



A BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE

**NORTH WEST FARMERS'
ORGANISATION (NOWEFOR)**

Improving the Lives of Farmers

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March 2014

INTRODUCTION

The federation today known as the North West Farmers' Organization (NOWEFOR) was founded in October 1995. It is a farmers' representation/movement in the North West Region of Cameroon registered under the Registry of Common Initiative Groups and Cooperatives and guided by Law No 92/006 of 14 August 1992 and its Decree of implementation No 92/455/PM of 25 November 1992. From very humble beginnings, NOWEFOR has grown to become a notable Farmers' Organization in the Region. Total membership of 3454 farmers: 1641 women, 1313 men and 500 youths

VISION

NOWEFOR dreams of a society where farmers are influencing their socio-economic and policy environment to be responsive to their needs and interests thereby enabling them to generate enough income from their production activities to live above the poverty line.

MISSION

NOWEFOR exists to unite farmers (women, men and youths) of the North West region of Cameroon into a force that provides concrete services to its members in view of sustaining their agricultural activities, increasing their incomes and empowering them to lead development initiatives in their communities.

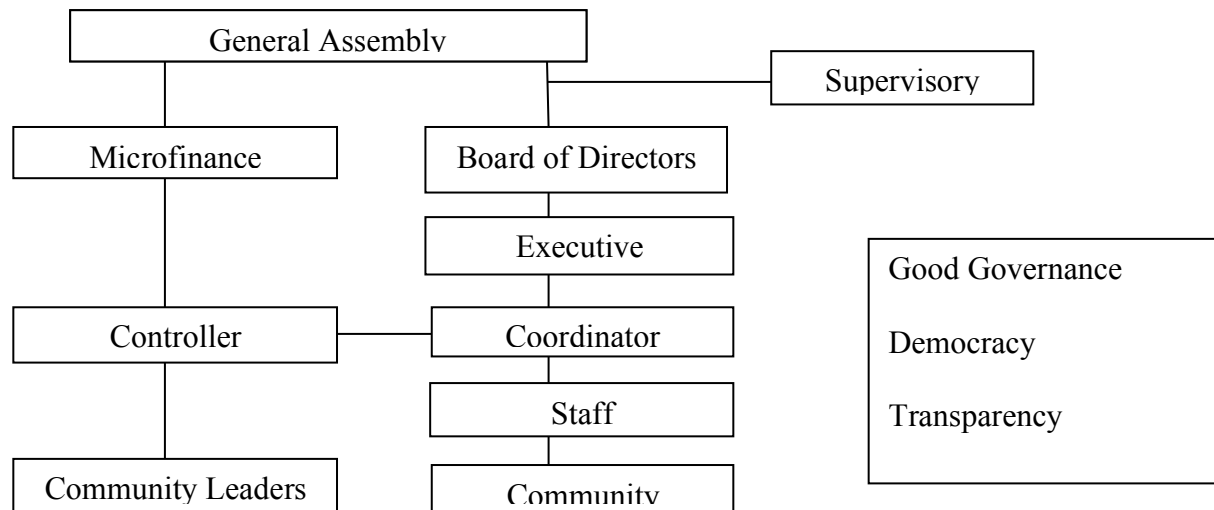
GOAL

To upscale the delivery of relevant and more adapted services (micro-credits, agricultural production and marketing techniques..) to the farmers of the North West Region of Cameroon in order to boost their production and productivity thereby contributing to the achievement of food security and the eradication of poverty in the region

OBJECTIVES

This shall be done in the following- objectives.

1. Influence public policies and decisions at local, regional and national levels to be more responsive to the needs and interest of the small holder farmers of the region
2. Boost members' production and productivity in crops and livestock species with high potentials to contribute to food security and poverty alleviation
3. Raise NOWEFOR'S members' income levels through the mitigation of their production costs and facilitate access to lucrative/sustainable markets.
4. Improve members' access to adapted and bespoke financial services in general and micro-credit in particular
5. Strengthen NOWEFOR as a recognized credible vibrant and institutionally strong actor of the agricultural landscape of the North West Region of Cameroon
6. To mainstream gender equity and equality.
7. To improve access to health information



Organigram of NOWEFOR

In order to achieve its objectives, NOWEFOR has identified three main strategic lines of intervention:

- * Production;
- * Marketing ; and
- * Microfinance

PRODUCTION

This component assists farmers to identify and specialize in activities that are economically viable in their respective zones (Commodity Chain Approach) with the view of becoming rural entrepreneurs. Farmers' technical and resource constraints are assessed and appropriate support in the form of capacity building; input supply and farm follow ups by NOWEFOR technicians are arranged. Farmers have been supported technically and materially in domains as diverse as market gardening, piggery, poultry, palms, yams, cassava production and cane rat domestication. NOWEFOR also organize forums where her farmers can share experiences and success stories with other farmers and farmers' organizations within their zones, the region and beyond. **Appropriation** and **Sustainability** are key to NOWEFOR.

