

## **Outline of the AgriBusiness Forum 2015**

The AgriBusiness Forum is a business event, aimed at strengthening the Agri-Food sector in Africa, by encouraging partnerships, exchanging of best practices and attracting investments. We believe that the success of Africa depends on the development and growth of its private sector and that the agribusiness sector has an enormous potential for growth.

The Forum, the largest pan-African Agribusiness Forum held on the African continent annually,

attracts a few hundred agribusiness leaders and decision makers: entrepreneurs, financiers, donors,

Hosted by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo:



In partnership with:



industrialists, researchers, Government officials, international organisations, NGOs and others from North and South. It is a key meeting point for those who wish to take part in Africa's agro-food sector growth and for those who wish to invest in the sector. The event is a unique combination of **Plenary Sessions, Technical Workshops, Pre-organized Business Meetings** and a **Market Place.** The **EMRC-Rabobank Project Incubator Award of US\$15.000** is also part of the forum, aimed to encourage the African SME agro-initiatives for the benefit of local communities.

Since 2009 the Forum has taken place in Africa: in 2009 in Cape Town, South Africa, in 2010 in Kampala, Uganda, in 2011 in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2012 in Dakar, Senegal and in 2013 in Kigali, Rwanda. Prior to that, the Forum was hosted in Europe and took place in 2007 and 2008 at the FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy.

## Why hold the AgriBusiness Forum in DR Congo



Economy in the Democratic Republic of Congo remained strong in 2013, with a GDP increasing by 8.1% (versus 7.2% in 2012) thanks to extractive industry, trade, construction and agriculture. Growth is expected to remain at 8.5% in 2014 and 8.6% in 2015, driven by mining, reconstruction of roads and energy infrastructure as well as the impact of the agricultural campaign launched in 2012. In line with the vision of the Head of State, Joseph Kabila Kabange, the Prime Minister, Augustin Matata Ponyo, launched several initiatives aimed to transform DRC into an emerging economy by 2030, pledging to relentlessly strengthen the transparency and accountability of public sector spending. Recently, peace



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was restored in the Democratic Republic of Congo, paving the way for economic growth and social improvement in the long term.

The AgriBusiness Forum 2015 will bring together over 400 decision makers and professionals from around the world and will be the ideal venue to highlight the business and investment opportunities in DR Congo's agricultural and agro-industrial sector as well as to provide a platform for the promotion of South–South and North–South trade cooperation and investment for the benefit of the entire African agro -food sector.

DRC's Prime Minister and his Government have adopted an ambitious strategy to boost national agroindustrial production: the agro-parks. These are large-scale private-public projects aimed at modernizing the agriculture through mechanization, irrigation and usage of improved seeds, among others, following a demand-driven approach. They are designed to create employment in rural areas, as well as to structure integrated agricultural value chains on a long-term basis.

Facts about agriculture in DR Congo:

- ✓ 80 million hectares of arable land;
- ✓ Abundant water resources;
- Modernisation of abandoned farms and plantations;
- ✓ 73 million people in the country and 250 million in the region to feed;
- Recent improvement in the business climate;
- Existence of the Fund for the Promotion of Industry (FPI) and the National Fund for Agricultural Development (FNDA), providing financial support for agricultural projects

## Forum Draft Programme

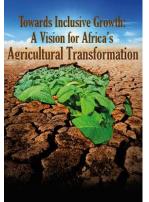
	Day I	22 March 2015, Sunday
Hosted by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo:	09h00	Registration throughout the day
	11h00	<b>Pre-conference Workshop Part I – Agricultural Projects: Finance and Investment</b> How to increase your chances of securing financing and attracting partnerships to your business – capital, technology and business expansion
	13h00	Networking Lunch
	14h30- 16h00	Pre-conference Workshop Part II – Agricultural Projects: Finance and Investment Continuation
	18h30	Icebreaking Event – Welcome reception
partnership with:	Day II	23 March 2015, Monday
		Agricultural Modernisation Day
		Plenary Sessions
emrc	09h00	Official Opening of the AgriBusiness Forum 2015, with: - EMRC President - DR Congo Government Officials
		- Main Partners
		Session I – Setting Up Strategies and Priorities to boost agribusiness in Africa and render it more attractive for investors:

