

Netherlands

Sustainable Agriculture in Benin

NL



Welcome & Introduction

Ms. Núria Vlonk-Cunha Soares
Acting Managing Director
NABC
(Moderator)



Sustainable Agriculture and Water Trade Mission to Benin – 25-28 May 2025

Sustainable Agriculture in Benin: Market Overview & Business Environment

Mr. Justin Edah

Director of Planning, Administration and Finance
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Benin



Sustainable Agriculture and Water Trade Mission to Benin – 25-28 May 2025



MINISTÈRE DE L'AGRICULTURE,
DE L'ÉLEVAGE ET DE LA PÊCHE

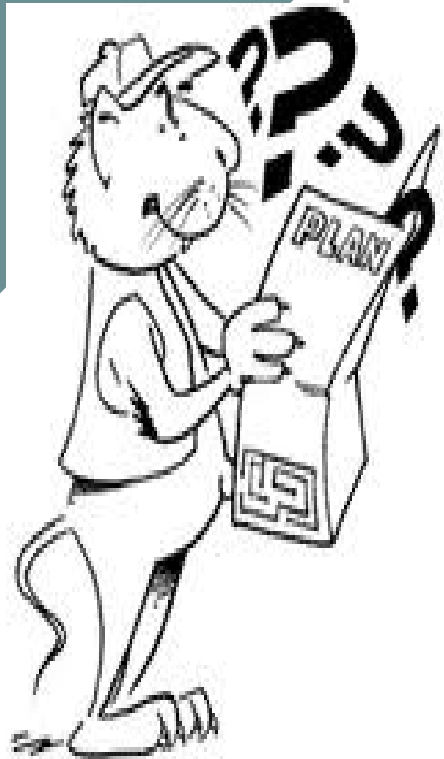
RÉPUBLIQUE DU BÉNIN

Directorat of Planning,
Administration and Finances

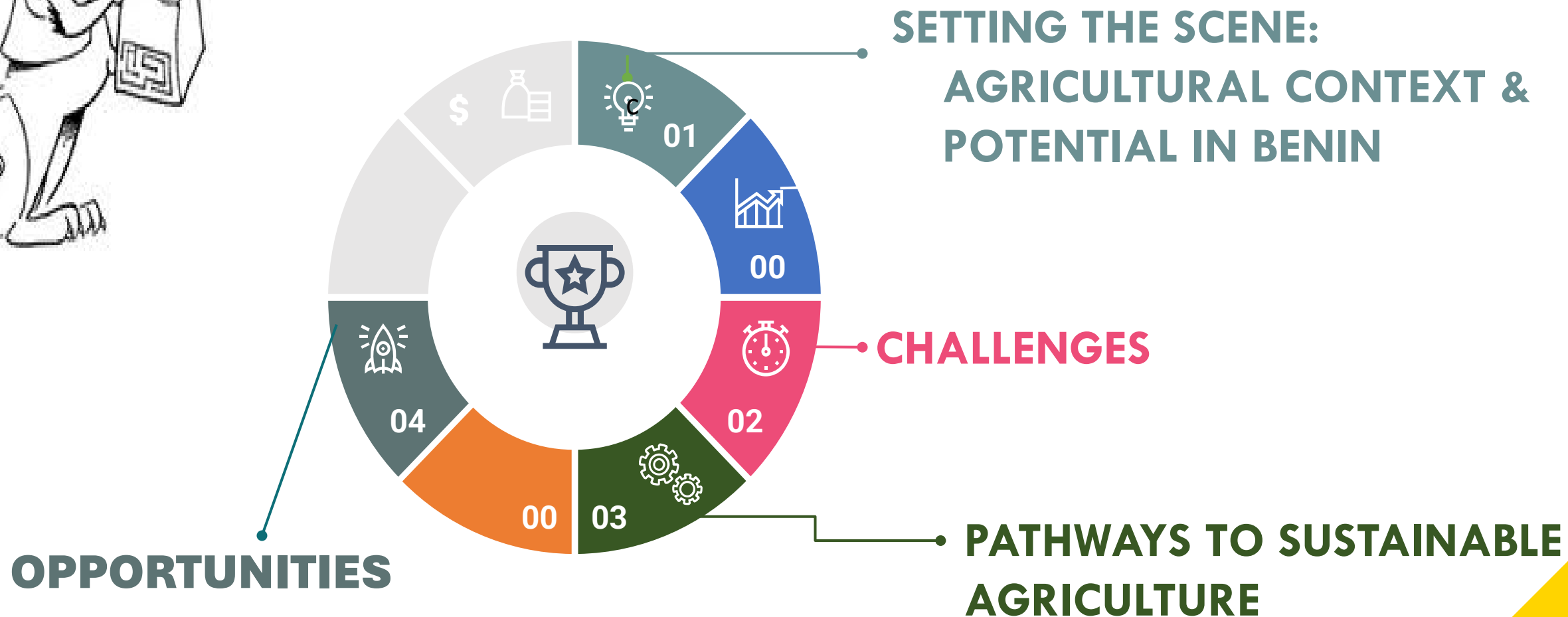
Overview of Benin's Sustainable Agricultural Development

