



**Consortium for
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Agriculture-based
Livelihoods in
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Banana Market and Cross-Border Trade Study: *The Case of North Kivu, DR Congo.*

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Consortium for the improvement of agriculture -based livelihoods in Central Africa

Following a call for proposals of the Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGDC – Belgium) in April 2004, three proposals were approved:

- ‘Sustainable and Profitable Banana-based Systems for the African Great Lakes Region’, led by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Kampala, Uganda.
- ‘Enhancing the resilience of agro-ecosystems in Central Africa: a strategy to revitalize agriculture through the integration of natural resource management coupled to resilient germplasm and marketing approaches’, led by the Tropical Soil Biology and Fertility Institute of the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (TSBF-CIAT), Nairobi, Kenya.
- ‘Building Impact Pathways for Improving Livelihoods in *Musa*-based Systems in Central Africa’, led by the International Network for the Improvement of Banana and Plantain of the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI-INIBAP), Kampala, Uganda.

As the above projects proposed to operate largely in the same parts of Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo), with similar national partner institutes, and due to the complimentary nature of the activities proposed, above institutes agreed to operate as a Consortium to ensure cooperation and complementarity and avoid technical and financial duplication at the national level.

Whereas under the first funding phase (2006-2008) CIALCA still consisted of three separate projects, under the second funding phase (2009-2011) CIALCA operates officially as one project under the title ‘Improving agriculture-based livelihoods in Central Africa through sustainably increased system productivity to enhance income, nutrition security, and the environment’

The Consortium for Improving Agriculture-based Livelihoods in Central Africa (CIALCA) is a Consortium of the International Agricultural Research Centers (IARCs) and their national research and development partners that aims at close technical and administrative collaboration and planning in areas of common interest, thereby enhancing returns to the investments made by DGDC and accelerating impact at the farm level.

Banana Market and Cross-Border trade study

The Case of North Kivu, DR Congo

Summary

In North Kivu in the East of the Democratic Republic of Congo, banana is an important agricultural product that is traded locally and to the neighboring countries Uganda and Rwanda. Little is known about the banana production and its surplus, about the trade between farmers and rural, urban and export markets, and the actors involved. The aim of this study is to describe the banana sector in North Kivu. The study used a survey and key informant interviews among traders at different markets, complemented with secondary data on banana production. A key variable in this study was the price of bananas at different rural and urban markets, in two regions, and at a market destined to export. The main conclusions are:

- There is no simple linear market chain from rural, urban and Goma market towards export. Instead, exporters buy their produce closer at the source, mostly directly from the producers or at rural markets where prices are lowest;
- Production and trade are much affected by the security situation in North Kivu that generally started to improve around 1998 but worsened in 2003.

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1 Introduction

Bananas and plantains have an important place in the lives of people living in North Kivu. It laid the foundation for the transition towards a sedentary lifestyle in the region. Traditionally planted around the villages, it is now planted wherever possible and thus large areas of North Kivu are covered with banana plantations. In this study, we distinguish four types of bananas according to their function: three are suitable for consumption either cooked or uncooked (cooking bananas, dessert bananas and plantain) the fourth type is used for the production of alcoholic beverages (beer bananas).

The banana serves several important purposes for farmers in North Kivu. First of all it is an important staple crop and as such important for farmers' food security. Secondly, banana beer has an important social and cultural function. It is an indispensable asset for social events such as marriage, receptions and social visits, as well as for more formal meetings and reunions. Thirdly, the banana is an important cash crop and for many farmers the most important source of financial revenue.

Despite the importance of the banana in the region, the banana market appears to be a relatively recent phenomenon for North Kivu. Based on available data we conclude that the banana trade, after many years of non-existence due to war and insecurity, has started to develop, not more than 9 years ago, and is progressing with growing security.

Agricultural products, wood and charcoal from North Kivu find their way easily to two neighboring countries: Rwanda and Uganda, which are more densely populated and have a high demand for these products.

