



RESEARCH ARTICLE

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ROLE OF FARMER ORGANIZATIONS IN RESOURCE MOBILIZATION IN MEZAM DIVISION-CAMEROON

**Kenette FRU MBANGARI^{1*}, Guillaume Hensel FONGANG FOUPE²
and Mathias FRU FONTEH³**

¹Faculty of Agronomy and Agricultural Sciences, University of Dschang P. O. Box 222 Dschang, Cameroon

²Faculty of Agronomy and Agricultural Sciences, University of Dschang, Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology, P. O. Box 222 Dschang Cameroon

³College of Technology (COLTECH), University of Bamenda, Cameroon

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*Corresponding author:

Kenette FRU MBANGARI

ABSTRACT

This study was carried out from January 2018 to March 2019 in Mezam Division of the North West Region of Cameroon on the role of farmers' organizations in resource mobilization, particularly the case of the Program for the Improvement of Competiveness of Family Agropastoral Farms (PCP-ACEFA) and the North West Farmers' Organization (NOWEFOR). The objective of the study was to analyze the role of Farmers Organizations (FOs) in resource mobilization in Mezam Division of the North West Region of Cameroon. Two hundred and eighty (280) farmers' members of these farmers' organizations were interviewed using a semi-structured questionnaire and seven (7) leaders were interviewed using an interview guide. In addition, direct observations were made. The data obtained were analyzed using SPSS. The findings show that women generally constitute 52.85% and men constitute 47.15% of the total respondents mean while the fraction of women beneficiaries stands at 27.14%. The analysis of the resources of FOs reveals that since 1995 till date FOs had received aid from SAILD, MINADER, MINEPIA, SOS Faim, EC, American Peace Corps, VSO, ACEFA, and GIZ. SOS Faim and ACEFA had been the best aid donor to FOs. The amount of aid increased with time from 868,000FCFA in 1998 to 216,160,428FCFA in 2010 for the case of aid from SOS Faim and EU. Also, for PCP-ACEFA, the amount of aid received by FOs increased with time from 110,906,670FCFA in 2013-2015 to 204,764,858FCFA in 2018. Internal resources were mobilized through annual dues, fines, deductions from sales, registration, interests and petty Income Generating Activities (IAGs). This study concluded that FOs are important for farmers in the mobilization of internal and external resources for the benefits of farmers and also for the smooth functioning of the organization.

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INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the corner stone of the Cameroonian economy. It generates the highest number of employments (more than 60% of both skilled and unskilled), ensures national food security, contributes enormously to Cameroon's GDP and foreign earnings and, above all, provides raw materials to the industrial sector, which is still in its infant stage (Fonjong, 2004:13; Food and Agricultural Organization, FAO, 2012:3). Agricultural development requires the embracement of farmer organizations to facilitate improved access to productive resources (seeds, breeds, insecticides, fungicides, farm tools and equipments), capacity building, marketing, and access to production credit (African Development Bank, AfDB, 2010).

NOWEFOR (2012:15) highlighted that farmers in the North West Region of Cameroon are faced with a number of problems in agriculture, which lead to low production and productivity. Constraints include inadequate access to inputs, low level of agricultural mechanization; small farm sizes per farmer; limited skills in production and marketing; poor storage and marketing facilities. When all of these are coupled with the low literacy levels of the farmers, they remain poor and disadvantaged when farming is their main source of income. These problems delay the growth and development of farmers. FOs were introduced in Africa during the colonial era, with the aim of enhancing access to agricultural inputs of their members, facilitating value addition to produce and the

marketing of farmers produce. According to Diagne and Pesche (1995:10); Fongang and Soko (2017:2), after independence, the governments of Cameroon decided to view them as rural development instruments that can be used to facilitate the implementation of their development policy. In Cameroon the early nineteen nineties marked a new era for FOs or movements, with the adoption of the law promoting the creation of FOs to be totally independent of the state (Fongang, 2010:7). Achancho (2014: 11) reported that apart from a few large agro-industries with products intended for export such as banana, tea, rubber, etc. Cameroon's agriculture is dominated by small rural producers grouped or organized in FOs. In this light, international donors such as SOS Faim Belgium, SOS Faim Luxemburg and the European Union (EU), Agences Française de Développement (AFD) just to name a few provided aid through the Support Service for Grassroots Initiative of Development (SAILD), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER), Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries (MINEPIA) and other Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for the strengthening of the organisational and economic capacities of FOs in the Centre, West, South-West, Far-North and North-West regions of Cameroon. The FOs involved were "Association pour le Développement des Exploitants Agricole du Centre" (ADEAC), "Union des Sociétés Coopératives BINUM des Producteurs Agro pastoraux du Cameroun" (UCOPADCAM-BINUM), "Conseil Régional des Organisations Paysannes de la partie Septentrionale Cameroon" (CROPSEC), Lewoh Union of Crop and Animal Productions (LUCAP) and North West Farmers Organisation (NOWEFOR).

