

2011

Exchange of information on SPS

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BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION

Aflatoxin contamination is a major public health and food safety problem affecting 25% of food crops around the globe. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation recognizes that because of climate, complex value chains, and other challenges in the region, aflatoxin contamination is particularly widespread and acute in Africa.

Under the African Union leadership, governments, private sector and civil society leaders from across Africa endorsed a comprehensive, sub-Saharan-wide approach to aflatoxin control through the establishment of the Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA). The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has played an active role in the discussions regarding the PACA and have invested more than US\$4 million over the past years to better understand the impact of aflatoxin in Africa and to develop tools to diagnose and control it.

The challenge of aflatoxin contamination in the African food supply demands an urgent, coordinated, evidence-based, and significant response. We also feel that it is important to build on the high level of current interest, gain momentum through on-the-ground action, and to support African leadership for the PACA. To this end, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation plans to invest additional resources before the end of this year. Their intention is to award a grant of up to five years' duration which will:

- (i) contribute to the establishment of the PACA within an existing African institution (as yet to be identified in consultation with you and other major stakeholders);
- (ii) fund a few specific aflatoxin control measures which are non-controversial;
- (iii) assess the need and capacity to control aflatoxin in several countries;
- (iv) build evidence and understanding of the extent and cost (in both health and economic terms) of aflatoxin contamination in Africa and;
- (v) solicit support from other donors and technical partners.

Background

Over the past year, the Meridian Institute—with representatives from the foundation's Agricultural Development team—undertook an extensive scoping and convening process on the topic of aflatoxin and the status of control efforts in Africa. It quickly became clear that a coordinated set of activities coordinated by an African-led PACA would be necessary to achieve significant reductions of aflatoxin contamination across the continent. This conclusion is based on a number of factors: the notable impacts of aflatoxin on food security, human health and trade; the lack of detailed and specific data regarding the prevalence and severity of aflatoxin contamination in staple crops and certain aspects of the impact of aflatoxin on human nutrition and human and animal health; the lack of awareness, attention and investment in comprehensive effective aflatoxin control strategies in many regions affected by aflatoxin; and the complexity of and lack of coordination among existing mitigation efforts.

The plan

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation wholeheartedly supports the position that the PACA be Africa-based and Africa-led, so we will endeavor to honor this need by deferring to the fair, balanced and transparent decisions the PACA will be striving for, under the AUC's leadership. Our proposed grant is structured with this as the cornerstone. We have outlined the priorities and goals for our investment, and have settled on a way forward that we believe will both honor that commitment and make sure that important additional work gets underway in the short term, even as the decision is still pending regarding which African institution will shoulder the considerable responsibility as the PACA secretariat over the long term.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation plans to support the following priorities during the first phase of the expected five-year life of the grant:

1. Secretariat Support

The establishment of a PACA secretariat for years one and two, which would be managed by the Meridian Institute, as needed. The role of the secretariat is to help build an effective partnership mechanism quickly, build capacity for an Africa-based secretariat, and ensure a smooth transition to an African partner by the third year of the PACA. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation would then support the Africa-based secretariat with financial support of approximately US\$200,000-US\$400,000 per year for the remaining three years of the funding.

2. Staff Support

During this same two-year period, the foundation is willing to provide the US\$60,000-US\$70,000 per year for Africa-based staff who would sit and focus on the PACA and aflatoxin activities in an agreed African Institution.

3. Country Assessments

Some funding would be provided to fully assess the prevalence and controls on aflatoxin on a country-by-country basis. This funding would aim to develop a robust framework for country stakeholder engagement and aflatoxin assessment processes. It would build on work already done in Kenya and Mali and to further develop and test the process in Nigeria and Tanzania before expanding the work to other countries, resources permitting.

