La revanche du sol sur le sous-sol

4, 5 october 2023 - Pullman Kinshasa
Agriculture is a pivotal sector in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), employing approximately 70% of the population and accounting for 20% of the country’s GDP. The DRC boasts significant agricultural and agro-industrial potential. The country could significantly ramp up its food production to feed its 100 million inhabitants and enhance its exports, given its high annual rainfall, 51 million hectares of uncultivated land out of 80 million hectares of arable land, one of the most substantial hydrographic networks, fisheries resources, and pastures in Africa.

Despite this potential, the country records among the world’s lowest agricultural yields and an immense untapped agricultural transformation potential. As a result, the DRC imports a significant portion of its food requirements, amounting to about US$3 billion per year.

To rejuvenate the agricultural sector, the government of DRC has launched an agricultural sector reform program to promote the development of private investments in the country’s main agricultural value chains.

In this momentum, the DRC is organizing the DRC Agribusiness Forum, an investment forum focusing on agricultural value chains in the DRC, from October 4 to 5, 2023, in Kinshasa. The forum aims to attract commitment from both national and international private sectors, highlighting measures taken to foster a conducive environment for the sector’s development and presenting concrete investment opportunities.
DAY 1

09h00-10h30 OPENNING SESSION

DRC: A Growing Agricultural Power

- Speech by the African Development Bank
- Speech by Mrs. Mary Porter Peschka, Regional Director, IFC
- Speech by Mr. Albert Yuma
- Speech by H.E. Paulo Teixeira, Minister of Agricultural Development, Brazil
- Speech by H.E. Nicolas Kazadi Kadima Nzuij, Minister of Finance of the DRC
- Speech by H.E. José Mpanda Kabangu, Minister of Agriculture of the DRC
- Keynote Address by H.E. Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

10h30-11h45 PANEL DISCUSSION 1

Structural Reforms to Boost Investment and Energize Agribusiness

Presentation of government-initiated reform initiatives and projects to revitalize the agribusiness sector in the DRC.
- Discussion of actions taken by various ministries and analysis of efforts made to develop the agribusiness sector in the DRC, from production to marketing.
- Focus on opportunities.
- Does the country have the appropriate institutions, structures, and skills to meet this challenge?
- How to address land-related issues?
- What about investor protection?
- Discussion on strategies for developing logistics and transportation infrastructure to improve product efficiency and competitiveness.
- Presentation of public-private partnership models for promoting the agribusiness sector.
- How to unite all stakeholders around a common vision?

H.E. José Mpanda Kabangu, Minister of Agriculture
H.E. Nicolas Kazadi Kadima Nzuij, Minister of Finance
H.E. Judith Tuluka Sumwina, Minister of State, Minister of Planning
H.E. Jean-Lucien Bussa Tongba, Minister of Foreign Trade
H.E. Julien Paluku Kahongya, Minister of Industry
H.E. Adrien Bokele Djema, Minister of Fisheries and Livestock
H.E. Olivier Mwenze Mukaleng, Minister of Hydraulic Resources and Electricity

Moderators
Mrs. Alda Kule Dale, Financial Advisor, Ministry of Finance
Mr. Anthony Nkinzo Kamole, CEO, National Agency for Investment Promotion

11h45-12h45 LEADERS INSIGHTS

Keynote
Developing the Maize Sector in the DRC
Mr. Rahim Dhrolia, CEO, Terra

Fire Chat
Opportunities for Palm Oil Cultivation in the DRC
Mr. Kalaa Mpinga, Executive Director, Palanka Ventures

Moderator: Mrs. Arlette Mboyo, CEO, Akili Consulting

Keynote
Agricultural Potential in the DRC: A Growing Momentum
Mr. George A. Forrest, President, Forrest International Group
Keynote
The Significance of Agriculture and Infrastructure for Economic Development
Mr. Turhan Mildon, CEO, Milvest

Fire Chat
Approaches to Agricultural Sector Development?
Mr. Gagan Gupta, CEO, ARISE
Moderator Mrs. Alda Kule Dale, Financial Advisor, Ministry of Finance

Keynote
Revolutionizing Agricultural Value Chains: Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Agriculture
Dr. Mohamed Anouar Jamali, CEO, OCP Africa