The implementation of these projects revealed a number of weaknesses such as low technical know-how of farmers, little or no group sale, etc. In the same way the Government of Cameroon through the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has provided aid to FOs to help strengthen their economic, social and organisational capacities so that they can assume their responsibilities and run their organisations smoothly. According to Fongang (2010:7) the state has also invested in the reinforcement of FOs through programs such as the PARI project (2005-2010), Support program to farmers' strategies and to the professionalization of agriculture (ASPPA, 1999-2000), and the National Program for Agricultural Research and Extension (PNVRA, 1988 - 2017). Today the Cameroon government through the Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development and that of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry have put in place ACEFA (ACEFA, 2010-2020) using a counselling-based approach to strengthen the technical, economic, institutional and organizational capacities of FOs in the country so as to render them more effective and efficient in improving their incomes and thus general well-being. According to FAO (2012:7) farmer organizations need support in overcoming the constraints faced by farmers in saving and accumulating assets and in coping with the uncertainty and risk that are intrinsic to farming.

In order to strengthen farmers' capacities in the rural communities of Cameroon, there is need for FOs to secure a sustainable aid partnership support program for farmers, and build their capacities to be more effective and efficient and assume their responsibilities to run their organizations themselves, thus enhancing farmers, FOs and institutions in the development process. Besides, several studies have been

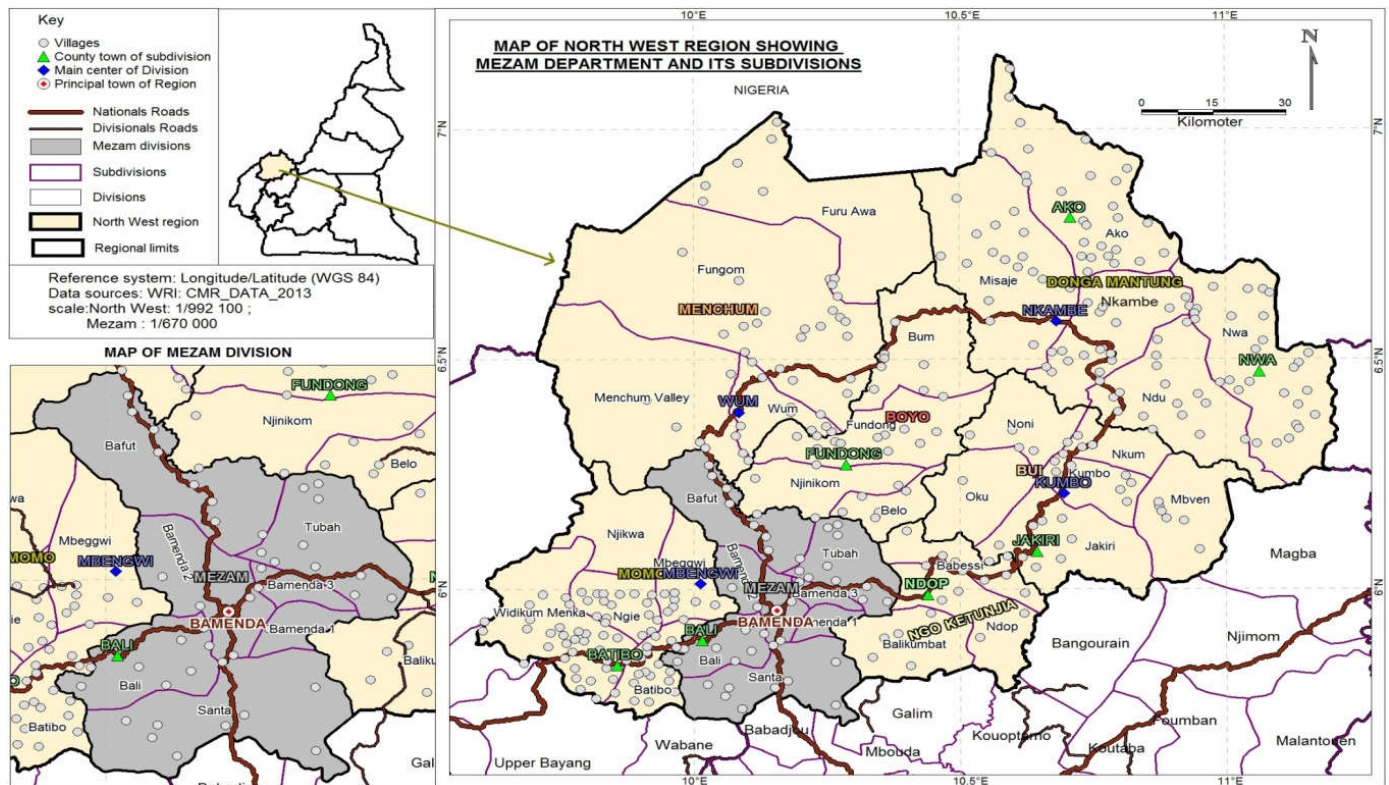
carried out on the evaluation of farmers organizations (Benoit, 2006; NOWEFOR, 2012) but it appears no impact assessment has been carried out on farmers organizations to show whether the aid provided to farmers by partners have a positive impact on the farmers. It is for this reason that this study was undertaken to know *what partners finance farmers' through FOs and where do their resources comes from? How do farmers' organizations build farmer capacities to be more efficient in resource mobilization and assume their roles?* The objective of the study is to analyze the role of FOs in resource mobilization in Mezam Division of the North West Region of Cameroon.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study area: The study was carried out in Mezam Division of the North West Region. Mezam Division is located between latitudes 5°40' and 7°50' North and longitudes 9°80' and 11°51' east of the Greenwich Meridian (UNDP, 1999); with a total surface area of 1,841.45 km² with a total population of 524, 127 inhabitants in the 2017 census. The agricultural population is estimated at 258,467 inhabitants representing 43.07% of farm families (Republic of Cameroon, 2015). This population belongs to a large set of Ethnic groups, made up of several tribes such Ngemba (Awings, Mankons, Bafuts, Nkwens, Pignins, Akums, Njongs), Mugahkah (Bali), Bei (Baba IIs, Bafochus) etc (Figure 1).

