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FOOD PRODUCTION, PROCESSING & MARKETING PROJECT (FPPM)

QUARTERLY REPORT
1 APRIL – 30 JUNE 2013

31 JULY 2013

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ACRONYMS and ABBREVIATIONS

ACDI-Lusekele	Actions Communautaires pour un Développement Intégré
AFRIKI	Association des Femmes Riziculteurs de Kingabwa
AIDAR	Agency for International Development Acquisition Regulations
AIPD	Appui aux Initiatives Paysannes pour le Développement
APROCEC	Association pour la Promotion des Coopératives de l'Épargne et du Crédit
APTM	Association des Producteurs et Transformateurs de Manioc
ASCOVI	Association des Consommateurs des Produits Vivriers
BENI Food	Bas-Congo-Based NGO
BDD-Matadi	Bureau Diocésain pour le Développement - Matadi
BDS	Business Development Services
BIAC	Banque Internationale pour l'Afrique au Congo
BUCOPAK	Bureau de Coordination des Coopératives, Parkings et Agences Agricoles du Congo
CADIM	Centre d'Appui au Développement Integral/Mbankana
CARPE	Programme Régional de l'Afrique Centrale pour l'Environnement
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
COOPEC	Coopérative de l'Épargne et du Crédit
COOPI	Italian NGO, intervening on the Plateau of Batéké
COP	Chief of Party
CORIDEK	Collectif des Organisations pour le Développement Intégré de la Rive Droit de Kwilu
COR	Contract Officer's Representative
COTR	Contracting Officer's Technical Representative
CTB	Cooperation Technique Belge
DCA	Development Credit Authority
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
EMF	Environmental Management Form
EMMP	Environmental Mitigation, Management and Monitoring Plan
ERF	Environmental Review Form
EU	European Union

EVI	Extremely Vulnerable Individual
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
FI	Financial Institutions
FIDA	Fonds International de Développement Agricole
FIKIN	Foire Internationale de Kinshasa (Trade Fair)
FPPM	Food Production, Processing & Marketing Project
FAR	Federal Acquisition Regulations
FFS	Farmer Field School
GAP	Good Agronomic Practices
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
LM	Linear meters
Matchem	Kinshasa-Based SME (involved in processing/marketing of cassava)
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MFI	Micro-Finance Institution
MIS	Market Information System
MEO	Mission Environmental Officer
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
mT	Metric Tons
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
PO	Producer Organization

PPP	Public/Private Partnership
QPM	Quality Protein Maize
R1	First generation seed multiplied from Foundation Seed
R2	Second generation seed multiplied from R1
R3	Third generation seed (three generations removed from foundation seed) multiplied from R2
RFA	Request for Application
RFQ	Request for Quotation
SAC	Sécurité Alimentaire des Cataracts (a local NGO)
SAPEF	Salon Agricole: Pêche, Eaux et Forêts (Annual Congolese Agricultural Fair)
SENASAEM	Service National de Semences
SME	Small & Medium Enterprise
SNV	Service Neerlandais des Volontaires (Dutch Volunteer Service)
STTA	Short Term Technical Assistance
TAMIS	DAI proprietary Project Management Software Database
TIFIE	Teaching Individuals and Families Independence through Enterprise
TMB	Trust Merchant Bank
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
TSBF-CIAT	Tropical Soil Biology and Fertility Institute of CIAT
UDK	Union pour le Développement de Kapia
UPAK	Unité de Production Alimentaire de Kinshasa
UPEK	Unité pour la Production et la Pérennité des Efforts et Capacités des Communautés à la Base
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government

Executive Summary

This is the 3rd quarterly report of FY 2013 for the USAID funded, DAI implemented, Democratic Republic of Congo Food Production, Processing and Marketing Activity (FPPM). It covers the period from 1 April through 30 June 2013.

This reporting period was one of great activity for FPPM. Administratively we have been restructuring, analyzing people, processes and procedures. Technically we have been strategizing, refocusing, and actively seeking to both gain true proximity and capitalize on backlogged data to better tell our tale. Financially, we have been reviewing procedures, relations with our clients and suppliers, reviewing our procurement and financial safeguards. Across the project we have been offering professional in service training.

In April, FPPM received STTA assistance in our Financial Accounting System (FAS) for our key administrative and finance staff from our Bethesda Office. In June DAI HQ, on overhead, provided STTA to FPPM in order to revise our procedures and policies, and tighten our financial and administrative systems. As part of this process the Program began a review of its banking relationships, office structure and functioning as well as the articulation between our different posts and the provincial offices and Kinshasa main office.

The month of May saw the resignation of Component 2 leader Charles Stathacos for personal reasons, as well as resignations by the Provincial Finance Manager and the Provincial Agronomist in Bandundu. We are currently actively recruiting their replacements. In May as well, we promoted Oscar Kimpioka, ex- deputy to our Component 1 lead, to the post of Coordinator for the Province of Bandundu. The resignation of Laurent Kopi, FPPM's Monitoring and Evaluation Director in early May, led to the promotion of Didier Bokelo to the post of M&E Director. At the end of June our IT Administrator Jack Ndaye resigned to take up a similar position with potentially greater responsibility the World Food Program.

Upon the promotion of Oscar and Didier, it became clear that the program lacked a series of key management tools including valid terms of reference for provincial coordinators and for our M&E team. Throughout May and June, the project began a concerted effort to recruit market enumerators for our MIS system throughout the project zone, and to recruit a number of interns to assist in data capture and encoding. We further brought in interns for administrative and financial support.

Following the development of terms of reference for proximity field agents we began recruitment for these posts during the month of June as well as recruiting a deputy for our Monitoring and Evaluation team. June saw in-service training provided for the Kikwit and Kinshasa teams in rules, regulations, financial management processes, and procurement procedures.

During this quarter DAI submitted and received approval for Benjamin Lentz as permanent Chief of Party for FPPM.

A decision was made to move our Kinshasa headquarters in order to find space that was more open, professional and collaborative. To this end, effective July 1, FPPM moved from its old offices co-located with IITA and IFPRI in the middle of the market on Avenue Haute Congo for space near the Congo River in the Concession Rafi at 01 Avenue Ngongo Lutete, still in the Commune of Gombe. Weekly planning meetings for

staff have been instituted in Kinshasa with either weekly or bi-weekly meetings occurring at the provincial offices. Monthly reporting was instituted for provincial offices.

Technically, this quarter saw the program begin the processing of re-tooling its strategic vision and approach. We began thinking strategically and operationally about improved integration and articulation of project activities, sites and partners. We submitted long outstanding technical deliverables to the Mission, including Environmental Review Forms and our Gender Study. Further, the Project began the process of indicator redefinition and retargeting. Visits were made to all provincial offices as well as a select number of implementation field sites. The COP began meeting with implementing partners, collaborators, government representatives and beneficiaries.

As outtakes from these meetings it became evident that partnership has been poorly defined under FPPM and the terms and conditions of our different agreements are poorly understood by both parties leading to undue friction, potential conflict and misunderstandings. Neither project staff nor our IP appear to have been fully read in to the contractual documents defining our roles, responsibilities and working relationships, as well as the expected outcomes and objectives of collaboration. Partners are concerned about administrative lag times in the project, while FPPM remains concerned about partner non-compliance in the execution of their contractual instruments as well as by the quality of their technical deliverables. From these meetings it is clear that partners do not fully understand the administrative and financial circuits through which payment authorizations must pass. FPPM also needs to do a better job of defining itself, its goals, objectives, strategies and approaches to partners and collaborators. Briefing documentation needs to be developed and disseminated. Time needs to be dedicated to partner relations, outreach and communications.

Principal activities undertaken under Component 1 during this reporting period included first coppicing of primary and secondary cassava multiplication fields, collection, conditioning and stocking of short cycle crops multiplied during A 2012, and the development of best practices curriculum for cassava farmer field schools. Additionally, while much was accomplished in the capitalization of outstanding production data, there is a continued need to develop tools, processes, checklists, and analytical protocols for data analysis and presentation. Greater emphasis needs to be placed on improved productivity and the program needs to continue its shift away from a sole focus on seed multiplication activities to a more holistic approach introducing best practices and new labor saving technologies.

Under Component 2 we saw an expansion of our Market Information Activities from Bas-Congo across the project zone. Orders for processing equipment and consumables were placed and the development of grant dossiers for the 21 identified agro-processing sites began in earnest. The first of our agro-processing activities for cassava kicked off at Landzum in Idiofa Territory of Bandundu Province and economic analyses for processing activities, especially targeted to the production of microcassettes began to take shape. Relations with APTM were consolidated and the initial draft PPP with UPAK was completed. Key constraints going forward for agro-processors are access to assured sources of financing, analytical income generating activity planning and documentation and transparent management of what is, in effect, a small factory. MIS is assisting us in better understanding Kinshasa's market dynamics, it rests that FPPM must now translate this knowledge

This quarter, Component 3 Farmer Field School activities effectively kicked off with the opening of 64 FFS in Agricultural Business Management with 2195 participants representing enterprises as diverse as input supply dealers, farmers, transporters, agro-processors and market sellers. In addition, 102 Farmer Field Schools for

Cassava began across the project zone with 1985 total participants, of whom 63% are women. Training of trainers for the module on agricultural statistics occurred in Bandundu Province and on the Plateau of Batéké. A total of 144 facilitators, including 40 women and two regional agricultural inspectors attended this training. The themes developed were interesting enough that FPPM has received a request to furnish a modified version of this curriculum to MINAGRIE extension agents in Kikwit.

