilization of support (information, resources, institutional support, etc.))	Practice of innovation (processes, habits, innovations developed)
	Project: PAPVIRE						
13	The Support Project for the Strengthening of Private Sector Actors (PARASEP)	Jul-16	1, 5 (donation)			*	*
14	PAEI (Self-Employment Support Program)		1,	10 days of TRIE-CREE training - 3 months of business immersion - 5 days of business plan analysis - 5 days of GERME training		*	
15	Deprogramming- Reprogramming and Connection to Entrepreneurial Intelligence Project (DRIE)	January 14 to 19, 2019 then from January 24 to 26, 2019	to (i) deprogram first-time entrepreneurs (ii) reprogram young potential first-time entrepreneurs (iii) connect first-time	Mental and psychological coaching for first-time entrepreneurs	*		

No.	Support name	Start date - End date	Key areas/components of intervention (Yes/No) 1= Capacity building; 2= Financial support; 3= Market access; 5= Other (specify)	Methods used	Propensity to innovate (will, curiosity, inclination to risk)	Ability to innovate: (knowledge, ideas (attitudes), mobilization of support (information, resources, institutional support, etc.))	Practice of innovation (processes, habits, innovations developed)
			entrepreneurs to Entrepreneurial Intelligence and Innovation				
16	Agricultural Entrepreneurship Promotion Project for the socio-economic transformation of rural areas in Benin (PPEA)	2011-2016,	1, 3,			*	*
17	Agribusiness Development Project in Benin (PDAB)	May 17, 2018, to December 2021.	1, 3			*	*

* taking into account one of the component

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