Data collection: A descriptive and cross-sectional research design was used to generate data for this study. Data for the study were obtained from two sources: data from secondary and primary sources. Secondary source data were obtained from relevant literature existing in documents and archives of several structures such as: the central library of the University of Dschang, British Council library in Bamenda, DDARD annual reports, ACEFA activity reports, project reports, evaluation reports and from the internet, etc. In order to characterize these Partners and analyze their resources, secondary source data from DDARD annual reports, NOWEFOR activity reports, ACEFA activity reports, project reports, evaluation reports, baseline studies reports, mission reports and additional information from administrative authorities were used. The information were summarized such as to bring out a clear picture of the type of partners operating in the region on the one hand and analyses of its resources on the other hand. Primary source data were obtained via observations, interviews (focus group discussions, meetings) and the administration of questionnaires to the beneficiary farmers covered by the farmers' organizations.

Sampling: A stratified random sampling method was used. The population of the study is divided into strata (Table 1). Firstly, out of the five Divisions, Mezam Division was chosen because it has the highest number of FOs constituting 41% of the 16425 FOs in the North West Region. Secondly, because of resource constraint only 1% of the 6725 FOs in Mezam Division of the NWR were obtained to constitute the sample size and which gave us 70 FOs. (Reasoning being that the 6725 FOs was information from the Regional Delegation of Agriculture and Rural Development, but as we went to the field, it was noticed that the information gotten from PCP-ACEFA and NOWEFOR in Mezam, based on accessibility and security was only 403 FOs (Table 2). As such 17% of the 403 FOs in Mezam were obtained to constitute the sample size which gave us 70 FOs).



Source: World Research Institute, 2019

Figure 1. Map of the North West Region showing Mezam Division

Table 1. Distribution of farmer’s organizations by Division

Divisions	No of farmers organisations	Proportion of total population (%)
Mezam	6725	41
Momo	1695	10
Ngoketunjia	1464	9
Bui	2282	14
Menchum	1194	7
Domga mantung	1397	9
Boyo	1668	10
Total	16425	100

Source: MINADER (2017)

