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Food Production, Processing & Marketing Project (FPPM)

Quarterly Report (Q1): 1 October – 31 December 2011



January 2012

This report was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by DAI for the USAID Congo Food Production, Processing and Marketing in Kinshasa Marketshed (FPPM) Project, Contract Number AID-623-C-00-11-00008

FOOD PRODUCTION PROCESSING & MARKETING PROJECT (FPPM)

**QUARTERLY REPORT (Q1)
1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 2011**

Sponsoring USAID Office: USAID Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo
Contract Number: AID-623-C-11-00008
Contractor: DAI



Date of Publication: 31 January 2012

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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ACRONYMS

AFRIKI	Association des Femmes Riziculteurs de Kingabwa
APTM	Association des Producteurs et Transformateurs de Manioc
BENI Food	Bas-Congo-Based NGO
BDD-Matadi	Bureau Diocésain pour le Développement - Matadi
BIAC	Banque Internationale pour l’Afrique au Congo
CARG	Conseil Agricole Rural de Gestion (Rural Management Council for Agriculture)
CDS-Kisantu	Caritas Développement Santé – Diocèse de Kisantu
CIAT	International Centre for Tropical Agriculture
COP	Chief of Party
COTR	Contracting Officer’s Technical Representative
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
EU	European Union
FIDA	Fonds International de Développement Agricole
GODRC	Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo
ICRAF	World Agroforestry Centre
IFDC	International Fertilizer Development Center
IGA	Income Generating Activity
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
INERA	Institut National pour l’Etude et la Recherche Agronomique
IP	Implementing Partner
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IR	Intermediate Results
Matchem	Kinshasa-Based SME (involved in processing/marketing of cassava)
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Governmental/Non-Profit Organization
ONGD	Non-Governmental Development Organization
OSFAC	Observatoire Satellite des Fôrets de l’Afrique Centrale
PAARSA	Projet d’Appui à la Réhabilitation et la Relance du Secteur Agricole
PERSUAP	Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
PPP	Public/Private Partnership
RFA	Request for Application

SENASEM	Service National de Semences
SME	Small & Medium Enterprise
TSBF-CIAT	Tropical Soil Biology and Fertility Institute of CIAT
USG	United States Government

0.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

0.1 Introduction

0.1.1 Contract

The contract (AID-623-C-11-00008) between USAID and DAI for implementation of the Food Production, Processing & Marketing activity (FPPM) was signed on 9 May 2011. FPPM is to run for five years, from 9 May 2011 to 8 May 2016. The purpose of FPPM, aligned with the US President's Feed the Future strategy, is to instigate broad-based agricultural growth in three provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC): Bandundu, Bas-Congo, and Kinshasa.

0.1.2 Quarterly Reporting

The contract calls for Quarterly Progress Reports that show; *progress against results defined in the work plan and that include a description and analysis of the results achieved, the problems encountered and proposed solutions, the progress made, the lessons learned, and planned activities for the next quarter.* This is the second quarterly report for FPPM, covering the first quarter of FY2012, from 1 October to 31 December 2011.

FPPM is working in accordance with the annual work plan that was submitted to USAID in August 2011. The work plan, itself, was organized in relation to the Mission results framework. At the Mission's request, this quarterly report is formatted so as to relate activities to the results framework as well as the work plan. The FPPM Baseline Survey, delayed due to the elections but now scheduled for the next quarter, will establish baselines for all project indicators, making future reporting more quantitative.

0.2 Progress To-Date Based on Results Indicators

At its conclusion, FPPM will have measurably benefitted 120,000 smallholders, 1,000 SMEs - including farmer group enterprises, women's group enterprises, cooperatives, and processors - and approximately 22 formal PPPs. By the end of the project, farmer net income levels from staple food crop sales will be increased by \$453 per household or \$43 million. A 75 percent increase in the volume of sales from these farmers at the wholesale level in Kinshasa, Matadi, Boma, Kikwit, Bandundu City, and Mbanza-Ngungu will translate into a total increase of 122,500 MT of staple food production available for consumption, reducing food insecurity and helping to meet the caloric, protein, and vitamin, and mineral needs of an undernourished and malnourished population.

0.2.1 Result Component 1: Increased Agricultural Productivity

Cassava, maize, and grain legumes constitute the main focus of food security in both rural and urban zones of the DRC. Cassava is the most important of the three because of its nearly universal presence and weight in the Congolese diet. Cassava is backed by broadly available and validated production and processing technologies. Maize and grain legumes are increasingly favored in urban locations. They are critical in income generation, nutrition, and soil fertility management, and integrate well with existing cassava cultivation.

0.2.1.1 Indicators Relevant to Component I

Indicator 1.7:	Increase in volume of production
Indicator 1.8:	Increase in value of production
Indicator 1.9:	Increase in volume of domestic sales
Indicator 1.10:	Change in value of domestic sales commodities
Indicator 1.11:	Number of rural households with an increase in income
Indicator 1.12:	Percent change in annual net household income
Indicator 1.13:	Increase in annual net household income
Indicator 1.14:	Change in yields of target agricultural commodities per hectare
Indicator 1.15:	Change in production cost per unit of output for targeted agricultural commodities
Indicator 1.16:	Change in volume of food produced per household
Indicator 1.17:	No. of rural households adopting new production technologies
Indicator 1.18:	No. of hectares under improved technologies or management practices
Indicator 1.19:	Value of agricultural inputs and other support marketed through production support systems
Indicator 1.20:	Number of producers receiving improved planting stock

Component I began its activities in the first reporting period with the multiplication of foundation planting material of improved varieties of the FPPM focal crops, i.e. cassava, maize, and grain legumes. During the reporting period, the multiplication effort intensified and was extended to the production of certified planting material.

There will be little to report for most of the indicators until the end of Project Year 2, when the farmers in the project area who have received improved planting stock begin to harvest, sell, and earn income.

0.2.1.2 Establishment of Multiplication Fields with Foundation Material

The indicator that relates most closely to the multiplication of higher quality planting materials is Indicator 1.1.8: Number of hectares under improved technologies or management practices.

0.2.1.3 Establishment of Multiplication Fields with Certified Material

Given the scarcity of foundation material for the newest varieties, and in order to accelerate the installation of the production fields, FPPM turned to large NGOs and faith-based organizations with the capacities to manage the cultivation of large fields. FPPM is furnishing the certified planting material and the partner groups, using tractors and other mechanized equipment, are responsible for cultivation up to harvest.

An area of 182 Ha is in the process of being planted with certified cassava cuttings, of which 83.7 Ha was planted prior to the end of the reporting period, i.e. 31 December 2011; 46 Ha have been prepared and are awaiting the delivery of cuttings; and 52.3 Ha are being prepared for planting. (The production density is 12,500 plants per hectare. This density permits the production of cassava for tubers or cuttings for multiplication in case planting material is insufficient at certain sites.)

0.2.1.4 Support for Production of Cassava Tubers

The following chart gives the details on the producers who have been supported with improved cuttings during the quarter.

