

**INFORMATION ON SPS-RELATED RECENT AND FORTHCOMING  
ASSISTANCE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES  
(PERIOD COVERED: NOVEMBER 2010 – MARCH 2011)**

Statement by the International Trade Center (ITC) at the Meeting  
Held on 30-31 March 2011

The following communication, received on 25 March 2011, is being circulated at the request of ITC.

A. PROJECTS

**Central Asia (Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan)**

1. The projects in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, funded by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Cooperation and Development (SECO), have started their third phase in September 2009. The overall objective of this project is to contribute to the sustainable expansion and diversification of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) exports in Tajikistan through increasing the competitiveness of the textile and clothing industry and improving the quality management infrastructure of the country.

2. The specific objective in the areas of TBT and SPS is to improve the capacity of SQAM<sup>1</sup>, TBT and SPS bodies and the regulatory infrastructure.

*Tajikistan*

3. Two laboratories for food and agricultural products of Tajikstandart (the national standards body) have been accredited by DAkkS, the German national accreditation body.

4. The National Notification Authority for TBT and SPS, as well as the National Enquiry Points for TBT and SPS, have been established.

5. Meetings were held with various stakeholders in November 2010 to initiate the study to streamline the SPS infrastructure and to obtain information about the current situation. This study, which focuses on food safety regulatory activities, will identify areas of duplication and gaps in the food safety control system and formulate options for the re-organisation of regulatory activities among agencies to provide a more streamlined, coherent and non-duplicative approach to control of food safety in Tajikistan. It appears that there is no overlap or duplication in the areas of animal and plant health.

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<sup>1</sup> SQAM: Standards, Quality Assurance, Metrology and Accreditation

*Kyrgyzstan*

6. The Kyrgyz Accreditation Centre (the national accreditation body) is now ready for pre-peer evaluation by the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation, which will take place this year.

7. Information about the "Implementation and Administration of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade" submitted to WTO in 2000 will be revised to take account of developments since then and the revised version will be communicated to WTO. Information about the current National Notification Authority and the National Enquiry Point for SPS will be communicated to WTO, as the WTO website indicates the previous NNA and NEP.

8. Meetings were held with various stakeholders in November 2010 to initiate the study to streamline the SPS infrastructure and to obtain information about the current situation. This study, which will focus on food safety regulatory activities, will identify areas of duplication and gaps in the food safety control system and formulate options for the re-organisation of regulatory activities among agencies to provide a more streamlined, coherent and non-duplicative approach to control of food safety in Kyrgyzstan. Consultations with some donors indicated that it would not be productive for ITC to seek to intervene in the areas of animal and plant health. There were major initiatives in the area of animal health. Furthermore, no information was received that indicated overlap or duplication of functions in the areas of animal and plant health.

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

9. The Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) is the implementing agency of the project with ITC as supervisory agency. The project is expected to end by October 2012. An ITC planning mission took place from 24 to 26 January 2011, that helped clarify the roles and responsibilities of all parties and the contract obligations with STDF/WTO and plan the project activities. A meeting was convened with all the stakeholders involved in the project on 26 January 2011, where evaluation was done of the progress made and solutions proposed for addressing any constraints. Project activities have started. The study of the socio-economic characterization of shea and sesame production and the supply chain in Nigeria is ongoing. The draft project website has been uploaded ([www.sesame-sheastdf172.org.ng](http://www.sesame-sheastdf172.org.ng)). A six-month progress report (October 2010 – March 2011) is due for submission to STDF by 15 April 2011.

**All ACP Agricultural Commodities Programme - Samoa**

10. Assistance was provided to Samoa under the All ACP Agricultural Commodities Programme, funded by the European Commission, which targets agricultural commodity sectors in ACP countries. In October 2010, workshops were conducted on "Implementing Food Safety Management Systems - ISO 22000" and "Initiating documentation for ISO 22000". Seven enterprises were visited and provided initial assistance to start implementing an ISO 22000 food safety management system. Three trainers-cum-counsellors were also being trained to ensure sustainability at the end of the project in December 2011.

11. In March 2011, a workshop was conducted on "Hazard Analysis and Categorization of Control Measures".

**Guinea**

12. Assistance was provided to five small pilot enterprises under the project on "Strengthening capability for international trade in the agro-processing sector", funded by the Agence Française de

Développement. They were advised on technical improvements in their processes, calculation of the price of their products and on business plans. The latter has been submitted for funding.

## B. OTHER ITC PROJECTS OF INTEREST

### **Non-Tariff Measures project**

13. ITC assists countries to better understand the obstacles to trade experienced by their business sectors when complying with non-tariff measures (NTM). In this regard, ITC continued launching the NTM surveys in a number of countries including Kenya and Mauritius. NTM workshops were held in two countries where the survey had been completed, namely Burkina Faso (8 November 2010) and Sri Lanka (22 November 2010). An STDF secretariat staff member attended the workshop in Sri Lanka. During the workshops, a number of recommendations were made on technical barriers to trade, SPS, and TBT, amongst others. In Burkina Faso, the need to streamline SPS infrastructure was identified. There was also a need for accreditation of the Laboratoire National de Santé Publique. In Sri Lanka, the project included developing capability of a designated trade support institution to provide comprehensive information on technical requirements in export markets in a friendly and easy-to-understand language, and to keep track of new developments. ITC continues to follow up with its local partners.

