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## FACTORS AND TYPOLOGIES OF INCOME-GENERATING ACTIVITIES IN THE COMMUNE OF OUIHNI IN BENIN

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### Abstract

*The lack of employment is a situation that is rife in Benin in general and in the Commune of Ouinhi in particular. Indeed, to cope with this state of affairs, the populations of Ouinhi are developing various economic activities. This research is to study the factors and typologies of income-generating activities in the Municipality of Ouinhi.*

*The methodological approach used is based on the collection of data, through documentary research and field surveys, their processing and the analysis of the results was carried out using the SWOT model. In total, 192 people were surveyed.*

*The results obtained demonstrate that the Municipality of Ouinhi enjoys a humid tropical climate called subequatorial climate (biophysical factor) favorable to the development of Income Generating Activities. There are numerous AGRs which are developed in the Municipality. These are the sale of fish (89%), the trade in food products according to 91% of the respondents, the trade in peppers and tomatoes (87%), agro-food processing According to 92% of the women surveyed, carpentry (72%), trade in petroleum products (87%), mechanics and others. Income-generating activities allow stakeholders to meet their basic needs.*

**Keywords:** Municipality of Ouinhi, Income Generating Activities, factors, typologies.

### 1. Introduction and justification of the topic

The implementation of decentralization, which aims to raise the standard of living and well-being of populations at the grassroots

level, has given local leaders the opportunity to pool their initiatives and efforts to ensure the self-promotion and sustainable local development (F. Afouda, 2005; p. 13 and UNDP, 2012, p. 5).

In Africa, J. Hougbo (2007, p. 17) showed that economic activity is not only a means of increasing one's own capital. It is also to doubt a place of a precise function, and to confer a particular social role to the one who exercises it. For her, almost quasi-urban centers are characterized by a differentiated productive base thanks to the presence of an economic activity, especially commercial, or any other alternative activity to agriculture.

Benin, like other African countries, is affected by the economic crisis. The high rate of unemployment is due to population growth (O. Ifa, 2011, p. 36). Faced with this, small jobs are being created every day to alleviate the ever-increasing poverty that is ravaging the population. These are activities which are outside of any official regulations in terms of social discharge installation, taxation and production capacity (M. Gnaho, 1991, p. 61).

The units of these small activities appear today as a valuable component of GDP and play a role in regulating unemployment and absorbing labor. With the proximity of Nigeria, the majority of unemployed young people prefer to engage in commerce (sale of petroleum products) or driving motorcycle taxis (S. Agbodjan, 1999, p. 22). According to Y. Touré (2011, p. 8), the economic activities of a locality are linked to the conditions offered by nature on the one hand and to the dynamism of humans on the other. Indeed, the income of the Beninese populations is meager (less than two dollars per day) like that of the majority of Africans (N. Agossou, 2001, p. 21). However, microcredits must be promoted as a condition for grassroots development and the promotion of IGA must be revived.

In the Commune of Ouinhi, men and women have taken control of their destiny by carrying out IGAs to meet their daily needs. These activities remain a key issue and occupy a prominent place within the major development options (A. Tchiboza, 2015 p. 8).

## 2. Methodological approach

In order to obtain results, the districts of the Commune of Ouinhi were covered. The choice of districts was based on the importance of Income Generating Activities in each locality.

The choice of people surveyed meets the following criteria:

- have at least 7 years of experience in the activity; because beginners cannot master all the cogs of the activity ;
- be at least 20 years old for the relevance of the reasoning, because at this age the person concerned may be able to provide reliable information;
- have resided regularly in the locality for the past four years. This criterion is essential because to talk about the realities of an environment, you must have lived there for a certain number of years.

The target group is made up of NGOs, artisans, traders, stakeholders, local authorities and heads of households.