Our environmental compliance arm continues to make forward progress as this quarter our proposed Environmental Review Forms for major project activities were accepted by the Mission and we began the process of training partners and staff in their completion. Additionally a field visit to Bandundu province resulted in detailed characterization of 19 of our Implementing partners. Finally, three extension bulletins on Good Agronomic Practices (GAP) for cassava, maize and legumes and one technical module for cassava farmer field schools on common pests and diseases were developed during this reporting period.

Available information on our efforts for data capture validation, and analysis as well as preliminary achievements against key indicators can be found in the section on Monitoring and Evaluation. Our attempts to finalize the baseline study continue, however the product produced by the consultant engaged for this effort was insufficient. DAI is seeking alternative methods to gather appropriate data necessary to complete this important study.

Our financial pipeline analysis is presented as Annex 1, shows that our current obligated funding of \$20,500,000 USD will be sufficient to see us through to the end of the current project year (30 April 2014), with a bit of a cushion (\$202,446) to continue core activities in early May 2014.

A list of proposed STTA for Q4 is included as Annex 2.

We note that this quarter we submitted both technical and financial cost proposals in response to an RFP for a micro-hydro power add on. We received word that a contract modification is forthcoming and are looking forward to embarking on this new, challenging, but highly complementary initiative, designed to reduce production costs at rural agro-processing facilities while providing necessary energy in a renewable fashion.

The challenges facing FPPM in the coming months should not be underestimated but we firmly believe that our motivated staff, revised strategy, proximity approach and improved articulation within provinces and between components will yield positive, tangible, durable results for the Congolese people in terms of reducing rural poverty and increasing the country's food security.

Summary of Q3 Accomplishments

Principal Activities Planned for Q3	Accomplishments
Component 1-Increasing Agricultural Productivity	
Document primary and secondary multiplication results for short cycle crops from A-2012 and cassava harvested during B-2013	In Process, preliminary results are furnished in the present report
In collaboration with personnel in the provincial offices get an accurate count on project client/beneficiaries and their cultivated land areas for each value chain and variety being promoted by FPPM	In process, in collaboration with M&E, these data are anticipated to be completed by the end of Q4
Continued curriculum development in best practices to increase productivity across our targeted value chains for incorporation into Farmer Field Schools. Together with this is the development of extension bulletins and the establishment of proper demonstration fields and "showcase" sites	13 modules for cultural best practices have been developed by project staff for use in Cassava Farmer Field Schools. Extension bulletins, handouts and other curriculum add ons are being prepared.
Component 2-Improved Market Efficiency	
Full implementation of the MIS system in the project zone for all three provinces.	MIS Operational throughout the project zone: Focal points: Bas Congo- REMACOB for 12 community radio stations; Bandundu-URPB for 10 community radio stations; Batéké- Radio Munku based in Cadim, covers the Batéké Plateau w/ the exception of Menkao
	Market information is collected at 4 locations in Bas Congo; 4 locations in Bandundu and 2 locations on the Plateau of Batéké.
Use MIS team in Kinshasa markets to expand awareness of micro-cosettes Assist in market development efforts by identifying buyers and educating them on the benefits of micro-cosettes and supply chain efforts.	In Kinshasa's 24 communes composed of 317 quartiers there are 100 inventoried markets only 8 of whom have 30 sales points for cassava micro-cosettes identified; There are additionally 6 operating sales for micro-cosettes points identified in Bas Congo Province
Conduct price analysis of cassava cosettes, cassava flour, maize, maize flour, maize grits, beans and soja.	On-going
Install the processing equipment and machinery with producer groups on three sites for cassava.	33% (one site, Landzum in Idiofa w/ PEDM is processing cassava using equipment leased from EBS in a negotiation facilitated by FPPM) by 30 June PEDM had produced 100 sacks of 75 kg each (7.5 mT) of micro-cosettes and 50 sacks of 75 kg each (3.75 mT) of improved macro-cosettes
Inventory of processing and milling capacity in Kinshasa.	In process
Innovation grant for post-harvest drying system test for cassava, maize and legumes.	Not Accomplished
Specifications for husking and shelling machines for maize and shelling for groundnuts.	Not Accomplished
Technical assistance for / study of small scale soy processing units.	Not Accomplished
Study on the problem of Konzo and how better processing can mitigate it.	Not Accomplished

Principal Activities Planned for Q3	Accomplishments
Component 2-Improved Market Efficiency (cont)	
Finalize PPPs with private sector companies for supply contracts for micro-cossettes and producing products from unfermented cassava flour. Major bakery has offered to create a pilot bakery dedicated to products made from unfermented cassava flour (farine de manioc panifiable), and build on their "mamas" vendeuses who sell bread throughout Kinshasa for the sale and distribution of micro-cossettes. The role of FPPM is to facilitate the supply chain for UPAK by helping with quality control, getting producers to meet standards and supply a consistent product, and analyzing samples scientifically.	In Progress, a draft PPP MOU has been drawn up in English with contributions from 2 of 3 parties concerned. It is being translated into French prior to transmission to UPAK
Work with ASCOVI on the mill inventory at the commune level for Kinshasa.	In Progress
Organize workshop bringing together producers of micro-cossettes and other cassava products and ASCOVI and establish a modus operandi of market development and promotional activities for micro-cossettes, other cassava products, maize grits, and soy.	Not Accomplished
Expand the market development of micro-cossettes to Matadi and Kikwit markets.	Not Accomplished
Create the database of micro-cossettes from Bas-Congo, Bandundu and Batéké Plateau.	In Progress- Inventory complete for Bas Congo
Strengthen the capacity of the Kinshasa Association of Consumer Food Products (ASCOVI) through the Farmers Field School (FFS) and partner organizations involved in the production and marketing staple food products (eg BUCOPAC PEPARI)	In Progress
Continue updating value chain data on production, processing and marketing.	Not Accomplished
Help producers get better linked to markets in Kinshasa by making improvements to parkings which are aggregation centers for shipments arriving by truck` are unloaded and stored temporarily (areas where products are received)	Not Accomplished
Initiate PPPs with companies such as the UPAK bakery (to expand production capacity to include manioc based products) and Protivab (cereal product).	In Progress
Design a social marketing plan for promoting micro-cossettes and other new products.	Not Accomplished
Complete MFI needs assessment questionnaires (7 completed already).	Not Accomplished
Meet with Pro-Credit bank and other major banks that have established micro-finance programs.	Not Accomplished
Visit Opportunity International to assess how their micro-lending program could be a fit for FPPM partners.	Not Accomplished
Develop detailed 'compte d'exploitations' for partners that are receiving equipment to be used for economic analysis and business plans for qualifying for loans.	In Progress-3 Concept notes finished and under review for conversion to grant request documents; 9 concept notes in draft working on completing necessary financial analyses

Principal Activities Planned for Q3	Accomplishments
Component 3-Capacity to Respond to Market Opportunities Reinforced	
Ensure FFS for both Agricultural Business Management Skills and Cassava are open, up and running	64 FFS for Agricultural Business Management Skills (ABMS) in Rural Enterprise Development (RED) open
At least 2600 participant receive quality training at project sponsored FFS	2195 pp including 67 input dealers, 2039 producers, 18 transporters, 15 agro-processors and 56 merchants trained in ABMS of these 623 (28.4%) were women. Modules included planning, anticipating revenues, risk evaluation, debt management, savings, and techniques to maximize profit
Curriculum is developed for Cassava FFS	144 FFS facilitators of whom 40 were women, representing 79 IP, trained as trainers in agricultural statistics
At least 130 demonstration plots for agronomic best practices for cassava are opened in proximity to the Cassava FFS	102 demonstration plots (58 in Bandundu, 23 in Bas Congo and 21 on the Batéké Plateau) for Cassava established equalling 7.41 ha. Participants at cassava FFS equal 1985 of whom 1251 (63%) are women
Environmental Compliance	
Complete the Environmental Review Forms (ERF) for FPPM Production and Processing activities in all targeted value chains, submit to MEO and receive Mission approval	5 ERF submitted to and approved by USAID for: -Cassava cutting and production;-Maize seed production;-Legume seed production;-Capacity building through FFS;-Cassava processing units
Complete IP and village inventories (initial reviews and characterizations)	19 IP inventories completed in BDD
Implement a process for continual updating of information derived from field visits into the FPPM Management database (TAMIS)	Not Accomplished
Complete curriculum development of materials for Cassava related Farmer Field Schools	3 Technical bulletins in Good Agronomic Practices (GAP) produced for cassava, maize and legumes
Facilitate training of FFS trainers in environmental compliance and soil management curriculum	1 Technical bulletin on best practices for Pirimiphos methyl pesticide application for seed treatment produced
	3 training sessions for 43 IP and OP at sites in Bulungu, Masimanimba and Idiofa for 44 pp on the environment, soil degradation and other deleterious effects of poor agricultural practices
Other Accomplishments	1 Visit to PEDM agro-processing site at Landzum in Idiofa
	1 Seed warehouse inspection in Kikwit
	5 visits to potential micro-hydro sites in BDD Province