4. Scaling up of beneficial fungi, or “Aflasafe”

This technology is a natural, proven solution which is successfully being adapted to the African context and called “Aflasafe” by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA). The grant funds would expand the work that IITA is already doing (funded by the foundation and others) to create and manufacture country-specific “Aflasafe” products that use beneficial fungi which are both resistant to aflatoxin and native to the relevant country. Resources would be used to test and demonstrate the efficacy of the locally-identified beneficial fungi in each country, attain approval for the products’ use, educate farmers and stakeholders about the products, and produce, market, and distribute them in such a way as to ensure that small farmers can access and afford them.

5. Beneficial Fungi Business Model

To ensure the sustained use of “Aflasafe” products, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation plan to fund the development and testing of the business model(s) for long-term commercialization of beneficial fungi in Africa.

6. Post-harvest Storage, Drying and Handling

Some of the funds will be available for improving and implementing low-cost storage and drying technology for feed and food storage and for developing low-cost drying options for maize and other cereal crops. Based on prior work funded by the foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation plans to support further development of specific, promising technologies.

7. Economic Impact Study

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation plans to build on work already completed to assess the impact of aflatoxin on the economy in Africa (trade, DALY's, etc.).

8. Heath Impact Study

A separate assessment of the impact of aflatoxin on stunting in children is being considered. As a first step, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation plan to support an initial review and discussion of existing research and studies by leading experts, officials and health institutions.

These commitments attempt to make a significant contribution to sustainable aflatoxin control efforts and to the establishment of an African led partnership connected to the appropriate African Institution. In the long run, and with the support of many other donors and African countries, additional attention will be needed on an array of activities in order to accomplish comprehensive programs for aflatoxin control across sub-Saharan Africa.

FORUM FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN AFRICA (FARA)

Regional Policy Dialogue on Meeting SPS Requirements in Africa

The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) organized a regional policy dialogue on "Meeting Requirements Relating to Technical Regulations and SPS Measures along the Agricultural Value Chain in Africa" in Nairobi, Kenya from 20 to 22 July 2011. The dialogue provided a forum for experts, stakeholders and policy makers to address trade-related SPS issues and identify policy options. The purpose of the workshop was to increase awareness about certification and labelling policy issues along agricultural value chain, promote dialogue among policymakers and key stakeholders on these issues, and to catalyse a consensus-building process toward SPS measures compliance policies. Key messages and recommendations emanating from the dialogue will be mainstreamed into the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) agenda and presented at the next conference of Ministers of Agriculture, Science and Technology. For more information on this event, including a concept note and agenda, please visit the [AU-IBAR website](#).

Background

Many African countries have adopted some international standards (including those of *Codex Alimentarius*, World Organization of Animal Health (OIE) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) as the basis for their national requirements, thus avoiding the need to devote scarce resources to developing similar set of trade-related agreements.

Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (SPS) measures¹ encourage African countries to participate actively in trade at all levels. It provides an international framework for exchange among African countries, irrespective of their political agenda, economic strength or technological capacity. It also reduces uncertainty about the conditions for selling to a specific market, thus, providing a variety of market destination options. Without such agreements, African countries will be at a disadvantage when challenging trade protectionist policies.

In fact, SPS measures, which apply to domestically, sub-regionally, and regionally produced/traded agricultural products, take many forms, such as requiring products to come from a disease-free area, inspection of products, specific treatment or processing of products, or permitted use of only certain additives in food products. Ultimately, the measures help to ensure that agricultural commodities are safe for consumers, and to prevent the spread of pest or diseases among animals and plants.

Standards² and technical regulations have continued to attract increasing attention in on-going regional / global trade policy dialogue as tariff and quota issues seem to assume a declining dimension. In other words, with the reduction in the applicability of tariff barriers, the adoption rate of standards as a trade restrictive strategy has increased significantly. In fact, the growing emphasis on non-tariff barriers, in the face of increased globalization and rapid agricultural trade liberalization has attracted considerable public debate on the impact of standards on regional and international market access for agricultural commodities in Africa. In addition to hindering access to markets for

¹ SPS measures must be transparent, non-discriminatory, and scientifically justified by harmonizing sanitary or phytosanitary measures with internationally agreed standards, guidelines or recommendations from the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CODEX), the International Office of Epizootics (OIE), and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), or a country may undertake an individual and independent risk assessment. An importing country cannot impose different requirements on imports than on domestically produced goods (national treatment), nor can it favour imports from certain countries (most favoured nation). Members must adopt other approaches that will ensure safety insofar as the exporting member objectively demonstrates that its measures achieve the importing member's required level of sanitary or phytosanitary measures if they have a significant effect on trade. However, under SPS Agreement, DCs are obliged to provide technical assistance to Africa in order to help them comply with SPS measures.

