

## **EDITORIAL**

Africa has enormous agricultural potential due to the diversity of its agro-ecological landscape which provides a wide variety of agricultural, livestock and fishery products. In addition, it has one of the richest subsoils in the world, not yet fully exploited. However, harvesting conditions, inadequate infrastructure and lack of know-how sometimes limit their conservation and/or processing. In addition, the existing processing structures do not always take into account the complete transformation of their raw materials. However, several studies have shown that the competitive advantage requires a strong consideration of this aspect in the analysis of the value chain, the main objective of which is to detect the points of the chain likely to bring additional economic value to the overall structure. Implementing a cascade of transformation methods, which typically results in new products, requires a good stakeholder management strategy and good business architecture.

Several research works have been carried out in Cameroonian laboratories in particular and in Africa in general on the valuation of soil and subsoil products. However, very few have been implemented on an industrial scale. Most of our products are still exported in the raw state, are processed outside and come back to us at prices not accessible to certain segments of the population. For more than thirty (30) years, we have been working in our university laboratories, in the development of improved techniques for the production of local resources, as well as for valuation through the processing and/or conservation of these resources. In addition, we have developed techniques to create more wealth, by designing processes to add value to by-products, producing energy, compost or animal feed from the waste generated, as well as designing appropriate processing aid equipment. But we notice that most of the results of this work remain in our drawers, or are piled up in the administrative services. They are only being used to support job search or change of grade files. We, academics, feel directly challenged by the call, the governmental instructions prescribed by the National Development Strategy 2020-2030 (NDS30), and we think it is time to leave our laboratories, and take charge to present and implement our laboratory results.

The LOREXP-2021 International Conference on the theme "Value Chains and Integral Transformations of Local Resources" is in line with the development objectives prescribed by the Cameroonian Government in the NDS30, which encourages the emergence of several small and medium-sized enterprises, in order to gradually replace imports with our local products. It recommends securing the internal market with our local products and, above all, considering industrial development geared towards exports. To this end, the NDS30 encourages the valuation of the soil and subsoil local resources, with a view to increase the gross domestic product, solve the problem of unemployment, fight against rural

exodus and security problems and hence, contribute to the enrichment, well-being and flourishing of the Cameroonian populations in particular and of Africa in general.

LOREXP 2021 edition, held at the University of Ngaoundere, from April 20 to 23, 2021, had the main objective of bringing together people and skills from various specialties, to share experiences and knowledge in the transformation of our resources. The aim was to exhibit the prototypes of the equipment and the new maintenance tools. Reflections on the orientations to be given to the training system in a university environment, relating to the professionalization of state universities, were carried out. The LOREXP-2021 Conference was marked by pre-conferences around the sub-themes developed and by parallel workshops, face-to-face and online. The workshops were led by groups of experts, made up of professionals and researchers, who assessed the quality of scientific papers and the scope of business projects. The Conference was structured around five sub-themes, presenting the achievable results of the research work, in order to respond to the government's call for the pooling of skills to create more wealth in our country. These sub-themes are:

- Sub-theme 1: Production of Sectors Upstream of the Transformation;
- Sub-theme 2: Integral Transformation of Soil Products;
- Sub-theme 3: Integral Transformation of Sub-Products;
- Sub-theme 4: Design Engineering and Transformation Equipment;
- Sub-theme 5: Business Management Strategy.

The work was presented in various forms: Pre-conferences, Research Articles, Short Communications, Posters and finally Business projects looking for technical support and/or accompaniment to take off. The entire work conducted during the conference is the subject of two books: a Book of Abstracts of three hundred and fifty-four pages and the Proceedings of the Conference, a document of one thousand one hundred and seventy pages, downloadable from the LOREXP website ([www.lorexp.org](http://www.lorexp.org)).

The Book of Abstracts begins with two chapters on the Opening Ceremony of the Conference and techniques for selecting submitted manuscripts. The following chapters are devoted to the summaries of the various Articles, Communications, Business plans, Corporate projects and Posters. Also present are the chapters on statistics, the overall assessment of the Conference by the speakers, information relating to the use of new information and communication technologies, deployed for the smooth running of the Conference. Finally, the last chapter on the Closing Ceremony, presents the Final Communiqué and the closing speeches. The LOREXP-2021 Conference Proceedings Book, meanwhile, consists of three chapters bringing together all the scientific contributions of the authors, selected by the Scientific Committee. The first chapter is devoted to Introductory Conferences, the second to Scientific Articles and

the third to Communications. In total, at the end of the selection, sixty-three (63) Articles, nineteen (19) Communications, thirty (30) Posters and twenty-two (22) Business projects were retained by the Scientific Committee. The two books end with the appendices, gathering all the information on the Organizing Committee, the Scientific Committee, the Reading Committee, the list of Authors of the works presented, useful information for possible collaborations, as well as some images of the LOREXP-2021 Conference.

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