Justin EDAH, Director

Cotonou, 3rd April 2025



OUTLINE



1. Setting the scene : Context & potentialities

Agriculture: The Cornerstone Productive Sector of the Beninese Economy

- Generates 27% of GDP/gross domestic product and provides
- livelihoods for 70% of working-age citizens
- Drives 75% of foreign exchange earnings while representing
- 15% of Government fiscal receipts income.

1. Setting the scene : Context & potentialities

..... possesses significant potential

■ Agricultural Land Resources

- Total Agricultural Area : 6,863,378 Ha
- Utilized Agricultural Land: 3,010,011 Ha (43,9%)
- Lowland Areas : 205,000 Ha
- Floodplains: >140,000 Ha

■ Water Resources Profile

- Dense waterway system
- 13 billion m³ annual surface water potential
- 1.87 billion m³ annual groundwater reserves

■ Agricultural Human Resources

- Production Units : 913,415 farms
- Household Coverage: 926,539 agricultural households (68% of rural households)
- Technical Capacity:
 - Extension workforce: 1 technician per 2,500 farmers (FAO recommends 1:400)
 - Professional Networks : recognized value chain professional and interprofessional organizations, 86% of producers organized in cooperatives (MAEP 2023 Census)

Benin's prime coastal location adjacent to Nigeria's 220-million consumers market offers unparalleled trade opportunities



2.1 CHALLENGES

Key Challenges of Beninese Agricultural Sector

- Productivity and Income increase for Value Chain Actors
- Enhanced Agricultural Sector Appeal & Rural Development : Creating rural wealth and employment opportunities
- Sustainable food systems for farmers' resilience
- Preserving the sustainable use of land and other environmental resources
- Climate Vulnerabilities
- Demographic pressure and Maintaining social cohesion.
- Markets limitations

2.2 CHALLENGES

Major constraints



- Production factors :
 - Limited availability of animal and fish feed and seeds
 - Low use of certified and adapted seeds
 - Insufficient inclusive access to finance for stakeholders in the sectors
- Low level of agricultural digitalization :
 - Agricultural e-services
 - Precision agriculture
- Market access :
 - Weaknesses in access to remunerative markets for producers and processors

2.3 CHALLENGES

Major constraints



- Environmental :
 - Soil degradation: 65% of agricultural land was degraded by erosion and overexploitation in 2021 (WB, 2021).
 - Biodiversity loss : 30% of forests disappeared in 20 years (IUCN, 2022).
- Climate Change :
 - Irregular rainfall, frequent droughts, and floods (IPCC, 2023).
 - Carbon footprint of agricultural production systems.
- Water management for irrigation :
 - Insufficient level of water control

3. PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

▣ Strategic Framework for Sustainable Agriculture :

- National Strategy for Ecological and Organic Agriculture Development (NSEOA) (SNDAEB) ;
- National Action Plan for Sustainable Land Management (NAP-SLM);
- National Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan (NAP in Agriculture Sector)

▣ Current Initiatives :

- All projects under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAEP) are aligned with agroecological transition;
- Specific agroecology projects :
 - PARSAD (Agroecological and Resilient Production Systems Support Project)
 - DELTA Mono (Mono Delta Sustainable Agroecology Initiative)
 - TAZCO2 (Low-Carbon Agroecological Transition Zones)

▣ Key Actors in Benin's Multi-Stakeholder Agroecology Ecosystem :

- CCN-AE, FENOPPEB, AFIO, RENABIO, OBEPAB, REDAD, Eclasio, Rikolto,...etc.