Province	Producer	Sites	Variety	Area (Ha)
Kinshasa	Fondation Temple de Rencontre	Salempo	Nsansi, Disanka, Mvuazi et Obama	7
	Ferme Kobota Elengi	Bwantaba	Obama	2.2
	Ferme Kayembe	Mongata	Obama	3.5
Bas-Congo	UPEC	Axe Mahunzi, Secteur Kivulu	Obama	40
Total				50.7

0.2.1.5 Global Climate Change

FPPM is concerned that the success of the project might encourage farmers to encroach on natural forest in order to open more land for cultivation. If FPPM introduced agroforestry techniques to enrich soils in farm fields and also encouraged farmer groups and associations to plant trees as “carbon sinks” in order to qualify for a carbon credits program, such a strategy integrate well with the project’s overall strategy, while earning income for farmers.

FPPM technicians held preliminary discussions with technicians from IITA/CIAT and ICRAF during the reporting period over the possibility of collaborating on agroforestry/carbon sequestration activity through the famer field schools. Both IITA and ICRAF tabled concept papers for discussion at the end of the reporting period.

0.2.2 Result Component 2: Improving Market Efficiency

Interventions under Component Two focus on downstream value chain functions: from post-harvest handling and aggregation, to processing, to sales in markets with all the intervening transport linkages. A significant obstacle to the adoption of new technologies is the lack of sufficient production to warrant investment. Simple productivity-enhancing innovations comprise such elements as post-harvest treatment, proper storage, on-farm or near-farm processing, and dedicated good quality transport. As the ramp-up in production in targeted areas occurs as a result of Component I activities, FPPM will take advantage of the higher volumes coming on-stream to introduce new technologies along the critical points in the manioc, maize, and grain-legume value chains.

0.2.2.1 Indicators Most Relevant to Component II

Indicator 2.1: No. of new market infrastructure facilities established.

Indicator 2.2: No. of rural producers/ households using market information systems

Indicator 2.5: No. of rural producers/ households marketing produce to processing and value-adding enterprises

Indicator 2.6: No. of new buyer-seller relationships facilitated by FPPM

0.2.2.2 Interventions

Interventions under Component Two during the reporting period included field trips, market visits, and work sessions that were important to starting up FPPM assistance in post-harvest handling and aggregation, processing, and marketing. Information gathered for the initial value chain assessments is the base on which FPPM staff are developing the network of stakeholder contacts, e.g. NGOs, traders, supermarket owners, truckers, processors, etc.

0.2.3 Result Component 3: Increased Capacity to Respond to Markets

The huge demand from the Kinshasa food market has been sustained historically by the private sector. The FPPM approach to build the capacity of the private sector to fill market opportunities is guided by the search for efficiencies, quality improvements, and risk reduction that improve the ability of the food supply chain to deliver profitably greater quantities of safe and nutritious foods at prices that improve their access and use by the food insecure population of the marketshed.

0.2.3.1 Indicators Most Relevant to Component III

Indicator 3.1: No. of agricultural enterprises—including producer organizations or farmer field schools—turning a profit as a result of improved business skills and management

Indicator 3.2: No. of producer organizations, trade and business associations, road committees, and community based organizations assisted as a result of USG interventions

Indicator 3.3: No. of rural households using services of service organizations and agents in the FPPM work areas

0.2.3.2 Training – Making Cents International

Making Cents International, subcontractor on FPPM, is developing a curriculum and training program that transfers business, financial, and entrepreneurship skills to local organizations, such as NGOs, CARGs, existing associations, etc., as well as enterprises that work with small scale producers and other value chain actors, such as farmers, women processors and marketers, and BDS providers. As such, the activities of Making Cents will contribute to reporting on Indicators 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3.

0.3 CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES

The most important FPPM cross-cutting activities include gender considerations, environmental mitigation and management, and monitoring and evaluation.

0.3.1 Gender

Women are the base of agricultural production in the DRC, yet men tend to dominate the governance of rural organizations. FPPM will address this mismatch of functions through a holistic approach to gender inclusion that pulls women into both project activities and project benefits. FPPM will carry out a gender assessment study in the next reporting period which will permit better programming of activities in favor of rural women.

0.3.2 Environmental Mitigation and Management

Central to the project's environmental compliance strategy will be the environmental mitigation and management plan (EMMP) that includes screening checklists, mitigation measures, and monitoring plans. The purpose of the EMMP will be to both provide both USAID and the FPPM team with an easy-to-use system that makes environmental compliance as integrated and effective as possible, taking as much guesswork out of the task as possible and building in sufficient documentation to hold up to post-activity performance audits. The EMMP and PERSUAP will be finalized early in the next reporting period.

0.3.3 Performance Monitoring

Tracing causality under FPPM will be demanding, requiring a robust and reliable M&E system that both captures and explains project results and impacts to a diverse audience of stakeholders, counterparts, and beneficiaries. The most important stakeholder, of course, is USAID which, as part of USAID *FORWARD*, is *changing the way it does business by looking to partnerships, local capacity building, an emphasis on innovation, and a relentless focus on results as a way to achieve high-impact development*. USAID has drawn up guidelines for a new evaluation policy based on systematic monitoring of performance and evaluation of impact.

0.3.3.1 Performance Management Plan (PMP)

A consultant on an STTA assignment prepared a Performance Management Plan (PMP) for FPPM that was submitted to USAID in August 2011. The plan will be updated to incorporate the baseline data in the next reporting period and submitted to USAID for final approval.

0.3.3.2 Data Quality Assessment

The Economic Growth office of the Mission hired a consultant to conduct a Data Quality Assessment (DQA) of FPPM Project during the reporting period. The consultant finished his report in December (Ref: Annex 2). The report made recommendations of which the most important was to prepare a written methodology of data collection as an annex to the PMP.

0.3.3.3 Feed the Future Monitoring & Evaluation Workshop

Paul DeLucco, Chief of Party of FPPM Project, was invited by the USAID Bureau of Food Security to participate in a 3-day Feed the Future Monitoring & Evaluation workshop at the Windsor Golf Hotel and Country Club in Nairobi from 17 – 19 October 2011. The workshop was an intensive introduction to the new USAID M&E methodology which emphasizes the importance of Cost/Benefit Analysis and Impact Evaluations.

FPPM comprises three components: 1) *Increasing Agricultural Productivity* - increasing the productivity of tens of thousands of smallholders in Bandundu, Bas Congo, and Kinshasa Provinces; 2) *Making Markets Work* - improving the efficiency of aggregators, traders, processors, transporters, and market operators who supply the urban populations; and, 3) *Building the Future* – improving the capacity of community-based organizations, associations, cooperatives, and small and medium enterprises to respond to market opportunities along the value chains.

Working with producer organizations, Councils for Management of Rural Agriculture (CARGs), public and private partnerships (PPPs), and other donors, FPPM is facilitating the access of smallholder groups to inputs, services, and markets, enabling smallholder farms to become income-generating businesses. As the male and female managers of these businesses learn how to supply rural and urban markets, they will increase opportunities for on-farm and off-farm employment, enhancing household food security and economic resilience.

Transportation shortcomings and the lack of distribution systems for inputs in the value chain underscore the need for decentralized approaches to basic input supply, especially for disease-free planting materials, fertility management and plant protection materials, and tools and equipment. FPPM has already begun partnering with INERA research stations and SENASEM national seed service for procurement and certification of planting material, as well as with local organizations for the multiplication of seeds and cuttings. FPPM will address quantitative and qualitative losses in the postharvest and processing stages through cooperation with IITA-led initiatives on cassava, lowland maize, and leguminous grains.

