

# Somme Guinean plan and priorities for sustainable Soil management

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# General Context

- Agriculture is the basis of the Guinean economy and the main driver of growth of the country.
- Cultivable area is estimated to 6 million of ha, covering 25% of the country. But only 0.85 million of ha (14%) is used per year on average.
- The rural sector however, occupies 70% of the whole population and contributes for 20% to the GDP.

The Republic of Guinea is subdivided into four natural regions:

- ***Lower Guinea: is the productive region***

This region is dominated by fertile clay soils (plain of the litoral) and this fertility is reduced in the piedmont .

- The agriculture water potential is about 800 ha in the marshland (36 % of the national potential) and 45 000 ha of plains (28 % of the national).

Main crops of this region are:

- Rice, maize, vegetables etc.

- ***Medium Guinea (Futa Djallon Region).***

- Soils of this mountainous region are degraded due to erosion, climate change , human pressure etc

- This region has 14 % of the national potentiel of marshlands and 18 % of the plains

Main crops of this region:

- Potato, fonio and maize, vegetables

- ***Upper Guinea*** : a region of high agriculture and water potentiality

This region has rich soils. This region of Savana is degraded (deforestation, mining, sedimentation and irrational cultivation)

Main crops of this region:

➤ Rice, coton, yams, cassava, fonio, groundnut, maize etc.

- ***Forest Guinea***: it is a region of agriculture potentiality

➤ *Dominated with ferraltic soils: acidic and infertile*

➤ *“Sols bruns: these fertile soils are found on the top of hills:*

Main crops: Coffee, cacao, colanut, rice, palmoil etc.

# Priorities for sustainable soil management

The priorities of Guinea are presented in 3 phases:

- Land reclamation
- Improvement of environmental conditions
- Socio-economic development program

# Phase 1. Land reclamation program

This phase mainly consists:

- Set up the outline for farmers' land reorganization and development projects.
- Reorganization of land tenure by ensuing farm ownership acts. This act will limit the practices of shifting cultivation and the deforestation that follow.
- Defining a program for education of farmers in order to upgrade the level of literacy in the rural area

# Phase 2. Improvement of environmental conditions

The focal point of this phase are:

- Readjustment of infrastructure and equipment.
- Along with the transfer of new packages, soil laboratory will be equipped as to make them more efficient. The existing soil laboratories of the actual research centers will be associated in order to connect as much as possible producers to the research staff.
- Promoting soil physical and chemical analysis to allow soil potential assessment and better management, for example control of soil acidity and associated aluminum problem.
- Biological improvement
  - Crop rotation system and effective use organic fertilizer will be recommended and monitored.
  - Training program: representative of agriculture association, cooperatives and NGO along with staff from SENASOL and associated institutions will continue to teach farmers on the importance of soil diagnosis, the relation between nutrient absorption by plant and fertilizer application.
  - Training materials, brochures, will be issued in local language for each ecological zone of the country.

# Phase 3. Socio-economic development program

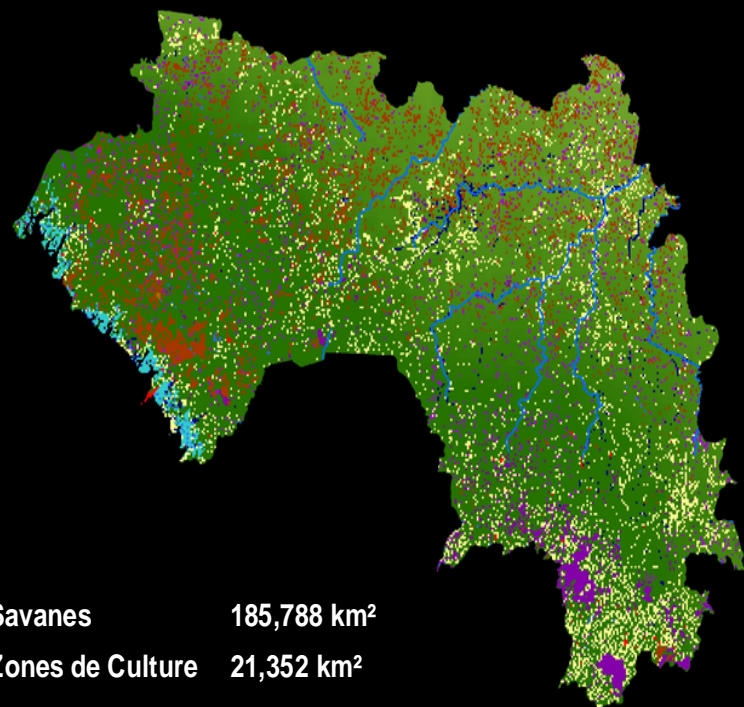
This phase aims to improve farmer's welfare by:

- Promoting agricultural trading system by protecting local production against imported product
- Setting up a system of farm credit so that farmers can get loans at the reasonable interest
- Developing democratic movement among farmers to awake for new idea

# Progress so far

- we have produced a **soil fertility map** of 100 000 ha for representative area of the 6000 000 ha cultivable lands
- Training of trainers
- Set up of the farmer **field school**
- Establishment of farmers leaders
- Mobile laboratories

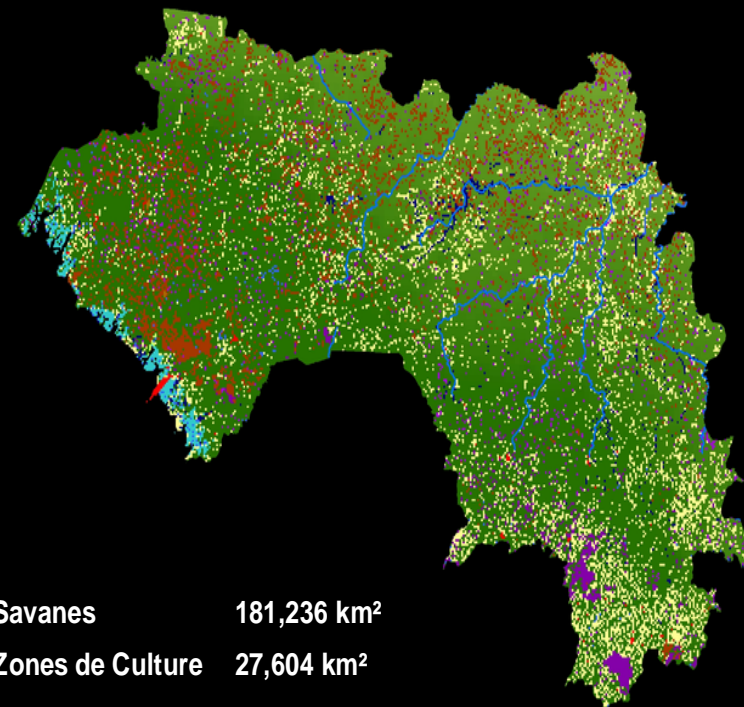
## L'Occupation du Sol de la Guinée en 1975



Savanes 185,788 km<sup>2</sup>  
Zones de Culture 21,352 km<sup>2</sup>



## L'Occupation du Sol de la Guinée en 2000



Savanes 181,236 km<sup>2</sup>  
Zones de Culture 27,604 km<sup>2</sup>

