

Professor Frédéric FRANCIS, Dean of the Faculty of Gembloux Agro Bio Tech (GxABT), University of Liège (Uliège), visits Ibi Village on Saturday September 24, 2022

Following his visit to the Yangambi Biosphere Reserve, where he visited the INERA Research Centre (formerly INEAC) and the Institut Facultaire des Sciences Agronomiques de Yangambi (IFA), Professor Frédéric FRANCIS, Dean of GxABT, visited the Ibi village site, where the DRC's first carbon sink is located in the savannahs of the Bakéke Plateau, some 120 km from downtown Kinshasa. He has been accompanied by the Academic and Research Secretary of ERAIFT, Professor Jean-Pierre MATE, former Dean of the Faculty of Management of Renewable Natural Resources (FGRNR) of the University of Kisangani (UNIKIS).

Locally, the Dean appreciated the efforts of the reforestation of Ibi Village using mainly Acacia trees associated with other local multi-purpose species, thus playing the role of production and service to the local communities.

In these agroforestry trials, particular attention is given to multi-purpose plants, especially melliferous plants used for honey production, a product much in demand by the urban population of Kinshasa.

In addition to sustained food crop production and improved incomes through various agroforestry trials, other multiplier effects of Ibi Village were presented to Professor Frédéric FRANCIS. Located near the Kinshasa city, on a main road, Ibi Village is an excellent site for learning practical agroforestry in situ. Thus, most of the university institutions, which organise training in the field of forest-environment, regularly send their students for practical observations on agroforestry and peasant organisation in Ibi.

ÉRAIFT sincerely thanks the GI-AGRO for hosting the event. It is also grateful to the GxABT campus for its support through its professors to ÉRAIFT. The same gratitude goes to the European Union and the Kingdom of Belgium for their renewed confidence and support, without forgetting Enabel for its support in the Yangambi landscape.



Professor Frédéric FRANCIS during his visit to Ibi village