

**OVERVIEW OF BEEF PRODUCTION IN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

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**ABSTRACT**

Democratic Republic of Congo has a very dense river network, a climate and soil diversity that allow it to adapt to climate change. It accounts 90 million hectares of pastures. Which pastures can breed 40 million head of cattle and producing 1.5 million tons of bovine meat per year. Paradoxically, these potentialities remains under exploited, around 2.3% of the national potential in beef production and imports 200 000 tones of meat yearly.

The research has described Congolese beef production to contribute to the development of beef industry.

The results show that cattle population has increased by 20% from 2010 to 2014. at the same time, beef consumption is decreasing dramatically around 93.1%.

While the beef price of local beef is growing significantly, the price of imported beef remained stable but import is decreasing.

Given its geographical position, with nine countries and belongs to several African economic areas, DRC has great potential in cattle breeding and great adaptability to climate change, so the promotion and development of the beef industry is a great opportunity for DRC in terms of economic exchanges. Also the increase of local beef price offer great opportunity for the development of local beef industry.

**Keywords:** Description, Beef, Production, DR Congo

**Introduction**

**Presentation of DRC**

Located in the heart of Africa and straddles the equator, Democratic Republic of Congo cover around 2 345 095 square kilometer, with nine neighboring countries (such as Republic of Congo, Republic of Central Africa, South Soudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Zambia, Angola) [1].



**Figure 1: Location of DRC on the globe [22]**

DR Congo has a variety of vegetation such as mangroves, mountain vegetation, big equatorial forest and savannas; it has also a soil and climatic diversity (mountain climate, equatorial climate and tropical climate) [1] that allow it to adapt to climate change.



**Figure 2: Vegetation and Climate map of DRC [23]**

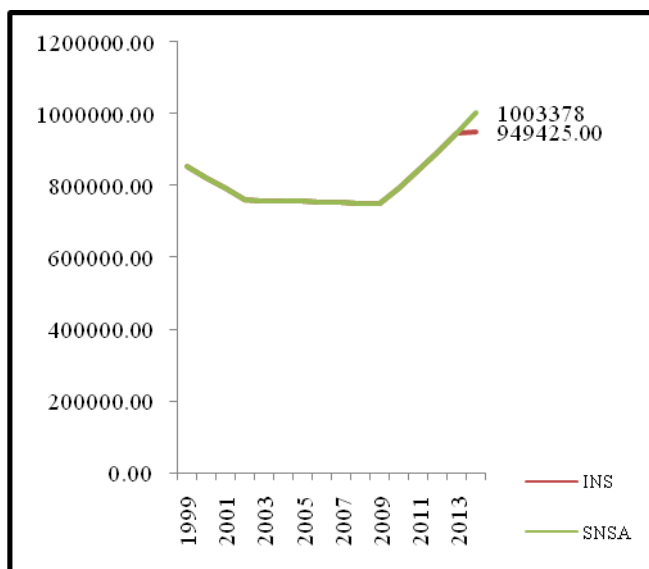
### **Potential for Cattle Breeding**

DR Congo account 90 million hectares of pastures. Which pastures can support 40 million cattle heads per year in extensive livestock breeding, which can produce 1.5 million tons of bovine

meat per year [2]-[3]. But these potentialities remain under exploited. Congolese natural grazing capacity is ONE UTC or 0.5 LU per hectare (UTC: unit of tropical cattle, reference 250 kg live weight and LU: livestock unit, reference 500 kg live weight).

Capacity of improved grazing is ONE LU per hectare or TWO UTC [4].

**Cattle Population in DRC**



**Figure 3: Cattle Population in DRC [5]-[6]**

The national cattle population decreased from 852 812 head in 1999 to 751 200 head in 2009 (decrease of 12 % in **ten** years). In 2010 cattle population started to increase again to reach 949 425 heads in 2014 (increase of 20% in **five** years).

Cattle population is less than country's potential, about 2.3% of the national potential (that is 40 million heads) [5]-[6].

