Title of presentation: ARTISANAL MINING AND AGRICULTURE: ANALYZING THE LINKAGES

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**Abstract**

For a long period, artisanal mining has been identified as a ‘dangerous’, ‘chaotic’, ‘criminal’ and ‘illegal’ activity. The DRC’s sector, above this picture has also encountered period where the link between artisanal mining and long lasting conflict has been established. Therefore, in the course of cleaning the mineral and make it more formalized two options have been developed by policymakers, either to improve the mining governance by formalizing the process or to promote alternative livelihoods in other sectors and most of the time in agriculture. However, according to existing literature, agriculture is far from being a viable alternative. Yet, less evidence has been conducted to confirm this assumption. Thereby, the research would take as a starting question: To what extent are miners themselves interested in being engaged in agriculture? To answer this question, we will conduct qualitative interviews and micro-level surveys among artisanal miners and farmers. First we will analyze circumstances and risks that hinder the viability of agriculture in mining areas; second we will examine to what extent artisanal mining has particular linkages with agriculture, both forward and backward; thirdly we will explore circumstances and conditions under which agriculture can be an alternative activity for artisanal miners if artisanal mining no longer be possible. Therefore, this study will contribute to the understanding of the relationship between artisanal mining and the agricultural sector and formulate policy recommendations for agriculture to be a viable alternative activity in the formalization process of artisanal mining.