The sample size will be determined by the probabilistic theory of D. Schwartz (1995, p. 9) according to which:  $X = \frac{(Z\alpha)^2 x p q}{i^2}$  With:  $Z \alpha = 1.96$  (standard);

$\alpha$  = reduced gap corresponding to a risk of 5%;

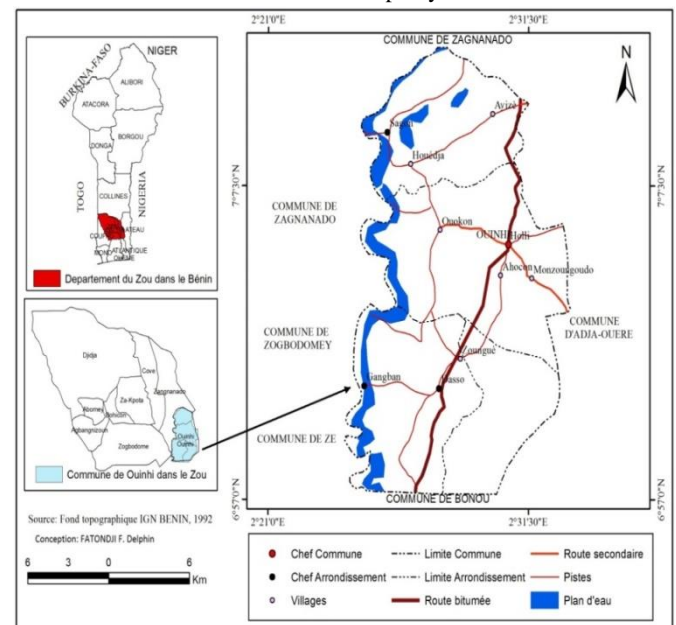
$P = \frac{n}{N}$ ; with p = proportion of households visited (n) in relation to the number of households in the world of IGAs in four (4) districts (N), number of households in the villages surveyed. Thus,  $P = \frac{23890}{48670} = 0.49$ .  $X = \left( (1.96) \right)^2$

A margin of 0.5% was used, thus  $X = 192$  households.

The questionnaires, interview guides and observation grids were subject to manual processing. The collected data were entered and analyzed using Excel and SPSS software. The results obtained were processed by descriptive statistics by determining the means and frequencies with Excel software, the analysis of the results was carried out using the SWOT model.

## 3. Research environment

The Commune of Ouinhi is located between 6°57' and 7°12' north latitude and 2°24' and 2°33' east longitude. It is limited to the North-West by the Municipality of Zagnanado, to the South-West by the Municipality of Zogbodomey, to the South by the Municipality of Bonou and to the East by the Municipality of Adja-Ouèrè. Subdivided into four districts (Dasso, Ouinhi, Sagon, Tohouès) and 28 villages, the Municipality of Ouinhi covers an area of 438km<sup>2</sup>. Figure 1 presents the geographical and administrative situations of the Municipality of Ouinhi.



**Figure 1:** Geographical and administrative situations of the Municipality of Ouinhi

Examination of Figure 1 presents the division and administrative location of the Districts of the Municipality. It also highlights the main administrative villages in the Commune of Ouinhi. This commune is made up of several socio-cultural groups, namely: the Mahi, the Holli and the Yoruba. Income-generating activities are developing in all villages. Thus, the Municipality of Ouinhi has the potential for its development thanks to the contribution of income-generating activities.

