

The farm

At first, egg and food grain production was started up in 2008 and in 2011 a start was made with geranium cultivation for the production of essential oil.

At the same time a forest of lemon Eucalyptus (*Corymbia citriodora*) was planted, to ensure future autonomy of fuelwood for the boiler of the essential oil distillery.

At the beginning of the project, local producers decided to opt for a “pay for work” system and preferred to work in groups at the farm. Work is performed only in the morning which allows the employees to have the afternoons free for their own homestead, social activities and child care.

These workers are organized in a producer association called “Arom’Ituri”. All workers elect a worker’s representation committee and a social committee on a two yearly basis.

These committees follow up on worker’s right and take care of social benefit distribution to the workers.

Aromatic crops and products

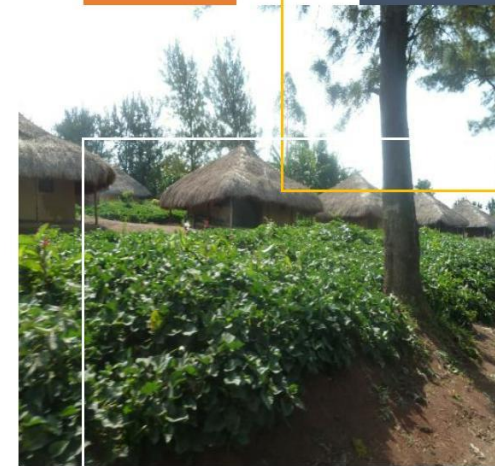
The company is committed in growing and processing Geranium (Bourbon type) and Lemon Eucalyptus in order to obtain organic and fair trade essential oils for the European market.

2022

PUBLIC SUMMARY

AVITURI is a family run farm located in the in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The farm was revived in 2007 by the end of the horrific civil war in the Ituri Province of Eastern Congo.

The farm regroups around 200 acres of food crops, aromatic herbs, as well poultry and sheep rearing, in an integrated management system.





- More than 200 workers – mainly Women
- More than 5000 acres of aromatic crops planted.
- 2 tons of essential oil produced.

Fair trade premium

The DRC does not have a functioning social security system, so It was decided during General Assembly meetings of workers to create an embryonal social security system at the farm level, benefiting all workers (permanent and occasional) on an equal basis. A social fund was set up thanks to a fair trade development fund which is paid twice a year by Nateva and Avituri after each harvest.

A health dispensary was set up in 2014 and a licenced nurse is employed. Around 3000 people per year are treated in the Avituri dispensary.

A post harvest premium is paid to all workers who have participated in the previous growing and harvest season.

A mutuality fund is available which allow to help the family employees to finance burials.

In addition, Avituri helps the local people to get access to literacy, to studies. It helps people willing to build their own houses or to get an additional income.

“With its many social achievements, Avituri remains almost the only viable business in the Nioka region.

Thanks to its FFL certificate, the social profit from the FFL certificate (\$12.15 per kilo of geranium oil delivered to Nateva) is managed with full transparency by the Avituri's social committee.

Several improvements in the living conditions of the people working with Avituri are noticeable. Its zero health costs policy is going on well. All members and their families are continuously treated in the Avituri health centre.

For several months now, a new programme has been in place to provide nutritional support to malnourished children, because of the security situation many families had to leave their homes and fields, with contributed to the malnutrition of fragile members of the families.

On the educational front, the funds helps to pay the children's education.

Some members have created a secondary activity, such as a shop.

Most of them have bought a motorbike as a means of transport, which is still a luxury for the people living in the local community.

A percent of the fund enters in the savings account of each member. Any employee who wish to leave the company for personal reasons can withdraw his savings, which has been managed individually by the company's social committee.

The fund is a real development booster because after each payment, projects carried out by the beneficiaries can be seen in the village.

However, we notice a low educational level of the children, which is linked to the insecurity and constant coming and going of the families.

Avituri is constantly raising awareness on the need for children to go to school.

The security situation remains a real problem for the education of our children who do not know what to do. Avituri intends to finance the broadcasting of radio programmes to make families aware of the importance of education.”

On December, the 7th, 2022

Charles Schafrad, Director