Table 1. Distribution of sampled FOs and farmers per Subdivision

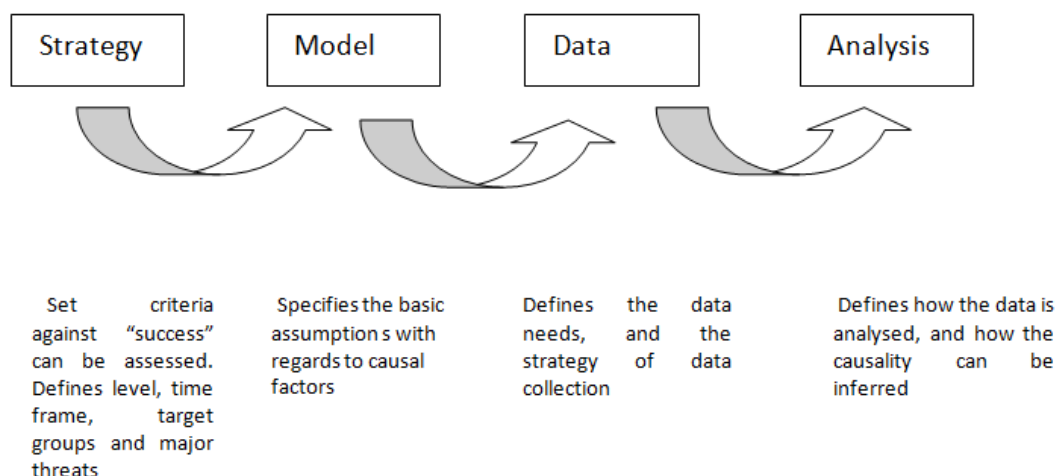
Subdivisions	No. of FOs per subdivision	Targeted FOs	Non beneficiary FOs	Total FOs interviewed	Total number farmers interviewed
BAMENDA I	12	6	4	10	40
BAMENDA II	96	6	4	10	40
BAMENEDA III	12	6	4	10	40
BAFUT	84	6	4	10	40
BALI	60	6	4	10	40
TUBAH	43	6	4	10	40
SANTA	96	6	4	10	40
Total	403	40	30	70	280

Source: Survey, 2019

Theoretical framework and concepts

Aid according to Masud and Yontcheva (2005:5) is seen as one of the essential mechanisms for human development indicators to reach farmers’ socio-economic needs. For Msuta and Urassa (2015:2344), cooperation among farmers in search for common solutions to their problems is seen as one of the major ways in promoting the wellbeing of small scale farmers. According to Hulme (1997:6) the goal of external aid program is to create income and employment in poor communities through development of local micro enterprises and, in the

process increase the financial capacities of the beneficiaries, their families and the community at large. Masud and Yontcheva (2005) measured the impact of external aid on Human Development indicators such as infant mortality and illiteracy using regression and the findings revealed that increased health expenditure per capita reduces infant mortality as does greater NGO aid per capita. In order to conduct a valid impact assessment, researchers first need to define their overall strategy which sets the course for the rest of the research process (Hulme, 1997; Koehler *et al.* 2007). The strategy outlined by Koehler *et al.* (2007:7) is to set up a strategic framework that defines which social changes and



Source: Koehler et al. (2007:8)

Figure 2. Model of Impact analysis

processes at which level they think will make aid provision more stable. Such a framework hence defines what is relevant to observe, and what is not. It is against these relevant criteria that the impact of development aid can really be assessed. Secondly, taking into account the strategic framework, researchers then have to define the general model of how they think these relevant changes may occur. The general model specifies on which social changes the research will focus, and which factors may have caused this changes. At its most basic, such a general model is a set of plausible and testable assumptions about the causes of the changes that are observed. Thirdly, researchers have to define what data is needed in order to pinpoint the changes they are interested in, and to trace the factors they think may have caused these changes. Finally, researchers have to devise an analytical strategy that allows gauging the extent to which observed changes are attributable to development interventions (thereby separating the impact of development interventions from the impact of other causal factors such as for example, natural endowment, demographical factors, migration, or hostile actions by external armed fractions). And each of these steps requires consequential decisions as illustrated in Figure 2. Thirdly, for comparison purposes and following aid intervention, the sample size was also broken down into 40 beneficiary FOs and 30 non beneficiary FOs. Fourthly, Four (04) members belonging to each of the farmers' organizations in the seven Subdivisions' of the aid in Meزام Division were interviewed giving a total of 280 farmers interviewed. Alternatively the study sought the indications of role of FOs to resource mobilization in the North West Region through an impact assessment of the observable and measurable changes between the outcomes on "agent" (organization) that have experienced aid interventions against the values of those variables that would have occurred had there been no aid intervention. Figure 2 illustrates the operational model of impact chain adapted for this study. The findings will help concerned policy makers (ACEFA, MINADER, MINEPIA, SOS Faim Luxembourg and European Union) to take appropriate decisions in formulating aid assistance strategies that will help improve the living conditions of farmers.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Characterization of partners: FOs existence could be revealed by the involvement/implication and contribution of a

number of national and internal partners in her day to day activities. Census on the partnerships has been made through existing literature and list obtained has been completed with time based on our interviews. In this section, we shall first of all present the roles and strategies put in place by each partner during its involvement. After that we shall do analyses of their involvement focusing our attention at the level of involvement, entry and exit of partners in the Division. In the same light Fongang (2014) on agri-environmental policies in France analyzed the roles and strategies of actors intervening in the mediation of socio environmental conflicts and distinguishes three categories of actors as follows: highly involved, averagely involved, and slightly involved.

The term partner here would be referred to as national or international organizations or agencies involved actively or passively in the provision of material, financial and technical assistance to FOs. On the level of involvement we could distinguish three categories of partners: Primary, secondary and tertiary.