## 4. Results

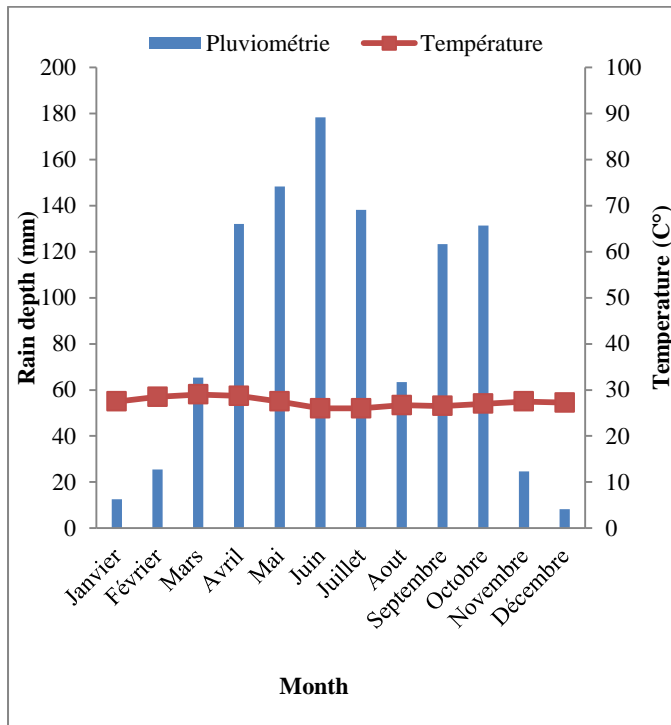
### 4.1. Biophysical factors of the Commune of Ouinhi

The development factors for income-generating activities in the Municipality of Ouinhi take into account climatic components, different types of soil and the hydrographic network.

#### 4.1.1. Climatic characteristics

The Commune of Ouinhi enjoys a subequatorial climate. It is characterized by high temperatures, but never excessive. The maxima are in March 27° C and the minima in August 24° C with small temperature differences, with an average of 27° C (B. Atakolodjou, 2018, p. 25). The average relative humidity is 80%.

Ouinhi benefits from an annual rainfall average of 1250 mm/year with four seasons, namely: a major rainy season ranging from March to July; a short dry season from July to August; a short rainy season from September to November; a long dry season from December to mid-March. This height is sufficient for the cultivation of cassava, corn, cowpea, cotton and oil palm (B. Atakolodjou, 2018, p. 25). Figure 2 presents the ombro-thermal diagram of the Municipality of Ouinhi over a period from 1990 to 2021.



**Figure 2 :** Ombro-thermal diagram of the Municipality of Ouinhi  
**Data source:** Météo-Benin, 2022

Figure 2 presents the ombro-thermal diagram of the Municipality of Ouinhi over the period of 1990 - 2021. Examination of this figure reveals that from November to March, the temperature curve is above that of the rainfall amount while that from March to October the rainfall height curve is above that of the temperature. Speaking of the average rainfall depth, it oscillates between 1008.35 mm and 1250 mm with an average temperature varying between 24° C and 27° C. It can therefore be deduced that the Municipality of Ouinhi has the advantages in terms of rainfall and temperatures for agricultural production which can generate income for the populations and therefore income-generating activities.

