

THE INFLUENCE ON CLIMATIC DISTURBANCES ON THE INCREASE OF PRICES OF FOOD PRODUCTS: THE CASE OF THE EXTREME REGION NORTH OF CAMEROON

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I. PROBLÉMATIQUE AND DATA

Situated to the bottom of the gulf of Guinea, on the western coast of Africa, Cameroon stretches on 1.840 Km from the South to the North, between the second and 13th degree of North latitude, and the meridians 9° and 16° of longitude east. The country covers a surface area of 475.650 Km². The Atlantic inshore zone that spreads on 360 Km presents a continental shelf of 14.000 Km². It has an exclusive economic zone of 20.000 Km².

Cameroon shares its terrestrial borders with six countries: Nigeria to the west (for over 1000 km), Chad to the North and to the Northeast, the Central Africa to the East, Congo, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea to the South. Its extension in latitude confers him in to a variety of landscapes, geomorphological zones, and climates that can be regrouped however in five regional entities or agroecological zones¹

Tableau 1: Caractéristiques écologiques, données physiques et pluviométriques des milieux naturels du Cameroun

Zone agro écologique	Province	Altitude (m)	Nombre de jours de pluie par an	Nombre de mois pluvieux par an	Pluviométrie (mm)
Soudano-sahélien	Nord et Extrême - Nord	700 - 300	90-120	3-5	500
Haut Plateau de l'Adamaoua	Adamaoua	900 - 1400	110-150	7	1500
Plateau sud camerounais ⁵	Centre, Est et Sud	500 - 800	125-175	7-9	1400 -1600
Basses terres côtières	Littoral et Sud-Ouest	0 - 500	180-240	9-12	2000
Hautes terres de l'ouest ⁶	Ouest et Nord-Ouest	750 - 2000	175-220	7-9	1750

The denomination and features of the soudano-sahelian or zone I, which is the object of our survey, is consisted between the 8th and 13th degrees of north latitude. It consists of Mount Mandaras, the plains of the extreme - north and the Valley of the Bénoué. It spreads on 102.680 km² and knows on the climatic plan yearly precipitations of 400 to 900 mm concentrated on 4 months (from July to October). The average temperatures are close to 28°C, with very important thermal gaps (7,7°C annual average). soils are generally vertiques, clevery - sandy.

¹ Cameroun : Analyse Globale de la Sécurité Alimentaire et de la Vulnérabilité (CFSVA) Décembre 2008, Programme alimentaire mondial, Service de l'analyse de la sécurité alimentaire (OMXF)

The Soudano-Sahelian zone is characterized by fragile ecosystems, a strong density of the populations and a strong fundamental pressure. It shelters the protected areas and most husting zones of the country. It is submitted to the ominous effects of the drought exacerbated notably by deforestation and soils erosion, and offer enormous potentialities of social forestry and agroforestry that permits it to palliate the needs of the population in wood - energy at the same time as they contribute to the struggle against desertification.

The 2009/2010 agricultural campaign have been disrupted seriously in the extreme - north because of an interruption of rains experienced between the months of May and June. Indeed, the most meaningful rains got settled truly in this zone only in that to the course of the first decade of the month of July therefore causing a delay in agricultural activities. In addition to a decrease of the precipitations estimated to more of 70% in June 2009 in relation to June 2008. The Logone and Chari division recorded only one rainfall during the first two decades of the month of July. Sowing activities consequently started the late when compared to last year, same in the other regions. This disturbance led to a discontinuation of field preparation works carried over the start of sowing to mid July. This communication that leans on the data coming from the 116 internal markets, of about transborderly fifteen markets and observations in the national System of fast alert, reveal that the climatic disruptions combined to the Nigerian refugee flux following the social disruptions that the north of this neighboring country knows, had for effect an increase in prices in an order of 35%, with picks picks troubling of 197% of rise of price for onion in the Diamaré and 71% for Sorghum Ss in the Logone and Chari.

The 2009/2010 data on the agricultural campaign of the six divisions (Diamaré, Logone and Chari, Mayo-Danay, Mayo-Kani, Mayo Sava and Mayo Tsanaga) of the region of the extreme - north will permit us to analyze the general rise of prices of agricultural in this region and to propose some recommendations.

