Democratic Republic of the Congo

TURNING AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL INTO INCOME AND MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

HAND-IN-HAND INVESTMENT FORUM
ROME, OCTOBER 2026



Why Democratic Republic of the Congo?

80M ha
Arable land

Only 10%
Currently cultivated

116.5M
Population

6.2%
GDP growth (2024)

WITH **80 MILLION HECTARES OF ARABLE LAND**, **ABUNDANT WATER RESOURCES** AND **FAVOURABLE GROWING CONDITIONS**, DRC'S FARMERS HAVE SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL TO INCREASE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY GROWING DOMESTIC AND REGIONAL MARKETS

*Yet, **only 10% of arable land is currently cultivated**, while limited access to quality inputs, infrastructure, processing and markets prevents many producers from realizing their full potential.*



What are the main challenges producers face?

THREE STRUCTURAL GAPS ARE LIMITING PRODUCTION, VALUE ADDITION AND ACCESS TO DOMESTIC AND EXPORT MARKETS

01 Limited access to quality inputs and production services

Farmers face limited access to certified seeds, quality planting material, fingerlings and affordable feed, while insufficient mechanization and extension services constrain productivity and their ability to scale production

02 Insufficient infrastructure to store, process and reach markets

Limited storage, cold-chain and processing capacity, combined with poor access to production areas, makes it harder for producers to reduce losses, add value and connect to markets

03 Disease pressures and declining productive assets

High disease prevalence affects poultry and crop production, while aging and abandoned coffee and cocoa plantations reduce yields, incomes and the ability of producers to respond to growing market demand

How can we turn challenges into opportunities?

FIVE STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS FOR **USD 1.2 BILLION** TO SCALE PRODUCTION, ADD VALUE AND BUILD COMPETITIVE AGRIFOOD VALUE CHAINS

01 Maize

Expand access to certified seed and fertilizer, develop production areas and mechanization services, and invest in processing and storage to increase domestic maize supply and reduce the country's food deficit.

USD 185.5M	USD 90.5M	13.3%
Investment	NPV	IRR

02 Poultry

Scale domestic poultry production through hatcheries and commercial and family farms, while strengthening vaccination, extension, feed production and processing infrastructure.

USD 329.0M	USD 573.1M	21.4%
Investment	NPV	IRR

03 Aquaculture

Develop commercial and family fish farms, hatcheries and feed production while expanding cold storage, extension services and market infrastructure.

USD 152.9M	USD 207.1M	19.7%
Investment	NPV	IRR

04 Cocoa

Rehabilitate aging plantations, expand access to quality planting material and strengthen processing and road infrastructure to capture greater value from premium export markets.

USD 293.1M	USD 1.5B	18.3%
Investment	NPV	IRR

05 Coffee

Restore coffee production through plantation rehabilitation and quality planting material while upgrading processing facilities and market access infrastructure.

USD 273.3M	USD 997.2M	22.1%
Investment	NPV	IRR

What is the government doing to enable investments?

STRATEGIC MARKET ACCESS, AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL AND INVESTOR INCENTIVES CREATE STRONG CONDITIONS FOR AGRIFOOD INVESTMENT

Strategic Geographic Location

Africa's second-largest country, bordering nine countries and connecting major regional markets

400M+ Consumer Market Access

Membership in CEEAC, EAC, SADC and COMESA provides preferential access to a vast regional market

Strategic Trade Corridors

The Lobito and Green Corridors connect production areas with regional markets and ports