To address the nutritional balance of both rural and urban populations within the project area, FPPM is focusing on the cultivation of improved varieties of popular food crops, particularly cassava and maize, while actively promoting the production of especially nutritious beans and leguminous grains such as niébé, soy, and peanuts. FPPM is working to expand both the quantity of staple food available to households as well as the nutritional quality of food. FPPM aims to reduce the number of urban people going to bed hungry, and in particular aims to improve diets of young children, their mothers, and pregnant women. The implementation strategy to address nutrition will be defined and developed on the basis of the market and consumption survey to be conducted in February/March 2012.

Although FPPM is not designed to take an active role in the rehabilitation of feeder roads or river links, project management is collaborating with organizations and other donor programs, such as the Belgian Cooperation, that are re-opening road and river links to areas of concentrated agricultural production.

1.2 Quarterly Reporting

The contract calls for Quarterly Progress Reports that show; *progress against results defined in the work plan and that include a description and analysis of the results achieved, the problems encountered and proposed solutions, the progress made, the lessons learned, and planned activities for the next quarter.* This is the second quarterly report for FPPM, covering the first quarter of FY2012, from 1 October to 31 December 2011. FPPM is working in accordance with the annual work plan that was submitted to USAID in August 2011. The work plan, itself, was organized in relation to the Mission results framework. At the Mission's request, this work plan is formatted so as to relate activities to the results framework as well as the work plan. The FPPM Baseline Survey, delayed due to the elections but now scheduled for the next quarter, will establish baselines for all project indicators, making future reporting more quantitative.

The beginning of the quarter saw STTA assignments carried out by FPPM subcontractor Making Cents as well as an assignment by a DAI environmental expert to draft the FPPM Environmental Mitigation and Management Plan (EMMP) and Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan (PERSUAP). Due to security concerns related to the November general elections, no STTA assignments were carried out in November and December and local staff limited travel in the field to avoid being confused with election campaign workers. This quarter was necessarily focused on production activities as FPPM

technical staff concentrated on supporting partner organizations in the multiplication of improved seeds and certified cassava planting material.

2.0 Progress to Date

At its conclusion, FPPM will have measurably benefitted 120,000 smallholders, 1,000 SMEs - including farmer group enterprises, women's group enterprises, cooperatives, and processors - and approximately 22 formal PPPs. By the end of the project, farmer net income levels from staple food crop sales will be increased by \$453 per household or \$43 million. A 75 percent increase in the volume of sales from these farmers at the wholesale level in Kinshasa, Matadi, Boma, Kikwit, Bandundu City, and Mbanza-Ngungu will translate into a total increase of 122,500 MT of staple food production available for consumption, reducing food insecurity and helping to meet the caloric, protein, and vitamin, and mineral needs of an undernourished and malnourished population.

FPPM activities will significantly strengthen smallholder linkages to markets for the main staple food crops. A new level of food security will be achieved, augmenting the availability of food and the local consumers' ability to purchase it. Food sources will become reliable and affordably accessible, reducing the risk of hunger and fear of starvation.

2.1 Result Component 1: Increased Agricultural Productivity

Cassava, maize, and grain legumes constitute the main focus of food security in both rural and urban zones of the DRC. Cassava is the most important of the three because of its nearly universal presence and weight in the Congolese diet. Cassava is backed by broadly available and validated production and processing technologies. Maize and grain legumes are increasingly favored in urban locations. They are critical in income generation, nutrition, and soil fertility management, and integrate well with existing cassava cultivation.

By the end of the previous quarter, i.e. 30 September 2011, the rains had not yet begun to fall in the Provinces of Bas-Congo and Kinshasa. Because of the late rains, the preparation of the fields and the planting of the improved varieties could not be carried out in these provinces as planned; these tasks were implemented during the reporting period, however, with the arrival of the rains.

2.1.1 Indicators Relevant to Component I

Indicator 1.7:	Increase in volume of production
Indicator 1.8:	Increase in value of production
Indicator 1.9:	Increase in volume of domestic sales
Indicator 1.10:	Change in value of domestic sales commodities
Indicator 1.11:	Number of rural households with an increase in income
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Indicator 1.15:	Change in production cost per unit of output for targeted agricultural commodities
Indicator 1.16:	Change in volume of food produced per household
Indicator 1.17:	No. of rural households adopting new production technologies
Indicator 1.18:	No. of hectares under improved technologies or management practices
Indicator 1.19:	Value of agricultural inputs and other support marketed through production support systems
Indicator 1.20:	Number of producers receiving improved planting stock

Component I began its activities in the last reporting period with the multiplication of foundation planting material of improved varieties of the Project Year 1 focal crops, i.e. cassava, maize, and grain legumes. During the reporting period, the multiplication effort intensified and was extended to the production of certified planting material.

There will be little to report for most of the indicators until the end of Project Year 2, when the farmers in the project area who have received improved planting stock begin to harvest, sell, and earn income.

2.1.2 Establishment of Multiplication Fields with Foundation Material

The most appropriate indicator to the multiplication of higher quality planting materials is Indicator 1.1.8: *Number of hectares under improved technologies or management practices*. The following tables, A – C, illustrate FPPM Component II activities related to the multiplication of improved planting materials from foundation seed and cuttings.

A. Bandundu Province

Total area planted: 2.33 Ha.

By the end of the previous quarter, 30 September 2011, various varieties of cassava and maize, from limited stocks of carefully produced foundation material, had been planted. During the course of the reporting period, soy and niébé were also planted.

Partner Organization	Site	Culture	Variety	Area Planted (Ha)	Status
CORIDEK	Nkata busongo	Soy	Afya	0,30	Full Flowering
		Niébé	Vita 7	0,30	Beginning of flowering
UDK	Bansion	Soy	Afya	0,30	Full flowering
	Ibe	Niébé	Vita 7	0,30	Full flowering
MERE DU SAUVEUR	Mateko Biti	Soy	Afya	0,30	Developing pods
	Mateko Kaa	Niébé	Vita 7	0,23	Harvest in process
ACDI/Lusekele	Lusekele	Soy	Afya	0,30	Beginning of Flowering
	Lusekele	Niébé	Vita 7	0,30	Growing well
Total				2,33*	

(*) i.e. 1.20 Ha de Soy and 1.13 Ha of Niébé

B. Bas-Congo Province

Total area planted: 4.6 Ha.

No.	Partner	Cassava Variety	Area (ha)	Maize Variety	Area (ha)	Bean Variety	Area (ha)	Peanut Variety	Area (Ha)	Soy Variety	Area (Ha)
01	UPEC	Obama Nsansi Disanka Butamu Mvuazi Zizila 94/0330	0.30			Lola Ngwaku- Ngwaku	0.045 0.045	JL24	0.80	TGX814 -26D	0.03
02	CDS / Kisantu	Obama Nsansi Disanka Butamu Mvuazi Zizila 94/0330	0.40	Samaru Kasaï 1	0.60 0.60	Lola Ngwaku- Ngwaku	0.045 0.045	JL24	0.58	TGX814 -26D	0.03
03	BDD / Matadi	Obama Nsansi Disanka Butamu Mvuazi Zizila 94/0330	0.56			Lola Ngwaku- Ngwaku	0.045 0.045	JL24	0.40	TGX814 -26D	0.03
TOTAL			1.26		1.20		0.27		1.78		0.09