² Standards and certification issues involve food safety standards, fair trade standards, organic standards, labour standards, and several kinds of environmental standards and labels.

agricultural commodities produced by smallholder farmers in Africa, standards also raise the cost of agricultural exports, thus, serving as disincentives to smallholder farmers.

Though standards provide certainty regarding border measures, it also reduces the uncertainty about the conditions for selling to specific markets. Being an increasingly strategic trade issue, mandatory standards and technical regulations have continued to attract considerable attention from African governments because they pose significant challenges to all smallholder farmers and agro-processors. In other words, in making frantic efforts to access regional and international markets for agricultural commodities, African smallholder farmers are confronted by the arduous hurdles arising from Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary SPS and food-safety issues. Four major issues in this regard are: setting of standards; costs of technical compliance; cost of verification; and transitional arrangements.

It is interesting to note that SPS measures are critical value chain issues for African smallholder farmers and agro-processors across the various agricultural value chains. In other words, food safety and quality issues continue to play an increasingly crucial role in participating in agricultural value chains among and within African countries. However, most of the countries are unable to contribute and participate in the agricultural value chain because they lack the capacity to comply with national, sub-regional and international standards. For instance, in the livestock sector in most countries, some of the major livestock safety concerns include, *inter alia*: lack of excellent livestock safety and veterinary and plant health services, thus making the SPS requirements a big challenge in improving the health situation of their people; unhygienic handling during and after livestock and crop harvest; insufficient refrigeration; substandard processing; poor packaging; and failure to apply adequate quality and safety measures.

African smallholder agro-processors are confronted by the growing burden of compliance with the increasingly strict standards being applied by private-sector-based bodies. These standards often go beyond the formal legal requirement, since the legal obligation to ensure the safety of food imported into the international markets is placed on the importer. This places an increased pressure on African countries to ensure that all agricultural commodities traded within the regional markets are safe and subject to traceability requirements. This includes insistence on the adoption of 'good practices' from field to embarkation, which has to be certified by independent organizations.

The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) is a continent-wide forum of stakeholders engaged in African agricultural research and development. As the lead institution for the implementation of Pillar IV (agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption) of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), FARA recognizes the need for advocacy for increased and well-harmonized investments in productivity-enhancing interventions along the agricultural value chain. FARA's Advocacy and Policy Networking Support Function (NSF1/3) supports the implementation of CAADP Pillar IV agenda by creating awareness on the need for evidence-based, pro-poor, enabling agricultural and natural resources policies that improve broad-based agricultural productivity, competitiveness and markets in a sustainable manner. It also collaborates with existing policy institutions in order to ensure that research-based policy advice (advocacy) is undertaken by different institutions based on their comparative advantages. Further, NSF1/3 provides policymakers with evidence-based policy options and decision-making tools by promoting and facilitating research on advocacy and policy issues that span the different sub-regions and on which the sub-regions interact, and subsequently contribute to attaining CAADP Pillar IV targets.

FARA organized a Regional Policy Dialogue on '*Meeting Requirements Relating to Technical Regulations and SPS Measures along the Agricultural Value Chain in Africa*' in Nairobi, Kenya from 13th – 15th July, 2011. The SPS policy dialogue was part of a consultative process towards the development and delivery of evidence-based policy options and tools for informed decision-making as well as for supporting policy-making processes at national and regional levels. It also constitutes FARA's efforts to increase awareness among African leaders of the impacts of SPS measures as well

as to engage like-minded policymakers at regional level on how best to approach certification issues such that smallholder agricultural producers can be better protected and be able to reap the benefits accruing from participating in global and intra-African agricultural value chain. An underlying theme for the SPS dialogue was the regional dimension of compliance with SPS measures along agricultural value chains: the added value of regional approaches / policies and how these link up with national initiatives and policies.

