

Analysis of Onion's Commercial Competitiveness in Agro-Economical Conditions in Lubumbashi

¹Ngando Mbalo Yannick, ⁴M. Mwamba Kasongo, ¹A. Muganza Mangala, ¹L. Efeni Etengola Lecknai, ⁴Mpia Imanda Precy, ¹Kilomba Seya, ³P. Mungala Tamufu, ⁴I. Muchiza Bachinyaga, ⁴F. Katumbwe Ndundula⁴, and ¹Kirongozi Swedi

¹ Faculties of agricultural sciences department of agricultural economics

² Association for the Promotion of Education and Training Abroad (APEFE)

³ General Secretariat of Customary Affairs, Ministry of the Interior, Security and Customary Affairs, Kinshasa
DR Congo

⁴ Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Departement of Renewable Natural Resources, University of Lubumbashi,
D.R. Congo BP: 1825.

Résumé: Des enquêtes par sondage et des prospections ont été menées sur les marchés de Lubumbashi auprès des détaillants d'oignons tels que : marché Mzee, marché Kenya, marché Rail et Zambia. Les enquêtes ont été réalisées dans le but d'obtenir des données pertinentes pour cette étude. Un questionnaire bien structuré a été remis aux informateurs et aux répondants. Après une vérification minutieuse des résultats, cela a permis de déterminer la compétitivité et le stade commercial de l'oignon. Les résultats des enquêtes ont montré que la majorité ou plusieurs femmes étaient impliquées dans cette activité dont l'âge varie : 32 ans comme âge minimal ; +1 an comme moyenne ; et 58 ans comme âge maximal. Il faut dire qu'il y avait deux types d'oignons (rouges et blancs). Les deux avaient le même prix mais les rouges étaient plus commercialisés que les blancs. Le courant productif était plus compétitif économiquement que techniquement avec un taux de rendement de 50 pour cent. Les rotonions secs étaient de forte proposition

Mot-clés : captivité, rendement, contraintes d'exaction et opportunité.

Abstract: Sample surveys and prospecting were conducted in Lubumbashi markets from onion's retailers such as Mzee market, Kenya markets, Rail market and Zambia market. The surveys were done with the target of getting relevant data to this study.

A well-organized questionnaire was given to informants and respondents. After a careful check of results it has helped to determine the onion's competitiveness commercial stage.

The results coming from the surveys have shown that majority or several women were involved in this activity whose ages vary: 32 years as the minimal age; +1 years as the average; and 58 years as maximal. It is worth saying that there were two types of onions (red and white). Both had the same price but the red ones were more commercialized than the white. The productive stream was more competitive economically than technically with the yielding rate of 50 percent.

Dry rotonions were of strong proposition

Key-terms: captivity, yielding, exaction constraints and opportunity.

1. Introduction

Onion is a significant economical product for several countries through the African continent. As for [11], the total production of onion in Africa has 5,3 million tons, and this has been tripled for three last. But, in the world production, Africa has decreased with 7,5% in the middle of the year 1970 while the onion production has increased in other continents although Africa has a good quality of seed crop and has a great and farmed area.

In fact, the average of yielding crops in Africa are the lowest production in the world. 16% lower than the world average 20 ton/ha as far as available statistics of food and Agriculture organization [11].

In D.R. Congo, the market-gardens help the most the families which are under starvation. To get involved in this sector of lower chance, it could be possible with the availability of the land; the possession of a necessary capital by the poor, and the family labor force [10].

For [10]., the lower stage of schooling of the poor population does not at first need some conditions for the cultural guideline to impact locator exotic vegetables with a very short period.

In Haut-Katanga province, especially in the city of Lubumbashi, the productive stream is an important sector for job-opportunists and struggle against poverty. It's a sector that generates several opportunist in urban and rural areas. In the dry season it generates substantial revenues for the young and for women.

Although such productive stream, insufficient product is observed in the market and it doesn't have impact on food security, nor does it on family revenue. It is due to lack of investing an onion's productive stream.

This study investigates into the analysis of onion's competitiveness agro-economical conditions in Lubumbashi city. It identifies the factors than can influence the productivity, the production's costs and the onion quality in the commercial area (zone) ; it analyses the competitive of different qualities of onions which are produced in the city comparing them to the imported ones ; it evaluates the financial yield.

