

Towards Inclusive Growth:

A Vision for Africa's AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION



AgriBusiness
Forum 2015

CONFERENCE REPORT

AgriBusiness Forum 2015

Towards Inclusive Growth: A Vision for Africa's Agricultural Transformation



22-25 MARCH 2015
PULLMAN GRAND HÔTEL
KINSHASA, DR CONGO

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Foreword by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock, Government of the DRC



Dear Participants,

I express my gratitude for your active participation in the AgriBusiness Forum 2015, held under the High Patronage of the President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Joseph Kabila, in partnership with UNDP and EMRC to promote investment in the agricultural sector in Africa.

Under the theme “*Towards an Inclusive Growth: A Vision for Agricultural Transformation in Africa*”, the AgriBusiness Forum 2015 was an opportunity to compare the viewpoints, present innovative solutions and share best practices to strengthen agricultural value chains in our continent. The Forum was a great success, with nearly 500 participants and speakers from different countries. It has provided an international platform to establish business partnerships and explore new collaborations.

As host country of this meeting, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) benefited from the platform offered to promote its agricultural potential, particularly through the initiative of its agro-industrial parks and took advantage of the opportunity to attract direct foreign investments to a sector in full expansion.

To strengthen the private sector, the Forum was also a fertile ground for the establishment of business partnerships, and strengthening intercontinental cooperation in the agricultural sector. From my perspective, this meeting was an excellent opportunity to learn, to enrich our knowledge of the agro-industry sector and strengthen our networks.

I appreciate the support and commitment of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo and of the different partners that contributed greatly to the success of the forum. Without their involvement, the Forum would not have met with such enthusiasm. I would also like to especially thank the ministry staff for their hard work in preparation for the forum. Once again, I express my deepest gratitude to all the participants at the AgriBusiness Forum 2015. I hope your participation in the Forum was both rewarding and valuable.



Sincerely,

Isidore KABWE MWEHU LONGO

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock,
Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo



Foreword by the United Nations Development Programme UNDP



*Empowered lives
Resilient nations.*

Dear Partners,

The organization and the achievements of the AgriBusiness Forum 2015 in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) were a huge success for the Government of the DRC and for the organizers. UNDP has engaged as a committed partner to the forum because it believes that the agriculture sector is a priority for sustainable human development in the DRC. In practice this means that it is urgent to find solutions to help the thousands of Congolese and African people who struggle daily to feed themselves and their families. But it is also imperative to help those who have made agriculture their business, by strengthening value chains, improve infrastructure or support the small local processing.

At the AgriBusiness Forum 2015, we campaigned for the establishment of favourable conditions for the development of win-win relationships between large multinationals and the hundred representatives of local producers, but also for a strong commitment of stakeholders to make agriculture an important lever for the transformation of Africa. This aspiration is contained in the **Kinshasa Declaration** through which the participants called for the adoption of strong and concrete commitments towards small farmers and all those working around them. This Kinshasa forum stimulated the various delegations to materialize this project once back in their home countries.

The “**Post AgriBusiness Forum**” began, including the imminent launch of a programme facilitating market access for small producers in Africa, the development of business models favourable to the creation of employment and income, and improving the regulatory framework in the DRC. Our wish is to build the capacity of farmers in the DRC and the whole of Africa to contribute to world food security.

UNDP is fully in line with this commitment and encourages all stakeholders to contribute to the consideration and implementation of the recommendations of the **Kinshasa Declaration** for the welfare of the people of Africa and the world.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Priya Gajraj', is positioned above the printed name.

Priya GAJRAJ

Resident Representative of UNDP a.i



Foreword by EMRC



Dear Readers,

This report will give you an overview of the various topics discussed during yet another successful EMRC AgriBusiness Forum, which saw an important number of people coming from across the African continent and the world to discuss the future of Africa's agri-food sector. Previous similar conferences were held in Cape Town, Johannesburg, Kigali, Dakar and Kampala.

These places are proof of the commitment of EMRC to the development and well-being of Sub-Saharan Africa. EMRC does this by helping agricultural enterprises and individual entrepreneurs connect with third parties from all over the world, who can assist them technically and financially to expand their agricultural endeavours.

The latter, this "interconnection", is presently the main objective pursued by EMRC at its African conferences, which, as you can read from the foreword of the DRC Minister of Agriculture, we are able to organize thanks to the concrete cooperation of the authorities of the host countries.

This year especially, it appears to me, that these encounters between donors and experts on the one side, and private small and medium-size agricultural businesses, on the other, were very numerous and, we hope, productive for both parties.

EMRC is convinced that the food production in Africa can, indeed, be developed to the point of being able, not only to easily feed its own population, but also to export its products to the rest of the world. We, in that other "rest" of the world, need and want African agricultural products, and, consequently EMRC's efforts explained above, will be beneficial not only for Africa, but also for the rest of the world !



Monty Jones, President of EMRC Int'l, and Special Adviser to the President and Ambassador-at-Large of Sierra Leone

IN MEMORY OF EMRC HONORARY PRESIDENT PIERRE MATHIJSEN

Pierre Mathijsen, EMRC President from 1994 to 2013 and Honorary President until the AgriBusiness Forum 2015, passed away on Thursday 23rd April 2015. His death marked the end of an era for the entire EMRC organization.

During the AgriBusiness Forum 2015, Pierre Mathijsen was, as per usual, actively part of discussions, sharing his infinite knowledge of Africa and his vision to develop the continent to its full potential.

Pierre Mathijsen was known throughout the EMRC community to have contributed tirelessly in establishing and being the driving force of EMRC's founding belief: establishing a strong private sector in Africa to ensure sustainable growth.

Pierre Mathijsen, a lawyer by profession, was a man of unequalled determination, and a professor of European law. After ending his mandate as Director General of DGXVI (Regional Policy) of the European Commission (1977-1986) and as member of the Administrative Council of the European Investment Bank, he dedicated much of his time to the development of emerging countries by presiding at the helm of EMRC.



Mr. Pierre Mathijsen

Throughout the years he actively led and participated in positioning EMRC on the world stage and contributed a great deal to the EMRC forums in Africa and Europe with his leadership, expertise and rigour. He profoundly inspired our entire team to pursue our mission, and we are proud to have worked alongside Pierre Mathijsen and to have witnessed his insatiable positive energy; we are most grateful to his immense contribution to the organization.

He will be fondly remembered for being an independent spirit who until the very end challenged and guided us to fulfil the goals set up by EMRC 20 years ago. His attitude towards Africa was very succinct and as he always said, "Africa is coming up, Africa is the future. Africa needs to fight for its place in the world and the weapon it has is its young generation." This simple approach led EMRC to further develop its activities and establish the now renowned Project Incubator Award and the trainings.

A true believer in Africa's potential, Pierre Mathijsen's positive outlook and drive will no doubt encourage us all to continue pursuing the organisation's ambitions. His spirit will be remembered and cherished for the years to come.

To his memory.

Preface

The EMRC AgriBusiness Forum has become firmly established within the annual African affairs agenda. Originally held in Europe, it is now hosted each year by an African Government: Held initially in Cape Town in 2009, followed by Kampala in 2010, Johannesburg in 2011, Dakar in 2012 and Kigali in 2013. Kinshasa was chosen to host the 2014 edition, postponed to March 2015 due to the outbreak of Ebola in West Africa.

The AgriBusiness Forum provides an ideal platform for business networking within the private sector as well as the opportunity to interact with high-level government officials and decision makers.

This year the forum was officially held under the auspices of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo through the DRC's Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock, and co-organized by EMRC and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the DRC Fund for Industry Promotion (FPI) and Rabobank Foundation. As in previous years, the forum was an international affair bringing together representatives from the public and private sector, from across Africa and beyond to create a North & South dialogue.

The AgriBusiness Forum gathered a wide range of agribusiness professionals, including industry leaders, cooperatives, SMEs, financiers, entrepreneurs, government officials, civil society, researchers and academics, and international and donor organisations. All were interested in broadening their networks, creating new partnerships, learning about the latest technologies and developments in agribusiness, and staying at the forefront of the recently more rapid advancement of agribusiness across Africa and beyond in response to rising global demand for food.



Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock of the DRC



GOALS AND MISSION

The goal of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock is to revive the sector through the modernization of agricultural techniques and practices in order to raise such challenges as (i) malnutrition and food insecurity, (ii) the very high poverty rates especially amongst the rural population, (iii) the lack of stable income from the state.

With the National Investment Agricultural Program (NIAP) there is the initial need to stimulate sustained growth of the agricultural sector to at least 6%. Since the end of a long political economic and military crisis in 2013, the Democratic Republic of Congo has returned to economic growth and improved the country's business climate.

For the effective recovery of the sector, the Ministry will promote growth-generating strategic sectors to intensify crop production, livestock and fisheries and promote speculation annuity with adequate involvement of the most vulnerable who are the youth and women.

Efforts are focused around the following seven main areas: (i) the promotion of plant sectors; (ii) the development of livestock production; (iii) development of fisheries production; (iv) food safety management and strategic reserves; (v) research and agricultural extension (vi) promotion of agribusiness and (vii) agricultural governance and strengthening human and institutional capacities.

The actions are developed in the growth and development of the West (on the Atlantic Ocean from Moanda to Kikwit in Bandundu Province) and East (from Bukavu in South Kivu Province, to Uvira in North Katanga) and in the Equateur Province with the support of donors. The beneficiaries, especially women and young people, are supported in the agricultural sector with the development of agribusiness, which puts special emphasis on improving the seed industry.

The agro-industrial parks program and development of special economic zones began to meet the vision of the country that seeks modernization in 2020 and emergence in 2030.

UNDP

GOALS AND MISSION



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

A big office for a big country (July 2015)

UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) is present in the Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC, since the 60s but the first headquarters agreement was signed in 1976. The UNDP's mandate is to support the Government of the DRC in the fight against poverty and improving governance. UNDP acts as an advisor in the strengthening of democracy and peace in the country; creating jobs, reducing poverty and inequality; promotion of gender and environmental protection.

This mandate is based on the strategy of poverty reduction (PRSP II) defined by the Congolese Government for the period 2011-2015 and the United Nations Framework Plan for Development Assistance (UNDAF 2013-2017). It also contributes to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Globally, UNDP is the leader in sustainable human development.

UNDP supports DRC stabilization efforts and restoration of State authority; improving the integrity system in contributing to the fight against corruption and the implementation of the reform of public finances. It supports the development of effective judicial mechanisms; the access to justice of the poor; promoting a harmonized development of the decentralization process; broadening the base of the economy to reduce poverty and inequality by focusing on the economic empowerment of women and youth.

Two major programs are implemented to address these challenges at a total cost of US \$ 567 million spread over 5 years. These are:

- Democratic Governance (Pillar I) with three components: Support to democratic institutions and accountability; Decentralization and Reform of justice and security;
- The Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development (Pillar II) with its components: Community Recovery, Promotion of micro-finance, environment and climate change, HIV/AIDS and other pandemics, Promoting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Document Tracking Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty.

UNDP is implementing projects in the provinces of Equateur, Orientale, Kinshasa, Bandundu, Bas-Congo, North and South Kivu. These projects aim to improve household living conditions by strengthening community management and the revitalization of local economies. In the UNDP practice areas, poor people, including a majority of women have access to basic financial services (savings and credit).

By way of illustration some results achieved in 2014: 3616 vulnerable women were formed within multi-purpose community centres and 12,000 households had access to micro-finance services.

Legislative and parliamentary control capabilities have been improved; the review of laws in the committee in parliament was reduced from one month to seven days; victims of sexual violence





have better access to justice; 304 criminal cases, of which 70% related to sexual violence, were treated with 60% of convictions of perpetrators of violence and 32% of acquittals; 80% of public aid are tracked and integrated into the Country's Budget. The creation of the first interactive electronic atlas of renewable energy in DRC and Africa contribute directly to sustainable development through environmental protection, economic growth and well-being of communities.

UNDP-DRC is characterized by innovations in ICT and Operations Program!

UNDP works with over 170 government-implementing partners, local and international NGOs and funding is mainly based on technical and financial partners. Its added value is summed up in its transformational strategy based on the results of national ownership, the international expertise and innovation network. UNDP-DRC has 254 staffs including 208 local, 33 international and 12 United Nations Volunteers. The team has a total of 71 women.

UNDP website: www.cd.undp.org

EMRC

GOALS AND MISSION

EMRC is an international non-governmental organisation whose mission is to advance sustainable economic development in Africa by promoting the local private sector. EMRC includes a vast network of entrepreneurs, financiers and officials from over a hundred countries around the world.

To achieve its mission, EMRC develops the following initiatives:

The AgriBusiness Forum, which takes place annually and attracts an average of 400-500 experts and decision makers from all over the world. Each edition of the Forum revolves around a core theme that tackles the challenges and opportunities in the agri-food sector.

The Africa Finance & Investment Forum (AFIF), an annual event aimed at promoting investment and facilitating access to finance across the African continent;

Trade Missions carried out with the goal of promoting international cooperation. These economic missions consist of site visits, knowledge-exchange sessions and business-to-business networking.

Two further key components of EMRC initiatives are the **Project Incubator Award/AFIF Entrepreneurship Award** that aims to encourage innovation and entrepreneurship in Africa among small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and the **B2B-business to business meetings**, are a critical part of the forums that allow participants to forge partnerships and establish business links.

FAO

GOALS AND MISSION

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has a unique mandate covering all aspects of food and agriculture. Achieving food security for all is at the heart of FAO's efforts – to make sure people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives. FAO's vision, shared with its Members and development stakeholders is that of a world free from hunger and malnutrition, where food security and agriculture contribute to improving living standards, especially for the rural poor, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable way. These are the overarching aims, which the Organization pursues from its headquarters in Rome, Italy, and in offices in more than 130 countries worldwide.



Rabobank Foundation

GOALS AND MISSION

Rabobank Group is an international financial services provider operating on the basis of cooperative principles. The bank's social fund - Rabobank Foundation - is committed to improving the lives of underprivileged and disadvantaged groups of people in society by promoting self-sufficiency. In line with Rabobank's own co-operative background, Rabobank Foundation focuses specifically on establishing and promoting co-operative savings and loan systems as well as farmers' producers organisations to stimulate economic development. The Foundation's support helps small-scale farmers to obtain access to financing, knowledge and markets through their cooperatives. Rabobank Foundation provides both financial resources and the knowledge and expertise of Rabobank to achieve its goals.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

EMRC would like to thank the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for hosting and welcoming the AgriBusiness Forum 2015, and in particular the Presidency of the DRC, under whose auspices the Forum took place. This demonstrated the country's strong commitment to the growth of the agri-food sector in Africa, and its ambition to become one of the continent's major agricultural producers.

We further wish to express our gratitude to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the Fund for Industry Promotion (Fonds de Promotion de l'Industrie - FPI) of the DRC and the Rabobank Foundation, which added significant weight to the event's international exposure. As in previous years, the 2015 Forum would not have been possible without the invaluable support of the Rabobank Foundation, sponsor of the EMRC-Rabobank Project Incubator Award.

We would further like to thank our sponsors: LR Group, AGCO, Cargill, Balton CP, Elan RDC, Trust Merchant Bank, African Milling Company Congo, SNV, Standard Bank, the International Finance Corporation, GAFSP, the Belgian Technical Cooperation, The Royal Dutch Embassy in the DR Congo, the European Investment Bank and Ethiopian Airlines.