4.1 OPPORTUNITIES

Spatially-targeted agricultural value chains

3

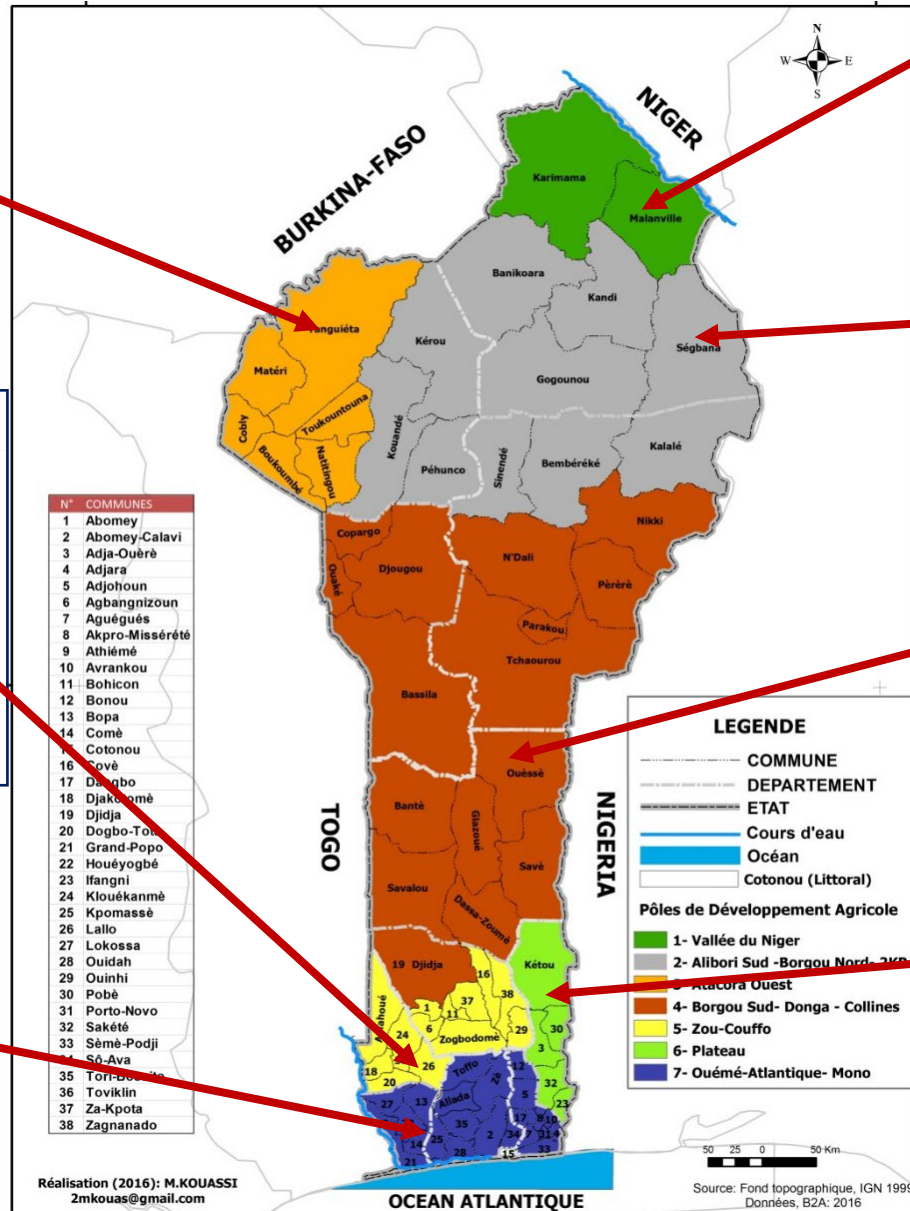
Shea, cotton, rice, maize, mango, legume, sheep farming, goat farming and poultry farming

5

Fruit Growing (citrus, mango)
Oil palm,
rice, maize, cowpeas, groundnut,
Small-scale livestock,
Agro Silvo Pastoral Space

Fish farming, pineapple, egg, vegetables, maize, cassava, oil palm, small-scale livestock

7



Rice,vegetables, Sheep farming, goat farming and poultry farming

1

Cotton, maize, Intensive cattle farming
Sorghum,sheep, goat and poultry farming

2

4 **Cashew, cassava, soybean**
maize, yams, cowpeas, groundnut, mango, cotton
Intensive sheep, goat and poultry farming

6

Oil Palm
Maize, cassava, Rice

4. OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities in value chains

■ Production support :

- Climate smart agriculture
- water control
- Suitable seeds
- animal and fish feed
- Fisheries management :
Installation of landing stages

Strengthening the
competitiveness of
local poultry farming

■ Process and market access support :

- Installation of factories
- Storage infrastructure:
stores, cold chain



4.2 OPPORTUNITIES

Support frameworks or facilitation instruments

- Access to Finance: National Agricultural Development Fund (FNDA)
- Agricultural Mechanization: National Agricultural Mechanization Company (SoNaMA)
- Agricultural Land Development: Benin Agricultural Development Company (SOBAA)
- Availability of Quality Seeds: Benin Seed Development Company (SoDéSeP)
- Special Economic Zone Development: Glo-Djigbé Industrial Zone (GDIZ) :
- Investment Code : privileged regimes

Clusters



THANKS FOR YOUR
ATTENTION

Building Benin as
Africa's Next
Breadbasket



Why Invest in Benin? Opportunities & Support for Dutch Companies

Ms. Sandra Dossa

Trade Officer

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Benin



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Why invest in Benin?

