

## 4A Ambrosia Consulting

<u>Team Member Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Major</u>
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**Advisor(s):** Dr. Marilú Marcillo

**Topic:** Rice as a Tool: Improving Lives in the Democratic Republic of Congo

**Audience:** Executive Board of Feronia Incorporated

### Sustainable Development Goals

SDG Goal #2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

SDG Goal #8: Creating jobs for all to improve living standards, providing sustainable economic growth

### Executive Summary

In 2019, the Human Rights Watch released a report finding that Feronia and its subsidiary in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Plantations et Huileries du Congo, S.A. (PHC), had exposed workers to dangerous pesticides, dumped untreated industrial waste into local waterways, and engaged in abusive employment practices that result in extreme poverty wages. This publishing prompted local and international organizations to criticize Feronia's unethical operations in the DRC.

The DRC is considered to be one of the largest food security crises in the world as it ranks fifth out of the ten hungriest countries in the world. Resulting from a combination of persistent conflict, economic decline, chronic under-development, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the DRC's food insecurity will only continue to have devastating effects on its people. Feronia Inc being notably known for its palm oil production must implement drastic measures to secure good standing within the company's environmental and social track record.

Although short-lived, Feronia previously had expanded its operations to rice production. Our consultancy believes Feronia Inc. should reprioritize its rice operations and implement the strategy of growing nutrient-dense and climate-resilient grains of rice. If our proposition of genetically engineered and nutritionally fortified rice is executed, it will not only stimulate local economic growth, but also strengthen food security and quality, and transform the reputation of Feronia Inc.