Resisting reforms. A Resource-based perspective of collective action in the distribution of agricultural input and primary health services in the Couffo region, Benin
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Coming back from the University of Reading in United Kingdom and holding a Master degree in Agricultural Economics, I was far to think off a carrier in teaching *Regional Analysis and Planning*. I was not expecting to return back to my former position as junior socio-economist researcher anyway, because someone else was seating right in my chair. Then, there was one whole year of distress.

Professor Dissou Machioudi gave me support during such a difficult time. You did your best to have me recruited as assistant, function that I was honoured to exercise from 1991 to 1992 in the aftermath of your premature retirement. From 1992 on, I have never stopped to seek your advice in order to pursue your work at the faculty of Agriculture of the University of Abomey-Calavi (UAC) in Benin. You have been very concerned each time that we met because of the long delay of this research. For all you did and continue to do for me, I owe you sincere thanks and I will count on you for the after-thesis period.

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Doctor Clemens Lutz first believed that I could take up my chance in competing for the grant funded by the Netherlands Foundation for the Advancement of Tropical Research (WOTRO). Then, you talked to Doctor Leo De Haan, who shouldered the project. He then unsuccessfully convinced Professor Doctor G. A. de Bruijne to promote the research project. To this point, I held several fruitful meetings with Professor de Bruijne and I am honoured that he accepted the invitation to be part of the committee.

Doctor Gauthier Biaou, a colleague from the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Abomey-Calavi in Benin, supported the idea of seeking the supervision of Professor Doctor J.G. Lambooy of the Faculty of Economics at the University of Amsterdam. You based your arguments of the choice on the heritage from Professor Doctor Machioudi Dissou that I shall assume. You convincingly recalled Professor Dissou’ interests in *Regional Economics* and his esteem for Professor J.G. Lambooy. I owe you sincere thanks for such a decisive intervention.

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Leo De Haan and myself started the wonderful long journey in June 1994. In spite of all you have been through, reduction of intervention at the University of Amsterdam and health difficulties keeping you away from the University, you keep your determination to promote this work very high. I thank you for all you did and will continue to do in order to improve my learning in Regional Economics.

One day of June 1999, Professor Doctor Leo De Haan suggested integrating Doctor Clemens Lutz into the supervision team. His belief is that the latter could use his own experiences on the field in Benin to evaluate the research project. As economist, his views would bring a balance in the manuscript that was inevitably taking a socio-anthropological line of thought. In fact, Doctor Clemens Lutz dismantled the whole manuscript, as his comments were so profound. Then the need for restructuring and rewriting chapters was desperately felt. However, the results considerably meet my expectations. As a matter of fact, I renew my thanks to Doctor Clemens Lutz.

I shall recall that Doctor Leo De Haan left the Amsterdam Research Institute for Global Issues and Development Studies (AGIDS) for a professorship at the Centre for International Development Issues Nijmegen (CIDIN) in July 1999. Your ascension brought a little undecision into my position at the institute. In this respect, I owe my thanks to Professor Doctor Ton Dietz, who encouraged me and offered his help to facilitate the continuation of the research.

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Houinsou DEDEHOUANOU, September 2002