Day I	22 March 2015, Sunday
11h00	Registration throughout the day
14h00 - 18h00	Pre-Conference Workshop – Agricultural Projects: Finance and Investment <i>How to increase your chances of securing financing and attracting partnerships to your business – capital, technology and business expansion</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arthur Levi, Consultant & Member of the Executive Committee – EMRC Int'l, United Kingdom; Former Head of Europe – IFC • Zano Mataruka, Senior Investment Officer Agribusiness – IFC, South Africa
18h30	<i>Ice-breaking Event – Welcome reception</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eric Mboma, Chief Executive Officer - Standard Bank, DRC / Vice-President ACB, Congolese Banking Federation, DRC

Day II	23 March 2015, Monday
	Agricultural Modernisation Day
08h45	Opening of the AgriBusiness Forum 2015: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Idit Miller, Vice-President and Managing Director – EMRC Int'l, Belgium • Isidore Kabwe Mwehu Longo, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock, Government of DRC • Priya Gajraj, Resident Representative a.i.– UNDP (United Nations Development Program), DRC • Eugenia Serova, Director AGS – Rural Infrastructure & Agro-Industries Division – FAO (Food & Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations), Italy • Monty Jones, President of EMRC Int'l, and Special Adviser to the President and Ambassador-at-Large of Sierra Leone
10h00	Plenary Session Session I – Setting up strategies and priorities to boost agribusiness in Africa and render it more attractive for investors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maximizing opportunities for production and distribution in today's world - Successful private sector initiatives <p>MODERATOR: Monty Jones, President of EMRC Int'l, and Special Adviser to the President and Ambassador-at-Large of Sierra Leone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catherine Collin, Head of the Eastern & Central Africa and Pacific Region Division -- EIB (European Investment Bank), Luxembourg • Nuradin Osman, Director of Operations, Africa & Middle East – AGCO International, Switzerland • Ami Lustig, President & CEO – LR Group, Israel • Tom Derksen, Managing Director, Agriculture – SNV, The Netherlands
11h00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11h30	SPECIAL SESSION: EMRC – Rabobank Project Incubator Award 2015 Presentation of selected projects



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alexander Meyer, Manager External Funds - Rabobank Foundation, The Netherlands • Idit Miller, VP & Managing Director – EMRC International, Belgium • Arthur Levi, Consultant & Member of the Executive Committee – EMRC Int'l, United Kingdom; Former Head of Europe – IFC <p>Presentations by finalists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ruth Kinoti, General Manager – Shalem Investments, Kenya • Shaun Cawood, CEO & Founder – CB Farm Fresh, Mozambique • Vava Angwenyi, Founder – Vava Coffee, Kenya • Bukola Adeshina, CEO & Managing Director – A & Shine Int'l, Nigeria • Voziyo Innocente, President – Mama Soleil Cooperative, DRC
12h30	<i>Networking Lunch</i>
PARALLEL SESSIONS	
14h00 – 15h20	<p>Session A – Modernizing infrastructure and techniques at the farm level to reduce losses and improve productivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing agricultural products' added value through transformation and industrialization - Integrated approach to support small-holder farming
	<p>MODERATOR: Nuradin Osman, Director of Operations, Africa & Middle East – AGCO Int'l, Switzerland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yariv Kedar, VP Sustainable Agribusiness – Balton CP, United Kingdom • Rahim Dhrolia, Managing Director – African Milling Company Congo, DRC • Maurice Schill, Co-Responsible for Agriculture & Rural Development – BTC (Belgian Development Agency), DRC • Waako Arthur Mboizi, District Chairperson – Budaka District Local Govt, Uganda • Yamidjimte Ndingada Roi, Managing Director – GAEL, Chad
14h00 – 15h20	<p>Session B – Scientific Research and Innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to best practices for improved yields, irrigation, agricultural inputs - Generating stress tolerant crops by overcoming breeding-intractable problems - Precision agriculture and farm productivity - Crop improvement and value chains challenges: the case of cassava
	<p>MODERATOR & SPEAKER: Monty Jones, President of EMRC Int'l, and Special Adviser to the President and Ambassador-at-Large of Sierra Leone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jonathan Gressel, Professor Emeritus, Plant & Environmental Sciences – Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel • John Mususa Ulimwengu, Senior Adviser, Agriculture et Rural Development – Prime Minister's Office, and Senior Research Fellow – IFPRI, DRC • Nzola Mahungu, Plant Breeder and IITA Country Representative – IITA (International Institute of Tropical Agriculture), DRC
15h30-18h30	Business Meetings
19h30	Gala Evening: Presentation of the Project Incubator Award 2015 , in the presence of Government officials, Ambassadors, media and the business community.
	<p>Special Address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oliver Meisenberg, CEO – TMB (Trust Merchant Bank), DRC

Day III	24 March 2015, Tuesday
	Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Day
09h00	Special Session UNDP – United Nations Development Programme Session II – Building Inclusive Value Chains globally; the market-based approach MODERATOR: <i>Georges Ohelo Shonganya</i> , Advisor Agribusiness – Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock, DRC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tomas Sales</i>, Manager AFIM (African Facility for Inclusive Markets) – UNDP, Ethiopia • <i>Michael Njuguna</i>, Deputy Chief Executive Officer – Africa Harvest, Kenya • <i>Kambale Kanduki</i>, Managing Director – Maizeking PMI, DRC • <i>Stéphane Amani</i>, Inclusive Growth Advisor – UNDP, DRC
	PLENARY SESSION
10h00	Session III – Sustainable management of soil resources: ensuring food security and economic development MODERATOR: <i>Jonathan Gressel</i> , Professor Emeritus, Plant & Environmental Sciences – Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>John Veerkamp</i>, Country Representative, Project Manager CATALIST Project – IFDC, Rwanda • <i>Generose Nziguheba</i>, Senior Scientist – IITA (International Institute of Tropical Agriculture), Kenya • <i>Abu Abdalla Elbukhari Ibrahim</i>, Managing Director – Moroug Fertilizers Factory, Sudan • <i>George Osure</i>, Regional Director – Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture, Kenya
11h00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11h30	Special Session DRC – Attracting investments and partners into the agricultural sector: - Through large-scale agricultural initiatives (industrial agro-parks) by boosting competitiveness of family farming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Isidore Kabwe Mwehu Longo</i>, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock, Government of DRC • <i>Arthur Christophe Mampuya</i>, Director of Research and Planning – Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock, DRC • <i>John Mususa Ulimwengu</i>, Senior Adviser, Agriculture et Rural Development – Prime Minister's Office, and Senior Research Fellow – IFPRI, DRC • <i>Marcellin Cishambo Ruhoya</i>, Governor of the South Kivu Province, DRC • <i>Barthélémy Mumba Gama</i>, Provincial Minister of Agriculture and Mines, Katanga Province, DRC • <i>Jean-Claude Hoolans</i>, Managing Director – Miluna, DRC
13h00	<i>Networking Lunch</i>
	PARALLEL SESSIONS
14h30 – 15h50	Session C – Integrating domestic, regional and international agricultural trade and access to markets



	<p>MODERATOR: Arthur Levi, Consultant & Member of the Executive Committee – EMRC Int'l, United Kingdom; Former Head of Europe – IFC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eugenia Serova, Director AGS – Rural Infrastructure & Agro-Industries Division - FAO (Food & Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations), Italy • Holly Krueger, Acting Team Leader – Elan, DRC • Amadou Oumar Ba, Senior Agricultural Specialist – The World Bank, DRC • Kambale Kisumba Kamungele, Export Director Ets. Tsongo Kasereka / President of the Congolese Chapter of AFCA (African Fine Coffee Association), DRC
14h30 – 15h50	<p>Session D – Gender and Youth Considerations: Attracting youth to farming and empowering women in agriculture and agribusiness</p> <p>MODERATOR: Idit Miller, Vice President and Managing Director – EMRC Int'l, Belgium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eugène Serufuli, Minister of Rural Development, DRC • Rasha Omar, Country Representative and Country Portfolio Manager – IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development), DRC • Christopher Nzuki, CEO – The Hive Group of Companies, Kenya • Suzanne Belemtougri, CEO – Sophavet, Burkina Faso
14h30 – 15h50	<p>Session E (Special Session SNV) – Inclusive Agribusiness Models and Approaches - Realising Sustainable Benefits</p> <p>MODERATOR: Mirjam Steglich, Sector Leader Agriculture – SNV, DRC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranjan Shrestha, Sector Leader/Senior Advisor, Agriculture – SNV, Rwanda • Thomas Obiero Were, Country Office, Agriculture Sector Leader – SNV, Zambia • Sara Mbago-Bhunu, Country Director – SNV, DRC
16h00-18h30	B2B Meetings
19h30	Networking Evening

Day IV	25 March 2015, Wednesday
	Responsible Finance Day
09h00	Session IV – Promoting Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems MODERATOR: <i>Arthur Levi, Consultant & Member of the Executive Committee – EMRC Intl, United Kingdom; Former Head of Europe - IFC</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth Beall, Consultant – Committee on World Food Security, Italy • Mamadou Kouyaté, Investment Manager – Africinvest, Ivory Coast • Cyrille Mutombo, Country Manager – Randgold Resources, DRC • Aliu Oshioke Yakubu, Deputy General Manager – Bank of Agriculture, Nigeria
10h00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session V - Addressing the financing needs in agriculture: the role of agricultural banks, commercial banks, investment funds and foundations
10h20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote Speech: Pim van Ballekom, Vice-President – EIB (European Investment Bank), Luxembourg
	MODERATOR: <i>Joseph Harrosh, Director, Business Development & Head of Water Division – LR Group, Israel</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constantin Mbengele Kwete Thamuk, CEO – FPI (Fund for Industry Promotion), DRC • Rock Ngouoto, Head of Credit - TMB (Trust Merchant Bank), DRC • Dimitry Van Raemdonck, Senior Investment Officer - BIO (Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries), Belgium • Yves Ehlert, Vice President Africa - DEG (German Investment and Development Corporation), Germany
11h30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
12h00	Session VI – Innovative schemes to unleash and de-risk agricultural finance: credit, insurance, missing middle, micro-finance - Role of micro-finance institutions towards cooperatives and local communities
	MODERATOR: <i>Arthur Levi, Consultant & Member of the Executive Committee – EMRC Int'l, United Kingdom; Former Head of Europe - IFC</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zano Mataruka, Senior Investment Officer Agribusiness – IFC (International Finance Corporation), South Africa • Jerry Kwo, Senior Project Officer – Oikocredit Int'l, The Netherlands • Monah Andriambalo, Senior Technical Adviser PASMIF (Program of Support for The Micro-finance Sector) – UNDP / UNCDF, DRC
13h00	Official closing of the Forum Announcement : “Africa Finance & Investment Forum 2015” Cape Town, South Africa – November 2015
13h30	<i>Networking Farewell Lunch</i>
15h00	Visits to sites





Executive Summary

Recognising the agricultural potential of the African continent and DRC

The strategic role of agriculture in Africa's social and economic development cannot be overstated. The sector provides livelihoods for about 60% of the continent's active labour force, and accounts for 17% of the continent's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). No other economic sector on the continent employs more people, or provides a bigger portion of annual wealth produced.

The AgriBusiness Forum 2015 was held for the first time in Kinshasa, DRC, sub-Saharan Africa's second largest urban centre. It brought together many of the key players and decision-makers in African agriculture, as well as an impressive number of small producers from all parts of the continent. The Forum, held annually for the past 13 years, is one of the most important annual international gatherings on the African continent.

Holding the event in the DRC was of major significance, and a fitting recognition of the fact that this country has perhaps the biggest potential for agribusiness development. In fact, with 80 million hectares of arable land available, its water resources and workforce, it could potentially feed 3 billion people.

With so much untapped potential and so many opportunities, there was palpable enthusiasm and energy during the forum in Kinshasa. Over 400 delegates from all over the continent, as well as Europe, Asia and North America attended the event. Twenty exhibition stands showcased local and regional products such as coffee, honey, tea, as well as agricultural equipment. Kinshasa was also the venue of over 1.200 individual B2B meetings, many of which will soon translate into more investment, increased agricultural production, employment opportunities and economic growth across the continent.

The theme of this year's Forum was “**Towards an Inclusive Growth: A Vision for Africa's Agricultural Transformation**”. Over a three day period, the Forum covered several key elements that such a transformation would require. It focused specifically on the modernisation of the agricultural sector, the creation of a sustainable and inclusive growth environment, and the promotion of responsible finance.

One of the highlights of the Forum meetings was a special session on opportunities in the DRC. There was consensus among delegates and organisers alike that the presentations were of exceptional standard, and extremely well received. As is customary, the morning plenaries were followed in the afternoons by parallel sessions, or panel discussions, on the modernization of infrastructure, the integration of trade and access to local, regional and international markets, scientific research and innovation, and the creation of inclusive business models.

The Forum culminated in the **Kinshasa Declaration on Inclusive Growth for Africa's Agricultural Transformation**, the confirmation of the clear consensus amongst participants that driving transformation will require the **active participation of all stakeholders**. The Kinshasa Declaration, a UNDP initiative, is the result of a comprehensive dialogue held throughout the Forum and represents



a reference for private sector, government and civil society to take action and leverage Africa's agricultural path to transformation. It follows the spirit of the **Johannesburg Declaration on Inclusive African Agribusiness Public-Private Partnerships**, which determines specific points to push for changes.

A further key moment of the Forum was the **EMRC-Rabobank Project Incubator Award**, aimed at supporting innovative projects in African agriculture. Considering the exceptional calibre of this year's finalists, the award jury decided to allocate the US\$15,000 prize to two winners: first place went to Ruth Kinoti, of Shalem Investments in Kenya, and a runner-up prize was awarded to Voziyo Innocente, from the Mama Soleil Palm oil cooperative in the DRC.

The AgriBusiness event also provided an opportunity to see agribusiness in action, with a visit to the N'Sele Presidential Farm, 60 km outside of Kinshasa. For many years, the farm was in disrepair, but now, it is a place of renewed hope, as the initial phases of a large-scale rehabilitation of the farm complex has been under way since 2014. The visit was an opportunity for many SMEs to get insights on the development of the poultry business.

Introduction to the AgriBusiness Forum 2015

The organisation of the AgriBusiness Forum 2015

The 2015 AgriBusiness Forum was an ambitious undertaking. It took over a year to prepare, and involved building a close partnership between EMRC and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Fund for Industry Promotion of the DRC (FPI) and the Rabobank Foundation. The outbreak of Ebola in West Africa led the organisers to postpone the Forum by 5 months. But this temporary setback only strengthened the resolve of EMRC, the DRC Government and its partners to hold a successful Forum, highlighting the strategic importance of advancing the transformation of the agricultural sector on the African continent.

The Stakes

Key stakeholders, including international investors, the private sector, donors and international organisations all have an interest in driving the transformation of agriculture in Africa through the active promotion of inclusive agricultural models in agribusiness, agro-industry and agro-forestry. On a global level, such a transformation is vital to help feed the estimated population of 9 billion people by 2050. On a continental level, the potential impact of a transformed, inclusive agriculture in terms of growth, development and reduction of poverty cannot be overstated.

The Democratic Republic of Congo, for its part, is an emerging continental power, and in no area of the economy is this truer than in the agricultural sector. The DRC alone accounts for over 10% of Africa's available arable land, which means that making progress here will have a more significant impact on the growth of agriculture than any other country.

The Forum was indeed the first significant meeting on agriculture to be held in the DRC, and it is a clear illustration of the country's commitment to agricultural development and food security.

Most, if not all, stakeholders of the agricultural sector are fully aware that the enabling conditions for significant agricultural transformation in the DRC still face some constraints. The challenges of transformation cut across the entire ecosystem, from creating functional and inclusive supply chains, to ensuring better access to agricultural inputs, providing adapted financial instruments, building improved infrastructure and ensuring better access to markets. These and other challenges also exist in most other countries around the continent.

One of the Forum's goals was therefore to showcase examples of impressive advances in the DRC's agricultural sector over the past few years, and demonstrate that across the DRC, from the tropical forests in Equateur province to the vast savannah plains of Katanga, exciting projects are overcoming these challenges and transforming the face of agriculture in the country.



Key outcomes

The Forum had several immediate outcomes, including:

- Over **1200 individual B2B meetings** that provided many SMEs and small producers active in Africa's agricultural sector with access to strategic information and business opportunities. It also enabled them to explore partnership options with a variety of actors across agricultural value chains, one of the key success factors for agribusiness.
- Through meetings involving suppliers, banks, investors, and distributors, over 150 small and medium entrepreneurs and small producers have been able to enhance their networks and leverage opportunities provided by the Forum. Many of these meetings will soon translate into more trade and investment, increased agricultural production, employment opportunities and economic growth around the continent.
- The **Project Incubator Award**, an annual prize which aims to encourage innovation and entrepreneurship in Africa among small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The award, which is open to any SME or micro entrepreneur in Africa's agricultural sector, seeks to support productivity and innovation as much as success itself.
- This year's award once again showcased the great number of opportunities in Africa's agricultural sector that are turning into successful business ventures, and the outstanding and very competitive presentations by the finalists demonstrated just how significant the potential for further development is.
- The award proceedings also underlined the importance of further capacity building for small entrepreneurs and project promoters, as well as the vital role of a conducive ecosystem for agribusiness, and the need for the inclusion of all players in agricultural value chains. It showed the need for specific policies aimed at facilitating access to markets for MSMEs. Finally, it provided an opportunity to engage investors in detailed discussions on what type of programmes and opportunities to support, as well as an opportunity for public-private dialogue.
- **The establishment of Genuine Consultations across the range of stakeholders** in the agricultural sector in Africa: From small-scale farmers to international investors, civil society, the public sector and international organisations.
- This dialogue not only enabled participants to gain insights from multiple perspectives on the opportunities of agriculture, agro-industry and agribusiness in Africa, and the crucial importance of the sector in terms of economic growth, employment creation and global food security. It also advanced the debate on the theme of Africa's agricultural transformation through inclusive

growth, and analysed the various challenges faced by farmers through the lenses of access to markets, sustainable and inclusive growth, modernised infrastructure and farming techniques, as well as responsible and innovative finance.

