FONDAZIONE
BANCO DI SICILIA

Agro-Industrial Park Project

Mission
Implementation of **an integrated agro-fishing Industrial Park** designed for the local market and for the exportations.
The park is supposed to be a pioneer project that can be extended to other countries.

The choice of the agro-industrial raises from several considerations such as:
- The field is considered priority by many African reporters met during the African missions and by African ambassadors in Italy and appreciated all across Europe.
- Public and private partnerships have been carried out by several Countries in order to draw investments.
- There are several important assets in Sicily in the agro-industrial field (including the fishing one) as far as the financial operators and the research institutions are concerned.

Park Features:
Fishing-agro and zootechnical oriented and focused on the industrial transformation on the premises.
The option between the agro-zootecnichal production and the fishing one will depend on the Country.
- The production will be subject to the first African industrial transformation in order to develop the local industry.
- The Park shall be energy self-sufficient (hopefully through a renewable energy source), connected with a local infrastructure network and located near a transnational corridor in order to facilitate the exportations.
- The Park will have to be supported by the Governmernt of the selected Country, expecially in terms of building permits and tax concessions.

African Involved Countries:
Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi,Tanzania, Angola, South Africa, Namibia, Uganda.

This first group of Countries has been selected according to the following criteria:
- Existance of agriculture development programmes
- Proximity to transnational corridors
- Natural resources (waterways, lakes, sea access, etc.)
- Political stability

Only Zambia and Uganda have expressed their interest so far.

Park Activities:
- Agricoltural, fishing and farming produces.
  The produces' features are:
  - High level of nutritional power
  - They don't need many cures
  - Industrial transformation to favour the local market
  - Integration with the other Parks' needs
- Industrial products transformation
- Products storage (deep-frozen food preservation)
- Research and development (e.g. hibridization with the relevant production)
- Dealership and a private repair shop for tractors. Fertilizers and pesticides assistance.
- Produces marketing and promotion
- Food safety and quality check
- Training and know-how transfer

Means
This initiative is aimed at establishing a capital company with the purpose to develop and manage the Park.
Who can apply:
- African operators and farmers
- Foreign Operators:

    - Technology and machinery supplying
    - *Know-how* transfer
    - Park infrastructures
- Agricultural college, university and research centres
- African Governments
    - Building permits
    - Coherence with some other involved countries projects in order to fulfill food local needs.

Benefits
- Africa
    - Successful repeating pattern.
    - Resolution of serious nutritional problems
- Companies
    - Joining to a pilot project
    - Access to the African market on a favourable position

Context Data
Africa is characterized by a substainable agricolture with a very poor mechanization. This is one of the reason why the agricoltural productivity is low.
- **The 83% of the cultivable area (900 million hectare) has fertility problems.**
- In the Sub-saharian Africa the agricolture growing rate is less than 1%
- Only 1/3 of the irrigation potential is exploited

Furthermore:
- Sector investments reduction
- Agricolture aid decrease (3% 2007 vs. 17% 1980)
- Low expenditure of money: 4.5% of the total expense against a 10% target fixed by the African Union

On the whole, Africa lacks industrial transformation and structured agricoltural companies operating as a chain.

The main african agricolture requirements are:
- Creating a group of farmers to fulfill the local market's needs.
- Favouring the industrial trasformation development to increase the added value of goods
- Reduction of the agricoltural commodity exportations
- Market and demand access
- Logistic equipment implementation