MARKETING

The marketing component in NOWEFOR was introduced to mitigate the numerous marketing challenges confronting the farmers. NOWEFOR has adopted the **Group Marketing Strategy** whereby farmers pool their produce and negotiate a single best price thereby avoiding unnecessary cut throat competition for buyers. Group marketing gives farmers a stronger

bargaining voice when negotiating, be it in terms of selling price, car hire charges, or purchase of inputs. In addition to the time gained, post harvest losses are reduced and **household incomes** are generally **improved**. Thanks to group marketing, NOWEFOR farmers are securing long term supply contracts with lucrative bulky buyers from as far afield as Bafoussam, Douala, Limbe and Yaounde.

MICROFINANCE

Access to adapted, affordable and sustainable financial services has always been a dream for rural farmers. NOWEFOR is very cognisant of this constraint and has responded by creating North West Farmers' Organisation Credit House (NOWEFOCH), a financial services subsidiary operational since 1998. NOWEFOCH is a network with affiliate credit houses (Bafut, Bambui, Mforyah, Batibo, Mundum, Kai, Babungo and Nyen) that operate in eight of the thirteen rural communities where NOWEFOR has affiliate farmers' unions. NOWEFOCH credit houses have been and continue to be instrumental in ensuring that their members have access to adapted financial services. The credit houses currently offer the following menu of loans and savings products:

Savings:

- Voluntary Savings
- Time savings
- Social savings
- Current deposit

Loans:

- Production loans
- School fees loans
- Social loans
- Provident Loans

OUR FAITHFUL PARTNERS

SOS FAIM

European Commission

Support Service to Grassroots Initiatives of Development (SAILD)

The American Peace Corps

Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) and the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries (MINEPIA)

North West Association of Development Organization (NWADO)

Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)

North West Pig Dealers Association (NOWEPDA)

Reignite Action for Development (RAD)

National Employment Fund (NEF)

President of Steering Committee for the project In search of common ground (ISCG) executed by Mbororo social and Cultural Association (MBOSCUDA)

GENERAL EXPERIENCES OF NOWEFOR

1.0 GENERAL INTRODUCTION OF NOWEFOR

Name of organization: North West Farmers' Organisation (NOWEFOR)

Date of registration: October 1995

Status: Federation of Common Initiative Groups

Membership: Total of 3454 farmers: 1641 women, 1313 men and 500 youths

Area of intervention: North West Region-Bafut, Nchum, Mforyah, Bambui and Mundum in Mezam division; Nseh in Bui Division, Babungo and Ibal-Oku in Ngoketungia Division; Kai, Nyen and Batibo in Momo Division; and Mbowiyah in Donga Mantung Division.

NOWEFOR has an experienced multi-disciplinary team of staff and consultants (agronomists, agro-economists, Microfinance technicians and rural engineers) who have a track record working for the organization in the following areas:

- Training of grass root organizations/groups in diverse areas.
- Baseline studies.
- Lobbying and Advocacy
- Training of trainers in various domains (gender, strategic development planning, sustainable production of agricultural products, financial management etc.)
- Agricultural training and extension.
- Planning, monitoring and evaluation of development projects.
- Micro Financing (for the rural/urban poor) through its credit schemes

2.0 EXPERIENCES IN STRUCTURING FARMER ORGANIZATIONS

We have organized and set up 14 farmer unions made up of 140 common initiative groups spread out in six of the seven divisions in the North West Region. The unions so far organized are:

NO	UNION	FUNCTIONAL SECTOR	DIVISION	
1	Mforyah Integrated Farmers' Union (MIFU)	Poultry, pig, yam, ginger Market gardening	Mezam	
2	Bafut Union of Farming Groups	Poultry, pig, ginger	Mezam	
3	Bambui Union of Sustainable Self Help Groups (BASSUG)	Poultry, pig, market gardening	Mezam	
4	Livestock and Crop Farmers' Union of Taa zone (LICROFUTAZ)	Pig, palms, maize, Poultry	Momo	
5	Mundum Farmers' Union (MUFU)	Cassava, Pigs , Market gardening	Mezam	
6	Nchum Zone Farmers Union (NZOFU)	Pigs, ginger	Mezam	
7	Nseh Group of Farmers' Organisations (NSEGFOR)	Irish potatoes, Pigs	Bui	
8	Babungo Farmers Union (BAFAU)	Market gardening, Pigs, maize	Ngoketunjia	
9	Moghamo Union of Farming groups (MUFAG)	Pigs, Market gardening, maize, poultry	Momo	
10	Union of Momo Farming Groups (MUFAG)	Yam, pig, Maize, Poultry	Momo	
11	IBAL-OKU Union	Tomatoes, pig, maize	Bui	
12	Ngongdzen Farmers Union	Irish potatoes, Pigs, maize	Bui	
13	Union of Njinikom CIGs	Tomatoes, poultry and pig	Boyo	
14	Aguilli Union	Rice and pig	Menchum	