Component 1- Increasing Agricultural Productivity

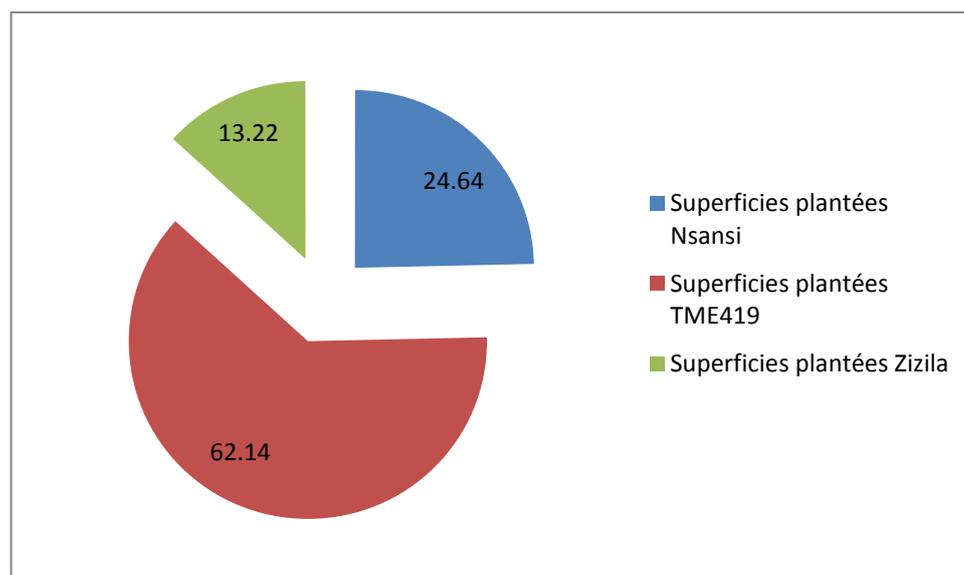
Introduction

This reporting period, which ended 30 June 2013, marks the end of the “B” agricultural season and the beginning of the dry season within our Project Zone. The principal tasks of Component one during this reporting period were the collection, treatment and conditioning of short cycle crops whose seed multiplication occurred during A-2012. Further, coppicing of cassava multiplied during B-2012 occurred on that portion of our land area not planted to TME 419. As mentioned in our previous report research from IITA has shown that fields planted with TME 419 are highly susceptible to cassava brown streak virus if left in the ground for more than 12 months. For this reason these multiplication fields were harvested both for their tubers but also for their roots. Even though this meant that 51% of FPPM’s remaining cassava multiplication fields were pulled from production anticipatively, it did allow us to solicit farmer feedback on their appreciation of the quality and quantity of harvest yields that could be obtained from the improved varieties being promoted by the project.

Activities accomplished during this reporting period

Coppicing and distribution of cassava from multiplication activities started in A 2011/B 2012

In **Bandundu Province**, 83.2 ha woodlots that were established in eight sectors (Imbongo, Kipuka, Kanga, Mosango, Kitoy, Mudikalunga, Lukumba and Mungindu) and the district of Kwilu of four different territories (Bulungu, Idiofa, Massimanimba and Gungu) were coppiced. These woodlots were planted for primary multiplication to three improved cassava varieties: TME 419 (51.7 ha), Nsansi (20.5 ha) and Zizila (11ha). The chart below shows the relative percentage of each variety across the different woodlots.



From these woodlots a total of 741,907 linear meters (lm) was coppiced of which greater than 50% was TME419. On average 8918.4 lm was coppiced per hectare. This is only 47.6% of our anticipated harvest of

18,750 linear meters (density 12.500 plants/ha x 1.5 lm/plant). The reasons our contracted seed multipliers gave for not having attained the projections include:

- The woodlots were set up in a savannah environment where hydric stress is accentuated meaning plants did not attain the anticipated height at first coppicing;
- Planting density of 12.500 plants/ha was not respected;
- A number of plants in the woodlots died and replanting with improved seed stock was not possible because FPPM did not procure sufficient material of foundation or R1 generation material for re-seeding; and
- Season B multiplication fields did not receive ample moisture during the first four months of growth.

Seed stock coppiced from these four territories and eight sectors were disseminated in five territories and 23 sectors (see table). A total of 39 IP assisting 239 Producer Organizations composed of 6711 direct beneficiaries of whom 3881 (57.8%) are women) comprising 5.076 households outplanted to production an estimated 499.3 ha of improved variety cassava. Coppiced material also provided seed stock for an additional 5.4 ha of demonstration fields at Cassava Farmer Field Schools in the province.

Table 1: Source and Destination of first coppicing of primary cassava multiplication fields contracted in Bandundu Province during A2011/B2012

Provenance			Destination	
Contractor	Territory	Sector	Territory	Sector
CORIDEK	Bulungu	Imbongo	Bulungu	Imbongo Kipuka
			Gungu	Lukamba
			Idiofa	Yassa-lokwa Musanga
EBS	Idiofa	Kanga	Idiofa	Musanga Kalanganda Kanga
			Bulungu	Imbongo Banga
			Kenge	Pelende-Nord Bukanga-lonzo
UPDMA	Masimanimba	Mosango	Masimanimba	Kinzenza Kitoy Mosango
CEPAL	Masimanimba	Kitoy	Masimanimba	Mungindu
COOPAK	Gungu	Mungindu	Gungu	Gungu Kilamba Mungindu
Ferme Lwano	Gungu	Lukamba	Bulungu	Dwe
			Gungu	Gungu
Ferme de Milundu	Gungu	Mudikalunga	Gungu	Kisunzu
CEDAR	Bulungu	Kipuka	Bulungu	Kwenge Imbongo
			Idiofa	Kanga

Additionally in B2012 seven implementing partners in two different territories Bulungu and Idiofa received R1 planting material from FPPM to establish woodlots to supply seed stock to community production activities.

These structures remitted to FPPM double the quantity of seed stock received at first coppicing. Dissemination of this R2 seed stock by FPPM during B2013 through 18 IP reached 39 different Producer Organizations and provided improved planting material to 1099 farmer members of the PO, including 622 women (56.6%) as direct beneficiaries of project assistance. These PO members represent in turn, 872 new households.

In sum distribution of improved cassava seed stock of R1 or R2 generation impacted 5948 households, members of 281 Producer Organizations receiving technical assistance from 27 different implementing partners in Bandundu. These PO are distributed in 24 sectors of five different territories. PO membership is 7846 of whom 4553 (58%) are women.

In Bas Congo the project assisted 21 umbrella organizations in 9 different sectors of 4 territories who offer extension support to 49 Producer Organizations, representing 440 households, with improved cassava planting material for their individual production fields. Each household received enough planting material for 0.25 ha, meaning that slightly over 110 ha was brought under production with project assistance this quarter. Under our protocol agreement FPPM provided a tool kit with hoes, machetes, a file for sharpening metal, measuring tapes and scales for the producer organizations and a gasoline dotation and bicycles to the umbrella organizations to facilitate proximity monitoring and capacity reinforcement activities.

Preliminary Data on Cassava Yields

Given the susceptibility of TME 419 to cassava brown streak virus if left in the field longer than 12 months, FPPM made the decision to coppice its TME 419 multiplication fields only once in Bandundu and to evaluate the harvest of the remaining tubers to gain an idea of the harvest yields from this variety. Data for three of our implementing partners multiplying cassava in three different sectors of three different territories is given below.

Table 2: Initial yield data for Cassava variety TME 419, by partner, in Bandundu Province, results of 1st coppicing attained in B2013

Structure	Territory	Sector	Ecosystem	Yield of fresh roots (kg/ha)
CEPAL	Masimanimba	Kitoy	Savannah	14,110
Ferme de Milundu	Gungu	Mudikalunga	Forested Savannah	13,800
Coridek	Bulungu	Imbongo	Forest Gallery	13,800

Yield data obtained from the Regional Agricultural Inspection in Kikwit confirms that average yields for traditional cassava varieties in the same agro-environmental zones are 8mT/ha, while yields of improved varieties average 13 mT/ha. Given this yields on FPPM's sampled multiplication fields are within competitive range for results produced on farm, and, if anything, are slightly higher than the average.

From a sub-sample of 13 cassava producers on the Plateau of Batéké whose cassava production from B-2012 planting season has been evaluated. It is clear that the recommended planting density of 12.500 plants/ha has not been respected. The relative dearth of improved planting material means that farmers have a difficult time replacing rooting stock that did not take. Of the three improved varieties Zizila produced best followed by TME-419, in last position is Nsansi with a per plant production of only 800 gr.