II. DATA AND METHODS

The data that we use come from the 116 internal markets, of about fifteen transborderly and observations in the setting of the National System of Fast alert of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER). But moreover, we resorted (the literature on the climatic disruption influence on the agricultural products in Cameroon is relatively limited) to reports of survey led by isolated researchers in the setting of academic research, the non

governmental organizations or the organisms of the system of the United Nations (PAM, UNICEF, FAO, etc.). The information collected theoretically as well as in the field made it possible to obtain results globally satisfactory to the various preoccupations involved in this work.

III. 2009/2010 AGRICULTURAL CAMPAIGN IN THE REGION OF THE EXTREME - NORTH: FIVE DEPARTMENTS OUT OF SIX IN DIFFICULTIES

The Diamare Division: 90% of the seedlings fail in Méri

Some less important rains have been recorded in the month of April notably, in the Meri Division. At the first decade of May, this division recorded the first seedlings of the rainy sorghum and of the groundnut of Douroum. But, these seedlings failed to 90% because of the drought. The well distributed useful rains have been recorded only from the 3rd decade of June. Since this resumption, the development of the cultures in fields is satisfactory, but a possible irregularity of rains would be catastrophic.

The Mayo-Danay Division: decrease of harvests in relation to 2008

Less important rain have been recorded in April. The first seedlings have been done more or less in May and June thanks to important precipitations. In June ending, the percentage of seedlings was of about 50% against 80% at the same period of the past year.

In addition, the average of fallen water at the end of June 2009 is of 130 mm against 226 mm in 2008. Rains left well during the month of July and dragged a good behavior of the plants in field.

However, in relation to June 2008, the decrease of 30% of the seedlings added to that of the precipitations of 42%; let's consider a decrease of the harvests in relation to last year. The assessment of the aforesaid decrease is urgent to anticipate the better solutions.

The Mayo Sava Division: 45 days of drought after the seedling in mountainous zone

Rains came back in April, in a brutal and unexpected way of by their intensity and their spatial and temporal distribution. Many peasants in mountainous zones immediately sowed. But this hope flew off with the installation of the drought during the month of May until the first fortnight of June.

By the end of June, the estimated average of water fall is of 150 mm in 14 days against 160 mm in 12 days of last year; be it a relative decrease of 6%.

the Logone and Chari Division: the 2009/2010 agricultural campaign was seriously compromised.

The campaign started very timidly because of insufficient rain: the average of water recorded by the end of June 2009 is of 26,5 mm in 6 days against 87 mm in 8 days for June 2008; either a decrease of the precipitations of close to 70%. rains truly got settled by the beginning July 2009, and it is in mid July that the first seedlings were been done, either a shift of one month in relation to the 2008/2009 agricultural campaign.

In addition, these rains are less abundant, which lets hover a seriousness doubts on the development of the earth cultures, and hence on the harvests.

The Mayo-Kani Division: Series of droughts compromise the harvests in Zibou village

The first rains arrived in April byt for the district of Moulvoudaye. But these rains were insufficient for the seedlings. The Zibou village, situated between Moutourwa and the Magada crossroads sowed and the rise was very good. But, the plants were dislwebed in their growth by series to repeated drought. The real seedlings have been done at the third decade of May; this in the Mindif, Porhi, Taïbong and Moulvoudaye. Although the agro climatic normalized itself since the end of May. The impact of the repeated series of drought on harvest is still to be estimated.

The Mayo-Tsanaga Division: the exception that confirms the rule

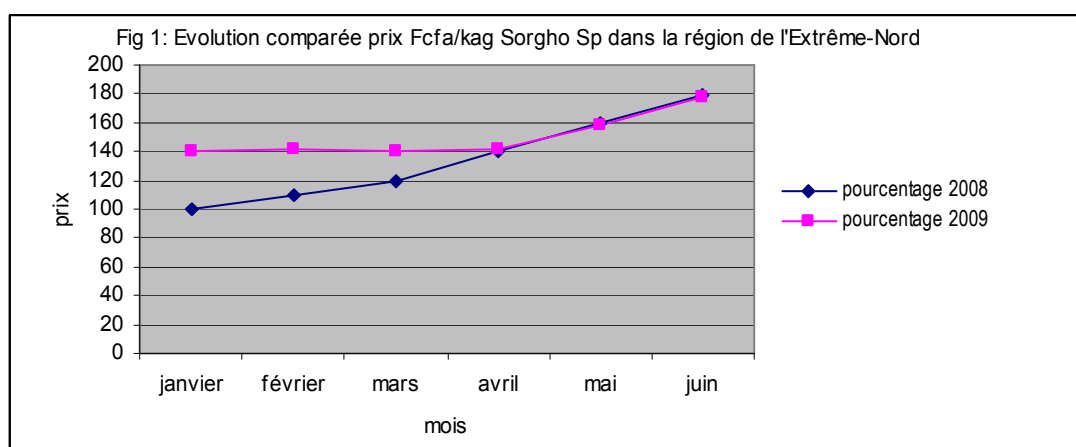
Rains came earlier than expected but were later interrupted. The period of drought that lasted one month went from the second decade of May to the first decade of June. 90% of the soring was done thereafter. The Hina and Beat sectors didn't experience any inconsistency in rain fall.

