

TANGUY SMOES

# Agricultural Development in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

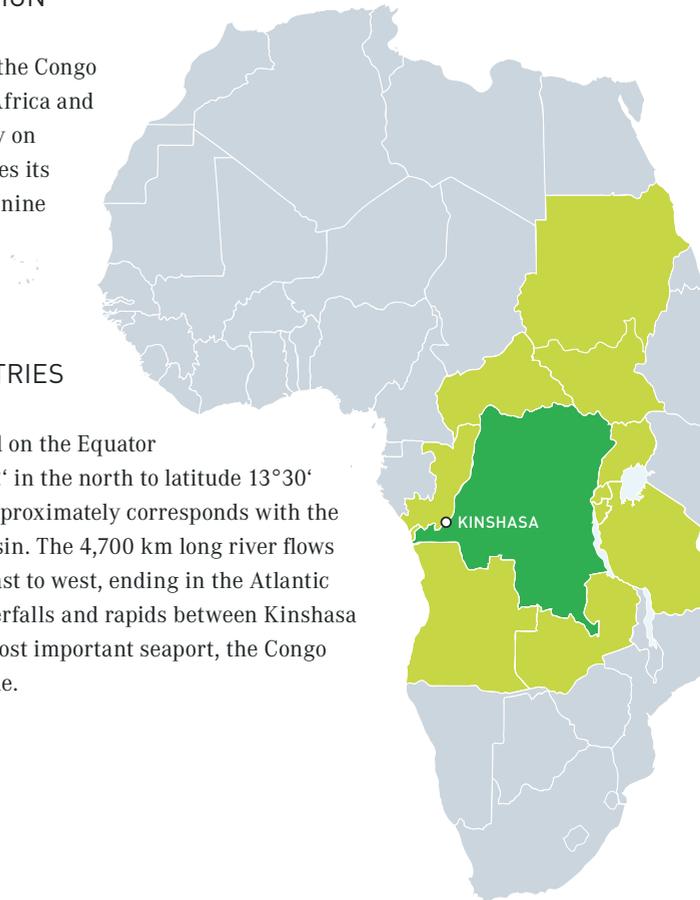
## GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION AND BASIC INFORMATION

### GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is located in Central Africa and is the second largest country on the continent. The DRC shares its 10,200 km long border with nine other countries.

### THE DRC AND ITS NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

The African giant is situated on the Equator (reaching from latitude 5°22' in the north to latitude 13°30' in the south); its territory approximately corresponds with the Congo River's catchment basin. The 4,700 km long river flows through the country from east to west, ending in the Atlantic Ocean. However, due to waterfalls and rapids between Kinshasa and Matadi, the country's most important seaport, the Congo River is only partly navigable.





Almost 50 percent of Congolese citizens are under 15 years of age.

## CLIMATE

The DRC's climate is very diverse and varies heavily. However, it is mainly subtropical with a high average temperature and strong rainfalls over a period of at least eight months per year. The average annual rainfall is between 700 and 2,100 mm per square meters (ORSTOM 1996). The dry season lasts for less than four months, except in the most southern region. A monthly average temperature of 23 to 27 degrees applies to 90 percent of the country.

## POPULATION

Since the 1950s, the country's population has increased from approximately 13 million to 68 million, of which more than eight million live in the capital city of Kinshasa. As a result of economic circumstances and the security situation over the last decades, many Congolese have been forced to leave their rural homes to settle in the cities. While in 1984 approximately 70 percent of the population was living in rural areas and approximately 30 percent was living in cities, since then, the percentage of city dwellers has increased to about 40-45 percent. The DRC is characterised by a young population. Almost 50 percent of Congolese citizens are under 15 years of age, and less than five percent of the country's inhabitants are older than 60.

## LANGUAGES AND ETHNIC GROUPS

The DRC is one of Africa's most linguistically diverse countries: between 200 and 400 dialects are known, which approximately correspond with the various ethnic groups. These ethnic groups can be divided into the following four major groups: Bantu (the largest group), Nilotes, Sudanese, and Pygmies.