So far very little information is available on banana production and its surplus, about the trade between farmers and rural, urban and export markets, and the actors involved.

2 Aim of the Study

The aim of this study is to describe the banana sector in North Kivu. This includes a description of the production, the trade in rural, urban and export markets, and the actors involved. We formulated a number of research questions that will contribute to understanding the banana sector in North Kivu:

- To what degree is banana production determined by the production factors land and labor;
- Does the price gradient from farm gate to different markets confirm the high market demand;
- Do overall security levels have a significant impact on the production and marketing of bananas in North Kivu.

3 Methodology

The variables used in this study are derived from:

- An analysis of the relation between different production factors, the regional banana production and their evolution over time. Changes in the production factors land and labor and resulting yields are studied for the years 2001, 2002 and 2003. From this, trends in the indicators prod/ha and prod/labor unit are derived;
- An analysis of the different actors operating on the banana market in North Kivu and their relative importance;
- A "Value chain analysis", comparing prices of different types of bananas at different levels, Purchase prices (directly from producers or from collectors); at rural markets; at urban markets; and at a market intended for export.

For the study of trends in production, several sources of secondary data were consulted:

- Archives of local bureaus of traditional local authorities;
- Reports of the regional inspection service for agriculture;

- Reports from the national service for agricultural statistics.

For the study of the different actors involved and the prices along the value chain, original fieldwork was done. The primary data collection consisted of a rapid participatory rural appraisal method to gain insight in the cross-border banana market of North Kivu. Also a formal survey with 90 respondents was undertaken as well as field observations and interviews with key informants

The survey area was divided in four zones:

1. Goma and its surroundings;
2. The zone of north Masisi and west Rutshuru;
3. The zone bordering lake Kivu;
This zone is one of the most productive and is the most strongly oriented towards the cross-border trade, especially towards Rwanda;
4. The zone of west Rutshuru.
This zone is adjacent to Uganda and the markets have a strong orientation towards this country.

4 Results

4.1 Description of the Banana Market in North Kivu

Two types of banana producers can be distinguished in North Kivu:

- Small farmer production units formed by individual households;
- Farmer associations such as APROVEB (Association des Producteurs et Vendeurs de la Banane), which operate along the shores of lake Kivu.

Part of the banana production is meant for home consumption and the rest is destined to the market. Three types of markets are distinguished in this study:

Rural markets

- The majority of markets in North Kivu are rural markets;
- These are the principal markets for small farmer units to sell off their products and to purchase basic commodities;
- There are two types of buyers that operate on this level of the banana market:
 - Residents of the urban zones and
 - Foreign traders coming from Rwanda or Uganda.

Urban markets

- Two types of sellers operate on this level:
 - Small farmers who prefer to sell their products here in order to get a better return;
 - Small middlemen or collectors who purchase their products on the rural markets.
- We can distinguish three types of buyers on the urban markets:
 - Residents from the urban zones who buy for their own consumption;
 - Traders coming from the city of Goma;
 - Traders who aim at selling the products in neighboring countries notably Rwanda and Uganda.