Primary partners: Primary partner here refers to international organizations or agencies involved actively in the provision of material, financial and technical assistance to FOs. The main primary partner is Save Our Souls from Hunger (SOS Faim), GIZ and the European Commission (EC).

Secondary partner: Secondary partner here refers to national and/or international organizations or agencies involved in the provision of both material and financial or material and technical, or financial and technical assistance to FOs. The secondary partners include: Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO), The American Peace Corps and Support Services to Grassroots Initiatives for Development (SAILD).ACEFA...

Tertiary partner: Tertiary partner here refers to national institutions or ministries involved in the provision of technical assistance to FOs. The tertiary partner include: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER), and Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries MINEPIA).

Analyses of roles and strategies of partners: This section illustrates the analysis of the roles and strategies of partners are presented in the proceeding section.

Table 3. Roles and strategies of partners

Duration	Partners	Nature of support	Achievements/weaknesses	Lessons learnt/opportunities	Threats
1998-2001	SOS Faim	Financial, technical	-Creation of NOWEFOR -Sector funds place	-Farmers interest protected -Improved access to loans	disaster,
	SAILD	Technical	-Protocol agreements -Leaders and farmers trained -Credit Houses in place	-Leaders assumed roles and responsibilities -Money saved for future use	theft,
2003-2005	MINEDER/MINEPIA	Technical	-Farmers trained and backstopped	- Involved only in the training and follow up of farmers	political instability
	SOS Faim	Financial, technical	-Profitable value chains -Multi-purpose shops -New breeds and seed varieties	-Multipurpose shops failed -Goat value chain failed -potatoes, ginger, poultry and gardening profitable	Misappropriation
	SAILD	Technical	-Autonomization -Tripartite agreements -Leaders and farmers trained	Organization & economic capacities of farmers built -Protocol agreements signed -Recruit of technical staff	Funds not disbursed on-time
2006-2007	MINADER/MINEPIA	Technical	-Farmers trained and backstopped	- Involved only in the training and follow up of farmers	Misappropriation
	EC	Financial	-Multipurpose structures	Financed multipurpose structures and shops	
	American Peace Corps	Technical	-Trainings in bee keeping -Placement of peace corps volunteers, End of autonomisation	-3-years agreement signed -Sources of income diversified Leaders manage the organization independently	
	SOS Faim	Financial, technical	Placement of a microfinance staff at NOWEFOR	-Effective & efficient follow up and control of the credit houses.	Loss of confidence
2008-2010	SAILD	Technical	-Farmers trained and backstopped -Rapid plantain multiplication techniques	-NOWEFOR sold plantlets to MINADER and farmers -Internal come increased	
	American Peace Corps	Technical	Trainings in cane rat keeping -placement of peace corps volunteers	Cane rat sector is a source for income diversification	
	VSO	Technical	Placement of a short term volunteer	Good governance and accountability is obligatory	
	SOS Faim	Financial, technical	-3 –years action plan in production & micro finance	-Increased membership, size of farm and farm income. -NOWEFOR more recognized by donor.	Inflation, theft,
	SAILD	Technical	-Placement of a microfinance staff at NOWEFOR -Information sharing in farmers' voice.	Effective & efficient follow up and control of the credit houses	Loss of confidence
2011-2013	MINADER/MINEPIA	Technical	Farmers trained and backstopped	NOWEFOR sold plantlets to MINADER and farmers -Internal come increased	
	EC	Financial	3 years project financed	-Grants mobilization is an opportunity to boost membership and farm income of farmers	
	American Peace Corps	Technical (placement of peace corps volunteers)	-Provision cane rat to farmers -Placement of peace corps volunteers	Cane rat could fetch more money	
	VSO	Technical	Placement of a long term volunteer	Policies have to be in place for the functioning	
2014-2016	SOS Faim	Financial, technical	-3 –years action plan in production	Should not depend but rather be independent -Credit funding stopped	Decline in funds
	SAILD	Technical	Information sharing the farmers voice	Information sharing through the farmers voice	Loss of confidence
2013-2019	MINADER/MINEPIA	Technical	05 Farmers trained and backstopped	NOWEFOR sold plantlet to farmers -Internal come increased	
	SOS Faim	Financial, technical	-3 –years action plan in production	Should not depend but rather be independent -funds decreased	Decline in funds
2013-2019	MINADER/MINEPIA	Technical	Farmers trained and backstopped	NOWEFOR sold plantlet to farmers -Internal come increased	
	ACEFA	Technical And Financial	Provision of Counseling Services to Farmers Financing of farmers projects The prevailing crisis has slowed down work as Counselors find it difficult assessing some farms and communities	- Most groups come together for social activities and become active in production when accompanied by a Counselor - Project grants awarded to farmers are properly managed when there is close follow up - Establishing a business plan with a farmers serves as a road map for their activities - Elaborating a development plan with an action plan facilitates evaluation of farmer's activities at the end of year as well as guarantees smooth planning.	