Table 3: Planting density and yield by variety for improved cassava on the Batéké Plateau, results of 1st coppicing obtained during B-2013.

Cassava Variety	Evaluated Planting Density	Yield (kg/Ha)	production/plant (kg)
TME 419	10,000	10,000	1.00
Nsansi	7,360	5,920	0.80
Zizilia	8,560	11,280	1.32

In order to increase productivity on the Plateau of Batéké FPPM needs to ensure that:

- Optimal site selection occurs
- Farmers respect the length of seed stock being used (15 cm)
- Planting density recommendations are followed
- Supplemental improved planting material is available in a timely fashion to replant portions where die off has occurred

Short Cycle Seed Multiplication Activities (Results from 2012 A)

Primary Seed Multiplication

In Bandundu Province, 10 of 29 contracted primary seed multipliers of short cycle crops (maize, groundnuts, cowpea and soybeans) completed harvesting and conditioning their production during this reporting period. As can be seen in table 4 below, yields of SAMARU maize averaged 416.6 kg/ha which is 41.7% below average published yields received by farmers under similar planting conditions. This is due, in large part because our contracted multipliers planted FPPM supplied foundation seed to drier savannah land, did not use chemical fertilizer, did not use organic compost or mulch and, quite often did not respect the technical itinerary by planting up to 6 weeks late. Thus where FPPM expected to recover 4 mT of R1 SAMARU, we recovered only 1.1 mT (27.5%).

Tableau no 4: Productions des prestataires de la saison A2012 au Bandundu

No d'ordre	Prestataire	Territoire	Secteur	Culture	Variété	Qté semences fournies (kg)	Superficie emblavée (ha)	Production (kg)	Semences produites (kg)	Semences remises à FPPM (kg)	Rendement obtenu (kg/ha)	Rendement en milieu réel (kg/ha)
1	DECODEKI	Idiofa	Yassa-lokwa	Maïs	Samaru	25	1	550	485	485	550	1000
2	ODRI	Masimanimba	Mosango	Maïs	Samaru	25	1	nd	nd	50	nd	1000
3	APDV	Bulungu	Kipuka	Maïs	Samaru	25	1	500	431	431	500	1000
4	ADRU	Bulungu	Kipuka	Maïs	Samaru	25	1	200	150	135	200	1000
Sous-total Maïs						100	4	nd	nd	1101		
4	CDRM	Idiofa	Musanga	Arachid	JL24	160	1	920	800	800	920	1500
5	EBS	Idiofa	Banga	Arachid	JL24	160	1	700	600	600	700	1500
6	ADK	Bulungu	Kipuka	Arachid	JL24	160	1	870	800	800	870	1500
7	SEVIE	Gungu	Kisunzu	Arachid	JL24	160	1	800	720	720	800	1500
Sous-total Arachid						640	3	3290	2920	2920		
6	RADIK	Idiofa	Kapia	Niébé	Vita 7	30	0.88	450	400	400	450	500
7	UADIM	Bulungu	Kipuka	Niébé	Vita 7	30	1	110	101	101	110	500
8	CEPAL	Masimanimba	Kolokoso	Niébé	Vita 7	30	1	400	361	361	400	500
Sous-total Niébé						90	2.88	960	862	862		
9	Mam-Sa-Ngo	Idiofa	Kalanganda	Soja	Afya	40	1	391	362	362	391	500
10	PSD/Banga	Idiofa	Banga	Soja	Afya	40	1	300	250	250	300	500
Sous-total Soja						80	2	691	612	612		

Yields from the JL24 primary multiplication sites yielded, on average 822.5 kg/ha which is only 56.8% of average published yields attained by farmers under similar conditions. Of the 6 mT of peanuts we contracted to produce, only 2.92 mT were remitted, an opportunity loss of greater than 50%. This variety appears to be degrading in agronomic vigor and a number of organizations are no longer promoting this variety, going instead outside of the approved catalog or acting as test sites for newly bred INERA varieties.

Yields obtained from contracted cowpea multiplication of VITA 7 averaged only 320 kg/ha vs the expected result of 500 kg/ha. One partner's yield (UADIM of Bulungu) is highly anomalous. If this site is extracted from the analysis then average yields from the other two sites rise to 425 kg/ha which is 85% of projections which is acceptable but not great. During Q4, FPPM Provincial staff will be documenting the reasons behind UADIM's non-performance to decide whether this is an organization with sufficient institutional capacity to be contracted for seed multiplication activities going forward.

Average yields from primary multiplication of the Afya soybean variety were 345.5 kg/ha vs a projected 500 kg/ha. This is only 69% of published averages achieved on farm, once again, not great.

Overall, it appears that even though FPPM did recover interesting quantities of R1 seed from these primary multiplication activities in Bandundu, our selected partners have much to learn and numerous obstacles to overcome if it is their intention to specialize as seed multipliers. Given that none of them proved capable of producing harvest yields above the published on farm means, they would need to set their price points higher in order to cover the cost of the extra labor involved in producing high quality seed, rendering them uncompetitive in the market except to the most altruistic of development agencies.

In Bas Congo Province, primary seed multiplication contracted with 10 organizations yielded 2791 kg of R1 seed. The Foundation seed obtained from the research station were, in most cases, experimental varieties, not present in the INERA catalog. As can be seen in the table below the JL 24 groundnut yielded 1.07 mT/ha which is almost 20% more than what was achieved by primary multipliers in Bandundu but is still 28.4% below the published reference yields. The best yielding variety in Bas Congo appears to be the A1408 which yielded over 3mT/ha. The questions to be asked are- how close is this variety to wide release and are these yields sustainable on larger land areas under similar environmental conditions over succeeding seasons?

Culture	Variety	Quantity (kg)	Yield (kg/ha)	Reference yields from farmer fields (kg/ha)
Soja	TGX814-26G	572	908.72	600
Maïs	Mudishi 1	755	609.39	1500
Arachide	JL24	256.05	1073.93	1500
Arachide	JL24-2	192.6	1350.6	1500
Arachide	A1408	509.6	3103.5	1500
Arachide	ICGV-SM 95530	441.75	1411.71	1500
Arachide	ICGV-SM 95525	40	400	1500
Niebe	H4	11	59.72	500
Niebe	Diamant	13	72.27	700
TOTAL		2791		

Good results were obtained for the soybean variety TGX814-26G which produced 908.72 kg/ha vs a reference yield of 600 kg/ha . The maize yields were only 40.6% of the reference means and the cowpea yields were highly

disappointing. These data suggest that either it was a poor choice of season or a poor match of varieties for the Bas Congo environmental conditions.

Results from primary multiplication efforts in Bas Congo appear to be more related to varietal and environmental match than to partner performance issues as the same varieties performed poorly no matter which contracted partner was multiplying them.

Secondary Seed Multiplication

In Bandundu during A2012 FPPM remitted 3362 kg of maize, 3740 kg of peanuts, 2972 kg of soybeans and 712 kg of cowpea to implementing partners in order to establish community level seed multiplication fields. All seed was R2 generation. The double of the quantity of seed remitted was to be returned to the project as certified seed while the remaining harvest was to be remitted to client beneficiaries for production in A 2013. At the time of this report full and complete information on production from A-2012 was not yet readily available as a number of partners still had deliverables outstanding. Further, the resignation of the provincial agronomist for Bandundu in May 2013 has impeded our ability, to date, to provide complete and consistent data on secondary multiplication activities in this province.

Information available as of 30 June is contained in the following table. As can be seen yields from this activity were low and far below reference yields, excepting the production of maize of the Mudishi variety. For the 12 IP providing information, FPPM provided a total of 1240 kg of seed (400 kg of maize, 640 kg of peanuts, 40 kg of soybeans and 160 kg of cowpea). Expected remittance was 2480 kg, of this actual remittance was 1783 kg (71.9%). Remittance was greatest for maize seed 605 of an expected 800 kg (75.6%) and lowest for soybeans 40 of an expected 80 kg (50%).

	Variety	#IP	#OP	Kg R2 furnished by FPPM	Kg expected in Remittance from IP	Kg returned	Difference	%	Yield obtained
Maize	Kasai 1	7	7	325	650	480	-170	73.85%	244
	Mudishi	1	1	25	50	50	0	100.00%	1305
	Samaru	1	2	50	100	75	-25	75.00%	nd
Pnut	JL24	5	5	640	1280	976	-304	76.25%	446
Soybeans	Afya	1	1	40	80	40	-40	50.00%	60
Cowpeas	Vita 7	5	5	160	320	162	-158	50.63%	217.5
Total		12	19	1240	2480	1783	-697	71.90%	

In Bas Congo the project recovered 9.8mT of certified seed from implementing partners of which 8.66 mT is fully traceable. The maize and peanuts are stocked in an aerated warehouse while the beans are being stored in a cold room in order to maintain their agronomic vigor through the dry season. Yields of the R2 seed are far below published farmer averages and the Bas Congo team will be identifying the reasons for this over Q4. It is anticipated that this seed will be distributed to farmer beneficiaries to improve production on their own fields during A-2013.