In addition to French, which is the official language, there are four other national languages: Kikongo (spoken in the west), Lingala (spoken in Kinshasa and in the north-west), Tshiluba (spoken in the south), and Swahili (spoken in the east).

## NATURAL RESOURCES

The DRC's agricultural potential is comprised of 80 million hectares of farm-land, of which five million hectares can be irrigated. According to estimates, currently only about 10 percent of available agricultural land is being farmed.

The Congo Basin has the second largest forest stand in the world. Since 2000, wood is the DRC's second most important export commodity following oil, justifying an increase in the good's export tax in 2002 and leading to an increase in reforestation regulations. However, the precarious security situation restricts access to forests, and enforcement of such law is not always guaranteed. Estimates suggest, that deforestation across the country could release up to 34.4 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> between 2010 and 2050, which approximates the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions released by the UK over the last 60 years. Road infrastructure built by forestry companies, which penetrates previously inaccessible intact forests, constitutes a further threat; it promotes deforestation for the purpose of gaining farm-land.

The ground is particularly rich in mineral resources, especially metals. For example, the "Copper Belt", located in the south-east of the country, stocks approximately 34 percent of the world's cobalt, a metal that is used in the production of rechargeable batteries. Platinum, silver, and gold, as well as coltan, from which tantalum—a component which is used for microelectronics—is extracted, are also mined in the DRC. Internationally, these natural resources have the dubious distinction of 'conflict minerals,' as obtaining them has been the cause of violent conflicts that have shaped the country's history.

The DRC's oil reserves were hardly noticed during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. However, this sector is gaining in significance. Current reserves are estimated at 100 billion barrels. Large oil reserves can be found at sea and the DRC is currently negotiating maritime borders with Angola. Simultaneously, plans for oil extraction

in the eastern and central parts of the country are currently under preparation in conjunction with various companies. Oil could have a significant impact on the DRC's overall development in the coming decades.

## HISTORY AND POLITICAL SITUATION

The DRC gained independence from Belgium on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1960. From this day onwards the political situation of the country has been highly volatile. A five-year long struggle for leadership followed the declaration of independence, accompanied by violent uprisings and secessions. Approximately two million people lost their lives during the war, which ended by General Joseph Mobutu coming to power. His totalitarian regime ruled until 1997, during which period the country was also named Zaire. The 1990s were once again marked by political and social destabilisation with the dissolution of the national conference in 1992 and the first Congo war from 1996–1997, which ended in the overthrow of Mobutu's regime and brought Laurent Desire Kabila to power. However the political situation did not improve, between 1998 and 2002 the second Congo war took place between the ruling government and rebel groups which cost the lives of up to 5.4 million people and led to massive displacements, as well as material destruction. President Kabila was murdered in 2001 and was succeeded by his son Joseph Kabila, who has pursued a reformation of the state, a unification of the nation and a peace resolution. Nevertheless conflict zones remain in the DRC, a situation, which is highlighted by the prolongation of the UN peacekeeping mission MONUSCO.

## ECONOMIC SITUATION

### OVERVIEW

From the end of the colonial period to the beginning of the 1970s, the Congolese economy was booming. However, the 1970s saw the onset of a difficult economic crisis, which continued for more than 30 years. The crisis was marked by economic recession and monetary instability, mainly resulting from a drastic decline in production, a decline in household income and investments, and extremely high government debt.

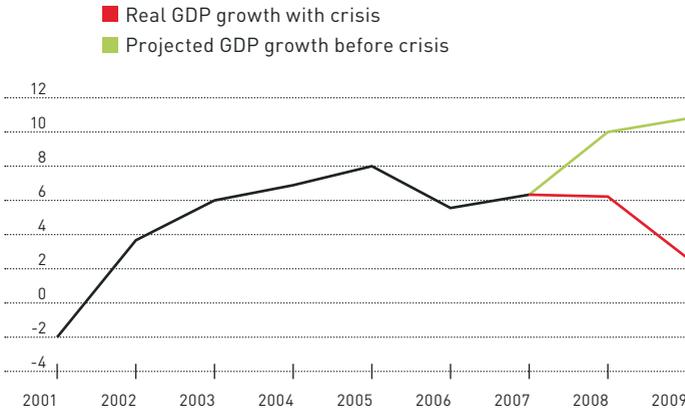
However, since 2001 the economic situation in the DRC has been continuously improving. Between 2002 and 2009, the DRC achieved moderate economic growth

