



THE IFSPD PRESIDENTIAL FELLOWSHIP 2022

**IFSPD Project on Climate
Change, Perception &
Resilience Strategies**





ABOUT IFSPD:

IFSPD is an international non-governmental non-profit organization, established in 2009 by the initiative of distinguished intellectuals, scientific and public figures, diplomats, and representatives of influential non-governmental organizations from across the world.

IFSPD represents a civil society initiative for launching common actions and strengthening peace, dialogue, harmony, and cooperation between the countries of the wider Black Sea – Caspian Sea region in the field of enhancing democratic process, consolidation of civil society, economic development, environment, science, education, innovative technology, cultural diversity, tolerance and dialogue among civilizations.

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IFSPD Presidential Fellows - an internship program for exceptional youth across the world - to drive projects that would promote peace, sustainability, and development.

To reinvigorate the youth & reinforce positivity in the world, we assembled together a handful of the best-talented youth from across the world.

During the course of a few months, these youth have been implementing projects of critical importance to help rebuild our world - under the umbrella of our esteemed foundation IFSPD.

We are happy to release the regular IFSPD project report - done by Anselme Houessigbede a Ph.D. Student in Economics at ENSEA of Abidjan with the project "IFSPD Project on Climate change, perception and resilience strategies".

I am sure you would find this report insightful, and keep our flag flying as we strive to build a Greater IFSPD.

Best Wishes,



IFSPD Project on Climate Change, Perception & Resilience Strategies



Author

Anselme Houessigbede is a Ph.D. Student in Economics at ENSEA of Abidjan in Ivory Cost. He started this Ph.D. program after a master's degree in Statistics and Economics Engineering at ENSEA. He is the director of the think-tank Cercle des Jeunes Economistes pour l'Afrique (CJEA).





ABOUT PROJECT:

Project Name: IFSPD Project on Climate change, perception, and resilience strategies.

The project is entitled "IFSPD Project on Climate change, perception and resilience strategies". Its main objective is to collect the opinions of the population, particularly young Africans, on how they experience climate change, what the causes, the manifestations, and the solutions needed to face it. The study covered almost 40 respondents from 9 different countries. The most represented countries are Benin and CÔte d'Ivoire. It appears that the young people interviewed have a relatively better knowledge of climate change. This global scourge affects populations differently with consequences on agricultural production, which compromises food security, which is already a major challenge for African countries. Efforts must therefore be made at the global level, and countries must work in synergy in order to effectively fight against global warming. The survival of humanity depends on it.

I am delighted to share the results of the opinion poll I conducted on people's perception of climate change and possible solutions to address it. Thank you to those who participated in this survey.



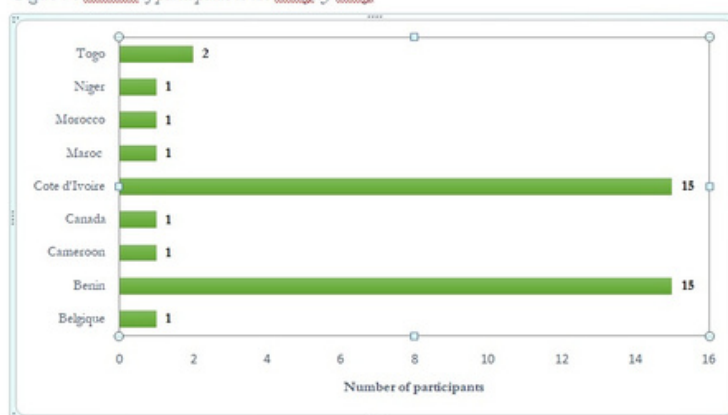
PROJECT:

In 2015, the COP 21 (Conference of the Parties) was held in Paris with the aim of helping countries to reflect on the survival of humanity in the face of the ever-worrying threat of global warming. It goes without saying that what happens to our planet, engages the responsibility of all, although not all countries contribute in the same way nor in the same proportion to global warming. In 2019, low-income countries as a whole contributed only 2.2% of total global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, compared to 32.2% attributable to high-income countries (World Bank WDI data) and the rest to middle-income countries. North America alone contributed 14.6% of GHG emissions in 2019. These disparities in contribution to global warming also extend to disparities in how the phenomenon is experienced in different places on the planet. Clearly, the poorest countries, which contribute every marginally to climate change, are suffering the consequences because they are less prepared. Thus, measures, such as the carbon tax, have been introduced to "punish" the most polluting countries, and then to give subsidies to the most vulnerable countries and to those who make efforts to reduce greenhouse gases. Halving GHG emissions by 2030 and reaching near-zero emissions by 2050 should make it possible to contain the average temperature in the atmosphere around the +2°C limit. However, the efforts are far from being effective.

In a context where most projections place the average temperature in our atmosphere between +3°C and 4 °C by 2100, I wonder about the view that the population, including African youth, on the phenomenon of climate change, how it is experienced, and the possible solutions.

To do this, I conducted a mini online opinion poll that involved 38 people from 9 countries, most of whom were Beninese and Ivorians. Most of the participants are between 18 and 25 years old (52.6%), compared to 44.7% and 2.7% respectively who are in the 25-35 and 35-45 age groups. The majority are men (82%) compared to 18% of women.

