

ACDIC

Today & Tomorrow

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PRESENTATION OF ACDIC

ACDIC is a French acronym for Citizen's Association for the Defence of Collective Interests

- ACDIC is a Cameroon civil society organization created in 2003 to **capitalize** on 20 years of experience in the rural area with the Support Service to Grassroots Initiatives of Development (**SAILD**)
- ACDIC works mainly in the domains of **advocacy** and **lobbying** with the following vision and objectives :
 - ✳ Promote a society with an **equitable, transparent socio-economic environment** with constructive relationship, **protecting the interest of each and everyone.**
 - ✳ Raise awareness on the choices of the quality of life, reinforce the position of the masses and improve on their participation in the management of public affairs.
- ACDIC is organized as **an association** with the following organs: a General Assembly, a Board of Directors, an Executive Bureau, Regional Branches and a Permanent Secretariat;
- Membership is 12.500. Communication is through SMS and **ACDIC-INFO** which enables ACDIC to inform more than 200.000 subscribers who also transmit each of our messages to more than one million other people.

10 YEARS OF ACTION

Concrete actions, effects and impact

For almost 10 years of existence ACDIC has put its mark on Cameroon, and even on Africa's economic and sociopolitical environment not only with successful campaigns, but also with its proposals for alternative solutions to the many problems raised:

- **Imported frozen chicken:** The campaign against the importation of frozen chicken, which had ruined many poultry farmers and threatened the health of the consumers, ended successfully with a government decision to stop it in 2006. The local poultry sector has been revived and 2 slaughterhouses for locally produced chicken are now functioning in the country.
- **Bird flu:** The campaign initiated by ACDIC contributed to better inform the population on bird flu and limit the negative effects on chicken consumers.
- **Good governance:** By denouncing malpractices by some staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and rural Development in the management of funds allocated to farmers, ACDIC has contributed to reduce mismanagement in rural projects.
- **Food sovereignty:** The campaign for food sovereignty, though still a great challenge, has created awareness in the population on the necessity producing and consuming local food. As a reminder, ACDIC carried out a campaign on the maize crisis and another one titled "Zero imported foodstuff at the Ebolowa agric show 2010"
- **Pact for rural development:** Seizing the opportunity of presidential elections in 2011, a pact for rural development was elaborated and proposed to all candidates in view of revolutionizing our agriculture developing the rural area. 19 candidates out of 23 signed the pact which remains the most important document on rural development in Cameroon.

SURE ASSETS

Almost 10 years after its creation, ACDIC can proudly show some of its achievements that make it the major civil society organisation in Cameroon and in the Central Africa sub regional.

- * A good knowledge of the socio-political and economic environment of Cameroon and the Central Africa, sub region
- * A clear knowledge of the rural area and the agro pastoral producers
- * Credibility and respect from decision makers
- * General sympathy in public opinion
- * A solid experience in advocacy, lobbying sensitization and mass communication
- * A real experience on citizen advocacy (petitions, demonstrations....)
- * A qualified permanent staff
- * A solid experience in working in partnership with government officials: i.e ACDIC contributed to organize the locally produced food tasting day and the organization of the agric show in Ebolowa 2011
- * A large membership
- * Branches in all the ten regions of Cameroon
- * A good number of partners in the Central Africa Sub region

FOUR MAJOR ACTION THEMES

1- Food sovereignty

Our vision: Agriculture based on small holder farmers, agriculture that assures food security and generates enough income to producers, agriculture that provides the consumers with safe food at affordable and equitable prices.

Our main objective: Contribute sustainably to the satisfaction of food needs of the population, economic and social development, poverty alleviation; reduce inequality amongst regions and amongst Cameroonians.

Our specific objectives: Assure food security to the population where they reside and work, reduce national food dependence to assure food sovereignty.

2- Civil society reinforcement

3- Citizen awakening

4- Good governance

OUR AMBITION FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS

I. Social communication

- * **ACDIC-INFO** which now has more than 200.000 subscribers who receive SMS and E-Mails has proven to be a wonderful tool for advocacy, sensitization, information and even a tool for training and mobilization of the masses. The achievements obtained six months after this new tool was launched confirm this statement. A good example is the tractors abandoned in the bush in Ebolowa. After ACDIC –INFO made it known to the public it was the major information on the front pages of all newspapers in Cameroon, news bulletin headlines and one Cameroonian out of two was informed. Less than one month later, necessary measures were taken, with instructions from the Head of State. Unprecedented!

Our ambition is now to develop ACDIC-INFO, mostly in the field of organization, technology, themes treated, geographical extension, and increasing the number of subscribers.

NB : *What makes ACDIC INFO different and effective is that the message is short, sent directly to subscribers of all socio economic origins, and more over sent to the decision makers. 50 out of 65 members of government receive ACDIC-INFO messages. All the 180 MPs are subscribers. 30.000 addresses are of the Diaspora and diplomats are not left out. 8 permanent staff are fully implicated, from investigation through the production of messages, management of the SMS and E-Mails to follow up of the messages and the Anglophone desk.*

- * A radio program called **"AGRICULTURE FREQUENCIES"**, not only permits us to share our experiences in the domain of agriculture, but is also complementary to ACDIC-INFO and a weekly rendezvous for many Cameroonians.

Our ambition is to technically ameliorate this radio program and negotiate with other radio stations, mostly rural radios, for rebroadcasting.

II. Food sovereignty and food security

- * ACDIC action for promoting food sovereignty has yielded some fruits as official speeches and public debates confirm.

Our ambition is to continue in the same line. But we shall be more imaginative in our proposal for alternative solutions and also intensify communication on those issues:

- ↳ Secure the results got from the campaign against the importation of frozen chicken
- ↳ Promotion of local production and smallholder farmers
- ↳ Protection of local markets
- ↳ Participation in trade negotiations
- ↳ Promotion of good relationship between producers and consumers
- ↳ Promotion of good relationship between producers and businessmen

III. Good governance

Our interventions for **good governance** in the rural sector bear good fruits. One cannot deny that today, in the Ministry of Agriculture and rural development (Minader) any staff will think twice before taking any act of corruption or embezzlement.

Our ambition is to continue carrying out the same activities, namely:

- * Monitoring government actions
- * Involving the population in the monitoring of public action
- * Tracking down and denouncing malpractices
- * Following-up the effects and impacts of our interventions



IV. Reinforcement of national and regional civil society

- * Contribution to the reinforcement of the **civil society** in Cameroon and in the central Africa sub region. The case of Cosac (French acronym for Coalition for food sovereignty in Cameroon) a civil society organization made up of 60 members, which contributed to the success of the last agric show in Ebolowa, is a good example.

Our ambition is to continue to participate in the setting up of platforms and civil society organization networks.

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