**Title:** Presentation of Mondia value chain Project, Lebialem highlands.

**Case study:** Lewoh Fondom

**Implementing organisation:** ERuDeF

**Presenter:** Helen Agendia, President Lewoh Women Cooperative Society

SW Cameroon
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ABREVIATION

ABS: Access and Benefits Sharing
LeWoCoS: Lewoh Women Cooperative Association
MoBECoS: Mount Bamboutos Echinops Cooperative Society
BaCulDA: Magha-Bamumbu Cultural Development Association
MAT: Mutually Agreed Terms
PIC: Prior informed Consent
GR: Genetic Resource
MW: Mondia whitei
EG: Echinop giganteus
TR: Traditional knowledge
PARTNERS

- **Funding partners:** V. Mane Fils enterprise in France, Mane Foundation, Agence Francais de Development (AFD), ERuDeF.

- **Technical partners:** Man and Nature, MINEPDED, University of Dschang, GIZ, and ERuDeF Institute

- **Local partners:** LeWoCoS, MoBECoS; Alou and Wabane; Councils; Magha-Bamumbu and Lewoh Communities.

- **Publicity partner:** Green vision Newspaper; Cameroon Business Newsletter and ERuDeF
Introduction

Background
The ABS regime was adopted in 2010. The first experience in Cameroon came after the discovery of an important genetic resource (EG) in Magha Bamumbu.

The French company, V. Mane fils was the first enterprise with projected interest on the exploitation of this resource for her fragrance industry. This was further enhanced with the signing of the pre PIC document that warrant the exploitation of the GRs by the company for the research and development phase of the project. In 2015, another document was signed between the community of Magha and V. mane fils to commence the commercialization phase.

In 2013 another plant of interest was discovered in Lewoh. This saw the signing of MAT for the research and development in 2016. The project was funded by V. Mane fils company. Since 2012, ERuDeF has been coordinating and implementing the ABS project in the Lebialem highland.

What is the meaning of genetic resource?
Main Objective: sustainable methods of Mondia production in the Lebialem highlands.
ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

For *Mondia whitei*

Activities and results of objective 1.1:

1.1 Ethno-botanical studies of *Mondia whitei*

**Results:** This was done through survey. Data were computed and analyzed and presented. Lewoh was chosen as the pilot site to host the Echinops value chain

1.2. cartography of the area and map for the distribution of *Mondia* in Lewoh.

Fig 1: cartography of the area

Fig 2: Distribution of *Mondia* in Lewoh
**ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS**

**For *Mondia whitei***

**Activities and results of objective 2:**

2.1. Agronomic test of *Mondia whitei*

**Result:** Three major seed beds were constructed for the agronomic test.

![Fig 3: construction nursery bed](image1)

![Fig 4: weeding of *Mondia* seedlings](image2)
ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

For *Mondia whitei*

Activities and results of objective 2:

2.2. Plantation test for *Mondia whitei*, 4,000 *Mondia* seedlings from the nurseries were transported to the plantation site

**Results:** 3674 *Mondia* vine survived

![Fig 5: planting of Seedlings](image)

![Fig 6: survived mondia vines](image)
ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

For *Mondia whitei*

Activities and results of objective 2:

2.3 reorganization of the cooperative (LeWoCoS) and management committee for the Mondia project

**Results:** 17 women cooperative members were trained on books keeping and cooperative management

Fig 7: executive board of LeWoCoS

Fig 8: the management committee members
For *Mondia whitei*

Activities and results of objective 2:

2.4. Sensitization of the elites and local administration on ABS regime

**Results:** forty (40) persons sensitized, 25 women and 15 men

Fig 9: sensitization meeting on ABS regime
Activities and results of objective 2:

2.5. Signing of the MAT research for Mondia

Results: One MAT research was signed between the Lewoh community and V. Mane fils company to commerce research.

Fig 10: signing ceremony (Fon of Lewoh, the Minister and V. Mane fils)
For *Mondia whitei*

Activities and results of objective 2:

2.6. Distribution of working tools to the community of Lewoh

**Results:** Seventeen working tools were distributed to 17 committed farmers

![Fig 11: tools distributed to farmers](image-url)
ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

For *Mondia whitei*

Activities and results of objective 2:

2.7. Training of Lewoh community members on sustainable production of Mondia

**Results:** 28 community members took part in the training. 5 men and 23 women were involved.

Fig 12: training meeting on sustainable production of Mondia
ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

For *Mondia whitei*

Activities and results of objective 2:

2.8. Exportation of the MW roots from 2016-2018 for essential oil and biochemical research and development

**Result:** 181Kg of MW roots were exported to France for research and development

Fig 13: Mondia roots for research and development
ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

For *Mondia whitei*

**Specific objective 3:** commercialization phase for Mondia

**Activities and results of objective 3:**

3.1. Training of community members on sustainable Mondia roots harvesting

**Result:** 28 Lewoh community members were trained on roots harvesting

Fig 13: training meeting on sustainable mondia roots harvesting
For *Mondia whitei*

**Specific objective 3:** commercialization phase for Mondia

**Activities and results of objective 3:**

3.2. Training of cooperative members on collection, drying, packaging and transportation of Echinops

**Result:** 12 members took part in the processing of Mondia roots

Fig 15: training on Mondia root processing  
Fig 14: the drying station for root processing
For *Mondia whitei*

**Specific objective 1.3:** commercialization phase for Mondia

**Activities and results of objective 3:**

3.3. Training of cooperative (LeWoCoS) members on books keeping and cooperative management

**Result:** 20 members took part in the training

![Fig 16: training of cooperative members](image1)

![Fig 17: balance sheet illustration](image2)
Lessons Learned

For Mondia

Specific objective 4: lessons learned

Activities and results of objective 4:

- 4.1. Lessons learned in the research and development phase
  
  Result 1: Mondia does well insitu than exsitu
  
  Result 2: Mondia grows best in higher altitudes than in Lower altitudes.
  
  Result 3: Mondia grows best in dark humus soil type
  
  Result 4: Adequate sensitization on ABS is still very much required
  
  Result 5: the chiefs put in much efforts than the Fon for the success of the project hence demanding for their own share of benefits
  
  Result 6: Mondia grows best in the forest zone than Savannah
Impact to the Lewoh community

Impacts to the Lewoh community:

Imp 1. income generated from the supply of Mondia roots by the community has been used to support children's education (Nkenganyi Sebastien)
Challenges and Recommendation

Challenges faced during project implementation:

Chl 1. Most community members are involved in other agricultural activities. This makes it difficult to mobilize them for workshops and training.
Chl 2. Mondia roots are still being collected from the wild, making it difficult to access the hilly landscape in the rainy season.
Chl 3. The crisis in the NW and SW has made it difficult for activity implementation in the Lebialem Division.

Recommendation

Rec 1. More sensitization on ABS should be carried out in Lewoh
Rec 2. The ecological studies for Mondia should be scaled up to better understand the characteristics of the plant.
General Conclusion

The ABS value chain in the two communities is a regulatory tool that has came to help communities in the Lebialem highlands to enjoy their resources through sharing of benefits from the commercialization and the use of their traditional knowledge. ERuDeF is the first National Non governmental organization in sub Sahara African that has covered much on ABS with some local communities. Despite all what has been done, more is still to be done in Cameroon as far as ABS process and implementation is concerned. ERuDeF will be extending its ABS program in Cameroon, to other regions of the country. This will be through the development of a new project called: the ABS in conservation. This project will be focused around protected areas that ERuDeF will be supporting. It is also important to note that, a book on ABS in Cameroon is under production and will be available to the public at our earliest convenient.