C. Kinshasa Province

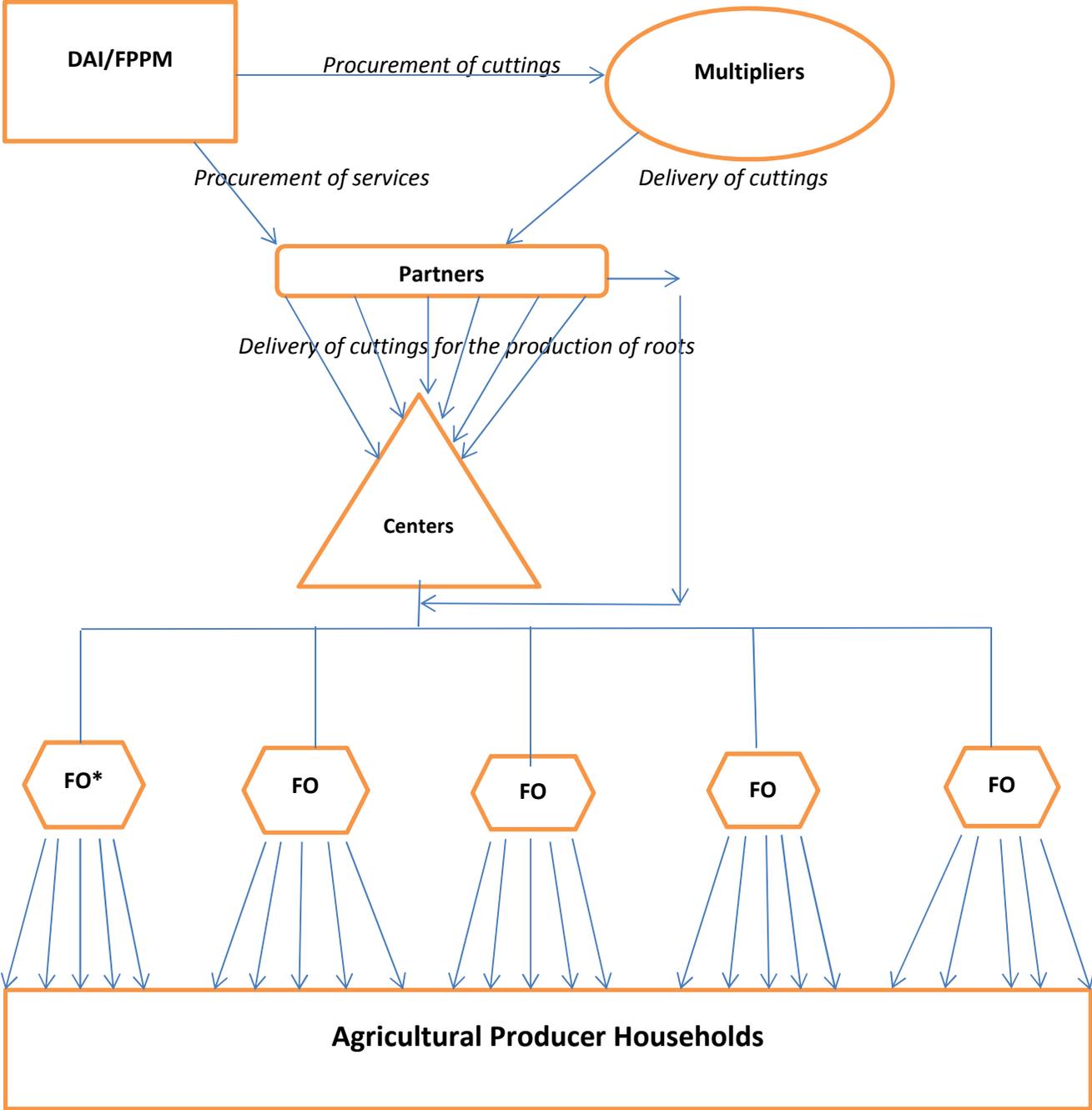
Total Area Planted: 2.164 Ha.

No.	Partner	Cassava Variety	Area (Ha)	Peanuts	Area (Ha)	Niébé	Area (Ha)	Soy	Area (Ha)
1.	Tifie	TME 419 Zizila Disanka Nsansi Butamu 94/0330	1						
2.	CADIM			JL24	0.274	Vita 7 Diamant	0.245 0.245	TGX 428- 260	0.40
	TOTAL		1		0.274		0.49		0.40

2.1.3 Cassava Fields Established with Certified Cuttings

Given the scarcity of foundation material for the newest varieties of cassava, and in order to accelerate the establishment of the production fields, FPPM turned to large NGOs and faith-based organizations with the capacities to manage the cultivation of large fields. FPPM is furnishing the certified planting material from INERA stations and the partner groups, using tractors and other mechanized equipment, are responsible for cultivation up to harvest. The following diagram shows the production chain for cassava from cuttings to farmer households.

Multiplication and Distribution of Cassava Cuttings



*Note: FO – Farmer Organization

FPPM negotiated with selected partners in each province for the production of certified cassava. The areas to be cultivated are indicated in the table below.

Field Area for Production of Cassava by Partners (Seasons A2011 & B2012)					
Province	Partner	Territoire	Secteur	Main Office	Area (Ha)
Bandundu	Coopérative Agricole de Kikandji (COOPAK)	Gungu	Mungindu	Kikandji	10
	Centre pour la Promotion Agricole de la Lukula (CEPAL)	Masimanimba		Cité de Masi-manimba	10
	Unon Paysanne pour le Développement de la Masse (UPDMA)	Masimanimba	Mosango	Muluma	20
	Fondation de Développement MWAMBA	Idiofa	Kapia	Dibaya-lubwe	6
	Ferme Milundu	Gungu	Mudikalunga	Kiluma	10
	Ferme Agricole de la Lwano	Ville de Kikwit	Quartier Lunia	Avenue Lukoki No. 68A	10
	Oeuvres Sociales pour le Développement des Villages de Ndimba-Nzadi	Ville de Kikwit	Ville Basse	Avenue Cabine No. 3	4
	Collectif des Organisations pour le Développement Intégre de la Rive Droite du Kwilu (CORIDEK)	Bulungu	Imbongo	Nkata-busongo	4
	Equipe Beto Sadisana	Idiofa	Musanga	Cité de Idiofa	10
	Centre d'Exploitation pour le Développement et l'Autopromotion Rurale (CEDAR)	Bulungu	Kipuka	Lubungu	6
Bas-Congo	CDS-Kisantu	Madimba			10
	UPEC	Mbanza-Ngungu			20
	Promusem	Mbanza-Ngungu and Songololo	Boko, Luima, Ntimansi, Lufu, Ngombe-Sud		20
	BDD-Matadi	Songololo	Luima	Manzonzi	6
Kinshasa	Tifie Humanitarian	Maluku		Concession Tifie	36
TOTAL					182

An area of 182 Ha is in the process of being planted, of which 83.7 Ha was planted prior to the end of the reporting period, i.e. 31 December 2011; 46 Ha have been prepared and are awaiting the delivery of cuttings; and 52.3 Ha are being prepared for planting.

Note that, in all the fields, the production density is 12,500 plants per hectare. This density permits the production of cassava for tubers or cuttings for multiplication in case planting material is insufficient at certain sites.

2.1.4 Support for Production of Cassava Tubers

In order to stimulate producers to adopt the new varieties of cassava that are resistant to mosaic virus and generally more productive, FPPM has assisted in the establishment of production fields by distributing certified cuttings of newer varieties to producers who have already planted cassava but have lacked sufficient planting material to completely plant the fields they have prepared.

