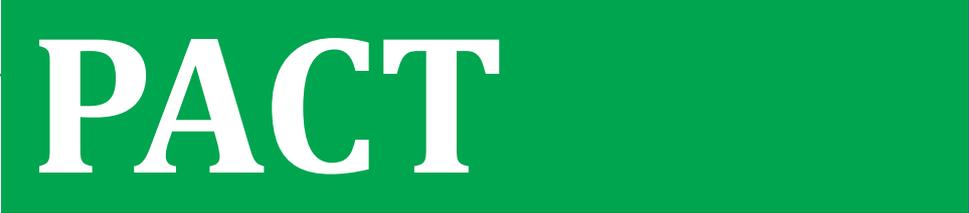


Republic of Cameroon

# 2011 Presidential Elections

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**PACT**

**FOR RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

Between  
**Candidates & Voters**

# Preamble

The rural development agreement is a chart for the development of our villages and agriculture. It makes concrete proposals of that if they are applied, then will not only substantially ameliorate the lives of Cameroonians but also the national economy through the rural development in general and agriculture in particular.

*The pact is produced by,*

**FARMERS' ACTIONS:** is an association without any political or confessional belonging with the main objective to defend farmers' interest

**ACDIC:** Citizen Association for the Defense of Collective Interests is an association without any political and confessional belonging with the aim of defending collective interests.

**COSAC:** Food Sovereignty Coalition, a coalition of fifty Cameroon based associations with the aim of promoting food sovereignty in Cameroon

These associations in ad equation with of their main objectives wrote this agreement for candidates for the 2011 presidential elections.

They are waiting for a formal engagement of candidates to put in application these prepositions during the next seven years once they are elected.

The associations are engaged for their part to publicly support the candidates who will agree and sign the pact. They will gradually evaluate on November every year the degree of realization of these recommendations and they will publish results.

They are engaged to individually fight against corruption, embezzlement at the local, regional and national levels, and laziness, idleness in the extension services of agriculture.

# Elements of context

## CAMEROON: Africa in miniature

- **With** 475 000 square km of area this 31% of pasture 45 % of dense forest and swamp 9% forestry reserve and national park 15% of arable soil with only 1/3 used
- **With** a global population of 19.9 millions of habitants , 50,6% of women and 50% of youth
- **With** a rural population of 10.2 millions these 5,3 million are farmers and 5 millions are neither active nor passive ( 4,5 millions of youth 500 000 old)
- **With** five big ecological area: a non modal fusty zone, a monomodal and bimodal forestry zone, a soudano sahelian zone, a higher altitude zone.

**This is why  
Cameroon is  
called "Africa in  
miniature"**

## CAMEROON: a land of agriculture

- **Because** Cameroon rural milieu, rich with the diversity of its ecosystem and agro pastoral culture, with huge agro-sylvo-pastoral assets that can enable Cameroon to be the spearhead of a sustainable growth and lead the economy of the Central Africa sub region .
- **Because** agriculture contributes to over 35% of the GDP formation.
- **Because** agriculture occupies 67% of the population , the first sector of employment and a great source of incomes.
- **Because** women are the majority in the population and has a considerable place in the process of producing, transforming and commercializing of agricultural production.
- **Because** agriculture is useful in the fight against poverty and play a key role in food security.
- **Because** In Cameroon over 60% of poor live in rural milieu owing to agro pastoral activities.
- **Because** both farming and livestock are not only useful to occupy the population but also support other industrial activities around the territory and assure the economic development.

- **Because** consumers are exposed to sanitary risks caused by the worst quality of imported products
- **Because** Cameroonians deserve good quality of food generously offered to them by their land diversity
- **Because** agriculture is the foundation of economic growth and societal stakes
- **Because** agriculture is the base of the national economy, the foundation of its development, essential for employments, incomes generating and food security of the population
- **Because** local consumption is a priority for farming houses.