The estimated average of fallen is of 284 mm in 20 days. In a global manner, the interruption of rains didn't affect in a significant way the development of plants. Thus, except unforeseen, the harvests look good in the division.

IV –A PREVIEW OF THE RISE OF THE PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT IN THE EXTREME - NORTH OF CAMEROON DUE TO CLIMATIC CHANGES

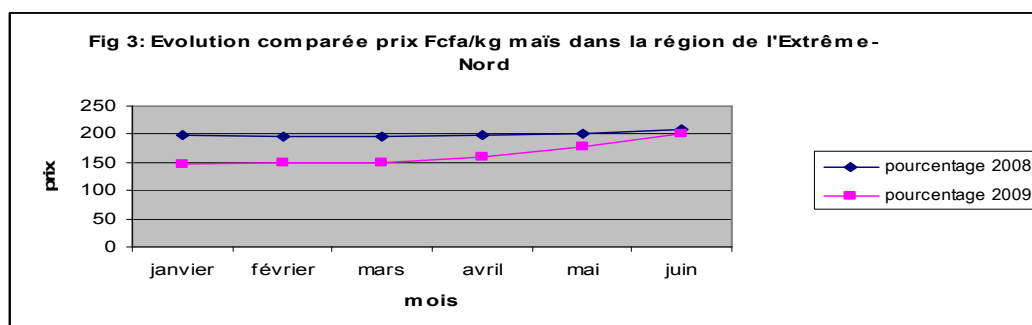
General rise of the prices of 35% between the first semester of 2008 and the first semester of 2009; with picks disturbances of 197% for onion in the Diamaré and 71% for the Sorghum Ss in the Logone and Chari.

The Sorghum Sp: record average increase of 23% in 5 of the six divisions with a pick of 71% in the logone and Chari.



The evolution to the decrease of the increase in of the prices between May and June is due to the consecutive decrease of the exports towards Nigéria decrease of the parity of the Fcfa in relation to the naïra. However, the prices risk increasing the more following the strong demand indused by the emigrants escaping the social unrests in the north of Nigéria.

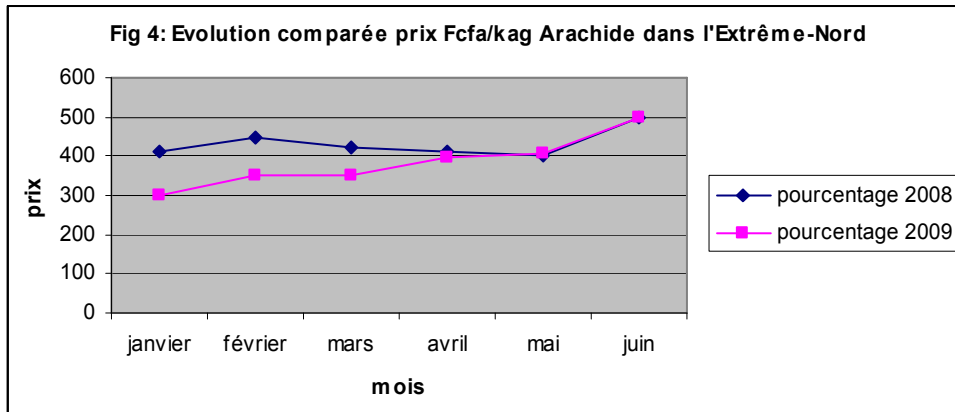
The price of **Corn** records an average increase of 22% in all divisions with a pick of 46% in the Logone and Chari.



