

# Presentation of Burkina Faso

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# Introduction

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The name « Burkina Faso » is formed by two words taken from local languages.

« Burkina » comes from « more » a local language spoken by the first largest ethnic group and means integrity, honesty.

« Faso » comes from « Dioula » a local language spoken by the second largest ethnic group and means « Land »

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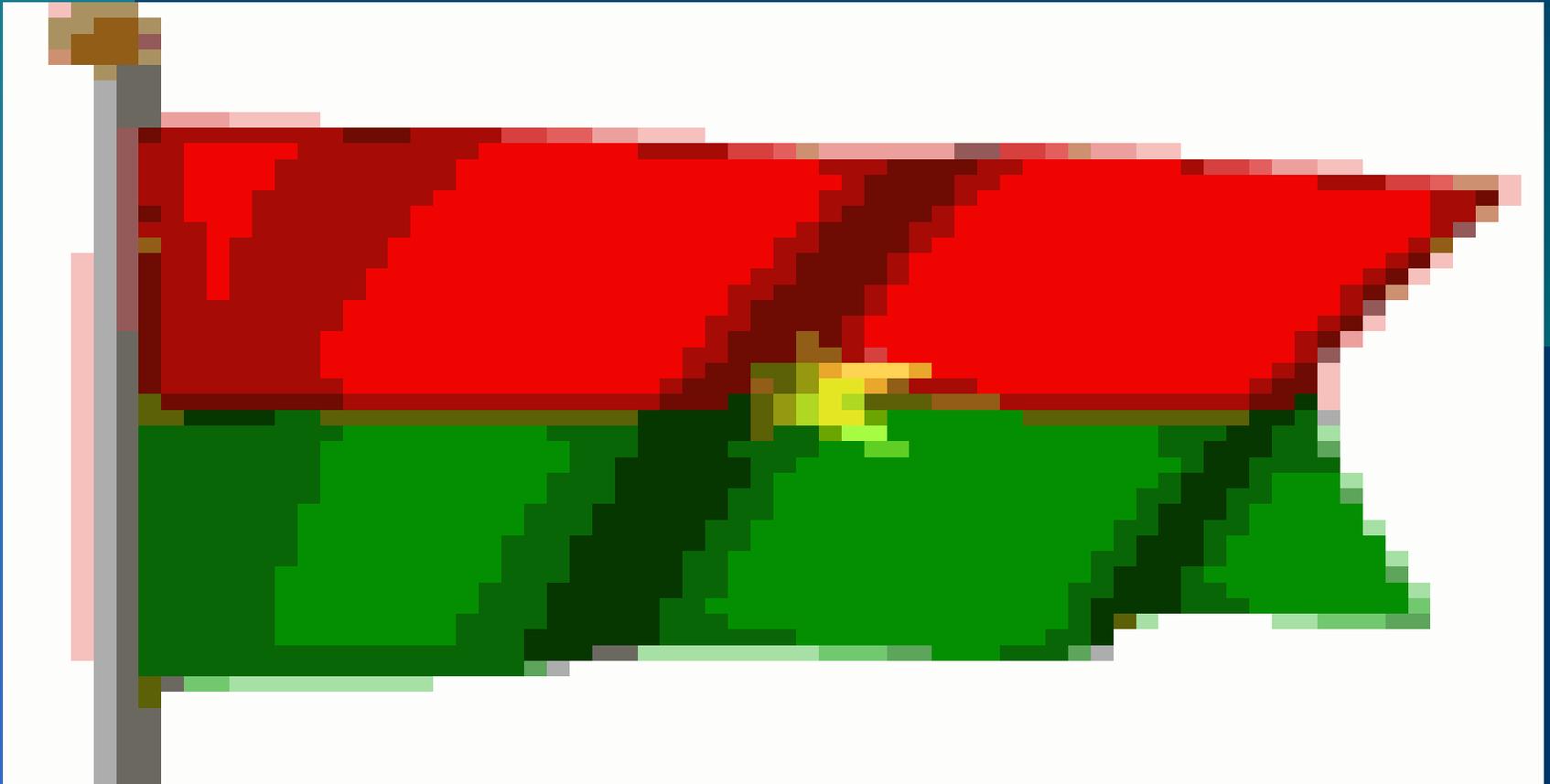
So Burkina Faso means  
« Land of honourable people »

Formerly known as Upper Volta which is the name of French colonizer who first came into this land.