The following chart gives the details on the producers who have been supported with improved cuttings during the quarter.

Province	Producer	Sites	Variety	Area (Ha)
Kinshasa	Fondation Temple de Rencontre	Salempo	Nsansi, Disanka, Mvuazi et Obama	7
	Ferme Kobota Elengi	Bwantaba	Obama	2.2
	Ferme Kayembe	Mongata	Obama	3.5
Bas-Congo	UPEC	Axe Mahunzi, Secteur Kivulu	Obama	40
Total				50.7

A. Distribution of Cuttings

In order to establish the multiplication and production fields with certified planting material, FPPM distributed cuttings as shown in detail in the chart below with the names of the producers, the size of the fields, and the quantities of cuttings, in meters.

Producer	Area (Ha)	Cuttings (M)
<i>Bas-Congo</i>		
BDD/Matadi	6.0	9,000
UPEC	40.0	60,000
<i>Kinshasa</i>		
Tifie	25.0	37,500
Fondation Temple de Rencontre	7.0	10,500
Ferme Kobota Elengi	2.2	3,300
Ferme Kayembe	3.5	5,250
Total	50.7	125,550

B. Projections for Season B2012 and C2012

Province	Cultures & Areas Planted (Ha)					
	Manioc	Maïs	Arachide	Niébé	Haricot	Soja
Bandundu (a)	142	82	20	35	12	70
Bas-Congo (b)	300	50	100	-	100	100
Kinshasa (c)	729	-	30	100	100	30
Total	1171	132	150	135	212	200
Total Général	2,000					

These projections are based on the regularity of rains in the different geographical areas of the project.

2.1.5 Global Climate Change

As mentioned in the FPPM workplan, agriculture can play an important role in carbon sequestration by;

- Putting plants in the ground using no-till methods to keep carbon in the soil;
- Planting trees or grasses that remain in production and are carbon sinks;
- Making use of existing tree crops that are then considered as “avoided deforestation.”

FPPM is concerned that the success of the project might encourage farmers to encroach on natural forest in order to open more land for cultivation. If FPPM introduced agroforestry techniques to enrich soils in farm fields and also encouraged farmer groups and associations to plant trees as “carbon sinks” in order to qualify for a carbon credits program, such a strategy integrate well with the project’s overall strategy, while earning income for farmers.

FPPM staff held preliminary discussions with technicians from IITA/CIAT and ICRAF during the reporting period over the possibility of collaborating on agroforestry/carbon sequestration activity through the farmer field schools. Both IITA and ICRAF tabled concept papers for discussion at the end of the reporting period.

2.2 Component II: Improving Market Efficiency

Interventions under Component Two focus on downstream value chain functions: from post-harvest handling and aggregation, to processing, to sales in markets with all the intervening transport linkages. The FPPM strategy for improving market efficiency has two dimensions: on one level the project will use technical assistance, grants, and training to work with value chain actors to introduce, and diffuse new technologies and procedures that will reduce the enormous post-harvest losses while improving profitability for actors all along the value chains.

A significant obstacle to the adoption of new technologies is the lack of sufficient production to warrant investment. Simple productivity-enhancing innovations comprise such elements as post-harvest treatment, proper storage, on-farm or near-farm processing, and dedicated good quality transport. As the ramp-up in production in targeted areas occurs as a result of Component I activities, FPPM will take advantage of the higher volumes coming on-stream to introduce new technologies along the critical points in the manioc, maize, and grain-legume value chains.

2.2.1 Indicators Most Relevant to Component II

Indicator 2.1: No. of new market infrastructure facilities established.

Indicator 2.2: No. of rural producers/ households using market information systems

Indicator 2.5: No. of rural producers/ households marketing produce to processing and value-adding enterprises

Indicator 2.6: No. of new buyer-seller relationships facilitated by FPPM

2.2.2 Interventions

Interventions under Component Two during the reporting period included field trips, market visits, and work sessions that were important to starting up FPPM assistance in post-harvest handling and aggregation, processing, and marketing. Information gathered for the initial value chain assessments is the base on which FPPM staff are developing the network of stakeholder contacts, e.g. NGOs, traders, supermarket owners, truckers, processors, etc.

The Component II team focused on the priorities set out in the work plan for the July-September quarter which included the following.

A. **Indicator 2.1:** No. of new market infrastructure facilities established.

- Developed model MOU's to sign with partners;
- Made site visit to CADIM in the Bateke Plateau to identify aggregation centers for agricultural products and where animal traction training can be conducted;
- Visited Seke-Banza and Luozi in Bas-Congo to understand better the operation of the CARGs in each territory and sector;
- Identified, with the help of FOPAKO, the direction of outflows of agricultural products from the Territory of Seke Banza as well as the location of primary and secondary centers of aggregation of agricultural products with the territory;
- Made site visit to the NGO Groupedi to evaluate their operations and identify what constraints this agricultural organization is facing and assess market infrastructure needs;
- Contacted equipment manufacturers; made site visit to the workshop of Anydan in Luozi to obtain price lists and specifications for various pieces of specialized processing equipment – peelers, mills, presses, etc.

B. **Indicator 2.2:** No. of rural producers/ households using market information systems.

- Contacted Cedric Armien of Agrisud, a Luozi-based project that is implementing a market information system for agricultural products; discussed the potential for FPPM to initiate an information system using SMS through cell phones. Based on their experience and the difficulties they encountered in trying to implement an SMS system, Cedric recommended publishing prices, posting information in market places, and broadcasting market information to producers by radio
- Met with IFPRI to agree on a plan for implementing a consumer/market survey.

C. **Indicator 2.5:** No. of rural producers/ households marketing produce to processing and value-adding enterprises

- Visited the laboratories of CREN-K at the University of Kinshasa, the Congolese Control Office (CCO), and the National Nutrition Programme (PRONANUT); requested analyses of MADIA MAME samples from Beni Foods by all three laboratories;
- Made site visit to Mfumu Kento village, the Spe Salvi farms, and Matchem in the Batéké plateau in order to analyze cassava drying techniques and propose solutions to short-comings. Will follow up with testing of a wood fueled flu dryer or an enclosed drying area. Carrying out literature review to identify appropriate technologies for processing. Made site visit to two workshops for manufacturing and processing equipment Agrimac and ACOMMER;
- Met with food companies manufacturing and selling enriched flours who are interested in improving the promotion of local products using social marketing techniques to increase local consumption. Attended the 1st Congolese Forum for Food Industry Innovation, organized by the Centre Wallonie Bruxelles, the University of Kinshasa and APEFE; made a presentation on how social marketing can be an effective tool for improving agriculture and nutrition.

D. Indicator 2.6: No. of new buyer-seller relationships facilitated by FPPM

- Visited FEC, Federation of Congolese Enterprises, including the head of the Agro-Industry Division;
- Facilitated the visit of Andrew Tonks from Making Cents International with market participants, including market women in the Masimanimba wholesale market; traders in Parking Kingasani Q3; market women in Q3; agricultural input suppliers; and others in order to assess their needs for entrepreneurship training;
- Visited selling points for BENI FOOD products in the Kinshasa – Matete Roundabout. Initiated a market test in selected stores for Beni Food’s Vitamin A-fortified gari and instant Madia Mame.

