Benin

BUILDING COMPETITIVE AGRIFOOD VALUE CHAINS TO REDUCE IMPORTS, CREATE JOBS AND RAISE RURAL INCOMES

HAND-IN-HAND INVESTMENT FORUM
ROME, OCTOBER 2026



Why Benin?

2.7M ha
Arable land

14.5M
Population

USD 22.4B
GDP

24.2% GDP
Agriculture share

ACROSS BENIN, **FARMERS PRODUCE RICE, SOYBEAN AND POULTRY PRODUCTS** THAT ARE ESSENTIAL TO LOCAL DIETS, RURAL LIVELIHOODS AND A GROWING DOMESTIC MARKET.

*These value chains also have **significant potential to supply expanding food and feed industries** and **reach consumers** across West Africa.*

*Yet, many farmers face **low productivity, limited access to quality inputs, and weak links to processing and markets**, preventing them from fully benefiting from this growing demand.*



What is holding these farmers back from reaching their full potential?

FOUR GAPS ARE LIMITING PRODUCTIVITY, VALUE ADDITION AND ACCESS TO GROWING MARKETS

01 Low productivity and limited access to inputs

Many farms remain small and under-mechanized, with limited access to certified seed and improved genetics. Soybean yields average just 1.1 t/ha against a potential of 2.5–3 t/ha.

02 Limited processing and infrastructure

Insufficient milling, parboiling and crushing capacity restricts local value addition. Soybeans are exported largely raw, and rice processors struggle to compete with imported products.

03 Weak access to finance and markets

Limited credit, weak producer organization and poor rural roads constrain farmers' ability to invest, aggregate production and connect reliably with processors and markets

04 Gaps in modern poultry production

Limited access to improved genetics, modern hatcheries, certified slaughterhouses and biosecurity systems constrains local poultry production and increases dependence on imported inputs

How do we turn these challenges into opportunities?

THREE STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS FOR **USD 172.7 MILLION** TO BOOST PRODUCTION, ADD VALUE AND STRENGTHEN DOMESTIC SUPPLY

01 Rice Production & Processing

Develop 3,500 ha of irrigated lowlands, expand access to certified seed and mechanization, and provide advisory support to 13,000 producers. Investments would also establish six modern mini rice mills, modernize 80 parboiling units and add storage capacity

USD 79.3M Investment | **USD 46.4M** NPV | **16.0%** IRR

02 Soybean Production & Processing

Increase productivity through certified seed and research support, while establishing four crushing and processing plants with a combined capacity of 126,000 tonnes/year, alongside storage and commercialization infrastructure

USD 48.0M Investment | **USD 32.3M** NPV | **26.1%** IRR

03 Poultry Production

Build a modern domestic poultry industry through eight certified abattoirs, six modern hatcheries, 40 new farms, 15 feed mills, 20 cutting units and cold-chain infrastructure, alongside stronger veterinary and biosecurity systems

USD 45.4M Investment | **USD 32.5M** NPV | **18.3%** IRR

What is the government doing to enable investments?

ECONOMIC MOMENTUM, INVESTMENT INCENTIVES AND REGIONAL MARKET ACCESS CREATE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SCALE

Strong Economic Momentum

Benin has recorded some of the fastest GDP growth in West Africa, supported by low inflation and moderate public debt

Long-term Policy Commitment

National frameworks, including PNIASAN III and PAG 2021–2026, provide continuity for agricultural and economic development

Investor-friendly Environment

Streamlined business creation, 5–17-year tax exemptions, free capital transfers and legal protection for foreign investors

Growing Industrial Base

The GDIZ industrial zone already has 14 operational units, with more than 40 additional units in development

