



EIIP Ring Road Project North West Region, Bamenda, Cameroon



Welcome

For the past 7 years, the two English speaking regions of Cameroon have been in crisis. This has considerably disrupted livelihoods and massive displacement. The crisis has taken a multi-causal nature, and the propensity to interrelate political, economic, social, and environmental factors including internal armed conflict. The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) through the government of Cameroon are carrying out an Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) for communities along the ring road to improve youth employability and the valorization of the agriculture value chain.

According to **Decree N° 2017/145 of 20th April 2017**, the **Ring Road N° 11** is defined as thus: from **Finance Junction (Inter N6) to Mile 4-Bambui-Bambili-Ndop-Jakiri-Kumbo-Kakar-Ndu-Nkambe-Misaje-Weh-Wum-Befang-Bafut-Hospital roundabout**. The total length of the ring road is about 362.87 km with 41.27% being the tarred section giving a total of 145.79 km, and 216.08 km of earth section. Among this 41.27% tarred section, around fifty percent needs urgent maintenance.

This publication seeks to share information and news of how this project was launched in such a volatile crisis context, some identified roads an infrastructure planned to be rehabilitated using the EIIP approach, and share the agriculture

value potentials of the Project Intervention Zone (PIZ).

In this issue, we will be focussing on sharing some of the key realisations of the project so far and the cereals value chain. We will be delighted to get some reactions and feedback from you.

Project updates

1. The project was officially launched by the Governor of the North West Region and during these three days project launching 86 people (18 women & 68 men) were reached out to with knowledge on the EII approach.
2. 42 people (10 women & 32 men) were trained consisting of youth representatives and Council Development Officers on Creation and management of cooperatives, Communal Road Committees and Economic Interest Groups.
3. The baseline studies of the project was carried out and provided the opportunity to sensitize 1700 people (795 women & 905 men) in the PIZ.
4. A study on agriculture value chain potentials of the PIZ presenting some identified value chains that can be developed was carried out. A comprehensive risk assessment of these identified agriculture value chains was also presented.
5. The feasibility study for the creation of a Centre for Public Works Trades (CMTPT) at the Donga Mantung Divisional Delegation has been engaged.



Regional Delegate of Agriculture addressing stakeholders at the agriculture value chain research validation and dissemination meeting

Focus

These are some of the infrastructure needs expressed by the communities:

1. Construction of a bridge over Nibeh stream below the Bafut Divisional Officer's office
2. Maintenance of Communal Road Catholic church junction-St Claire Clinic-Council Complex
3. Maintenance of the road from Bambili Fons palace – Mowuh road stretch
4. Market sheds for the Ntsen Market in Bamenda

All these infrastructures are going to be built using the EIIP approaches in order to create decent jobs and economic opportunities for the people of the region. Most importantly, with these EIIP activities, we are going to reinforce the capacity of young workers so that they are going to be able to participate in the construction of the Ring Road to strengthen peace and socio-economic resilience.

In addition to EIIP activities, Agricultural Value Chain (AVC) plays an important role in enhancing food security, employment generation, and poverty reduction. The project baseline finding revealed the involvement of women, men, and youth in most value chains. With limited or no knowledge or how to make maximum profit out of the products produced in the PIZ, it is important to valorise this sector and ensure the active involvement of youths for its expansion and youth employability especially in this crisis area.



Section of road Bambili Fons Palace to Mowuh

Multiple challenges currently prevent equality and equity in AVCs development in the PIZ, such as limited access to resources, unsustainable agricultural practices, prevalence of pest and diseases, declining soil fertility, bad state of farm to market roads, climate variability, threats to biodiversity, limited storage and processing facilities, active involvement of children in the value chain, conflicts (land disputes, farmer-grazer and theft), limited group dynamics and lack of knowledge. Added to this is the existing social and cultural norms limiting the participation of vulnerable groups such as, youths, persons with disabilities, internally displaced persons and the Mbororos.

Despite the existing challenges, cereals present an opportunity for the economic empowerment of young people and the populations along the ring road.

The following cereals provide a good agriculture Value Chain potential and could be to be retained and valorised in the context of this project:

- Maize value chain to be retained and valorized in all the seventeen (17) councils of the ring road; Bafut, Bamenda 1, Bamenda II, Tubah, Ndop, Ndu, Jakiri, Kumbo, Nkambe, Wum central, Misaje, Zhoa, Belo, Babessi, Nkum, Fonfuka Benafuma Council areas.
- Rice Value Chain to be retained and valorized in the Ndop, Ndu, Wum central, Jakiri, Babessi, Zhoa, Benakuma and Bafut Council areas.
- Wheat Value Chain to be retained and valorized in the Bamenda II1, Tubah, Ndop, Jakiri, Kumbo, Wum central, Zhoa, Nkum, Ndu, Nkambe, Misaje and Belo Council areas.
- Soya beans value Chain to be retained and valorized in the Bafut, Bamenda 1II, Tubah, Ndop, Nkambe, Wum central, Ndu, Babessi, Belo, and Misaje Council areas.
- Ginger value chain to be retained and valorized in the Bafut, Bamenda II, Tubah, Ndop, Jakiri, Kumbo, Nkambe, Wum central, Zhoa, Babessi, Benakuma, Misaje and Belo Council areas.

The agriculture potentials of the PIZ are enormous and a systematic approach to work with them to improve upon this is a guarantee for youth employability, decent jobs and may just be the solution to the crisis in the area.

