IMPORTANCE

Beekeeping is an activity that complements agriculture and is part of agroecological practices. The main production areas in Benin are located in the regions of Atacora, Donga, Borgou, Alibori, Zou and Collines, though the entire territory has potential for honey production.

In 2019−2020, Benin produced 300 000 litres of honey and had 25 540 hives, 5 565 beekeepers and 4 800 households practicing beekeeping. Since February 2018, Beninese honey has been accepted for sale in the European Union area.

COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE

Honey is an organic product with many health benefits. It is used to produce several pharmaceutical and cosmetic products, and can also be used as a sugar substitute. Honeybees improve the productivity of nearby crops which increases producers’ incomes, and they contribute to the maintenance of plant biodiversity.

REQUIREMENTS

- beekeeping equipment (hives, smokers, centrifuge, refractometer, protective equipment etc.);
- honey analysis and certification laboratory;
- transport vehicle;
- storage space;
- training in production techniques.
CAMEROON

IMPORTANCE
A major consumer product in Cameroon and beyond, the banana plays an important role on the country’s trade balance sheet.

COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE
Cameroonian bananas are highly valued on the international market, and the country is one of the leading producers in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) region.

REQUIREMENTS
• consolidating the presence of Cameroon bananas in Europe;
• expanding into Asian markets;
• increasing exports to African countries.
The development of meat value chains is very strategic for Chad, which positions meat as a means of strengthening resilience and economic development. Among other benefits, meat provides a significant response to the situation of food and nutrition insecurity affecting pastoralist populations. The livestock destocking program is carried out through the purchase of cattle at subsidized prices in order to protect productive capital (animals and pastures) and to offer sources of protein (dried meat) to vulnerable populations. This program builds the capacity of butchers and women processors. Distribution of dried meat to households with moderately malnourished children, and pregnant or lactating women, contributes to strengthening nutrition and social cohesion.

In a country where the livestock exceeds 100 million head, the aim is to strengthen the links between farmers, butchers, women processors and retail traders so as to develop a stronger meat value chain which has benefits for livelihoods and nutrition.

- promotion of feed mills;
- capacity building of women processors and butchers on meat hygiene, and cutting, drying and salting techniques;
- capacity building for women processors on product marketing.
REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

IMPORTANCE
Cassava is the staple food of more than 90 percent of the Congolese population, with an average annual per capita consumption estimated at 250–336 kilograms. It is consumed as leafy vegetables and tubers or processed into products such as flour (gari), bread (chikwange) and snacks such as mbala-mpinda (cassava and peanuts wrapped in cassava leaves). Fresh cassava cannot be stored for more than 3–5 days, so processing the tubers into flour increases the shelf life to over a year. The tubers are an excellent and inexpensive source of calories and provide cash income for rural producers.

COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE
Cassava flourishes in all regions of the country and can be harvested throughout the year thanks to the country’s geographical location and climate. It is also the crop that contributes most to the resilience of vulnerable populations. Given its importance for the food and nutritional security of the people, this crop receives special attention from the Government through a programme called “Manioc” which aims to support small-scale cassava producers throughout the country.

REQUIREMENTS
• processing tubers into bread flour and other by-products;
• cassava disease control.
IMPORTANCE
Cassava is a staple food in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the form of starch (fufu), vegetables (cassava leaf), and baked or roasted tubers. It is also used in the production of boiled cassava bread (chikwange), industrial manufacturing of starch, and alcoholic beverages.

COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE
Cassava is a resilient crop. It generates significant income for growers, and contributes enormously to household food security.

REQUIREMENTS
- capacity building for transformation;
- improving storage conditions;
- improving conservation techniques;
- improving marketing.
IMPORTANCE

Due to difficult soil and climate conditions (arid climate with low rainfall and soil salinity), the Republic of Djibouti is dependent on imports from neighbouring countries for 90 per cent of its food needs. In this context, the Government of Djibouti has based its food security strategy on increasing national agricultural production to cover part of its food needs by developing oasis agro-ecosystems. Date palms not only provide fruit, they also create a favourable microclimate for other crops.