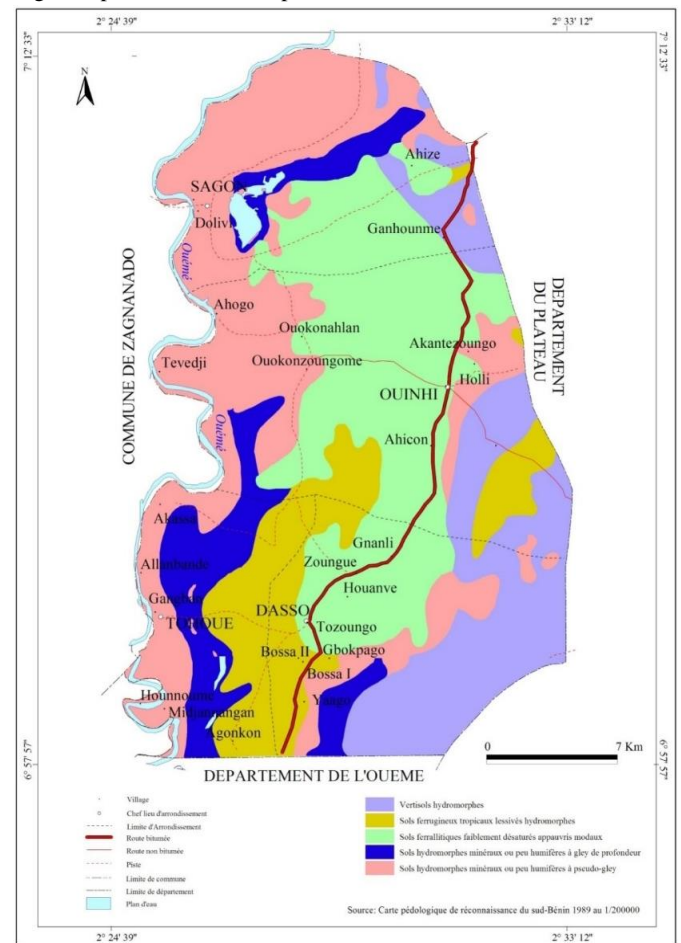
#### 4.1.2. Aspects of relief

The relief of the Commune of Ouinhi is distinguished by three individualized zones from the point of view of relief and latitude. It is distinguished by a plateau with an altitude of 40 to 62 meters to the east. This plateau is carved out of a geological bedrock made up of materials accumulated in the Tertiary and Quaternary periods. This plateau is followed by a zone of elongated depressions to the southeast of less than 20 m corresponding to the valley of the Monzo river in which we can distinguish Quaternary alluvial deposits, loamy and sandy clay soils. The alluvial plain of the Ouémé River at a low altitude varying between 11 and 20 meters is a place of contribution of allogeneic detrital elements made of alluvium, silt, clay and sand. This absence of disagreement or rupture in the Municipality of Ouinhi makes it a

center of diversity in agricultural production. Therefore the marketing of these agricultural products as income-generating activities.

#### 4.1.3. Pedological aspects

The Commune of Ouinhi is characterized by three types of soil. Figure 3 presents the soil aspect of the Commune of Ouinhi.



**Figure 3 :** Pedological facet of the soils of the Commune of Ouinhi

From the analysis of Figure 3, it appears that the research sector is characterized by five types of soils grouped into three varieties of soils, namely: vertisols and hydromorphic soils of the Lama depression and the very Ouémé river. fertile occupy 30% of the total area of the Commune of Ouinhi. Hydromorphic tropical ferruginous soils, less suited to agricultural production, represent approximately 35% of the territory of Ouinhi. The relatively rich ferrallitic soils (around 35% of the total area of the municipality) are more sensitive to degradation. Specifically, the soils of the Commune of Ouinhi are suitable for agricultural production and therefore agricultural entrepreneurship as an income-generating activity.

#### 4.1.4. Hydrographic network

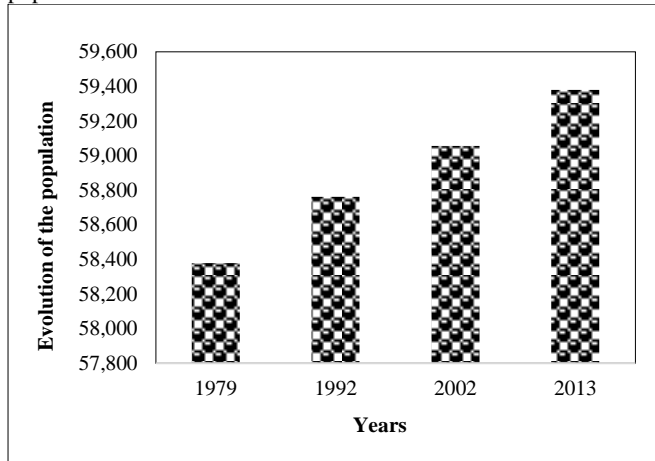
The hydrographic network of the Municipality of Ouinhi is characterized by a large river with a section of 40 km (Ouémé river) with its tributaries such as the Ouègbo, Ahokou and Monzoun rivers and streams (B. Atakolodjou, 2018, p 29). It also has a natural lake which is Lake Séré and floodable and marshy areas, flood plains covering a little more than 600 ha. The exploitation of these courses and bodies of water in off-season production therefore increases agricultural production while promoting food self-sufficiency, food security and the improvement of the living conditions of the actors involved (B.