The SPS regional policy dialogue was a follow-up to the three Continental Policy Dialogues which were launched in 2010 to promote access to regional and international markets for agricultural commodities³. As noted in the Regional Policy Dialogue Synthesis Report (FARA Ministerial Policy Brief Series, Number 4, April 2011), one of the main recommendations towards more coherence and synergies between agricultural and trade policies at national and regional levels is: that trade policy tools (SPS measures, rules of origin, etc) should protect farmers from disruptive imports while gradually contributing to building up their competitiveness. Further, the dialogue was organized to share lessons and mainstream key messages drawn from the ongoing three SPS policy studies⁴ into national and regional food and trade policy-making processes, including the CAADP country and regional compacts implementation processes.

Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of the SPS Regional Policy Dialogue was to increase awareness about certification and labeling policy issues along the agricultural value chain, promote dialogue among policymakers and key stakeholders on these issues, and to catalyze a consensus-building process toward SPS measures compliance policies. The workshop provided open space for public discussion on important agricultural trade policy issues such as non-tariff barriers, and food safety and quality assurance, as well as on how to link this substance to the on-going policy-making process. The specific objectives were to:

- a. Stimulate dialogue among major stakeholders (including policymakers, academics, experts, representatives of regional economic communities, and representatives from business community, NGOs and other civil society groups) on the problems faced by African countries in meeting requirements relating to technical regulations and SPS measures in their exporting markets.
- b. Advocate for pragmatic regional standards and infrastructures related policies that promote and facilitate participation in regional and international value chain, taking particularly into account the needs of smallholder agricultural producers.
- c. Clarify the added value of regional standards (SPS measures) and how these link up with national measures, with a particular focus on sub-regional and regional agricultural value-chain projects.
- d. Identify and agree on policy options to respond to the problems of capacity building to meet SPS requirements for intra and inter Africa markets along the agricultural value chain; the

³ (i) Regional Dialogue for East and Southern Africa (Nairobi, Kenya: 24 – 25 March); (ii) Regional Dialogue for West and Central Africa (Accra, Ghana: 23 – 24 June); and (iii) Policy Dialogue for mainstreaming the key messages from the four sub-regions into the CAADP country and regional processes (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: 14 – 15 December).

⁴ (i) An analysis of countries' compliance with selected SPS measures in East and Southern Africa; (ii) An analysis of countries' compliance with selected SPS measures in West and Central Africa; and (iii) Framework and guidelines for promoting African smallholder agricultural, livestock, fish producers' and processors' compliance with SPS measures.

development of value-creation/addition assistance programmes at national and regional level to expand market shares for African agricultural products globally; and effective use of aid for trade for meeting requirements relating to technical regulations and SPS measures along the agricultural value chain in Africa.

- e. Disseminate the outcomes stemming from the dialogue discussion to a broad spectrum of stakeholders, in order to feed national and regional policy-making processes, including the CAADP country and regional compacts implementation processes.

Approach and Activities

The SPS policy dialogue focused on issues relating to non-tariff barriers, food safety and quality assurance, and export assistance program as critical areas needing redress if African countries are to gain access to inter- and intra-African agricultural markets. It also examined the strategies and approaches for meeting requirements for technical regulations and SPS measures along the agricultural value chain in Africa. It allowed for frank and open dialogue on these issues and consisted of presentations on each topic followed by discussions, with a particular view to stimulate public-private cooperation and to clarify the links between regional and national policies and initiatives.

Approximately 40 participants were invited from within and outside of Africa, including policymakers, policy experts, trade negotiators, development partners, representatives of the AUC, AU-NPCA, AU-IBAR, CAADP lead Pillar Institutions, SROs and RECs, CSOs and FOs, academics, and representatives from multilateral organizations and the private sector (smallholder producers and agri-business). Specific problems to Africa were highlighted, taking into account the existing differences between and within these five sub-regions - North, West, Central, East and Southern Africa.