		Quantity remitted to FPPM (Kg)	Yield (Kg/Ha)
Maize	Kasai 1	30	250
	QPM	100	246.67
	Samaru	1020	673.57
	Mixed	1150	N/A
Peanut	JL 24	5606	764.91
Beans	Pigeon vert	466.88	410.74
	Lola	67.2	541.93
	K131	122	657.25
Soybeans	Vuangi	1248	520.08
Total		9810.08	
Useable certified		8660.08	

Development of curriculum for Farmer Field Schools

Over the course of the current reporting period 13 technical modules on best practices for cassava production have been developed by staff for use in farmer field schools. These are:

- Organization and management of a farmer association
- Pre-cultural field operations
- Field selection and placement
- Proper agronomic maintenance of a field
- Harvesting
- Post-harvest conditioning and the reduction of post-harvest loss
- Plant diseases and pests
- Soil fertility improvements and maintenance
- Market Information Systems
- Agricultural food processing
- Marketing of agricultural production
- Micro-finance
- Marketing and commercial relationship building

Constraints

- Certification of seed multiplication activities by SENASEM has proven to be problematic. On one hand producers, producer organizations and our implementing partners are reticent to pay SENASEM for its certification services because they find there is no transparency in the billing of SENASEM services. They are billed depending on the agent's humor or based on the perceived net worth of the organization. Further, SENASEM refuses to certify land areas that are smaller than one hectare. Often field visits occur but the paper trail lags behind. Given that FPPM requires SENASEM certification for payment of primary and secondary seed multiplication activities and includes this as part of the deliverables matrix, there are occasions where payment to a seed multiplier or implementing partner is put on hold, creating financial liability for the partner. FPPM through its contacts with the National Direction of SENASEM has obtained a derogation permitting certification of land areas smaller than one hectare. Information concerning this derogation is slow to percolate through the project zone. On the other

hand, FPPM includes money for payment of SENASEM but often our contracted partners either do not pay or delay payment for SENASEM services engendering a level of dissatisfaction and distrust which is not positive for the program.

- To date FPPM has had trouble achieving proximity with our partners and clients. This will be resolved somewhat with the recruitment and training of the 15 proximity field agents, however this year it was a constraint as the consultant agronomists engaged for coppicing and harvest evaluation activities in Bandundu province were capped at 10 agents for a maximum of 25 days which was insufficient for the volume of work. Coupled with this was the quality of the rental vehicles, their high fuel consumption, numerous breakdowns and lack of odometers which caused numerous logistical delays resulting in untoward delays and a lack of capitalization of information
- The extremely degraded state of the tertiary rural road system throughout the project zone results in numerous delays, breakdowns, and difficulties in evacuating product from the farm gate to road heads and markets. This raises overall transport costs and delays in transit put product at risk for quality degradation.
- There is a serious lack of valid agricultural statistics for the project zone. Missing from MINAGRIE archives are data on number and size of fields within a farming enterprise, true production and yield data, historic data on crop rotations successions, fallow and intercropping patterns.
- FPPM's partners tend to understate the quantities of product truly produced and are silent concerning the difficulties and risks they are facing that result in low production and yield data.
- To produce high quality seed all best practices, including fertilization and timely pest control must be followed. They often are not. Delays in approval of the PERSUAP resulted in delays for the procurement of appropriate pesticides and while improved seed stock material was provided to partners contracted for multiplication, no effort was made to furnish necessary fertilizers.

Principal activities for Q4

- Monitoring of cassava and short cycle crop fields
- Capitalization of remaining data outstanding on production from A2012 and B2013
- Finalize best practices curriculum materials
- Timely planning of activities for FY2014 taking into consideration the new strategic way forward

Component 2-Improved Market Efficiency

Introduction

This reporting period saw the resignation of FPPM's Component II leader, Charles Stathacos, for personal reasons. Recruitment for his replacement is underway and we hope to field a replacement by mid-October 2013. Technically, the quarter saw the extension of our market information efforts to the provinces of Bandundu and the Batéké Plateau of Kinshasa, finalization of orders of equipment and consumables for the 21 identified agro-processing sites for cassava coupled with the start of the first project sponsored pilot agro-processing activity for cassava micro-cosettes with PEDM in Landzum, Idiofa Territory of Bandundu Province, and the mapping of sales points for improved macro-cosettes and microcassettes in the Kinshasa marketshed. Additionally, efforts were made at the provincial level in Bandundu to increase the quality of macro-cosettes, economic analyses to determine the break even points and profitability of micro-cosettes were performed and alternative contracting mechanisms for commercial transport were explored. A draft PPP between UPAK, Qualagric and FPPM was drafted, defining roles and responsibilities of each party. By the end of the quarter it remained to translate the document into French and distribute to all parties for amendment or signature.

Activities undertaken during this reporting period

Market Information System Development

As mentioned above, by the end of this reporting period FPPM sponsored MIS efforts were underway in all provinces in the project zone. Our efforts are focused on providing consistent, correct, timely information on market prices, demand, volumes, the merchants, the transporters and the quality of product being sought. Our intention is to demystify the markets so that transactions become more transparent so upstream value chain actors can make reasoned decisions what to sell, when, where and in what quantities.

In Bas Congo, REMACOB was chosen as our focal point for emission conception and diffusion. It was anticipated they would work with a network of 14 community radios spread throughout Bas-Congo to provide information from four commercial centers- Mbanza Ngungu, Kimpese, Matadi and Boma, as well as that collected from the panoply of Kinshasa markets. To this end eight market enumerators (2 per market center) and four radio journalists received training from the project to better understand MIS, its importance and to ensure the proper collection, analysis and diffusion of information. REMACOB receives the raw information from the four market centers, produces a weekly 30 minute radio show that is diffused on Fridays and repeated either on Saturday or Sunday of each week and transfers the emission by internet or CD-ROM to the partner stations in their network. In the first month, one station RATEKELI of N'kamba did not receive the emissions. Two others, RTCBC of Seke Mbanza and Radio RCK of Kakongo proved to be unreliable partners requiring us to re-dimension our contract with REMACOB in Bas Congo. In addition to producing the radio program, the market enumerators post current market information each week on blackboards at the central market in Mbanza Ngungu, at the truck stop in Kimpese at the Mvuandu market in Matadi and the Nkondo market in Boma.

In Bandundu, our focal point is the Union of Radios in Bandundu (URPB) that has a network of 10 community radio stations placed throughout the province. Six commercial centers have been identified in Bandundu. These

are Bandundu ville, Kenge, Masimanimba, Kikwit, Gungu and Idiofa. Twelve enumerators and 6 radio journalists have been identified, 8 enumerators and four journalists have been trained with Gungu and Idiofa planned to come on line in late July 2013. Information is collected at the commercial centers Monday-Wednesday by the enumerators and communicated to URPB. FPPM sends market information to each radio focal point from Kinshasa on Thursday. The radio then prepares its emission and like Bas Congo transmits this radio program on Friday with a re-diffusion occurring on the weekend. Market information in four of six commercial centers – Bandundu city, Kenge, Masimanimba and Kikwit is collected from a total of 22 point sources. Weekly price data, posted on blackboards, updated by the market enumerators are posted at 5 markets. By the end of June, 6 emissions had occurred in Kikwit. The percentage of Kikwit's population listening regularly to broadcasts of Radio Tomisa is 80% within its broadcast zone. With an estimated population of 1 million people, this means that 800.000 people regularly follow FPPM's MIS broadcasts in this listening zone alone.

Province	Commercial Centers where market information is collected	Markets and Truck stops where information is currently posted
Bandundu	Bandundu City- College Market, Central Market, Station, Office, Salamita, Sand Port, Port Luani and Buzala	Bikuma Market
	Kenge-Sadiba, Kingulu, Bakali, Samaria, Central Market, the Truck Stop	Central Market
	Masimanimba- Mosongo, Bualayulu, Muluma, Kassay	Bualayula
	Kikwit-Kamanimani, Mbalaka, Kazamba, Kabisu	Kazamba Sacré Coeur market
	Idiofa	TBD
	Gungu	TBD
Bas Congo	Mbanza Ngungu	Central Market
	Kimpese	Truck Stop
	Matadi	Marche Mvuandu
	Boma	Marche N'Kondo
Batéké Plateau (Kinshasa)	Mbankana	Truck Stop
	Menkao	Marche de la Liberation

On the Plateau of Batéké our Radio focal point is Radio Munku in Cadim. This radio station covers the entire plateau, except for Menkao. Four market enumerators and one journalist were trained in MIS. Information collection, synthesis and diffusion follow the patterns already described. Given non-coverage of Menkao by Radio Munku, we are actively seeking alternatives to serve this community.

At all market collection sites the information being collected includes – type of product, its origin, method of sale, weight by method of sale, price of product by method of sale, quality, transport costs, storage costs at market, labor costs for loading and unloading product, other taxes being paid. This information, once collected is synthesized for analysis and then transferred to the radio focal points in each province.