We shall address here the different stages of evolution, nature of partnership, achievements/weaknesses, lessons learnt/opportunities and threats. Through an interview with FOs leaders, the levels of involvement of the partners were obtained as illustrated in Table 3. As revealed by Table 3, SOS Faim had been channeling financial and technical aid to FOs since 1998-2016 while SAILD had been involved only in technical assistance. This means that SOS Faim and SAILD have been donors to most of the organization since 1998. According to Defense and Destrain (2015:3) the mission of SOS Faim is to assist thousands of people in Africa to gain their autonomy and not need any more help through their professional and independent NGOs (e.g SAILD in Cameroon). Table 3 revealed also that SOS Faim is a much better partner to FOs in terms of longevity, nature of collaboration, roles and strategies implemented. The European Commission (EC) had been involved time to time to provide huge amount of aid to FOs. For instance NOWFOR obtained from the EU to help them realize multipurpose structures and agricultural input shops and to increase opportunity to boost membership and farm income of farmers. Partners such as the VSO and Peace Corps have been involved partially and only in the provision of technical assistance mostly through the placement of short and/or long term personnel known as "Volunteer" Table 3 illustrates that, beside SOS Faim, SAILD and MINADER/MINEPIA who constantly assisted FOs all the time, VSO, EC and Peace Corps only come in time to time to boost their activities in the field as a result of their missions pursued or conferred to them. The Government through MINAER and MINEPIA has been rendering technical assistance to the FOs since 1998 to date in provision of animal breeds and planting materials, training and backstopping of farmers in crop and livestock activities. The Government through PCP-ACEFA had been rendering technical and financial assistances to the FOs since 2013 to date such as provision of animal breeds, planting materials, training and backstopping of farmers in crop and livestock activities.

Analyses of Resources of FOs and its Associated Partners

The resources of FOs and associated partners are illustrated in Table 4, Figures 3 and 4

Financial resources of FOs: At the beginning of each year members of these FOs contribute an agreed annual dues or levy for the associative life of the organization or others wise for the functioning of the statutory organs. A case study of organizations affiliated to NOWEFOR revealed that at the beginning of each year member unions from all the 12 unions affiliated to NOWEFOR pay a minimum annual due of 100,000 FCFA as participation for the strengthening of its associative life and those unions who do not meet up with their annual contributions are immediately suspended from NOWEFOR services like any field follow up, refinancing or any form of support from NOWEFOR. An organization that pays more than 100 000FCFA as annual dues reflects its good internal resources mobilization strategies and a sound financial status. A FOs that pay annual dues less than 100000 FCFA would automatically be disqualified from any further assistance from NOWEFOR such as field follow up, refinancing or any form of support. In 2014, the FOs like Nchum zone Farmers union (NDZOFU), Mudum Farmers Union (MUFU) and Bambui Union of Sustainable Self Help Groups (BASSUG) with annual dues payment respectively 80 000FCFA, 69 000FCFA, and 54 000FCFA noticed less than

100 000FCFA were suspended from any form of benefits from NOWEFOR. Table 5 revealed that NOWEFOR realizes annually on average as annual dues the sum of 1,363,000FCFA which is far beyond the targeted amount of 1,200,000FCFA making an overall percentage increase of 113.5%. From our interview with leaders, NOWEFOR usually realize annually 45 000-50 000 FCFA as income from petty Income Generating Activities (IAGs) such as the sales of plantain plantlets, fines, deductions from sales, registration, and interests. About 200000-300000 FCFA is usually realized annually as income rose from projects writing to other unions, CIGs and farmers in the region. Table 4 illustrates the situation of annual contributed in NOWEFOR for 2010-2014.

From 1998 -2014 NOWEFOR, received a total of 543, 862, 670 FCFA as aid mainly from SOS Faim and European Union. Before the support of SOS Faim and European, NOWEFOR farmers survived on less than 1 dollar per day (UNDP report, 1999 as cited in NOWEFOR, 2015:9). This is because they are unable to generate adequate income from their farming activities. The fact that they have seen the need to unite under a FOs is a necessary step towards seeking common solutions to their problems. Unfortunately, according to baseline study carried out by NOWFOR in 2013, the leaders lack the needed capacities to provide them with the capacities they need to develop their activities and improve their incomes. Because of all these, they have remained below the poverty line characterized by poor nutrition, poor education of their children as can be seen by high school dropout rate in members families, shabby clothing and houses amongst others. The yearly aid received by NOWEFOR had as main objectives to improve incomes and living conditions of NOWEFOR farmers by increasing production and productivity of crops and livestock through training, access to productive resources and group marketing in her ten communities of the North West Region of Cameroon.

