



GCP/RAF/408/EC
**« MOBILISATION ET RENFORCEMENT DES CAPACITES
DES PETITES ET MOYENNES ENTREPRISES IMPLIQUEES
DANS LES FILIERES DES PRODUITS FORESTIERS NON
LIGNEUX EN AFRIQUE CENTRALE »**

Avec l'appui financier de la Commission Européenne



South West PRUNUS PLATFORM MEETING REPORT

Buea, 16th May 2008

Le présent document a été réalisé avec la participation financière de l'Union européenne.
Les opinions qui y sont exprimées ne peuvent en aucun cas être considérées comme
reflétant la position officielle de l'Union européenne.

Context

The prunus sector in Cameroon is currently faced with a dilemma, but this is apparently not yet clear to some of the actors involved, especially at the grassroots level. This dilemma comes about due to the ban in the export of prunus from Cameroon to its main market, which is the European Union. The main cause for this ban is contained in the unsustainable exploitation of the produce which is no longer meeting with their standard requirement for the sector.

This meeting/workshop was in line with SNV's activities aimed at *Prunus* coordination, through the organisation of actors in the prunus chain . As part of this processes, on November 22-23, 2007 in Bamenda, the Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV) and Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) organised a **PROBLEM ANALYSIS, ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS AND STATUS OF THE *Prunus africana* CHAIN** Workshop. One of the outcomes of this workshop was to set up an open "Platform" of stakeholders in the Prunus chain, in which stakeholders freely decided to join so that they can reflect and seek solutions to problems plaguing the sector.

Work Programme

- Opening prayers
- Introduction of participants
- Presentation of the project (Context and Objectives)
- Analysis of the prunus sector in the Southwest province
- Presentation of national dynamics
- Towards a sustainable management of prunus in the South west province.

Objective

- Analysis of existing situation of prunus actors in the SW
- Reflection on the current status of ban of Prunus and approaches for sustainable exploitation in the South West
- Reflect on the role of the different stakeholders towards sustainable exploitation of prunus in SW.

Expected Results

- R1. There is coordinated and concerted effort of actors in the prunus sector in the SW
- R2. Updates of status of prunus in EU market
- R3. Stakeholders commit themselves on actions towards sustainable exploitation of prunus

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

In order to better acquaint participants with the project context and purpose of the meeting the following presentation was done by the SNV team

- The project is actually collaboration between the government of Cameroon and the European Union. The European Union is the main sponsor
- The Project partners include FAO/SNV/CIFOR/ICRAF
- FAO is involved at several levels in the implementation: It has Local technical

Advisors in the Extreme North/southwest province/North west province/Central south province, and Three Field Facilitators in each of the respective areas

Project Objectives

- Increase the revenues of Small and Medium size Enterprises involved in the production and commercialization of Non wood Forest products and
- Manage NWFP resources for both current and future generations

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Improve the capacities of actors involved
- Improve production and harvesting techniques
- Develop the market chains of major NWFP
- Promote an institutional environment

CURRENT SITUATION IN THE PRUNUS SECTOR

In order to better appraise and understand the present situation of the various actors in the prunus sector, participants worked through a group exercise. First the various categories of actors in the sector were identified as follows:

Categories

- Prunus harvesters
- Government of Cameroon.
- Regenerators/growers of prunus
- Service providers in the sector

Group Exercise

Terms of reference were as follows:

In your respective categories, discuss and share:

- Your current situation (What are you currently doing?)
- What are your main problems/constraints?

Results of the group work from various categories

Government of Cameroon and service providers

| Main activities | Main problems | Responsible |
|------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Control | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient equipment and staff • Encroachment | Government of Cameroon |
| Creation of protected areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boundary problems | Government of Cameroon |
| Creation of community forest | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boundary problems • Long process • Insufficient finances and staff | Government of Cameroon |
| Regeneration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient finances and staff | Government of Cameroon |

| | | |
|---|---|------------------------|
| Research | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient finances and staff | Government of Cameroon |
| Capacity building | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient finances, equipment and staff • Unavailable transportation means | Service provider |
| Research | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient finances • Insufficient Manpower • Insufficient Equipment | Service provider |
| Nurseries development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No means of transportation • Lack of Improved seeds • Insufficient finances | Service provider |
| Provision of inputs and planting material | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient finances | Service provider |
| Follow-up | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unavailable transportation means • Insufficient finances, equipment and staff • | Service provider |
| Facilitation of community Forest creation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient finances • Insufficient man power • Community's inability to follow-up implementation of the plans | Service provider |
| Collaboration with relevant Government services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non payment of Out of station Allowances • Unavailability of Government support staff | Service provider |
| Collaboration with International NGOs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult donor policies • Difficulties in transparency | Service provider |
| Collaboration with communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional cultural barriers | |

Prunus harvesters

The lead institution which presented itself as active in the area of prunus harvesting at the meeting was MOCAP. MOCAP members therefore formed a group and shared in plenary.

- Formation of MOCAP in Mapanja, and Bokwango villages
- Acquisition of authorization to exploit prunus from the government
- Quota application from government of Cameroon granted. N.B The quota indicates the maximum authorized exploitation limit for the group
- Allocation of site (s) for exploitation by the Ministry of Forests.

These constitutes the phases through which the organization has undergone

| Current situation | Problems/constraints |
|---|---|
| Harvesting system The group goes about it as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization and grouping of member villages • Training on harvesting techniques by their field supervisors for new members • Provision of harvesting material/equipment • Harvesting proper by trained harvesters • Storage of harvested barks/material • Sales (mostly in Douala) • Payment of group members/benefits sharing • Monitoring and follow-up activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low quota given to the group (which is intended to be a non-profit group*) • Lack of a good market (s) for raw material • Current ban on the export of Cameroon prunus to E.U countries due to unsustainable exploitation by bigger companies |

*A question was raised concerning the status of MOCAP, following its presentation as a non-profit organization or CIG, since they actually carry out a profitable activity and pay taxes. The members however maintained that they are a not-for-profit organization.

Prunus Growers

| Activity | Problems encountered | Responsible |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| Land preparation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate material | Lebialem area group |
| Nursery preparation and set up | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attacks by insects • Attacks by animals • Inadequate material | Lebialem area group |
| Planting of seeds | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of means of transportation • Lack of improved seeds | Lebialem area group |
| Maintenance of the nursery | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient technical skills • Attacks by insects | Lebialem area group |
| Growers in the Kupe Manenguba area | | |
| Weeding of nursery and site preparation (in the months of April and May) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulties in acquiring plythene bags • Sensitization of the population about the plant-most people in the Tombel area do not know prunus • Attacks by nematodes and other insects • Insufficient working material such as watering cans, cutlasses etc • Insufficient modern technical know-how | NDECWDA Community foresters, Tombel |

National Dynamics in the prunus sector, and ways forward

After sharing on their current activities and constraints in the sector, it became clear that there is a current ban on the export of prunus from Cameroon. Following this ban therefore, whatever actions the individual actors undertook, might certainly not have any profitable end! The question of the day was therefore

- Assessing/understanding the circumstances/causes that led to the ban (which are quite clear to most of the actors, and
- Identifying the measures/actions that can be undertaken in order to achieve the upliftment of the ban.

The measures as the participants quickly understood were at all levels, and their responsibility as a group, above all else. Time and concerted effort were of the essence. Pro-actively the participants began mobilizing themselves on the spot towards contributing in the better understanding and implementation of measures for sustainable prunus exploitation, notably the circular letter of the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife on traceability for prunus harvested in local communities.

List of Participants

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