of 5.6 percent. The principle driving factors were the commodities, wholesale, retail, and telecommunications sectors. Economic growth of 10.2 percent was forecasted for 2008, although “only” 6.2 percent was achieved. This was due to the global economic and financial crisis, the effects of which were exacerbated by an armed conflict in the eastern part of the country. The Third Congo War triggered a grave humanitarian crisis and led to the displacement of 250,000 people.

2009 saw an obvious deterioration in the macro-economic environment with inflation exceeding 50 percent and the growth rate dropping to 2.7 percent, while population growth reached three percent. The economic slump led to numerous labour and capital redundancies, especially in the minerals sector.

At 42 percent in 2005, the agricultural sector made up the largest contribution to the country’s GDP. The industrial sector contributed 23 percent and the service industry contributed 35 percent to GDP (BAD, OECD, 2005). Existing data indicates that the percentage made up by agriculture has been fluctuating heavily because of major population movements in the last few years. With reference to GDP growth trade and commerce are playing an increasingly important part. Considering the immense material resources of the DRC the negative trade balance was especially apparent. Foreign trade did pick up after 2009, with both imports and exports growing and the negative trade balance is said to improve in 2012.

GDP GROWTH BEFORE AND WITH CRISIS (IN PERCENT)



Source: World Bank: Democratic Republic of Congo Spring 2009 Economic Report

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## DRC – SECTOR SHARE OF GDP GROWTH IN 2008



Source: World Bank: Democratic Republic of Congo Spring 2009 Economic Report

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For a large country such as the DRC, with an underdeveloped transportation network, it is of major importance to open up new markets in neighbouring countries. For this reason, the DRC has entered into numerous bi-lateral trade agreements and is a member of SADC (Southern African Development Community), COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa) and ECCAS (Economic Community of Central African States).

The DRC's market is estimated to comprise 100 million consumers. Currently, as the DRC's most important buyer, China is playing a significant part in strengthening its economic relationships.

## MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS

### COMMODITIES

Enormous mineral stocks can be found under Congolese ground. Until the end of the 1980s, the state-owned enterprise GECAMINES, the world's largest copper producer, generated a third of the country's annual revenues. However, it was common for violent flare-ups in the country's civil conflict to massively disrupt the industry. Extraction was either abandoned or continued illegally. Despite great difficulties, the sector has recovered in the last few years and the mining industry currently represents 28 percent of GDP. Mining products made up almost 70 percent of all exports in 2009.

	2003	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
TRADE BALANCE	2.5	0.4	8.9	-1	-5.2	6	3.8
EXPORTS OF GOODS (F.O.B.)	24.1	33.3	61.6	55.2	39.2	63.8	63.7
IMPORTS OF GOODS (F.O.B.)	21.6	32.9	52.7	56.2	44.4	57.8	59.9
SERVICES	-4.3	-5.2	-12.3	-13.6	-10.5	-16.1	-13.2
CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE	0.9	-2.1	-1.5	-17	-10.5	-11.7	-10.3

Source: AEO

TABLE 1: Current Account in percent of GDP

## AGRICULTURE

The DRC has enormous agricultural potential with an estimated 75 million hectares of arable land, of which at least 10 million hectares are used for cultivation and pasture land (which amounts to approximately 1.5 hectares per agricultural household). Approximately 60 percent of working population are employed in the agricultural sector, however it contributes to less than 50 percent of GDP. Production is stagnating and export revenues from agriculture have declined from USD 334 million in 1995 to USD 4.3 million in 2003. Annual food production can no longer meet the demands of the Congolese population – deficits are compensated through imports from abroad.