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

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Agribusiness Forum South	11h00	Coffee Break
	11h30	Special Session – EMRC – Rabobank Project Incubator Award
	12h30	Networking Lunch
		Parallel Workshops
	14h00	Workshop A – Modernizing Infrastructure at the farm level to reduce losses and improve productivity Workshop B – Integrating domestic, regional and international agricultural trade and access to markets Workshop C – Increasing agricultural products' added value through transformation and industrialization
ŏ	15h30- 17h30	One-on-One Business Meetings
Å.	20h00	Gala Evening: Presentation of the Project Incubator Award 2015, in the presence of Government officials, Ambassadors, media and the business community.
342 R. C	Day III	24 March 2015, Tuesday
Towards Inclusive Growth: A Vision for Africa's		Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Day
Agricultural Transformation	09h00	Session II – Building Inclusive Value Chains globally; the market-based approach
	10h00	Session III – Sustainable management of soil resources: Ensuring food security and economic development
	11h00	Coffee Break
	11h30	<ul> <li>Special Session DR Congo – attracting investments and partners into the agricultural sector</li> <li>through large-scale agricultural initiatives (industrial agro-parks)</li> <li>by boosting competitiveness of family farming</li> </ul>
	13h00	Networking Lunch
Hosted by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo:	14h15	<ul> <li>Workshop D – Scientific Research and Innovation: access to best practices for improved yields, irrigation, agricultural inputs</li> <li>Workshop E – Inclusivity Considerations: Attracting youth to farming and empowering women in agriculture</li> </ul>
	16h00- 18h00	One-on-One Business Meetings
PAIX	20h00	Networking Evening
	Day IV	25 March 2015, Wednesday
In partnership with:		Responsible Finance Day
	09h00	Session IV – Promoting Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI) principles
Ausropie des provide et des nations	10h00	Session V – Addressing the financing needs in Agriculture: the role of agricultural banks, commercial banks, investment funds and foundations
	11h00	Coffee Break
emrc	11h30	Session VI – Innovative schemes to unleash agricultural finance and enable farmers to access credit, insurance and the carbon credit
	12h30	Role of microfinance institutions towards cooperatives and local communities
	13h30	Official closing of the Forum
	14h00	Networking Farewell Lunch



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In partnership with:





Visits to sites

15h00

## Among the speakers:

- **H.E. Augustin Matata Ponyo**, Prime Minister, Head of Government, Democratic Republic of Congo
- Hon. Kabwe Mweu, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery, DR Congo
- Hon. Eugène Serufuli, Minister of Rural Development, DR Congo
- Moïse Katumbi Chapwe, Governor of the Province of Katanga, DR Congo
- Marcellin Cishambo Ruhoya, Governor of the Province of South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo
- Constantin Mbengele Kwete Thamuk, CEO FPI (Fund for the Promotion of Industry), Democratic Republic of Congo
- Eugenia Serova, Director AGS FAO (UN Food & Agriculture Organisation), Italy
- Moustapha Soumare, Country Representative UNDP, DR Congo
- Mark Poeschl, VP and Group Director, Premix & Nutrition Cargill, USA
- Hugh Scott, Director AECF (Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund), Kenya
- Monty Jones, President EMRC International, Belgium
- Nuradin Osman, Managing Director, Africa & Middle East AGCO, USA
- Rosha Omar, Country Representative IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development), DR Congo
- Ami Lustig, President & CEO LR Group, Israel
- Tom Derksen, Managing Director Agriculture Sector SNV, The Netherlands
- Sarah Mbago, Country Director DR Congo SNV, The Netherlands
- John Mususa Ulimwengu, Senior Adviser, Agriculture et rural development Prime Minister's Office, and Senior Research Fellow IFPRI, DR Congo
- Michiel Hendriksz, Director of Sustainability ADM Int'l (Archer Daniels Midland), Switzerland
- Pierre van Hedel, Managing Director Rabobank Foundation, The Netherlands
- Yariv Kedar, Managing Director Agribusiness Amiran/ Balton Group, Kenya
- **Maurice Schill**, Co-Director Agribusiness & Agriculture BTC (Belgium Technical Cooperation), DR Congo
- Seyoum Leta, Programme Manager Bio-Innovate Africa/ ILRI (Int'l Livestock Research Institute), Kenya
- Arthur Levi, Adviser & Member of the Executive Committee EMRC Int'l, France
- Gil Arbel, chief Executive Officer Kitoko Food, DR Congo
- Jawdat Badawieh, Commercial Business Manager, ME & Africa HaZera, Israel
- Eric Kacou, Co-Founder & CEO Entrepreneurial Solutions Partners, USA
- Prof. Jonathan Gressel, Plant & Environmental Sciences, Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel
- Pim van Ballekom, Vice-President responsible for finance EIB (European Investment Bank), Luxembourg

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