



**Agricultural Contribution of the Non-Governmental
Development Organization "National Food Program -
PNA" in the Fight for household Food Security in the
TAMBAKI Grouping in Ituri Province, Democratic
Republic of Congo (DRC)**

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Abstract

This article resulting from the synthesis of the work of the end of the university cycle aims to make a deep knowledge of effectiveness of contribution of the projects carried out by PNA in the promotion of food security in the Tambaki grouping. The farmers in this group had been selected for this study because they benefited from PNA interventions. For this purpose, the beneficiaries have proven in very concrete terms that the interventions of the National Food Program provide a practical and effective solution in improving the agricultural production system. This has allowed an increase in agricultural productivity. The government should redefine its policy to secure humanitarian workers who come to the aid of vulnerable populations.

Keywords: Contribution; NGO; struggle; food security; Tambaki grouping.

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1. Introduction

The persistence of serious insecurity among a large and growing number of families in the world incites critical analysis and the search for new strategies. United Nations agencies confirm that the DRC is one of the countries with a large number of cases suffering from food insecurity.

The choice of this subject to make a study at the end of the university cycle in Development sciences, is explained, on the one hand, by the curiosity of a deep knowledge of the effectiveness of the contribution of the projects carried out by PNA for the promotion of food security; And on the other hand, the extent of this contribution, in view of the often mixed results after numerous interventions by Non-Governmental Organizations and the State in an agricultural sector abandoned to its own fate. Yet agriculture is the economic boost for many nations if and only if governments support it.

From the outset, the term food security is considered in this study as a more or less stable state of equilibrium that requires the convergence of conditions relating to actions carried out in various extreme fields. The search for this balance at the global level, and the sustainability of its bases, constitutes the field of food policy, the challenge of which lies in the coordination (or at least the coherence) of sectorial policies [1].

Also, this work is part of a search for strategies that can enable the public authorities and their local and international partners, in particular PNA, to make a significant and effective contribution in order to ensure the availability and accessibility to food for the population of the TAMBAKI group, and Congolese in general. In the province of Ituri, there is a failure of agricultural policy, political unrest, civil wars, rural exodus and the almost total disengagement of peasants vis-à-vis working the land in favor of agricultural activities auriferous and diamondiferous of the indigenous population of Tambaki, have made difficult any planning of the agricultural development policy in the Congolese rural areas leading to mediocre agricultural production which cannot support the feeding of the demographic growth observed in the said province. As already announced, this research aims to acquire in-depth knowledge of the contribution of the projects carried out by PNA with a view to promoting food security.

2. Material and methods

The study was conducted on 195 households selected in the Tambaki group in the territory of Djugu in the province of Ituri. The map below locates the study environment in which qualitative and participatory surveys, based on semi-structured interviews were conducted.

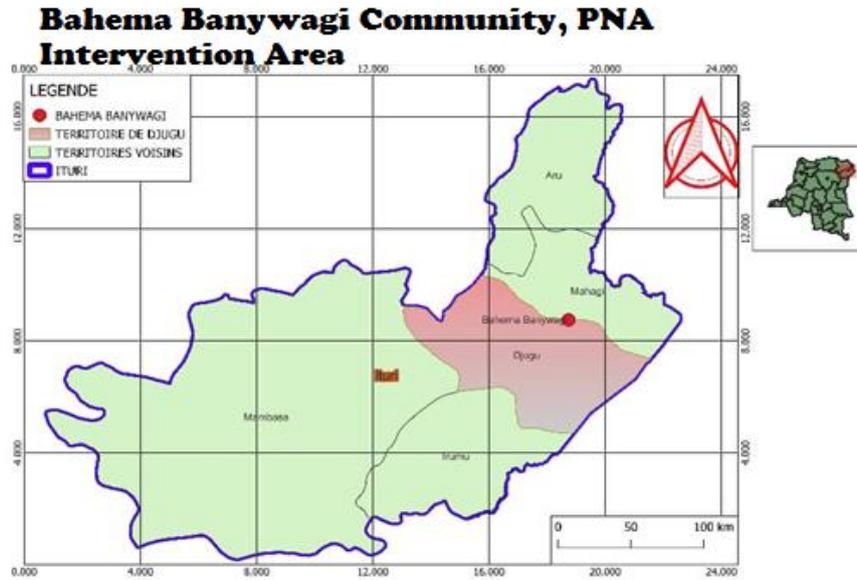


Figure 1 : Zone d'étude (zone d'intervention du PNA).