Atakolodjou, 2018 , p.29). So to speak, the different factors are natural assets for income-generating activities in the Commune of Ouinhi.

#### 4.2. Human factors favorable to income-generating activities in the Commune of Ouinhi

##### 4.2.1. Demographic evolution of the Municipality of Ouinhi

During these decades, the demographic evolution of Ouinhi saw an increase in its population. Figure 4 shows the evolution of the population of the Commune of Ouinhi.



**Figure 4 :** Demographic evolution from 1979 to 2013 of Ouinhi

*Data source: INStad, 2016*

The analysis of Figure 4 presents the demographic evolution of the Municipality of Ouinhi from 1979 to 2013. In 1979, the population was 58,379, in 1992 this population was 58,762 inhabitants. Likewise, the population increased from 59,057 inhabitants in 2002 to 59,381 inhabitants in 2013. This demographic growth constitutes an economic development asset for the Municipality of Ouinhi, because this population constitutes a local market . In addition, this evolution of the population constitutes a strong income-generating activity and creates a consumer market.

##### 4.2.2. Main economic activities of the populations

The Municipality of Ouinhi is characterized by a diversity of activities such as: agriculture, livestock, processing of agricultural products, etc. Thus, the main activities of the populations of the Commune come down to agricultural activities and those of processing and marketing of agricultural products.

Agriculture is dominant in the economy of the Commune and occupies the majority of the population. The main crops grown in

the Commune are: corn, cassava, peanuts, peppers, tomatoes, cowpeas, rice, etc. the research focuses on production such as corn, oil palm and cassava which are subject to processing and breeding of poultry and meat rabbits. Photo 1 shows the corn ready to be marketed in the Commune of Ouinhi.



**Photo 1:** Marketing of corn in the Commune of Ouinhi

*Shooting: Fabi, November 2022*

The observation in photo 1 shows the women who tend the corn that will be marketed. According to 96% of respondents, this activity interests women (80%) in the Municipality to meet the needs of their family.

#### 4.3. Typologies of AGR in the Municipality of Ouinhi

In the Municipality of Ouinhi, the typologies of income-generating activities take into account the actors of the IGA as well as the types of existing IGA.

##### 4.3.1. Actors in income-generating activities

To better organize their profession and defend their interests, the actors of the AGR of the Municipality of Ouinhi are masons, carpenters, glaziers, electricians, mechanics, hairdressers, agro-food processing and small businesses, etc. According to field work, there are groups that carry out income-generating activities in the Commune of Ouinhi (Table I).

**Table I :** Directory of groups in the Municipality of Ouinhi

No.	Name of the group	Creation date	Name and first name of the president	Effective	Activity
01	MAWUPKEGO	08/13/2019	AHOGNON Marie	H: 02; F: 24; T: 26	Marketing of corn
02	SENATO	2019	GNONLONFI Elisabeth	H: 00; F: 14; T: 14	Production, processing of agricultural products
03	GBENOUKPO	08/09/2011	ZANNOU Emilienne	H:01; F: 10; T: 11	Transformation of cassava into gari
04	SEDJRO-GANDE	08/13/2019	AHISSOU Martine	H: 00; F: 22; T: 22	Transformation of corn into akassa
05	WOLOGUEDE	08/13/2019	AGOSSOU Delphine	H:01; F: 14; T: 15	Marketing of corn
06	GBENONKPO	2014	GANHOUN Yvette	H: 00; F: 18; T: 18	Palm black processing