- The **Kinshasa Declaration on Inclusive Growth for Africa's Agricultural Transformation**, which formulated a number of key recommendations and called for the establishment of national agribusiness platforms as vehicles for implementation. This declaration is the roadmap and accomplishment of the public private dialogue mentioned above. It is also seen as an advocacy document for specific conducive policies, including on access to markets and responsible investment in order to address food security issues and the transformation of agriculture in Africa.
- The Kinshasa Declaration was the conclusion of a process of advancement and promotion that the Forum has achieved on key points, including the encouragement of inclusive agricultural value chains at regional and national levels; the promotion of more links and partnerships between multinationals local MSMEs and small scale farmers; the development of innovative financing mechanisms; and the promotion of agronomic research.
- The Kinshasa Declaration is intended to further engage stakeholders with the common ambition of fostering agribusiness on the African continent.
- **The promotion of the DRC's potential** as a prime destination of investment in the agricultural sector on the African continent, with special sessions dedicated to the DRC's recent policy developments and the rapid growth of the agricultural sector across the country, including in Katanga and South Kivu provinces.



Next steps

EMRC and UNDP will continue to work together to assist the African private sector community to play a crucial role in the economic growth and development of the continent.

Within the frame of the forum's discussions, achievements and especially the Kinshasa Declaration, the next areas of action are intended to be:

1. The formulation of **agribusiness programmes at country level**.
2. The establishment of **national agribusiness platforms** as vehicles for implementation of the key goals in the combat against poverty and hunger through an inclusive economic growth.
The proposed role of such platforms would be:
 - To pursue objectives such as the pooling of technical and financial resources available for the strengthening of the agricultural value chains;
 - To ensure better coordination between stakeholders;
 - To leverage synergies and experiences among the respective countries where such platforms would be established.
3. The validation of **key performance indicators** to measure progress in the follow-up to the Kinshasa Declaration.

Going Forward: The Kinshasa Declaration

To ensure that discussions are followed by action, participants at the Forum drafted the **Kinshasa Declaration on Inclusive Growth for Africa's Agricultural Transformation**, listing a number of key recommendations and calling for the establishment of national agribusiness platforms as vehicles for implementation. The proposed role of such platforms would be to pursue objectives such as the pooling of technical financial resources of the main actors involved in strengthening agricultural value chains, better coordination between stakeholders, and leveraging synergies and experiences among the respective countries where such platforms would be established.

The Kinshasa Declaration follows the Johannesburg Declaration of 2011 on the development of inclusive agribusiness, which called for specific measures to be taken by the different stakeholders and partners of the agricultural value chains in order to drive the development and transformation of the agricultural sector on the African continent.

The Kinshasa Declaration

By the Participants of
the AgriBusiness Forum 2015

Following the AgriBusiness Forum held
from 22nd to 25th March 2015 in Kinshasa, DRC

We, participants of the AgriBusiness Forum 2015 in Kinshasa, held along the theme “**Towards Inclusive Growth: A Vision for Africa’s Agricultural Transformation**”, after having analysed the various challenges of agriculture, agro-industry and agribusiness in Africa, have agreed on issuing the following declaration:

Considering the importance of agriculture, agro-industry and agribusiness in the quest for the emergence of African countries;

Considering the contribution of agriculture, agro-industry and agribusiness to the transformation of African economies through the creation of decent jobs and wealth, and food security;

WE RECOMMEND:

1. The implementation of inclusive value chains in the agricultural and agro-industrial sectors at national and regional levels;
2. To encourage the creation of business models that improve access to equipment and infrastructure, improve the ability to process and trade products, as well as to ensure a holistic approach to training that integrates education and vocational training;
3. To promote links between multinationals, local MSMEs and small scale, family-based farming, with the support of public institutions and other technical and financial partners that will, among others, add value to smallholder production through the implementation of support programs and other supporting measures;
4. To develop innovative financing mechanisms for agriculture and agro-industry, and to facilitate the establishment of value chain financing at favourable conditions;
5. To give due consideration to responsible agricultural investment principles (RAI)
6. To give due consideration to agro-forestry, issues of land tenure and title deeds, the sustainable development of African soils and compliance with environmental requirements;
7. To adequately address and find solutions to the concerns of women and youth in the development of agricultural value chains;
8. To work towards the opening of regional and international markets;
9. To underline the various agricultural reform measures with adequate communication that includes all stakeholders;
10. To stimulate agronomic research, and the dissemination of results and good practice

To enable the follow-up of these recommendations, and in view of the upcoming challenges and issues, we propose to establish national “Agribusiness” platforms. We also propose that such platforms, in each of the countries concerned, also pursue the following objectives: pooling of technical and financial resources of the main actors involved in strengthening agricultural value chains; improving the coordination of actions taken in this regard; and leveraging synergies and experiences among the respective African countries.

Done in Kinshasa, 25 March 2015



Day I: Sunday, 22 March 2015

Registration and Pre-Conference Workshop

Pre-conference Workshop – Agricultural Projects: Finance and Investment



Mr. Zano Mataruka

Mr. Zano Mataruka, Senior Investment Officer Agribusiness-IFC (Int'l Finance Corporation), South Africa

Mr. Arthur Levi, Consultant & Member of the Executive Committee – EMRC Intl, United Kingdom; Former Head of Europe - IFC

The opening workshop of the Forum, moderated by Mr. Zano Mataruka and Mr. Arthur Levi, consisted of an interactive exercise providing practical and useful advice on how to attract investors for specific projects.



Mr. Arthur Levi

Mr. Levi emphasised how important the capacity of presenting a project was. “There is not a single agribusiness project developer in Africa which did not at one point need to be able to present their project in a clear and coherent way. There is no other way of obtaining finance.”

The workshop provided practical guidance on how to present a project in a clear, concise and convincing manner to potential investors. The session also served as an informal icebreaker and an opportunity for participants to introduce themselves to a large audience and network.

Networking Event

During the ice-breaking event, hosted by Standard Bank, DR Congo, Eric Mboma, CEO and Vice President of the Congolese Banking Association, welcomed participants stating that “I would like to make use of this opportunity to assure you of our commitment to this country and of our support to development in the DRC. I also urge you to meet as many people as possible during this Forum and make the most of it – I wish you all an extremely successful Forum”.



Day II: Monday, 23 March 2015

Agricultural Modernisation Day

Official Opening AgriBusiness Forum 2015



Mrs. Idit Miller

Mrs. Idit Miller, Vice President and Managing Director, EMRC Int'l – Belgium

Mrs. Idit Miller was first to address the audience. “It is an immense privilege and an honour for EMRC to hold our annual Agribusiness Forum for the first time ever in Kinshasa, this vibrant and immense capital of one of Africa’s emerging giants. We have no doubt that the energy and economic growth of this country will inspire all of us to have a hugely successful Forum”, she said. “These days, nobody questions the strategic importance of a sector that occupies more than half of the people living on this continent”, Mrs. Miller stated.

H.E. Mr. Isidore Kabwe Mwehu Longo, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock – Government of the DR Congo

Minister Kabwe Mwehu Longo, representing His Excellency President Joseph Kabila, welcomed all guests to the Forum and expressed his joy and pride at the fact that the DR Congo was hosting the Forum for the first time.

“On behalf of the people of the DR Congo and the President of the Republic, Mr. Joseph Kabila Kabange, I’d like to warmly welcome you on the soil of our ancestors”.



H.E. Mr. Isidore Kabwe Mwehu Longo

The agricultural sector is one of the most important sectors of our economy, Minister Mwehu Longo stated. In fact, “The DR Congo is first and foremost a country with an agricultural destiny. As Mrs. Miller mentioned, the DR Congo could potentially feed up to 3 billion people if its agricultural potential was fully developed”.

Minister Mwehu Longo continued by outlining some of the DR Congo’s key attractions for investors: “We enjoyed a GDP growth rate of 9% last year, making us one of the world’s fastest growing economies. We have also made it far easier to create businesses, with only 3 days needed now to register a business. These are positive signals to entrepreneurs and international investors”.

“I thank you all for your presence here, and I urge you to make the most of the next three days here in Kinshasa. I hereby declare the AgriBusiness Forum 2015 open”.

Mrs. Priya Gajraj, Resident Representative a.i.– UNDP (United Nations Development Program), DRC

Mrs. Priya Gajraj was next to take the stage. “It is a great pleasure for me to welcome all guests to this Forum. The theme of this Forum underlines the importance of the agricultural sector in driving economic transformation in Africa. I’d like to congratulate the DRC’s Ministry’s vision in hosting this Forum”.

Mrs. Gajraj emphasised how well the DRC was placed to play a major role in responding to the increase in global demand over the next few decades, as well as the key role of a successful and dynamic agricultural sector in reducing poverty. A recent example is the opening of a new agro-industrial park in Mbanza Congo, a few hours’ drive south east of Kinshasa. “The increase in maize production is already having a positive impact on food security”, she explained.

“However”, she added, “challenges remain significant: There are still an estimated 6.5 million people in DRC who are food insecure. We still have a long way to go, and the DRC continues to import around US\$1.5 billion worth of food. This situation must mobilise the existing agricultural sector”.

“UNDP is present at this Forum to reiterate its support to agribusiness and sustainable development in the DRC. To win the fight against poverty, we need to increase access to markets. This means conducive policies, as well as the development of inclusive business models that are able to support emerging farmers.

Mrs. Gajraj then explained the key UNDP elements: The first is access to markets for emerging farmers. The second major element is access to financing, as well as guarantee mechanisms to support farmers and finally the need to create opportunities for small producers.

“Our aim at this Forum”, Mrs. Gajraj concluded, “is to see better access to markets, and partnerships that can help create favourable business models. Farmers, in the DRC and the rest of Africa, have the will and the ability to contribute to poverty reduction and global food security”.



Mrs. Priya Gajraj

Mrs. Eugenia Serova, Director AGS – Rural Infrastructure & Agro-Industries Division – FAO (Food & Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations), Italy



Mrs. Eugenia Serova

Mrs. Eugenia Serova outlined that FAO is a long-standing partner with EMRC and values this partnership as an important one. This relationship has become especially significant nowadays since FAO has just started the implementation of its new Strategic Framework, the centrepiece of which is a collaboration with agribusiness.

“We consider agribusiness as an engine for economic growth in many developing countries and in particular for rural economic growth, and therefore for income generation and hunger alleviation. We aim at supporting the development of efficient and inclusive agri-food systems, which integrate all actors along value chains – smallholder producers, youth and women, small and medium size agribusiness enterprises, as well as countries with small open economies into the global markets”. “The African continent was and still is the focus of interest of FAO”, she concluded.

Prof. Monty Jones, President of EMRC Int’l, and Special Adviser to the President and Ambassador-at-Large of Sierra Leone

Prof. Monty Jones first welcomed all the delegates to the Forum. “It is an extremely important event to rid Africa of poverty and hardship, and to attract international investment”, he said. “Agribusiness is an example of what we, as Africans, can organise.

Prof. Jones thanked the government and people of the DRC for its hospitality and its commitment to the development of agriculture, including through community development and family farming.

“I deeply appreciate the commitment of the African people and farmers for the support they have given to EMRC in its quest to develop the agricultural sector”. But there is much more work to do, he cautioned: “Around 215 million Africans today go to sleep on an empty stomach. It is an appalling figure, though things would be even worse if we had not taken measures to develop agriculture over the last decades. However, what this means is that we need to do more. We need to accelerate the development of the sector. For instance, the ongoing EMRC Project Incubator Award has elicited a huge response, and showcases the many remarkable initiatives across the African continent”, he continued.

- He then highlighted two realities in the current equation: One is that Africa has a lot of resources, and its agricultural sector is becoming a sellers’ market. The second reality is that a lot of good things are happening around the continent.
- These two realities mean that certain key facts must be considered: We need to remember



Prof. Monty Jones

that agriculture is a business, not just an activity

- We need to recognise the role of both government and the private sector in its development
- Africa must recognise the different roles of the key actors along the agricultural value chains
- We need to be more ready to respond to disasters such as the Ebola virus.

“EMRC is fully committed to ensuring that the agricultural sector in Africa fully develops its potential. This Forum is a visible manifestation of that, but the main impact is on the ground”, he concluded. “We welcome you all to this event”.



Session I

Setting up Strategies and Priorities to Boost Agribusiness in Africa and Make it More Attractive to Investors

Moderator:

Prof. Monty Jones, President of EMRC Int'l, and Special Adviser to the President and Ambassador-at-Large of Sierra Leone



Mrs. Catherine Collin

Mrs. Catherine Collin, Head of Eastern & Central Africa and Pacific Region – EIB (European Investment Bank), Luxembourg

Mrs. Catherine Collin presented EIB's strategies and priorities to boost agribusiness in Africa. With 400 projects each year in 160 countries, EIB is the world's largest multilateral lender and borrower. "While our core focus is naturally on Europe, we commit about 10% of our resources to ACP (Africa, Caribbean and Pacific) countries, as part of the Cotonou agreements", she explained. "This amounts to EUR 1.2 billion, but our mandate has recently been extended to an additional EUR 500 million in the form of impact financing, which allows us to increase our risk exposure, in return for a potentially bigger impact. We have a track record of supporting agribusiness in Africa, including support to SMEs in the agricultural value chains".

Mrs. Collin provided examples of EIB's track record and successful interventions. For instance, the AGRI-VIE fund, launched in 2009, which provided support to SMEs operating in the value addition part of the agricultural value chain (processing, distribution, marketing and services): a total of 12 major investments were made in seven African countries and across 11 sub-sectors for an amount of US\$66 million. A second example was the provision of a credit line to a commercial bank in Malawi, which supported the construction of warehouses, a rice plant and the expansion of local poultry production. Our involvement also has a downstream impact, as we have enabled several other long-term investments".

Over the coming period, EIB intends to provide more support to the agribusiness sector, either through existing channels, or through direct support in the form of loans and further support to infrastructure.

"There will be a strong focus on natural resource management, and most of our support will be channelled through the private sector", she concluded.



Mr. Nuradin Osman

Mr. Nuradin Osman, Director of Operations, Africa & Middle East – AGCO International, Switzerland

Mr. Nuradin Osman introduced himself through a personal story of his experience as a young Somali who had to leave his country and recently decided to return to Somalia. Osman now has extensive international experience including in the United States and Brazil.

“The world is small – and a farm is a farm, regardless of what you call it”, he said. “Farmers in Africa spend on average more than 3,000 hours per year working in the fields – an average of 8 hours a day, every day of the year. This is too much, and we need to encourage them to use more tools to increase productivity”, he continued.

“This is where AGCO, our company, can play a leading role.” He gave examples of current projects that AGCO is working on to modernise African agriculture: “We are building a cutting-edge processing centre in Zambia, a tractor assembly joint venture in Algeria, and looking to develop more technology-based operations all over the continent, with a new technology training centre which is due to open in May 2015.”

Mr. Osman then explained the various services AGCO offers along the entire agricultural chain and mentioned that the company was looking for partnerships.



Mr. Ami Lustig

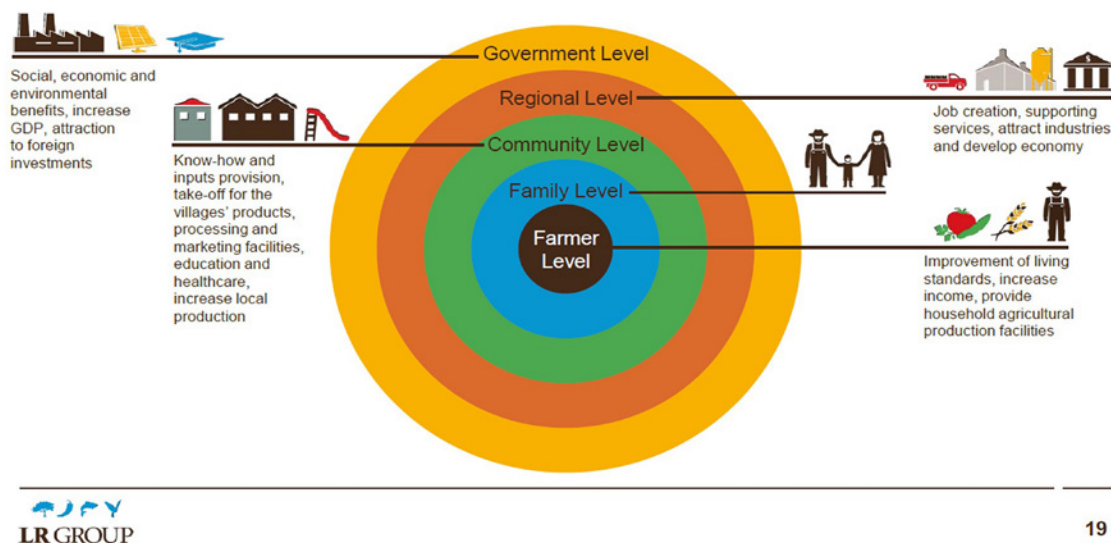
Mr. Ami Lustig, President & CEO – LR Group, Israel

Mr. Ami Lustig presented a compelling video showcasing LR Group’s largest current project in the DR Congo, namely the N’Sele presidential farm called DAIPN (Domaine Agro-Industriel Présidentiel de la N’Sele – The N’Sele Presidential agro-industrial farm). The project recently had the honour of welcoming President Joseph Kabila, who expressed his deep satisfaction at the farm’s rehabilitation after many years of disrepair.

