Beer-Banana value chains in Eastern DR Congo: Importance for Livelihoods
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In partnership with:
Introduction

• Bananas constitute a key crop for smallholder farmers in North and South Kivu provinces of Eastern DR Congo.

• The majority of bananas produced are beer-type varieties which are primarily processed into banana-beer for income generation.

• The omni-presence of the crop suggests it is important for farmers’ livelihoods. Yet research, regulation and investment in these value chains is limited if not non-existent.
Sample

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Producers</th>
<th>Processor</th>
<th>Traders</th>
<th>Retailers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F  M</td>
<td>F  M</td>
<td>F  M</td>
<td>F  M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>(55) (80)</td>
<td>(52) (56)</td>
<td>(40) (32)</td>
<td>(47) (26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households’ Land Ownership in %</td>
<td>67 80 50 86 43 56 36 58</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Land personally owned or co-owned in %</td>
<td>51 76 35 77 28 56 26 46</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Average size farmland in Ha (95 percentile)</td>
<td>0.7 1.5 0.7 0.7 0.4 0.5 0.7 0.8</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Conclusions

• Beer-banana products provide livelihoods for both farming and non-farming rural actors.

• Roles and activities in the VC know a high degree of gender-specificity with some activities being only conducted by either sex.

• Margins are very variable and high losses occur for all categories of VC actors.

• At the same time beer-banana processing and sales of products is one of the few agri-business opportunities available, especially to rural actors with no or limited access to farm land.
Thank you

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