Figure 1 : Number of participants to the survey by country



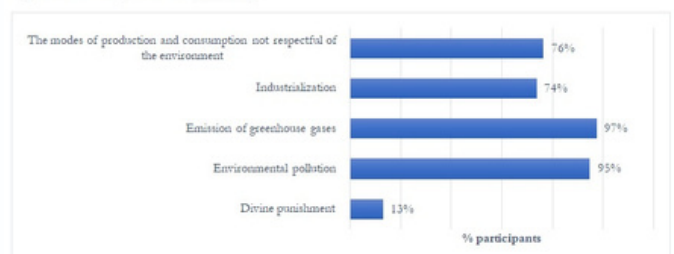


- Causes of climate change

Climate change is due to a phenomenon known as the "greenhouse effect". It should be noted that this is a natural phenomenon, but that human activity will contribute to amplify. How does it work?! About 70% of the sun's radiation is absorbed by the earth's surface, while the rest is reflected back into space. The absorbed solar radiation is transformed into infrared radiation and returned to the earth's atmosphere. Part of this radiation is sent back into space and the other part is captured and retained in the atmosphere by gases, called greenhouse gases. It follows that an accumulation of GHG will contribute to an increase in the amount of concentrated infrared radiation in the atmosphere, and thus lead to an increase in the temperature of the Earth's atmosphere.

Thus, as most of the participants in the survey mentioned, the emission of greenhouse gases and all the human activities that can contribute to it (pollution, industrialization, production, and consumption modes that are not respectful of the environment) are at the origin of climate change.

Figure 2 : Causes of the Global Warming



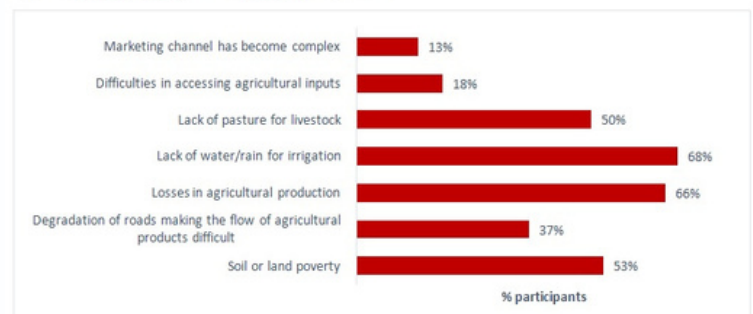


- Manifestations and consequences of climate change

Climate change is experienced differently around the world, depending on the usual climatic conditions of the regions. According to 87% of the participants in our survey, climate change is reflected in changes in the length of the seasons. Irregularity of rainfall (76%), high temperatures (68%), floods (53%), and drought (34%) characterize how climate change is manifested in people's-daily lives.

The work of Nordhaus (1991), Nobel Prize 2018 for his work in modeling the impact of climate on economic activity, it is known that part of the world's production is affected by climate damage (climate damage function). Agricultural production is further threatened by climate influence, especially in developing countries that are already facing enormous food security challenges. For more than half of the participants in the survey, the impact of climate change on agriculture is a decrease in production. This decline is the result of poor soil, lack of rainfall, and complexity of marketing channels...

Figure 3 : *Consequences of Global Warming on agriculture*

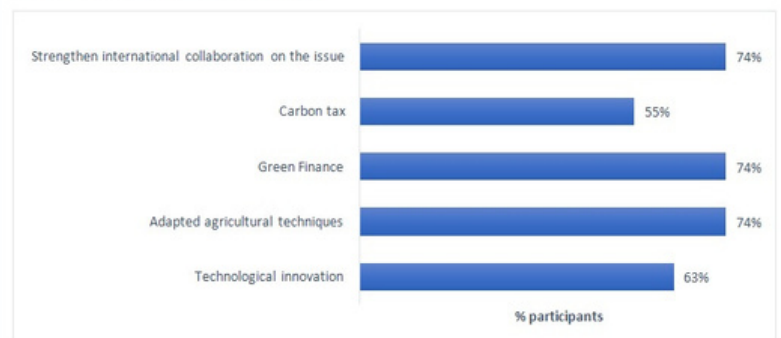




- Possible solutions

Combating climate change requires concrete actions and commitments at the level of countries, but also at the level of each citizen of the planet Earth, the ultimate goal of these actions being the reduction of GHG emissions. Energy diversification and the use of renewable energies should be imperative for all countries today. In fact, this is what 100% of the participants in our survey advocate. Technological innovation with the use of ICTs should make it possible to develop solutions so that the production and consumption chain is less fossil fuel intensive. Technological innovation can also help agriculture to be more resilient with adapted modern techniques (counter-seasonal production, for example, intensive agriculture). For this, incentive mechanisms for the emergence of start-ups dedicated to technological and environmental innovations must be put in place. It is also necessary to promote and strengthen green financing in order to support the efforts of households and companies in adopting clean energy in their production and consumption chains. Finally, it is in the interest of all countries to collaborate and act in synergy to fight the common enemy that is global warming. The survival of humanity depends on it.

Figure 4 : Solutions to face Global Warming





"IFSPD Project on Climate change, perception and resilience strategies"

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