## FORESTRY

Half of Africa's forest stand is located on Congolese territory. The sheer number of valuable tree species (e.g. wengé, iroko (African oak), ebony) and the amount available (approximately 60 million producible hectares) constitutes a huge potential. The new forestry code takes environmental needs into account and emphasises reforestation, but the government faces difficulties in enforcing such law. Currently, more than 90 percent of lumbered wood is still being used as firewood. However, lumbering is soon to be regulated for export, which is increasing by the year, to prevent drastic environmental consequences.

## CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

The construction industry's annual growth rate between 2003 and 2008 was seven percent. Since the end of the 1990s there have been numerous infrastructure projects, largely financed by the World Bank and the European Union. Infrastructure development also constitutes an essential component of the country's agreements with China: in 2007 an important, but partly controversial, agreement was signed where China pledged to develop the country's infrastructure in return for mining concessions.

## HYDROPOWER

An estimated eight percent of the world's energy needs could be covered through the Congo River's hydraulic potential. Nevertheless, only three percent of the river's hydraulic potential is currently being utilised. The largest hydropower station is the Inga Dam. However, the dam, which was built between 1972 and 1982, is out of date and only five out of 14 turbines are currently functioning. The World Bank is planning to invest USD 500 million into repair work. At the moment, there are several new dam

90 percent of lumbered wood is used as firewood.



projects that are being considered by the government in conjunction with institutional and private partners.

## TOURISM

There are eight national parks in the DRC, of which five have been deemed World Heritage sites. The wide varieties of landscapes, lakes, and fauna have not yet been opened up to tourism and hold great economic potential.

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATION

The DRC is among the poorest countries in the world with a life expectancy of 48 years and 71.3 percent of the population living below the poverty line (2008 World Bank data). Malnutrition is chronic amongst a large part of the population and has been on the rise since 1995. Despite economic indicators showing improved values since 2001, the DRC is marked by mass poverty and a large income gap between urban and rural populations. This is due to very high unemployment, which primarily affects young people, and overall low-income levels.

Under these circumstances, a growing number of Congolese decide to emigrate, particularly well-educated young people. Gaining experience through temporary emigration is beneficial both for the migrant, as well as the country of origin. In the case of the DRC however return rates of young emigrant workers are very low leading to a brain drain and significantly hindering the DRC's capacities to build up human resources for the future.

## INTERNATIONAL AID IN FIGURES

In 2009, the DRC received USD 1,171 million in Official Development Assistance (ODA). Amongst other things, this amount was used to fight the effects of the global economic and financial crisis, and for infrastructure projects. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) supported the DRC with the Exogenous Shocks Facility, and the World Bank and the African Development Bank (ADB) contributed as part of an emergency programme to mitigate the effects of the financial crisis. The country's largest donors are the World Bank, the European Commission, and the African Development Bank ADB, which together make up approximately

67 percent of ODA. Since 2007, ODA has decreased from USD 1,981 million to USD 1,171 million.

**LOANS AND GRANTS:** During the period 2001–2008, grants made up approximately 85 percent of total development assistance, while 15 percent was paid in the form of loans. The high percentage of grants is in line with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) and the IMF's recommendations for a country with problematic debt.

**ODA LARGELY CHANNELLED OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION:**

The government directly implements only six percent of externally funded projects. This highlights the fact that the majority of aid does not flow into the government's budget and is not used for public administration purposes. In contrast, 28 percent of projects are implemented by UN agencies and parallel Project Implementation Units (PIU), which cooperate with government agencies for capacity building purposes.

A Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) representative estimated that the amount of funding allocated for humanitarian purposes makes up about 75 percent of the ODA budget. The agriculture sector receives numerous payments under the label food security. These aid payments make an enormous contribution to the survival of the population, but are only of peripheral use to the long-term sustainable development of agriculture in the DRC.

## THE EUROPEAN APPROACH TO COOPERATION WITH THE DRC

The European Union has been one of the DRC's most significant partners since the late 1950s. It provides assistance in the form of:

- Development measures (through the European Development Fund (EDF);
- Economic assistance; and
- Humanitarian measures (through ECHO, the European Community Humanitarian Office).

The DRC additionally benefits from several annual European-supplied budgets with a focus on human rights, food security, environmental and tropical forests protection, and mine clearance. A further budget is to be provided for the purpose of co-funding NGOs.

