

**INFORMATION ON SPS-RELATED RECENT AND FORTHCOMING  
ASSISTANCE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES  
(PERIOD: MARCH – JUNE 2010)**

Communication from the International Trade Center (ITC)

The following communication, received on 28 June 2010, is being circulated at the request of the ITC.

A. PROJECTS:

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

1. The Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) has addressed the main outstanding issues in the project document and budget, previously raised by ITC (as the preferred supervisory agency) and STDF. The project document is now finalized. A Letter of Agreement will be signed between WTO and ITC and WTO and NEPC. Project activities are due to start in the third quarter of 2010.

B. OTHER ITC PROJECTS OF INTEREST:

**Non-Tariff Measures project**

2. ITC is implementing a representative company survey on non-tariff measures (NTMs) in ten developing countries throughout 2010. The objective is to identify and understand the obstacles trade exporters and importers face when complying with NTMs, including SPS and TBT. The survey has been initiated in several of the countries in collaboration with local partners and national stakeholders (e.g. Ministry of Trade, Department of Commerce, Export Promotion Agency). Phone screen and in-depth face-to-face interviews are currently ongoing in Burkina Faso, Morocco, Paraguay, Peru and Sri Lanka. In coordination with local research institutions, ITC will analyze the survey data by products and sectors, and identify types of NTMs & procedural obstacles which exist. ITC will disseminate in-depth country reports in the framework of local stakeholders' workshops. ITC is planning to give a presentation on NTM at the STDF WG Meeting on 2 July 2010 on an information sharing basis.

For more information about NTM project, please contact:

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### **ACCESS! Programme**

3. The ACCESS! programme is a gender-focused, regional trade support programme aimed at improving the trade support services for African businesswomen in international trade, with a view to promoting their economic empowerment. The ACCESS! Programme has been recently reviewed by updating the export training course structure, upgrading existing training materials and developing new topical and sector-specific training materials. It will ultimately benefit ACCESS! Focal Point (AFP) institutions as well as ACCESS! participating women entrepreneurs in 19 ACCESS! countries. Out of the 32 training modules, few tackle compliance with technical requirements and conformity assessment (i.e. "Export Quality Management", "Exporting Horticulture Products", "Exporting Coffee").

4. Three ACCESS training of trainer events are scheduled: Senegal (9-17 June 2010); Gabon (14-22 July 2010); and Zambia (15-23 September 2010).

### **Trade for Sustainable Development (T4SD)**

5. ITC continues its work in Trade for Sustainable Development (T4SD), a partnership-based effort led by the ITC to enhance transparency on voluntary standards and to increase opportunities for sustainable production and trade. In the framework of T4SD, ITC is organizing jointly with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) a workshop on "*Sustainability Standards and their Role in International Trade and Development*", Geneva, 1–2 July 2010 ([http://www.fesglobalization.org/geneva/documents/Program\\_Sustainability\\_Standards\\_July2010.pdf](http://www.fesglobalization.org/geneva/documents/Program_Sustainability_Standards_July2010.pdf))

For more information about T4SD, please contact Joseph Wozniak, Programme Manager ([wozniak@intracen.org](mailto:wozniak@intracen.org)).

### **C. ITC INTERNATIONAL TRADE FORUM MAGAZINE**

#### **Issue 3, 2010 Quality & Standards: A Pre-requisite for Entering Markets**

6. The Quality & Standards magazine issue will look at standards and quality and the role they play for developing country exporters. The issue is due to be published in September 2010. The STDF Secretariat will contribute to this issue with an article featuring STDF work of relevance.

For more information:

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