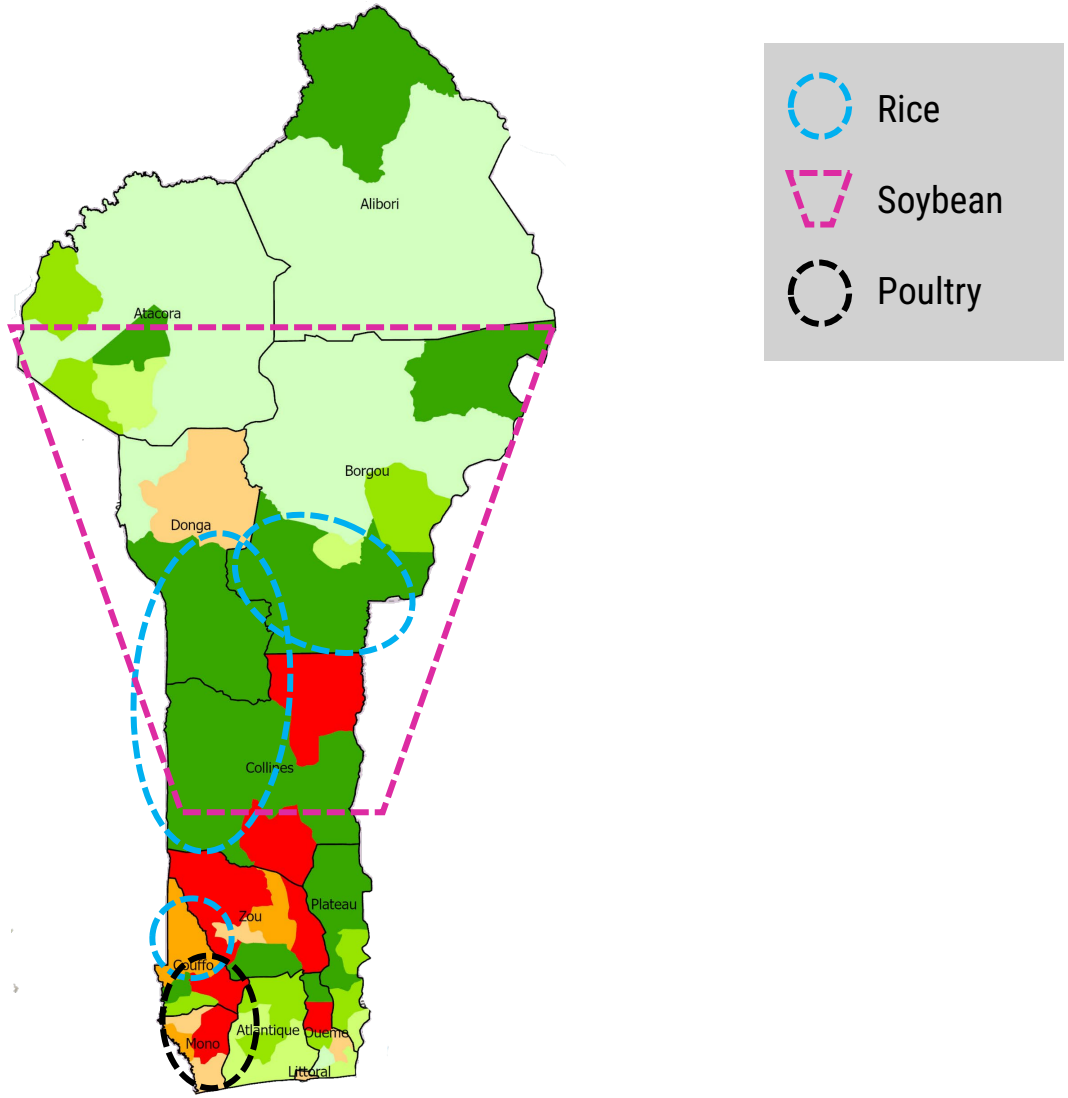
Gateway to Regional Markets

Benin provides direct access to Nigeria and the 400-million-consumer ECOWAS market, alongside preferential AfCFTA access

The Port of Cotonou

Handles 90% of Benin’s external trade, providing a critical gateway for domestic and regional commerce

How do we know where to target these investments?



Rice

Soybean

Poultry

FAO'S GEOSPATIAL PLATFORM HELPS IDENTIFY AREAS WHERE AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL IS GREATEST.

INVESTMENTS ARE TARGETED TO ADDRESS THE SPECIFIC CHALLENGES OF EACH TERRITORY, MAXIMIZING IMPACT.

- Critical with moderate agricultural opportunities
- Medium priority with moderate agricultural opportunities
- Low priority
- High priority
- Medium priority with high agricultural opportunities
- Low priority with high agricultural opportunities
- High performance



What impact can these investments deliver?

BUILDING MORE PRODUCTIVE, COMPETITIVE AND HIGHER-VALUE AGRIFOOD CHAINS

Rice Production & Processing

Direct beneficiaries

21,300

Indirect beneficiaries

82,360

Per capita income increase

USD 740

GHG impact

-3,500 tCO2-e

Soybean Production & Processing

Direct beneficiaries

5,500

Indirect beneficiaries

21,300

Per capita income increase

USD 1,740

GHG impact

-3,970 tCO2-e

Poultry Production

Direct beneficiaries

18,000

Indirect beneficiaries

69,600

Per capita income increase

USD 504

GHG impact

-5,723 tCO2-e

How can you be part of this story?

THREE SIMPLE STEPS

01 Explore the Investment Note

Download the **full investment note** or **investor deck** from the country page:

Access the most relevant document to you for more details on the country's investment cases.

02 Request a Bilateral Meeting

Schedule a one-on-one session with the country's delegation to discuss opportunities.

03 Join as an Investor/Partner



Engage with us as a DFI, MDB, or private investor to structure, derisk, and deploy capital.