The households chosen were selected for this study according to whether they benefit from PNA aid; there is the precise detailed, identical questionnaire for all the respondents of two sexes, comprising a series of questions based on the actions of the PNA (support or assistance in agriculture and farming, etc.). Customary authorities, operating heads and their women (s) as well as managers of various agricultural services in the study region who receive PNA aid have been targeted for this research. The number of people per village in the Tambaki group was 25. The investigation took place at home for some and then in the fields of agricultural activity for the others. Using Microsoft Excel software, the data served to calculate the percentage on the different achievements of the PNA in the environments, that is to say the percentage on household frequency which adopts the change and accept the different donations, PNA training by effectively implementing them. This analysis software has made it possible to establish illustrative histograms for the various PNA intervention aspects.

3. Results and discussion

Analyzes in this part concern key PNA intervention aspects in the agricultural sector of the Tambaki grouping.

3.1. Training on agricultural and breeding methods and techniques

Addressing the problem of food security for households in the Tambaki group, as in other corners of the world, implies the mobilization of the technical and financial means of NGOs, the case of PNA is an illustration. Agriculture has always been the backbone of the Tambaki economy, but it has experienced a significant decline following well-known factors. Satisfactorily of the PNA, with regard to the graph below, a margin of 91.28 % of beneficiaries of the training done by the PNA, appreciated it with affirmation of the impact on agriculture although others (8.71%) require another additional training in order to properly conduct their agricultural activities. The efficiency of training and workshops implemented has strengthened the capacities of more

farmers. Given the effect that this approach on food security could have [2], there is a change in agricultural production techniques in the region. Food security is a state of equilibrium. NGOs act on family and community systems [3] in the search for endogenous development in the intervention area according to the assigned objectives.

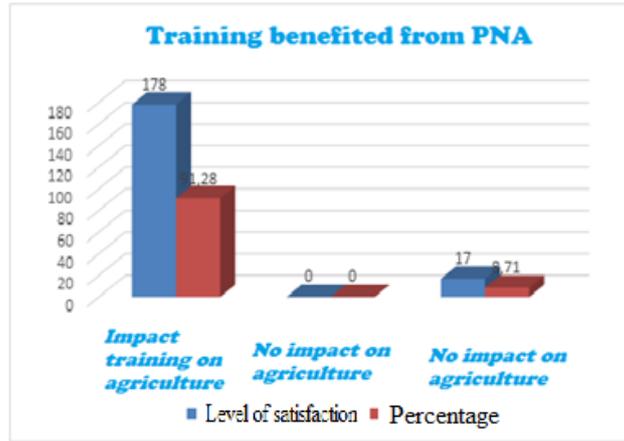


Figure I: Training of beneficiaries in the region.

3.2. Assistance in the Distribution of Agricultural Products and Equipment

The Objective of Ngos to Eradicate Food insecurity is of the Times Modest and Ambitious. In the search for improving the social living conditions of poor households, a distribution of agricultural products, equipment and tools has been carried out to encourage households in the region to promote agriculture and livestock to allow the eradication of the complete of food insecurity. In the figure below, it can easily be observed that pesticides, watering cans, hooks, drinks, machetes, etc. were distributed to the agricultural population of the Tambaki group for this objective. Evocating the distribution of pesticides, by this figure, it is found that all the selected cultivators have receive pesticides from the PNA, an effective means to fight against the diseases that attacks. The diseases of cultivated plants also constitute one of the major causes of food insecurity in the Democratic Republic of Congo; the cultivating population of Tambaki notes with bitterness that its cultures be ravaged by diseases.

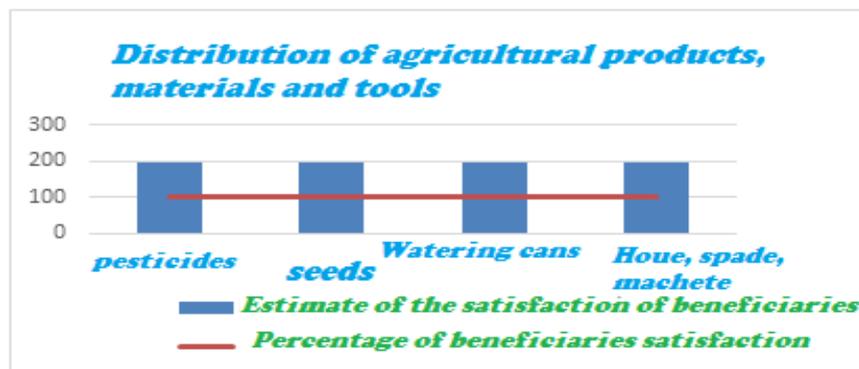


Figure II: Distribution of agricultural products, materials and tools.