**The development of rural milieu which comes from the farming development has to be our main guide to make any future political choice.**

## **FAMILY EXPLOITATION: the heart of Cameroon agriculture**

- **Because** 97% of farms in Cameroon (5 200 000 over 5 300 000 family exploitations) are small size farms, maximum 1 ha,
- **Because** 95 % of foodstuff consumed in Cameroon are produced by family exploitation
- **Because** almost 80 % of the production coming from the family exploitation are locally consumed
- **Because** the increase of this farm production contributes to the growth of the harvested sailing part and then increase the offer in the market depending on the international speculation on agricultural raw material
- **Because** these exploitations are more efficient unit of production in productivity or employment potential, sustainable management of the environment than great area of exploitation
- **Because** all studies and analysis have come to the conclusion that:
  - *« Using agriculture as any economical growth in farming countries need a certain revolution in term of producing in less important framing exploitations »* A small outcome with these small farmers is more important as far as the increase of production is concerned due to their number.
  - *« The amelioration of the productivity sustainably returns of small farming exploitation is the main mean to eradicate poverty” ».*
  - *« The incomes of small farming exploitations are for a higher necessity, because they are the base of the national economic growth is the main mean to eradicate poverty and contribute to the food insecurity and food sovereignty ».*
- The FA, Adic and Cosac are formal. They think that family exploitations are the only way to develop our agriculture.

# The Perception

- **An agriculture** based on the efficacy and efficiency of family exploitations
- **An agriculture** which permit food security and provide descent incomes to farmers
- **An agriculture** which contributes for the build of diversified and sustainable ecosystem
- **An agriculture** which is able to ameliorate the life condition of farmers
- **An agriculture** which provides quality food to consumers at a reasonable and equitable price

# General objective

- To contribute in sustainable manner for the amelioration of population food need, the socio economical growth.
- To promote agriculture which participates for the production and the share of incomes, to the fight against poverty and inequality between regions and Cameroonians?

# Specific objectives

- Guarantee a food security to the population where they work and live.
- Reduce the national food dependence for a perspective of food sovereignty.
- Create economic activities which can contribute to ameliorate the life condition of population and also services in rural milieu.
- Adopt appropriate financing mechanism.
- Sustainably intensify efficient system of the production that generate biodiversity.

# Propositions

## A. How to ameliorate the productivity of family exploitation?

Amelioration can come from the following propositions :

### 1. FACILITATE THE ACCESS TO THE FACTOR OF PRODUCTION

#### Give horde seed to farmers

Over 80% of small farmers lack horde seed ( quality, quantity and diversity) during farming season . Provide them horde seed without being genetically modified in great quantity at the right time and include farmers in their production in a network for exchange with the support of research.

#### Give them fertilizers and pesticides

Small farmers in majority ignore fertilizers (chemical , organics and other) Provide them these pesticides and fertilizers at the right time in the respect of environmental norm will increase their production. The objective to maintain and increase the land agronomic potential has to prevail.

#### Recapitalize the rural milieu

Facilitate the access to financial capital to farmers has to be essential

#### Facilitate the access to land property

The frightens coming from land monopole by foreigners, external and local elite are real. The land security is a dynamic factor of the family exploitation productivity.

### 2. Ameliorate the cultural techniques and farming equipments.

LesFarming inputs which ever they are need some usage ignored by farmers. Teaching

them those techniques and their use will sustainably increase their productivity. Same can be said on the equipments.

### 3. Ameliorate the conservation techniques and product transformation

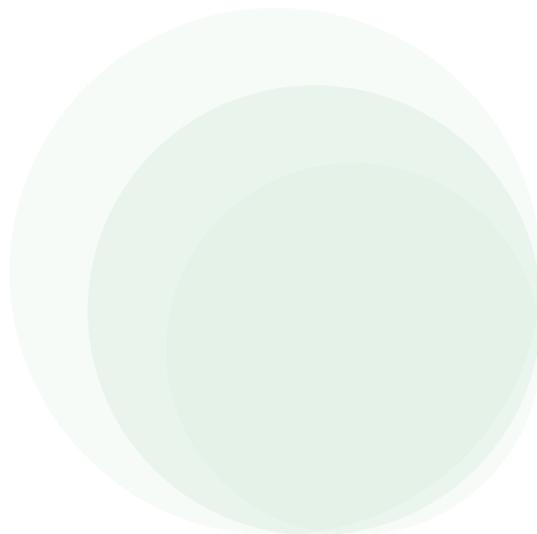
A good use of product transformation and conservation can avoid the lost after harvesting which sometimes reaches 30%. It can add a value to this production.

### 4. Ameliorate and facilitate access to the markets

« *Sell before you produce* » as it is rightly said. Assure small farmers of the commercialization of their product will encourage them to improve on the productivity and production.

