INTELLIGENCE SEMEN

IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY ON AFRICAN AGRICULTURE

By **Laetitia MAKITA-NGADI**

In 2022, the African Development Bank (AfDB) reinforced its flagship initiative for technology in agriculture with an additional $27.41 million in funding for its second phase. This project aims to enable farmers to produce 120 million tonnes of food, while increasing their productivity and income through technology and resilience.

Faced with the food crisis exacerbated by the situation in Ukraine, African players and authorities have embraced "climate-smart" agriculture, which offers numerous advantages for the continent's farmers and populations.

Africa faces many agricultural challenges, such as climate change, flooding, deforestation and arid conditions. These factors are forcing African farmers to turn to "climate-smart" agriculture to reduce risks.

Within this framework, ECOWAS has granted 14 million dollars for 15 climate-smart agriculture (CSA) projects in countries such as Benin, Gambia, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo.

In Gambia, the innovation involved improving the irrigation system in the western region. In Kenya, the creation of climate-smart villages helped meet the food needs of families who had experienced an 81% food shortage. In Uganda, the innovative method enabled temperatures to be reduced by 2 to 5°C, boosting harvests and limiting losses.

Thanks to innovative projects, 7 million African farmers have improved their incomes, by farming 4 million hectares of land according to the principles of "climate-smart" agriculture. These are mainly small-scale family farmers, living in rural areas and lacking the skills to use digital tools.

THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC ADOPTS TWO LAWS ON CYBERSECURITY AND DATA PROTECTION

By **William NGHORI GABURO**

Faced with the risk of cybercrime, the Central African authorities have proposed two bills to protect their citizens in terms of cybersecurity. It has to be said that the Central African Republic lacks a legal framework in the field of information and communication.

Central African deputies have passed two bills in the digital economy sector. The first deals with the protection of personal data online, and the second with cybersecurity and the fight against cybercrime. Following this vote, the Government is empowered to create a National Cybersecurity Agency, whose mission will be to ensure the security of information systems. This agency will be placed under the supervision of the Ministries of Digital Economy and Territorial Administration.

Defamation and extortion are widespread on social networks. Hackers can easily take over the economy of a company or individual and destabilize a country by spreading false or malicious information on the Internet. These laws provide for dissuasive criminal penalties, ranging from 6 to 10 years' imprisonment and fines of 5 to 10 million CFA francs for perpetrators.

DIGITAL TRACKING:
A SPRINGBOARD FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS IN GABON

By **William NGHORI GABURO**

At the African Union summit, reform of the education and training system was at the heart of discussions between political leaders and players in the sector. It is clear that pupil attainment levels in sub-Saharan Africa are very low by international standards, or by the threshold defined by UNESCO.

Gabon is one of the countries in the world with an alarmingly high failure rate at school. There are many reasons for this failure. On the one hand, the lack of infrastructure is linked to the low proportion of the budget allocated to national education, and the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the situation. On the other hand, pedagogical follow-up is very inadequate compared with the mechanisms put in place by the Ministry of National Education.

A Gabonese technology entrepreneur has developed a software application called SCIENTIA, which gives parents, pupils and education officials access to results in real time. The aim of the application is to track student performance and enable parents and administrators to take corrective action in the event of difficulties. African countries could adopt this digitalization policy to monitor student progress and reduce school failure rates.