“I started life as a farmer myself. I was born into farming and have been motivated ever since by a personal passion for farming and feeding people”, Mr. Lustig explained. “Our project is the biggest integrated agricultural producer in the region. We believe that farming needs to be profitable, as well as have strong social impact”.

Mr. Lustig went on to debunk a major assumption about farming: “The biggest investors globally are not big agro-industrial multinationals – it is, rather, the small scale farmers!” he exclaimed. “With this in mind, we decided as a company to work with these farmers and work with these producers”.

IMPACT CYCLE



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He then went into detail concerning LR Group's activities in Africa, explaining that "LR Group is building agro-villages in several parts of the continent, mostly in Angola. We have completed 3 agro-farms in Congo-Brazzaville, and another one in Rivers State in Nigeria. Here in the DRC, we are going to construct an agro-industrial centre. What's new is that we are attracting investors into the commercial part of the agricultural centre. It is accountable to the farmers which is the model for future cooperatives".

Mr. Tom Derksen, Managing Director Agriculture – SNV, The Netherlands

Mr. Tom Derksen emphasised that from the SNV's experience and perspective, modernisation of the agricultural sector has to involve working with the private sector. "We work in 39 countries, using market-based solutions and always working with the private sector. With 1.4 billion people still living on less than US\$1.25 per day, poverty remains a global challenge, but there are also many opportunities", he explained.

Mr. Derksen elaborated and defined the concept of inclusive business models: "We need to work on inclusive business models, on innovative financing models, and getting sector-wide priorities. We have worked on such models with the WBCSD (World Business Council for Sustainable Development) since 2006. "An inclusive business is a sustainable business that benefits low-income communities. It is a business initiative that, while remaining profitable, contributes to poverty reduction through the inclusion of low income communities in its value chain".



Mr. Tom Derksen

The importance of smallholder farmers cannot be overstated: Around the world, 500 million smallholder farmers produce 70% of the world's food. However, 30% of their production never reaches consumers, so there is a need of more resilient and efficient food systems in order to feed the world's global population of 9.6 billion by 2050.

"Inclusive agribusiness is a win-win", Mr. Derksen explained. "Millions of smallholders are now being integrated around the world into value chains, with significant benefits for all parties involved: Farmers benefit in the form of higher income and improved productivity, while other stakeholders, benefit from shorter supply chains and lower costs. This is increasingly true for large food producers and retailers, from Nestlé to Shoprite, and from Heineken to Olam. Inclusive business is not about being nice to the poor - it just makes sense", he continued.

The second major area of focus, beyond inclusive business models, is about ensuring the sustainability of the sector. Here again, it's not just about 'being nice to Mother Earth', it's about sensible economics. "At the moment, agriculture's footprint is very significant: the sector accounts for 70% of global water consumption and 30% of carbon emissions".

"To summarise: Inclusive business and agribusiness is simply good business", he concluded.

Special Session:

EMRC – Rabobank Project Incubator Award 2015

Presentation of selected projects

The annual EMRC- Rabobank Project Incubator Award has become one of the AgriBusiness Forum's major highlights. The Award, which was first launched in 2008, has been instrumental in identifying, showcasing and supporting innovative and entrepreneurial agricultural initiatives around the African continent.

This year's competition attracted a large number of submissions from all over the continent. Out of the more than 30 submissions, a shortlist of 5 candidates was provided with an opportunity for each one to present his/her project during this special session at the Forum.

The award consists of a US\$15,000 prize, which can be used for specific project-related expenses such as the acquisition of material or equipment, the upgrading of premises, or the development of technical training programs, distribution networks and supply chains.

Each of the initiatives presented provided excellent examples of the Forum's main theme, the transformation of Africa through an inclusive growth.



Mrs. Ruth Kinati, Founder – Shalem Investments, Kenya

Mrs. Ruth Kinati started her presentation on a personal note: “I was brought up by farmers, and feel greatly honoured to be representing my mother and my father and a whole community of farmers here today”.

Mrs. Kinati explained how in the mid-nineties, she saw an opportunity to support her family and others. She started buying grain in bulk and selling it to local institutions, with help of a loan from the teachers’ union. In due course, Shalem Investments expanded and by 2004 Kinati got another loan, this time from the Cooperative Bank.

In 2009, East Africa Breweries, a major Kenyan brewer, started producing a low-cost beer with sorghum, which helped create a market for local farmers. Shalem has responded to this opportunity by helping 1,200 small-scale sorghum producers in Kenya gain access to markets, increasing their collective production to 4,000 metric tonnes over the past 5 years, and creating significant gains in income and productivity. “We have had a huge social impact on local farmers, increasing the income of 7,000 people”. “But”, Mrs. Kinati cautioned, “we are facing a new set of challenges, including new tax regulations and the higher cost of beer”.



Mrs. Ruth Kinati

Mr. Shaun Cawood CEO & Founder - CB Farm Fresh, Mozambique

CB Farm Fresh Program assists farmers in various ways: it teaches new agricultural methods that suit best the region; advises on fertilizers, pest control, irrigation and best use of finances. CB Farm Fresh then purchases the produce from the farmer based on a fair agreement; the produce is then processed and packed. CB Farm Fresh supplies to the mining companies and various other clients in the Tete region.

CB Farm Fresh helped to revolutionize agriculture in the province of Tete in Mozambique, notably by introducing technology such as drip-feed irrigation, and the supply and use of quality seeds. “We have now gone from 80% imports to 80% local content, and intend to move to 100% local content by the end of the year”, Mr. Shaun Cawood concluded.



Mr. Shaun Cawood



Mrs. Vava Angwenyi

Mrs. Vava Angwenyi, Founder – Vava Coffee, Kenya

Vava Coffee is a social enterprise which helps over 30,000 coffee farmers in Kenya to market high-quality produce in the country and is planning to expand in South Africa and Europe.

“When I originally told my mother about my plans, she almost hit the roof”, Mrs. Vava Angwenyi said to much amusement from the audience. “So I went to lecture at the Jomo Kenyatta University in Nairobi for a few years. But in the back of my mind, I always knew I wanted to create a company for smallholder farmers. So I slowly created a brand, and went about creating a business model that worked also in informal settlements and was adapted to local conditions”

“Our biggest challenge was to get financing. I started by selling coffee out of the trunk of my car. But then a few good people such as Standard Bank started believing in us. I hope that anyone can be inspired to believe that this is possible”, Mrs. Angwenyi concluded.



Mrs. Bukola Adeshina

Mrs. Bukola Adeshina, Founder and Managing Director – A & Shine International, Nigeria

A & Shine International produces and processes honey and honey products through women cooperatives on a 45ha farm in Nigeria, producing 60 tons of honey and catering for the local market.

“We are a world-class, pioneering honey producer in Nigeria, offering top notch honey to the quality-conscious consumers across Nigeria and the rest of Africa. We started producing honey in 2002, and within a short span of time we became a leading producer in Nigeria. At the moment our production capacity consists of 2,500 polystyrene beehives, orchards and 50 incubation cubicles on 45 hectares of farmland”, explained Mrs. Bukola Adeshina.

“We are now shifting our focus on not just producing pure honey, but also infused honey with

ginger, garlic, moringa, and bee-products such as wax, royal jelly, pollen, and propolis,” added Mrs. Adeshina.



Mrs. Voziyo Innocente

Mrs. Voziyo Innocente, President – Mama Soleil Cooperative, DRC

Mrs. Voziyo Innocente gave her presentation in Lingala, one of the Congolese languages. She spoke about Mama Soleil, a cooperative of 35 organized and self-driven local women with an aim of profit making and sustainable development. The cooperative was initially funded by the women's compensation payments from Kibali Gold Mine's Resettlement Action Plan (RAP), in the far north east of DRC, near the borders with Uganda and South Sudan.

The Mama Soleil cooperative produces raw materials, which it sells to its local enterprise partner Cyria Business Group (CBG) for processing into finished goods (value addition) creating products such as soap and cooking oil. Mama Soleil then retails the goods in villages and markets. The Fédération des Coopératives Agricoles de Kibali (FCAK), the local umbrella cooperative supported by the Kibali Gold Mine, promotes Mama Soleil's development by providing land for lease, infrastructure, transport facilitation and market research. CBG is a local enterprise group owned and managed by successful local Congolese businessmen.

"If we win the award", Mrs. Innocente said, "we will use it to expand our production by purchasing equipment, improve distribution and marketing, and increase employee benefits".



Parallel Sessions

Session A – Modernizing Infrastructure and Techniques at the Farm Level to Reduce Losses and Improve Productivity

Moderator:
Mr. Nuradin Osman, Director of Operations,
Africa & Middle East – AGCO Int'l, Switzerland



Mr. Yamidjimte Ndingada Roi

Mr. Yamidjimte Ndingada Roi, Managing Director – Gael, Chad

GAEL is the acronym for a cooperative of bee farmers in the district of Koumra in the Southern part of Chad. Its activities include farming and cattle herding, bee-keeping, the cultivation of plants for their natural medicinal properties, and environmentally friendly market gardening.

“The objectives of our organisation are to produce and distribute honey known as ‘Tchadansoni’, to assist and train bee-keeper farmers, carry out research, to consolidate bee-keeping organisations and create local employment in rural areas,” Mr. Yamidjimte Roi explained. “We provide training in production and marketing techniques, and have helped our members with specialised modern beehive equipment from Kenya. The ultimate aim is to help to develop the local populations’ socio-economic development and means of existence, as well as environmental protection.”

“The process of harvesting honey is conducted according to professional standards that include items such as protective gear, and avoiding the use of smoking. This is how we can ensure the quality and high standards of our honey, and protect the environment”, Mr. Roi concluded.



Mr. Waako Arthur Mboizi,

Mr. Waako Arthur Mboizi, District Chairperson Budaka District, Uganda

Mr. Waako Arthur Mboizi’s presentation focused on an example of how the adoption of Chinese technology in Uganda was improving agricultural production in several sub-sectors, including fish, hybrid rice, maize and foxtail millet. “Modernizing farm structures at farm level helped reduce losses and improve productivity while increasing agricultural production”, he said.



“The specific measures we took included the introduction of Chinese feed meal processing technologies, the use of fertilizers and manures, the use of labour saving techniques such as herbicides, pond hygiene and mulching. We also applied conservation farming techniques (such as minimum tillage for maize) and fertilizer application (DAP and urea).

Mr. Mboizi then explained that new milling and pelleting machines were installed and on-farm research-based technologies were promoted at every level. “The results have been quite spectacular, as our yields increased very significantly, between 33% to 400% depending on the crop”, Mr. Mboizi noted. “We still face significant challenges, of course: structural and global issues such as the effects of climate change, and logistical and operational obstacles such as the lack of linkages to markets, the need for cold storage, as well as marketing facilities”.



Mr. Maurice Schill

Mr. Maurice Schill – Responsible for Agriculture and Rural Development – BTC (Belgian Technical Cooperation), DRC

Mr. Maurice Schill presented the BTC's integrated approach to professionalised agriculture on the continent, and specifically family farming systems in the DRC.

“Let me begin by pointing out a couple of startling facts about family farming: “The small scale, family-run farming sector is the world’s biggest employer, employing 40% of the total active population.

Furthermore, these farmers produce 80% of the world’s food production. In Africa, the total value of agricultural production has risen from US\$78 billion in 1980 to US\$196 billion in 2010”.

The main characteristic of the DR Congo is the fragmentation of farming: 72% of existing farms are smallholdings of less than 1 hectare, while fewer than 2% of farms are bigger than 20 hectares.

“When we talk about agriculture, we don’t just talk about fields and planting seeds, but rather about an integrated approach. Physical infrastructure is a major part of this. Access to markets, and opening up remote areas are further key components of any approach to uplift the sector”, he emphasised. “We all understand that this is a holistic system in which access to land, access to finance, training and skills transfer, storage facilities, value added to agricultural products, linkages to market, and protection of the environment are all crucial components of an efficient agricultural sector”.

“There is a limit to what we can expect from the public sector. While there is a clear role for the state and the public sector, we need to recognise that today, at least as far as the DR Congo is concerned, there is not yet a real capacity to invest in resources – currently the Congolese state has spent between 1 and 2% of public expenditure on agriculture over the last 10 years, significantly below the 10% target set by CAADP”. The idea is not to create huge farms all over the place, but rather to have a proximity of service networks to help smallholders to gain access to markets. BTC therefore seeks to drive productivity and professionalisation of the sector to create employment and income in rural areas of DRC.



Mr. Rahim Dhrolia

Mr. Rahim Dhrolia, Managing Director African Milling Company Congo, DRC

Mr. Rahim Dhrolia began by providing some background of the African Milling Company: “We realised almost a decade ago that there was a significant under-served market for maize meal in Katanga, estimated at 1 million tons per annum. Through Terra, our subsidiary, we started cultivating 1,600 hectares out of a total available land of 10,000 hectares, on a farm located 97 km outside of Lubumbashi. As we are close to the main road, infrastructure was not our biggest challenge, but it was the lack of industrial mills, and the lack of a formal maize meal market. This is where AMCC came into the picture in 2010”.

African Milling was born with the goal of creating a market for the emerging agricultural industry in the DRC’s Katanga province. It invests in technology and skills development of local communities.



“We make extensive use of innovation, and invest in technology to provide high quality maize flour to every household in Katanga. With our knowledge and the support of our investors, we hope to enhance the sufficiency of food utilisation, nutrition and food safety in the region”, Mr. Dhrolia said. “We are also very proud of our social impact in the region, beyond the fact that we are supplying a locally made product to the market and are helping to dramatically reduce the DRC’s dependence on imported food. Indeed, there is a direct impact in terms of knowledge transfer and training, but also empowerment in the form of employment and opportunities to small scale farmers through the allocation of land.”

Mr. Yariv Kedar, VP Sustainable Agribusiness – Balton CP, UK

Mr. Yariv Kedar started his presentation with a provocative question to the audience: “Why is it not common to achieve sustainable business in Africa?”



Mr. Yariv Kedar

He answered the question saying: “The answer is of course not that simple, but we need to accept, for instance, that donations and grants tend not to work, in many cases because people are usually not appreciative of the fact that when money is given, someone else needs to have earned it. In order to achieve sustainable agribusiness there is a need to empower the farmer with 3 pillars: **1) Knowledge** – by training her/him; **2) “Do-how”** – by coaching and building his/her capacity; **3) Provision of high quality inputs** that allow him/her to achieve improved results (e.g. hybrid seeds, good quality drip systems, etc.)

The other important pillars for success are finance and having access to the market, but without the three above mentioned pillars, the farmer does not have a chance to succeed since they are not within the farmers control.

Mr. Kedar then stated that farmers face challenges which are widely known: lack of water, soil, high temperatures, soil pathogens, and so on. These are additional challenges to which the farmers do not have the solution. The knowledge and the “do-how” that bring solutions based on research can show the way forward for farmers.

Balton CP (based in the UK) has 7 subsidiaries in Africa (Nigeria, Changa, Zambia, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania). The group seeks to address such challenges and is constantly engaged in practical field research, having brought various solutions to farmers.

The Balton Group provides agriculture inputs for large and small growers, such as irrigation systems, greenhouses, agro-chemicals, fertilizers, seeds, dam liners, trainings, and also manages integrated projects. “With our ‘Amiran Farmers Kit’ , a one-package concept, and hybrid seeds which we supply, we can multiply yields of certain vegetables like tomatoes by a factor of at least 4 to 5, while increasing the farmers income in the same proportion,” Mr. Kedar explained. “We can turn a farmer from subsistence to an agribusiness farmer – generating much higher income.”

By providing the three pillars of success through the holistic concept, the AFK (Amiran Farnes Kit) was introduced to Africa, innovated by Kedar himself and further developed with his Balton Group team.