Finally, it presents the conditions and the average of adaptation.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. The scope of the study

This study is investigated in the city of Lubumbashi, the capital city of Haut-Katanga province. The city of Lubumbashi, being the center of different economical activities, is the second town or city D.R. Congo it is to be located at 1.224 m of altitude average, with south latitude of $11^{\circ}40'$ and the east longitudinal of $27^{\circ}8'$. Lubumbashi and its surroundings is characterized by an annual temperature of 20°C as far as the regional climate is concerned. Its rainfall system is concerned with one rainy season from November to April and the dry season from May up to September and with two months of transit (October and April) Lubumbashi called was called Elisabethville in the former time. Its origin and development must have come from the discovery of copper deposit. Trade is very considered in Lubumbashi. The former is to be run in all its environments (Kamalondo, Ruashi, Kampemba, Lubumbashi, Kenya, Katuba and annexe municipality.(Fig1). It is worth while noticing that, all commercial and administrative activities are mostly being run in Lubumbashi municipality, especially in center town [21]. The city has 7 municipalities whose number of great and small markets are 30 [20]. As illustrated in the shape below:

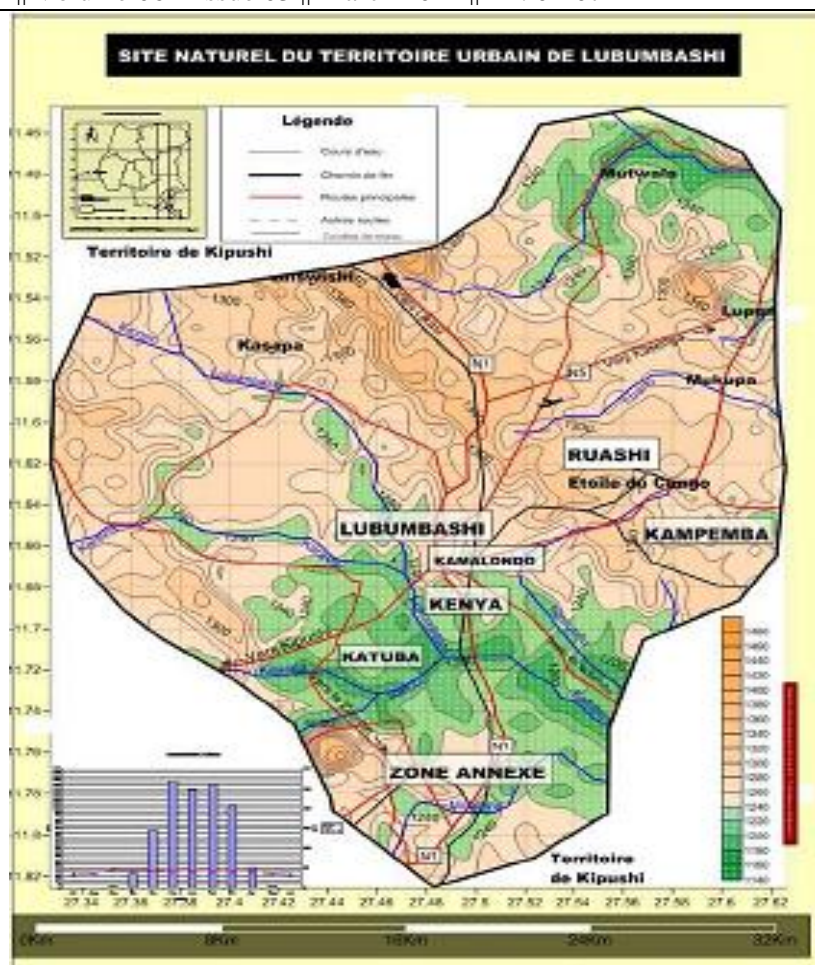


Figure 1: the city of Lubumbashi ant its municipalities

2.2. Materials and Methods

2.2.1. Materials

A printed questionnaire of surveys and a computer which helped to encode the data are the materials used to collect data for investigating this study.