The Market of Goma

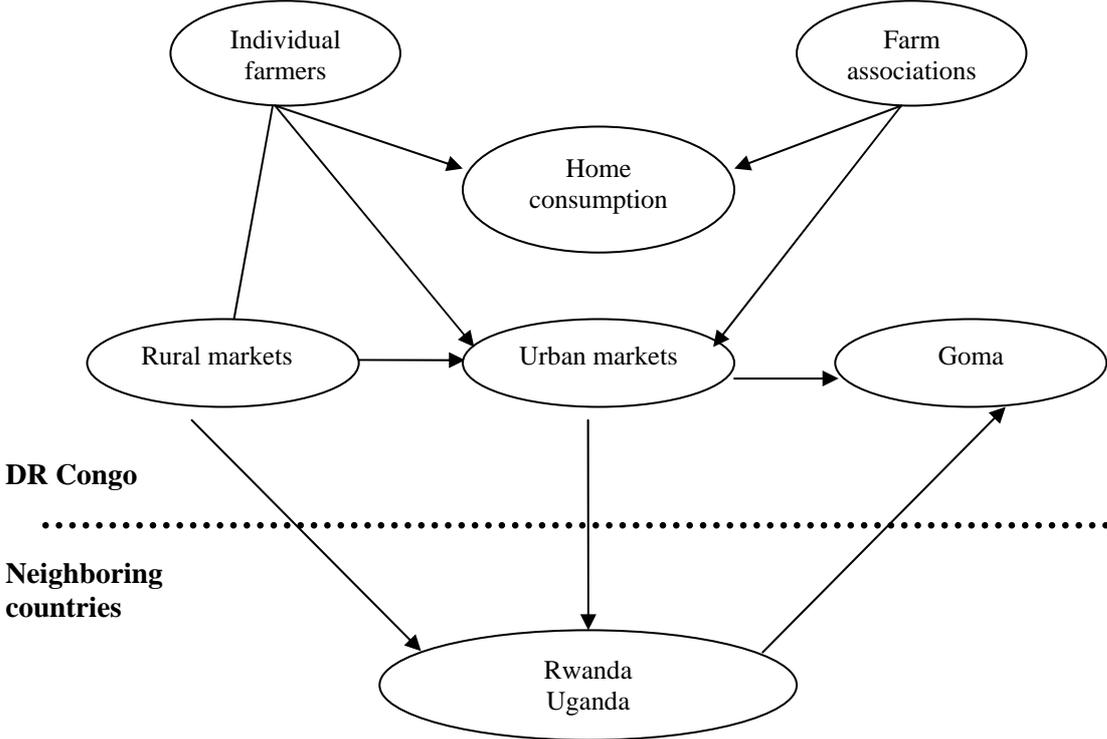
- In general terms Goma is the major destination for agricultural production in the region. It is however not an important part of the banana market chain destined to the exterior since most foreign traders purchase products directly at the farm gate or on rural markets.

Of the traders on the North Kivu markets 47% are local sellers who either purchase their products directly from the producers or lease a banana plantation and 31% are urban retailers and urban wholesalers represent 15% of the traders active on North Kivu markets. The remaining 7% percent consists of rural retailers and other actors.

The rural markets of Bweremana, Shasha and Rangira are most frequented by local traders and wholesalers from Goma, Rwanda and Uganda. These are the markets with the strongest orientation towards cross-border trade, whereas the market of Sake and those of the city of Goma are most frequented by retailers since they are oriented towards local consumers. The majority of bananas consumed in Goma come from the Masisi region whereas the production of the Rutshuru region is largely locally consumed and surpluses are exported to Uganda.

An overview of the different banana market channels in north Kivu is represented by the following diagram:

Global Diagram of the Banana Market in North Kivu



4.1.1 Overview and Structure of Studied Markets

Table 1: Overview on the studied markets

Market Name	Market Type	Region	Distance to Goma km	Distance to the Border	Relative Position to Goma	% of Female Traders	Av. Age	% of Male Traders	Av. Age
Kituku	urban	?	15	?	South-west	58	29	42	31.6
Shasha	rural	Masisi	40	?	South-west	87	36	13	27
Rutshuru	urban	Rutshuru	72	?	North	100	30	-	-
Kalengera	?	Rutshuru	50	?	North	100	21.5	-	-
Rangira	rural	Rutshuru	70	15 (Uganda)	North-east	9	31.5	64	41
Sake	rural	Masisi	27	?	?	85	33.6	15	40
Bweremana	rural	Masisi	47	?	South-west	60	30.6	40	39.6

There is no formal legislation that regulate the banana trade as a whole. Everybody has the right to operate on the market. Except the payment of taxes there are no other regulations.

