



ARCHIPELAGO

an African-European partnership
for vocational training

Project funded by the European Union



AL BOUZHOUR "THE QUALITY SEEDS SECTOR, A PROMISING FUTURE FOR THE YOUTH OF LAKE CHAD AND HADJER LAMIS"

Agriculture, quality seeds

Organisations forming the project consortium: La Chambre de Commerce, d'Industrie, d'Agriculture, des Mines et d'Artisanat du Tchad (CCIAMA) et la Chambre d'Agriculture de Saône-et-Loire (CA71) - France



455

young people trained

- 293 men
- 162 women



253

Young people integrated

- 195 men
- 58 women



286

Young people trained in literacy

- 145 men
- 141 women



29

Village Savings and Credit Associations established



Hawa, young producer in Marbart (Hadjer Lamis, Chad):

"Before, I knew nothing. With Al Bouzhour, I started to read, write, and calculate. I will become a great seeds producer. And maybe even the president of the Marbat seeds growers!"

In Lake Chad and Hadjer Lamis, the populations mainly live from agriculture and livestock. They have a very high level of poverty. Extremely young, their level of education and qualification is very low. This is due to a lack of infrastructure, the cost of training, and cultural barriers. And yet, the employment potential of the region is vast. The quality seeds sector is particularly promising. Al Bouzhour's challenge is to integrate young people into this sector in a sustainable way!

The Al Bouzhour approach consists first of all of mobilising the stakeholders in the territories by raising awareness among the traditional, religious and administrative authorities.

Once the movement is underway, the project offers young candidates the opportunity to join a professional development programme through technical and vocational training and a support in entrepreneurship.

This programme starts for all with a functional literacy module and ends, for the "village champions", with the establishment of their seeds company. The programme is progressive, places the young person at the heart of the process by giving him or her responsibility, and offers him or her an integration into the quality seeds sector according to his or her aspirations and abilities: producer, entrepreneur, packer, agri-dealer...

The young people are trained in best practices of seeds production on the field plot that the village authorities have allocated to them. In this way, they start their own economic activity and generate their first income. The best and most motivated young people then follow the young entrepreneur's path: hands-on training and personalised support.

For sustainable results, Al Bouzhour is also strengthening the capacities of youth support structures, in particular of the CCIAMA and its local public partners: the National Rural Development Support Agency (ANADER), the Lake Development Company (SODELAC), the Directorate of Seeds and Plants (DSP), the Directorate of Literacy and Promotion of National Languages (DAPLAN), etc. More than 30 trainers are ready to act, and a range of post-training services (business monitoring, technical support) is being set up.

By setting up a consultation platform for the financing of entrepreneurship, Al Bouzhour offers young people an additional opportunity to implement their new businesses. With the same objective in mind, the village savings and credit associations are strengthening access to financing for young people.



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