The evolution to the decrease of the increase in prices of corn didn't know the same range as for

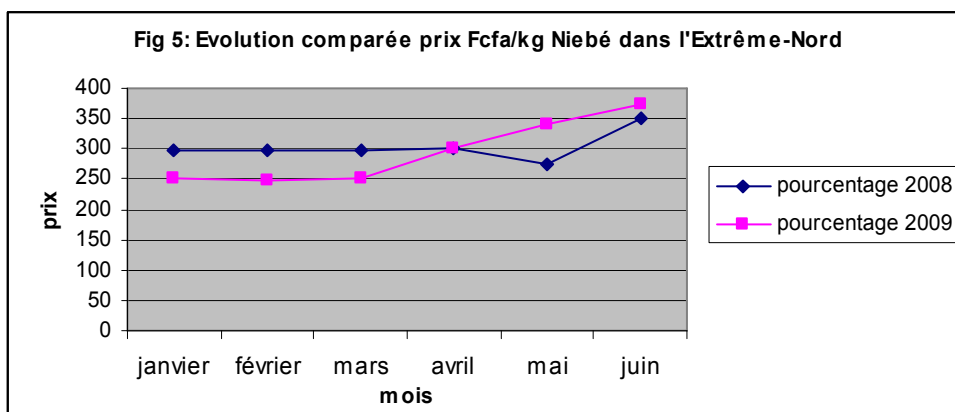
the Sp sorghum and the Ss Sorghum because of the strong demand aviculturers of the southern part of Cameroon.

Groundnut, which is rare on the markets of the Logone and Chari knew an average increase of 18% in the other divisions with a pick of 30% in the Mayo Danay.



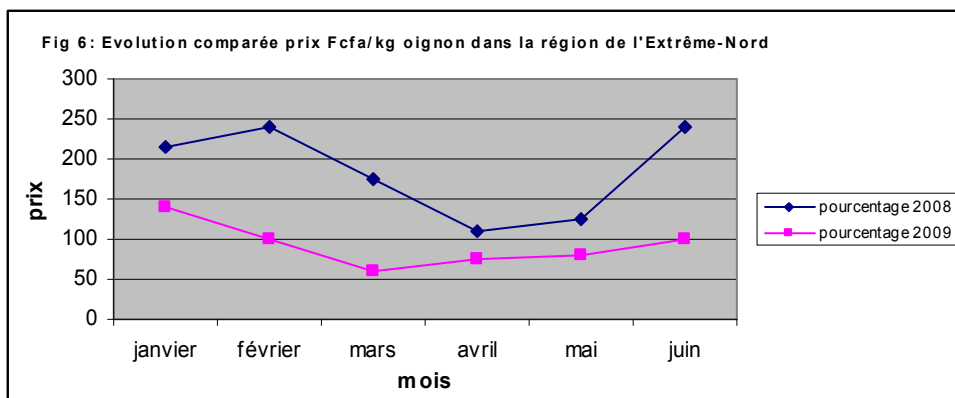
This tendency has been reversed between May and June 2009 because of the stop of the exports toward Nigéria following the decrease of the parity between the Fcfa and the naïra. However, this tendency risks repeating itself in the months to come because of influx of the refugees escaping the social unrests in the north of Nigéria.

Niébé: an average increase in prices of 21% in four divisions out of six with a pick of 57% in the Mayo-Danay.



The effect of the stop of exports toward the Nigéria reversed in a clean manner the bullish tendency from the month of April 2009. But the situation is very unsteady, the refugees who flow having to mislead an increase of the demand with the risk to review the prices to fly off.

Onion:



An average increase in prices of 109% in four divisions out of six with a pick of 197% in the Diamaré.

V - WHAT ARE THE RECOMMENDED INTERVENTIONS?

1) Agricultural production and food consumption

A politics in the framework of the agricultural sector is necessary to maintain acceptable output levels in agriculture and to assure the necessary food availabilities.

- To facilitate household access to agricultural input and credit, to increase their production capacity;
- To promote the cultural technics that preserves soils fertility;
- To encourage the transfer of food products from the south to the north of the country;
- To construct local and storehouses / conservation.

2) Difficult accessibility of the villages

- To improve on road network through the planning of new farming tracks or the restoration of the damaged roads;
- To assure the maintenance of bridges, and drains to facilitate the circulation of waters during the rainy season.

3) The use Natural resource

- To encourage reforestation.
- Food security
- To arrive to a bigger consistency in the establishment of vulnerable zones and and profiles of food insecurity and for a better follow-up, It is recommended to put in place a harmonized setting of food security while taking into account the life styles.

- To reinforce the collection and analysis of relative data to agricultural production, the access of the households and prices food product in the setting of the system of surveillance of food security and precocious alert
- To assure a surveillance of transborderly and national fluxes of food products;
- To elaborate and to put a National Politics of Food Security in place and to define strategies for the struggle against food insecurity;
- To update data base on the cartography of humanitarian interventions and development.

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