4.1.2 Trends in Regional Production

The evolution of the production factors land and labor and their resulting output for three successive years is represented by [Table 2](#).

Table 2: Trends in regional production (Source IPAPPEL NK)

Year	Cultivated Area (ha)	% of 2001	Variation as a % of 2001	No. of Farmers	% of 2001	Variation as a % of 2001	Production (1,000 kg)	% of 2001	Variation as a % of 2001	Production per ha	Production per Farmer
2001	154,586	100	0	358,338	100	0	1,077,466	100	0	6.97	3.00
2002	160,852	104	4	363,325	101.3	1.39	1,118,478	103.8	3.8	6.95	3.07
2003	131,841	85.2	-14.8	331,881	92.6	-7.39	916,277	85.0	-14.9	6.94	2.76
Avg.	149,093			351,181			1,037,407			6.95	2.94

When taking 2001 as a baseline, we notice a small increase of 3.8% in production in 2002 after which production plummets with almost 15% in the following year. The war and an overall decrease in security, as well as an increase in crop disease, could be at the basis of this decline in production. From [table 2](#) it becomes apparent that the increase in production from 2001 to 2002 is faster relative to the increase in the number of farmers in the same period. At the same time we observe for 2003 that the decline in production is faster relative to the decline in farmer numbers. It seems that fluctuations in total banana production are much more related to fluctuations in total cultivated area than to fluctuations in total number of farmers. This is especially apparent when we observe that a decrease of 14.8% in the cultivated area in 2003 goes together with a decline in production of 14.9%.

The same relationship can be observed for 2002 where an increase of cultivated area of 4% goes together with an increased production of 3.8%

Since 2004 the spread of *Xanthomonas Wilt* in the region has resulted in a serious decline in production levels. Since we are lacking any quantitative data concerning production trends after 2003, the effect of the disease is not taken into account in this study. However, we would like to note that disease impact on banana production and the banana market is without a doubt significant.

4.1.3 Product Quality

The quality of bananas in North Kivu varies, depending on where in the market chain the product is situated. Several factors influence the quality of bananas reaching the market:

1. The distance between the production area and the final market destination. Longer transport decreases the quality. Bad road conditions add to this effect;
2. The season. During the dry season road conditions are better reducing the transport time. In rainy season the opposite is the case;
3. Competition between the internal and external market. During periods of high demand, large exporters purchase their products directly from the producers, buying the best quality. Due to this the bananas that finally reach the internal markets are of inferior quality. This effect is only observed for urban markets;
4. During periods of low demand bananas have to be stored longer, which reduces the quality.

4.1.4 Storage

A major problem that banana traders, especially those operating on the urban and city markets, are facing, concerns the storage of their products. 60% of the traders in the city of Goma and 54% of the traders in the urban zones of Rutshuru and Masisi indicate that they are affected by these problems. The main problems that traders are confronted with are:

- An insufficient number of depots;
- Existing depots are too small;
- The costs of storing products are high.

For the **city markets** there is almost a complete lack of depots. Traders often have to store their products for 3 days, the time between successive market days. The lack of good storage facilities makes them susceptible to looting by militia and armed forces. Even if facilities are there, the costs pose a major problem. For example: the market of Sake has but one depot. Storage costs amount to 50 FC per bunch per day. With an average profit of 200 FC per bunch for this market it is clear that storing for a couple of days greatly reduces the profit margin.

On the **urban markets** the time that products have to be stored can amount up to 15 days depending on demand. If not stored correctly, this can lead to a complete spoilage of the product with grave financial consequences for the traders.

Rural markets do not have depots but also no great problems related to storage. Traders here are mostly small farmers selling their own production in small quantities. Any unsold products can easily be taken back home.

Markets oriented towards export to neighboring countries often suffer from the lack of storage facilities. It is mostly large suppliers that operate on these markets and if demand is insufficient they are forced to sell off their stock for unfavorable prices.