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<th>12h45-13h30</th>
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<td>Honorable Christophe Mboso N’kodia Pwanga, President of the National Assembly</td>
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<td>Honorable Prof. Modeste Bahati Lukwebo, President of the Senate</td>
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<td>Mr. Albert Yuma Mulimbi, President, Federation of Congolese Enterprises</td>
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<td>Honorable Didier Mumenga, Senator</td>
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<td>Mr. Kalaa Mpinga, Executive Director, Palanka Ventures</td>
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<td>Moderators</td>
<td>Mr. A.L. Kitenge Lubanda, Senior Consultant &amp; Governance Expert</td>
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<td>Mr. Anthony Nkinzo Kamole, CEO, National Agency for Investment Promotion</td>
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| 13h45 | OFFICIAL INAUGURATION OF THE EXHIBITION AREA |

| 13h45 | NETWORKING LUNCH |

| 14h45-16h00 | PANEL DEBATE 2 |

Engagement of International Donors: A New Impetus for Agribusiness
- Initiatives by the IFC and the African Development Bank (BAD) to support agribusiness in the DRC.
- Discussion on funded projects, their goals, and their impact.
- Exploration of partnership opportunities between donors, the government, and private investors to support agribusiness development in the DRC.

Mr. Martin Fregene, Director Agriculture & Agro-Industry, BAD
Mr. Henrik Pedersen, Director in charge of Agribusiness, Manufacturing Industry and Services, IFC
Mr. Mehdï Tanani, Regional Director for Central Africa, Proparco
Mr. Marc Nyunzi, Deputy Office Director, USAID - Economic Growth Office
Mr. Albert Zeufack, Regional Director, World Bank, DRC
Mr. Jean Bakolé, Regional Director, West & Central Africa, UNIDO
Mr. Aristide Ongone Obame, DRC Representative, FAO

Moderator M. Anthony Nkinzo Kamole, CEO, National Agency for Investment Promotion, DRC
**Climate Considerations: Approaches for Sustainable and Resilient Agriculture?**

The importance of integrating climate change considerations into any strategy aimed at developing agriculture and agribusiness will be central to this session. The discussions will highlight the necessary measures to address climate challenges in the agricultural sector and explore opportunities offered by climate-smart approaches.

- What analysis can be made of the impact of climate change on agriculture and how to address it?
- What sustainable agricultural practices can mitigate the effects of climate change?
- How to foster multi-stakeholder collaboration for climate-smart agriculture?
- What is the impact and correlation with Agribusiness development?

Moderator: M. Cheikh Amadou Tidiane Dia, Senior Agriculture Specialist, World Bank

**Operational Challenges and Opportunities to Enhance Agro-Industry Resilience in the DRC**

Session facilitated by the International Finance Corporation (IFC)

This session will highlight the operational challenges faced by the agro-industry in the DRC. The aim is to strengthen the resilience of this critical sector, promoting food security, job creation, and sustainable economic growth.

- There are challenges and risks for private sector development in agribusiness, such as land, climate change, and local tensions and conflicts. What are the main risks, mitigation measures, and opportunities?

Moderator: Mrs. Mary Porteur, Directrice Regionale IFC

**Digital: Honoring Agritech Innovations**

The role of digital technology in transforming the agricultural sector in the DRC will be highlighted with a focus on the emergence of Agritech. Discussions will revolve around technological innovations revolutionizing agriculture and agribusiness. This evolution presents unprecedented opportunities for young «agri-preneurs,» who will be honored during the closing session with the announcement of the Agritech competition results. This session will celebrate their creativity and positive impact in promoting sustainable and resilient agriculture in the DRC.

Moderator: Mrs Fatou Assah, Principal Operations Officer, FAO

**Dîner de Gala «Rumba in the Jungle»**

The «Rumba in The Jungle» Gala Dinner, held on the sidelines of the DRC Agribusiness Forum, celebrates the essence of Congolese culture, with a special focus on Rumba music. «Rumba in The Jungle», a reflection of artistic diversity, invites you on a journey into the heart of Congolese creativity, authenticity, and passion, where the enchanting rhythm of Rumba and the unparalleled richness of our culture take center stage.
09h00-10h15 PANEL DEBATE 3
Honouring Brazil
SEM. Paulo Teixeira, Minister of Agricultural Development, Brazil
Mr. Guilherme Hendges Fries, CEO and Co-Founder, Prativita
Mr. Andrei Sousa Mamede Aguiar, Business Development Director, Sun Fish
Mr. Itamar Paiva Rocha, President / CEO, MCR Aquaculture, Brazilian Association of Shrimp & Fish Association
Mr. Rubenildo Falcão de Melo, Deputy President, Campoah Agro, Brazilian Fruit Producers Association
Moderators
Mrs. Nina Massangu, Resident Representative, TBI
M. Emile Osumba, Finance Expert, Ministry of Finance

10h15-11h30 PANEL DEBATE 4
Understanding the Financing Challenges of the Agricultural Value Chain
Adequate and sustainable financing plays a crucial role in developing a high-performing agricultural and agro-industrial sector. This debate will highlight the challenges and opportunities related to financing the agricultural value chain, exploring various options for effective support.
- What are the main financial constraints faced by stakeholders in the agricultural value chain?
- What innovative financing strategies can be implemented to stimulate agricultural and agribusiness development?
- How to strengthen collaboration among financial institutions, farmers, and agricultural value chain businesses?