#### Note

- The first two proposition aim at improving the productivity while the last one explain the amelioration of incomes of farmers. This will encourage to produce more and enable Cameroon to ameliorate its Trade balance
- With the experience acquired in family exploitation the farmers can easily move to the **middle farming exploitation**



## B. How to perform these propositions?

### 1. CREATE PROMOTING POLE OF CULTURE OF SUBSISTENCE (PPCS)

- Farmers should have facilities and mastered factors of production so to ameliorate their production. These poles are equipped in drying method, stockade equipment, stock of input and farming means and a personal staff.
- It will be a modest structure that varies according to the area to be covered, to the density of rural exploitations or the objectives assigned to them. We find everywhere in rural milieu and they can be linked to other stimulating measures for farmers and staffs.
- These poles will accompany farmers like SODECOTON for cotton and SODECAO with cocoa are doing. Therefore the centers will vary according to sectors. Subsistence crops societies belonging to state will become farming cooperatives that they build themselves.

#### N.B.

Our proposals take into account the main role women play, not only in the technical management of the farms but also in the management of food crops

#### Characteristics of a centre of promoting subsistence crops

- Area of competence: 75 to 100 km
- 50 to 75 000 of farmers to accompany
- Estimate cost of the centre: CFA 400 millions
- Estimate annual budget: CFA 200 millions
- **Total cost of the centre in the first year: CFA 600 millions.**

#### Objective for the next seven years

##### 8 PPCS created :

- Centre region : 2
- South region : 2
- East region : 2
- LittoralRégion : 2

**The corresponding budget for the next seven years: CFA 11 billion**

## 2. ENLARGE THE VARIETY OF CULTURE

Looking at the subsistence crops in Cameroon we realize that we can have diversified plants: maize; groundnuts, cassava, banana, plantains, beans, potatoes.

However nowhere in Cameroon these products are controlled yet every one of them has its agro ecological zone. For example: we know that the zone of Adamaoua is for yams, but nobody can exactly master the number of farmers, their difficulties and advantages of their productive zone, yet we export every year tones of yams to Nigeria.

Specialize productions zones will enable us to:

- Identify and know the producers in order to support them
- Plan the production according to demands and opportunities
- Exploit efficiently the natural potential of the ecosystem
- Put in place research unit, and also production and transformation units
- Put in place equipments and infrastructures to boost production.

### Characteristic of the centre

- Area of competence: division
- 100 to 500 000 of farmers
- Estimate cost : CFA 450 millions
- Functioning budget: CFA 150 millions
- **Total cost of the centre per year : CFA 600 millions**

### Objective for the next seven years

#### Eleven centres to be created :

- The Far North: 2 (rice, soya beans, oignons, beans)
- The North region: 2 (groundnuts, oignon, beans)
- The Adamaoua region: 2 (yams)
- The West region: 2 (maize, beans, potatoes)
- The Centre region : 2 (yams, plantains)
- The North -West region: 2 (maize, potatoes)

**The corresponding budget for the next seven years is CFA 12 billions**

### **3. INSTITUTE SUBSIDIES IN TERMS OF: BONUS FOR PRODUCTION, BONUS FOR COMMERCIALIZATION, BONUS FOR CONSERVATION/TRANSFORMATION**

This bonus will help us to have a production equal to the means engaged for its realization depending on the pursuing goals. Moreover we encourage bonus for conservation, transformation and even commercialization depending on the objectives we want to achieve. The rural milieu is in need of finance to increase its production. Let us agree that it is quite necessary to subsidize small farmers. Necessary measures shall be taken with a system of “quota” to make sure business farmers do not overshadow small farmers during the share of this finance backing. A bank can therefore be created, administrated by a pluri actor team to rule bonuses.

#### **Characteristic of an agency**

- Para state bank
- blending Administrative board: public and private farmers
- work under a performing contract with the government

#### **Objective for the next seven years**

- Creation of an agency during the first year of the mandate
- Operational during the second year with an annual budget of 10 billions

**The corresponding budget for the next seven years is CFA 60 billions**

### **4. LAUNCH GREAT FARMING PROJECT**

The instauration of enriched bread in local flours: maize, potatoes, coco yams and the launching of finance backing program to produce many job and economy currencies possibilities and ameliorating farmer’s production.

For example: a presidential decree which allow a blend of 10% of local flour in the process of bread consuming in Cameroon is equal to:

- CFA 5.5 billions of currencies
- 35 000 tones of tubercular
- 40 000 jobs twice the 25 000 promised by the Head of State.