2.2.2. Methods

The techniques of surveys put me in compulsion to use observation of the area of investigation. I used also interviews i.e. I interviewed different informants. Other methodological approaches used are :

- Interview(from producers and tradesmen and tradesmen) ;
- To collecte data ;
- The costs of income: methodologies of evaluation.
- Calculation of costs of income by constructing itinerant techniques acting in productive stream ;
- Financial yield. This is obtained by taking rain (earn) dividing by invested coasted in that activity.
- Studied variables. These variables take into account quality and quantity.
- Qualitative, variables concern the level of instruction, matrimonial status,

Or

$$\text{Financial yield} = \frac{\text{gain}}{\text{investedcost}}$$

⊗ Food supplying places and types of varieties.

⊗ Quantitative variables concern age, the costs, the produced quantities, the selling time, the sold quantities and the financial yield.

A staff of 60 inquired persons, 15 in each market: rail, Zambia, Mzee, and Kenya from June up to July, 2020.

- Treatment and analysis of inquiring data.

To get the results, the data were encoded with « Excell MS » and created throughout and with Spss and Excel 2016.

3. Results

3.1. Social and demographic parameters

From this figure below, most informants were married, few widows and divorced.

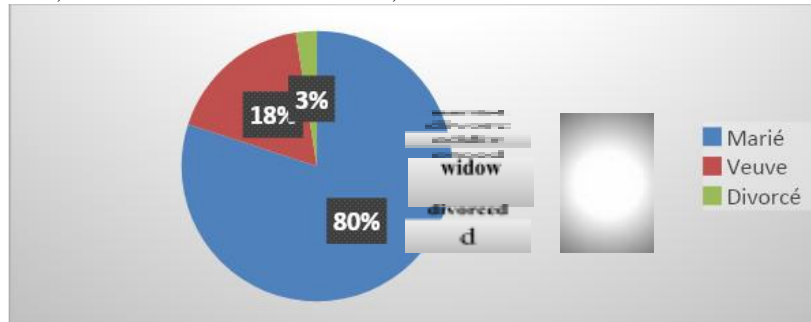


Figure 2: Matrimonial status

Our results have shown that women aging 41 \pm 0, 6 predominate. Their instructions stage meets secondary schools and few of them are from primary schools and few of them are from primary school limit. They are of 17 years of professional experience.

3.2. Type of commercialized variety in Lubumbashi city

After a careful observation of market, red onion is observed to be more commercialized than the white one. This means, the red onion is mostly preferred by consumers.

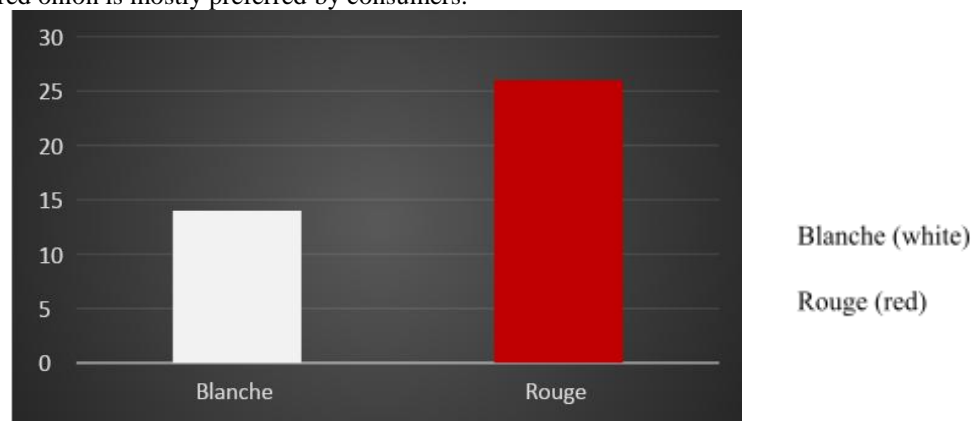


Figure 3: Varieties of commercialized onions

3.3. Analysis of onion trade's financial eld and local incomes

A. Global costs per net and its weight

In average, a net cost 9663 CDF including different costs and taxes. With a maximum of 12.000 CDF and a minimum of 5000 CDF according to the seasons. With 25 Kg as weight average of onion net. Generally, the net could be sold in 2 days by the retailers. This what justifies the red onion's strong demand by the consumers.

