



**SYNTHESIS DOCUMENT OF THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NADP) 2018-2022**

**DIVERSIFICATION AND TRANSFORMATION OF THE ECONOMY
THROUGH AGRICULTURE**

I. Context

The agricultural and rural sector of the Republic of Congo is part of an exceptionally rich area of biodiversity offering favorable conditions for agriculture, livestock farming, fishing and aquaculture (abundant rainfall, dense hydrographic network, arable land, lush natural pastures, bodies of water, etc.).

Agricultural land is estimated at 10 million hectares, but poorly exploited. The water resources, which cover an area of 250,000 km², revolve around the river basins of the Congo and Kouilou rivers and the 170-kilometer maritime facade on the Atlantic Ocean. They offer the potential of fisheries production, development of hydropower and irrigation of agricultural land for sustainable agro-pastoral and fisheries production.

The population is estimated at 5,069,800 inhabitants in 2017, with an average density of 15 inhabitants per km².

Despite these resources, the Republic of Congo's economy remains dominated by the oil sector, which provides the bulk of the resources needed for investment and overall management of the economy. It currently accounts for 65% of GDP, 86% of state revenue and 92% of the value of exports, compared to other non-oil sectors. Faced with the fall in the price of a barrel of oil that has led to a decline in state revenue, the Government has committed to diversifying the economy through the growth of the highly competitive non-oil sector.

II. Agricultural Policy

The Agricultural Policy of The Republic of Congo aims to consolidate and sustain the growth of the national economy, deepen the diversification of the economy by successfully transitioning the economy from oil revenue to an economy based on the development of agriculture, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture. It will strengthen the strategic role of the state by facilitating the promotion of productive activities in order to:

- Contribute to food and nutrition security;
- Contribute to the diversification of the economy;
- Contribute to social and inclusive development.

III. Challenges to overcome

The main challenges facing the agricultural and rural sector in Congo are (i) the coverage of the population's food and nutrition needs, (ii) the growth of agricultural productivity and the improvement of competitiveness, (iii) the improvement of the production environment through accompanying measures.

IV. Strategic Direction

The National Plan for Agricultural Development 2018-2022 highlights the role of agriculture as the main driver of growth and diversification of the economy in order to reduce poverty.

The agricultural development strategy is based on three pillars.



The first (Pillar I) focuses on strengthening the capacity of the Ministry by improving the institutional and legal framework.

The second (Pillar II) focuses on the modernization of agriculture through the development and promotion of high-value agricultural value chains within an integration process.

The third (pillar III) focuses on projects supporting smallholder agriculture through agricultural cooperative entrepreneurship. This pillar aims to help smallholders, in particular, through projects that improve their level of organization and strengthen their inclusion in agricultural value chains.

In general terms, the interventions envisaged under the three pillars of the National Agricultural Development Plan are not limited to agriculture alone, but also take into account its linkages with the non-agricultural sectors.

The NADP applies to all value chains, both modern and traditional. However, they cannot develop without sustainable intensification and modernization of production systems.

The government's role is to tackle the difficult task of raising enough funds to carry out all the public and private investments proposed in the NADP, which will help diversify the economy through productive and competitive agriculture.

The objective is to attract national and international investments by setting up new projects and new initiatives based on public-private partnerships as part of the National Agricultural Development Plan.

The approach developed in the NADP is to encourage agricultural markets (on the territory and for export) by launching, in coordination with the private sector, public projects that can remove the obstacles to agricultural investment.

As part of the practical approach to attracting investment, priority has been given to improving the business climate with a view to ensuring the profitability and feasibility of formal contractual arrangements between all actors in the value chain. It is also about creating a favorable environment, catalyzing the initiatives of the different actors.

New reforms, policies, and institutions are coming to boost the agricultural sector. Among the main initiatives shaping the legislative and regulatory framework are: the restructuring of the Agricultural Support Fund (Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries); the land tenure policy (Ministry of Land Affairs), the code of agricultural sector investment (Ministry of Economy and Public Portfolio) that allows business entities to manage public lands and collective; the water and electricity resources policy, highlighting water and electricity pricing initiatives for the private management of irrigation systems, favoring investments in modern irrigation systems, capable of being managed by a group or at the individual level, and the shift to more profitable and environmentally friendly production systems; fiscal policy, adapted and implemented to take into account the specific economic characteristics of the agricultural sector, avoiding disproportionate taxation previously applied to the sector; the local market policy, which aims at modernizing national marketing channels and sales channels, and improving the infrastructure of wholesale markets and



slaughterhouses; project management, monitoring and evaluation policies, which require the restructuring of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, through the creation of two new structures to attract and promote labor market solutions; technical assistance with high potential: which is about the creation of two National Agencies "National Agency for Agriculture and Livestock" and "National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture".

V. Medium-Term Flagship Projects

To achieve the goal of food and nutrition security, the government will encourage all forms of agriculture (peasant agriculture, introverted agribusiness for national food security and extroverted "agribusiness" export agriculture), so as to boost production. Thus, the various programs proposed in the NADP will focus on the priority actions as follows.

a. Component I: Strengthening the institutional capacity

- Project for the Development of a Permanent System of Agricultural Statistics (SPISA), financed by the World Bank with technical assistance from FAO;
- Commercial Agriculture Development Support Project (NADP), financed by the World Bank;
- Project to Support the Creation of Two National Agencies "National Agency for Agriculture and Livestock (ANAE)" and "National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture (ANPA)";
- Integrated Value Chain Development Project for Agricultural Products (PRODIVAC), under negotiation with BAD;
- Support for the formulation of a new Agricultural Value Chain Development Program (COSOP III/IFAD);
- Support Project Development of Agricultural, Livestock and Aquaculture Infrastructures, financed by the Kuwait Fund (additional NADP funding);
- Project to create Agricultural Development Funds to replace the Agriculture Support Fund undergoing restructuring.

b. Component II: Increase plant production

- Project development of cassava value chains;
- Value Chain Development Project for Feed Crops (Corn and Soybeans);
- Value Chain Development Project for Banana and Plantain;
- Project to develop the cash crop sector (cocoa, coffee, rubber, palm oil, cashew, sugar cane);
- Support Project of vegetable crops in urban and suburban areas;
- Seed Program Support Project;
- Irrigation program in the production basins (request for a feasibility study);
- Agricultural mechanization program (request for a feasibility study);
- Project to support agricultural marketing (Feasibility Study Request);
- Small Farmer Support Project (beans, potatoes, yams, peanuts, and other short cycle crops).



c. Component III: Increase animal production

- Program for the Development of Livestock Sectors (Poultry, Pig, Bovine, Sheep and Goat) based on sharecropping, artificial insemination, veterinary care and other types of incentives;
- Livestock Infrastructure Development Support Project (modern slaughterhouses and slaughter areas in urban centers, veterinary centers);
- Project for the Development of a System for the Control and Surveillance of Animal Diseases.

d. Component IV: Increase of the fish production

- International Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Project (PD-PAC), financed by IFAD;
- Aquaculture Value Chain Development Project;
- Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Support Project (Modern hatchery for the intensive production of improved juvenile fish);
- Project to support the monitoring of fishing operations, to fight against IUU fishing.

VI. Cost of implementation

The financing needs of the projects proposed for the agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors under the National Agricultural Development Plan 2018-2022 amount to 1,139.46 billion AFCF representing an average budgetary effort of 227.892 billion AFCF, or one-third of food imports in 2017.