Conclusion

The moderator emphasised the need to invest in agricultural education in Africa and get the youth interested in pursuing careers in agriculture.

Session B

Scientific Research and Innovation

Moderator and speaker:

Prof Monty Jones, President of EMRC Int'l, and Special Adviser to the President and Ambassador-at-Large of Sierra Leone

Dr. Jonathan Gressel, Professor Emeritus, Plant & Environmental Sciences Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel

Prof. Jonathan Gressel spoke about how to generate stress tolerant crops by overcoming breeding-intractable problems. He started off by invoking Malthus, the famous European scientist who predicted that the exponential growth of the world's population would make it impossible to feed humanity. "We all know Malthus was wrong, of course, but the key is understanding *why* he was wrong – it is because he failed to take into account that infrequent quantum leaps in technology and science would make it possible to produce far more food on the same size of land than was previously possible".

He illustrated how resistant crops can ensure sustainable food security. "Four crops alone provide almost 80% of calories needed to humans and animals", Prof. Gressel explained, as he detailed the scientific process by which genes are introduced and removed in order to create more resistant crops.



Prof. Jonathan Gressel

To explain the benefits of genetic modification, he expanded on the concept of HIV – or "highly invasive vegetation" or weeds. One example Striga, the parasitic weed that destroys crops. To fight against this scourge, gene modification was introduced, creating a new type of culture maize whose seeds can be treated with a weed killer to control Striga.

He ended his presentation by saying that many crops were suffering from significant "stress" in Africa, such as fungal and viral diseases, insect pests and drought. These difficulties could be overcome by wider use of biotechnology.





Dr. John Mususa Ulimwengu

Dr. John Mususa Ulimwengu, Senior Adviser, Agriculture and Rural Development - Office of the Prime Minister of DRC; Senior Research-Fellow – IFPRI (Intl Food Policy Research Institute), DRC

Dr. John Mususa Ulimwengu's presentation focused on precision agriculture and agricultural productivity.

Precision agriculture is about applying a range of technologies that allow better soil management to increase productivity and yields. The goal is to identify problem areas through improved diagnostics. "Technology is an essential tool to assist in identifying soil types and, by extension, in identifying the optimal types of crops that one can grow on them.

To illustrate his point, he provided as an example the Kinzau pilot site in the DRC. "With a land area of 389 hectares, the Kinzau site is an experimental farm that allows us to optimize spatial planning. By using technology and science, we can test which parts of the land need irrigation and which parts don't, and also to determine the optimal location of the irrigation pivot to limit water wastage. In much the same way, the use of fertilizer varies depending on soil type, and the exact quantities are determined according to need. Finally the areas with the lowest quality soil can be used for non-agricultural purposes, such as the construction of homes", he explained.



Dr. Nzola Mahungu

Dr. Nzola Mahungu, Plant Breeder and Country Representative – IITA (International Institute of Tropical Agriculture), DRC

Dr. Nzola Mahungu's presentation was on the improvement of crops and value chains, using the case of cassava as an example.

"Until recently, the cassava market was mainly seen through the prism of food security rather than its potential contribution to economic growth. This perception is slowly changing. Unfortunately there is still too little support for research aiming at the modernization of agricultural practices, and considering the lack of resources, it is a real challenge for the authorities of the DRC.

"There is growing understanding that cassava farming can increase incomes of all the actors in the value chain. Cassava is a staple in Africa and in many parts of Asia as well. It is therefore necessary to properly identify and map the global cassava industry and value chains, and carry out market research to gain deeper insights into the market, but also develop commercial strategies for different varieties of cassava: from yellow cassava and cassava leaves, which are rich in nutrients and vitamins and can therefore help to combat malnutrition, to cassava leaves and root peel which can be used for livestock", he concluded.



B2B Meetings

The remaining hours of the forum's first day were taken up by hundreds of individual B2B meetings among the over 450 delegates that came from 41 countries in Africa, Europe, America and the Middle East.

 **41**
countries



460
delegates





Gala Evening

The day's proceedings ended in grand style during the Gala evening and formal dinner sponsored by Trust Merchant Bank, at which the EMRC-Rabobank Project Incubator Award 2015 was presented in the presence of government officials, ambassadors, the media and the business community. The level of projects presented to the panel this year was of such outstanding quality that the award panel and Rabobank Fondation decided to award not only a first prize of US\$ 0,000 to Ruth Kinati of Shalem Investments, from Kenya, but also a second prize of US\$5,000 to Voziyo Innocente of Mama Soleil Cooperative, from DRC.



DAY III: Tuesday, 24 March 2015

Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Day

SESSION II – Special Session UNDP Building Inclusive Value Chains

Moderator: Mr. Georges Ohelo Shonganya, Advisor Agribusiness – Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock, DRC

**Mr. Tomas Sales, Manager AFIM
(African Facility for Inclusive Markets) – UNDP, Ethiopia**

Mr. Tomas Sales presented AFIM, which is the UNDP's private sector development and engagement programme, focusing on job creation, career development, inclusive business, partnerships, and policy-making. "AFIM is the first regional UNDP private sector development and engagement programme. Our primary aim is to promote inclusiveness, value chains and regional economic integration for inclusive growth and job creation", Mr. Sales explained.

Over the last four years, AFIM has made a significant contribution in terms of **policy**, **partnerships** as well as **programming** in order to advance the agenda of inclusive business:

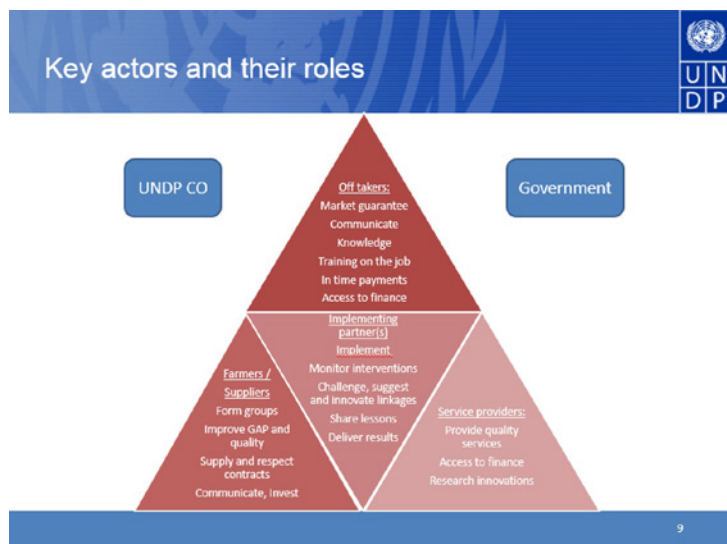
- **Policy:** We have pioneered inclusive market development through the African Union Commission private sector Forum, the AgriBusiness Forum and multiple national private sector policies. We have also supported an African-wide alliance, as mandated by the Johannesburg Declaration for food security. We have written a major inclusive business report entitled "Realizing Africa's Wealth."
- **Partnerships:** AFIM focuses strongly on value chain projects and regional facilitation platforms, through public-private dialogue and regional project facilitation platforms. We have a very strong link with the African Union on engaging the private sector, and we want to create an African inclusive business set of excellence. Our second strong partnership is with NEPAD and CAADP, to engage the private sector in financing agricultural investment plans.



Mr. Tomas Sales

- **Programming:** To date, we have worked with 34 countries around the continent on specific projects and with various partners. An estimated 13,000 farmers and over 100 SMEs have benefited from these projects in six different agri-food value chains. Our approach has also been enriched by UNDP

experiences in Mexico, Colombia and Guatemala.



“Finally, we have developed operational development tools such as an inclusive business finance guide, as well as a knowledge and action plan for the extractive industry, and an impact investment study in Africa”. Sales also mentioned the African Supply Development Programme (ASDP), which intends to improve the productivity of farmers and SME agribusiness suppliers by facilitating support (training, advice, access to

inputs, organization, standardization etc.) and linking up with lead firms.”

“Africa needs a vibrant private sector, especially in agriculture. There is no economic sector that can make a bigger difference in terms of the development of national economies and contribution to national development goals, including poverty reduction. So there are many opportunities to engage”, Mr. Sales concluded.

Mr. Michael Njuguna, Deputy CEO – Africa Harvest, Kenya

Mr. Michael Njuguna spoke about Africa Harvest’s vision, which is to become a lead contributor in making Africa free of hunger, poverty and malnutrition. Innovative technologies and institutional approaches were key for improving livelihoods in rural communities, especially smallholders.

“Our approach is focused on value-chain interventions, specifically in staple crops such as sorghum, banana, sweet potato, cassava and rice. Our strategy is to work through public-private partnerships in value chain development”.

The challenges we face include the fact that many smallholder farmers around the continent continue to produce primarily for household consumption. There is also limited access to inputs such as improved seeds, information, and financial services, limited skills and knowledge of good agronomic practices”.

Africa Harvest wanted to turn such challenges into opportunities, Mr. Njuguna continued. “Large clients like brewers and food processors needed 50-70 metric tonnes of sorghum. However, none of them found it cost-effective to engage with smallholder farmers. This is where Africa Harvest started playing



Mr. Michael Njuguna

a role, with UNDP as a partner, which provided catalytic funding, as well as with IFAD. A total of 2,000 smallholder farmers in Kenya and Tanzania were involved in piloting the approach. Africa Harvest provided technical and material support, using an “aggregator model”, in which farmers are linked to the value chains through centralised intermediaries. “Africa Harvest provided technical assistance, business enhancement skills, infrastructural support (moisture meters and scales, for instance) and links to seeds companies. We also linked the aggregators with commercial banks such as the Cooperative Bank and Equity Bank in order to access working capital”.

Mr. Njuguna concluded that one of the key impacts was that most partners became mechanised, which in turn increased productivity and production levels, as well as the farmers’ income. Overall production levels of sorghum increased by 129% year to year in 2013”.

Mr. Stéphane Amani, Inclusive Growth Advisor – UNDP, DRC

“UNDP’s operations have for over a decade involved community uplift programmes in the post-conflict environments of North and South Kivu, as well as in the Eastern Province in the northeast of the DRC. This has taken the form of information campaigns, the supply of tools and seeds, training centres and access to micro credit, for instance,” Mr. Stéphane Amani announced.



Mr. Stéphane Amani

“What we have learned from our experience, is that we need to avoid thinking that we can add value everywhere. It is more efficient to have a clear market focus, and to have a proactive rather than a reactive approach, which includes market research and analysis before we embark on anything. We also learned to consult with all stakeholders and synchronise horizontal (systemic) and vertical (macro-meso-micro) approaches.” This has eventually led to the development of the ASDP (Agricultural Support and Development Plan) framework, which is a value chain support programme”, he added.

We need to ensure that we effectively play a role and understand people’s real problems. The ASDP involves a step-by-step approach in which we select the priority sectors, followed by the identification of business models that are viable and compatible with the local context, market research and the establishment of a detailed implementation plan”.

Mr. Amani went on to provide details on UNDP’s value chain support programme across the DRC, in both Kivu provinces as well as in Bandundu and Katanga provinces. **This includes:**

- Facilitating public-private dialogue on priority sectors
- Supporting the creation of micro and small rural businesses
- Facilitating the implementation of business models such as aggregators, cooperatives and business centres
- Supporting access to inputs and market linkages
- Capacity building
- In addition to:
- Validating the value chain support programme with the Ministry of Agriculture
- Ensuring consolidated financial and technical partnerships
- Finalising institutional agreements
- Establishing a steering committee



Mr. Kambale Kanduki, Managing Director – Maizeking PMI, DRC

Mr. Kambale Kanduki provided a successful illustration of the value chain and business model that UNDP is promoting. Based in Goma in the eastern province of North Kivu, Maizeking PMI is a major local producer of staples such as maize flour, maize products and other products such as sorghum flour, honey, soy and soy-bean products and citronella oil.

“Our business helps to provide employment, reduces the DRC’s dependency on imports, and promotes food security for children”, Mr. Kanduki explained. “One of our main contributions is to help small holder farmers to become more integrated into local and regional value chains”.



Mr. Kambale Kanduki

Session III – Sustainable Management of Soil Resources: Ensuring Food Security and Economic Development

Moderator:

Dr. Jonathan Gressel, Professor Emeritus, Plant & Environmental Sciences
Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel

Mr. John Veerkamp, Country Representative, Project Manager CATALIST – IFDC (Intl Fertilizer Development Center), Rwanda

Mr. John Veerkamp started by presenting IFDC, a fertilizer development centre created in 1974, focusing on increasing food security and agricultural sustainability.

“I’d like to touch mainly on the use of fertilizers as part of soil fertility management, and on the development of the input market”, Veerkamp started. “Let me just elaborate on why fertilizers are needed: We need them to replace the nutrients extracted from the soil, and we need to make sure this is done in an optimal way (which means that pH levels are maintained). So we are trying to ensure the best possible supply of fertilisers”.

He then explained the importance of bringing balanced fertilizers to the market which requires conducting field tests to generate reliable soil maps. Different crops react differently to deficiencies and applications, so field tests are necessary to fine tune recommendations.



Mr. John Veerkamp

Why do we need fertilizer?

- replace nutrients extracted from the system
- replace no longer available imported nutrients from shifting cultivation, cattle grazing, etc. (pressure on land)
- improve soil nutrient composition, pH, optimize soils for specific crops



“Economics and the integration of good agricultural practices also play a key role. From our perspective, the market for fertilizers needs to be stimulated through input subsidy programmes, which would increase access and affordability for farmers. A successful subsidy programme would need to follow basic rules, however: Subsidies need to be physically in the hands of the beneficiaries in the form of vouchers or paper. They need to be sufficiently large to be attractive and change behaviour, and need to be time-limited. Above all, a proper exit strategy needs to be defined,” he added.

He concluded that to develop sustainable and inclusive input markets the private sector must be involved right from the start, subsidies need to be traceable and government needs to be involved in the implementation of the programme.

Dr. Generose Nziguheba, Senior Scientist – IITA (Intl Institute of Tropical Agriculture), Kenya

Dr. Generose Nziguheba gave a presentation on sustainable intensification of smallholder farming systems in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).



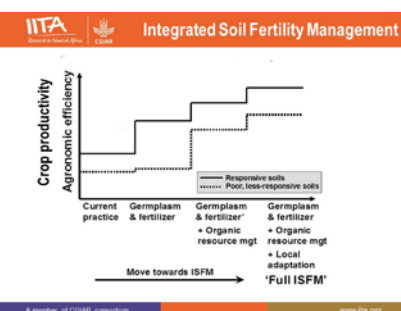
Dr. Generose Nziguheba

IITA is one of the world’s leading research institutes for finding solutions for hunger, malnutrition and poverty. It is active in all SSA regions, and works with partners to enhance crop quality and productivity, reduce producer and consumer risks, and generate wealth from agriculture.

“Through the Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM) approach, we can considerably increase the crop productivity, by integrating improved crop germplasms, fertilizers, organic resources, all coupled with adaptation to local conditions. When all these components are in place, we talk of ‘Full ISFM’ “, Dr. Nziguheba explained.” This approach has resulted in convincing yield increases for maize and cassava in South Kivu province, and income from cassava that could reach US\$1,600 per ha”.

Further successes include improved integration of legumes through innovative inter-cropping (the technique of growing two or more crops in a same field), for instance banana and climbing beans, maize and soy-bean, or cassava and beans. In South Kivu, the combination of fertilizers and improved inter-cropping has more than doubled the yields of grain legumes .

“IITA has now opened a soil laboratory in Bukavu in South Kivu which is playing a crucial role in enhancing research capacity in the region”, she concluded.



Dr. Abu Abdalla Elbukhari Ibrahim, Managing Director– EM Moroug Fertilizers, Sudan

“Agriculture in Sudan faces a large number of challenges”, Dr. Abu Ibrahim announced. “My aim here is not to mention all of those challenges to you, but they include issues like high pH and high salinity levels in our soil, imported plant diseases and poor water holding capacity”. “Fertilizers are significant game changers in this context”, he continued. “Our organisation, Moroug Fertilizers, is helping to drive a revolution in Sudan in this regard, by using effective micro-organisms, also known as EMs. EM is a Japanese technology used in more than 160 countries around the world, including several in Africa. It was developed by Professor Teruo Hega. Effective micro-organisms is about allowing nature’s existing little recyclers to restore the health and balance of ecosystems without side-effects”.