This political will has already translated into over 20,000 in vitro plants being cultivated for over a decade. The first significant harvests took place in 2016 and demonstrated the adaptability of date palms to the country’s soil and climate. Farmers and the private sector now have unprecedented enthusiasm for date production.

Dates have a high nutrition, cultural and commercial value, and date palm trees have benefits related to climate as well as timber and oil products.

COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE

The Republic of Djibouti now has a range of scientific and technical expertise in the production and acclimatisation of date palm seedlings thanks to the capacity building of the Date Palm in vitro Culture Laboratory, housed within the Life and Earth Laboratory of the Djibouti Study and Research Centre (CERO).

This expertise acquired over several decades is a considerable asset for the in-vitro culture laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water, Fisheries, Livestock and Fisheries Resources (MAEPE-RH) to complete the development of large-scale date palm cultivation.

REQUIREMENTS

- South–South and triangular cooperation;
- large-scale propagation in nurseries;
- training in date palm cultivation;
- marketing and support to the palm oil value chain;
- research and development.
**IMPORTANCE**

The economy of Equatorial Guinea has historically been based on agriculture, especially cocoa, coffee and palm production. However, agriculture’s economic contribution to gross domestic product (GDP) progressively decreased after the discovery of oil, from 69 percent in 1985 to 3 percent in 2006 and 2 percent in 2016, reducing both the area under cultivation and the percentage of the population employed in the sector. The Government of Equatorial Guinea has made efforts to reactivate the cocoa and coffee sectors in line with the national economic diversification objective and to reduce the country’s dependency on imports.

The cocoa value chain aims to be further developed to create a denomination of origin product aimed at an international market, with great livelihood benefits for local producers.

**COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE**

Equatorial Guinea is home to several varieties of cacao trees, and the country has a good climate, rich soil, and excellent rainfall to grow high-quality cacao at high yields – making it capable of competing on international markets.

**REQUIREMENTS**

- soil management for greater cocoa productivity;
- pest and disease management;
- drip irrigation systems;
- management of biofertilizers;
- post-harvest handling for processing.
ERITREA

IMPORTANCE

The diverse agroecological zones and favourable climate make Eritrea conducive for potato production. Potato is a nutritionally indispensable food crop all over the country, particularly in the highlands, and potato production provides satisfactory yields and good incomes for farmers.

REQUIREMENTS

▪ access to an improved variety of seeds and mechanized services;
▪ strengthening the seed system and the laboratories;
▪ capacity building to produce quality potato;
▪ access to cold storage;
▪ support to potato processing and value addition.

POTATO

SUPPORTED THEMATIC AREA

Green production

Green storage

IMPLEMENTATION LOCATION

Tropics

Mountainous areas
IMPORTANCE

Horticulture production and marketing in Eswatini is one of the identified priority value chains that can help improve the contribution of the agriculture sector to economic development. The Ministry of Agriculture, with assistance from FAO, developed 12 sector development plan agreements (SDPA), and baby vegetables is one of them. The baby vegetable value chain in Eswatini is primarily export-orientated, combining smallholder and medium-scale commercial farmers as well as private and public sector organizations. The focus is to enhance production to meet the growing market demand, providing support along the value chain to foster smallholder inclusivity and maximise economic returns, placing Eswatini firmly on the map as a supplier of choice of baby vegetables globally.

COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE

Horticulture value chains, especially baby vegetables, are one of the priority commodities that are being promoted in the country since producers are able to establish viable production units in small land parcels, which is the typical case for small-scale producers. In addition, investments are currently underway for the development of pack-houses with cold storage facilities in the four regions of the country to enhance production. Currently, production is slowed down by climate variability, which exposes increasing income generation for smallholder farmers, reducing poverty and improving the food and nutrition security of communities.

