The coconut industry in Ghana and Nigeria

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Abstract

In last ten years (1998-2007), the area planted to coconut in the world (average 12 Mha) has shown a decreasing trend (average 1%/year). World coconut oil production has remained at more or less the same level In the last ten years (average 3 MT/year). The study of the coconut commodity chain in Ghana show that this sector is confronted with many constraints: the inadequacy price of coconut oil and the competition with other oleaginous plants; an aging coconut plantation; the impacts of the coconut yellow lethal disease, an important demand in peeled nuts towards Nigeria market and the weak dynamism of its institutional organization. Four commodity chains are moving together: the commodity chains of the processing of traditional and semi-industrial coconut oil produce little added value. The commodity of fresh nuts produces a higher added value with limited urban market. Finally, the recent export of peeled nuts commodity chain towards Nigeria offers a large market and brings an important added value to the smallholders. Despite a replanting project in hybrid coconuts, the rehabilitation/replanting of coconut plantation remains one of the challenges to deal with, in order to boost the coconut commodity chain in Ghana. The observation is that smallholders have not taken up the challenge after the public interventions have seized, in order to rehabilitate or replant their coconut trees. The strategy developed does not sufficiently lay on the market signal which today has evolved. The improved material available and the tested technologies should allow the boosting of the production sector and the reduction of the vulnerable conditions of household affected or threaten by the disease. The same way, the divergent strategies of stakeholders of the coconut commodity chain In Ghana slow down the dynamic of reorientation of this sector towards the export of peeled nuts. Producers in particular, should take advantage of this lucrative commodity chain. It is about all the stakeholders having interest in this commodity chain by preserving the coconut oil sector, which shows an economic, but also considerable social dimension. The boost of this production passes necessarily through the support function of the production and through professional organizations of producers. commodity chain analysis, coconut oil, fresh nuts, professional organization, Ghana, Nigeria.

AGRONOMIE – ENVIRONNEMENT

La filière du cocotier au Ghana et au Nigéria

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Keywords: *commodity chain analysis, coconut oil, fresh nuts, professional organization, Ghana, Nigeria*

Le cocotier est une culture largement implantée dans les systèmes de production familiaux de la zone côtière du Ghana et fut longtemps le moteur du développement économique de cette région. Cette spéculation a offert, depuis au moins 80 ans, la possibilité de mettre en valeur une bande littorale de quelques kilomètres de largeur, ayant une hygrométrie très élevée, des sols sableux, et donc peu propice à d'autres cultures. La production des cocotiers revêt pour les ménages d'agriculteurs de cette frange littorale un intérêt triple : consommation familiale, trésorerie « sur tronc » (on vend des noix quand on a besoin d'argent) ou garantie pour les crédits (la production est gagée en échange d'un crédit octroyé pour résoudre des besoins ponctuels) et source de revenu monétaire [1]. Les cocoteraies font partie intégrante du patrimoine familial et se transmettent de génération en génération. Les cocoteraies au Ghana représentent environ 36 000 ha, dont 12 000 ha dans la principale zone de production de Jomoro (*Western Region*). Bien que le secteur cocotier mobilise beaucoup de main-d'œuvre et d'activités induites au niveau local (collecte, *cracking*, transport, transformation, commerce, etc.), sa contribution au PIB s'avère faible. La filière noix de coco se caractérise également par la cohabitation de quatre sous-filières aujourd'hui en situation de concurrence : huile de coco, noix débourrées, coprah et noix fraîche.

La maladie du jaunissement mortel du cocotier s'est déclarée au Ghana en 1932, au Cap Saint-Paul dans la région Volta (est du pays). Cette maladie s'est progressivement étendue : en 1964 dans la zone du *Cape Three Points*, puis à partir de 1986 dans la *Central Region* et la *Western Region* (ouest du pays). Des milliers d'hectares de cocoteraies ont été décimés, et le capital des producteurs a été anéanti. Entre 1999 et 2003, un projet financé par l'AFD propose aux producteurs l'adoption d'un hybride supposé résistant à la maladie. L'intérêt des producteurs à replanter a été assez faible, d'une part, parc que cette activité était à l'époque faiblemen rémunératrice (comparativement à l'hévéa au palmier à huile), d'autre part, en raison de risques phytosanitaires importants.

Jusqu'à une période récente, le secteur d cocotier n'était plus reconnu par les autorit comme un secteur économique importan comparé aux autres cultures de rente et péren nes : cacao, palmier à huile, hévéa, agrume etc. Le soutien du Ministry of Food and Agricu ture (MOFA) et de son partenaire (Agence fra çaise de développement) au développemen du secteur cocotier s'est achevé en 2006, sa nouvelles perspectives. Au final, les différen acteurs de la filière s'interrogent sur le deven de leurs activités.

Le facteur prix au producteur est primordi pour relancer la replantation ou la réhabilit tion des cocoteraies et l'entretien des plant tions. Ce paramètre prix a très sensiblemen évolué au cours de l'année 2006 avec l'arrivé

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July 2010

Philippe Courbet · François Olivier Ruf · Ambrose Dziwornu · Jérémy Salinier

English Nigeria is generally seen as a regional giant capable of stimulating the agricultural economies of neighbouring countries. In any case, regional integration is probably underestimated in statistics because of the informal nature of much of trade, developed and undertaken by traders and transporters outside the ambit of any public policy. Nigeria discreetly imports coconuts from Ghana and ... [Show full abstract]

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The demand for coconut water and coconut oil is increasing thus there is interest in expanding coconut cultivation. Coconut is primarily planted on approximately 28,500 acres by more than 1,400 farmers along the Guyana coastline with the Atlantic Ocean and in the Pomeroon Riverain area. Tall types (e.g. Jamaica Tall) are planted for oil while Dwarf types (e.g. Malaysian Dwarf Green, Suriname ... [Show full abstract]

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