Market Information collected in Kinshasa

In April products from Bas Congo were rare in the Kinshasa market because of a transport strike by chauffeurs of large vehicles (those frequently hired to transport merchants and their product). Much of the product appearing from Bas Congo in Kinshasa during this month was due to informal sector chauffeurs transporting small quantities of product clandestinely. Further, April was the rainy season and prices are normally higher during this season than during the dry season because of difficulty accessing production zones and evacuating product.

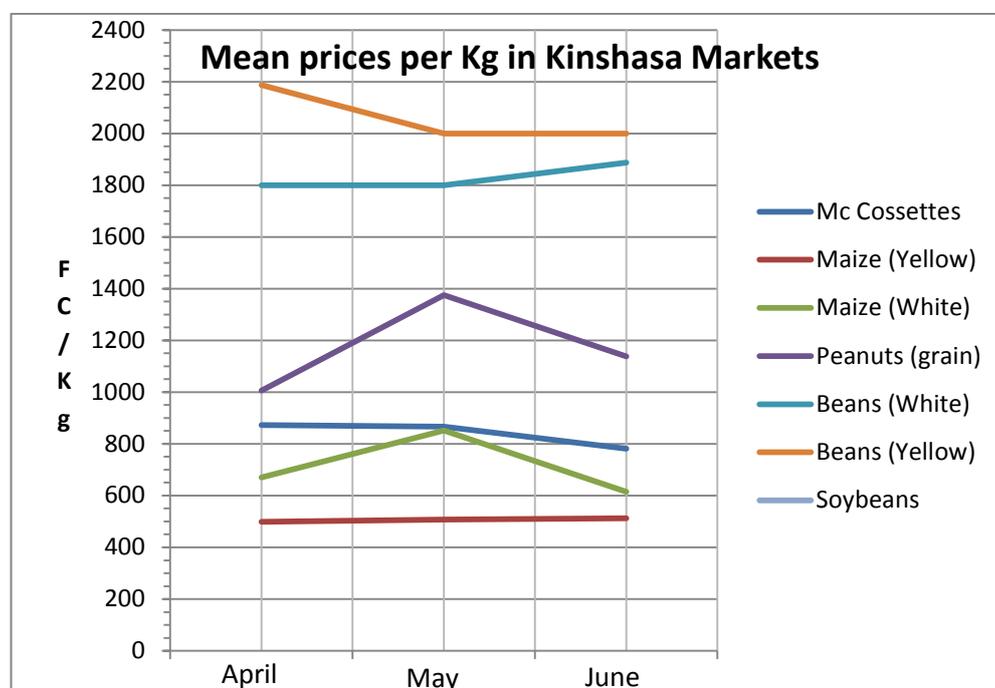
Yellow maize prices were stable through March but began to decrease in April as new maize from Bas Congo harvest reached the market. White maize was scarcer than yellow maize and so retained a premium price.

Cassava prices varied with the quality of the product presented in different markets but overall remained stable, dropping slightly at the end of April. This downward trend continued through the end of June as is normally the case during dry season.

Peanut prices rose in price through April and May before declining in June as more product began to appear in the markets.

Yellow bean prices declined from April through May, then stabilized during the month of June. White beans were stable through May and increased in price during the month of June.

Soybeans remained fairly stable, declining progressively through June as the new harvest started to appear in the market.



Pilot Agro-Processing Activity, PDEM, Landzum, Idiofa, Province of Bandundu

In May FPPM staff facilitated negotiation of an agreement for leasing of cassava processing equipment between two of our implementing partners EBS and PDEM. The agreement, negotiated for an initial period of three months and remits 10% of the cassava processed by PDEM to EBS in return for use of the equipment. In

adition to assistance in negotiating a mutually acceptable MOU, FPPM also provided PEDM with an in-kind contribution of material valued at \$703 USD including: 2 tarps, 100 green striped sacs, 100 m of plastic film, 4, 100 liters water containers, 110 plastic bags, a 100 kg scale, 25 liters of diesel fuel and 5 liters of engine oil. By the end of the current reporting period PEDM had produced at Landzum 100 sacs of 75 kg each (7.5 t) of micro-cosettes and 50 sacs of 75 kg (3.75 t) each of improved quality macro-cosettes. Some of the information garnered through this activity is-

- A woman can harvest, transport and skin 96 kg of cassava per day
- Skinning 100 kg of TME419 tubers results in 78Kg of vegetative material for processing
- The processing site is located some 50 meters from water. A bidon of 25 liters of water (enough to wash 75 kg of skinned cassava root) costs 500 FC (appx. \$0.54)
- Soaking 2.4 t of skinned cassava roots requires 600 litres of water
- Chipping 1 kg of skinned cassava requires 0.25 liters of water
- Removal of excess water from cassava chips after soaking requires 9 minutes per kg of chips
- Pressing of 45 kg of micro-cosettes requires 20 minutes
- The average drying time for cassava chips that have been soaked is 10 hours at 36 degrees C, if the product is evenly distributed on the drying tables

Recommendations made by FPPM staff to PEDM concerning processing activities that have added value to the operation:

1. The soaking tanks at Landzum are constructed of bamboo which is locally available, they are 4 meters long, 2 meters wide and 1 meter deep. Each soaking tank cost 10.000 FC (appx. \$10.87) to construct
2. Water quality plays a large role in determining the final quality of the cassava product being produced through processing. Water needs to be changed regularly in the soaking tanks. Further, given that the water in Landzum is dirty and full of sediment, it was recommended that water for the soaking tank be filtered through a clean cloth as it is being added to the tank. Water in the soaking tank was being used for at least two days and for the soaking of two separate batches of cassava. FPPM recommends replacing the water after each soaking and, in any case replacing it after it has sat for 48hrs.
3. The number of drying tables at Landzum is insufficient for the quantity of cassava they project processing.
4. PEDM is composed of 50 members, 20 men and 30 women who are members of 24 separate rural households. These members received 31.250 lm of improved cassava cuttings and have outseeded approximately 17.5 ha.

Mapping micro-cosette sales points in Kinshasa

Micro-cosettes are being presented for sale in the Kinshasa market but many potential consumers do not know where to source them. During the quarter under review an effort was made to perform a census of sales points. It was found that micro-cosettes are available for sale at 30 points in 10 different markets in Kinshasa. It is interesting to note that they are not for sale at markets serving the most populous quarters of the city-

Kimbanseke, Kinsenso, Maluku, Mont Ngafula, N'djili and Selembao, suggesting that to date this product serves a middle class to upper middle class market niche.

Developing a market demand for micro-cosettes in Kinshasa

APTM is quite pleased with FPPM's effort to perform a census of micro-cossette producers and their preferred sales points. APTM is seeking collaboration with ASCOVI in order to increase market penetration of micro-cosettes into each of Kinshasa's 24 communes. It is estimated that 70% of micro-cosettes are used in producing fufu while 30% is converted to flour for other culinary needs.

Encouraging Cassava producers to join APTM

The new executive board of APTM is encouraging membership from producers and processors from the provinces of Bandundu and Bas Congo. Membership in APTM costs an initial \$25 and a \$25 monthly membership fee and offers the following benefits:

- Capacity reinforcement in new technologies and food product diversification based on cassava
- Warehousing of product in an APTM warehouse at a price of 1000 FC/sac of 50 Kg. APTM has three warehouses in Kinshasa, two in the commune of Kasa Vubu (25 mT and 8 mT) and one in the commune of Matete (3 mT). This yields a total stocking capacity for APTM of 36mT at any one time.
- APTM assists members in the marketing of their products by linking them with consumers
- APTM requires that its members present product of the highest quality in order to maintain its reputation before consumers seeking cassava products.
- PEDM is the first of FPPM's agro-processing partners from Bandundu or Bas Congo to join APTM

Transportation of agricultural produce

Moving product from the farm gate to the market is one of the biggest challenges faced by FPPM's rural beneficiaries. Transporters usually charge 50% of the total shipment to move partial truckloads of product to Kinshasa. During this reporting period FPPM contacted a Chinese transport company "Yifa" who owns 5 tractor trailers. They are willing to transport 100 kg sacs of cassava from Kikwit to Kinshasa at a price of 14.000 FC (appx. \$15.22) per sac.

Impacts from this Reporting Period

- FPPM advice to cassava processors has resulted in improvements in the quality of macro-cosettes produced by PEDM, UPDMA, CORIDEK, MUTI and CEPAL. The macro-cosettes presented by PEDM for sale in the Kinshasa market were positively evaluated by APTM and consumers who placed them on par with cosettes produced in Bas Congo.

Constraints

- Grants procedures are burdensome
- Certain partners are becoming demotivated because of the time delays inherent in setting up agro-processing facilities
- Partners lack necessary liquidity for operating capital for community scale agro-processing activities.