Dr. Abu Abdalla Elbukhari Ibrahim

Dr. Ibrahim went on to describe the role of micro-organisms in EM, each with their specific functions, which in turn plays a big role in EM technology applications. When EM was first developed, it was considered a simple alternative for agricultural chemicals, but now its uses have spread to sectors such as poultry, animal husbandry, industry and health fields. He then explained the benefits of EM compost to prepare the soil. “The results in terms of yields and crop quality are remarkable, and EM is the key to sustainable agriculture throughout the year. It is cheap, safe, easy to apply and leads to happier and healthier lives”, Dr. Ibrahim concluded.

Mr. George Osure, Regional Director – Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture, Kenya

“The Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture aims to support resource-poor small farmers in developing countries through innovation in sustainable agriculture and the activation of value chains”, explained Mr. George Osure.

He highlighted a specific project to improve soil health in Kenya, designed to create a template for a Kenyan industry standard in soil health management, as a driver for agribusiness development. In 2012 the foundation planned and led resource mobilization, by brokering a partnership at the request of the Export Growers Company (EGC). Mr. Osure explained the foundation’s objectives, which include :



Mr. George Osure

- Improve yield and quality for farmers contracted by EGC farmers
- Train the farmers on soil fertility and soil health to meet market contract standards
- Ensure long-term optimal use of fertilizers in EGC farms by developing a baseline soil fertility map from fertilizer recommendations
- Monitor soil nutrition, organic matter content, pH, *Fusarium*, and provide training on safe and effective use of plant protection products
- We used a soil sampling methodology (starting with a baseline soil fertility map) and looked at achieving at least a 10% return on investment from soil health management in terms of yield an income



H.E. Mr. Isidore Kabwe Mwehu Longo

Special Session



DR Congo : Attracting Investments and Partners to the Agricultural Sector

H.E. Mr. Isidore Kabwe Mwehu Longo, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock – Government of the DRC

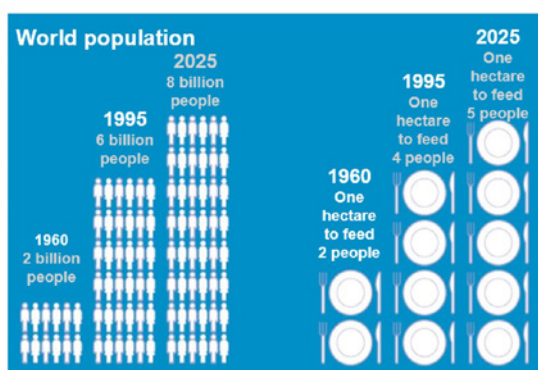
The Honourable Minister Isidore Kabwe Mwehu Longo welcomed the audience and presented a general overview of DR Congo's agricultural sector.

He explained that the country has taken specific measures to drive the development of the agricultural sector, including the establishment of a legal framework and a regulatory environment to encourage investment in the sector, as established in the new framework law, enacted in 2012. This reform also encourages innovation in the sector through the creation of a national agricultural development fund, and a national council with provincial chapters. "Our aims are not just to stimulate growth in the agricultural sector, but also to drive substantial job creation. We want to encourage research, mechanisation, and the creation of learning centres around the country", Minister Mwehu Longo explained.

"We are also providing financial resources: historically, agriculture never received more than 5% of national budget allocations. We now are seeking to increase that through new mechanisms", he added.

The Minister then discussed the issue linked to the gap between production and demand, highlighting that US\$1 billion is spent each year to cover this gap through imports of staples such as maize meal, rice, sugar, meat, and fish products. "The irony is that we have the potential not just to be self-sufficient, but to cover the needs of others as well", he continued. "There is no doubt that the challenges we face are very significant, but already, we are making significant progress towards transformation, the modernisation of agricultural techniques, and especially the inclusion of smallholder farmers into the value chains of commercial agriculture. We have a vision of a successful agricultural sector which will play a major role in the development of the DR Congo", he concluded.

Demographic growth calls for change in production system





Mr. Arthur Christophe Mampuya

Mr. Arthur Christophe Mampuya, Director of Research and Planning – Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock, DRC

Mr. Arthur Christophe Mampuya provided a brief introductory overview of the DRC's potential and opportunities, explaining that DRC is one of the biggest countries in the world, covering 2.5 million km² with a population of 80 million and reaching high growth rates, reaching 9% in 2014, which imply considerable potential.

Mr. Mampuya then spotlighted the country's challenges which include the lasting effects of conflict, degradation of infrastructure/roads, the lack of resources available for investment in agriculture, as well as the lack of secure property rights for land, including for family holdings. Parallel

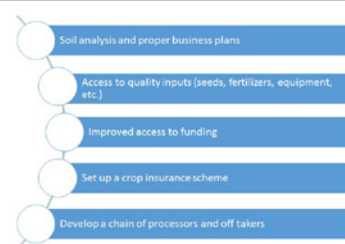
to this, there are internal obstacles, such as weak soil management, weak productivity and the absence or weakness of a basic agriculture-supporting ecosystem, such as research, training, and micro credit.

In order to address these challenges, the DRC Government is now providing specific incentives to develop the sector, focusing on two complementary tracks: The first is to provide support to family farming across the country, and the second is to support the creation of commercial agro-industrial parks.

Targeted measures include:

- The enactment of the Farm Bill which provides, among other facilities, tax relief in the exercise of the farming profession;
- The existence of a National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP), a baseline framework and investment plan for the sector until 2020;
- The establishment of agro-industrial parks on land with secured tenure;
- The elaboration, within the next quarter, of a national Agro Industrial Growth Strategy;
- The revision of land tenure laws, which will now include clear procedures for acquiring land in rural areas.

From subsistence farming to Agribusiness: key areas of focus



“It is our strategic goal to ensure food security for our people. Together, we can eradicate hunger from the African continent”, he concluded.



Dr. John Mususa Ulimwengu, Senior Adviser, Agriculture and Rural Development – Office of the Prime Minister of DRC; Senior Research Fellow – IFPRI, DRC

Dr. John Mususa Ulimwengu emphasised, like his predecessor, that the gap between demand and supply of food and agricultural produce has kept increasing in the DRC over the past few years. “This is of course a reason for concern, but also a reflection of the fact that strong economic growth has driven much higher demand for food products”, he explained. “We know and have repeated that Africa continues to import a significant proportion of its food, despite the fact that so much arable land remains. The DRC on its own represents 46% of this available arable land, so much of the existing gap is right here in this country, and there is a growing interest around the world in Africa’s arable land”. Ulimwengu then discussed the issue of population and the priority areas where change should take place, such as basic infrastructure (energy, waterways, roads and railways), access to credit, human capital (education and health), the development of inputs and output markets and agricultural research and extension. Dr. Ulimwengu went on to explain that “unless we adopt such a holistic approach, we should not expect miracles”. Furthermore, he cautioned that the DRC, a country the size of western Europe and with no infrastructure, cannot hope to be able to fix its challenges in one go.

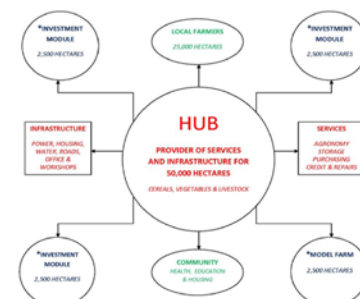


Dr. John Mususa Ulimwengu

“We are actively driving the development of new agricultural models, including through agro-industrial business parks, in order to build linkages and bring services closer to producers and processors around a hub-and-spoke model, such as illustrated below:

One excellent example was the new agro-industrial park of Bukanga-Lonzo, which is producing grains, vegetables and livestock for the market of Kinshasa. We are moving from subsistence farming to agribusiness”, he concluded.

Agricultural Business Park: Bringing services closer to producers and processors



H.E. Mr. Marcellin Cishambo Ruhoya, Governor of South Kivu Province, DRC



H.E. Mr. Marcellin Cishambo Ruhoya

Governor Marcellin Ruhoya gave a very lively and entertaining presentation on agricultural potential and opportunities in his province.

“We are currently taking steps to develop agriculture, including in the regions of Kalemie, just north of Katanga”. Governor Ruhoya explained that conditions in South Kivu were improving rapidly and that the armed conflict that had wrecked the area was something of the past. Roads are being opened again, and we are open for business,” he emphasised. The province has 5.7 million people over a territory of 63,000 km² and benefits

from a remarkable biodiversity and rich arable land that allows growing a very significant range of crops, such as sorghum and other grains, vegetables and fruit, as well as coffee, tea, tobacco and sugar cane, to name but a few.

The governor provided some details on notable successes of the last few years in developing the province's agricultural sector and sub-sectors and explained that a provincial mechanisation programme to support local farmers was being rolled out with the World Bank to create agricultural growth hubs. This had to be done with a focus on promoting regional integration with neighbouring countries.

"South Kivu has significant and exciting opportunities for agribusiness. For us, it is a priority to support this sector, considering its role in creating employment and increasing incomes. I encourage all investors to seize the opportunities offered by the improved economic and political climate and our strong growth to create sustainable development", concluded Governor Ruhoya.



Mr. Barthélémy Mumba Gama

H.E. Barthélémy Mumba Gama, Minister of Agriculture and Mines, Katanga Province, DRC

Honourable Minister Barthélémy Gama's presentation started with a short film on Katanga's agriculture, challenges and potential, showcasing the province's immense opportunities and progress made over the past decade in attracting investors and driving the development of the province's agricultural wealth. "Katanga is well known as a mining province," adding that "now we are looking at gearing up our agricultural sector and want to get people to understand that they can earn money in agriculture."

"Katanga has huge opportunities for agriculture, not just for the DR Congo but for the entire subcontinent and beyond. Our arable land area is estimated at 15 million hectares, and yet we are only using about 5% of it". Around 5 million hectares of that land is suitable for cattle rearing, and yet our cattle population is hovering around 100,000 head, far less than what we could support".

Minister Gama went on to explain how Katanga was supporting efforts to integrate small scale farmers into commercial value chains, and how it was helping them gain access to financial services. "Just as we have seen cities emerge around mines, we now want to see villages and urban centres emerge around agriculture", he explained. "We encourage investors to seize the opportunities and welcome them", he concluded.

Mr. Jean-Claude Hoolans, Managing Director – Miluna, DRC

The audience travelled across the vast Congolese territory to the Equateur province, with a short film on the Miluna-Gwaka rubber plantation in the Northwest of the DRC. The setting was the lush tropical forests of the equator, in a stunning visual demonstration of just how diverse, vast and rich the country is.

The Miluna-Gwaka rubber plantation is also prime example of agriculture rehabilitation in the DR Congo. "We have been able to provide a livelihood for 2,000 people and their families, in all about





Mr. Jean-Claude Hoolans

10,000 people, all of which have access to the plantation's medical facilities (a clinic) and schools".

Mr. Jean-Claude Hoolans, the owner and manager of the plantation, provided an overview of the plantation's operations and future plans. "I am a Congolese and was born here", he said. "We took over Miluna-Gwaka in 2007, and the rubber plantation now provides prime quality rubber to the international market, to clients such as Michelin, one of the world's largest tyre producers".

"We are now also expanding our production to other tropical plants such as cocoa and palm oil, and looking at producing bio-fuels". Hoolans called for the removal of barriers to the development of the different sub-sectors of agriculture and showed his support for the new legal framework, citing it as an excellent first

step. He concluded that there was still a need for better infrastructure, better access to markets, and support structures for farmers to become part of commercial value chains.

Parallel Sessions

Session C: Integrating Domestic, Regional and International Agricultural Trade and Access to Markets

Moderator: Mr. Arthur Levi, Consultant & Member of the Executive Committee – EMRC Int'l, United

Mrs. Eugenia Serova Director AGS – Rural Infrastructure & Agro-Industries Division – FAO (Food & Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations), Italy

Mrs. Eugenia Serova opened the session on integrating domestic, regional and international agricultural trade stating: "Support for food trade in Africa is now at the centre of the new FAO strategic framework. This year FAO established a special post of trade officer at FAO Regional office in Accra. We work on trade issues on two levels: policy evidence and dialogue, and linking smallholders and SMEs to global markets".

She then provided a number of FAO work tools at both levels. The strong tool for building policy evidence is the FAO programme MAFAP (Monitoring and Analysing Food and Agricultural Policies). Using the conventional methodology (OECD) for agricultural policy, the programme monitors and analyses the effects of domestic policies and market performance on price incentives for agents in key agricultural value chains in a range of countries in Africa, from Burkina Faso to Mozambique.



Mrs. Eugenia Serova

“What we have seen, overall, is that protective measures such as import tariffs are actually detrimental to local farmers. Part of the reason is that excessive access costs and inefficiencies in the value chain exceed the positive effect of import tariffs”. So trade barriers, even those that are meant to protect local markets, tend to have negative overall economic effects”, Mrs. Serova asserted.

The Agricultural Trade Policy Advocacy Forum for Eastern and Southern Africa (ATPAF/ESA) is the FAO success story of facilitation of policy dialogue on trade policies. Eugenia Serova provided a number of country projects implemented by FAO in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Kenya and some others, which efficiently helped local smallholders get access to global markets.

“International trade is a very good income multiplier, and there is a clear case for increased inter-regional and intra-regional trade on the continent and beyond”, she concluded.



Mr. Amadou Oumar Ba

Mr. Amadou Oumar Ba, Senior Agricultural Specialist – World Bank, DRC

Mr. Amadou Oumar Ba gave the audience an overview of the World Bank’s current and future support programmes for agriculture in the DR Congo.

The World Bank is involved at four levels:

- Providing support to smallholder and family farms,
- Promoting agricultural value chains,
- Improving access to markets, and
- Supporting agro-industrial parks

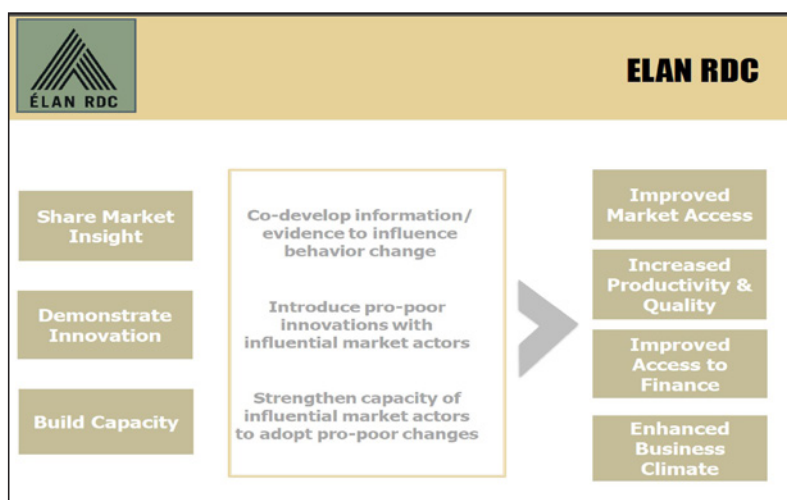
Currently the World Bank has US\$230 million committed in DRC, with a presence mainly in the west of the country. The Bank is looking to expand in the east, increasing its commitment by another US\$150 million in the Bukavu-Uvira-Kalemie corridor in South Kivu, as part of a regional agricultural development project in the Great Lakes area, which in this case includes Burundi.

The World Bank’s contribution to the reconstruction of the DR Congo’s agricultural sector includes strong support to the fertilizer sector, the upgrade of 1,400 km of road so far, the establishment of 4 rural markets and 16 warehousing facilities. “Overall, around 100,000 households have benefited from our intervention in terms of agricultural production, while an estimated 1.1 million people have benefited directly from our programme to upgrade market infrastructure”, he explained.

“Serious challenges remain”, he continued, “which include security of land tenure, conflict prevention, access to finance, and a regulatory environment that still needs to improve. However, we are working closely in this regard with entities such as the International Finance Corporation (IFC, member of the World Bank Group), and are looking at working with MIGA (Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, also member of the World Bank Group) to improve the investment climate”, he concluded.

Mrs. Holly Krueger, Acting Team Leader – Elan, DRC

Mrs. Holly Krueger started off saying that “ELAN DRC is a private sector support programme funded by UKAid / DFID (The UK development agency), and implemented by Adam Smith International. We seek to obtain outcomes such as improved market access, increased productivity and quality, better access to finance, and an enhanced business climate”.



“We all understand, and it has been said by a number of speakers before me, that the DRC has phenomenal potential. We know there is land, but much of it is hard to access. We know there is a large and growing domestic market, but much of it is serviced through imports. We know that a large percentage of the population is involved in agriculture, but productivity is low. So we are seeking to work with the private sector to seize this potential”.

Mrs. Krueger explained that one way to seize this potential is to create supply chain efficiencies by closely collaborating with poor producers, citing their work in North Kivu where they work with coffee exporters who are providing training, seedlings and tools, as well as incentives for quality and quantity to small producers. The results are encouraging in terms of yield improvement and the development of new agri-input markets for producers.

