



COLEACP GROUP TRAINING IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS

Eighteen organisations that received COLEACP training on food safety management, traceability, and integrated crop protection/safe use of pesticides have each gone on to hold between two and 13 training sessions, together reaching a total of around 2,000 producers

Requests received by COLEACP from the Democratic Republic of the Congo structures mainly concern support activities for producers (NGOs, federations, associations, support programmes) and producer associations in the Kinshasa area and the Kivu region. These requests focus on the quantitative and qualitative improvement of fruit and vegetable production for national and regional markets.

Through its Fit For Market programme, COLEACP has agreed individual action plans with 25 organisations to support capacity building for their extension workers. These field agents are essential relays for reaching the thousands of producers who daily supply large cities such as Kinshasa, Bukavu and Goma with fresh and processed fruit and vegetables (cassava, tomatoes, aubergines, onions, leafy vegetables, cabbage, beans, mangoes, avocados, etc.).

Since 2018, COLEACP has organised three group training courses (FCO) in DRC on the themes of food safety management; traceability; and integrated crop protection and safe use of pesticides. Congolese participants also took part in crop protection training organised in Burundi. Each partner organisation was able to send one to three extension workers to each session, with the aim that they would then train the other extension workers in their organisation and the producers they supervise internally.

In order to measure the impact of this capacity building and to identify additional needs, a survey was conducted between July and October 2020 among Congolese organisations that had participated in the various group training sessions. This survey was carried out using Google Forms and was followed up by telephone discussions.

The objective of the survey was to collect information on:

- multiplication of training courses to other supervisors in the various organisations
- transmission of key messages to producers
- changes in practices observed at producer level
- constraints encountered by different organisations during the multiplication sessions
- possible need for additional capacity building on new themes.





Of the 21 organisations that participated in the training courses and were contacted, 18 responded to the survey (response rate: 86%). All of them indicated that they had organised one or more in-house training sessions to strengthen the capacities of supervisors on quality management and crop protection/safe use of pesticides: those who participated in the training sessions organised by COLEACP in turn trained their fellow supervisors. On average, one supervisor trained by COLEACP has in turn trained three or four other supervisors.

In terms of multiplying the number of training sessions for producers, 100% of the organisations indicated that they have held between 2 and 13 sessions that have reached a total of around 2,000 producers.

With regard to the internal training system, 78% of the organisations indicated that they provide producers with recurrent training covering several technical subjects.

The main constraint encountered by the various structures during these multiplier sessions is essentially the lack of financial and material resources at their disposal.

All respondents to the survey indicated that they have observed significant and satisfactory changes in the practices of the producers they supervise with regard to pest control, the use of plant protection products, and compliance with good hygiene practices throughout the production process.

Finally, they expressed the wish to benefit from other capacity-building activities, notably on market access, conservation of horticultural products, stock management, fruit and vegetable processing, environmental protection, management and functioning of agricultural associations and cooperatives, etc.

The results of this survey will enable COLEACP to target priority themes for future support, to adapt training methods, and to identify the organisations for which additional support (mainly post-training coaching) should be envisaged.