4.1.5 Price Evolution

Market prices for banana fluctuate during the year and we can recognize distinct periods of low and high prices. During the months of September till December, the months of May to July and the month of February prices tend to rise. Factors leading to **high prices** are:

- The rainy season which renders certain roads inaccessible, effectively cutting of some supply regions;
- A lower banana production;
- A scarcity of other staple food crops;
- Hunger gap (period between harvests);
- An increased demand from neighboring countries Rwanda and Uganda;
- Festivities;
- Harvest period beans;
- Money shortage;
- Drought.

The months of January, March, April and August represent the periods when prices are low. Factors leading to **low prices** are:

- Increased production in Uganda reducing the demand from this country;
- A decreased demand from Rwanda because some traders get their products from the Ugandan market in this period;
- Bad weather conditions make transport over Lake Kivu to Rwanda difficult;
- A sufficient supply of other staple food crops;
- In August financial resources are destined towards the start of the new school year.

4.2 *Purchase Prices*

15% of the traders on the markets in North Kivu purchase their products directly from the producers. 54% purchase their products from middlemen since markets are often localized at a considerable distance from the production areas. The remaining 31% consists of farmers selling their own products.

In the Masisi region, traders often purchase their products with producers at some distance from the market since purchase prices drop considerably as you get further away from the market. For example: an average sized bunch is purchased for 1000 Fc at a 40 km distance and for 2000 Fc at a 7 km distance from the market.

In the Rutshuru region most of the traders directly purchase their goods with the producers or are producers themselves. For example: On the market of Kalengera 66% of the traders consist of farmers selling their own products while the remaining 34% get their supplies directly from the producers.

Purchase prices, for both high and low price periods, along the two axes of the regions Masisi and Rutshuru, are represented by the following tables:

Table 3: Purchase prices along the Masisi axis

period	Banana type	Small bunch	Medium bunch	Large bunch
High prices period	Cooking	800 FC	2,000 FC	2,300 FC
	Ber	250 FC	400 FC	600 FC
	Dessert	800 FC	1,200 FC	1,800 FC
	Plantain	1,800 FC	2,500 FC	3,000 FC
Low prices period	Cooking	400 FC	800 FC	1,100 FC
	Ber	150 FC	200 FC	250 FC
	Dessert	250 FC	400 FC	600 FC
	Plantain	600 FC	1,000 FC	1,300 FC

Table 4: Purchase prices along the Rutshuru axis

period	Banana type	Small bunch	Medium bunch	Large bunch
High prices period	Cooking	600 FC	1,200 FC	2,000 FC
	Beer	200 FC	250 FC	300 FC
	Dessert	250 FC	400 FC	500 FC
	Plantain	600 FC	900 FC	1,300 FC
Low prices period	Cooking	400 FC	900 FC	1,600 FC
	Beer	-	-	-
	Dessert	100 FC	150 FC	200 FC
	Plantain	500 FC	700 FC	1,000 FC

From the Tables we learn the following:

- Purchase prices are generally higher along the Masisi axis. This is related to the fact that Masisi markets are more export oriented. Local traders have to compete with large foreign exporters and traders from Goma.

4.3 Rural Market Prices

Rural markets are held once a week resulting in a total of 52 market days per year. The yearly average and the high price period amount of bunches sold per market day on rural markets is represented by [Table 5](#).

Table 5: Bunches sold on rural markets

period	Trader type	Daily # bunches	Weekly # bunches	Monthly # bunches
Yearly average	Wholesalers	10	10	80
	Small Retailers	5	10	40
High prices period	Wholesalers	18	36	144
	Small Retailers	11	22	88

Average prices on rural markets are represented by the following table:

Table 6: Average prices on rural markets

Banana type	Small bunch	Medium bunch	Large bunch
Cooking	800 FC	1,400 FC	1,800 FC
Beer	200 FC	250 FC	300 FC
Dessert	500 FC	750 FC	1,000 FC
Plantain	1,200 FC	1,500 FC	2,000 FC

In the high prices period we encounter the following price figures on the rural markets.