**Beef production in DRC**

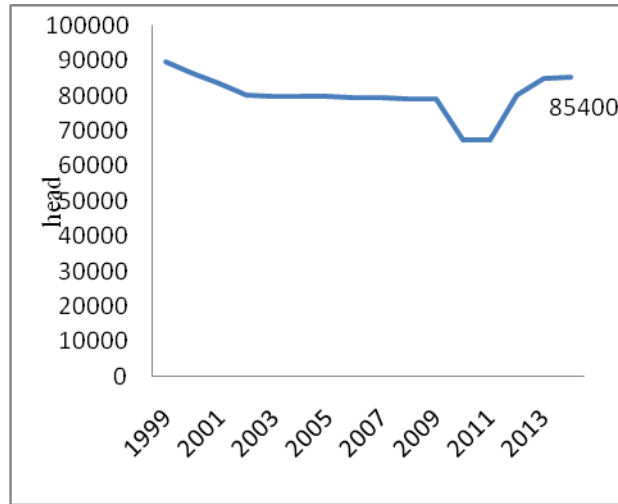


Figure 4: Cattle production [6]

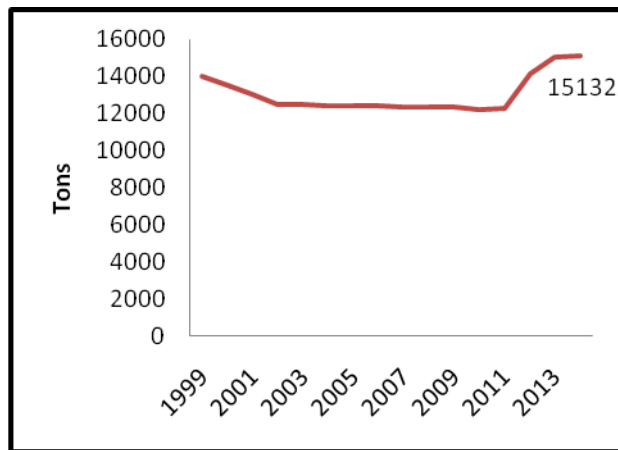


Figure 5: Beef production [6]

**Main Provinces Breed Cattle in DRC**

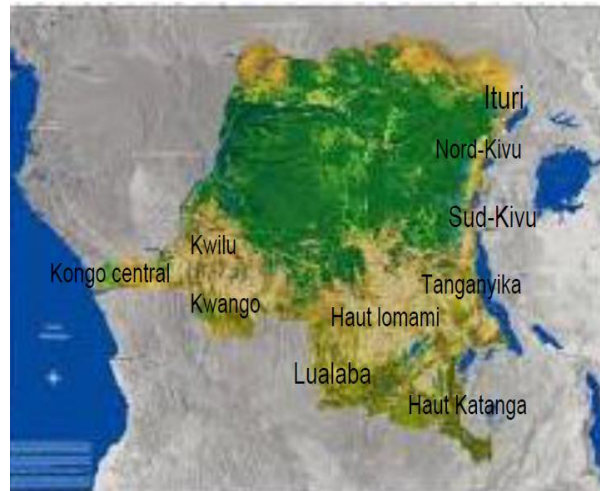


Figure 6: Main Provinces Breed Cattle in DRC [6]

Location of cattle breed in DRC

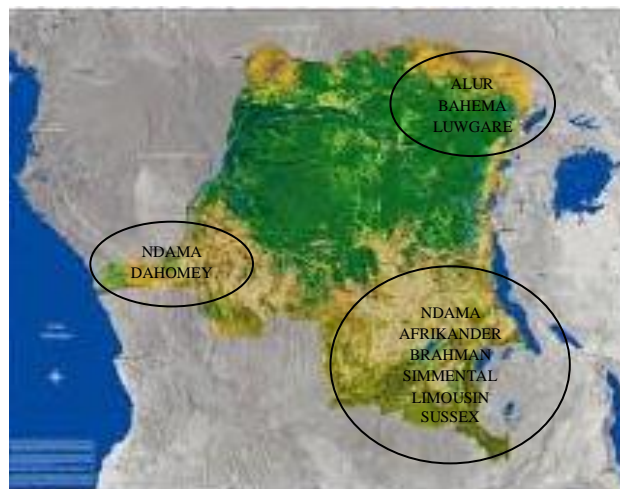


Figure 7: Location of cattle breed in DRC [8]-[9]-[10]-[11]-[12]-[13]

