



SOLIDARITY ECONOMY IN AFRICA

YOUSSEF SADIK
MOHAMMED V UNIVERSITY
RABAT - MOROCCO

SOLIDARITY ECONOMY ASSUMES MANY ROLES AND MISSIONS

- Preserve and strengthen social, ecological, cultural systems,
- Limit the growth of inequalities and for justice,
- Against climate change and for a fair sharing of resources,
- Against uniformisation of behaviours and for the expression of diversities.



In Africa, many traditions exist from village grouping :

- ✓ management of the commons (such as forests and water),
- ✓ pooling material resources
- ✓ mutual help for work in the fields (sossoaga, Djunta-mon)
- ✓ circular saving systems (tontines)



Self organized initiatives set up by ordinary people represent the main answer to a market-driven development model leading by private interests instead of communities' rights and needs. Networks and horizontal platforms have been engaging in the last decades SSE to save and strengthen communities

Example

In spite of the country's endemic poverty and hunger, small-scale farmers in Mozambique :

As part of collective farmers' associations, producers' organizations and with political campaigns, they exercise their right to organize their agricultural systems in a way that allows them to live in dignity and to feed themselves.

In doing so, they confront the challenges of hunger and poverty as well as the devastating effects of climate change in a country whose economy is heavily reliant upon the agricultural sector.

Despite the proven effectiveness of agroecological methods, which allow farmers to win back their autonomy and adapt to protect the local ecosystem so as to limit damage to the environment and available resources, their government still promotes industrial agriculture which serves the profit-seeking interests of agribusiness.

AFRICAN BEST PRACTISES IN SOLIDARITY ECONOMY

These traditions are nowadays extended by :

- ✓ agro-pastoral and craft cooperatives,
- ✓ savings and credit cooperatives,
- ✓ mutual health insurance,
- ✓ mutual funds through banks (Mamda in Morocco),
- ✓ various agroecological experiences in Senegal, Togo, Cabo Verde or Burkina Fasso.

SOME SUGGESTIONS

- International handbook of practises and case studies in solidarity economy
- Make training by new approaches in solidarity economy
- Create international university SE Programs to encourage student and teacher mobility
- Focus on health sector in Covid-19 context