REQUIREMENTS

- investment in technologies like conditioned farming/using green net or tunnels for baby vegetable production;
- investment in solar power generation capacity;
- installation of drip and micro jet irrigation.
**ETHIOPIA**

**TEFF**

**IMPORTANCE**

Teff is an indigenous and important crop of Ethiopia in terms of production, consumption, and cash crop value. In Ethiopia, teff is annually grown on about 3 million hectares involving over 7.1 million households.

The crop is highly valued by both farmers and consumers. It is adaptive to various growing conditions, including marginal soils, and produces edible seeds for human consumption and straw for cattle feed.

Teff is gluten-free and has become a popular health and preference food in the global market.

**COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE**

- favourable climatic and soil conditions for teff production in Ethiopia;
- Ethiopia with almost 120 million inhabitants is a large market for teff;
- contributes to food security and commercialization of small holders.

**REQUIREMENTS**

- access to improved varieties and technologies;
- strengthening the seed system;
- capacity building to produce quality teff;
- strengthening the research capacity;
- support to processing and value addition.

**THEMATIC AREA**

- Green production
- Green storage

**IMPLEMENTATION LOCATION**

- Tropics
IMPORTANCE
Domestic demand for maize is robust but dependent on imports. The needs identified in the national agriculture strategy 2018-2025 for maize production is 200 000 tonnes by 2025.

Maize is an important ingredient used in animal feed, particularly for poultry and pigs, and by developing maize production, the animal feed value chain will also be enhanced.

COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE
The economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian Federation-Ukraine conflict on soaring grain prices have shown the need to develop local grain cultivation. Gabon’s humid tropical climate is conducive to growing maize. In 2021, the Government of Gabon created five (5) high-productivity agricultural zones (ZAP), including the ZAP of Idemba (17 300 ha) dedicated to the development of millet and soybean cultivation for animal feed.

REQUIREMENTS
- support for the production of efficient seeds;
- technical capacity building on green production;
- strengthening of operational capacities for the processing of malt for the production of animal feed;
- capacity building of production units to produce livestock feed.
THE GAMBIA

GROUNDNUT

IMPORTANCE
Groundnut is produced primarily for domestic consumption and export. Despite its importance, production has been declining over the past three decades. Although production increased between 2000 and 2015 compared to production levels recorded in the 1980s and 1990s, it still falls short of the average production levels registered in the 1960s-1970s. The decline is attributed to two main variables: declining yields and poor market infrastructures. Groundnut is mainly grown by smallholder farmers on plots ranging from less than 1 to 10 hectares. Production methods are labour-intensive, and soils are depleted, thus requiring high fertilizer input.

COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE
The groundnut sector is fundamental in terms of generating foreign exchange earnings and improving household balanced diets. It has a unique position in tackling poverty and improving household welfare through wealth and employment creation. It is worth noting the following opportunities:

▪ well-established national demand for groundnut products;
▪ large areas of arable land for groundnut production;
▪ appropriate technology and experience for production and processing already available;
▪ existence of some producer cooperative societies for marketing;
▪ proximity to European Union and United States market;
▪ there is a growing number of small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) to support the groundnut value chain.

REQUIREMENTS
▪ improved high-yielding varieties;
▪ improved production packages;
▪ improved post-harvest processing;
▪ strengthening institutions and structures for better access to production inputs and markets.
GHANA

IMPORTANCE
Ghana’s imports of soybean cake have decreased in recent years largely due to increased local production. From 292,500 tonnes in 2018 to 43,500 tonnes in 2019. Further local production and processing of soybean will continue to contribute to Ghana’s foreign exchange.

Smallholder farmers in northern Ghana, in particular, are involved in soybean production. Soybean improves soil fertility and other soil quality parameters due to its ability to fix atmospheric nitrogen. In Ghana, soybean is produced with little or no inorganic fertilizer, and production contributes to water use efficiency.

COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE
- Ghana has a suitable climate and soil to support sustainable soybean production.
- There are strong research institutions and scientists with specializations in soybean seed breeding, agronomy, and other related subjects.
- Growing demand for soybean products (soya cake, soya meal, etc.) by Ghana’s growing poultry, aquaculture, and livestock sector and local processing into oil, milk etc.
- Ghana’s soybean is organic, accounting to increasing demand and exports.
- The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement presents an opportunity for regional trade.

REQUIREMENTS
- land development (with sustainable irrigation) for soybean;
- production of foundation and certified seeds;
- promote and support access to improved certified seeds and inoculants;
- improved production practises/technologies (including the use of labour-saving tools, equipment, and machinery);
- post-harvest technologies (including labour-saving equipment and machinery).
GUINEA

MAIZE

IMPORTANCE
Maize is an essential cereal in Guinea used in human and animal nutrition. It is consumed in several forms (roasted, boiled, porridge, etc.). Maize is a source of protein, potassium, lipids and fibre. It is a nutritious and highly digestible food.

COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE
Maize is second only to rice in terms of cereals grown in Guinea. It is also an important source of food for poultry and livestock.

REQUIREMENTS
- Machines for production such as sowing crops, harvesting and processing.

SUPPORTED THEMATIC AREA
- Green production
- Green processing

IMPLEMENTATION LOCATION
- Urban areas
- Peri-urban
GUINEA-BISSAU

IMPORTANCE
Guinea-Bissau is one of the world’s largest exporters of raw cashew nuts, second only to Côte d’Ivoire. In 2021, according to data from national authorities, 231 000 tonnes of cashews were exported. Cashew exports account for more than 90 percent of all of Guinea-Bissau’s exports. About 85 percent of smallholder farmers have cashew plantations and the income from this important crop contributes to poverty alleviation.

COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE
The country has a long tradition of cashew production, with the majority of smallholder farmers involved in the sector. The cashew variety is relatively resistant to anthracnose and powdery mildew diseases compared to other countries. It is highly valued on the international market by processors for its high ratio of kernel yield to raw nut (1 kg per 4 kg of raw nut) i.e. a yield of 52 to 57 and because no chemicals are used in its production.

REQUIREMENTS
- technologies for high-yield cashew cultivation;
- agroforestry to avoid pressure on forests and reduction of area for food crops;
- cashew nut shelling technology to increase value-addition and create more jobs for youth and women;
- small-scale processing technology for family processing units;
- valorization of cashew by-products.

SUPPORTED THEMATIC AREA
- Green production
- Green processing

IMPLEMENTATION LOCATION
All over the country
LESOTHO

IMPORTANCE
Potatoes are the fourth most grown field crop in Lesotho after maize, sorghum, and wheat. Out of the four field crops, potatoes hold the most promise in terms of potential yield improvements. While the three cereal crops barely reach yields of one tonne per hectare, potato yields currently outstrip this level of productivity by more than ten fold. More importantly, the current yields are still far from their true potential.

Through investment in productivity-enhancing inputs and technologies, potato yields in Lesotho can increase much more with subsequent improvements in household food security and nutrition, and an immense contribution towards decent rural employment.

COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE
▪ Lesotho is strategically placed to address the high domestic and regional demand for potatoes due to its geography, topography and climate.
▪ The highlands of Lesotho enjoy relative freedom from potato disease and pests because of the cool weather. This positions the area well for seed potato production that can satisfy the growing demand for seed potatoes domestically and across the southern African region.
▪ The area is also well suited for green production and marketing, given the limited need for use of agrochemicals.

REQUIREMENTS
▪ processes and technologies for screening and selecting;
▪ technologies and infrastructure for producing virus-free potatoes;
▪ potato seeds as a foundation for potato seed security;
▪ technologies and innovations that enhance potato production and productivity;
▪ technologies for post-harvest handling (sorting, grading, packaging, etc.) and processing, including energy-saving cold storage;
▪ technologies for value addition.
MALAWI

IMPORTANCE

Through One Country One Priority Product (OCOP), activities will aim at developing a productive, resilient, efficient, and sustainable banana sector in Malawi. This will contribute to improved food security, better nutrition, affordable healthy diets, environmental sustainability, social and gender equality, and economic growth.

