

Expert(s)	Country	Volume (md)	Amount (€)	Beneficiary	Funding	Start date	End date	Partner(s)	Reference
O. Bouyer	Congo	10	€6,500	Congolese Government	SOFRECO	June 2012	June 2012	JMN Consultants	bernard.prieur@sofreco.com Off: +33 1 41 27 95 95

Detailed description of the project	Services provided
<p>The Congolese Government, with the support of the African Development Bank (AfDB), decided to conduct a study of the agricultural sector (<i>Etude du Secteur Agricole</i> or ESA), which consisted of (i) the preparation of a comprehensive diagnostic assessment of the agricultural sector (agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry) via a large-scale agricultural census (more than 6,000 questionnaires recovered) and (ii) the preparation of a national program to revitalize in a decentralized manner the agricultural sector in each of the twelve departments.</p> <p>The scope of the study was immense, both in terms of the topics covered (analysis of a variety of very diverse issues: natural resources, economy of agricultural and agro-industrial sectors, agricultural research, livestock, inland fisheries, gender, rural finance, land tenure, infrastructure, etc.) and in terms of geographical coverage (monographs and agricultural development strategies for each of the 12 departments).</p> <p>Fourteen national experts and four international experts, led by two coordinators, one national and one international, were mobilized over a period of more than one year. Following the decision of the AfDB to bring forward the end of the study by six months, SOFRECO called for an ad hoc expertise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To conduct a critical review of the twelve departmental monograph projects, as well as the draft report of national diagnosis; • To make concrete proposals to the international coordinator to improve these documents in accordance with the requirements of the terms of reference and to support the coordination of national experts for making the corrections; • To write a mission debriefing, to be given to SOFRECO headquarters, aimed at improving the control of the study from headquarters. 	<p>In a very short time, the twelve draft monographs were revised, in terms of both form and substance. This necessitated frequent trips back and forth among the different experts (each in charge of a particular theme: natural resources, the economy of agricultural and agro-industrial sectors, agricultural research, livestock, inland fisheries, gender, rural finance, land tenure, infrastructures), as well as the raw data from the surveys, and bibliographical data.</p> <p>In addition, specific recommendations were given to SOFRECO headquarters in order to facilitate the control of this complex study involving many experts, a lot of raw data and many computerised documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of computerised documents: to define simple folder structures and procedures for filing, with effective antivirus protection; • In terms of outsourcing management: to redesign the general timeline and to ensure the allocation of job descriptions and terms of reference for each expert, to quickly identify a national expert to assist the national coordinator and an international junior expert that would be based in Brazzaville, to ensure regular supervision missions from headquarters; • In terms of coordinating the processing of raw data: information collected through questionnaires having been partially analysed, to define new methods of treatment to be followed by each expert, sub-sector by sub-sector.