The EU also provides assistance in specific areas such as the promotion of peace and stability, support during the DRC's transition to democracy, and by funding the country's 2006 election.

## CHALLENGES IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

### THE BIG PARADOX

The majority of the DRC's population lives just above the poverty line and cannot meet its nutritional needs.

This is the case despite:

- Only 10 percent of the country's agricultural potential is currently being utilised; and
- Prevailing climatic conditions are relatively favourable for the purposes of agriculture.

Data from the Ministry of Agriculture reveals that the DRC's global ranking is seventh in terms of arable land but second in terms of unused potential arable land.

Agriculture's contribution to GDP has shrunk, mainly because the mining sector was recently reintegrated into the legal economic cycle. In addition, migration, in particular from rural to urban areas, has contributed to the decrease. Import/export data up to 2007 is shown in contrast to data from 1990 to 1997 to exemplify the significant changes experienced by the agriculture sector.

Strong declines in the export of crops are evident, with raw coffee constituting one such example: Making up more than 70 percent of agricultural exports in the early 1990s by 2007 green coffee was being imported by the DRC. In terms of revenue, this translates into a decrease from more than USD 100 million to approximately USD 8 million in that same period. Global trade developments reflect the current situation. While imports and exports of food were balanced during the 1980s today the DRC is dependent on food imports.

### DUAL STRUCTURE IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

The agricultural industry is divided into a "traditional" and a "modern" sector. The traditional agriculture sector mainly serves the purpose of subsistence.

Small-scale farmers use rudimentary equipment – often only a simple hoe and watering cans. They are productive, but badly organised. Although this sector generates such low yields, it contributes to about 80 percent to the country's food production. More than 3.5 million family-run businesses farm an estimated five million hectares. In the traditional agriculture sector, mainly rain-water is used for irrigation (rainfed agriculture). The most commonly cultivated plants are tubers, sycamore trees, maize, rice, peanuts, beans, and oil palms.

In the 1980s, a group of such farmers organised themselves in a semi-modern way to cultivate produce, as well as crops. As a result of poorly organised export



The agricultural industry is divided into a modern and traditional sector - the latter producing 80 percent of food using rudimentary equipment.

routes, the farmers now direct most of their production inward and supply large parts of the country's urban areas in spite of enormous production and sales difficulties.

The modern agriculture sector consists of a few large agricultural businesses, which use modern production methods. Production is mainly for export, primarily sugar cane, coffee, cocoa, palm oil, cinchona bark, and rubber.

While it was very dynamic during the 1970s and 1980s, it has declined significantly. The reasons for this development are poor organisational structures and the unpredictability of the macro-economic environment, which have been further exacerbated by socio-political unrest. Assisting this sector is part of the government's economic policy, carried out with the support of development partners. On the whole, agricultural work in the DRC is mainly undertaken for subsistence purposes.

The sluggish trade of produce within the country must also be considered in the light of poor road conditions. In particular, rural areas can sometimes be accessed only with great difficulty.

The isolation of rural areas brings about the following consequences:

- Farmers cannot sell their products, causing incomes to decline;
- Local products cannot be transported to urban centres without difficulty, causing an increase in food imports.

SHARE IN AGRICULTURE IMPORTS (IN PERCENT)				
	1990-92	1995-97	2000-02	2005-07
WHEAT	11.6	13.3	7.4	11.4
CHICKEN MEAT	11.5	9.7	9.5	9.0
FLOUR OF WHEAT	6.6	9.9	7.0	8.5
DRY WHOLE COW MILK		3.2	6.6	7.8
OIL OF PALM		0.4	2.3	5.6

Source: FAO

TABLE 2: Changes in import of major agricultural commodities of the DRC

## THE PROBLEM OF PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

Land tenure in the DRC renders the state the sole owner of all property. The law (the Law of 20<sup>th</sup> July 1973, amended and completed by the Law of 18<sup>th</sup> July 1980) is based on customary rights and stipulates that the chief of the “owner” clan must consent to any registration of usage or ownership rights to the land by the relevant administrative authority. In practice customary law regulates most allocation of land. This makes it impossible for persons who are not from the relevant clan or village to access land. In more densely populated areas there is significant potential for conflict as property dimensions and borders are not exactly defined.