Mr. Nabil Fawaz, MIGA Global Sector Manager for MAS, Banque Mondiale
Mrs. Laurence Feza, Head of DFIs Relations, Rawbank, DRC
Mrs. Jesman Cwhonzi, FIG Manager, IFC
Mr. Leonard Oruko, Group Director Food and Agriculture, Equity Bank Group
M. Eren Kelekci, Chargé d’Investissement en Chef, BAD
Moderator M. Henri Plessers Mboyo, Executive Director, Financialis

11h30-11h40 KEYNOTE
Aquaculture: Towards Sustainable Food Security
Mr. Willy Fleuren, CEO, Gerrit Fleuren Ventures

11h40-11h50 KEYNOTE
Challenges and Prospects for Cassava and Maize Development in the DRC
Mr. Emmanuel Sanginga Interanya, Coordinator of the Presidential Advisory Council for the National Pact on Agriculture and Food in Kinshasa/Gombe

10h30 – 13H30 KASAI LOUNGE
Deal Room
Investment Opportunities in Agricultural Value Chains in the DRC
Session hosted by USAid Invest
Keynote : HE Lucy Tamlyn, Ambassador of the United States of America to the DRC
Introduction : Mrs. Lucine Le Moal, USAID Invest, Managing Director
Moderation : M. Jules Ndambu, USAID Invest Team Lead
Ten companies will present investment opportunities to investors: project presentation, funding needs, return on investment, project impact
Investors : DFIs, Impact Funds, Commercial Banks, Industry Promotion Funds – FPI, Foreign Corporates

By invitation only
Uniquement sur invitation
Sector in Focus: Cassava

Session hosted by the African Development Bank and the Social Fund of the DRC

The aim of this session is to highlight the immense potential of the DRC in developing the cassava sector and the business opportunities it offers.

Keynote
Pr. Marie-Thérèse Yandju, Chief of Works, University of Kinshasa

Panel d’Experts
M. Philippe Ngwala Malemba, National Coordinator of the FSRDRC.
Dr Bakelana, INERA
M. Bamba, ITIA
Pr. Roger NTOTO, Consultant, BAD
Pr. Dr Mahungu Nzolameso, Layuka
M. Katchy, Mulumba, CEO, BAB
M. Martin Fregene, Director of the Agriculture Department at the African Development Bank

Moderator M. A.L. Kitenge Lubanda, Governance Expert

Sector in Focus: Maize

Session hosted by the International Finance Corporation

The panel dedicated to the development of the maize sector in the DRC will examine the considerable potential of this crop, which is one of the country’s staple foods. By promoting increased production and better post-harvest management, the DRC can become more self-sufficient in food and reduce costly imports. The maize sector plays a strategic role in agribusiness as it also provides essential raw materials to the animal and processing industries. Investment opportunities in farm modernization, agricultural technologies, and value chains will be highlighted.

Mr.Yosuke Kotsuji, Regional Manager MAS Agri, IFC
Mr.Patience Balomba Mpanzu, Maize Specialist, WB
Mr.Benjamin Prinz, CEO Agilis
Senior Representative, Midema
Senior Representative, Midema, Equity

Moderator Stephan Dreyhaupt, Acting Manager Economics Dep, IFC

Investor Debate: How to Revive Investments in Agribusiness and the Role of PPPs?

• Discussion on the benefits and challenges of public-private partnerships in revitalizing investments in agribusiness
• Presentation of successful partnership models between companies, agricultural cooperatives, civil society organizations, and the government
• Exchange of strategies to strengthen partnerships and encourage sustainable collaboration for agricultural and agri-food development in the DRC
• Debate between agro-industrial players and investors.

