

Combined use of three whole farm simulation tools for designing innovative production strategies with crop-livestock farmers in Burkina-Faso

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Supporting farmers' reflections in a constrained context



Which future for a given farm?

→ Supporting farmers' prospective reflections by using simulation tools

Three tools used jointly in a one-to-one interaction

OptimCikeda : Linear programming tool optimizing cropping pattern for maximizing income under resource constraints

Optimal compared to current farm pattern and farmer's project

Redesign of farmer's project

2 Cikɛda : Static simulation tool calculating resource balance (staple food, forage, manure) and income generated by a given farm configuration (yearly time step)

Favoured future farm pattern

3 Simflex : Multi-annual rule-based tool assessing the sensitivity of farm income to climatic and economic uncertainty

Three types of farms studied

	Crop farmers (3 cases)	Crop-livestock farmers (3 cases)	Livestock farmers (3 cases)
% of the farmers	78	12	10
Total cultivated area	< 5 ha	> 5 ha	< 5 ha
Family size	< 15	> 25	< 10
Draught cattle	1-2 heads	> 2 heads	> 2 heads
Breeding cattle	0 heads	> 10 heads	> 20 heads
Main activities	- Cotton for sale - Cereals for sale and self-consumption	 Cotton for sale Cereals for sale and self- consumption Breeding cattle for prestige and sale 	 Breeding cattle for prestige and sale Cereals for self- consumption

Example of a crop-livestock farmer (1/3)

Farm characteristics	Farmer's initial Project (P0)
Total area : 23,5 ha	Increasing manure production for improving soil fertility
Family workers: 6	
Draught cattle: 6	Implementing a cattle fattening activity for increasing
Breeding cattle : 60	and diversifying income (objective: 10 heads over 3
Manure (t): 18	months)

Stage 1. Identifying the optimal pattern with Optimcikada



Example of a crop-livestock farmer (2/2)

Stage 2. Simulating P1with Cikɛda



Example a crop-livestock farmer (3/3)

Stage 3. Assessing the sensitivity of Cikɛda scenarios with Simflex



A production system which remains sensitive to rainfall and cotton profit variations

Farmers' evaluation

OptimCikɛda

Assessing the gap between farmer's project and optimal allocation of ressources on the farm

➔ Farmers' projects are partly changed according to the gap between the optimal solution and their own objectives

Cikɛda

Comparing various farmer's project alternatives

➔ Tool considered as useful and easy to understand thanks to its focus on technical/physical processes close to farmers' contexts of action

Simflex

Assessing mid-term results of a project: an objective poorly understood by farmers

→ Farmers are interested by the yearly sensitivity of their project to climatic/economic variables but not by their sequence over 10 years



OptimCikeda and Cikeda viewed as complementary for planning activities

Conclusions

 ✓ Designing and simulating whole farm scenarios support farmers' reflections regarding their projects independently from the kind of tool used

✓ Combining three different tools with the same farmer allows to providing him different views on his projects

✓ This approach is original but remains a research process which would be difficult to transfert to technicians



Thanks for attention

