

INVESTING IN TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIONS FOR FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY IN TOGO

By Lydia Peroni

The Republic of Togo participates at Expo Universal Exhibition Milano 2015 with cereals and tubers as the basis of its diet.

Investing in local productions, the country registered food surplus in 2015. According to Togolese Minister for Agriculture, 156.000 tons of cereal, 745.000 tons of tubers and 136.000 tons of vegetables constitute the reserve of the country.

The main nutritional sources for both urban and rural residents come from maize, rice, sorghum, millet, fonio, yams and cassava.

Togo's theme of participation is *Cereals and Tubers Contribution to Food and Nutritional Security of the People of Togo*.

Agricultural activities employ a large part of the country's population, about 70 percent, providing food to the Togolese and the daily diet is mainly composed of locally-grown products, particularly cereals and tubers.

The Government of Togo adopted a National Food Security Program (PNNSA) to ensure food and nutrition security, without discrimination, for every sector of the population of Togo. Programs have been implemented that focus on nutritional monitoring and on food production.

The overall strategy calls for intensification of farming methods – dealing with soils degradation and managing waters to secure production – and then for a better-performing system for storage and processing, improving logistics and marketing practices for cereals and derivative products. Right to food and good governance around food and nutrition is being promoted. In this regards, particular attention is paid to the needs of food-crop producers, who are the poorest and most vulnerable. Inequality and disparity must be addressed if economic growth in agriculture is to be inclusive and poverty effectively reduced.



Small producers and vulnerable groups (women, unemployed youth and landless farmers) are being supported in having access to improved fertilizers and seed for food crops (cereals, pulses, tubers and roots, and horticulture).

There are specific programs for young people from rural areas, who will receive assistance to establish themselves on their land and be given opportunities to make more productive contribution to the development of the country.

With this innovative approach, investing in people and traditional productions, Togo has registered excellent results on the agricultural plan. The ANSAT, a government agency placed under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture, assures food safety and the protection of the producers against buyers and private speculators.

Togo's participation at Expo Milano 2015 within the Cereals and Tubers Cluster represents an opportunity to promote the innovative national strategy, the traditional agricultural products, the recipes and the cultural values of the country.

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