Plagues are animal, plant organisms or microorganism harmful to the lives of other plants, animals or microorganisms. These plagues cause very considerable damage in the field of agriculture, agroforestry, breeding, health [4], which is why in the Protective and Defense Program of Main Cultures, pesticides have been Distributed in the PNA intervention program in the community of Bahema Banywagi. The summary report of Caritas Internationalis [5] points out that more than a third (35%) of the participants in their survey, said that the most important action to reduce hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity would be to improve the agricultural production systems. The small famers should also be supported.

3.3. Assistance in the distribution of breeding parents

The participation of the Non-Governmental Organization PNA in breeding projects was manifested by the concern of the desire for the integral development of farming. This was achieved by the distribution of petty animals of basic necessity of the farmyard (hens, ducks and rabbit) and small ruminants (goats) as shown by the graphic below. This objective assigned by the PNA to projects has been decisive insofar as it contributes to the modification of the food systems of the families of the Tambaki group by granting the means necessary to achieve food security that can respond to the pillars of the latter (availability, Access, use and stability).

In the post-conflict period, the Ituri goat played an imperial role through its enormous contribution to the gradual and rapid rebuilding of cattle herds, food and improved well-being, including in the fight against poverty [10], PNA also chose the distribution of goats to the population of Tambaki for social reasons and their power to replenish the herd of cattle. Local goat farming (*Capra hircus*) is of increasing economic interest in African households [11].

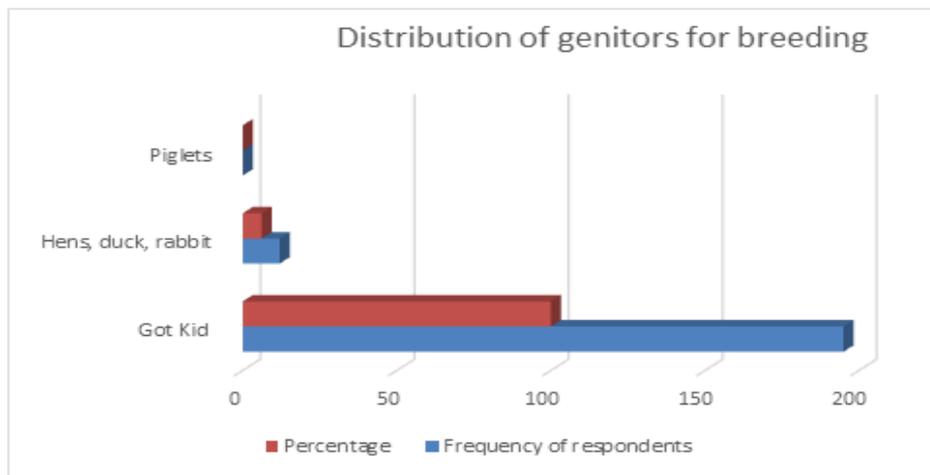


Figure III: Distribution of genitors to start breeding.

Since the accentuation of armed groups in the Ituri region, we have seen a very significant decrease in farming animals in the north of this region. Diseases do not spare the animals either: pig plague decimates pigs and each year the avian flu decade a large part of the traditional poultry farms [6]. This distribution of a few PNA spokes is justified by the concern to revive breeding activities in the intervention area. However, confinements, vaccinations and prevention are completely absent from uses in breeders of the Tambaki grouping generally

having no basic training. It is imperative need to find ways and means to thwart all these threats and particularly those of plagues on agriculture already under the weight of the precarious climate [7].

3.4. Level of satisfaction of households selected on PNA interventions in the study region

This research highlights the will of households in distress of the Tambaki grouping to be able to accept the aid of NGOs. A level of satisfaction of 78.46% is observed against 21.53% non-satisfaction as observed in the graphic below.

