



FARMING EDIBLE INSECTS AND PROMOTING ENTOMOPHAGY IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

“TRAINING 1000 PEOPLE TO BECOME INSECT FARMERS IN THE CAPITAL CITY OF KINSHASA”

WHY INSECTS?

Up to 75% of the population in the Democratic Republic of the Congo suffers from food insecurity. Malnutrition affects up to 5 million children and is the second cause of child death after malaria. There is an acute need for improving dietary regimens, particularly in urban slums. The most common types of malnutrition are protein and energy deficiencies, followed by micronutrient insufficiencies.

Insects offer high protein, fat and micronutrients content. Market surveys show that insects are already part of traditional diets in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and that local people would readily eat more if available. Caterpillars are the most consumed and preferred species in the country; an estimated 96 tonnes of caterpillars are supplied to the Kinshasa market annually.

Insects can moreover be reared on organic waste, are easily available and can be produced at very low costs. Insect farming is thereby an interesting prospect as a food source for direct human consumption and/or as feed for sale to local poultry farmers. Insect rearing also offers unique livelihood support, diet diversification and cash income for poor urban dwellers, while at the same time enables the recycling of organic waste.

NEW FAO PROJECT LAUNCHED

FAO research shows that promoting the consumption of edible insects is one sustainable and sound way to combat chronic malnutrition as well as create new income generating opportunities in Kinshasa.

This two year project is the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's immediate response under the 'Plan National d'Investissement Agricole (PNIA)' to stimulate further growth in the agriculture sector during the period 2013 – 2020.

The project focuses on strengthening the traditional role of insects in local diets while enhancing the sustainability, safety and efficiency of insect farming, processing and consumption.

A wide range of partners and beneficiaries will be involved: 1000 people will be trained in insect rearing and processing techniques to become insect farmers and further train others after project termination. Institutional capacity of relevant governmental agencies in the agriculture, health and nutrition sectors, civil society groups and staff from Universities and research centres will also be strengthened.

OTHER CONTACTS

JeanClaude Nguinguiri, FAO Central Africa office,

jeanclaude.nguinguiri@fao.org

Paul Vantomme, FAO HQ, paul.vantomme@fao.org

PROJECT WEBPAGE

<http://www.fao.org/forestry/edibleinsects/en/>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

please contact the office of the FAO Representative
in RD Congo: FAO-CD@fao.org