Specifically, the National Banana Sector Development Plan will be developed to provide support for the improvement of infrastructure and facilities for the green development of the banana value chain. It aims to boost the technical capacity of researchers, agriculture extension specialists, farmers, and agribusiness, demonstrate and disseminate technologies for green development of the banana sector in Malawi, and establish effective market access platforms.

COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE

- Malawi’s population continues to grow, and the current population will likely double by 2050. As such, there is a demand for bananas for fresh consumption and also rising demand for food.
- Malawian farmers have a long history of cultivating bananas, hence the easy integration of green banana technologies.
- Malawi has a tropical climate ideal for growing bananas.
- The country has the potential to develop the banana industry for local and export markets.
- There is strong political will for diversifying away from tobacco.

REQUIREMENTS

- efficient banana production technologies (planting, irrigation, weeding, and harvesting);
- efficient ways of producing *invitro* banana planting materials;
- integrated disease and pest management in banana plantations;
- banana processing for chips and powder;
- technologies that minimise the use of inorganic fertilizers and maximise the use of organic fertilizers.
MEAT

MALI

IMPORTANCE
Meat is Mali's third largest contributor to export earnings after cotton and gold. Exports of live animals, estimated at CFAF 137 billion in 2017, are 7 percent of total exports. The livestock sector contributes 15 percent to gross domestic product (GDP) and plays an important role in national food security. Mali has a national herd of more than 40 million animals (12 million cattle, 19 million sheep, 2 million goats, 1 million camels, and 8 million pigs) and is the largest livestock country in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU or UEMOA in French).

COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE
There is enormous potential for development of the meat industry given the size of the herd, the availability of pastoral resources (estimated at 34 million hectares), the low cost of production, the presence of dynamic farmers' organizations, a significant increase in supply and demand, the existence of feed mills and factories, and the availability of agro-industrial by-products and crop residues.

REQUIREMENTS
- developing a ranching system;
- slaughter and meat processing facilities adapted to health, safety and hygiene requirements;
- cooling, freezing, packaging and storage systems for frozen food;
- livestock and meat transport infrastructure such as livestock trucks and refrigerated vehicles;
- capacity building of stakeholders to promote Good Processing Practices (GPP) and compliance with quality standards;
- training and research in agri-food technology for animal products to accompany the accreditation of processing units to international standards.

SUPPORTED THEMATIC AREA
Green production
Green processing

IMPLEMENTATION LOCATION
North, central Sahel and southern Sudano-Guinean

MEAT SUPPORTED THEMATIC AREA

COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE

REQUIREMENTS
THE NIGER

IMPORTANCE
Livestock contributes more than 14 percent to the national gross domestic product (GDP) of the Niger, and more than 20 percent of the population derive their livelihood from it.

A significant amount of meat is produced each year in the Niger—domestic meat production was 216,776 tonnes in 2017—and demand for animal products is growing.

The potential for further growth in meat production is immense: the national herd is estimated at nearly 55 million head of all species, valued at 5.061 billion CFA francs and the country has an impressive physical potential of 60 million grazing hectares, or 45 percent of the territory.

COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE
Thanks to its Sahelian climate and its large livestock population, the Niger has real comparative advantage in the West African sub-region in terms of meat production. This position will allow the Niger to transform its economy structurally through better exploitation of the livestock meat value chain as part of the development of agro-industrial clusters.

REQUIREMENTS
- development of livestock feed production through the restoration of degraded rangelands and fodder cultivation, collection and conservation;
- establishment of cattle, sheep and goat fattening units;
- improvements in livestock health;
- improvements in hygiene in the meat production, processing and distribution processes;
- linking actors in the livestock meat sector through a platform for exchange and sharing of information;
- development of meat production and processing units.
The beekeeping sector in Rwanda is increasingly attracting private sector actors to invest in beekeeping and bee products. A growing urban middle-class in Rwanda, and in the region, and increasing concern regarding consumption of healthy products, has driven market demand for honey and its derived products.

