

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES

C A B I N E T

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Unité – Travail – Progrès

BANANA AND PLANTAIN

Country	REPUBLIC OF CONGO
Duration	5 years, from 2020
Location	All departments
Estimated cost	17,500,000,000 FCFA, or 26,676,829 Euros
Context	<p>Banana production, especially plantain, in Congo, ranks second as a staple after cassava. Consumption is estimated at 150kg/person/year and represents 60% banana and 40% plantain. However, this production, estimated at 80,000 tonnes/year, does not meet domestic demand due to relatively low yields of 4t/ha/year.</p> <p>The banana and plantain program, launched in March 2014, has achieved the following results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two seed Centres (nurseries) were built, in Kombé in Brazzaville and in Loutété in the Bouenza; • A seed centre under construction in Ouesso; • Two collection fields (waste parks) set up in Kombé (0.5ha) and Loutété (2ha); • The production and distribution of 12,100 healthy banana and plantane seedlings in Kombé and Loutété; • The holding of three training sessions for technical executives and leading producers, including two training sessions in Kombé and one in Loutété.
Justification	Plantain is the second staple food of the Congolese after cassava. Banana is a popular fruit in national and international markets. Producers are faced with problems of supplying quality and exporting production to the international market.
Objectives	To contribute to food and nutrition security, to contribute to the increase of GDP, to 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 (small mechanization); • Input suppliers; • Producers (family and agribusiness units); • Farm workers; • Agricultural technicians; • Carriers (vehicles, boats, cargo ships, etc.) • Artisan processors of traditional consumer products (fries, traditional alcohol, native salt, etc.); • Artisan processors of modern consumer products (flour, chips, etc.); • Agro-industrials: flour, confit, pastry, cosmetics and pharmacies; • Traders (wholesalers and retailers).
Challenges to face	<p>The increase in banana and plantain production is hampered, among other things, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The producer's limited access to quality and sufficient quantities of releases; • The absence of a research and development programme with a particular focus on plant health aspects;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak technical supervision close to producers; • the low connection of some production basins to major consumer centres.
Actions to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of infrastructures for seed centres; • The production of healthy young banana and plantain plants; • Distribution of young plants to growers; • Enforcement of the capabilities of leading technicians and producers; • Characterization and protection of plant health; • Establishing 11 nurseries across the country; • Mechanization of cultural operations; • Support for processing operators • Facilitating market access; • Implementation of conservation and packaging structures.
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual production of 50,000 healthy seedlings in 3 rotations (or production cycles) of three months each. That is, a production of 550,000 young plants to fill nearly 500 ha/year, for an expected production of 15,000 tons of bananas and plantains; • Expected production of 75,000 tonnes (2,500ha x 30t/ha) of banana and plantain diets for the marketing and development of agribusiness.

