

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

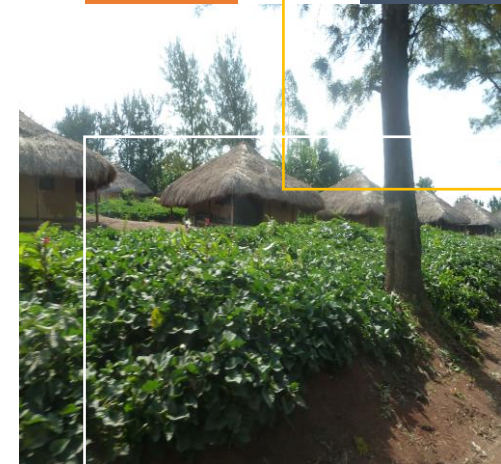
The company is committed in growing and processing Geranium (Bourbon type) and Lemon Eucalyptus in order to obtain organic and fair trade essential oils for the European market.

2023

PUBLIC SUMMARY

AVITURI is a family run farm located 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.





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.

In 2023

“The savings account, with an amount accumulated over many production seasons, was paid out at the end of 2023, following a joint agreement between the social committee, the workers' committee and Avituri management.

This decision was prompted by the continuing insecurity in the region, which is causing a commuting movement of the population and, above all, the desire of some members to leave the area to settle in areas considered more or less safe.

Despite the delicate security situation, Avituri has never given up. However, in 2023, a major weakness was added to the previous difficulties: a considerable drop in the price of essential oils on the market, which left the company uncertain as to whether things would continue as normal.

However, Avituri is calling for the involvement of the entire value chain, from production to the end consumer, to continue to maintain a climate of mutual trust in the expectation that prices will rise again in the near futur”

Charles Schafrad, Director

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

