

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES

Cabinet

REPUBLIC OF CONGO
Unité* Travail* Progrès

PROJECT SHEET ON COFFEE AND COCOA VALUE CHAIN LISTING

Country	REPUBLIC OF CONGO
Duration	5 years, from 2020
Location	National
Estimated cost	16,026,000,000 FCFA or 24,429,878 Euros
Context	<p>In the Republic of Congo, coffee and cocoa cultivation flourished between 1960 and 1980 in the departments of Sangha, Likouala, Cuvette, West Bowl, Plateaus, Pool, Lekoumou, Kouilou, Bouenza and Niari.</p> <p>The field diagnosis carried out by the KINOME group in 2017, as part of the feasibility study of the project to support the relaunch of the cocoa sector in the Republic of Congo, funded by the French Development Agency (AFD), confirms the Sangha, Likouala and Cuvette as preferred areas for cocoa production in Congo, while in the departments of Niari, Lekoumou and Kouilou, production is being tested.</p> <p>However, the coffee tree did not receive the same attention as cocoa.</p> <p>Some old orchards of coffee and cocoa trees are still present and the activity is still practiced there. The diagnosis carried out in these departments at the beginning of 2012 estimated that more than 1,600 active products produced about 2,300 tonnes of cocoa beans per year on 4700 hectares of cocoa trees, with an average yield of 300 kg/ha/year. The average area of the fields is 2 hectares.</p> <p>In recent years, activities carried out in the context of the revival of cocoa production, both by state structures and by private operators with the support of development partners, have enabled the production and distribution of 3,030,000 improved cocoa plants to producers, the creation of 2,800 hectares of cocoa for more than 500 beneficiaries of 58 villages in the departments of Sangha, Likouala and 'la Cuvette'.</p> <p>With regard to the coffee tree, the initiatives taken have enabled the rehabilitation of the old coffee plantations and the creation of a pilot of more than 100 hectares of savannah plantations.</p> <p>The country's ambition is to move towards climate-smart agriculture, by combining agroforestry with cocoa cultivation in the savannah zone.</p>
Justification	Coffee and cocoa are experiencing renewed interest in the global market and are a source of foreign exchange for countries that have developed their crops. As a result, they can serve as a lever for the diversification of Congo's economy.
Objectives	To diversify the economy, create jobs for young people.
Actors of the Channel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agronomic research; • Seed producers (vegetable material); • Mechanized service providers; • Manufacturers of agricultural tools; • Suppliers of agricultural inputs;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Producers (family and agribusiness units); • Farm workers; • Agricultural technicians; • Transporters; • Artisan processors of modern consumer products (chocolate, roasting, etc.); • Agro-industrial (chocolate, roasting, confectionery, cosmetics, etc.); • Manufacturers of processing equipment; • Trading/export; • Traders (wholesalers and retailers).
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The failure to comply with cocoa industry's pipe steps (maintenance, compliance with technical standards for fermentation, drying and storage); • Aging plantations; • Capsids attacks and brown rot in the pods; • Lack of plant health treatments (80% cocoa are affected by disease and pest attacks); • Inadequate improved plant material • Low skills of the workforce; • Low yields (less than 300 kg/ha/year, compared to the possibility of 1000 kg/ha/year when genetic material is efficient and technical routes respected); • The reduced size of farms (mainly household farms).
Actions to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up at least 150 local nurseries in the various production basins; • Produce and distribute 11,250,000 plants at a rate of 75,000 plants per nursery, with a view to the creation of 10,000 hectares; • Rehabilitate 5,000 hectares of old plantations, for nearly 600 selected leading producers; • Introduce and select in collaboration with the National Institute for Agricultural Research (IRA) 6 to 8 hybrids resistant to/tolerant to the usual diseases of cocoa; • Improve yields per hectare by an average of 350 to 800 kg/ha/year; • Supporting small producers in different production basins; • To supervise and strengthen the capacity of producers, with a view to mastering the technical routes for plant production, fermentation, drying and storage of cocoa beans; • Develop cocoa agroforestry to avoid deforestation and thus preserve the environment. To do this, pilot villages of cocoa plantations in savannah will be created; • Provide mechanization and irrigation mainly in the context of agroforestry in saving areas; • Support the marketing of cocoa products by sparking the creation of cooperative marketing companies and the construction of community storage and packaging warehouses; • To make plant health treatment equipment and equipment available to producers through the creation of a phytosanitary base in each basin; • Ensure health monitoring and implement integrated control measures against major pests for the rational use of chemical pesticides; • Maintain ongoing consultation with development partners, to improve national development strategies for the sector; • Have an efficient proximity credit system to enable producers to improve their productivity performance; • Creation in the savannah of a pilot village of 1,200 hectares of agroforestry cocoa in the department of Niari; • Rehabilitation of the Owando coffee cutting centre in 'la Cuvette'; • Creation of six new cutting centres in major production basins; • Support for coffee and cocoa processing units.



Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Production of 75,000 plants in Pokola nursery in 2019;• Rehabilitation of 10 hectares of nemeyong seed fields;• Creation of eight (8) new seed fields in the target departments for cocoa;• Installation of 150 new local nurseries, for a production of 75,000 plants per nursery, in the target departments;• Production and distribution of 11,250,000 plants to leading small producers and producers;• Rehabilitation of 5,000 hectares of plantations by leading producers;• Increased production of coffee plants from 10,000 plants to 1 400,000 plants per year, or 1,080 hectares/year;• Commercialization support.
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