“This, in turn, is generating commitments from the public sector and commercial banks. Similar results are emerging in the maize sector in Katanga and Equateur Provinces”, Mrs. Krueger concluded.



Mrs. Holly Krueger



Mr. Kambale Kisumba Kamungele

Mr. Kambale Kisumba Kamungele, Export Director – Ets Tsongo Kasereba & President of the Congolese Chapter of AFCA (African Fine Coffee Association), DRC

“Regional integration is a key area of action that can help address some of the structural challenges we face”, said Mr. Kambale Kamungele. “Rules and policies can be put in place with regional trade integration institutions that facilitate trade between neighbouring countries and export to far away markets. Another way of addressing regional integration is to envision platforms/regional associations/forums of exchanges focused on increasing business in specific industries, where regional economic communities have not been successful in doing so”.

The African Fine Coffee Association (AFCA) is a regional coffee producer association whose membership is made up of both private and public sector stakeholders including producers, exporters, international importers, roasters, policy makers, transporters and trade representatives from 11 countries. It is to prepare for this market growth that the organization was set up.

“Coffee is one of the most important traded commodities around the world, with an exchange value of US\$16.5 billion, employing 26 million people. It is also a key source of foreign exchange for many countries”, he explained.

“In the 90s, conflicts in many parts of Africa resulted in declining coffee production while other countries such as Vietnam and Brazil experienced growth in their market share. But now, and according to the International Coffee Organization, global demand is rising very fast, and this constitutes an unprecedented opportunity for Africa to fill the gap, since an additional 30-40 million bags of coffee will be needed by 2020”.

AFCA has been a success story in linking regional coffee producers to international consumers through its different activities and programmes. “We need more initiatives like AFCA in order to turn agriculture into a driving force for Africa’s economy”, Mr. Kamungele concluded.

COMMON AFRICAN AGRICULTURAL TRADE CHALLENGES :

- Declining investment in agriculture
- Inadequate infrastructure
- High cost of fertilizers & High quality seeds
- Restricted access to credit (farmers & SME)
- Limited access to regional & international markets
- Lack of conducive business policies & business environments





H.E. Mr. Eugène Serufuli

Session D: Attracting Youth to Agriculture and Providing Support to Women in Agriculture and Agribusiness

Moderator: Mrs. Idit Miller
Vice President and Managing Director – EMRC Int'l, Belgium

H.E. Mr. Eugène Serufuli, Minister of Rural Development Government of DRC

The Honourable Minister Eugène Serufuli started the session: “Today, an estimated 70% of the population of the DRC is poor and undernourished”, he said. “Despite our huge potential, the DRC continues to import food, but we have now taken a series of initiatives to remedy this state of affairs”.

He then proceeded to highlight the role of women and young people in boosting the sector, explaining that two thirds of the rural population (67%) are young, and the male/ female ratio is heavily skewed at 0.72 men for every woman, making the empowerment of women and young people a priority.

To render agriculture attractive to the youth, we have embarked on public-private partnerships (PPPs) aimed at the development of agriculture, and agro-industrial parks in particular. But we are also strengthening our policies around development and sustainability”, he explained.

“We are, for instance, clustering villages together in order to increase access to basic services, and to support the youth in terms of training and funding, as well as improving access to water, electricity and roads. Our aim is to improve the quality of life in rural areas, partly to stem urban migration”.

“We have a better understanding today than in past years of the essential role that women are playing in sustainable development, and this is also one the reasons we are focusing on education: Educating a woman is educating and building a nation”, he concluded.

Mrs. Rasha Omar, Country Representative and Country Portfolio Manager – IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development), DRC

“Please allow me to address the general situation in Africa rather than particularly focusing on the DRC,” Mrs. Rasha Omar started. “IFAD, which is a United Nations agency, works closely with governments to reduce poverty in rural areas. Providing support to women producers, and young producers, is a key part of combating food insecurity, which is still prevalent on the continent. IFAD focuses mainly on young small farmers and women”.



Mrs. Rasha Omar

She then outlined the role of women and the need to empower them economically, which IFAD does by supporting functional literacy, labour saving technologies, as well as access of women to agricultural advisory services, to financial services and to land. In addition, IFAD facilitates changes in gender relations at household level through the use “mentorship”. The principle of mentorship to address gender relations at household level was developed in Uganda, and this experience has been progressively rolled out to other countries.

Parallel to the role of women, policies today have to consider the young people. “Supporting the young comes with its own set of challenges. Young people typically want more than their parents, dream of better lives and better prospects. In this regard, we are aiming at making agriculture more attractive. We focus on value chain development, which increases incomes, and the development of household agriculture into small business ventures that generate disposable income, provide a social status and a voice in community affairs.” Mrs. Omar explained that IFAD is improving the technical skills of youth by supporting vocational training, apprenticeship and access to financial services.



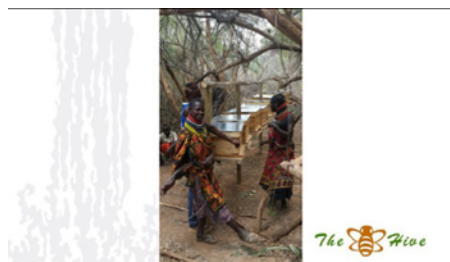
Mr. Christopher Nzuki

Mr. Christopher Nzuki, CEO – The Hive Group of Companies, Kenya

The Hive Group is a supplier of modern bee-keeping equipment and bee-keeping turn-key projects in Africa for large scale bee farms, out grower bee schemes and smallholder bee-keepers. It also partners with large scale coffee, fruit and vegetable growers to enhance quality and quantity of yields by improved pollination through stationary as well as migratory bee-keeping.

Traditional bee-keeping methods have been male oriented and have marginalized women. Defying this age-old custom, the Hive Group has successfully and sustainably managed to introduce bee-keeping to women in Africa. The process has proved to also be helpful to attract youth to the sector. Women and youth are now inserted in the bee-keeping value chain as they are provided with techniques, training and field support, and as they are offered a market with fair prices for their products.

One example of a simple step that can have great impact is the transfer of CAB hives already occupied by bees to the apiary sites, where it is convenient for women and youth to harvest honey without complications and danger of climbing trees, the traditional method. These CAB hives give



women and youth the ability to produce six times more than the traditional way. In addition, the Hive Group has set up central stations for processing and packaging, thus creating added value already in the rural area where the collection of honey takes place.

Dr. Suzanne Belemtougri, CEO – Sophavet, Burkina Faso

Dr. Suzanne Belemtougri provided a very personal account on how to attract young people in agriculture and help women.

After completing her studies, Mrs. Belemtougri sought to gather seed capital to start her own business. With her husband's help, she managed to get started. She sought to capitalise on demand for guinea fowl, which is a highly sought delicacy in her native Burkina Faso. "At one stage a few years ago, Libya, which was then still ruled by Gaddafi, provided significant amounts of money to the Ministry of Agriculture to allow it to improve production and supply in guinea fowl. Dr. Belemtougri received some business training, but struggled to get access to credit, as banks in Burkina Faso charge very high interest rates.

"In 2010, I attended the Uganda AgriBusiness Forum and then went to the Africa Finance and Investment Forum in Lisbon. I won a prize of US\$15,000 under the AfDB-EMRC Project Incubator Award".

With financial leverage and enhanced exposure, she found a business partner who was able to invest in her business and bring it to the next level. "This is the way to bring Africa forward", she concluded, while exhorting African women to believe in themselves and their hard work.



Mrs. Suzanne Belemtougri

SPECIAL SNV SESSION

Session E: Inclusive Agribusiness Models and Approaches

Moderator: Mrs. Mirjam Steglich,
Sector Leader Agriculture – SNV, DRC

Mrs. Mirjam Steglich opened the session by providing a rapid overview of SNV, the Netherlands Development Organisation. “SNV conducts agricultural projects in 30 countries. It is an organisation that seeks to work towards the elimination of poverty in collaboration with donors and SMEs”. The organisation works around four main themes:

- The development of inclusive business solutions
- The development of solutions around access to finance
- The establishment of trust between partners and stakeholders
- The creation of conducive business operating environments that integrate market realities.



Mr. Ranjan Shrestha

Mr. Ranjan Shrestha, Director, Agricultural division - SNV Rwanda

Mr. Ranjan Shrestha reminded the audience of the definition of inclusive business. “In this context, it’s about integrating smallholder farmers into markets and value chains. In Rwanda over 80% of the population still depends on agriculture for their livelihoods”, he explained.

He provided an overview of SNV Rwanda, focusing on how it supports producer organisations and processors in the coffee, honey and other bee product, as well as dairy value chains in order to increase income and employment opportunities, and as such contribute to food security. “We apply a value chain approach to our interventions, finding market-based solutions to address shortcomings and tap into opportunities. We therefore also strengthen the business service providers within the agriculture value chains”, he said.

Mr. Shrestha then explained how in Rwanda they focus on partnership structures involving SNV, the government and financial institutions that provide credit. Some businesses also organise training for farmers.

Through past experience, SNV finds it essential to work with the private sector and allow smallholder farmers to enter into sustainable contractual relationships with them in this particular area.

Mrs. Sara Mbago-Bhunu, Country Director – SNV, DR Congo

“SNV DRC is active in almost all the country’s provinces, and specifically in the field of cassava farming, where it is involved in assisting farmers to market their produce,” Mrs. Sara Mbago-Bhunu explained. “One of the biggest obstacles is the lack of access to finance. Currently most farmers in this category depend on the state, which lacks resources. Transport is another significant challenge, especially considering the long distances involved”.

In order to provide much needed financing, SNV has entered into a partnership with Ecobank, one of Africa’s leading commercial banks, to provide credit to smallholder farmers. This is a major boost in helping farmers process and market cassava, and build inclusive value chains.

“At SNV we focus on the entire value chain: from production of crops to market access (advice on storage, transport, marketing) as well as access to credit. We focus mainly on five value chains: cassava, ground nuts, maize, palm oil and rice,” Mrs. Mbago-Bhunu said

“Our strength and experience lies in developing inclusive business arrangements in agricultural value chains by providing smart solutions at addressing risks that inhibit both smallholder farmers and agribusiness from investing. Our advisors work with farmers’ organisations and local businesses, helping to identify new opportunities and markets, and transfer knowledge and experience. The development of inclusive value chains helps to improve farmers’ opportunities and income”, she concluded.



Mrs. Sara Mbago-Bhunu

Mr. Thomas Obiero-Were Agriculture Sector Leader – SNV, Zambia

Mr. Thomas Obiero-Were started by emphasizing that improving global food security is a priority for Zambia, where over 80% of the population depends on agriculture for their livelihood. He then explained how SNV approaches its objectives in agriculture through the increase of income and employment for smallholder farmers, improving food security and strengthening the environmental sustainability of agricultural productivity to meet the challenges of climate change.

“We aim to improve the positioning of small scale farmers and processors, including women and youth, in the value chain through inclusive models. We support small scale farmers and processors to increase their production and productivity, facilitate their access to local and international markets, and support partners to dialogue with government on agricultural policies”, Mr. Obiero explained.



Mr. Thomas Obiero-Were

He then highlighted the different SNV projects which include, rice, beef, dairy and honey sectors in addition to the successful training of 74 agro-dealers that are now selling inputs ranging from maize seeds, fertilizers and vegetable seeds to agro-chemicals much closer to the farmers, thus reducing the cost of access to timely and affordable inputs. Partnerships have also been formed with the three main input distributors (MRI, Seedco & Zambia Fertilizers) which further assist agro-dealers to put up farming and mini-irrigation demo sites to promote the use of improved seed and technology.

“In the rice sector, SNV strengthened market linkages between 8,800 farmers and 3 processing companies in 2014. Two processors have introduced inclusive business models, positively impacting over 985 farmers who now have access to inputs on credit, equipment and soft loans”, he concluded.

B2B Meetings

The remaining hours of the day were taken up by hundreds of individual B2B meetings among the over 450 delegates that came from 41 countries in Africa, Europe, America and the Middle East.





DAY IV: Wednesday, 25 March 2015

Responsible Finance Day

Session IV: Promoting Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems

Moderator: Mr. Arthur Levi,
Member of the Executive Committee – EMRC Int'l, United Kingdom



Mrs. Elizabeth Beall

Mrs. Elizabeth Beall, Consultant – Committee on World Food Security, Italy

“We need to transform the way we have been approaching agriculture and food systems if we want to end hunger and malnutrition”, Mrs. Elizabeth Beall started. “When we think about achieving zero hunger, we also need to be realistic about what it is going to take: Over 1 billion people are still living in extreme poverty, and at least 2 billion people suffer from malnutrition – truly daunting figures, even before you consider the impact of climate change and growing resource scarcity”. “So how do we do this? By targeting investments to include those who can have a significant impact in achieving food security and nutrition - women, youth and smallholders”.

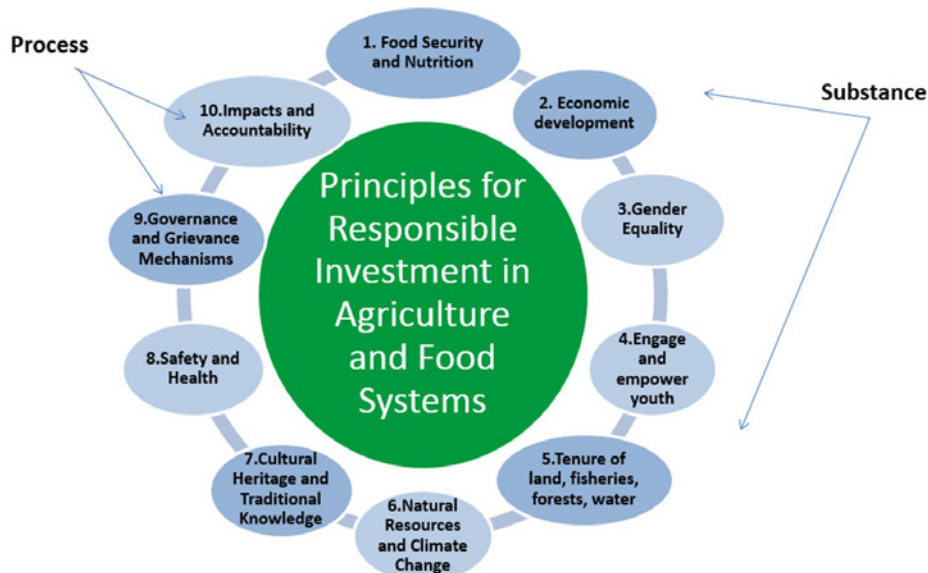
Mrs. Beall went on to take a slightly different stance from that of many previous speakers regarding the integration of smallholders into value chains: “Smallholders need our support, but that should not necessarily mean attaching them to global value chains. Rather, we should be exploring their role in addressing food security and nutrition in their own communities and in their national context. This means not just focusing on increasing productivity, but assessing needs both on-farm and off-farm, and looking at the inter-generational aspects of smallholder households”. “If smallholders cannot achieve a viable income”, she pointed out, “it is likely that their children and those to come will head to the cities. The estimated 500 million smallholders worldwide represent an opportunity for companies looking to diversify their portfolio of suppliers, and reduce the carbon footprint. This creates opportunities for smallholders to connect with local and global markets”. We also need to do more with less, she continued. “If we are to produce 60% more food by 2050 to feed the expected 9 billion people, it can’t be business as usual. Instead, we will need to be smarter. Food systems contribute 20-30% of global annual greenhouse gas emissions. Agriculture is responsible for 75% of global deforestation, and accounts for about 70% of all water consumption, and this is estimated to increase to 89% by 2050. Globally, soils are being depleted at a 10-40% faster rate than they are being replenished. Urgent



changes are needed to reverse these trends, and shift the tide towards agriculture delivering greater positive impacts than negative”, she warned.

The CFS has, in this regard, established the **First global agreement** on what constitutes responsible investment in agriculture and food systems, with a particular focus on **food security and nutrition**, with the 10 principles outlined in the below chart: “Ending hunger is not the role of one group or another, it will take all of us working together”, she said to applause.

10 principles



Mr. Mamadou Kouyaté, Investment Manager – AfricInvest, Côte d'Ivoire

AfricInvest was founded in 1994 and is part of Integra Group, an investment and financial services company based in Tunisia. “We are uniquely positioned as one of the most experienced private equity investors on the continent. We have dedicated investment teams focused on North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa, and we employ 50 professionals based in six offices”, Mr. Mamadou Kouyaté said. AfricInvest manages US\$1 billion across 14 funds and benefits from strong, long-term support from both local and international investors, including leading development finance institutions in the United States and Europe. Mr. Kouyaté then gave the example of Exat a rubber processing company in Cote d’Ivoire. Founded in 2002, the company has now expanded into natural rubber transformation by investing in a coagulum-processing plant with a initial yearly output of 18,000 tonnes of granular rubber.

