

Cameroon- UNDP cooperation:

Stakeholders evaluate progress, project future perspectives

By Elizabeth Banyiti

Stakeholders and actors of the Cameroon-United Nations Development programme, UNDP cooperation, have held an evaluation meeting to review the achievements and obtained results, spanning their interventions in identified areas during the 2018-2021 cooperation cycle.

The meeting which took place in Akwa-Douala, also had on its agenda the projection of the Country Programme Document CDP for the years 2022-2026, identification of approaches and mechanisms for implementing the next programme cycle, amongst others.

The evaluated cycle of cooperation between Cameroon and the UNDP, spanned a period of four years (2018-2021).

It was the response by the UNDP to national priorities expressed through Cameroon's vision 3035.

Top amongst the said priorities, are the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper GESP and the 2030 Nation



UNDP's Deputy Resident Representative, Allassane Ba addressing Stakeholders and partners Development Strategy SDS.

The implementations of the afore mentioned development plans the stakeholders say, have been achieved through the execution of more than twenty (20) programs and projects developed by the UNDP and its partners.

The Deputy Resident Representative of the UNDP, Allassane Ba, while presenting the successes attained by the programme cycle pinpointed the areas of youths, women empowerment and resilience to social, economic, environmental and security shock

opment dashboard.

Cameroon, has been recorded on an acclaimed and satisfactory note.

With regards to the fight against insecurity in the Far North, North West and South West regions, the UNDP supported Cameroon in the training of more than 1000 soldiers to fight insecurity and maintain peace, the respect for human rights in the said regions.

It should be recalled that, the Covid-19 outbreak which hit Cameroon during the opening months of 2020, left the country with severe socioeconomic degradatory effects.

In response, the UNDP mobilised the sum of \$25 million to support the government efforts to strengthen the health sector through donation of medical equipment and others in local hospitals.

As a means to fight the high rate of employment brought about the influx of displaced persons due to security crisis, the project has led to the creation of seven thousands two hundred jobs with women occupying 30%.

This was done through the creation of municipal Employment Offices, MEOs and the financing of Small and Medium size enterprises, SMEs.

In the Littoral region, the Douala IV municipality, Bonaberi, was a beneficiary of MEOs given that it harbours a majority of the 18million displaced persons from the crisis hit Zones.

The 4th deputy mayor of the Douala IV council, Ibrahim Fakoue, during his address pleaded with the UNDP officials to create a center for internally displaced persons so as to facilitate access to employment for the youth and women.

However, the UNDP officials in their future perspectives for 2022-2026, have identified environmental durability, risk and disaster management, equitable growth and durable transformation, inclusive governance and the consolidation of peace, as strategic ladders for the UNDP to carry-on with their role as integrator in supports to the country in their vision to implement the 2030 agenda.

East region:

Population hails Japanese-IRAD cooperation in boosting casava production

By Morine Tanyi

The people of Andom, Djam subdivision, Lom and Djerem division of the East region have hailed the government of Japan for investments in the transformation and commercialisation of casava to improve their livelihoods.

The people shared their views on the project Wednesday March 3. This was during the first phase of a three-day tour organised by the Japanese Embassy in Cameroon to such project sites.

The project is piloted by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency, JICA and Agricultural Research Institute of Development, IRAD. The project is worth some 35 million FCFA.

The Cassava commercialisation project for small-scale farmers in Andom was initiated in 2018. It seeks to ameliorate the quality of the crop widely consumed in the East region.

JICA Programmes Coordinator, Maruto Eiko said the project is to ameliorate the quality of cassava from cultivation to transformation.

"It has been a wonderful and exciting corporation with the partners. For five years now we have been working with the Ministry of Scientific Research and IRAD with the support of the Embassy of Japan. The outcome has been wonderful so we decided to continue in Andom," Maruto Eiko explained.

She went further said: "A year ago, IRAD submitted another project for a technical cooperation on cassava and this time to other regions so they can enjoy



Visit to a cassava farm in Andom

what Andom is having and the project was validated...we await just a group of experts from Tokyo to come and finalise the project and visit the other sites".

The cordial relationship between them, she reiterated, has been a push factor for the JICA to continue supporting the people of Andom.

To the Head of IRAD in Bertoua, Ngome Francis "the results on the field are satisfactory and we have as objective to accompany all the actors that be in the field so as to ameliorate their living conditions and when we succeed in doing so we are happy. We want to share this experience with other regions notably the Centre and South".

Ngome further said, IRAD-JICA partnership has seen them in, "Meyomessala, Mbalmayo, Ntui and Bertoua as new sites for the new project with the need to capitalised the result we had in Andom still in the field of cassava production."

Cassava the IRAD official said, "is the basic commodity that is consumed in these areas. We have other aspects too like

plantain, rice yams but within the context of this project with JICA we went in for cassava".

Population salutes project

The traditional ruler of the Andom village, Mbele Avom Magloire hailed the JICA-IRAD project, saying, it has helped in improving the living standards of the population.

One of the beneficiaries said: "Before the coming of this project the quality of cassava from my farm was very small but now I produce cassava in good quantity and transform it to dry fufu, water fufu, bobolo and tubers and leaves are eaten as well. The quality of the cassava too has changed as such we can only thank the Japanese government for thinking of us".

Another beneficiary, Mban Antoine said "Cassava product since the coming of JICA in Andom has changed. I have a farmland for the transformation of cassava. In the month of November 2021 I cultivated three varieties of cassava: the "NKO'H MEXUL" which could



JICA Programmes Coordinator, Maruto Eiko speaking to the press

be in the soil for 12-24 months. It was cultivated over a surface area of 26-31 hectares of land, it produces 51 percent of starch and the tubas can be eaten, good for garri and fufu".

The other variety Mban added cultivated over 30 hectares of land, could be for 12-15 months in the soil and produces 53.6 percent of starch, good for fufu, bobolo, pastries, the leaves as well as the tubas are eaten.

The TME 419 variety locally called 'Abeng-Lengon', Antoine added could be under the earth for 9-13 months and was cultivated on over 23 hectares of land and can produce 50 percent of starch, good for fufu, bobolo, water fufu, pastries and the leaves as well as the tubas are eaten.

Another local said she dried her cassava to make her fufu on the floor but the quality always had a problem. But with the technical assistance received from

JICA, she said better methods to dry the fufu were shown and today the fufu they produce is of good quality and is being sold in good quantities in big cities like Yaounde, Bertoua and Douala.

Other areas visited

World Food Program, WFP, projects in Boulembé still in the East region with funding from the Japanese government were also visited. The interest is the amelioration of the living conditions of the refugees in the region.

The tour ends today with a visit to the KAIZEN project in Mbalmayo in the Centre region. KAIZEN it should be said is a Japanese word that means amelioration. It is a philosophy that seeks to arrange working tools in an orderly manner thereby reducing space and amelioration the quality of work and its productivity.