

Project Update: October 2017

A total of 197 households from 12 villages were surveyed using semi-structured interviews and data were analysed using frequencies.

Land degradation is perceived as deforestation, erosion, fertility decline, species decline, silting and emergence of invasive species. Farmers and breeders considered that land degradation impacted negatively their activities while stone cutters claimed that land degradation favours their activities. Three main causes were cited by more than half of the respondents which were runoff, slope and types of soil. Farmers implement techniques as crop rotation, downslope cropping and chemical fertilisers in order to mitigate negative impacts of land degradation. Breeders in contrary move cattle and small ruminants or feed them with agricultural and kitchen residues. Seven management practices (orthogonal ploughing, tree planting, organic fertiliser, mound belt, stone belt, mulching and vegetation belt) were cited by less than half of respondents and could be considered as underutilised management practices.



Land showing erosion gullies (Photo: Farris Aurlus Y. Okou)



Sorghum field infested with *Striga hermontica* (Photo: Farris Aurlus Y. Okou)



Interview of a Household head at Nanebou, a village located in the surrounding of the Atacora mountain chain (Photo: Farris Aurlus Y. Okou)