A combination of round-table facilitated discussions and plenary sessions were used and participants constituted working groups to address in details the relevant topics and the specific approaches for the five sub-regions. Outcomes of working groups were discussed in plenary round-table discussions. Key messages and recommendations were developed and shared among the relevant stakeholders, so that the results of the workshop would feed on-going policy-making processes.

The first day of the dialogue was more introductory and informative (to bring all participants to a common denominator). On the second day, a visit was made to a Kenyan-based agricultural project which had been successful in meeting SPS measures along selected value chains in Africa. The second day was dedicated to structured, more interactive, discussions, through both working groups specific to the five sub-regions, as well as plenary. The key messages developed as conclusion to the workshop included suggestions on specific responsibilities for improvements that must take place within and outside the regions in order to promote compliance with technical regulations and SPS measures along the agricultural value chain in Africa.

In order to ensure that the outcomes of the dialogue feed into national and regional policy-making and CAADP processes, a Steering Committee (SC)⁵ of the key stakeholders and partners was set up to review the workshop and provide guidance on how the outcomes will better be used.

⁵ Steering Committee members could be drawn from AUC, NEPAD, RECs (COMESA, ECOWAS, ECCAS), FARA, CTA, ECDPM, FDA, ASARECA and CORAF/WECARD.

Beneficiaries and Target Group

Consumers are intended to benefit from this dialogue because they enjoy a variety of food that flows across their sub-national, national and regional borders. Given the great risks that exist if these food materials are contaminated at one point or the other, the outcome of this dialogue was to create the awareness among consumers and make them to be more confident about the safety and quality of food that they eat.

Other direct beneficiaries included small and medium scale farmers; and agro dealers. It empowered smallholder agricultural, livestock, and fish producers and processors by providing them with different options on how to comply with SPS measures in order to contribute to agricultural value chains in Africa.

The target group included policymakers at national, sub-regional and regional levels who would be better informed about empowering smallholder farmers to comply with SPS measures that exist in regional and international markets. Other members of the target group are parliamentarians, officials of government ministries – (agriculture, trade and economic planning), non-governmental organizations, and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

Organizers of the Workshop

The workshop was organized by the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) in collaboration with the African Union Inter-African Bureau Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), the Inter-African Phyto-Sanitary Council (IAPSC), the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (CMA/WCA); the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA); the Conseil Ouest et Centre Africain pour la Recherche et le Développement Agricoles / West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD); the European Center for Development Policy Management (ECDPM); and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) (EC-ACP).

INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK



INTER- AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

INTEGRATION AND TRADE SECTOR

REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM ON PEST RISK ANALYSIS (PRA)

Activity Name: Strengthening Regional Agricultural Exports through Capacity improvement in Pest Risk Analysis (PRA)
Venue: Costa Rica and Raleigh, NC/USA
Beneficiary countries: Central America
Partners: IDB- IPPC- APHIS- IICA
Work Area: Trade Facilitation and Logistic
Speakers: APHIS and IPPC specialists
Coordinator: IDB

Approach	()	Supply-driven	(X)	Demand-driven	
Teaching Mode	()	Face-to-face	()	On-line	(X) Blended learning
Follow up	(X)	Yes	()	No	

Associate to TA (X) Yes () No

Web-page: <http://events.iadb.org/calendar/eventDetail.aspx?lang=Es&id=3095>

I. OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of this project are: i) to create and implement a Capacity Building Program in Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) tailored to Latin American and Caribbean Countries (LAC) needs in order to strengthen technical capacity to meet their WTO SPS and IPPC obligations, ii) to ensure that LAC countries are better equipped in terms of meeting the importing markets PRA related requirements, (iii) to make available PRA related material in Spanish and tailored to LAC needs (these material are tailored to provide guidance to comply with PRA international requirements to access international markets).