Table 1: Costs of getting a net, the weight of a net and its sale duration

Transport cost and Handling	Amount (CDF)	Kg/net	Sale duration
Minimum	5 000	10	1
Average	9663	25	2
Maximum	12000	28	4

b. Weiht's income price

The table below shows that the 2 varieties of onions had the same income price and the average of a net cost 15 000 CDC

Table 2: The prices of different varieties of onions

White and onion	Amount (CDF)
Minumum	10000
Average	15000
Maximum	20000

C. Financial fielding

55% is the rate of yielding from the general analysis of the productive stream. That is 1 CDF invested in the productive stream especially on the price detailers would generate 0,5 CDF.

Table 4 : The benefit from locally cultivated onion

$$\text{Financial yielding} = \frac{\text{onions (white and red)}}{55\%}$$

D. The benefit from the local produces

In general, the benefits gained locally were fable comparing them to international standard that teaches that the benefit from a hectare is 25 to 30 tons (A cultural guide of onion, 2018). This is sud so because of not mastering the production techniques and the lack of adequate input to pedoclimatic conditions.

Table 6 :The benefits from the locally cultivated onion

White and red onion Benefit (t° / ha)	
Minimum	8
Average	10
Maximum	15

3.4. Evaluation of constraints**A. Constraints**

Few actors registered the case of rot which others sud be the lack of loss due to constraints bound to environment. This illustrates the resistance of produce to perishability.



Figure 4: Constraints encountered by the actors

B. Adaptation incase of constraints

In case of constraints, most of them threw produces while others decreased the price and some practiced the price and some practiced auto consumption, and few wanted to keep the same price.



Figure 5: Struggle's means against constraints

4. Discussion

4.1. A profile of socio demographic inquiries (surveys)

The results from our research has shown that most actors were 100% of women. This observation goes along with that of [14] confirming that the feminine group (Relend) is young in the production of onion. According to the talk / speech with the groups especially with office members, the grouping has been existed for 5 years. This proves a weak organization in the link implicating an under development of the link/circuit. To aerobe there should be: an implement to reinforce members' capacities, realization of stocking infrastructures, relationship with or correlation with IMF and actors funds. The level of instruction characterizing them was that of secondary shed having a positive impact to acquire new knowledge for enhancing the productive.

4.2. Parameter of economical and technical competitiveness

The produce of the productive stream (onion) have presented a strong economical and technical competitiveness by the fact that there is a strong daily demand from the consumers and the actors have that monopoly to fix prices. Contrary to observation of facts by [12] proves that onion produced in Burkina Faso is commercialized in some sub regions especially in Ivory Coast; Ghana, Togo and even International markets.

In fact, at the international level of consumption of onion is increasing continually with urbanization and demographic evolution (the rate of demographic increase: 2,5% RPH 2006).

Thus, such consumption remains fable, in fact the the statistics estimate an average consumption: 4,3 Kg, per year and per individual food balance [15].

By lack of adequate inputs and mastery of technique, this productive stream. Relatively to observation done by [12] illustrating that actors of production encounters many problems to the stage of production itself and to stage of activities back up to production and mainly to the training of producers. The main encountered problems are: difficulties supplying or providing good quality of inputs bound to non-availability of qualitative inputs and their higher costs; parasitic attacks etc.

4.3. Encountered constraints

The productive stream (onion) Est in front of several difficulties [14] which are technical and economical as illustrated above by [12]. Only the rot produces were registered by lack of conservative infrastructures. As far as the means of adaptation are concerned, price reduction and the produce shots were in application. Taking account of the latter and the setting of politics presenting opportunities would be a means of lessening them.

5. Conclusion

The sale of onion in the city of Lubumbashi is an activity that provides opportunities such as: the struggle against poverty, job opportunities and struggle against food insecurity. The major actors in this sector are women with the level of secondary school the productive stream is more economically competitive than technically with considerable rate of yielding. The major constraints were rot but with weak proportion on the overall of sample. Therefore, the productive stream present several opportunities 'with the constraints of fable impact. The financial back up by in storing micro financial institutions and the training of actors would be a successful line of travel.

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