

COUNTRY : GABON

PROJECT NAME: SIAT GABON AGRICULTURAL EXPANSION

SECTOR: AGRICULTURE

CONTRIBUTION OF ADB: EURO 10 MILLION

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The expansion project involves the following components: (i) Oil Palm: Establishing a new 4,250-ha and replanting 1,500-ha oil palm plantation in Bindo; Replanting a 750-ha oil palm plantation in Zilé; replanting a 1,000-ha oil palm plantation in Makouké; modernizing a palm oil mill and palm kernel crushing plant in Makouké; expanding the capacity of the palm oil refinery in Lambaréné from 50 tpd to 75 tpd; modernizing the soap manufacturing plant in Lambaréné; increasing the capacity of palm oil storage tanks in Lambaréné and Port Gentil by 3,000 tonnes. (ii) Rubber: Replanting 4,100-ha nucleus rubber plantations in Bitam and Mitzié; supporting a 2,000-ha outgrower rubber scheme; and establishing a new crumb rubber line with a capacity of 40 tpd in Mitzié.

PROJECT ADVANTAGES

The project has made considerable contribution to the socio economic development in Woleu Ntem and Moyen-Ogooué provinces. In effect, it has created six townships dotted with over 900 houses for the workers. In addition, Siat Gabon has established “Cités cadres” with a total of 200 houses for senior staff, supervisors and skilled workers in the project area. Development of housing infrastructure for workers is consistent with plantation operations. The settlement of these employees and their dependants has led to the repopulation of the communities with over 12,000 inhabitants in periods of normal activities, thereby helping curb rural-urban migration.

The company has provided support in constructing eleven primary schools in the project area and neighbouring communities. Teachers are seconded from the Ministry of Education and are provided free housing by Siat Gabon. The schools have a combined enrolment of about 800 pupils. During the current school year, the Gabonese Ministry of Education extended the number of years required for primary education from four to five years. Siat Gabon also operates five clinics to meet the health care needs of the workers in the project area. Resident nursing staff is employed by the company to provide 24-hour services.