- Partners lack the capacity to plan analytically and to anticipate their needs in a timely fashion
- Partners are not entirely open about sharing information on their finances or their material inventory
- Partners have difficulty mastering complex concepts related to financial analyses of their rural enterprises. Many are incapable of developing a cash flow analysis, projecting profitability, putting together a profit/loss statement or annual earnings report. Many partners are lackadaisical in their financial record keeping

Lessons learned and Recommendations

- Without assured access to micro-credit it is likely that it will be difficult for our beneficiaries to operationalize the concepts learned through Rural Enterprise training
- Many IP and OP exhibit a low level of organizational capacity, institutional maturity and good governance practices

Principal Activities Planned for Q4

- Continued capitalization and evaluation of MIS information, impact and outreach
- Installation of processing units at 21 sites throughout the project zone
- Capacity Reinforcement for targeted agro-processing enterprises in crop conditioning and the production of improved cassava macro and micro-cosettes
- Finalization of necessary in-kind/FOG grant documentation for agro-processing enterprises including financial analysis, feasibility studies, planning and projections
- Facilitation of a strategic planning session with ASCOVI and APTM to improve market penetration for micro-cosettes in the Kinshasa market
- Technical assistance to improve parking and storage conditions and management at Marche Liberte
- Establish working relationship with at least one Financial Institution open to providing agriculturally related enterprise credit to FPPM client beneficiaries
- Complete inventory of Kinshasa processing and milling capacity
- Innovation grant for post-harvest drying system test for cassava, maize and targeted legume value chains
- Expand market development of micro-cosettes to Matadi and Kikwit markets
- Design a social marketing campaign for promoting micro-cosettes and other new products
- Develop marketing opportunities for secondary by-products and value added components linked to the production of targeted value chains
- Complete MFI needs assessment questionnaires

Component 3- Capacity to Respond to Market Opportunities Reinforced

Introduction

The current reporting period saw the effective start of Farmer Field School activities under this component. A total of 64 FFS in Agricultural Business Management skills were opened throughout the project zone. In total 2195 participants including 67 input dealers, 2039 producers, 18 transporters, 15 agro-processors and 56 merchants have participated. Modules facilitated to date include planning of income generating activities, anticipating revenue and projecting cash flow, risk assessment, debt management, funds mobilization and savings, and cost controls to maximize profitability. In addition 102 Cassava farmer field schools opened with 7.41 ha planted to 102 demonstration fields for best production practices with cassava and 1985 participants of whom 1251 (63%) are women. In addition FPPM facilitated training of trainers in agricultural statistics for 144 FFS facilitators, including 40 women (27.8%), representing 79 IP at five sites throughout the project zone. We note as well that Agricultural Inspectors from MINAGRIE attended this session in Kikwit and on the Batéké Plateau, resulting in a request to train agricultural extension agents using the same curriculum.

Activities undertaken during this reporting period

Training of Trainers for Cassava FFS in agricultural statistics.

Training occurred at five sites, two in Bandundu, two in Bas Congo and one on the Plateau of Batéké. A total of 79 Implementing partners sent facilitators. Training included modules on calculating irregular land areas, conversion rates for products between grams/kg and local measurement units, sampling methodology, extrapolation and projection of sample results to a population.

Province	Training Site	Training dates	# of participants (facilitateurs)			# of IP Represented
			Hommes	Femmes	Total	
Kinshasa	Mbakana	Du 26/06 au 28/06/2013	6	19	25	17
Bandundu	Mwila Mbongo	Du 17/06 au 19/06/2013	23	7	30	11
	Muluma	Du 24/06 au 27/06/2013	43	5	48	30
Bas-Congo	Kisantu	Du 14/06 au 16/06/2013	16	6	22	12
	Kimpese	Du 22/06 au 24/06/2013	16	3	19	9
Total			104	40	144	79

Cassava Farmer Field School demonstration plots

Participants in Cassava FFS are predominantly women. Since inception of this activity FPPM has facilitated installation of 102 demonstration plots for practical apprenticeship of best production practices. These demonstration plots cover 7.41 hectares. The majority of these are in Bandundu Province.

Province	# CEP MC	# IP	Land Area in Demonstration Fields	Men	Women	Total
Bandundu	58	23	53,605 m ²	410	695	1105
Bas Congo	23	13	14,134.11 m ²	165	295	460
Batéké Plateau	21	13	6,409,08 m ²	159	261	420
Total	102	49	7,41 ha	734	1251 (63%)	1985

Farmer Field Schools for Agricultural Business Management Skills Training

By the end of the current reporting period 64 of 94 FFS in ABMS (68%) were operational. In Bandundu 41 of 42 (97.6%) FFS have started facilitating training while only 4 of 31 in Bas Congo (12.9%) were operational. In Kinshasa and on the Batéké Plateau, 19 of 21 FFS held sessions (90.5%) during this quarter. Bas Congo lags behind the other provinces because until June there was no cadre in place with responsibility for oversight on this activity. In June we reassigned the Provincial FFS agent from Batéké to Bas Congo at his request. Recruitment for a replacement on the Plateau is underway and should be finalized in August 2013. In total 2,195 people participated in sessions. The number in Bandundu is four times that of the Batéké Plateau.

Monitoring of FFS activities

In total 31 different monitoring visits to FFS facilitated by 39 different trainers occurred. This means that 48% of organizations facilitating FFS received at least one monitoring visit during the reporting period. Monitoring visits were most intense in the Kinshasa/Batéké Plateau, followed by the province of Bandundu.

Constraints

- Administrative paperwork related to contracting implementing partners for Farmer Field Schools in Agricultural Business Management Skills is burdensome to the provincial offices and often delays implementation
- Lack of a provincial FFS person in Bas Congo during this reporting period delayed implementation
- There are a number of modules for the Cassava FFS that still need to be developed. Lack of this curriculum available in a timely fashion could result in implementation delays
- Motorcycle breakdowns on the Batéké Plateau limited mobility to provide proximity monitoring of FFS activities
- Logistical issues due to vehicle availability in Bandundu limited the mobility of the FFS provincial lead, delaying the timely gathering and dissemination of information.
- Implementing partners have difficulty presenting the deliverables. There are quality issues and timing issues both of which delay implementation of FFS activities.
- The Making Cents Rural Enterprise curriculum is experiential and skills based, but it covers only basic business concepts and does not provide a space for the conception, implementation and monitoring of

necessary business management tools rural entrepreneurs need to ensure their businesses are well governed and transparently managed.

Lessons Learned and Recommendations

- IP need to be trained, coached and mentored on the elements they need to include in and pay attention to when submitting deliverables. They need to be informed of the timing for payment of their invoices and the reasons behind any potential delays in payment.
- IP should distribute the Terms of Reference for FFS to the facilitators and spend time explaining to them their roles and responsibilities in executing the contracts that have been signed.
- Administrative procedures should be streamlined to avoid delays in execution

Principal Activities planned for Q4

- Material and Equipment needed for the implementation of the FFS will be distributed to IP
- Facilitators will be trained in three additional modules for FFS Cassava
- Regular monitoring visits will continue to assist facilitators at Farmer Field Schools in the implementation of the curriculum

Environmental Compliance

Introduction

This reporting period FPPM's Environmental Compliance officer conceived of five Environmental Review Forms for major project activity areas. These were submitted to, and approved by, USAID. With this approval a field visit to Bandundu Province was undertaken to train staff, partners and client/beneficiaries in a) understanding environmental risk and the need for compliance; b) identification of principal environmental issues at activity sites with recommended mitigation; c) begin undertaking the characterization of our implementing partners. Additionally, three technical extension bulletins were developed on Good Agronomic Practices (GAP) for cassava, maize and legumes. Finally, a module on cassava pests and diseases was developed for use in the Cassava Farmer Field School curriculum.

Of the five planned activities, four (80%) were accomplished. Additionally, three unplanned activities were realized. The one activity remaining to be finalized is a behind the curtains updating of information into FPPM's TAMIS system to ensure information is captured and properly capitalized upon.

Activities undertaken

This reporting period focused on technical document conception, including initial environmental review forms, extension bulletins and modules for the Cassava Farmer Field Schools. Additionally a field trip, undertaken in Bandundu province permitted the characterization of 19 implementing partners and the facilitation of three training sessions covering topics related to defining environmental change, soil degradation and the deleterious effect of poor agronomic practices on soil and productivity at sites in the territories of Bulungu, Masimanimba and Idiofa for 44 participants representing a cross section of IP and Producer Organizations (PO).

Supplemental to these planned activities FPPM's environmental compliance officer visited the cassava processing site at Landzoum in Idiofa, the short cycle seed warehouse in Kikwit and five sites for potential micro-hydro power activities.