Cattle breed in DRC

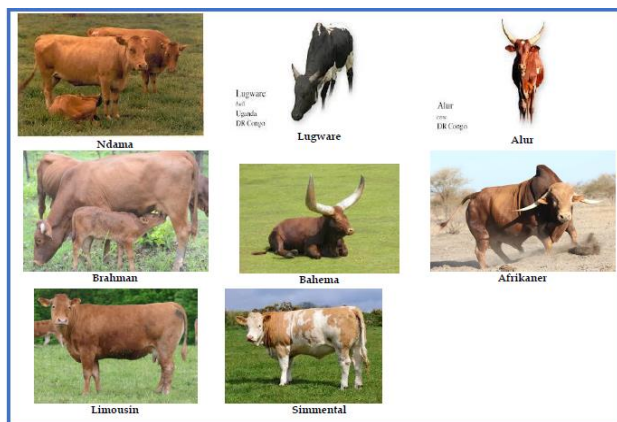


Figure 8: Cattles breed in DRC [8]-[9]-[10]-[11]-[12]-[13]

## Livestock system

### Traditional livestock

Traditional livestock is practicing by small farms with few livestock units. This "breeding" is practiced not primarily for eating, but rather as **a sort of savings bank to solve social problems** such as palaver, school fees, Health, celebrations, funeral expenses, wedding expenses etc.

This type of breeding is characterized by:

- Not administration of others components,
- Inaccessibility to the veterinary services [16].
- Breeders organize themselves in association or cooperative. **Nineteen** cooperatives livestock farming in North Kivu and several other associations and cooperatives scattered throughout the country [4]-[8]-[14].

### Industrial breeding

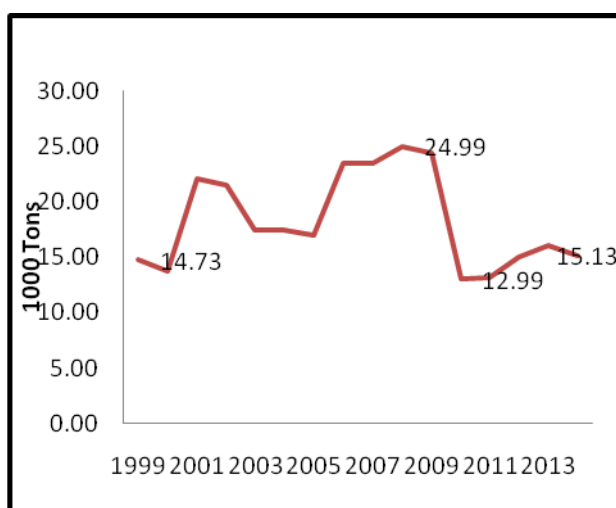
This type of breeding:

- Is practicing by large enterprises, religious communities and privacy enterprises.
- Is using "ranching" [9].
- Have an important animal numbers,
- Have larger area of grassland used
- Use improvement of grassland
- Use veterinary care [15].

Some industrial farms in DRC:

- JVL , - CAE , - ORGAMAN GROUP, - HONORABLE KAHENGA SOMPO JOSEPH , - GREAT LIVESTOCK SOCIETY GEL (MATEBA), -MONASTERE OF KASANZA , - SAC, - SEC , - MESTRIAU, - COMMUNITY OF KASANZA, - NGEZAYO GROUP, - PLANTATION KABIRA OF KALEHE, - MH INTERNATIONAL, - FATHERS SALVATORIENS, - ELGYMA, - BAZANO MINING GROUP, - GRELKAT, - SEDACOKIPIRI, - ONDE , - BAZANO FARMING, - LIVESTOCK OF HAUT LOMAMI , - FUTUKA FARM, - CDA, NUMBER ONE , - AGROPASTORAL DOMAIN ESPOIR, - MIKEMBE FARM, - ETS MUSUBE, - BEJIN FARM, - GEMBO FARM, - ASYST, - DOMAINE OF SOURCES, - FERMIL FARM, - NAVIUNDU FARM, - OELU (COMMERCIAL COOPERATIVE OF LUBERO’S BREEDERS) [14]-[17].

**Beef consumption**



**Figure 9: National consumption [Own calculation, 2017]**



**Figure 10: Annual Consumption per capita [Own calculation, 2017]**

Beef is a high-end product that most Congolese households consume during the festivities.

Actually the average consumption is 0.22kg / capita a year, which was 3.2 kg in 1974. A dramatic decrease around 93.1%

Congolese beef consumption is 30 times less than world beef consumption that is 6.5Kg/capita [24].

The need for animal proteins is compensated by game, wild insects, fish and wild birds.

Consumption of game meat is estimated at 12.8 kg / capita a year and remains most important than farmed meat consumption [16].