Table 7: Prices on rural markets during high prices period

Banana type	Small bunch	Medium bunch	Large bunch
Cooking	1,000 FC	1,500 FC	2,000 FC
Beer	200 FC	250 FC	300 FC
Dessert	600 FC	950 FC	1,200 FC
Plantain	1,300 FC	2,000 FC	2,500 FC

4.4 Urban Market Prices

On the urban market wholesalers are active 6 days and small retailers 7 days a week. The average daily amounts sold as well as the amounts sold during the high price period are presented in [Table 8](#).

Table 8: bunches sold per market day on urban markets

	Average # bunches	High price period # bunches
Wholesalers	38	41
Small retailers	15	21

Prices encountered on the urban market during the high prices period are shown in the following table:

Table 9: Prices on urban markets during high prices period

Banana type	Small bunch	Medium bunch	Large bunch
Cooking	1,200 FC	2,000 FC	2,300 FC
Beer	250 FC	400 FC	600 FC
Dessert	800 FC	1,200 FC	1,800 FC
Plantain	1,800 FC	2,500 FC	3,000 FC

Finally we present market prices for the low prices period in [Table 10](#) as a price average between rural and urban market prices:

Table 10: Overall average (year and markets)

Banana type	Small bunch	Medium bunch	Large bunch
Cooking	600 FC	1,000 FC	1,400 FC
Beer	150 FC	200 FC	250 FC
Dessert	400 FC	600 FC	800 FC
Plantain	850 FC	1,200 FC	1,700 FC

4.5 Border Prices: the Case of the Market “Petit Barrier”

In order to gain some insight in price evolution at the cross border trade, the case of the market “petit barrier” is presented. This unofficial market is situated at the border with Rwanda close to the city of Goma. The average amounts sold per day per trader are 25 bunches for large retailers and 10 bunches for small retailers.

The traders purchase their merchandise in Minova, Bweremana and Shasha with producers and local collectors. Products are mostly sold to consumers from Goma and consumers from Rwanda. Products are purchased in FC and sold in \$.

Average marketing costs per bunch amount up to 450FC. On top of this comes 100-500FC of other costs per day per trader.

Table 11 gives an overview of purchase and selling prices at different price levels as well as the resulting margins. For the sake of comparison all prices are presented in Congolese franks based on an exchange rate of 0,2\$ for 100FC. Beer Bananas don't seem to be traded at this market and are therefore excluded from the table.

Table 11: Purchase and selling prices at the market “petit barriere”

Banana type	Description	Price/small bunch In FC			Price/medium bunch In FC			Price /large bunch In FC		
		low	average	high	low	average	high	low	average	high
Cooking	Purchase	600	1,200	1,300	900	1,400	1,700	1,500	1,800	2,000
	Selling	1,250	1,500	2,000	1,750	2,000	2,500	2,250	2,500	3,000
	Marketing margin	650	300	700	850	600	800	1,750	700	1,000
Dessert	Purchase	400	400	600	600	700	800	750	1,000	1,200
	Selling	500	750	1,000	1,000	1,250	1,750	1,500	1,500	2,000
	Marketing margin	100	350	400	400	550	950	750	500	800
Plantain	Purchase	700	1,000	1,500	1,000	4,300	2,000	1,700	2,000	2,800
	Selling	2,000	2,500	3,000	2,500	3,000	3,500	3,000	3,500	4,000
	Marketing margin	1,300	1,500	2,000	1,500	-1,300	1,500	1,300	1,500	2,000

4.6 Transport

Most transport from fields to the homestead is done by women, carrying the harvested product on their back. In some cases, if a road network is available, people make use of a chuduku (wooden bicycle) at the cost of 50 FC per bunch.