Mr. Romain V. Deniel, Country Manager DRC, ARISE
Mrs. Laura Schenck, Head of Sustainability and Quality Controls, Amatheon Agri Holding N.V.
Mr. Mamadou Kane, Expert en Chef Infrastructures Rurale
Me François Serres, Cabinet d’Avocats François Serres & Associés
Mr. Itamar Paiva Rocha, President / CEO, MCR Aquaculture, Brazilian Association of Shrimp & Fish
Mr. Gokhan Akinci, Acting Manager Creating Marketing Advisory, IFC
Mr. Rubenildo Falcão de Melo, Deputy President, Campoah Agro, Brazilian Fruit Producers Associations

Moderator Mrs. Lucine Le Moal, Représentante Résidente, US Aid Invest
PARALLEL SESSION 6

Energy and Transport Infrastructure to Support Agricultural Ambitions

For the agricultural potential to be fully realized, it is imperative to establish efficient transport infrastructure that will facilitate the movement of agricultural products from rural areas to national and international markets. Additionally, the parallel development of energy infrastructure is crucial to power agricultural operations, from irrigation to agri-food processing. This session will explore the links between these two fundamental pillars - transport and energy - and sustainable agricultural development in the DRC, highlighting strategies and approaches that will accelerate essential infrastructure projects to achieve the desired goals.

Mr. Georges Sinclair Sakou, IFC Senior Investment Officer
Pr. Heng Liu, Senior Technical Advisor, UNIDO
Mr. Roger Sahyoun, Chairman, Somagec
M. Fabrice Lucinde, General Director, SNEL
M. Mathurin Zanga, Chief Transport Specialist, BAD
M. Peter Ngwa Taniform, Program Lead, World Bank
Dr. Serge Mbay Kabway, Coordinator, Bilanga Ya Betu

Moderator M. Safall Fall, Manager Foreign Trade & Investment Promotion, Mazars

PARALLEL SESSION 7

Agricultural Insurance in the DRC: A Catalyst for Agricultural Development

Session hosted by the International Finance Corporation

Agriculture often faces major risks such as unpredictable weather conditions, epidemics, and other natural hazards that can result in significant financial losses for farmers. Agricultural insurance offers a crucial solution by providing financial security to farmers in the event of a loss, encouraging them to invest more in their farms and adopt modern and productive agricultural practices. Additionally, it promotes stability in farmers’ incomes, contributing to national food security and economic growth by boosting agricultural productivity. This debate session will explore in-depth the importance of agricultural insurance as a key tool to stimulate agricultural development in the DRC and enhance the resilience of rural communities to emerging challenges.

Mrs. Paula Maria Leynes Felipe, Regional Director, FIG Advisory Services, IFC
Mr. Tarik Lefriyekh, CEO, Rawsur
Mr. Pascal Doye, CEO, SFA
Mr. Patrick Nouh, CEO, Activa Assurances

Moderator Mr. Shadreck Mapfumo, Insurance Practice Group Lead, IFC

REPORTING SESSION

18h30    • Reporting: Mrs Alda Kule Dale, Financial Advisor, Ministry of Finance

CLOSING SESSION

18h45    • Address by the African Development Bank
• Address by the IFC
• Address by the Minister of Finance of the Democratic Republic of the Congo
• Address by the Minister of Agriculture of the Democratic Republic of the Congo
• Closing remarks by the Head of State, President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo
AMONG THE SPEAKERS

HE José Mpanda Kabangu
Minister of Agriculture
DRC

HE Nicolas Kazadi
Minister of Finance
DRC

HE Paulo Teixeira
Minister of Agricultural
Brazil

HE Judith Tuluka Sumwina
Minister of State, Minister of
Planning DRC

HE Jean-Lucien Bussa
Minister of Foreign Trade
DRC

HE Julien Paluku Kahongya
Minister of Industry

HE Adrien Bokele
Minister of Fisheries
and Livestock DRC

HE Olivier Mwenze Mukaleng
Minister of Hydraulic
Resources and Electricity
DRC

M. Rubenildo Falcão de Melo
Brazilian Fruit Producers
Association

HE Albert Yuma
President of the
Federation of Congolese
Enterprises

Mr. Rahim Dhrolia
Terra

Mr. Kalaa Mpinga
Palanka Ventures

Mr. George A. Forrest
Groupe Forrest International

Mr. Turhan Mildon
Milvest

Mr. Gagan Gupta
ARISE

Dr. Mohamed Anouar Jamali
OCP Africa

Mr. Itamar Paiva Rocha
Brazilian Association of Shrimp & Fish

Mrs. Mary Porter Peschka
IFC

M. Mehdi Tanani
Proparco

Mr. Henrik Pedersen
IFC

Mr. Solomane Kone
BAD

Mr. Anthony Nkinzo Kamole
ANAPI

Mr. Malick Fall
IFC

Mrs. Alda Kule Dale
Ministry of Finance

Mr. A.L. Kitenge Lubanda
Governance Expert