

AGRARIAN DIAGNOSIS OF NGWEI: CONTRIBUTION OF PALM OIL TO HOUSEHOLD ECONOMY

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ABSTRACT

The MSc thesis examines the importance and role of palm oil in rural development in the agrarian landscape of the Ngwei district. The purpose of the study was to examine the financial profitability of the crop in local production systems in order to assess the actual contribution of palm oil to household income. The study was carried out through several field trips to the district of Ngwei, in particular in the villages of Makondo and Ndjockloubé from April 11 till August 26, 2016. Data was collected through a survey conducted on a sample of 216 people of different ages and gender. The data was scanned and analyzed using tools such as SPPS, EXCEL and GAMS. Eleven cropping systems were identified and eight were found profitable. The most profitable cropping system in terms of Net Present Value (NPV) is oil palm, at the level of 1.34 million FCFA / ha and an Internal Rate of Return (IRR) of 44%.

The contribution of palm oil to household income varies from 0% for those who do not cultivate it (allogenic) to 90.79% for the village planters who specialized in this crop and 66.67% for the elites that cultivate only oil palm in their locality of origin but also have other sectors of activity that provide them with income such as retirement pension and business management in the private and / or public sector. Based on the results of the analysis, oil palm plantations are well integrated in a mosaic type of landscape associating agroforests, food crops, orchards, swamps and forest remains. This integration is not a constraint to rural development; on the contrary, it contributes greatly to food security and poverty alleviation.



Keys words: Rural Development, Household income, Family Farm, Food Security.

