

UNIVERSITY OF HOHENHEIM
INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING IN
TROPICS AND SUBTROPICS

Prof. Dr. K. Köller

UNIVERSITY OF DSCHANG CAMEROON
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

Dr. J.E. Berinyuy

Diploma Thesis
for
cand. agr. Ignatius Halle Ekane

Potentials and Limitations for the Production and Processing of Oil Palm
Products in South-West Province of Cameroon

This Thesis was sponsored by
Eiselen-Stiftung, Ulm

8. Conclusion

The oil palm has, through natural resources and environment of production, found an ecological niche in the SWP-Cameroon. This regional comparative advantage due to natural environment brings with it a significant value for the crop, oil palm as a commodity system. The importance of this crop lies in its utility generating potential in the various sectors of the economy. The plant is very important in the national diet, contributes enormously as raw material for other industries, serves as a source of income for many farmers and intermediaries and also has the ability to earn foreign exchange for the national economy.

Various technologies and equipment have been developed to assist in the process of pre-production, production, transformation, distribution and marketing of the various products directly or indirectly derived from the plant. Multi-institutions are involved in the multi-disciplinary circles and aspects of production which goes alongside the multiplier effect achieved in the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors of the economy. Interdependence of the components involves different participants functioning at diverse points of the system. This include the public and private sectors whose decisions and services normally determine the economic efficiency of processes and activities taking place at any particular point. The efficiency of the system is in direct relationship to the efficiency and effectivity of the support services received by the diverse participants. These services which might be institutional (farmers, intermediaries, ministries, bankers, extensionist, researchers, etc.) and functional (transport, storage, infrastructure, communication, information etc.) in nature serve as facilitating services which improve productivity and product quality and also assure appropriate distribution and marketing of products.

Regional development within the SWP-Cameroon reflects the intensity of institutional and functional services provided by the public and private sectors of the economy. The infrastructure and communication network within the province secludes most regions from the national and international production and marketing possibilities. Institutional and functional services do not in most cases satisfactorily march the demand of producers of oil palm and related products. With these socio-economic constrains, the ability of participants in this commodity system to improve on their economic incentives is very limited. With failure to earn adequate returns for their efforts, most of these regions are pre-destined to remain in a subsistence economy or loss their population to urban areas. These aspects greatly affect and limit the exploitation of the various potentials of the oil palm.

To improve the efficiency and effectivity of the oil palm commodity system information, knowledge, technology and other resources should be made available to participants and risk in production and marketing should be reduced. Any successful attempt to improve the efficiency and effectivity in production of oil palm and related products requires an intergrated effort of the public and private sectors.¹⁰

¹⁰ end of: 8. Conclusion