

## Congo-Brazzaville targets investments in agriculture

GrowCongo! Invest in Agriculture takes place in Amsterdam on February 25<sup>th</sup>

The *GrowCongo! Invest in Agriculture* investment conference, aimed at attracting investment in the agricultural sector in Congo-Brazzaville, will be held on **February 25<sup>th</sup>** at the **KIT Royal Tropical Institute in Amsterdam, the Netherlands**. *GrowCongo! Invest in Agriculture* is organised by the Netherlands-African Business Council on behalf of the **Republic of Congo**, with the support of the **World Bank**. It will put the development of the agricultural sector in the Republic of Congo at the center of the discussion during this one-day forum. **Prime Minister Clément Mouamba** of the Republic of Congo will officially open GrowCongo! Invest in Agriculture.

The Republic of Congo is home to 10 million hectares of arable land that can be used for agriculture. The country is aiming for a boost in agriculture and is therefore seeking solutions from international partners among others the Netherlands, the world's second-largest exporter of agricultural products after the United States – with an export worth over USD 100 billion in 2019. **Prime Minister Clément Mouamba** has [invited Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte](#) to officially open the forum, through the Dutch embassy in Kinshasa, which is also responsible for the Republic of Congo.

“The role of agriculture is undeniable in carrying out the policy of eradicating poverty and hunger,” said **HE. Henri Djombo**, Minister of State for Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries of the Republic of Congo in a statement on the GrowCongo! website. “In this context, the Republic of Congo organises GrowCongo! Invest in Agriculture. The Forum offers public and private investors, as well as agropastoral and fishery stakeholders from around the world, several business opportunities to seize in order to build win-win partnerships,” added HE. Djombo.

The Netherlands-African Business Council (NABC) is proud to organise such a high-level international forum on behalf of the Republic of Congo and the World Bank. “Previously we have been working for the Dutch Government and the European Union, but this World Bank assignment is new to us,” said Marina Diboma, Deputy Managing Director of NABC. “We will do all it takes to make this an unforgettable event. The Republic of Congo has set a vision to diversify its economy through agriculture. Its agriculture development will take place through partnerships. It is an honour that the Netherlands has been chosen to host GrowCongo!, the first international forum of the Republic of Congo. As NABC, we are proud to be part of this journey and tell the story of Congo”

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### Programme of GrowCongo! Invest in Agriculture:

- Opening speeches by the Congolese delegation, the World Bank, FAO, FIDA and the Government of The Netherlands.
- Overview of Congo's 'National Development Plan' for Agriculture.
- Panel about the investment and business climate in the Republic of Congo
- First round of break-out sessions. Themes include: Agriculture, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture and agro-logistics.
- Second round of break-out sessions. Focusing on: Public-Private partnerships, agricultural education, energy solutions for agriculture, smart and climate-resilient agriculture

- Plenary panel discussion: financing the Congolese agriculture sector
- Matchmaking with financial institutions like Rabobank, World Bank, FMO

**Keynote speakers include:**

**HE Clément Mouamba**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Congo

**HE Henri Djombo**, Minister of State for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of the Republic of Congo

**Mr. Roberto Ridolfi**, Assistant director general, FAO, Rome

**Lisandro Martín**, Director of the West and Central Africa division, FIDA

**H.E. Ingrid Eboucké Babackas**, Minister for Planning, Statistics and Regional Integration, Republic of Congo

**Mr. Didier Mavouezela**, President of the Chamber of Commerce, Pointe Noire, Republic of Congo

**Mrs. Annick Mongo**, Director of the Investment Promotion Agency, Republic of Congo

**Mr. Rui Frederico Barreto**, Managing Director, La Poule Qui Rit, Republic of Congo

**Mr. Séraphin Bhallat**, Director of the Port of Pointe-Noire, Republic of Congo

**Mr. Ivan Ovando-Lacroix**, Geo Coordinator Republic of Congo, European Union

**Mr. Jean – Martin Bauer**, World Food Program Country Representative in the Republic of Congo

**Press registration and interview requests:** You can register by e-mail via Arne Doornebal, who handles media relations for GrowCongo! [arne.doornebal@nabc.nl](mailto:arne.doornebal@nabc.nl) or call via +316 23220286.

**More information:** [www.growcongo.com](http://www.growcongo.com)

**About NABC:** Based in the Hague, the Netherlands-African Business Council (NABC) represents over 300 Dutch and international companies that do business in Africa. With a total of 20 staff members, we organise trade missions and events for our members and partner organisations. More information: [www.nabc.nl](http://www.nabc.nl)