Despite this existing market opportunity for Rwandan beekeepers, production of quality honey at quantity is still constrained by access to improved breeds and modern beekeeping technologies. Processing new honey-derived products (bee pollen, bee propolis, healthy honey wines and gins, etc.) could be an added value to the honey sector in Rwanda.

The Strategic Plan for Agriculture Transformation (PSTA4) recognizes the importance of commercial bees for both nutrition and income generation. In order to achieve the 6.5 percent average growth in honey production (from 6,000 tonnes in 2016 to 8,000 tonnes in 2024) the PSTA4 caters for increased quality breed (queen rearing and bee colonies multiplication), capacity building, inputs availability (hives), and embedding apiculture in agricultural activities (crop protection programs and agroforestry). Moreover, Rwanda offers a momentum for beekeeping due to the favourable climate and forestry cover (30.4 percent of the total dryland, from which forest plantations and natural mountains respectively cover 53 percent and 19 percent).

Technologies related to:
- application of quality breed;
- bee feeding;
- bee disease control (such as varroa disease);
- processing, storage and value addition of honey and other by-products.
Rice is the staple food of Sierra Leone and the country is a net rice importer, spending over 250 million dollars annually on rice imports.

Local rice production levels range between 0.9 to 1.5 tonnes per hectare, which is comparatively low. Production levels for other crops also remain low because of multiple factors such as lack of quality seeds and planting materials for high-yielding and early maturing crops, declining soil fertility, low adoption of new technologies, pests and diseases, limited infrastructure, and limited research.

**COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE**

- Sierra Leone is blessed with favourable agroecologies that could serve as a game changer in agriculture in terms of production and productivity.
- The country has a total arable area of 5.4 million ha, and available water resources.

**REQUIREMENTS**

- technology for the release of quality seeds of high-yielding rice varieties;
- small-scale mechanization and labour-saving technologies;
- post-harvest management and market systems;
- production of breeder seeds;
- improve the uptake and use of e-extension services by rice value chain actors;
- establishing a gene bank.
Among the staple food crops grown in Somalia, sorghum is the most important cereal, occupying over 400,000 ha of land and comprising a significant percentage of Somalia’s domestic cereal production.

Sorghum is drought-tolerant and cultivated and consumed by smallholder agro-pastoral households. Most of the production occurs in the drylands of Somalia and is highly dependent on rainfall.

Sorghum can be processed into various traditional foods and fortified for school-feed programs, and stalks serve as livestock feed.

Sorghum has been one of the major four crops produced in Somalia over the last decade, along with maize (36 percent), sesame (10 percent), and cowpea (6 percent). The amount of sorghum imported for humanitarian assistance programs is estimated at 442,724 tonnes which accounts for 60 percent of the total quantity of grains imported, indicating that there are great benefits to be had by increasing local sorghum production.

• identify and introduce suitable sorghum varieties to Somalia;
• introduce diversified cropping system, such as intercropping and crop rotation, with integrated pest management, climate smart agriculture and agroforestry;
• solar and manual threshing machines
• low-carbon storage techniques (hermetic storage technologies), equipment (metallic silos), and facilities (warehouse).
SOUTH SUDAN

IMPORTANCE

Sorghum production in South Sudan contributes 75 percent of the national cereal supply. It is grown in all ten states and is mostly consumed by low-income and rural households that form most of the population. Sorghum costs between USD 0.44 and USD 0.5 per kilogram, making it one of the cheapest cereals, hence an important food security crop.

Sorghum is used for food and beverages, for the construction of temporary shelters and for livestock feed.

The integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) food security analysis estimates that more than 7 million people, about 63 percent of the population, face high levels of acute food insecurity. Many of these people are found in rural areas where sorghum is a priority crop. Increased production under One Country, One Priority Product (OCOP) can therefore help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2: No Poverty and Zero Hunger.

COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE

With vast unutilised agricultural land, the potential for mechanized sorghum production is immense and requires the adoption of drought- and flood-tolerant seed and value-addition technologies.

The national and state ministries of agriculture work closely with FAO, which has a strong presence across all states and works with over 100 development partners. Collaboration with international institutions such as the Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) will support efforts to increase the production and productivity of sorghum. In addition, much of the production and labour-intensive post-harvesting processing is done by women using rudimentary tools. Focus on post-harvest equipment will improve efficiency and reduce the workload on women.

REQUIREMENTS

- improved varieties that are biofortified, high-yielding, and tolerant to drought, flood, striga and fall armyworm;
- machines such as power tillers to support the expansion of the area under cultivation;
- post-harvest inputs and equipment such as dryers, threshers, cleaners, hermetic bags and silos;
- improved storage structures for aggregation and collective marketing;
- value addition technologies such as flour milling and packing machines.
**UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

**IMPORTANCE**

Avocado is an important strategic horticultural crop in the United Republic of Tanzania for generating farmers’ incomes, food security, nutrition and national foreign earnings. Tanzania is currently the largest producer of avocado in Africa, after Kenya and South Africa. Tanzania produces an average of 190,000 tonnes of avocado per year and in 2021 the country exported 8,508 tonnes.

About 90 percent of avocado production comes from smallholder farmers, and the remainder is by large commercial farmers.

Avocado is mostly grown in Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, Songwe, Njombe, Kagera, Kigoma, Rukwa, Tanga, Manyara and Ruvuma.

**COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE**

Avocado has been targeted for its advantages in creating employment for youth and women, as well as national export earnings, and food and nutrition security.

Opportunities exist in expanding commercial plantations and establishing avocado block farming.

The national objective in avocado farming is to increase production from 190,000 tonnes in 2018 to 290,000 tonnes by 2025.

**REQUIREMENTS**

- improving seedling production;
- storage, processing and grading facilities;
- irrigation infrastructure for smallholder producers;
- harvesting technologies to reduce crop losses;
- training of extension staff.
Onions are grown worldwide and form an important part of many national diets. In Zambia, onion is a commercially-significant crop. It is eaten cooked or raw in many local dishes. It is considered as being rich in nutrients and having medicinal properties.

**COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE**

Onion is a low external input crop compared to other horticultural crops. Management of the crop is also not very difficult and has fewer pests and diseases and sometimes is used as an inter-row pest repellent for other crops. Despite the lower cost of production, onion usually has a good market price than other crops with high production costs.

**REQUIREMENTS**

- modern nursery establishment and management;
- pest and disease management;
- irrigation technologies and scheduling;
- harvesting and post-harvest management;
- drying and ideal storage structures.
ZIMBABWE

SOYBEAN

IMPORTANCE
Soybean is a key strategic crop for achieving national food security and nutrition objectives through its contribution to cooking oil for consumers and soybean meal as protein raw materials for pig and poultry feed manufacturing.

Because of its nitrogen fixation, soybean is grown in rotation with wheat and maize and contributes to reducing the investments in fertiliser and helps boost the productivity of grain cereals for improved food security.

Soybean has significantly contributed to employment creation as a key raw material in oil expressing and stockfeed manufacturing and poultry and pig production, where it is utilized as a feed ingredient.

COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE
Soybeans have been targeted for their multiple-use value as a food, cash, industrial raw material, and soil-improving crop, and the current over-reliance on imported soybean and crude oil due to a lack of sufficient output from local agricultural production. Specifically, the National Development Strategy 1 targets increasing local soybean throughput from 60,000 tonnes in 2020 to 300,000 tonnes by 2025.

Smallholder soybean development for local oil expressing has the potential to provide affordable cooking oil for rural consumers with the added advantage of keeping the by-product cake within the producing areas for further value-adding through livestock feeding.

REQUIREMENTS
- oil pressing machines for smallholder farmers;
- small-scale soybean harvesting technologies to reduce drudgery and ensure timely harvesting;
- irrigation kits to smallholder farmers;
- threshers.