

CardoVerde Foundation gGmbH – Questionnaire for Cooperation

The following questions focus on basic agricultural information relevant to the location of a project. They have proven to be helpful starting points for a more intensive dialogue.

Regarding the ecological framework:

- 1 Is information available on **precipitation** in the region and its distribution throughout the year?
 - a) Is there a weather station in the region [often in connection with an airport] and is access to consolidated climate data available?
 - b) What do people report about the climate in the last 5 years?
- 2 If **water** is a limiting factor: Are measures being taken in the region to improve water availability? (e.g. rows of trees and hedges along contour lines; construction of water retention basins; wells, etc.)
- 3 What is noticeable about the **soil**?
 - a) Is it rather deep or shallow and stony?
 - b) Does it change significantly over distances of a few hundred metres?
 - c) Is it the result of the weathering of limestone or volcanic rock, or deposits from watercourses (in which case rounded pebbles in the soil are characteristic)?
 - d) Have soil analyses already been carried out in the project/region?
- 4 What is the **relief** of the agricultural land like? Flat or rather sloping? If the latter, how pronounced is it?

Regarding the agricultural context:

- 5 **Which annual crops and, if known, varieties** are usually cultivated? What yields do people report as the "average harvest" per hectare (or the unit of area commonly used in the region)?
- 6 Are **forms of mixed cultivation** practised? (Typical in Central American countries, for example: maize + beans + pumpkin)
- 7 **What types of fruit trees and/or trees for timber or energy production** are cultivated in the region? If applicable, to what extent and with which focus? (e.g. number of trees owned and/or cared for by a family; are they located around the house or rather in the fields, and how are they arranged there)?
- 8 **What animals are kept** – and, if applicable, to what extent per family? Please distinguish by animal species:
 - a) Are the animals mainly kept outdoors or in stables or pens? How can these be characterised?
 - b) Is animal feed simply collected from fallow land or is it also specifically cultivated? If the latter: which plant species?
 - c) Is feed also purchased? If so, what exactly and at what prices?

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Regarding the social and economic context:

- 9 How is **access to land and its use** regulated? (e.g. private ownership; communal ownership with individual rights of use; equal access rights for men and women, etc.)
- 10 Are the **fields cultivated individually (or within the family)** or also as part of communal activities? If the latter: How is this regulated in detail?
- 11 **How large are the fields** that are usually cultivated by a family or the social group common in the region? Are they located directly next to the dwellings or how far away from them?
- 12 How is field or agricultural **work usually divided within a family?** (e.g. which tasks are usually performed by women, which by men, or possibly by certain groups within the social structure?)
- 13 **Indications of usual prices:**
- a) Which harvest products are sold, at least to a certain extent? Usually in what quantities and at what prices?
 - b) Which products do families have to buy in addition? If so, in what quantities, at which point of sale and at what prices?
- 14 Which **key individuals** are identifiable in the (planned) project environment and what functions and decision-making powers do they have?