# Geography

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Superficy : sq km 274 000

Population : 14 millions

Growth rate : 4 to 6%

# History

The Land of the Mossi became French protectorate in 1897 and by 1903 France had subjugated the others ethnics groups. The country became a separate colony in 1919 with the name of Upper Volta. On August 1960, Upper Volta achieved full independance.



Maurice Yameogo was the first President, but he was deposed by military coup led by Col. Sangoulé Lamizana in 1966.

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From 1960 up to now, Burkina Faso had six (6) presidents and had experienced all forms of gouvernance.



On October 1987, the Captain Blaise Compaore took the power to rectify Sankara revolution.

In 1991, he agreed to economic reforms proposed by the World Bank and open the country to political change and democracy.

A new constitution paved the way for election which Compaore won easily. He attracted foreign investment and is reelected successively in 1998 and 2005

## Political standing

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Burkina Faso is playing a key role in resolving some political crisis in west Africa : Côte d'Ivoire and Togo.

For Côte d'Ivoire: in september 2002, after a attempt military coup, the country is divided into two parts: one side the rebels and the other side the central Government accusing Burkina Faso for backing the rebels.

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But in march 2007, the two parties accepted President Blaise Compaore as mediator to resolve the crisis and after crucial discussions in Ouagadougou, they reached a agreement for free and fair election rescheduled for june 2008

For Togo :

It is almost the same figure even if  
~~the country is not divided into two parts.~~

Many people were killed in some troubles  
through the country.

But with the intervention of President  
Blaise Compaore the parties,  
government and opposition parties,  
accepted to go to the elections held in  
2007.

# Cultural events

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Two main cultural events are held in Burkina Faso every two years alternatively :

- The Pan African film and television festival of Ouagadougou (FESPACO) is the largest African film festival.

The next edition will take place from 28th February to 7th March 2009 in Ouagadougou.

- Ouagadougou international Arts crafts and fair (SIAO) is the second event.

The Objective is to present the African offer with regard to art and handicraft in order to increase the demand thereof.

# Agriculture sector

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About 80% of the population resides in rural areas, where agriculture is the main source of incomes and employment.

Although agriculture is the largest source of employment, it provides only 32% of gross domestic product (GDP) compared with 24% from industry and 44% from services.

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Only 4% of the population works in the industrial sector and 9% in services.

As a result, urban incomes are far higher than rural incomes.

Agriculture in Burkina Faso is highly dependent on rainfall.

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There are three major agriculture zones :

- The sub-sahelien zone,
- The sudanian zone,
- And the sudanian-guinean zone.

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The northern part of the country is the most arid and has nomadic population that depend heavily on livestock production.

The central region is more densely populated and is characterised by small subsistence farms.

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The west and the southwest are the principal grain and cotton producing regions, with relatively low population densities, good soils and high rainfall.

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The most important cereals are sorghum, millet, and maize, which are grown as subsistence crops by small farmers using traditional practices.

Millet and sorghum are commonly grown in the north, and sorghum, maize and rice in the southwest.

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Cotton, groundnuts, abea nuts and sesame are the cash crops, with cotton produced mainly in west and southwest and groundnuts in the central and northern regions.

In contrast to others sub-saharan nation, the agriculture supply respond to adjustment measures was swift and positive in Burkina Faso.

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Food production grew significantly faster than the rate of the population growth, with a 35% improvement in per capita food production between 1983 and 1990.

At the beginning of the 1990, the country was importing 20% of its cereal requirement.

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Food imports remained high, although these were largely food aid.

By the end of adjustment period, Burkina Faso, was no longer undertaking commercial imports of food grain, food aid however, primarily of grain, average close to US \$ 350 millions per annum and was an import service of drought relief.

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Production growth of non food commodities was even greater than that for food crops with index of non food agricultural products increasing 95% between 1983 and 1990.

# Land irrigation project : Sourou Valley

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Land irrigation policy in Burkina Faso is a complementary strategy to agricultural development efforts that often hampered by rain uncertainty.

However, land tenure law does not yield ownership to farmers settled in these irrigated areas.

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The global program of the Authority of  
Amenagement of Sourou Valley ( AMVS)  
concerns the amenagement and the  
development of type paysannat of the valley  
of sourou.

It is in october, 1985 when the AMVS began the  
arrangement (development) of its  
experimental perimeter of 50 ha on financing  
of the European Development Fund.

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Since this experimental perimeter in our days, about 3000 ha irrigated were fitted out in Sourou with the financial assistance of the various financiers.

In Sourou, the main practised speculations are the rice in double campaign, the corn in wet campaign and diverse market garden products.

