



International Coffee Organization
Organización Internacional del Café
Organização Internacional do Café
Organisation Internationale du Café

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Qualitative and quantitative rehabilitation of coffee with the aims of improving living conditions of coffee farmers afflicted and displaced by war and their restoration to their areas of origin as well as the protection of their biophysical environment in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Project proposal

Background

1. The present document has been submitted by the General Management of the Office National Du Café of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and contains the summary of a project proposal designed to rehabilitate the coffee sector through the creation of centres for propagation and distribution, the establishment of extension and support teams and making available to farmers high performance cuttings, essential inputs and appropriate guidance.
2. The proposal has been sent to the Virtual Screening Committee (VSC) for evaluation and will be examined by the Executive Board in September 2008.

Action

The Executive Board is requested to examine this proposal as well as the recommendations of the VSC and, if considered appropriate, recommend its approval by the Council.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project title :	Qualitative and quantitative rehabilitation of coffee with the aims of improving living conditions of coffee farmers afflicted and displaced by war and their restoration to their areas of origin as well as the protection of their biophysical environment.
Duration:	Three years
Location:	Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
Nature of the project:	Rehabilitation of the coffee sector in the Democratic Republic of Congo and poverty reduction in the rural environment
Brief description:	The objective of the project is to contribute to the resettlement of coffee farmers displaced by war through rehabilitating coffee growing and improving its quality through the introduction of washed coffee processing. The creation of propagation and distribution centres together with the establishment of extension and support teams to make available to coffee farmers high performance cuttings, essential inputs and appropriate guidance. These practical measures are designed to encourage and persuade doubting farmers to return to their places of origin and settle there.
Estimated total cost:	US\$3,801,277.24
Financing sought from the Fund:	US\$2,318,779.12
Co-financing ONC:	US\$380,127.72
Counterpart contribution from the Government:	US\$1,064,357.63
Project Executing Agency (PEA):	To be determined
Supervisory body:	International Coffee Organization (ICO)
Participating institution:	Office National Du Café (ONC)
Estimated starting date:	To be determined

Project objectives and justification

Global objectives:

- a) To rehabilitate the coffee industry in the DRC by strengthening capacity in the areas of extension, management and renewal of the coffee tree population.
- b) To improve coffee quality by implementing systems for wet processing.

Specific objectives:

- Establish three teams to renew the propagation of appropriate cultural techniques and the effective supervision of coffee growers
- Establish four centres for the production of cuttings and seeds in order to renew the coffee tree population
- Improve living conditions for coffee farmers in the project areas
- Preserve the biophysical environment of forest ecosystems
- Improve plant yields

Justification

Coffee activity in the Democratic Republic of Congo supplies an important element of added value in an economy essentially dominated by mining resources. Coffee is the first agricultural export product (11% of the value of total exports of the country in 1996 – 2000). It not only contributes to the gross domestic product of the country thanks to the export earnings it generates but also to the creation of employment both in rural areas and in the towns. Nevertheless Congolese coffee exports, which reached 119,320 tonnes in 1989 and 110,280 tonnes in 1990, have seen a drastic fall since they were only 7,583 tonnes in 2003 and 38,400 tonnes in 1998. The volume of exports in 2007 was 12,033 tonnes.

This drop in production during the two last decades arises from a combination of various scientific, technical, agronomic and above all natural event factors that have affected the country. Armed conflict has destroyed production infrastructures in plantations and forced populations to abandon their villages and their activities. In consequence massive displacements of growers in the main coffee producing provinces of the East, North and Centre covering more than half the country and representing some 168,982 hectares or 71.5% of total area have occurred. The consequences have been the loss of purchasing power of coffee farmers and an increase in poverty.

In order to stimulate the return of growers and to fight against poverty, the ONC has initiated this project which aims to improve living conditions and to protect the biophysical environment of coffee farmers from territories devastated by war.

Project components

1) Actions at the social level

The participation of the Office National Du Café in the process of resettling people displaced by war to their areas of origin.

The contribution of the ONC is to convey, through broadcasting, MONUC, CONADER, NGOs, or by intermediate territorial authorities, the message relating to the involvement of the ONC in the process of support that it intends to provide to afflicted populations which have returned to their home areas. This involves supplying small scale agricultural materials and other inputs as well as plant cuttings and/or seeds.

2) Action at the production level

- Establishment of training and extension teams
- Establishment of production propagation centres for cuttings and high performance seeds
- Support for coffee growers for agricultural inputs and dissemination of technical advice
- Production and multiplication of plant material which is resistant to coffee wilt disease and/or otherwise improved
- Renewal of old plantations by replacement with high performance seedlings
- Supply of agricultural inputs to growers
- Intensification of extension work and farmer supervision
- Renewal of old plantations with extension of cultivated areas
- Distribution of seedlings obtained through cuttings (Robusta – Arabica) or seeds (Arabica)
- Carrying out work on extension and farmer supervision
- Rehabilitation of old plantations with high performance and/or wilt disease resistant material
- Supervision of the progress of coffee wilt disease towards unaffected areas. Building phytosanitary barriers and actions against other diseases and insect pests

3) Action at the level of initial field processing

- Establishment of installations for depulping and removing the mucilage and parchment in areas of high coffee density
- Processing of coffee cherries from old plantations
- Processing of coffee cherries from old as well as renewed plantations

Expected results

- Stabilization of populations in zones affected by armed conflict between various belligerent parties
- Support for more or less 75,200 coffee farmers
- Action over an area of 46,080 hectares
- Increase in yields from 250 kg/ha to 600 kg/ha and increase in national production
- Improvement of living conditions for producers and reduction of rural poverty
- Protection of the biophysical environment of forest ecosystems
- Improvement in the quality of Congolese coffee