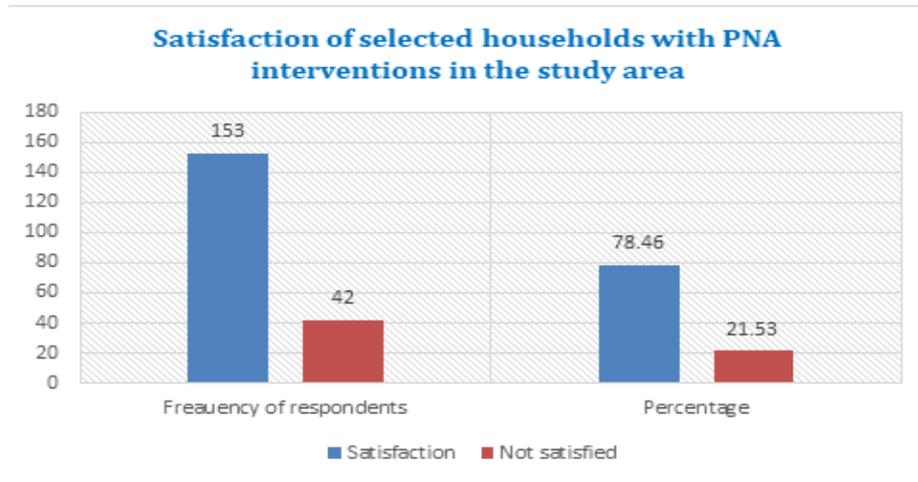


Figure III: Level of satisfaction of households selected on PNA interventions in the study region.

3.5. Impact of PNA agricultural interventions on agricultural production of an area of 100 x 50m

The observations in the Table I, make it possible to compare before and after the intervention that the NGO PNA has made it possible to increase the productivity of agricultural products in the research sector, obviously among the households benefiting from the project. This can be seen in the crops grown (cassava, beans, corn and soybeans) whose seeds and cuttings were distributed to beneficiary households.

Table I: Comparative results of two agricultural productions before and after the intervention of the PNA.

PRODUCTION (in kg)	CASSAVA		CASSAVA		CORN		SOY	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
≤ to 100	0	0	122	0	89	0	12	0
101 – 200	19	0	47	9	68	0	47	0
201 – 300	12	0	5	1	76	0	76	29
301 – 400	148	2	23	11	19	0	56	76
401 – 500	2	1	3	0	1	1	1	32
501 – 600	15	3	1	21	1	1	1	81
601 -700	0	18	2	147	2	7	2	32
701 – 800	0	11	0	6	0	89	0	4
801 – 900	0	21	0	0	0	123	0	0
901 - 1000	0	132	0	0	0	53	0	0

The farmers felt that the multiple training sessions received from the PNA had led to an increase in the agricultural quantities produced. This reveals more a favorable and definitive prejudice towards the external aid of the project [8] for the peasants of the Tambaki grouping.

In addition, NGOs bring together all the private initiative organizations which have a certain financial autonomy in relation to the States and benefit from a substantial margin of decision as to the formulation of their objectives centered on development and assistance to the populations with whom they operate [9]. In the community of Bahema Banywagi in general, the primary sector, consisting of agriculture and livestock, employs almost the entire rural population.

The NGO PNA as defined above, through its interventions, has improved production in the study region. The low agricultural yield obtained before the intervention of the PNA was due to archaic methods making this part of the country poor and fragile.

4. Conclusion

The study revealed that a strong change was observed in terms of agricultural production in the Tambaki grouping thanks to the activities carried out by the National Food Program (PNA). Productivity was very low before the start of the project, while an improvement was observed after the PNA interventions with regard to the various training and assistance in agricultural products, materials and tools. A very great satisfaction at the end of the interventions of this organization. The road is long while the will of the PNA organization is clear to go in the concrete direction of wanting to eradicate food insecurity in this entity.

The province of Ituri has long been the victim of war violence; it is positioned as a pot or seat of armed groups that operate night and day. This situation therefore orchestrates food insecurity in the region. To this end, it is recommended not only to all organizations working in food security sector to consider the province of Ituri as a target in order to fight effectively against this scourge which rages in the region, but also, the government of the DRC which should redefine its policy to secure farmers as well as humanitarian workers who come to the aid of vulnerable populations.

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