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The owners are composed colonists recruited in the provinces close and installed in Sourou beside the populations autochtones.

Recruitment is carried out in close cooperation with the administrative persons in charge for provinces concerned.

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The key criteria to fill to be assignee of an irrigated piece refer to the good morality of the candidate, the fact of being married and of having a minimum of four active people for the development of the piece.

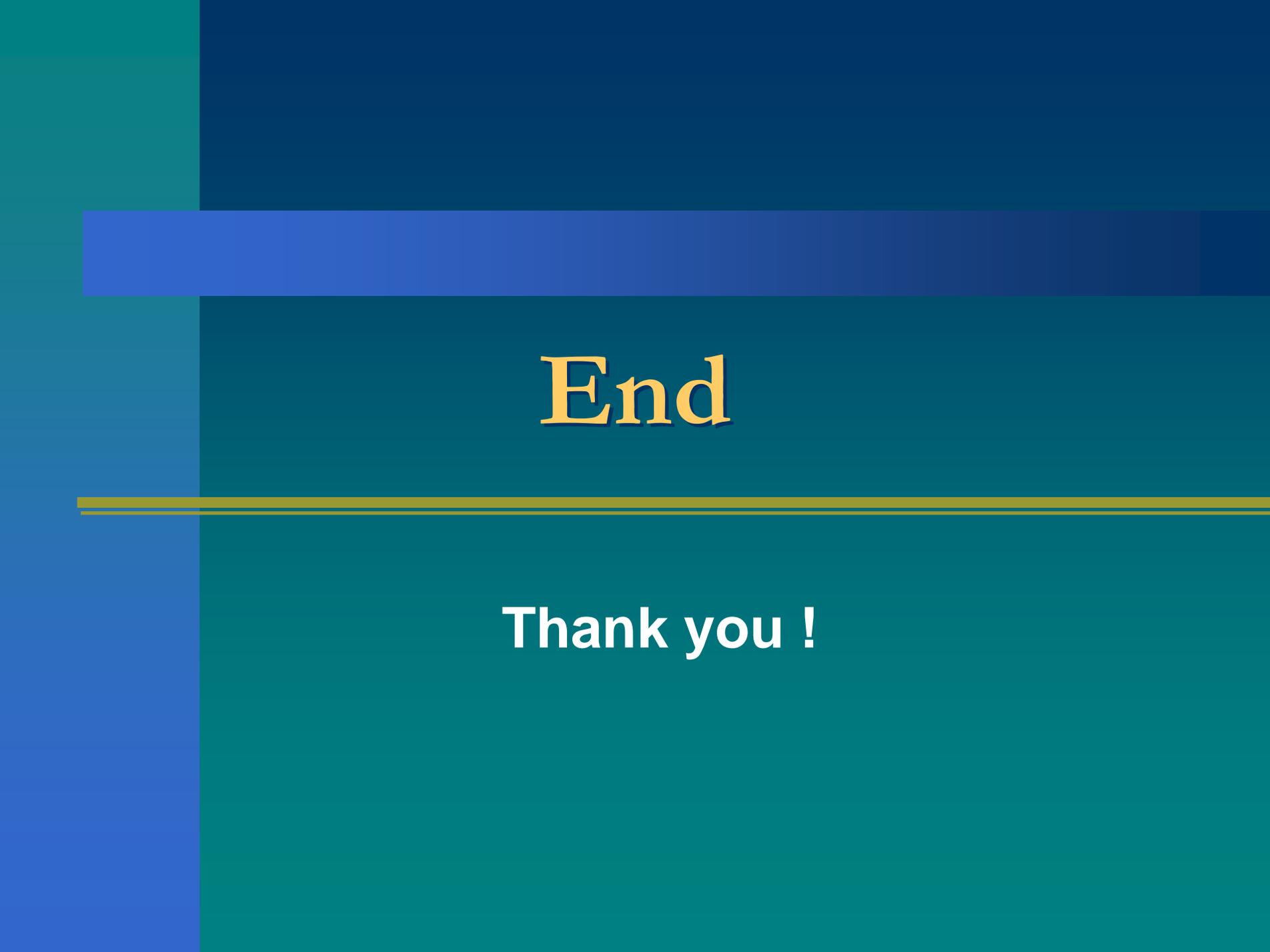
They are organized in co-operative groupings and associations pre-co-operatives.

The irrigated surface granted to each owner varies between 1 and 1,5 ha

# Difficulty

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A recent study, prove that the non ownership of land due to tenure law affects significantly their productivity.



End

Thank you !