07	MAHUKLO	02/04/2016	GODONOU Esperence	H: 00; F: 14; T: 14	Transformation of cassava into gari
08	TITO MAHOUTON	09/17/2019	BONOU Henriette	H:01; F: 17; T: 18	Marketing of corn
09	SOEDJA	08/08/2014	FADONOUGBO Pauline	H: 02; F: 24; T: 26	Transformation of cassava into gari
10	SEWANOU	2019	DJOSSOU Jacqueline	H: 00; F: 15; T: 15	Preparation of red oil
11	WANGNINA	03/27/2020	DAGNIHOUN Eloise	H: 00; F: 32; T: 32	Transformation of cassava into gari
12	NOUKOUNDIDO MAHOUTON	11/30/2020	HOUSSOU Beatrice	H: 00; F: 07; T: 07	Transformation of cassava into gari
13	ALLOWANOU	08/08/2014	HOUNNOU Montele	H: 03; F: 09; T: 12	Transformation of cassava into gari
14	MAHOUGNON	12/28/2017	DEGENON Euphrasia	H: 00; F: 15; T: 15	Transformation of cassava into gari
15	MIWANOU	2017	OUISSOU Solange	H: 00; F: 15; T: 15	Transformation of cassava into gari
16	NOUWAGNON	10/26/2020	EZIN Mouroufat	H: 00; F: 28; T: 28	Soy producers
17	AYIWANOU	2011	SOKOUTIN Antoinette	H: 00; F: 25; T: 25	Transformation of cassava into gari
18	NOUNAGNON	12/28/2017	ALOGNON Aminata	H: 00; F: 25; T: 25	Transformation of cassava into gari
19	MAHOUKLO	09/27/2019	GODONOU Emilienne	H: 03; F: 13; T: 16	Market gardening
20	BELAN	2014	ADONKPE Emilienne	H: 02; F: 06; T: 08	Transformation of cassava into gari
21	JESUDEGBE	12/28/2017	FINDE Marie	H: 00; F: 25; T: 25	Transformation of cassava into gari
22	SONAGNON	2019	OUSSOU Delphine	H:01; F: 20; T: 21	Transformation of cassava into gari
23	MEDJLO	2002	AKPEYEKPO Elisabeth	H:01; F: 13; T: 14	Transformation of cassava into gari
24	MAHOUKPEGO NOUGNON	10/10/19	KPEDJO AGOSSA Justine	H: 02; F: 10; T: 12	Transformation of cassava into gari
25	SEDJRO GANDE JESUKPEGO	2015	HOUSSOU Agathe	H: 00; F: 15; T: 15	Marketing of corn
26	HOUETCHENOUKPO	2020	KACOSSOU Josiane	H: 09; F: 13; T: 22	Palm nut processing
27	DJIHOUNDE AYITCHEME	2007	KIKI Louise	H: 02; F: 13; T: 15	Smoked fish, palm nut processing
28	AMAHUDE	2000	KETOUNOU Rébecca	H: 02; F: 10; T: 12	Preparation of soap, purchase and storage of food
29	MISSIMAHOU	2019	EZIN Catherine	H: 00; F: 13; T: 13	Storage and sale of food
30	AYINOUGBEFI	2010	HOUNGNON Suzanne	H: 02; F: 10; T: 12	Transformation of cassava into gari

*Source : Field surveys and town hall December 2022*

Examination of the table shows that 30 groups are identified in the Commune of Ouinhi. Thus, it appears that these groups undertake the marketing of food products, fish products and the processing of agri-food. According to 97% of surveys, women (90%) undertake these fields of activity.

#### 4.3.2. Types of IGA in the Commune of Ouinhi

In the Municipality, the most practiced income-generating activities are diverse:

##### ✓ Sale of fish

The marketing of fish is one of the income-generating activities of the populations of Ouinhi. Plate 1 presents the sale of fish in Sagon in the Commune of Ouinhi.



**Plate 1:** Selling fish in Sagon  
*Shooting : Fabi, November 2022*

From the observation of plate 1, photos (1.1 and 1.2) respectively show smoked fish displayed on stools and spread out in baskets on the ground in the district of Sagon. According to 89% of respondents, this income-generating activity is an asset for local development in the Municipality of Ouinhi.

##### ✓ Trade in food products

In the Commune of Ouinhi, several food products are marketed. Plate 2 presents the marketing of food products in the Commune of Ouinhi.