In the DRC’s history there were periods during which the ruling head of state appealed for investments in rural areas. During “Zairianisation” (1973), agricultural businesses that belonged to foreigners were transferred to citizens of the DRC. Later, many properties were re-purchased by the state. Many of the new owners did not continue to farm their land, which led to numerous cultivable land areas becoming inaccessible.

At the same time, frequent displacements of the population led to the formation of a marginal group of “small-scale farmers without land” who are forced to rent property. Lease agreements, which are barely officially regulated, are often made without a written document for periods of six months to one year, with a renewal option. This system renders agricultural investments very risky and significantly restricts any improvement, for example the construction of terrace systems or wells, or any measures to increase soil fertility.

In terms of foreign investments in agro-industrial companies, concessions are generally granted to foreigners for a period of five to 25 years, with a renewal option. Following the lack of confidence experienced by foreign investors during nationalisation, such contract periods do not encourage significant investments in specialised sectors, in particular tree cultivation.

## LIMITATIONS AND POTENTIAL OF THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

The strengths and weaknesses of the agricultural sector have been identified in numerous studies and reviews. The points below summarise the most significant aspects. It can be presumed that development institutions and agencies have recognised these points and consider them in their programme and project strategies.



#### WEAKNESSES:

- Lack of funding (approximately two percent of the government's budget);
- Lack of agricultural research and consulting necessary for numerous stakeholders;
- Methods that have not been adequately adjusted to current problems, leading to soil degradation, degeneration of plant and animal genetic material, as well as lack of utilisation and maintenance capacity of equipment;
- Limited transportation infrastructure;
- Lack of storage infrastructure;
- Lack of organised groups, such as producer associations or multidisciplinary groups;
- Taxes and harassment by police and authorities (legal or illegal);
- Deterioration of living conditions in rural areas, leading to the relocation of the working population to cities;
- Restrained and lost investments in export crops;
- Badly adjusted land tenure system, with a widening gap between tradition and the law;
- Lack of strategic goals and political coherence;



Irrigated farmland in the DRC.

- Lack of procurement structures for properties; and
- Lack of statistical data to substantiate strategic guidelines.

The most frequently cited weaknesses are the lack of means and the lack of political coherence. This is particularly related to institutional instability and the frequent re-organisation of ministries. For example, from May 1997 to June 2007, the DRC had 17 different ministers for agriculture, fisheries, and livestock breeding.

#### STRENGTHS:

- Favourable climatic and ecological conditions;
- Large sections of arable land that are not being farmed;
- High level of biodiversity and forestry potential (wood products, etc.);
- Real development opportunities for several export crops, and the dissemination of best practices and certain types of infrastructure;
- Existence of research institutes, consulting offices, human resources, and infrastructure throughout the whole country (in need of “repair”, but with significant potential);

- Numerous associations and pilot projects, which increasingly deal with capital accumulation and the division of competences;
- Significant population groups in and surrounding the country, which represent an estimated 100 million potential consumers;
- Strategies from the government to implement a legal framework (new codes for forestry and agriculture, in compliance with the Mining Code);
- Continuous restructuring of the ministry and decentralisation; and
- The possibility of registering agro-forestry projects with the international CO<sub>2</sub> stock exchange (open since January 2005).

## STRATEGIES FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

As the above analysis shows, employable young people are increasingly driven to leave rural areas as a result of the low-income situation in the agriculture sector. Cities are growing, with unemployment constantly on the rise. One reason for this is that a functioning food industry cannot develop on the basis of weak agricultural production. Food production yields are very low because of out-dated technology, and the lack of adequate infrastructure makes it difficult to supply cities.

Furthermore, population growth is increasing at a faster rate than agricultural production. Food imports are thus increasing in significance for the urban population, although international food prices are constantly on the rise.