As illustrated in Figure 3, SOS Faim and European Union had been providing aid to NOWEFOR to empower the economic and organization capacities of the farmers in the North West Region of Cameroon. These aids has helped small scale farmers of North West Region to have better access to productive resources (inputs, farm tools and equipments), training, markets outlets and micro-credits for the effective and efficient running of production and marketing activities. In spite the provision aid to NOWEFOR by other donors (e.g the European commission, SAILD, MINADER/MINEPIA, The American Peace and VSO), Figure 3 revealed that since 1998, SOS Faim had been and is still the main donor of NOWEFOR. According to Defense and Destrain (2015:3) the mission of SOS Faim is to assist thousands of people in Africa to gain their autonomy and not need any more help through their professional and independent NGOs (e.g SAILD in Cameroon), thus SOS Faim is a better partner to NOWEFOR in terms of longevity, level of involvement and consistency. Figure 3 illustrates that from 1998 up to 2007, the amount of aid received by NOWEFOR did not go beyond 23 millions FCFA reason being the organization and its leaders were still in the process of acquiring economic, technical and organization skills and competences that would enable her to fully assume role of being the voice of the farmers in the region. And during this time, most of the activities of production, marketing and microfinance in the field were rendered by SAILD for NOWEFOR until 2004 that a coordinator was recruited for the organization by SAILD.

Table 4. Situation of annual dues contribution from 2010-2014

Unions	Sectors	Annual dues									
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Mforyah Integrated Farmers' Union	Poultry, pig, yam, ginger Market gardening	159 000	152000	150000	94000	100000	104000	100000	100000	/	
Bafut Union of Farming Groups	Poultry, pig, ginger	143000	121000	124000	85000	100000	100000	100000	40000	/	
Bambui Union of Sustainable Self Help Groups	Poultry, pig, market gardening	172 000	150000	116000	29000	54000	50000		50000	/	
Livestock and Crop Farmers' Union kai	Pig, palms	102 000	136000	96000	100000	100000	100000	91000	20000	/	
Mundum Farmers' Union	Cassava, Pigs, Market gardening	100 000	100000	100000	100000	69000	80000	10000	41000	/	
Nchum Zone Farmers Union	Pigs, ginger	100000	100000	35000	100000	80000	34000	47000	/	/	
Nseh Group of Farmers' Organisations	Irish potatoes, Pigs	100 000	100000	100000	41000	100000	100000	18000	/	/	
Babungo Farmers Union	Market gardening, Pigs	100 000	100000	104000	110000	100000	128000	122000	150000	50000	
Moghamo Union of Farming groups	Pigs, Market gardening	102 000	100000	100000	105500	100000	100000	100000	100000	/	
Union of Momo Farming Groups	Yam, pig	100 000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	75000	25000	/	
Ibal-Oku Union	Tomatoes, pig	150 000	120000	142000	104000	100000	100000	100000	50000	/	
Ngongdzen Farmers Union	Potatoes, Pigs	100 000	100000	100000	100000	100000	120000	100000	8000	/	
Din farmers union***					372000	256000	256000	272000	240000	100000	
Babanki Farmers Union***	Pig, tomatoes								150000	150000	
Total		1,369,500	1,379,000	1,267,000	1,440,500	1,359,000	1,372,000	1,135,000	934,000	300,000	