The medium to long term objectives are to: (i) better harmonization of plant health issues between neighboring countries as well as greater cooperation in the development of PRAs; and (ii) increased capacity of each beneficiary country to protect its phytosanitary status.

II. TARGET AUDIENCE

The target audience includes: i) personnel from national plant protection organizations in LAC; and ii) professors of plant science from leading universities in the beneficiary countries. The methodology involves a “train the trainer approach”, which means that preference will be given to university professors and plant health experts within the Governments that have the willingness and capacity, due to their work responsibilities, to transmit the knowledge gained. The strengthening of the technical knowledge of professors of plant science of well recognized universities in the beneficiary countries also represents an effort to keep this valuable knowledge in the field. This would help to avoid the all too frequent occurrence of the capacity generated being lost by the turnover of public officials, which affects LAC Governments. Moreover, plant health experts from SICA will be invited to participate in order to allow them to retain the knowledge and replicate the training.

III. METHODOLOGY

Module I: IPPC On-line course

The on-line training shall last 5 days and the objective is to provide a better understanding of the importance of PRA in plant health. This will be done through instruction which will provide the fundamental concepts, terminology and procedures, including international regulatory framework; the interrelationship between Risk Assessment, Risk Management and Risk Communication, and; the basics of risk determination. The objective is to harmonize the knowledge of the participants to better take advantage of the subsequent modules.

Module II: PRA Training

This part of the program is intended to provide a deeper foundation on how to conduct PRA including a hands-on session on how to develop a PRA. The course will last 5 days and will be led by specialists from APHIS Center for Plant Health Science and Technology (CPHST) Plant Epidemiology and Risk Analysis Laboratory. These workshops will be provided in Spanish.

Venue: The course to be recorded and transmitted by videoconference allowing easy, real-time interaction between participants and lecturers. It will be organized and implemented by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). The videoconference will use the broadcasting facilities of IICA Center for Distance Training (CECADI), based in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Module III: Pest Risk Analysis Internships

Selected participants who have successfully completed Module II above, and who have demonstrated clear capabilities for conducting PRAs will undertake a 2 week internship at the APHIS Center for Plant Health Science and Technology (CPHST), in Raleigh/NC, USA. The internships will provide: a two week in-depth internship program in PRA during which participants will conduct 1 PRA on national commodity of their own choosing (learning by doing approach).

Participation will be grouped according to the similarities of the pest-related challenges faced in the countries in order to foster an exchange of experience and best practices. The internship will be given in Spanish and English, as applicable. Taking into account the face-to-face interaction between the trainers and interns, each module can accommodate a maximum of 5 participants. In order to maximize the impact of the program, participants will be encouraged to provide technical literature from their own country and give a final presentation on the PRA they developed.

Module IV (Follow-up): Pest Risk Analysis Mentoring

One day mentoring sessions will take place via videoconference with the participation of the IPPC and APHIS trainers, as well as all of the participants within 6 and 12 months after the completion of the Module III. The objective is to provide an opportunity for all of the participants to share their experiences conducting pest risk analysis and to receive any additional support they may need from APHIS and IPPC specialists. Additionally, the interested countries would be able to receive an individual technical assistance from a plant health specialist hired.

Venue/participation: The sessions will be organized by IICA using their virtual training facilities. A call will be sent to all PRA Training Program participants requesting their participation. Participants in the PRA Internship will be encouraged to volunteer as mentors.

IV. OUTCOMES

- i) Improved technical knowledge of Central American Governments and University personnel to develop PRAs and better meet the requirements of importing countries;
- ii) Central American plant health specialists are better able to share and harmonize best practices and regional plant health methods and processes; and
- iii) Improved the quality of the PRA developed.

