



Bienvenue à la BFuture farm en République du Congo

RESULTS ACHIEVED BY THE BFUTURE FARM IN THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO PRESENTED AT BF S.P.A. HEADQUARTERS IN JOLANDA DI SAVOIA (FERRARA, ITALY)

One year after the project became operational, 6,000 hectares of land have been restored, with more than 1,000 hectares already under cultivation;

Construction is underway on the industrial hub, key infrastructure, training facilities and essential community services, including the area's first Health Centre and Maternity House;

A new water distribution network for agricultural and civil use is now operational, along with 20 kilometres of new roads, as well as the first 30-kilometre power line;

Approximately 450 people are currently employed;

During its first year of operations, the project has generated a socio-economic impact benefiting approximately 3,000 people;

The project is part of Italy's Mattei Plan for Africa, supporting the national strategy to strengthen agri-food ecosystems across the continent.

*Jolanda di Savoia (Ferrara), Italy, 16 July 2026 – Today, BF S.p.A.'s headquarters in Jolanda di Savoia hosted the event **Bienvenue à la BFuture Farm en République du Congo**, dedicated to presenting the results achieved by the first BFuture Farm, located in the village of Malolo, in the Niari region of the Republic of the Congo, approximately one year after the project was launched.*

The BFuture Farm project in the Republic of the Congo is part of Italy's **international development cooperation initiative based on an equal public-private partnership** under the framework of the **Mattei Plan for Africa**, and specifically within the **Action for the Strengthening of Agri-food Ecosystems in Africa (AREA)**. The initiative is co-financed by the **Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)**, with **CIHEAM Bari** acting as the knowledge partner and implementing body for the public component, and **BF International** as the private-sector partner, with the support of SACE and SIMEST.

The initiative is being developed in synergy with the Government of the Republic of the Congo and aims to **increase the country's food security and food sovereignty** through the implementation of sustainable and innovative agro-industrial projects, thereby addressing food security objectives and the challenges posed by climate change, while investing in human capital and stimulating the local economy. A particularly significant aspect of the project is its approach and implementation model. **The identified land – 10,000 hectares – has been granted under long-term concession by the competent authorities, in full compliance with local legislation.** This non-predatory approach ensures that **both land ownership and agricultural production remain under the control of the country itself**, contributing to improved food security and the well-being of its population.

"We are deeply proud of the work carried out and of the extraordinary results achieved in less than twelve months in the development of the BFuture Farm in the Republic of the Congo. This project is not simply an agricultural initiative, but a genuine agro-industrial infrastructure that, through integrated high-tech and digital platforms, provides a concrete response to the crucial challenges of food security in partner countries and resilience to climate change. What is currently being completed in Malolo demonstrates how modern agriculture can today, in addition to achieving significant improvements in people's quality of life, make a substantial contribution to fostering a healthy, balanced and regenerative relationship between the land, the source of our livelihood, and people," said **Federico Vecchioni, Executive Chairman of BF S.p.A. and Chief Executive Officer of BF International**. He added: *"The BFuture Farm project around the world, which will allow to create the world's largest global agri-food reserve, represents one of the finest expressions of the technical and engineering expertise of Made in Italy applied to the major challenges of our time."*

Italy's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Antonio Tajani, stated: *"The AREA Africa Programme, co-financed by MAECI and the BF Group and developed with the technical partnership of CIHEAM Bari, represents a concrete example of the renewed momentum that the relationship between Italy and Africa has experienced in recent years, including from an economic perspective, starting with the strategic challenge of the continent's food self-sufficiency. The initiative confirms the fundamental role of the private sector in development cooperation, bringing expertise, innovation and organisational capabilities to complement and strengthen public action. Our cooperation is more effective when it succeeds in involving the entire Italian system: institutions, businesses, universities, research centres and local communities. This is the direction we intend to continue pursuing by promoting partnerships capable of generating sustainable growth and delivering tangible benefits for both our African partners and Italy."*

Biagio Di Terlizzi, Director of CIHEAM Bari, commented: *"Through AREA Africa in the Republic of the Congo, CIHEAM Bari contributes to an institutional partnership serving the country's communities and institutions. Advanced training programmes for Congolese public officials, together with the enhancement of the skills acquired in Italy, represent a concrete lever for strengthening human capital and supporting widespread and sustainable socio-economic development. The planned investments in educational facilities, healthcare structures and scientific laboratories are also part of this vision: strengthening local capacities, generating benefits that extend beyond the area directly involved in the project, and responding to the real needs of the territory through continuous dialogue with local communities and institutions."*

In less than twelve months of operations, the Malolo farm has achieved significant progress both in agronomic terms and in terms of infrastructure and social development.

From a production perspective, a total of **6,000 hectares of land have been restored and rehabilitated**, of which more than **1,000 hectares are already under cultivation**. Agricultural activities currently employ **100 workers**, supported by **50 modern agricultural machines** already in operation. The soybean harvest has recently been completed. Agronomic management relies on an integrated digital platform combining satellite monitoring systems, weather stations and IoT sensors capable of providing real-time data for regenerative agriculture and decision support, with the aim of improving production and promoting climate-resilient agricultural practices.