2.3 COMPONENT III: INCREASED CAPACITY TO RESPOND TO MARKETS

The huge demand from the Kinshasa food market has been sustained historically by the private sector. The FPPM approach to build the capacity of the private sector to fill market opportunities is guided by the search for efficiencies, quality improvements, and risk reduction that improve the ability of the food supply chain to deliver profitably greater quantities of safe and nutritious foods at prices that improve their access and use by the food insecure population of the marketshed.

2.3.1 Indicators Most Relevant to Component III

Indicator 3.1: No. of agricultural enterprises—including producer organizations or farmer field schools—turning a profit as a result of improved business skills and management

Indicator 3.2: No. of producer organizations, trade and business associations, road committees, and community based organizations assisted as a result of USG interventions

Indicator 3.3: No. of rural households using services of service organizations and agents in the FPPM work areas

2.3.2 Training – Making Cents International

Making Cents International, subcontractor on FPPM, is developing a curriculum and training program that transfers business, financial, and entrepreneurship skills to local organizations, such as NGOs, CARGs, existing associations, etc., as well as enterprises that work with small scale producers and other

value chain actors, such as farmers, women processors and marketers, and BDS providers. As such, the activities of Making Cents will contribute to reporting on Indicators 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3.

The objective of the FPPM training program is to increase productivity and income levels of key actors along the cassava, maize, and grain legumes value chains to the consumer markets of the Kinshasa market shed. Through the transfer of improved business and financial literacy, strategies, and technical skills and practices, FPPM will increase productivity of rural farmers as well as efficiencies in the handling, storage, transportation, processing, and marketing of agricultural production with the overarching goal of enhancing food security of the population centers of western DRC.

In October 2011, immediately prior to the travel ban, Making Cents International consultant Andrew Tonks began an assessment of business skills needs and training capacity as part of FPPM Component III. Making Cents is developing a training program to build the capacity of local organizations to train beneficiaries all along the chosen agricultural value chains: producers, input suppliers, processors, transporters and marketers. The training will build skills necessary to increase profitability and improve production and delivery of key agricultural products in the Kinshasa basin area. Making Cents has years of experience developing and implementing training programs to build these skills in countries around the world.

The assessment team of Andrew Tonks and Rene Kalunga, FPPM Provincial Coordinator for the Bateke Plateau, traveled extensively in Bateke Plateau and Bas Congo over a three-week period. They conducted 34 interviews, 7 focus groups, 9 site visits, 6 meetings, and a test of related Making Cents training materials. They met with representatives of 38 organizations including producer and processor associations, cooperatives, agribusinesses, input suppliers, savings & credit associations and cooperatives, NGOs, and training providers.



CADIM Farmer Field School, Bateke Plateau

The assessment, interrupted by the electoral campaign, will be completed in January 2012, including a visit to Bandundu Province. Preliminary results underscore the need for good planning, recordkeeping, business and financial management, and decision-making skills at all levels of the chaotic agricultural value chains in the target area. Making Cents training will address these needs.

3.0 Cross-Cutting Activities

The important FPPM cross-cutting activities include gender considerations, environmental mitigation and management, and monitoring and evaluation.

3.1 Gender

Women are the base of agricultural production in the DRC, yet men tend to dominate the governance of rural organizations. FPPM will address this mismatch of functions through a holistic approach to gender inclusion that pulls women into both project activities and project benefits. The goal will be to build the outlook, skills, and interest of women so that they can retain their share of the improvements in farm-to-market chains that result from FPPM activities.

FPPM will carry out a gender assessment study in the next reporting period which will permit better programming of activities in favor of rural women.

3.2 Environmental Mitigation and Management

FPPM will take a proactive approach to ensure that all project activities comply with Code of Federal Regulations Chapter 22, Part 216, any pertinent DRC regulations, and accepted best management practices (BMPs). Central to the project's environmental compliance strategy will be the environmental mitigation and management plan (EMMP) that includes screening checklists, mitigation measures, and monitoring plans. The purpose of the EMMP will be to both provide both USAID and the FPPM team with an easy-to-use system that makes environmental compliance as integrated and effective as possible, taking as much guesswork out of the task as possible and building in sufficient documentation to hold up to post-activity performance audits. During the month of October, a DAI expert in environmental management carried out a STTA assignment to draft the EMMP. At the request of USAID, the consultant also began preparation of a Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan (PERSUAP) to cover project activities.

The EMMP and PERSUAP will be finalized early in the next reporting period.

3.3 Performance Monitoring

Tracing causality under FPPM will be demanding, requiring a robust and reliable M&E system that both captures and explains project results and impacts to a diverse audience of stakeholders, counterparts, and beneficiaries. The most important stakeholder, of course, is USAID which, as part of USAID *FORWARD*, is *changing the way it does business by looking to partnerships, local capacity building, an emphasis on innovation, and a relentless focus on results as a way to achieve high-impact development*. USAID has drawn up guidelines for a new evaluation policy based on systematic monitoring of performance and evaluation of impact.

3.3.1 Performance Management Plan (PMP)

A consultant on an STTA assignment prepared a Performance Management Plan (PMP) for FPPM that was submitted to USAID in August 2011. USAID was largely satisfied with the draft PMP but was obliged to request revisions in October to comply with the new M&E guidelines. The revisions were made and the revised plan was submitted to USAID in November. The plan will be updated to incorporate the baseline data in the next reporting period and submitted to USAID for final approval.

3.3.2 Data Quality Assessment

The Economic Growth office of the Mission hired a consultant to conduct a Data Quality Assessment (DQA) of FPPM Project. The consultant finished his report in December (Ref: Annex 2). The report recommended important actions to make the project M&E system more coherent of which the most important were:

- There is a strong need to have a Written Methodology of data collection as an annex to the PMP. This methodology should be well understood by all field-based staff;
- Filing System of indicators is absent and has to be organized;
- PMP should be updated to include Data Collection Methodology as an annex;
- The recruitment of the M&E Specialist for FPPM should be accelerated to ensure that the data collection system and methodology is being developed.

FPPM will address the M&E shortcomings noted in the DQA report as part of the baseline exercise scheduled for the next reporting period.

3.3.3 Feed the Future Monitoring & Evaluation Workshop

Paul DeLucco, Chief of Party of FPPM Project, was invited by the USAID Bureau of Food Security to participate in a 3-day Feed the Future Monitoring & Evaluation workshop at the Windsor Golf Hotel and Country Club in Nairobi from 17 – 19 October 2011. The workshop was an intensive introduction to the new USAID M&E methodology which emphasizes the importance of Cost/Benefit Analysis and Impact Evaluations.

4.0 CONTRACT DELIVERABLES

The Statement of Work of the institutional contract listed a number of deliverables to be completed in the first year of implementation (Sect. C.19 and F.6). The FPPM team has undertaken the tasks as illustrated in the table below.

