

**Czech University of Life Sciences Prague**

**Faculty of Economics and Management**

**Department of Economics**



**Bachelor Thesis**

Impact of Imports and Food Aid on Agriculture in

The Democratic Republic of Congo

**Author: Packs Kuyindama Mwika**

**Supervisor: Petr Procházka, MSc, Ph. D.**

**© 2016 CULS in Prague**

## **1. Introduction**

Agriculture is an crucial activity which can not be separated with humans because not only its products provide food necessary for life but also clothing and other materials vital in the industry. Since food aid and imports are reported by many authors to damage local agriculture this thesis focused on findings the relationship between the quantity of food local producers supply and the food coming from abroad.

## **2. Key words**

Imports, Food aid, Agricultural production, Self-sufficiency, Rural population

## **3. Objectives of the thesis**

The main goal of this bachelor thesis was to find out the impact of imported food commodities and food aid in the agricultural production of the Democratic Republic of Congo. And in the case their implication in the agricultural productivity was significant, the thesis examined factors causing their persistant presence in the Country. Since agriculture is a vast economic sector and since different group of commodities may have different behaviour, this bachelor thesis especially focuses on cereals, which constitutes staple foods for most of the congolese population and which have a great share in food aid provided to the country.

## **4. Methodology**

To fulfil this thesis objectives and provide plausible information on the impact of imports of food commodities and food aid in the agricultural production of the Democratic Republic of Congo, secondary data were gathered from INS-RD Congo , FAO and other international institutions listed in the references. Regression analysis was implemented as the statistical method enabling the processing of data and deductive reasoning to draw conclusions. It has been also necessary to look at essential numerical data in tables which helped with the application of basic knowledge encountered in the theoretical part to find out factors that influenced imports of food commodities .

## **5. Findings**

Results of processed data in this bachelor thesis lead to the conclusion that food aid, as a contribution to ensuring food security in the Democratic Republic of Congo, does not have a significant effect in the variability of the Congolese production of cereals while an increase of one tonne in the quantity of imported cereals leads to a significant increase of approximately 1.81 tonnes of cereals locally produced. However the relationship between cereals imports

and agricultural production in DRC is due to the fact that the population is growing in an average of 3 % annually. This annual growth rate does not allow the local subsistence agriculture and agriculture as a whole to supply sufficient food in the Democratic republic of Congo. The regression analysis also revealed that 59.9% of factors influencing the Congolese productivity of cereals was unexplained by the regression model. It was find later that transport infrastructure belongs to these unexplained factors.

## **6. Recommendations**

Since DRC is classified as a low income country building agro-industrial park to reach self-sufficiency and food security should be gradually introduced even though it could provide food for a great majority of the population. Allowing rural populations which still constitute the majority in the DRC to continue with agricultural production will not only reduce unemployment and increase the Congolese cereals production and at the same time provide revenue to the government but it will also provide them ( rural population ) with enough to pay for their children school fees to prepare future managers of these agro-industrial parks. While building agro-industrial parks with an high rate of people living under the poverty line will not solve food security since money is one requirement to purchase a product.

## **7. References**

- Brüntrup, M. and Heidhues, F. (2002). Subsistence Agriculture in Development: Its Role in Processes of Structural Change. [online] pp.1-4. Available at: [https://entwicklungspolitik.uni-hohenheim.de/uploads/media/DP\\_0\\_2002\\_Bruentrup\\_03.pdf](https://entwicklungspolitik.uni-hohenheim.de/uploads/media/DP_0_2002_Bruentrup_03.pdf) [Accessed 10 Mar. 2016].
- Dang, G. and Sui Pheng, L. (2015). *Infrastructure Investments in Developing Economies: The Case of Vietnam*. Singapore: Springer, pp.12-13.
- FAO, (2005). The State of Food and Agriculture. *FAO*, [online] pp.80-82. Available at: [http://ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/008/a0050e/a0050e\\_full.pdf](http://ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/008/a0050e/a0050e_full.pdf) [Accessed 9 Mar. 2016].
- Malthus, T. (1798). *An Essay on the Principle of Population, as it affects the future improvement of Society; with remarks on the speculations of W. Godwin, M. Condorcet and other writers*. London, pp.3-5.
- Rakotoarisoa, M., Iafrate, M. and Paschali, M. (2011). *Why has Africa become a net food importer?*. Rome: FAO, pp.19-27, 65-66.
- Regmi, A. (2001). *Changing structure of global food consumption and trade*. [Washington, D.C.]: Economic Research Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, pp.14-29.