



SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Despite favourable climate and soil conditions, the agricultural sector in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is not sufficiently developed to fight malnutrition and food insecurity or to significantly reduce the level of poverty among the rural population. In recent years, with a view to consolidating the country's economic growth with support for the agricultural and rural sector, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has implemented a number of development programmes, including the National Agricultural Investment Programme (NAIP). Over the period between 2013 and 2020, the NAIP aimed to unify all projects and stimulate sustained annual growth of the agricultural sector of more than 6 percent, targeting five priority areas.

Within the framework of South-South Cooperation, the project aimed to support the implementation of the NAIP in Haut-Katanga Province, offering targeted expertise suited to the needs of national partners across a range of agricultural sectors, and strengthening the technical capacities of the different actors involved.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

During the project, almost 50 theoretical training sessions were held, based on the six complete modules prepared by Chinese experts in collaboration with Congolese technicians and covering the priority areas of intervention. Some 215 field demonstration sessions took place, in fields set up with a total of 3 067 beneficiaries (10 technicians and 3 057 members of the target communities). A study tour to China, undertaken by four representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, three Congolese technicians and two community members, completed these training efforts and strengthened the coordination and management of the project. Improved seed production and multiplication was focused on rice, maize and soybean, as well as vegetable crops. The comparison of the yields of different varieties, as well as the new technical procedures put forward (sowing, fertilization, soil conditioning, water management, fight against diseases and infestations), allowed production to increase significantly. In addition, two communities were initiated in the cultivation of millet – which was extremely rare in the region – and subsequently adopted the practice in view of the yields reached. The construction of a workshop for the manufacture of small agricultural tools and the training of 15 blacksmiths contributed to the sustainability of the project. The installation of five farming cages and the training of farmers was a first in terms of cage fish farming in Haut-Katanga Province. Within six months, tilapia production proved profitable and provided additional income. Meanwhile, breeding of short-cycle species (pigs, goats, chickens, rabbits) benefited from a complete training module, as well as from the distribution of animals and veterinary products, which together constituted a community pharmacy.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 1 496 716

Duration

September 2016 – August 2019

Resource Partner

Government of the People's Republic of China

Partners

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

Beneficiaries

Ten Congolese technicians from the Bureau of Agriculture of Haut-Katanga Province, 3 057 members of the target communities

IMPACT

Through the production of improved seed, the development of breeding and cage fish farming and the strengthening of the capacities of different actors, the project contributed significantly to removing the obstacles to agricultural production that had been identified in the province. The two priority areas of the NAIP targeted (sustainable development of agricultural sectors and development of agribusiness in order to improve income for farmers) help to manage the food and nutrition security of populations and to build up strategic reserves. The Chinese and Congolese governments have agreed to rapidly prepare the second phase of the project, which is expected to increase bilateral agricultural cooperation and strengthen the development of value chains in certain areas of production.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- Study tour to China by four representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, three Congolese technicians and two members of the target communities.
- Six complete training modules in different areas focused on by the project. These allowed 48 theoretical training sessions to be held, as well as 215 demonstration and support sessions in the field.
- Five demonstration fields (4.8 ha) dedicated to rice production and 914 beneficiaries trained in rice-growing.
- Three pilot fields (4.5 ha) sown with millet.
- Two demonstration fields dedicated to maize (2.5 ha) and two fields for soybean (1.1 ha), with 729 producers trained to cultivate the crops.
- Three areas dedicated to vegetable production and 585 producers provided with tools and trained in improved production techniques.
- Workshop for the manufacture of small agricultural tools installed and equipped, 15 blacksmiths trained and demonstrations of the tools produced for the benefit of 70 farmers.
- Five cages built and stocked with 450 kg of fry; 258 fish farmers trained in cage farming.
- 263 technicians and farmers trained in family breeding techniques and in the fight against poultry and small livestock diseases.
- Distribution of 21 hives and beekeeping training for 223 producers.
- Eight quarterly coordination and day-to-day management meetings held.



Project Code
FAO: GCP/DRC/051/CPR

Project Title
Technical assistance services in support to key sectors of the National Agricultural Investment Programme (NAIP)

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