Among those involved in the banana market are also the haulers. These are the owners of trucks or pirogues (big motorized dugout canoes) who are responsible for all longer distance transport.

76% off the transport takes place over land and the remaining 26% percent takes place over the lake. The route over the lake is mainly used by the local collectors who export the bananas to Rwanda, whereas the suppliers for the city of Goma prefer the route over land to avoid the risk of losing the goods by shipwrecking.

The transport route to the market of Kituku in Goma consists of two parts. First the suppliers from villages bring their products by boat. These products are then transported into the city over land.

There are several transport associations, for both over-land and maritime transport, active in the region. 50% of those active in the transport sector are a member of one of these associations and the majority has access to credit thanks to their membership. 23% of the association members also experience other benefits.

4.7 Marketing Costs

The marketing costs for banana trade in North Kivu consist of costs related to transport, taxes, handling, storage and personal expenses for catering, lodging and transport. The average costs per axis and for the city of Goma are presented in the following table.

Table 12: Marketing costs

Costs (FC)	Axis								
	Masisisi			Rutshuru			Goma		
	daily	weekly	monthly	daily	weekly	monthly	daily	weekly	monthly
transport	100	300	1,400	80	160	640	200	400	1,600
taxes	50	450	1,800	60	120	480	-	-	1,000
Handling	40	150	600	-	-	-	-	-	-
storage	20	40	160	50	100	400	50	-	-
other	-	-	400	-	-	-	700	-	-
total	210	940	4,360	190	380	1,520	950	400	2,600

4.7.1 Transport costs and taxes

The most significant marketing costs are those related to transport and taxes. These costs vary depending on the length and type of transport route concerned. The average cost of transport from production area to market is 250 FC per bunch.

Along all routes, be it over land or water, taxes are numerous and high. Besides the official taxes there exist also unofficial taxes: rapports. In order to illustrate the complexity of transport costs and taxes we give the following example taking the market of Minova as a starting point: The unofficial taxes from Minova to Bukavu are about 20,000 FC (40\$) per truck. From Minova to Rwandan markets or Goma rapport costs can amount up to 12,500 FC (25\$). Official taxes can amount up to 150,000 FC (300\$) and are constructed as follows for the route by pirogue over water from Minova to Kisengy (Rwanda):

- 50 FC per bunch tax traditional local authorities;
- 20 FC per bunch OFIDA;
- 20 FC per bunch tax for external trade;
- 20 FC per bunch Quarantine;
- 2,500 FC (5\$) maritime tax;
- 1,000 FC (2\$) landing tax.

On top of these taxes come the following transport costs:

- 2,500 FC (5\$) x 6 person crew per pirogue ;
- 5,000 FC (10\$) driver;
- 100 liters of fuel (variable).

In some cases traders organize themselves to hire a whole pirogue. In other cases they pay a fixed amount per bunch to the boat owner. A typical figure on this route would be 300 FC per bunch.

4.8 Constraints

The Banana trade in North Kivu is a delicate affair and those operating on the banana market face significant challenges and risks while undertaking their business. Some of the major constraints Congolese **traders** have to deal with are related to:

- The loss of merchandise during transport;
- Deterioration of product quality during transport due to bad road conditions;
- Lack of storage facilities and related problems;
- High taxes, official and unofficial;
- Harassment by administrators, police and military;

- Looting, robbery and swindle;
- High purchase prices due to a strong competition with export traders during periods of high demand.

These constraints result in very low profit margins for the traders and a high risk of bankruptcy

Haulers mention the following as major problems they are confronted with:

- Bad road conditions leading to accidents and high maintenance costs;
- Inexperienced and unlicensed drivers create dangerous situations and accidents;
- Losses due to chaotic situations while unloading the cargo;
- Deterioration of product quality due to road conditions resulting in conflict with the traders;
- A lack of cargo during certain periods.