Agricultural Investment Incentives

Multi-year tax holidays support agricultural companies and new investment

Favourable Import and Export Conditions

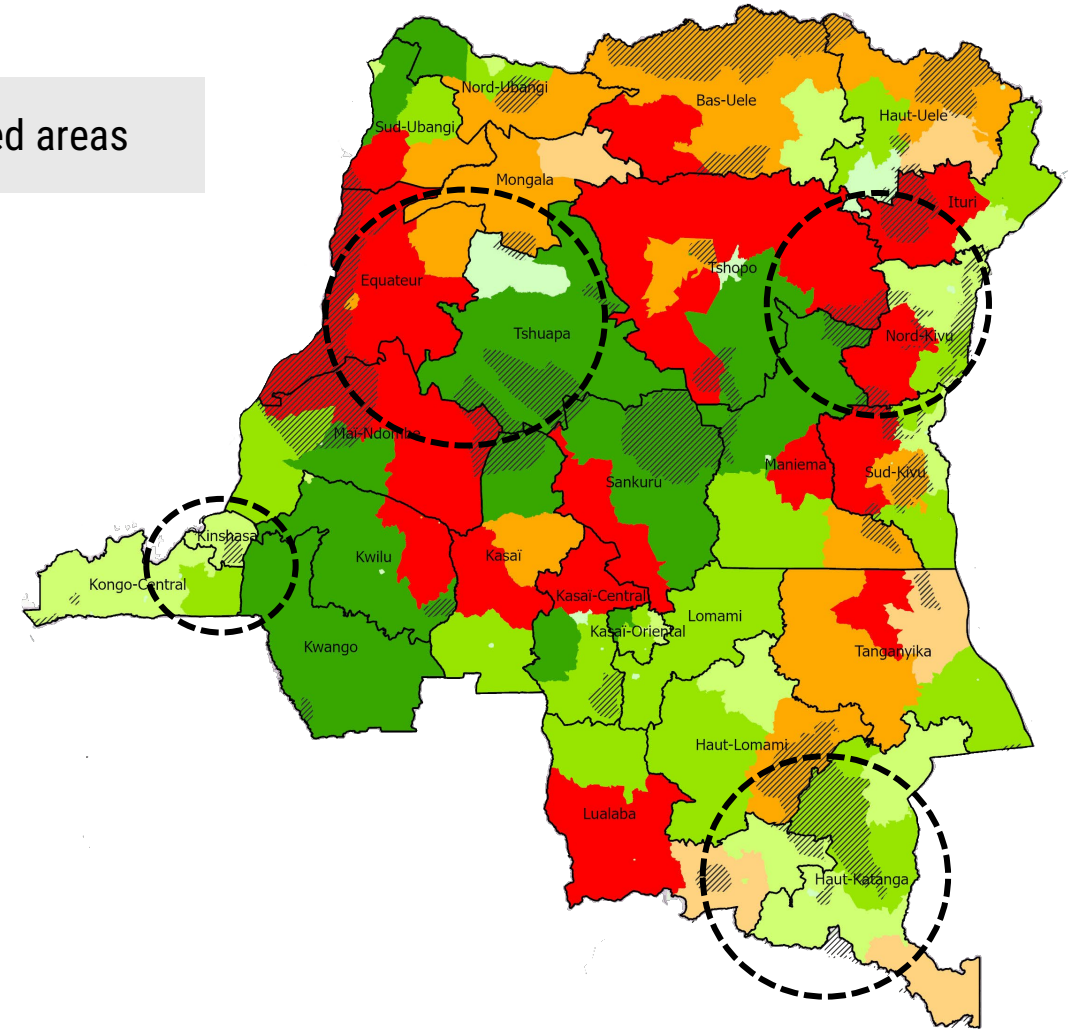
Agricultural equipment and inputs can be imported duty-free, while agricultural exports benefit from tax exemptions

Dedicated Investor Support

Specialized agencies support investors and exporters entering and expanding in the DRC market

How do we know where to target these investments?

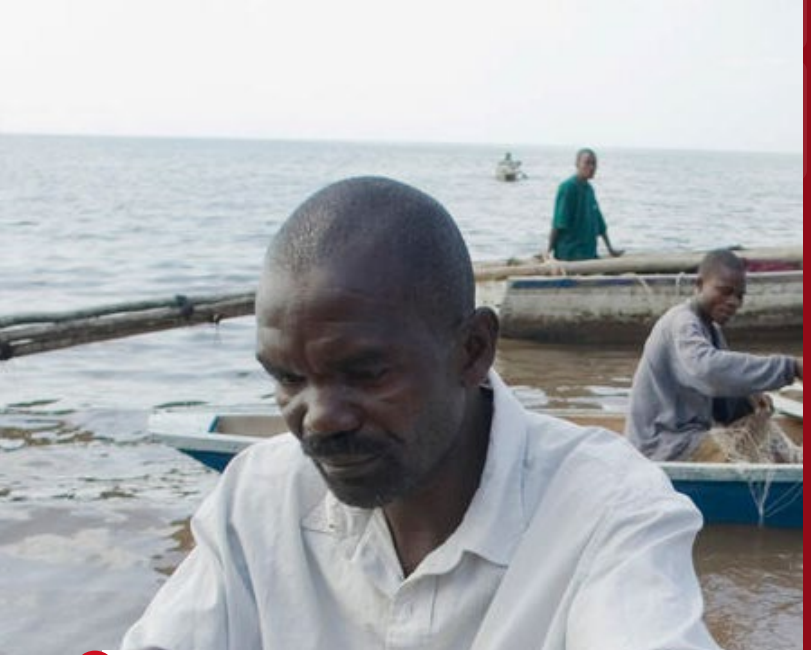
Targeted areas



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?

RAISING PRODUCER INCOMES, EXPANDING DOMESTIC PRODUCTION AND BUILDING MORE COMPETITIVE AGRIFOOD VALUE CHAINS

Maize

Direct beneficiaries

10,500

Indirect beneficiaries

52,500

Per capita income increase

USD 696 (small-scale farmers)
USD 24,000 (large-scale farmers)

GHG impact

-49,843 tCO2-e

Poultry

Direct beneficiaries

24,000

Indirect beneficiaries

120,000

Per capita income increase

USD 3,100 (small-scale farmers)
USD 30,000 (large-scale farmers)

GHG impact

-32 tCO2-e

Aquaculture

Direct beneficiaries

2,000

Indirect beneficiaries

10,000

Per capita income increase

USD 6,900 (small-scale farmers)
USD 12,200 (large-scale farmers)

GHG impact

+12,491 tCO2-e



Cocoa

Direct beneficiaries

8,274

Indirect beneficiaries

41,370

Per capita income increase

USD 7,500 (small-scale farmers)
USD 147,000 (large-scale farmers)

GHG impact

-1,407,103 tCO2-e

Coffee

Direct beneficiaries

11,491

Indirect beneficiaries

57,455

Per capita income increase

USD 8,500 (small-scale farmers)
USD 171,300 (large-scale farmers)

GHG impact

-1,418,812 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.