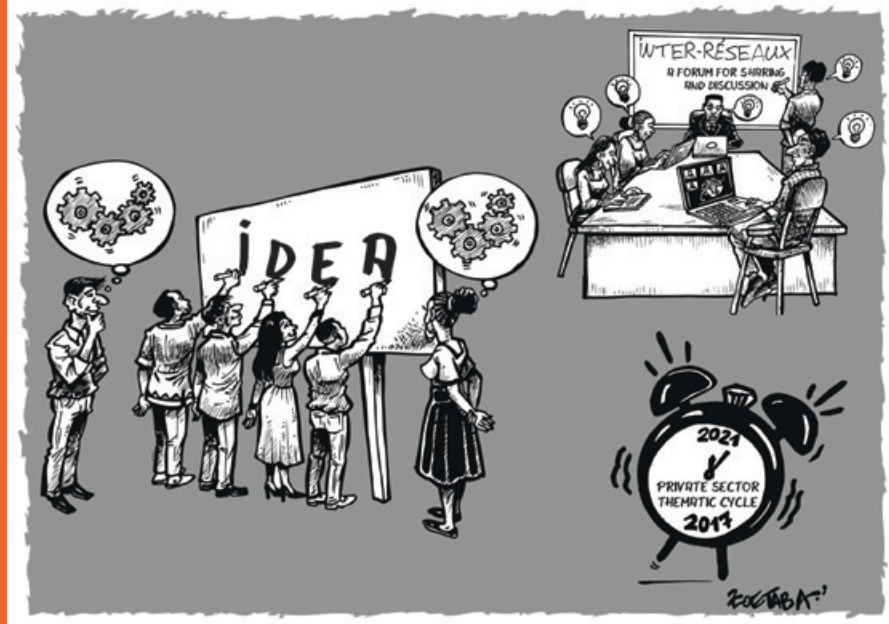


This issue of *Grain de Sel* was the fruit of a long-term group effort!

Issue no. 81 of *Grain de Sel* is part of the thematic cycle on the “private sector”, coordinated by Inter-réseaux since 2017. The team effort that went into producing this issue of the magazine made it possible to showcase work and ideas that have been developed over the long term, and to mobilise a diverse range of actors involved in the thematic cycle on the “private sector”.

What is Inter-réseaux’s private-sector cycle?

In what ways is the private sector involved in developing agricultural policies, funding African farms and structuring value chains?



What challenges are faced by family farms, farmers’ organisations and the partners who support them?

The objective of the thematic cycle is to mobilise the network’s members and partners in order to spark a collective discussion on these issues, produce information, and use that information within the community of development actors. Some of the main accomplishments of the thematic cycle include: a publication entitled *The growing role of the private sector in agricultural and food policy in Africa*, and an experience-assessment report on partnerships between farmers’ organisations and businesses. All work produced as part of the “private sector” cycle, plus regularly updated monitoring resources, are available online: <https://bit.ly/3z7FJhP>

How was this issue of *Grain de Sel* produced?

Work on this issue began in July 2020 and involved the participation, proposals and mobilisation of the participants of the thematic group. Designed as a tool to help facilitate the cycle, this issue allowed us to take the discussions and collaborative content even further through surveys, work sessions open to the entire group, a debate drawing on discussions from the cycle about the definition of the term “private sector”, and the organisation of the first-ever Inter-réseaux webinar on the different dairy models in West Africa, which was also the subject of an article.

The day-to-day editorial process, with the constraints inherent in producing the magazine, required the creation of a smaller editorial board. Other lessons may be drawn from this learning process to strengthen large-scale participation in Inter-réseaux’s publications. ■

Who are the participants in the private-sector cycle?

The private-sector cycle brings together fifty people from different backgrounds (practitioners, researchers, etc.), just like the composition of Inter-réseaux’s organisations: AFD, AFDI, Afrique Verte, Alternative Espaces Citoyens Niger, AVSF, CARE, CFSI, CIRAD, COLEACP, Confédération Paysanne du Faso, FARM, FERT, GRET, IFAD, IPAR, IRAM, SOS Faim Belgium, SOS Faim Luxembourg, Terra Nueva, Catholic University of Leuven, University of Ouaga II, University of Parakou, Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University. Collaborative monitoring, experience-sharing, discussions, contribution to the network’s work... The number of ways to participate are many and diverse – just like the participants themselves!

Cycle financially supported by:



GRAIN DE SEL Get involved!

The *Grain de Sel* magazine has been published since 1996 and is central to Inter-réseaux Développement Rural’s mission to circulate information, encourage debate and promote experience-sharing. Its purpose is to help readers understand the issues around agricultural and rural development in Africa, and to report on the different topics debated within the sector. Like Inter-réseaux, which is made up of African and European actors from different backgrounds working together on these questions, each half-yearly issue of the magazine is created through a team effort. *Grain de Sel* seeks to give a voice to a diverse range of actors in the field (FOs, NGOs, researchers, leaders, etc.) and encourage the expression of different points of view. We are always interested in new contributions. Don’t hesitate to write to us at inter-reseaux@inter-reseaux.org!



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