“Our investment has contributed to improve environmental and social standards: It allowed the company to expand its workforce by 50% to 240 people, to double processing capacity to 36,000 tonnes/year, to provide better health and safety practices, and significantly improve living conditions for local smallholders by providing villagers with a steady source of income”, he concluded.



Mr. Mamadou Kouyaté



Mr. Cyrille Mutombo

Mr. Cyrille Mutombo, Country Director – Randgold Resources, DRC

Mr. Cyrille Mutombo gave a presentation on the sustainability strategy and “agribusiness closure strategy” of Randgold, one of the world’s largest mining organisations. He explained that Randgold was in the process of closing its gold mine in Kibali and that his presentation focused on the company’s strategy to ensure that the closing of the mine, currently planned for 2017, leaves communities intact.

“Three fundamental values define our sustainability policy: Creating values for our stakeholders, creating partnerships with our stakeholders, and leaving a legacy for our stakeholders,” he explained. “We are actively helping to convert village gardens into cooperatives. To date, 21 cooperatives have been established for 400 people in the area. Post-closure, our mining infrastructure will be converted into an agri-village. At Loulo-Gounkoto, we have established a 5 ha farm and equipped it with classrooms and a conference centre. The farm will provide training for cattle farming, poultry, fish farming, gardening, plantations etc. and business management”, Mr. Mutombo concluded.



Mr. Aliu Oshioke Yakubu

Mr. Aliu Oshioke Yakubu, Deputy General Manager – Bank of Agriculture, Nigeria

Mr. Aliu Yakubu started his presentation by highlighting that in Nigeria financing is a major constraint for the agricultural sector, which was the reason for establishing the Bank of Agriculture (BOA) in Nigeria in 1973”,

As a Development Financial Institution (DFI), the Bank of Agriculture is torn between two necessities: social responsibility and economic sustainability. In designing its products and programs, the BOA epitomizes responsible principles by providing access to financial services to everyone who needs them including the low income, marginalized and excluded people.

“Our key mandates include the provision of agricultural credits to support all agricultural value chain activities, the provision of non-agricultural micro credits, savings mobilization, and capacity development through the promotion of cooperatives, agricultural information systems, the provision of technical support and extension services”, Mr. Yakubu explained.

“In addition, we are also mandated with disseminating good banking habits at grass-roots level in Nigerian society, and with helping to provide opportunities for self-employment in the rural areas thereby reducing rural-urban migration,” he added.

“With the adoption of Responsible Agriculture Investment Principles we have demonstrated our commitment and clear focus on inclusive finance”, he concluded.

Session V:

Addressing Financing Needs in Agriculture: The Role of Agricultural Banks, Commercial Banks, Investment Funds and Foundations

Moderator: Mr. Joseph Haim Harrosh

Director Business Development & Head of Water Division – LR Group, Israel

As moderator, Mr. Joseph Harrosh briefly introduced the topic by suggesting that: “We need to change our view of agriculture from being a development issue to being a business opportunity”. Agriculture is a high-risk business, we all know that. After braving uncertain climatic conditions, uncertain soil conditions and pests, you still have to get your product to market. It is a tough business, so farmers need all the help they can get”.

Keynote speech: Mr. Pim Van Ballekom, Vice President – European Investment Bank, Luxembourg

“The EIB has recently decided that it should increase investment in agriculture, out of necessity rather than choice. As the largest supranational investor in the world (US\$77 billion), we are expanding our exposure to the agricultural sector, using two channels: credit lines and direct investment”, Mr. Pim Van Ballekom announced.

The EIB Vice President then explained that the bank was driven to improve farmers’ access to finance, highlighting that, “At the moment around 90% of our investment portfolio is in Europe. The remaining 10% is worth about US\$9 billion, of which US\$2.5 billion is invested in Africa”.

He then added that EIB’s technical and economic experts share experience with their counterparts around the world, including and especially on the African continent, and work closely with the European Commission and the EU external action service. The EIB is first and foremost an investment bank with a development mandate, but this also means that the projects in which it invests need to be financially viable.

“Our key areas of focus include specific support towards women farmers, as well as market access, micro-finance and investment capital”, Mr. Van Ballekom concluded.



Mr. Pim Van Ballekom



Mr. Constantin Mbengele Kwete Thamuk



Mr. Dmitry Van Raemdonck

Mr. Constantin Mbengele Kwete Thamuk, CEO – FPI (Fund for Industry Promotion), DRC

Mr. Constantin Mbengele provided a brief outline of the FPI's role in supporting the DRC's industrial development, which has as a main goal to help drive the emergence of a Congolese middle class. The FPI is currently rolling out its 2013-2017 strategic plan, which in the agricultural sector includes measures aimed at developing basic rural infrastructure and enabling investment, with a focus on renewable energy to support the development of the sector.

"Over the past few years the FPI has significantly increased its commitment to the agri-food sector. In 2014, our total funding reached US\$22.3 million, which represents a 42.1% share of the entire FPI investment portfolio for the year. Our impact is significant, with over 25,000 jobs created in the sector and over 900 projects maintained", Mr. Mbengele said.

"But we still face serious challenges, of course, including a gap between needs and available resources. Part of the answer is to enter into strategic partnerships, notably with the DBSA (Development Bank of Southern Africa) and the IDC (Industrial Development Corporation) which is significantly increasing the FPI's capacity to help support our country's development", he concluded.

Mr. Dmitry Van Raemdonck, Senior Investment Officer – BIO (Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries), Belgium

Mr. Dmitry Van Raemdonck gave a presentation on how sustainable human development can be achieved by reinforcing the private sector in developing countries, and how BIO was contributing to turning this idea into reality.

"Agri-food is a priority area for us, including the sub-sectors of fruit and vegetables, cereals, dairy products, and bee-keeping". Van Raemdonck went on to provide a few examples of BIO's role in a number of agri-food ventures around the continent, including Rwanda Mountain Tea, SEDIMA and Laiteries du Berger in Senegal.

“Here in the DRC, we have a significant investment in a maize farm in Katanga called the Grands Domaines du Katanga, where BIO agreed a US\$1.35 million loan to double the size of their existing corn plantation. With a maximum repayment term of nine years, the aim of the loan is to increase annual corn yield from 3,400 to 7,000 tonnes. In addition, the loan may contribute to the building of a flour processing plant. At the moment flour prices are 20% higher than those of corn. Increased yields will be achieved by modernising machinery and processes, as well as through the transfer of mechanical, electrical and topographical expertise. In developmental terms, the loan will increase local food supply, create new jobs and advance the company along the food supply chain”, he concluded.

Mr. Yves Ehlert, Vice President Central Africa – DEG (German Investment and Development Corporation), Germany

Mr. Yves Ehlert outlined the role of European development finance institutions for the development of agriculture, using the example of DEG, itself a subsidiary of KfW, a German government-owned development finance institution based in Frankfurt. DEG is the international development arm aimed specifically at supporting the development of the private sector in emerging and developing countries”.

“The promotion of the agricultural sector became a renewed priority after food price crisis in 2008”, he explained. “Amongst the challenges that the DEG seeks to alleviate are high transaction costs and missing infrastructure, as well as access to agricultural financing, and insurance. By helping to finance the sector, we contribute to food security, financial inclusion and reduced poverty. We offer syndicated loans, long-term loans, equity investments and many variants of PPPs (Public-Private Partnerships)”.

Some of DEG’s flagship projects in sub-Saharan Africa include: The Africa Agriculture and Trade Investment Fund (AATIF) ,a public-private partnership dedicated to uplifting Africa’s agricultural potential;

The Fund for Agricultural Finance in Nigeria (FAFIN), an innovative agriculture-focused investment fund; The Uganda Rural Challenge Fund, set up to improve access to sustainable and demand-driven financial services for the rural population and rural MSME in Uganda; The Climate Insurance Fund, which seeks to reduce the vulnerability of MSME and low-income households to extreme weather events.

“All these initiatives aim at enhancing local value addition capacity and increase agricultural production, resulting in more employment, more income and reduced poverty”, he concluded.



Mr. Yves Ehlert



Mr. Rock Ngouoto

Mr. Rock Ngouoto, Head of Credit – TMB (Trust Merchant Bank), DRC

Mr. Rock Ngouoto started by briefly introducing TMB's establishment, emphasising the bank's philosophy, which focuses on responsible banking and offering farmers and smallholders a reflection of this approach.

"We cater for smallholders, cattle farmers, pig farmers, dairy farmers, chicken farmers, commodity traders (for instance rice, coffee, cocoa, vegetables), but also larger commercial entities such as agri-food multinationals and national companies involved in large industrial

farms," **Mr.** Ngouoto explained. "Today, most demands for credit are rejected because of the applicants' lack of experience in production and commercialization, while those that are more likely to fulfil our conditions are traders and transporters. Still, TMB continues to make efforts to open branches in regions where they are more easily accessed by small and medium producers, all despite the challenges and costs in monitoring such type of financing."

"From our perspective, a number of measures will help us and other financial services to provide more targeted products to actors in the agricultural sector. These include:

- A mapping of the DR Congo's agricultural production
- Leasing legislation to facilitate the acquisition of immovable assets
- Public-private partnerships for a "warrant" system
- More efficient risk-sharing mechanisms and insurance products
- The reactivation of agricultural research centres
- Improvement of road infrastructure. "



Session VI:

Innovative Schemes to Unleash and De-risk Agricultural Finance: Credit, Insurance, Missing Middle, Micro-finance

Moderator: Mr. Arthur Levi,
Member of the Executive Committee, EMRC Int'l – United Kingdom, Former Head of Europe – IFC

Mr. Zano Maturuka, Senior Investment Officer, Agribusiness – IFC (Int'l Finance Corporation), South Africa

“How can one use innovation to make agricultural finance more efficient, and help reduce risk?” Mr. Zano Maturuka opened.

“Well, we all know that Africa is now the second fastest-growing economic region behind Asia, and is becoming a magnet for international capital. This has been backed by, amongst others, improved political stability and economic governance. The African economy is expected to grow by 7.7% annually between 2014 and 2019, about double the rate of advanced economies. Furthermore, rising consumer demand, aligned with annual growth of around 8%, is likely to grow the African GDP by around US\$1.1 trillion to US\$3.7 trillion in the next five years”, Mr. Mataruka explained.

The growing consumer opportunity rests on five pillars: population growth, a growing middle class, a very dynamic youth, rapid urbanization and leapfrogging technologies such as mobile phones and the internet.

“In the agribusiness industry, IFC typically finances expansion projects of an existing company, rather than green field projects (i.e. start-up projects). A project must be commercially and economically viable and offer IFC the potential for a commercial return while also providing development impact. We also attach significant importance to the environmental and social sustainability of a project before investing”.

“One of our key programs in terms of agribusiness is the Global Agricultural Food Security Program or GAFSP. This is a multilateral mechanism designed to assist in the implementation of pledges made by the G-20 governments to help the world's poorest countries reduce poverty and improve rural livelihoods and food security.



Mr. Zano Maturuka



Mr. Jerry Kwo

Mr. Jerry Kwo, Senior Project Officer – Oikocredit Int'l, The Netherlands

Mr. Jerry Kwo provided a short outline of Oikocredit, a worldwide cooperative and social investor, providing funding to the micro-finance sector, fair trade organizations, cooperatives and SMEs.

“We invest in areas like micro-finance, fair trade, renewable energy, but also in agriculture – indeed, our dedicated agriculture unit finances rural micro-finance and producer organisations, including agricultural cooperatives, which build local economies and support local communities,” Mr. Kwo said. “We developed a strategic focus on agriculture about seven years ago, when it became clear that growth originating in agriculture had a greater impact in raising incomes and quality of life of the working poor than growth in most other sectors”.

“The key challenge from our perspective is the lack of integration of small scale farmers in the value chains with suppliers and off-takers. Much of the funding we provide is seeking to address that concern”, he said.



Mrs. Monah Andriambalo

Mrs. Monah Andriambalo, Senior Technical Adviser PASMIF (Program of Support for the Micro-finance Sector) – UNDP/ UNCDF, DRC

Mrs. Monah Andriambalo started her presentation by explaining the role of UNCDF: “The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) is the UN’s capital investment agency for the world’s 48 least developed countries. It creates new opportunities for poor people and their communities by increasing access to micro-finance and investment capital”.

“We focus on Africa and the poorest countries of Asia, with a special commitment to countries emerging from conflict or crisis, such as is the case for the DRC. We provide seed capital (in the form of grants and loans) and technical support to help micro-finance institutions reach more poor households and small businesses,” Mrs. Andriambalo added.

Mrs. Andriambalo gave some background on DRC and explained that the UNCDF focuses on supporting programmes in the areas of inclusive finance and local development finance. Through joint programming with UNDP, UNCDF is helping the Government take advantage of the current climate of relative political stability and economic progress. Microfinance has been recognised as a priority sector by the public authorities, and there is strong demand for these services. In this context, UNCDF is implementing the second phase of its support program to the micro-finance sector, known by its French acronym PASMIF, which aims to promote an inclusive financial environment in the DRC, and provide grants to financial services providers.





Official Closing of the Forum

Closing address

Mrs. Idit Miller, Vice President and Managing Director – EMRC Int’l, Belgium

“It has been 3 intense days of discussion, debate and burgeoning business partnerships. EMRC’s first and foremost ambition is that these 3 days will have contributed to bringing the African continent a few steps closer to developing its agricultural potential. I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the people and the government of the DR Congo for its amazing hospitality and its enthusiasm in hosting this Forum. I think we all agree that the quality of yesterday’s special session on the opportunities in the DRC has filled many of us with energy and hope for the future of this country. To all of you, I say: MATONDO MINGI.

“It also thrills me to know that every year, more people are joining us and share our understanding of how important it is to develop a strong agricultural base in Africa. To our delegates and participants: Thank you for making this event such a success. This Forum is above all *your* Forum.

“Indeed, here with us today there are EMRC members that have been part of the journey throughout the years and who have constantly given us their support. Others among you have just recently become part of the family. I must stress the word family. To all the new participants here today, I hope that this is the beginning of a fruitful partnership and let me ‘welcome you to the EMRC community’.

“I would also like to give a special mention to FAO - our trusted partner for many years, as well as to UNDP and the Congolese Fund for Industry Promotion - FPI.

“Rabobank Foundation is also a key part of the equation with the unique Project Incubator Award which brings out the very best of entrepreneurial Africa. Congratulations, once again, to Mrs. Ruth Gacheri Kinoti, of Shalem Investments in Kenya, and to Mrs Innocente Voziyo, from the Mama Soleil Palm Oil Cooperative in the DR Congo.

“EMRC believes at looking at issues in the long term, and we believe that we are here to partner with our members for many years to come. “I’d like to finally make mention of our Honorary President, Prof Pierre Mathijsen, who was not only present in Kinshasa, but also keeps making an active contribution to our work since joining us 20 years ago. And this would not be complete without me mentioning Prof Monty Jones, the President of EMRC’s Executive Committee, who guides us in promoting the work done by EMRC among international players and decision makers.

“To close this session I would like to mention the amazing support we received from our partners and supporters, LR Group, AGCO, Cargill, Balton CP, Elan RDC, Trust Merchant Bank, African Milling, SNV, Standard Bank, IFC, GAFSP, the Belgian Technical Cooperation, The Royal Dutch Embassy in DRC, the European Investment Bank, and finally our official carrier, Ethiopian Airlines.

“We invite you and look forward to seeing you in Cape Town in November this year for our Africa Finance and Investment Forum”.





Mrs. Idit Miller

H.E. Mr. Isidore Kabwe Mwehu Longo

H.E. Mr. Isidore Kabwe Mwehu Longo, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock, Government of the DRC

“After 3 days of intense activities, we have touched on many critical issues around agriculture. Debates and discussions were rich, and I am confident that we have reached the objectives of the Forum.

“I’d like to emphasize the need for partnerships. The sessions have enabled all of the stakeholders to get a better sense of the opportunities and challenges of agriculture in Africa in general, and in particular in central Africa.

“The DRC welcomes the Kinshasa Declaration, and is happy to lend it the support that it requires.

“There is no need to demonstrate the huge efforts that have gone into the organization of this forum, and I would like to emphasize that the DRC Government is fully committed to the development of the sector with the support of the private sector. But I’d like to invite you to do more, and in the name of President Joseph Kabila Kabange, I now declare the Forum closed and wish you all a safe return”.

Under the Auspices
of the Presidency
of the DRC



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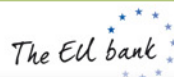
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