**Beef price**

The beef price remains relatively stable before 2006 and there was steady increase between 2006 and 2015 [7]-[19].

In 2016, local meat price increased dramatically [18].

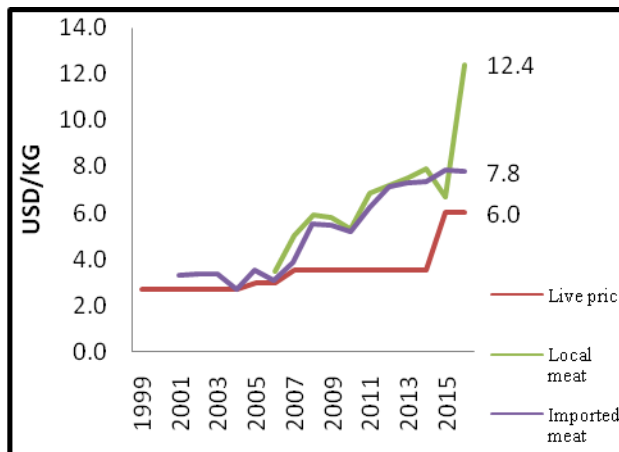


Figure 11: Beef price [7]-[18]-[19]

**Import and export**

**Import**



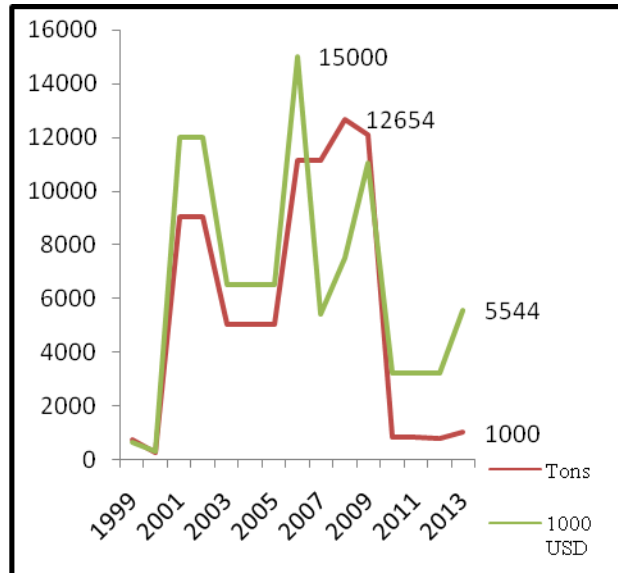


Figure 12: Import [21]

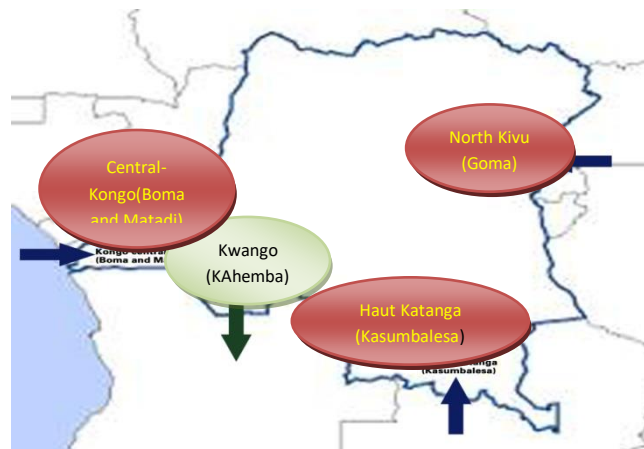


Figure 13: Import- Export [20]-[21]

DRC import:

- Frozen offal, Kappa meat and lower grade carbonates from Brazil, Argentina, South Africa and the European Union [20].
- Buffalo meat from Indian.
- Live animals from Rwanda via Goma.

**EXPORT**

DRC exports live animals to Angola.

**Perspective**

Given its geographical position, DRC shares these borders with nine countries and belongs to several African economic areas, SADEC, CEPGL, ECCAS, and COMESA.

The DRC has great potential in cattle breeding and great adaptability to climate change, so the promotion and development of the meat industry is a great opportunity for DRC in terms of economic exchanges

The specialization and organization of beef industry in different sectors such as cow calf, fattener or feedlot and slaughter is important to improve beef industry.

The increase of local meat price offer great opportunity for local beef industry.

Nowadays, many Universities are organizing veterinary faculty and animal science around the country, that can provide professionals and researchers on cattle breeding and beef production.

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