Evaluation: The methodology involves an ex-post evaluation questionnaire to get participants feedback regarding the quality of the material and the training modules. Additionally, a technical evaluation of the PRA developed by each participant during the Module III (internship) will allow assess the improvement of their ability to develop PRAs according to plant health international standards. The evaluation mechanisms will allow the Bank to measure the achievement of the outcomes proposed.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE

Information on SPS-related recent and forthcoming assistance and other activities from the International Trade Centre (ITC)

1) Projects:

STDF/PG/172: “Expanding Nigeria’s export of sesame seeds and sheanut/butter through improved SPS capacity building for private and public sector”

The Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) is the implementing agency of the STDF 172 project with ITC as supervisory agency. The project duration is expected to be October 2010- October 2012. Implementation of project activities is ongoing. Component 1: reports on characterization of shea butter and sesame value chains in Nigeria and interim laboratory reports on samples available; Component 2: Decision made about the purchasing of equipment (set of Shea fabricating equipment to be purchased from Benin, remaining equipment for sesame to be fabricated locally). Appointment of the National Technical Coordinator is pending. The second ITC monitoring mission is to be scheduled in November/December 2011. The second tranche of funds from WTO to NEPC has been processed. The second six-month progress report is due to STDF by end of October ‘11.

All ACP Agricultural Commodities Programme - Samoa

Assistance was provided to Samoa under the All ACP Agricultural Commodities Programme, funded by the European Commission and which targets agricultural commodity sectors in ACP countries. Eight enterprises were being assisted for the implementation of ISO 22000 food safety management systems. An ITC monitoring mission took place in Samoa from 13 to 18 October. An experience-sharing workshop was organised during the mission to share the results of the project.

Empowering the African Private Sector Network to strengthen the international competitiveness of SMEs – Component 2

The programme, funded by the European Commission, and implemented by ITC from May to September 2011 reinforced the capacities of intermediary organizations in Africa, in their ability to increase their contribution to, and impact of the Aid for Trade agenda, by means of creating strong networks of enterprise level experts available and used by the intermediary organizations (IOs) in Africa for capacity building African exporting SMEs. Component 2 of the project, namely “*Maximizing export performance through implementation of food safety and quality management in the agro-business sector*” was implemented in Ghana, Kenya and Uganda in partnership with the Ghana Standards Board (GSB), the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS), and the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS). The component delivered capacity building of Trainers-cum-counsellors (TcCs) on food safety pre-requisites, HACCP, and coaching on quality audit techniques for enterprises from the agro-processed sector through training and advisory services at enterprise level. In particular the component reached, *inter alia*, the following:

- 15 TcCs in the region enabled to train and advise exporting SMEs in the field of food safety
- 15 SMEs increased their compliance with food hygiene and safety requirements
- GSB, KEBS, UNBS have developed action plans to deliver programmes on food safety for sustainability

Furthermore, the project built a network of trainers on packaging and supply chain management through the delivery of Component 1 and 3 respectively.

Other ITC projects of interest:

Non-Tariff Measures project

ITC has successfully launched the non-tariff measures (NTM) survey in three more countries (Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Senegal) during the period July-October 2011. Upcoming countries include Palestine, Kazakhstan and Cambodia. At the same time, the surveys have ended in a number of other countries including Morocco, Mauritius, Rwanda and Kenya. NTM Reports for those countries are in the preparation and national workshops being planned for discussion and dissemination of the results with national stakeholders. In parallel to the NTM surveys, ITC continues also the collection of official NTM data in several countries, including some of those where the surveys are taking place. The official database should be launched by end of this year. ITC is also keeping in touch with ongoing work on NTMs/NTBs in the different regions, such as the monitoring system (on line Mechanism for Reporting, Monitoring and Eliminating Non-Tariff Barriers) in the tripartite region (SADC, COMESA and EAC).

For more information about NTM project, please contact Ms Poonam Mohun, ITC, NTM Market Analyst, Market Analysis and Research
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Trade for Sustainable Development (T4SD)

The EC (DG Trade) is now a donor to T4SD/Standards Map.

ITC's Standards Map allows users to compare private standards with regards to, for example, their governance structure, social, environmental and economic criteria, and requirements for implementation. Compliance to these standards is not legally required by governments or regulations, but it could lead to more sustainable environmental practices or potentially open up new markets.