**Plate 2:** Marketing of food products in the Dasso market  
*Shooting : Fabi, November 2022*

From the observation of plate 2, photo (2.1) shows the sales display of corn and photos (2.2 and 2.3) show the sales display of varieties of beans. According to 91% of respondents, these activities allow AGR actors to meet their basic needs. These sellers stock up according to their capacities, which is favorable to the variation in prices of agricultural products.

##### ✓ Chili and tomato trade

Plate 3 presents the marketing of peppers and tomatoes in the Commune of Ouinhi.



**Plate 3:** Marketing of peppers and tomatoes in Ouinhi and Dasso  
*Shooting : Fabi, November 2022*

From the observation of plate 3, photo (3.1) shows the chili sales display and photo (3.2) shows the tomato and chili sales display. Thus, sellers display the products to allow consumers to stock up. According to 87% of respondents, these activities allow AGR actors to meet their basic needs.

##### ✓ Agro-food processing

The processing and marketing of most activities carried out by women and the relay of groups is an excellent crucible for its strengthening. Training focused on hygiene, conservation and storage can reinforce what you have learned.

The main processed products are: cassava into gari, palm nuts into red oil and corn into akassa. Indeed, cassava is the main tuber grown in the Commune, it is used not only for consumption but also for marketing after transformation into gari. Plate 4 presents an activity of processing cassava into gari.



**Plate 4:** Transformation of cassava into gari in Sagon  
*Shooting: Fabi, November 2022*

Observation of the board presents the technique of obtaining uncooked gari and cooking sagon gari in the Commune of Ouinhi. The uncooked gari is obtained using fine raffia mesh sieves. The uncooked gari obtained can be cooked. Cooking the gari. For cooking, women use wood fire. According to 92% of the women surveyed, the benefits of this activity allow AGR actors to invest in children's schooling, health, ceremonies, constructions, etc. which leads to the development of the Commune of Ouinhi.

##### ✓ Carpentry

In the Commune of Ouinhi, carpentry is largely carried out by men. According to 72% of those surveyed, the raw material (wood) for manufacturing furniture is expensive. Likewise, to train in this profession, you must provide yourself with 03 working materials, uniform money, two (05) work tools and 10,000 CFA francs. Photo 2 shows a carpenter's workshop in Ouinhi.



**Photo 2:** Workshops of a carpenter in Ouinhi  
*Shooting : Fabi, November 2022*

Photo 2 shows a carpenter's workshops in Ouinhi. Thus, these carpenters make chairs and tables, benches and beds. This activity allows them to make furniture that generates income that can allow them to satisfy their basic needs. According to 89% of respondents, this activity contributes to the local development of the Municipality of Ouinhi.

✓ **Trade in petroleum products**

The sale of petroleum products such as gasoline and motor oil is very widespread in the Commune because of the proximity to Nigeria. According to 87% surveyed, this activity is practiced in the Municipality of Ouinhi by actors because according to them, it is very profitable. It's an activity that most of them have been doing for an average of 10 years. These actors generally get help in the sale of these products from their offspring because they do not need an apprentice. They generally build their hangar themselves alongside the track and therefore pay no rental fees. Photo 3 shows a gasoline seller in Dasso.



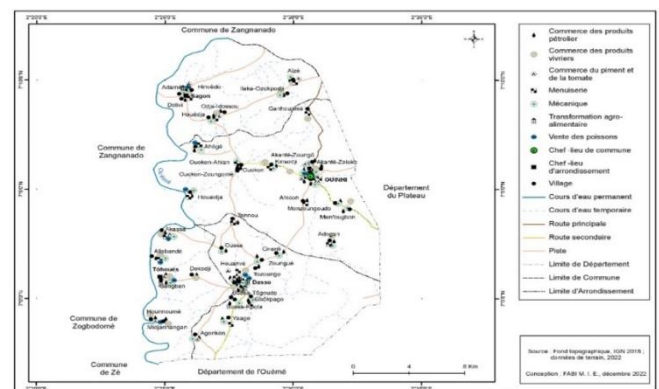
**Photo 3:** Gasoline seller in Dasso  
*Shooting : Fabi, November 2022*

Photo 3 shows a place where gasoline is sold in Dasso in the Commune of Ouinhi. The anarchic occupation of the approaches to the tracks is highlighted. Petroleum product sellers devote 06 to 07 days per week to their activity for a daily duration varying between

9 p.m. and 11 p.m. Many do not use microfinance institutions because of high interest rates.