- 1. General Overview: Benin as a Strategic Gateway
- 2. Key Opportunities in Agriculture
- 3. Dynamic Reforms & Business-Friendly Environment
- 4. Resilient Economic Growth

Why to not invest in Benin?

- 1. Language barriers & lack of local contacts ?
- 2. Concerns about market size & availability of raw materials?
- 3. Financial transactions & living conditions?

How to Get Started?

- The real challenge isn't risk—it's lack of information. Investors can begin by:
 - Accessing agricultural value chain insights to understand sector dynamics.
 - Analyzing successful agribusiness models to identify best practices.
 - Using market research from local experts to guide decisions.
 - Identifying leading companies for potential partnerships.

Next steps for investors

- ✓ Finding a local distributor or agricultural business partner.
- ✓ Partnering with Beninese companies to introduce new farming technologies.
- ✓ Securing funding through local investors or international programs to pilot projects.

The Dutch Embassy Supports You

- • Reform Advocacy
- • Investment Facilitation
- • Financial & Technical Assistance

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Mr. Dik van de Koolwijk
Private Sector Development Advisor
Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)



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Dutch support mechanisms

Netherlands Enterprise Agency (Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland-RVO) stimulates entrepreneurs in sustainable, agricultural, innovative and international business:

- Funding
- Networking
- Know-how
- Compliance with laws and regulations.

RVO Instruments

Relevant Instruments available for Dutch companies and/or public private partnerships

(See also: [Subsidies and programmes | RVO.nl](https://www.rvo.nl/en/subsidies-and-programmes))

- 1 Subsidy scheme for Demonstration Projects, Feasibility Studies and pre- Investment studies (DHI subsidy scheme)
- 2 Partners for International Business (PIB)
- 3 Subsidy Programme for Responsible Business - SPVO (previously Social Sustainability Fund - SSF)
- 4 Centre for the Promotion of Imports from developing countries (CBI)
- 5 Impact Cluster (IC)
- 6 PSD Toolkit



RVO Instruments

Impact Cluster (IC)

The Impact Clusters (IC) subsidy is for entrepreneurs based in the Netherlands who want to start a project in a developing country with other companies and at least one local partner. These companies want to invest in the sustainable development of specific sectors in a country because they see commercial opportunities for themselves.

Impact Clusters is temporarily closed for subsidy applications.

[Impact Clusters subsidy programme | RVO](#)



RVO Instruments



PSD Toolkit

The objective of the PSD toolkit is:

1. Private sector development in Benin
2. To contribute to a favourable business-enabling environment
3. To increase the impact of Dutch PSD programmes

Examples:

- Benin Business Champions: support 20 leading Beninese companies in Agri & Food sector
- Sector studies:
 - o Study opportunities for circular use of agricultural residues in Benin
 - o Roadmap to strengthen the vegetables sector in Benin
- Business cases:
 - o Professional Onion Storage
 - o Dedicated Wholesale Fruit & Vegetables
- Upcoming Trade mission

[Zakendoen in Benin | RVO.nl](#)

Panel Discussion: Challenges & Opportunities in Sustainable Agriculture



Ms. Jelila Seho Blalogoe
Regional Director West Africa
Holland Greentech



Mr. Baudelaire Kouton – Bognon
CEO
B and B



Ms. Juvenale Hinnouho
CEO
Agri-Corp



Ms. Sigrid Meijer
Policy Officer Food Security and Nutrition
Embassy of the Kingdom of the
Netherlands in Benin
(Moderator)

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After listening to the presentation by Mr Edah of the MAEP, do the challenges and opportunities described match your vision? Do you have anything to add?

Holland Greentech:

- Why did you choose to start activities in Benin 5 years ago? What opportunities did you identify when you decided to set up in Benin?
- What have been your experiences? Have you encountered any challenges that you hadn't thought of?
- What advice would you give to Dutch companies considering to become active in Benin?

B&B

- What type of Dutch expertise and technologies have you benefited from?
- Are there other technical areas that you would like to have access to in order to grow your business where Dutch companies or knowledge institutions can play a role?
- What do you see as the main limitations in the Beninese business environment for growing your business?

Agri-Corps

- What have been the main difficulties you experienced in growing your business?
- In what way do you think you can benefit from business relations with Dutch companies?
- What does Benin have to offer to foreign companies?

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Closing Remarks & Next Steps



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Trade Officer

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Benin



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Private Sector Development Advisor

Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)

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Netherlands

Learn more about the
mission:



Questions? Contact:

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