Deliverables Related to Mobilization & Planning			
No.	Description	Timing	Status
1.	Complete rapid mobilization of project staff and procure essential/critical equipment. (Ref: Contract Sect. C-19.)	COP to be fielded within 30 days. Other staff to be mobilized; office space to be leased and equipment to be procured within 60 days.	Done. COP arrived in Kinshasa on 2 June; post-award meeting with RCO held 3 June. Start-up team hand-carried laptop computers and min-server for temporary office set-up. All local staff identified in proposal hired. All Key Personnel named in contract <u>except Financial Manager</u> hired. Delays in fielding of Financial Manager lead to hiring of DCOP/Financial Manager.
2.	Establish mechanisms for close coordination and collaboration with other USAID-funded rural development activities. (Ref: Contract Sect. C-19.)	Within first 30 days.	Done. Series of introductory meetings held in June with IFPRI, IITA, ICRAF, and others. Negotiated rental of project office in IITA building which also houses IFPRI.
3.	Prepare preliminary 1 st year annual work plan and present to USAID for approval. (Ref: Contract Sect. C-19 and F-6.)	Within 30 days.	Done. Preliminary work plan prepared and delivered to USAID on 9 June. Workshop held with USAID 29 June 2011.
4.	Prepare detailed project procurement plan. (Ref: Contract Sect. C-19 and F-6.)	Within 60 days.	Done. Plan prepared and delivered 24 July 2011.
5.	Conduct rapid appraisals to confirm target areas, priorities, and establish baselines and targets for all result and performance indicators. (Ref: Contract Sect. C-19.)	Within 90 days.	Rapid Value Chain appraisals done. Target areas established. Due to election period sensitivity, Baseline Survey postponed to FEB/MAR 2012.
6.	Finalize performance monitoring plan (PMP) to include key contract results, indicators, data protocols, and responsible parties.	Within 90 days.	In progress. PMP sent to USAID for approval 10 August, returned with comments 6 October 2011. PMP to be finalized after

	(Ref: Contract Sect. C-19.)		completion of Baseline Study in March 2012.
7.	Finalize general Life-of-Project and specific Year One Work Plan, revised from draft plan, and submit to USAID for approval. (Ref: Contract Sect. C-19.)	Within 120 days (Sect. C) or 90 days (Sect. F).	Done. Submitted 19 August. USAID approved plan on condition that further revisions be made. Final plan approved, with conditions, by USAID on 30 August 2012.
8.	Gender assessment to identify gender implications or opportunities in the program. (Ref: Contract Sect. C-15.)	Within 9 months.	To be carried out in next reporting period.
9.	Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (EMMP) to be included in each annual work plan. (Ref: Contract Sect. C-16.)	Annually.	Done. Draft EMMP included with 1 st year annual work plan.
10.	Quarterly progress reports documenting implementation of approved work plan. (Ref: Contract Sect. F-6.)	Quarterly.	First Quarterly Report/Annual Report submitted to USAID, October 2011.
11.	Quarterly financial report showing cost to-date, budget estimate, advances, contractual obligation, variation orders, anticipated variation orders and estimated cost to complete. ((Ref: Contract Sect. F-6.)	Quarterly.	First Quarterly Financial Report submitted to USAID, October 2011.
12.	Demobilization Plan, including proposal for disposition of project equipment.	90 days prior to contract completion date, i.e. 7 February 2016.	N/A.
13.	Final Report.	30 days prior to contract completion date, i.e. 8 April 2016.	N/A.

ANNEX I

Excerpted from the draft Agricultural Enterprise Training Assessment prepared by Andrew Tonks, under the Making Cents sub-contract, October 2011.

Findings

Beneficiary Profile and Training Needs

Beneficiary Profile

We found that participants in the targeted value chains from all stages could benefit from business skill training. Few informants knew how to evaluate their true economic situations or how to plan to improve them. Due to economic disruptions and government neglect, the various value-adding mechanisms in the agricultural value chains are in disarray. Infrastructure is inadequate and market mechanisms are chaotic. Due to systemic inefficiencies, stable and relatively low prices for foodstuffs in Kinshasa result in little or no profit being made by anyone along the chain from producer to retailer. Enabling value chain actors to recognize inefficiencies and rectify those in their control would help, but not be enough. Perhaps with improving infrastructure and technical skills more inefficiencies can be eliminated. However, a better understanding of the whole value chain and how to take advantage of opportunities in it will also increase profits along the chain.

Potential beneficiaries of agricultural enterprise training could include input suppliers, producers, processors, transporters, distributors, wholesalers and retailers. There are differences in the training needs at the different ends of the value chain. Producers tend not to recognize that their activities constitute a business over the results from which they may have some control. Their thinking is often at a subsistence level following patterns with scant understanding of market dynamics and little hope for change. Further along the value chains towards the marketing end, there is a better understanding of the market and a need for more sophisticated management techniques. In addition, there are differences in needs from rural to urban settings, with producers and processors tending to be rural and wholesalers and retailers urban. The cassava value chain dominated the assessment research. This was somewhat due to a lack of exposure to Bandundu Province, but also because cassava does tend to be the lead crop even when producers grow maize, peanuts, soybeans or cowpeas as well. This emphasis will influence the context of training exercises in the agricultural enterprise-training curriculum. It will especially affect the adaptation of the agricultural enterprise simulation that is based on grain crops.

The test that was done of the simulation in Quatrième Cité (a village in the Mbankana area of the Bateke Plateau assisted by CADIM) consisted of ten women and ten men engaged primarily in cassava production. They had no trouble working with the agricultural calendar and information regarding yield, based on inputs levels, and prices based on seasonal market shifts and storage capacity. These are concepts that are less relevant to cassava than grain and grain legume crops. When asked how the simulation might help them, participants said they could better see the need for and methods of planning, recordkeeping, cash management and debt management. They also wanted to learn how to access credit. When asked if the agricultural calendar and crop/market context posed a challenge for them, they said no, that they also grew maize and peanuts so they were comfortable with the setting, decisions to be made and information to use. The CADIM agent observing said that the villagers already knew a calendar and were therefore able to work within one that was somewhat different from theirs. One member of the community offered to provide us information on the cassava and maize crop calendars, which he did on a subsequent meeting at CADIM.

Training Needs

In focus groups and interviews we asked potential beneficiaries from different levels of the value chain what their challenges were. Lack of capital was usually mentioned as a constraint. Most informants could see the value in training that would help them identify and access resources themselves.

A recurring theme among producers was the need for tractors. Hand plowing requires labor and time. Animal traction is seldom available. Tractors are expensive. The average cost of renting a tractor was \$170-180/HA. However, the cost of a tractor was about \$50,000 plus fuel, maintenance and repairs. The focus group of producers from the association ASSAMO in Mosabu, Bateke Plateau, assisted by TIFIE, was very keen on learning the tool of cost/benefit analysis to be able to decide whether to rent or buy a tractor—a question they could not answer other than to say they had no capital. As an association, they might be able to borrow to buy a tractor, but they would have to be able to make the economic case for doing so.

A recurring issue in producing and processing cassava is the lack of consistent measuring techniques. As we heard from a producer in Mampu, Bateke Plateau, whom we observed having his cassava processed, in the field, tubers is measured by the tub. However, when peeled and in processing, the cassava is measured with a different tub. After further processing, it is measured by partially filled bags. It is often not until it has been milled that it is weighed. It is therefore hard to calculate yields at various stages, costs, and, ultimately, profits. This is reflective of a general lack of knowledge of costs and values that hampers planning efforts. As Abdias Niangisi, Director of Agriculture at TIFIE, Dumi, Bateke Plateau, a potential implementing partner, said, producers do not even think of agriculture as a business. Learning more about costing and planning techniques would be helpful.