## Characteristic of a farming project

- Area of competence: 75 to 100 km
- 50 to 75 000 of farmers
- Estimate cost: CFA 500 millions
- Annual functioning budget: CFA 200 millions
- **Total cost of a farming project per year: CFA 700 millions**

## Objective for the next seven years

### **Eight farming projects to be created: :**

- The Centre region: 2 (cassava and plantains)
- The Adamaoua region: 2 (potatoes)
- The West region: 2 (maize)
- The South West region: 1 (cassava)
- The South region: 1 (manioc)

**The corresponding budget is seven billions.**

## 5. CREATE A PROMOTING AGENCY OF LOCAL PRODUCT AND OF CONTROL OF IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS

In year 2011 the importation of foodstuffs is astonishing:

- 280 000 tones of rice for the first semester instead of 360 000 tones during the whole last year,
- 130 000 tones of fish for CFA 85 billions instead of 160 000 in 2010
- 8 000 of milk for 13 CFA billions against 12 000 tones during the whole year 2010. Considering the fact that local products are rare, time is for worry, a kg of maize is CFA 250 against CFA 175 as the same time last year. The maize is the only product with only 3000 tones imported this semester of 2011, against 15 000 tones last year

**The functioning budget for the next seven years is CFA 5 billions**

## **6. CREATE AN AGENCY OF FIGHT AGAINST DEVIANCES (CORRUPTION, EMBEZZLEMENT, IDLENESS, LAZINESS ETC...) IN STRUCTURES OF SUPERVISING FARMERS.**

We know that the structure in charge of farming milieu is a corrupted environment. These practices are well known so that every body, even the farmers themselves, is concerned. For example the production cost of a kg of maize by the maize program in the ministry of agriculture is four or five times higher than out of the project, sometimes with the complicity of farmers. Certainly if these deviances are not fought, any initiative aiming at ameliorating family exploitation will fail.

**The functioning budget of the agency during the next seven years is CFA 4 billions.**

**Estimate cost of the pact during the next seven years: CFA 100 billions**

**THUS  
15 billions per year**

### **Financing sources**

- The budget of the Ministry of agriculture for the year 2011 was CFA 71 billions,
- Now, that ministry rules projects of over CFA 210 billions
- The reduction of 5% annual importation of rice, fish, and wheat economizes CFA 18 billions per year, cheaper than the 15 billions of the annual budget of the pact.

# C. Regional potentialities

Regions	Global population 2011	Rural population 2011	Active rural population	Area km <sup>2</sup>	Density per km <sup>2</sup>	Well adapted cultures	Proposed project
Adamaoua	1 048 000	641 000	<u>300 000</u>	63 700	13.9	Potatoes, yams, maize, mil, sorgho	Farming project (potatoes); centres of production
Centre	3 628 00	1 020 000	<u>300 000</u>	64 000	44.9	Maize, cassava, plantains; pineapple	PPCS
East	809 000	514 000	<u>600 000</u>	100 000	7.1	Cassava, plantains, maize, comcombre	PPSC(maize)
Far North	3 575 000	2 760 000	<u>250 000</u>	34 000	90.8	Oignon, mil, sorgho, groundnuts, rice, beans	C.S.C (Oignon, mil, sorgho, groundnuts, rice, beans)
Littoral	2 952 000	218 000	<u>1 200 000</u>	20 000	124	Maize, pepper, plantains, fruits	CSC (pepper, plantains, fruits)
North-West	1 830 000	1 547 000	<u>150 000</u>	66 000	25.5	Oignon, mil, sorgho, groundnuts, soy beans	CSP( mil, oignon, groundnuts, soy beans)
west	1 810 000	1 151 000	<u>600 000</u>	14 000	99.9	Potatoes, maize, beans, plantains, truck farming	CSP (Potatoes, maize, beans, plantains, truck farming)
South	703 000	451 000	<u>600 000</u>	47 000	123.8	Potatoes,maize,b eans, plantains, truck farming	PPSC (cassava) FP
South-West	1 406 000	808 000	<u>500 000</u>	26 000	13.4	maize, cassava, plantains	FP,PPCV (cassava)
North	2 136 000	1 547 000	<u>700 000</u>	66 000	51.8	cassava, plantains, coco yams, fruits	CSP) (cassava, plantains, soy beans, fruits)
Cameroon	19 896 000	10 187000	<u>5 300 000</u>	475 000	37.5		

**CSP** : Centre of Specialized Production

**FP** : Farming Project

**PPCS** : Promoting Pole of Culture of Subsistence

# ENGAGEMENT CERTIFICATE

I undersigned, .....

Of the (political party) .....

.....,

Candidate for 2011 presidential election in Cameroon, I hereby attest by the present that I read "the rural development pact". I therefore engage myself to realize all the propositions of this pact if I am elected next October.

Done in ....., the .....

Signature