5 Conclusions

Table 13 gives us an overview of prices at different levels in the market chain at different periods. Based on this comparison and the previously presented results we draw the following conclusions:

1. From the comparison of prices at different markets, we draw the following conclusion: There is no simple linear market chain from rural, urban and Goma market towards export. Instead, exporters buy their produce closer at the source, mostly directly from the producers or at rural markets where prices are lowest;
2. From the evolution in production and from the duration most markets and traders are active, we draw the following conclusion: Production and trade are much affected by the security situation in North Kivu that generally started to improve around 1998 but worsened in 2003;
3. Although the trends in area, number of farmers and production presented here suggest that banana yield is stable (7 tons/ha), there is a serious decline in production levels due to the recent spread of Xanthomonas wilt in the region. The full scale and impact of the disease on production levels has yet to be assessed.

Table 13: Banana prices (FC) for middle sized bunch

period	Banana type	Purchase prices FC		Market prices FC		Border prices FC	
		Axe Masisi	Axe Rutshuru	Rural	Urban	Purchase	Selling
High prices period**	Cooking	2,000	1,200	1,500	2,000	1,700	2,500
	Beer	400	250	250	400	-	-
	Dessert	1,200	400	950	1,200	800	1,750
	Plantain	2,500	900	2,000	2,500	2,000	3,500
Average prices	Cooking	1,000	800	1,400	-	1,400	2,000
	Beer	150	-	250	-	--	-
	Dessert	500	200	750	-	700	1,250
	Plantain	1,150	1,100	1,500	-	4,300	3,000
Low prices period***	Cooking	800	900	1,000*	-	900	1,750
	Beer	200	-	200	-	-	-
	Dessert	400	150	600	-	600	1,000
	Plantain	1,000	700	1,200	-	1,000	2,500

*There is only data on average low prices for urban and rural markets combined. **High prices period: September-December, January-February, June-July. ***Low prices period: March-April, May

6 Recommendations for further research

This study presents us with a good overview of the structure of the banana market in North Kivu. However, in order to come to a more thorough market chain analyses we would suggest the following additional research:

- A decent baseline survey at farm level, including production costs and farm gate prizes for both axes;
- A market survey for all levels within the different market channels. These levels are: rural and urban markets along the two axes, Goma markets, border markets and trans-border trade. Important data to collect would be the purchase and selling prices as well as the marketing costs for all levels.

The proposed additional research would make it possible to define the different market channels and their agents more precisely and would help to draw some conclusions about price evolution and margins along the chain. This will result in a more comprehensive analyses of the banana market in North Kivu.

We would like to stress that the effect of *Xanthomonas Wilt* on the market definitely has to be a subject of future research. In recent years the Ruthuru and Masisi region have become hotspots for disease incidence, with a devastating effect on the banana crop, so important to the livelihood of the people of North Kivu. The resulting decline in production will inevitably have an impact on the local and regional economy and could well change the structure of the banana market as it is described here.

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Progress Reports

Progress Report 1: CIALCA (2006) Technical Progress Report September 2005 – October 2006.

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Progress Report 4: Launching meeting of CIALCA-II. Bujumbura, Burundi, 28-31 October 2008.

Progress Report 5: Final Report Phase I – CIALCA. January 2006 – December 2008.

Technical Reports

Technical Report 1: Farrow et al (2006). Characterization of Mandate Areas for the Consortium for Improved Agricultural Livelihoods in Central Africa (CIALCA).

Technical Report 2: Musa sector strategic plan for Burundi

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Technical Report 6: Rishirumuhirwa (2006), The role and management of bananas in Burundian farming systems

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Technical Report 10: Maheshe et al. (2009). Banana Market and Cross-Border trade study: *The Case of North Kivu, DR Congo.*

Thesis Reports

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Tropical Soil Biology and Fertility Institute of the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (TSBF-CIAT), Kenya



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Institut des Sciences Agronomiques du Burundi (ISABU), Burundi



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