## PLANNING ON THE DOMESTIC LEVEL

Currently, conditions have been met for the partnership between the government and the international community to pursue a common strategy for rebuilding the agricultural sector. Changes to the agricultural sector are urgently needed, and it appears that decision-makers understand that bolstering the country's agricultural potential will have far-reaching effects on poverty reduction, employment, health, social stability, sustainable development, and environmental protection. As a result, this sector is increasingly considered a priority.

Nevertheless, figures show, that neither international donors nor the government have really begun to implement the prioritisation of this sector in their budget allocations. A first step in the right direction has to be made through the development of transportation infrastructure, most importantly roads, considered a prerequisite for rural development.

Therefore, now is the moment to set clear priorities. In cooperation with the FAO, the Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development recently published the document “Strategy for developments in the sector (2010/2011–2014/2015)”, in which guidelines for sustainable development of the agriculture sector and strategic orientation points are defined, including:

- Access to markets through improvement of rural infrastructure and trade capacities;
- Improved production of plants, meat, fish, and handicrafts;
- Increased funding for the agricultural sector
- Regulation and strengthening of institutional capacities and human resources; and
- Organisation of self-sustaining structures in rural regions.

On the whole these orientation points correspond well with the issues discussed above. Intended goals pertaining to a sustainable development of the agricultural sector are clearly aligned with the conditions found in the DRC and the ambitious plan of decentralisation, which arose from the new constitution enacted in 2005. Experts are analysing on a continuous basis the difficulties that must be overcome with precision. Amongst other things, they emphasise the importance of international partners, especially in the light of the challenges posed by decentralisation.

Accompanied by numerous measures to boost solidarity, development, and the private sector, Congolese agriculture is in a state of transformation.

## SUMMARY AND PERSPECTIVES

The challenges found in the agriculture sector are enormous and complex, like the country itself. Nevertheless, a look to the future indicates the necessity for reforming agriculture to secure sustainable production growth. This is the only way to guarantee food security in the DRC.

The agriculture sector must be developed in the following ways:

- Organisationally (orientation, research, distribution, and structuring);
- Technically (optimisation of technical procedures, improvement of varieties, adjusted fertilisation methods, larger areas, and the expansion of irrigation); and
- Economically (favourable climate, laws for investments, and market regulation).

Many sectors show promise, such as the produce industry, which technically allows for production growth. Furthermore the export industry with products such as palm oil has potential on both the domestic and international markets.

This study however clearly shows the necessity for restructuring the agricultural sector to improve its technical aspects and commercialisation capabilities – a process, which still requires a lot of work.

Notwithstanding the fact that various stakeholders mentioned in this study are in agreement on fields of improvement, the necessity for strategic guidelines is nevertheless apparent. The agricultural sector requires research, a system for distributing modern agricultural best-practices, and the development of effective structuring measures.

The central government has started implementing such aims. There is however a need for decentralised structures to get involved, due to the agricultural particularities of each region. Such decentralised structures have only recently been created or are still in the process of formation. Changes in policies towards the agricultural sector need to take place within the national government, but also on other organisational levels, representing all agricultural stakeholders. It is especially necessary for regional governments and sovereign territories to be involved, as this stakeholder level is considered to be the most important one in the agricultural field.

The importance of the inclusion and consultation with the regional government level has been taken into account during the restructuring of the Ministry of Agriculture: the *Conseils Agricoles Ruraux de Gestion (CARG)* or Agricultural Administration Councils, which appear as new stakeholders on the sovereign territory level (administrative division).

The success of agricultural development largely depends on whether a structure can be achieved that is beneficial on the one hand for a large part of agricultural stakeholders, including farmers' organisations and producer associations, as well as facilitating their connections to larger production units on the level of storage, transformation and marketing. To achieve suitable compromises, it is necessary for all agricultural actors to be represented. The CARG is currently the only system that unites institutions, local political representatives, producers, manufacturers, and civil society. However in order for it to function fully it needs further support and its decision-making powers have to be taken into account by development institutions.

Finally, it is necessary to point out that significant investments are required for such measures. Donor's investment decisions are related to external factors, such as public opinion in donor countries, nevertheless it is necessary to send a clear message: the DRC requires long-term partnerships, not just selective (short-term) charitable assistance.

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