*** Newly registered union

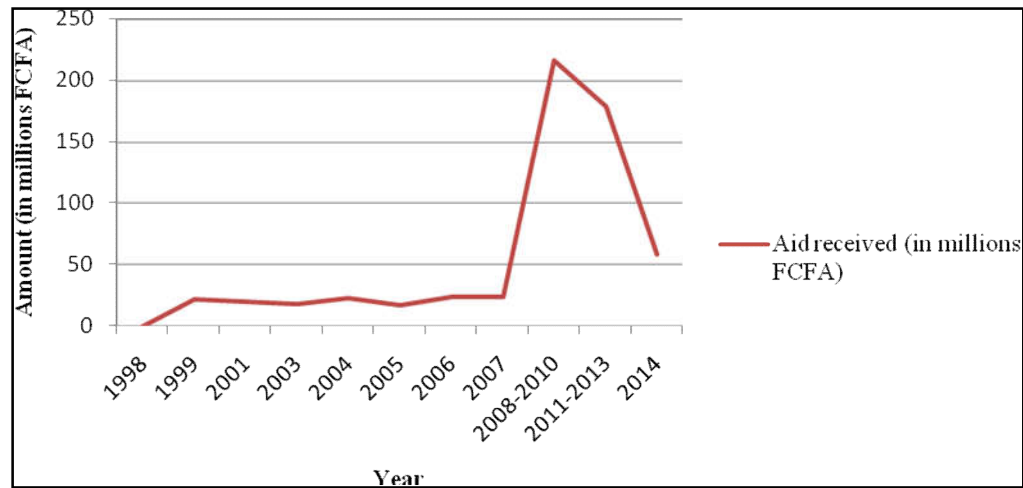


Figure 3. Financial support granted to NOWEFOR by SOS Faim and EC from 1998-2014

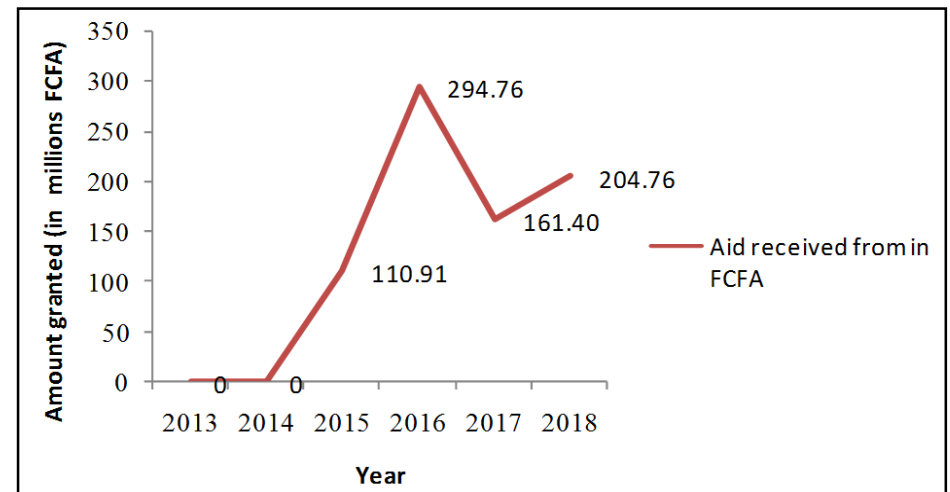


Figure 4. ACEFA's financial support granted to FOs in Mezam Division (2013-2018)

From 2008 up to 2010 the amount of aid received by NOWEFOR went up to 236 million FCFA reason being the donor on the one hand had already bestowed confidence for the organization and NOWEFOR on the other hand had fully acquired her economic, technical and organizational skills efficiently and they effectively carried out their activities with little or no assistance from SAILD. And at this time they deal directly with SOS Faim with little or no assistance of SAILD. It was in this light that NOWEFOR negotiated its first ever 3-years action plan with SOS Faim through the submission of a proposal entitled "Support project for production of garden crops and livestock (pig and poultry) by small scale farmers in the North West Region of Cameroon" to the European Commission (EC) and fortunately enough the European Commission approved to finance the project for three years (2008-2010). From 2011 up to date, there has been a decline in the amount of aid received by NOWEFOR as illustrated in Figure 3 reasoning being that the aid comes directly from SOS Faim without grants from the European commission and other donors and also SOS Faim is gradually phasing out of the Sub Saharan African. One could conclude that without SOS Faim as the main donor supporting NOWEFOR technically and financially and organizational NOWEFOR would not have been what it is today. ACEFA started supporting from farmers in Mzam Division from 2013 and grants were only granted farmers and FOs as from 2015 because they program usually starts its assistance to would be beneficiary farmers and FOs first with needs assessments, capacity building and project writing. Figure 4 illustrates this. Data from Figure 4 reveals that, the average amount of granted allocated by ACEFA to assist farmers through FOs in Mezam from 110,906,670 FCFA in 2015 to an average amount of 192,958,132.75 FCFA in 2016 to 2018. This is so because farmers saw the first beneficiaries' successes and bestowed confidence in the program. This was also due to the increase awareness of the program in the community thanks to the increased number of staff

Conclusion

Farmers' organizations play a vital role in resource mobilization. This study carried out from January 2018 to March 2019 in Mezam Division of the North West Region of Cameroon is therefore aimed at analyzing the role of farmers' organizations (FOs) in resource mobilization in Mezam Division of the North West Region of Cameroon. Following the findings from the study, it can be concluded that Since 1995 FOs have received aid from SAILD, MINADER, MINEPIA, SOS Faim, EC, American Peace Corps, VSO and ACEFA. SOS Faim and ACEFA were the best aid donors to these FOs. The amount of aid increased with time from 868,000FCFA in 1998 to 216,160,428FCFA in 2010 for the case of aid from SOS Faim and EU. Also, for PCP-ACEFA, the amount of aid received by FOs increased with time from 110,906,670FCFA in 2013-2015 to 204,764,858FCFA in 2018. Internal resources were mobilized through annual dues, fines, deductions from sales, registration, interests and petty Income Generating Activities (IAGs). This study concluded that FOs are important for farmers in the mobilization of internal and external resources for the benefits of farmers and also for the smooth functioning of the organization

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