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### **Training needs in the forest sector in the DRC**

The DRC has major forest resources capable of contributing significantly to its socio-economic development. The forest ecosystems cover around 54% of the country's surface and provide the populations on their fringes and in the cities with numerous products and services. The users of these resources are political and administrative players, private companies, inhabitants, NGOs, donors and OK actors in the field of training.

The current numbers of professionals and managers trained to be able to master the sustainable management of this heritage (fewer than 50 engineers) is under the real needs. The Canadian cooperation estimated recently that around 700 engineers and 2000 technicians are needed for 2005. This situation would be principally due to the closure of the forestry department within the Institut Facultaire des Sciences Agronomiques and the termination of the training project financed by the Canadian cooperation, as well as the mismatch between the needs of the users and the contents of the training programmes at levels A1, A2 and A3.

Conscious of this situation and wishing to remedy it, the current authorities asked for support from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to put in place a strategy to relaunch this education programme at all levels. The priority sites are:

- The Universities of Kinshasa and Kisangani and Agricultural Sciences Institute in Yangambi;
- The Higher Agricultural Institutes in Tshela and Mondoingo;
- The Technical Agricultural Institutes in Bafwasende and Seke-Banza.