✓ **Mechanical**

It is a profession widely practiced in the Commune and exclusively reserved for men. Most of these actors set up shop near the tracks to carry out their activities. It is mainly practiced by young people whose age range is between 25 and 40 years old. Almost all (99%) mechanics pay rental fees since their workshops are built like apartments. The rental price is between 5,000 F CFA to 10,000 F CFA. According to 78% of stakeholders, the price of the work depends on the breakdown of the motorcycle. They generate an income of 15,000 to 20,000 CFA francs per week. In short, the analysis of all these income-generating activities in the Municipality of Ouinhi leads to the local development of the Municipality. Figure 2 presents the distribution of IGAs in the Ouinhi Commune.



**Figure 2 :** Distribution of IGAs in the Ouinhi Commune

The analysis of Figure 2 reveals that in the urban environment of the Municipality of Ouinhi, AGR actors are distributed unevenly and more concentrated in the districts of Dasso and Ouinhi. Observation of this figure shows that the Income Generating Activities most aligned around the tracks (main road) in the city center are the sale of petroleum products, mechanics and carpentry. In total, 150 activity points were mapped.

**Discussion**

This research made it possible to study the factors and typologies of income-generating activities in the Commune of Ouinhi in Benin. These results agree with those of E. Ogooualé, 2002, p. 17 which showed that the granting of credit to poor populations was established as a means of combating poverty in our country. Indeed, IGAs occupy a very important place in economic development actions. Indeed, a study is carried out by YB Bakinam (2007, p. 11) on microcredits and the development of income-generating activities in the Municipality of Ouinhi. Human factors constitute the workforce of the dynamics of Income Generating Activities and also constitute the evolution of the population (F. Adeniyi, 2019, p. 13).

The results obtained during this research showed that IGAs promote the development of employment, the coverage of the essential needs of artisans and participation in exports, the contribution to local economic development and regional planning. This is confirmed by UN (2012, p. 7) which showed that artistic crafts also have economic advantages for industries, which save on the purchase of raw materials because it favors the reduction of the volume of waste and the pollution it would cause, as well as the preservation of natural resources.

Furthermore, the works of J. Tassou (2010, p. 23) have also shown that these effects are reflected through the income from their activities, the actors, especially women, contribute to the family's expenses. The populations produce peppers and tomatoes to support the economy of the Commune of Ouinhi. The production of pepper and tomato crops is becoming an economic activity responding effectively to urban food demand (O. Moustapha, 2007, p. 19).

## Conclusion

In Ouinhi Commune, men and women have taken control of their destiny by carrying out IGAs to meet their daily needs. This research focuses on the factors and typologies of income-generating activities in the Municipality of Ouinhi.

The methodological approach of this research was structured around the data used, data collection, data processing and analysis of the results. However, the analysis of the results is carried out using the SWOT model which made it possible to highlight the results of this research.

At the end of this research, it should be noted that the physical characteristics of the Municipality of Ouinhi offer the populations a favorable space whose development allows them to participate in the development of their environment. Thus, the Municipality of Ouinhi is an environment which is favorable to AGR which contributes to the development of the Municipality. In addition to its geographical position it is an area close to the Federal Republic of Nigeria. This situation favors the development of IGAs in the import-export sectors and agro-food processing. Economically, IGAs offer services and products at less expensive prices. This income from these activities allows the improvement of the living conditions of the actors. They ensure that actors/actresses are satisfied with their basic needs (food, children's school fees, health and ceremonies) and taxes.

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