Cassava is perishable and needs to move through the value chain quickly. Roads are poor, vehicles are scarce and expensive, and fuel is expensive. The cost and availability of transport are therefore major constraints. These lead not only to reduced profits due to high expenses (including various forms of bribes required along the route), but also low prices to the rural producers due to their lack of leverage. When someone arrives to take the cassava, the producer has no options and has to accept the price dictated by the Kinshasa market (and all the costs in between). Alternatives to these dictated prices would require planning and a better understanding of the value chain and market forces. For example, we saw examples of producers that had entered into processing and recognized that there was a market in Kinshasa for higher quality processed cassava that would command a higher price. Better understanding of market segmentation and competitive advantage would be beneficial.

In addition to the above needs for training in planning, cost/benefit analysis, costing and pricing, marketing considerations and an understanding of value chain dynamics and opportunities, we identified needs for recordkeeping skills, as often none were kept, cash management and issues around saving, credit access and debt management. In addition to a better understanding of market dynamics, the need for improved skills in negotiation was also noted.

Literacy

We queried each focus group and several informants on their estimates of the level of literacy among potential training beneficiary groups. It is interesting to note that the further geographically and socio-economically removed from the potential beneficiaries the informants were the lower the estimate of literacy. At farmer field schools and in urban markets, focus groups of women consistently estimated a minimum of 25% of women and 40% of men being able to read and write French with higher levels readily available with a degree of selection. The rural village group with whom we tested the agricultural enterprise simulation had no trouble using the written information required with at least one person in each small group, and usually most, being able to use the written materials and share the information with their less literate group members. . . .

Gender Roles

The traditional model of the division of labor in agriculture requires women to do most of the work with men only getting involved when there is heavy lifting or machines to be used. Men own the land and traditionally the women are required to give the results of their agricultural labors to the men who return some money to their wives to maintain the household but retain the lion's share for their own uses. A leader of the national cassava producer/processor association APTM said the association is working to change the laws to allow women to own land and control the results of their labors.

In rural processing, women usually do the preparation such as cassava peeling done by hand, the men run any machines and the women dry the cassava. As one moves from rural areas gender roles diversify. Men have traditionally done the transportation but women the wholesaling and retailing. Interestingly, urban women wholesalers and retailers told us they keep the results of their economic efforts and give no money to their husbands! A focus group of market retailer women in the Quartier 3 market in Kinshasa said their men do very little ("out of work and home asleep," said one woman) but do not touch the money earned by the women. They keep the money in their handbags (their form of savings) and never let the men touch their bags!

Many of these gender roles are changing. As traditionally male-dominated wage and salary positions in the formal sector have disappeared with economic crises, men are getting more involved in production and marketing. An example of this is the APAPA association of distributors ("Parking Lot" and "agences") in Quartier 3, Kinshasa, that have cut the women wholesalers ("mamans de main d'oeuvre") out by either going out to buy from producers/processors or receiving from transporters and selling directly to retailers not wholesalers. Women are finding ways to control more of the value chain, especially through the formation of associations. The market women wholesalers ("mamans de main d'oeuvre") we met at the Masimanimba market in Kinshasa now buy from producers, contracting the transportation themselves. Previously women did not reach out to rural areas to buy. They also sell input supplies to those producers, such as seed, packaging, and pesticides for crops such as onions, peanuts, beans, and peppers but not cassava. Input supply was a male role previously, such as with the all-male agribusiness Ets Ntemo in Kasa-Vubu, Kinshasa (with branches we saw in Bas Congo). The market women wholesalers may provide the inputs to the producers in return for half the production, thus sharing in the risks of production as well. They also provide credit to retailers to whom they sell, taking on additional profits but also the credit risks. We noted rural women getting involved in input supply as well through associations or cooperatives such as CACPAK in Kisantu, Bas Congo, that buys agricultural products from its members, sells them, and with its share of proceeds buys inputs to sell to members and the general public at an input supply store on the main street of town.

At the ASSAMO focus group, Mosabu, BP, members said men made most agricultural and economic decisions but that if women were trained in the agricultural enterprise skills we discussed, they would be able to join in decision making. Women and men agreed to this.

Prof. Biloso of ICRAF said that their experience in training to integrate women into production systems in Congo since 2005 has been that men tend to leave projects after being trained but that women carry on the work and pass their skills on to their children.

Availability for Training

Women tend to have less time than men to attend training. In the focus groups of market women at Masimanimba Market in Kinshasa, women preferred up to 90 minutes twice a week for training. The farmer field schools visited at Mutiene, Bateke Plateau, met once a week for a half day. The training of women at CIVAK in Kimpese, Bas Congo, lasted a week with full days. Ministry of Environment agroforestry trainers said they had no problem attracting women from the Mampu, BP area to attend

daylong and multiple-day training sessions of 50 women at a time. They said there are at least 300-500 women in the area anxious to attend such training.

Seasonal work can certainly interfere with training availability. However, that varies greatly by area, crop and production/processing techniques such as mechanization.

ANNEX II

Excerpted from the Data Quality Assessment report prepared by Alain Musangu under contract to the Economic Growth Technical Office, USAID/Kinshasa, November 2011.

Executive Summary

The purpose of a data quality assessment (DQA) on the FPPM project was to ensure that the Economic Growth Technical Office at USAID Mission is aware of the strengths and weaknesses of project data vis-à-vis standards provided in ADS 203.3.5.1 (validity, integrity, precision, reliability, and timeliness). The methodology followed to do this DQA is described in the annex 6.1 of this report. The methodology has been adapted to the fact that the project is still in startup phase with only limited data being available. To conduct this DQA, two **operational offices or hubs** were visited: DAI offices in **Bandundu** and **Bas Congo**. Prior to the field trips, two exchange sessions were held with the USAID COTR, the Chief of Party and the Head of Production section at DAI-Kinshasa. The provincial office of **Kinshasa** will be visited at a later stage to update the present information. The visits in the field led us to meet with local NGOs, Associations and entrepreneurs that are used as vehicles by FPPM project to undertake activities in different sites, away from provincial offices.

Among the main findings of this DQA, there are the following elements:

- There is a strong need to have a **Written Methodology** of data collection as an annex to the PMP. This methodology should be well understood by all field-based staff;
- There is an important necessity to **Improve Communication** between FPPM Head Office and Provincial Offices, on indicators and data collection issues;
- **Filing System** of indicators is absent and have to be organized;
- There is a possibility to create a **Central Log Data Sheet** to capture all necessary information on performance indicators in order to unify and standardize data flow system among various local implementers and among DAI implementation sites;
- Steps need to be taken to factor in or reduce some of the **Risks Factors linked to data collection** (Absence of data collection methodology, Delayed staffing of provincial offices, difficult access to some sites,...etc.)

Recommendations based upon the findings of this DQA include:

- PMP should be updated to include Data Collection Methodology as an annex;
- The recruitment of the M&E Specialist for FPPM should be accelerated to ensure that the data collection system and methodology is being developed;
- Periodic workshops on data and other M&E issues should be organized internally by DAI/FPPM project;
- The filing system in FPPM head and Site office should be organized by Indicator.
- Standardized Data Information System should be created including USG indicator relevant elements for the whole of the project (use of Central Log Data Sheet);

- Economic Growth Technical Office and DAI head office should undertake periodic spot checks of data quality and documentation (Measurement verifications, Filing checks, Availability of data sources,...etc.). These efforts should be noted on file.
- DAI should maintain its data using the guidance provided in Annex 6.3 of this report;
- Start up and phasing in time should be reduced
- Data collection resources should be increased to account for difficult accessibility and geographic spread of field sites