



An International Center
for Soil Fertility and
Agricultural Development

Success Story

Woman Farmer From Benin, West Africa, Benefits From New IFDC Technology

Edah Kehinnou, a woman farmer from the small village of Ahohoue, Benin, grows crops of maize, cowpeas, and groundnuts on her three fields. The Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM) package that she uses includes phosphate rock, legumes (cowpeas or groundnut), and other fertilizers. On her farm of less than 1 ha, she applied 300 kg of phosphate rock for a resulting harvest of 4,175 kg/ha of maize. During the second season, she harvested 120 kg of cowpeas on two-tenths ha of land. She prefers to grow cowpeas rather than mucuna because the cowpeas not only add nutrients to the soil but also provide needed revenue. This farmer is applying almost the total package of ISFM technology. This year the rains came later so she applied fertilizer later and in a smaller dosage. When the rains come later, these farmers prefer to reduce their risks and try to apply smaller dosages of fertilizer in sequences—a “wait and see approach.” Edah treated the cowpeas four times with crop protection products (CPPs) to avoid insects. When farmers like Edah do not have money to purchase CPPs, they manufacture their own using leaves of the neem tree, locally produced soap, and other natural remedies.