The construction of a new water infrastructure, which continues to expand, has enabled the use of modern pivot irrigation systems for field operations. In addition, **the first four water points** have been completed and commissioned, specifically dedicated to supplying water to local communities.

Human resource development, capacity building and knowledge transfer are among the pillars of the BFuture Farm project. Developed together with CIHEAM Bari and through the expertise of BF Educational, a subsidiary of BF S.p.A., and the IASA – Institute of Advanced Science for Agriculture, the project includes **dedicated vocational training programmes in areas such as agriculture, mechanics and agro-industrial management**,

with the objective of transferring skills, creating qualified employment and fostering the development of local human capital.

Construction has also begun in recent months on the integrated, technologically advanced industrial hub, which will include storage facilities with **12 silos** dedicated to maize and wheat production, a drying facility, an area dedicated to livestock supply chains, a feed mill, a seed processing plant and a powdered milk production facility.

The development of the agro-industrial complex is progressing alongside the construction of essential infrastructure and services that are currently unavailable in the area. More than **20 kilometres of roads** serving the entire Malolo area have already been completed, together with the region's first **30-kilometre electricity network**. The renovation of the local school and the area's first **Health Centre** is at an advanced stage. This essential healthcare facility, located in an area previously lacking such services, will also include a **Maternity House** serving the local community, where women will be able to receive medical care under appropriate hygienic and healthcare conditions. Infrastructure supporting project personnel is also nearing completion, including **accommodation for 60 people**, a canteen capable of serving more than **100 meals per day**, a **sports centre and other supporting facilities**.

Overall, **350 workers** are currently engaged daily in construction activities across a total area of **5,300 square metres**.

To date, the BFuture Farm ecosystem has already generated a socio-economic impact benefiting approximately **3,000 people**.

In addition to **Federico Vecchioni**, Executive Chairman of BF S.p.A. and Chief Executive Officer of BF International, the speakers at the event, in order of appearance, were: **Elisa Trombin**, Mayor of Jolanda di Savoia; **Daniele Garuti**, President of the Province of Ferrara; **Vincenzo Gesmundo**, Chairman of BF International; **H.E. Henri Okemba**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Congo to Italy; **Biagio Di Terlizzi**, Director of CIHEAM Bari; **Giampaolo Silvestri**, Secretary General of AVSI; **Regina Corradini d'Arienzo**, Chief Executive Officer and General Manager of SIMEST; **Antonio Buonfiglio**, General Manager of Fondazione Enasarco; **Roberto Diacetti**, General Manager of ENPAIA; **Michele Pignotti**, Chief Executive Officer and General Manager of SACE; and **Vincenzo Colla**, Vice President of the Emilia-Romagna Region.

The event concluded with institutional remarks by **Antonio Tajani**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

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B.F. S.p.A. is a holding company listed on the Italian Stock Exchange. Through its subsidiaries, the Company operates across the entire Italian agri-food value chain, from the selection, processing and marketing of seeds (through S.I.S. Società Italiana Sementi S.p.A.), to the ownership of agricultural land from which 100% Made in Italy agricultural

products are grown (through Bonifiche Ferraresi S.p.A. Società Agricola, Italy's largest agricultural company by Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA), and BF Agricola S.r.l. Società Agricola), and their processing and marketing (through B.F. Agro-Industriale S.r.l.) under its proprietary consumer brand Le Stagioni d'Italia or in partnership with Italy's leading large-scale retail chains. The Company is also active in the market for the marketing, production and supply of products and services for the agricultural sector through Consorzi Agrari d'Italia S.p.A. and its subsidiaries. Further information is available at www.bfspa.it.

BF International Best Fields Best Food Ltd. (BFI) is the company responsible for developing the internationalisation strategy of the B.F. S.p.A. Group. By leveraging the expertise and know-how of the Group's companies, BFI is committed to building a strong and strategic international network that promotes agricultural, economic and social development in the countries where it operates. Through partnerships with institutional and industrial stakeholders, the company works closely with local governments to foster technological innovation and sustainability in the agri-food sector.

BFuture Farm represents the new paradigm of the sustainable farm developed by BF International. BFuture Farm is not merely an agro-industrial project, but an integrated infrastructure where local communities can benefit from the development of agricultural and livestock production and, where envisaged, from the subsequent processing of food raw materials produced in the fields. The farm is based on an integrated digital ecosystem combining satellite monitoring systems, weather stations and IoT sensors capable of providing real-time data to support regenerative agriculture and decision-making. The various BFuture Farm projects also include the construction of community facilities such as hospitals and residential accommodation, as well as education and training centres where local communities can access the education and vocational training needed to support their long-term development.

CIHEAM Bari is the Italian campus of the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), an intergovernmental organisation established in 1962 under the auspices of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Council of Europe, bringing together 13 member countries: Albania, Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Türkiye. Committed to higher education, applied research and development cooperation in the fields of agriculture, sustainability, resilience and food security, CIHEAM Bari has progressively expanded its activities beyond the Mediterranean region to include Sub-Saharan Africa as well as Central and East Asia. Today it operates in more than 40 countries through hundreds of partnerships with national and international organisations, research institutions, civil society organisations and private companies. Located on the International Campus in Valenzano (Bari), CIHEAM Bari also operates a branch campus in Tricase (Lecce).