Observations, Lessons Learned and Recommendations

1. Participants at training sessions wish to receive color copies of handouts used to assist them in improving their technical capacity
2. Participants want further capacity reinforcement in techniques and technologies that are appropriate, available and affordable that would enable them to attenuate soil degradation on agricultural land.
3. Agro-processing units should be sited in proximity to water sources to enable easy exchange of soaking water in the settling tanks
4. Grey water effluents from the soaking/settling tanks should be diverted to an improved sump tank with activated charcoal, sand and gravel filters to assist in filtering out impurities before the water infiltrates the soil
5. Unsustainable agronomic practices identified include:
 - a. Slash and burn agriculture

- b. Expansion of agricultural land area through removal of the forest canopy over story leaving soil exposed to the elements and facilitating either lateritic concretization or enhanced possibility of topsoil erosion
 - c. Reduction in the number of fallow years and
 - d. Expansion of agriculture onto marginal lands
 - e. Deep plowing brings infertile soils to the surface while burying fertile topsoil in layers outside of the normal plant root zone
 - f. Decrease in mulching and composting, increasing the risk of wind or water erosion and denying the soil of necessary organic material favorable to improved soil structure and micro-fauna population development and
 - g. Poor application practices for chemical fertilizers and/or pesticide applications leading to potential soil salinification, groundwater pollution and potential toxic point source pollution
6. It is recommended that the Farmer Field School curriculum include topics of integrated soil fertility management and integrated, improved crop management practices

Constraints

- The environmental compliance officer's role is cross cutting but he has no personnel assigned permanently to him with the responsibility of undertaking the initial environmental review of proposed activities. Current provincial technical staff are preoccupied with their own assignments to dedicate sufficient time to environmental compliance and mitigation issues
- The Environmental Review forms, established in English, need to be translated into French for use by FPPM staff and IP

Principal Activities planned for Q4

- Translation of ERR documents
- Continued characterization of Implementing Partners
- Completion of Environmental Monitoring and Compliance forms in TAMIS for each IP to facilitate monitoring of environmental compliance of their activities

Monitoring and Evaluation

Introduction

This reporting period saw the resignation of FPPM's Director of Monitoring and Evaluation, Laurent Kopi, who left the project to take a position on a Regional Project based in Niger, and his replacement by his assistant Didier Bokelo. With Didier's promotion to M&E director, the program began a concerted effort to a) recruit a deputy and b) recruit interns to assist us in entering a cumulative two year backlog of data into our management database TAMIS. In May, four interns were recruited in Kikwit and two in Bas-Congo. Half of these interns are women. In June we proceeded with the recruitment of two interns for the Batéké Plateau, both of who are women. We also successfully recruited a Deputy for the M&E component, again a woman, Mme. Florence Bwebwe. She began work in late July. As both our M&E Director and the new Deputy are GIS qualified, we are seeking to integrate GIS into our overall Monitoring and Evaluation effort.

Activities undertaken

Encoding Backlogged Data

As can be seen in the table below, progress is being made to enter and vet data into our database. Until the coding of backlogged data is complete FPPM will be unable to present a complete picture of its breadth and width. We anticipate having an actualized database for 30 September 2013. Once the back log is cleared, FPPM will be able to present the Mission with detailed information on partners, beneficiaries, activities, training session participation and results being obtained from our efforts. The challenge for the program will be to maintain this database in real time so we can extract results and impact data for reporting in an efficient time sensitive manner.

Tools	# Encoded in Tamis			
	Bandundu	Bas Congo	Batéké	Total
Tool 0 : Implementation Partner Identification Sheet	15	6	30	51
Tool 1 : Training, seminars and CEP Sheet	0	0	66	66
Tool 2 : House Hold Sheet	1769	908	1124	3801
Tool 3 : I.P Cultures Distribution Sheet	171	74	2	247
Tool 4 : I.P Production Sheet	0	9	1	10
Tool 5 : HHs Cultures Distribution Sheet	0	169	8	177
Tool 6 : HHs Cultures Production Sheet	0	0	1	1
Tool 7 : MIS and Value-Adding Sheet	0	0	0	0
Tool 8 : Individual Grant Sheet	0	0	0	0
Tool 9 : Field Monitoring Sheet (FORET)	0	0	0	0
Tool 9 : Field Monitoring Sheet (SAVANNE)	0	0	0	0
Tool 10 : Training Evaluation Sheet	0	44	0	44
Total	1955	1210	1232	4397

This database can be correlated with GPS data enabling us to “map” our impact over time through the project zone. As a result of our coding efforts to date we have “captured” information characterizing our relationship with 116 implementing partners and 6.972 beneficiary households across the project zone.

Province	IP au 31/3/2013	IP au 30/6/2013	% Change	# Active HH 31/3/2013	# Active HH 30/6/2013	% Change
Bandundu	33	29	-14%	3427	4033	15%
Bas Congo	14	60	76.7%	212	1674	87.3%
Batéké	14	27	48%	570	1265	54.9%
Total	61	116	47.4%	4209	6972	39.6%

In addition, detailed information capture on households adopting new technologies (training, production, distribution and monitoring activities) and on enterprises assisted (trainings, production, distribution and grants) is presented in the table below.

Province	Bandundu	Bas Congo	Batéké	Total
HH Adopting New Technologies	51	371	21	441
Enterprises Assisted	71	110	15	196

Information on progress toward the realization of key indicators

The following information is provided for current FPPM indicators based on information input and verified in our M&E database.

Number of Hectares under improved technologies or management practices

Period	30-09-12	30-06-13	30-09-13	30-09-14	30-09-15	LOP
Target in FY	1,630.02	4,549.67	6,179.69	25,768.11	29,088.71	14,544.36
Cumulative	1,630.02	6,179.69	7,809.71	33,577.82	62,666.53	77,210.89

Number of Rural Households benefitting directly from USG Assistance

Period	30-09-12	30-06-13	30-09-13	30-09-14	30-09-15	LOP
Cumulative	16,139	30,216	46,355	61,355	81,355	91,355

Number of firms (excluding farms) or Civil Society organizations (CSO) engaged in agriculture and food security related manufacturing or services operating more profitably due to USG assistance

Period	30-09-12	30-06-13	30-09-13	30-09-14	30-09-15	LOP
Target in FY	50	25	75	100	125	50
Cumulative	50	75	125	225	350	400

Number of individuals who have received USG supported short term agricultural sector productivity or food security training

Period	30-09-12	30-06-13	30-09-13	30-09-14	30-09-15	LOP
Target in FY	500	2,000	2,500	5,000	10,000	7,000
Cumulative	512	2,500	3,012	8,012	18,012	25,012

Number of new technologies or management practices in one of the following phases of development

Period	30-09-12	30-06-13	30-09-13	30-09-14	30-09-15	LOP
Target phase 1-Research		6	6	6		
Target phase 2-Field testing		19	19	30	40	10
Target phase 3- Available for transfer		5	5	15	45	10

We recognize that a detailed discussion disaggregating how these counts have been arrived at is preferable to merely presenting the raw data. We will backfill these results with contextual data in our Q4/ FY report.

Constraints

- Many of the monitoring tools used by FPPM are incorrectly filled out by our partners and staff. There is a resultant asymmetry in the information capitalized. One benefit of our intern encoders is that a new set of eyes is looking at our data, noting errors and trends and making recommendations for the improvement of our overall data collection and management.
- We registered a number of difficulties in projecting out information through PACD for the five key indicators given above. Previous planning efforts were not detailed enough to project season by season and then aggregate for the year in each of the three provinces in order to give us a true total for each project year. This is being rectified.
- Information contained in the deliverables submitted by implementing partners is not extracted at the time deliverables are approved. Backtracking through our deliverables to mine this data is unwieldy,

though necessary. In the future every attempt should be made to extract this data in a timely fashion and insert it into the database in a timely fashion.

- TAMIS is excellent with quantifiable data points but less useful for qualitative assessments and comments.
- The consultant hired to complete the baseline report proved incapable of doing so leaving the project with a partially finished baseline and projections based on faulty assumptions due to poor data collection instruments and flawed analysis.

Principal Activities for Q4

- Frequent monitoring visits to project sites, activities and implementing partners
- Verification of primary and secondary seed multiplication efforts on the Batéké Plateau
- Prepare the A2013 agricultural campaign
- Prepare FY 2014 work planning
- Finalize indicator data and re-targeting for FY 2013 and beyond

Conclusion

This has been a challenging, dynamic and very active quarter for FPPM. Forward Progress in being made on all fronts and tangible results are starting to become visible. We have taken moves to increase proximity, increase gender presence on our technical side, incorporate youthful passion and energy through the offering of internships to new college graduates on a rolling basis, not only in Kinshasa but also in our Provincial Offices, and provide a positive, professional working environment where dedicated staff can see that their efforts are recognized and dead wood that was holding the program back has either decided to step up or step aside.

In no way do we minimize the challenges and difficulties that are before us as we seek to add value to our client beneficiaries and partners across all value chains and throughout our project zone. We wish to learn from the past but not repeat its errors. The entire program is moving forward optimistically with a mindset that together, working in a well-articulated and integrated fashion we can assist in producing tangible results for development here in Congo. Our goal is to reduce poverty, increase rural incomes, and improve overall food security in a durable fashion that includes and empowers actors throughout the value chains and across the project zone.

We thank USAID-Kinshasa and especially the Economic Growth team for its continued, unwavering support and guidance to our Program. We promise we are actively listening and are looking forward to a long, positive working relationship.