As of October 2011, Standards Map covers 43 private standards developed by non-governmental organizations and private entities. The new standards loaded since June '11 are Fair Labour Association, GoodWeave, Green Seal, Green-e, International Featured Standards – IFS, KRAV, Roundtable on Responsible Soy – RTRS, SQF Program, Cotton Made in Africa, Gold Standard, ProTerra, Rótulo Ecológico ABNT - Qualidade Ambiental, Food Alliance.

The team is working on an additional nine standards that will be loaded on the website by the end of October. These standards are CanadaGAP, FSSC22000, Fair Wear Foundation, LEAF, Global Reporting Initiative – GRI, Impact Reporting & Investment Standards - IRIS Climate Community and Biodiversity Standards - CCBS MPS ABC Carbon Trust.

We aim to have approximately 70 standards fully loaded on the website by the end of 2011. Should you be interested in a live demonstration of the website or in a webinar, please contact Joseph Wozniak, Programme Manager (wozniak@intracen.org).

Joint ITC-ISO Workshop on “Linking Trade Promotion Organizations and National Standards Bodies for Export Success”

ITC and ISO organized in partnership a regional three-day workshop on “Linking TPOs and NSBs for Export Success”, hosted by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and co-hosted by the

Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania from 21 to 23 June 2011⁶.

Fifty officials from NSBs and TPOs representing 22 Anglophone countries in Africa explored how linkages between TPOs and NSBs can be strengthened to improve the international competitiveness of enterprises and developed joint country action plans. All the background documents will be uploaded on the ITC website by November 2011 (<http://www.intracen.org/exporters/quality-management/> by clicking on “information and events”)

This event follows from the first two such regional events organized in Malaysia in December 2009, and in Cuba in November 2010. ITC is currently developing case studies on various areas of collaboration between the TPOs and NSBs that participated in the previous joint ITC-ISO workshops.

ITC and ISO are planning to conduct a similar workshop for French-speaking countries in Africa in Q1 of 2012 and ITC is currently seeking funding partners for this regional workshop.

2) ITC International Trade Forum Magazine

Issue 3, 2011 Food Security, Agriculture & Trade Development

In this issue ITC explores some of the key issues related to food security, with complementary from leading experts and organizations, including WTO, FAO, and International Fund for Agricultural Development, International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development and the International Food Policy and Research Institute. Online version is available at www.tradeforum.org

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⁶ The workshop was organized within the framework of the ITC project Empowering the African Private Sector Network to strengthen the international competitiveness of SMEs – Component 3, funded by the European Commission

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

IPC: Tim Josling and Donna Roberts "Measuring the Impact of SPS Standards on Market Access", July 2011

<http://agritrade.org/Publications/SPSandNonTariffMeasures.html>.

IPC: Donna Roberts and Tim Josling, "Tracking the implementation of Internationally Agreed Standards in Food and Agricultural Production", July 2011

<http://agritrade.org/Publications/SPSandNonTariffMeasures.html>.

World Bank: "Making the Grade: Smallholder Farmers, Emerging Standards, and Development Assistance Programs in Africa"

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTARD/0,,contentMDK:22988344~pagePK:210058~piPK:210062~theSitePK:336682,00.html>

INFORMATION SUBMITTED TO THE WTO SPS COMMITTEE

Communication by the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture (IICA)

- Acciones dirigidas a la implementación del acuerdo de medidas sanitarias y fitosanitarias de la OMC (G/SPS/GEN/1121)

Submission by the International Plant Protection Convention

Report of the International Plant Protection Convention Secretariat -IPPC (G/SPS/GEN/1123)

Communication by the Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA)

- Actividades del organismo internacional regional de Sanidad agropecuaria (OIRSA) en relación con el acuerdo sobre La aplicación de medidas sanitarias y fitosanitarias de la OMC (G/SPS/GEN/1119)

Submission by the United States

- Technical assistance to developing countries (G/SPS/GEN/181/Add.9)

Submission by the World Health Organisation

- Update from the World Health Organization - OIE (G/SPS/GEN/1120)

These documents are available online at the WTO SPS Information Management System (SPS IMS):
<http://spsims.wto.org>