For more information about NTM project, please contact:

Ms Poonam Mohun, ITC, NTM Market Analyst, Market Analysis and Research  
Tel: +41 22 730 0277 - Fax: +41 22 730 0577 – E-mail: [mohun@intracen.org](mailto:mohun@intracen.org)

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

14. Exporters, producers and retailers can now compare dozens of different voluntary standards in one place. The ITC new Standards Map website ([www.standardsmap.org](http://www.standardsmap.org)) is the first comprehensive database on voluntary standards such as Fairtrade, Forest Stewardship Council, Marine Stewardship Council, GlobalG.A.P and others.

15. The standards Map covers voluntary or "private" standards developed by non-governmental organizations and private entities. Compliance with 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.

16. The standards Map was set up by ITC as private standards experienced unprecedented growth, becoming in many cases de facto requirements for southern exporters wishing to enter developed country markets. Accompanying this growth is an increasing need for information and transparency.

17. There are currently 30 standards or codes of conduct available for comparison on the website. These standards operate in more than 140 countries and collectively certify or verify over 60 product groups. Additional standards will be continually added to the website. The website will be translated into Spanish and French by the end of April 2010.

For more information about T4SD, please contact:

Joseph Wozniak, Programme Manager ([wozniak@intracen.org](mailto:wozniak@intracen.org)).

### **ACCESS! Programme**

18. The ACCESS! Programme, initiated under the Canadian-funded Programme for building African Capacities for Trade (PACT), is a gender-focused, regional trade support programme aimed at improving the trade support services offered to African businesswomen in international trade, with a view to promoting their economic empowerment.

19. The ACCESS! programme's Business Counselling component was started in partnership with Uganda Women Entrepreneurs Association Limited (UWEAL) and the Center for African Women Economic Empowerment (CAWEE), the ACCESS! Focal Point (AFP) institutions in Uganda and Ethiopia, to provide post-training assistance, coaching and business counselling services to participating women entrepreneurs, and will run over the course of the year 2011. Meanwhile, 19 AFPs (including UWEAL and CAWEE) have finalised their national ACCESS! Export Training implementation plan which will be implemented during 2011 starting in the second quarter.

### **OIF - ToT programme**

20. ITC and Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) jointly organised a Training of Trainers programme in Cameroon on "Improving and Maintaining Market Access through standards and conformity assessment" from 7 to 14 December 2010. Seventeen trainers from ECCAS countries (Gabon, Cameroon, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic, Congo) were trained. They are now equipped to conduct national training workshops in 2011 in this area.

#### **C. JOINT ITC-ISO WORKSHOP ON "LINKING TRADE PROMOTION ORGANIZATIONS AND NATIONAL STANDARDS BODIES FOR EXPORT SUCCESS" AND JOINT ITC-ISO PUBLICATION ON THE SAME TOPIC**

21. ITC and ISO jointly organized a regional three-day workshop on "Linking Trade Promotion Organizations (TPOs) and National Standards Bodies (NSBs) for Export Success", hosted by the Oficina Nacional de Normalización (NC) in collaboration with the Centro de Promoción del Comercio Exterior y la Inversión Extranjera de Cuba (CEPEC), in Havana, Cuba from 24 to 26 November, 2010.

22. Some 40 senior officials from NSBs and TPOs representing 22 countries from regions of South America, Caribbean and Central America explored how linkages between TPOs and NSBs can be strengthened to improve the international competitiveness of enterprises and developed joint action plans. The joint ISO-ITC publication "Building Linkages for Export Success" was well received by delegates and considered a useful foundation to support the delivery of the workshop. This handbook is available in English, French and Spanish and can be downloaded as PDF from the ISO and ITC websites<sup>2</sup>. Hard copies can be ordered through the ITC and ISO websites respectively. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) partly funded the regional workshop. A joint ISO-ITC article on this event will be featured in the April issue of the ISO Focus.

23. ITC and ISO are planning to organise a third event for the Anglophone countries in Africa in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania on 21-23 June 2011. This event follows on from the first two such regional events organized in Malaysia in December 2009, and in Cuba in November 2010. The event will be hosted by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) in cooperation with Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade).

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.intracen.org/eqm/> (click on "Handbook and Bulletins")

**ITC International Trade Forum Magazine - Issue 3, 2010 Quality & Standards (available in English, French and Spanish)**

24. The Quality & Standards magazine issued in English in October 2010 is now available also in French and Spanish. It looks at standards and quality and their role for the promotion of exports from developing countries. Online version is available at <http://www.tradeforum.org>

For more information:

Shyam K. Gujadhur, ITC Senior Adviser on Standards and Quality Management  
Tel: +41 22 730 03 96; Fax: +41 22 730 05 76; E-mail: [gujadhur@intracen.org](mailto:gujadhur@intracen.org)

Ludovica Ghizzoni, ITC Adviser on Enterprise Value Chain, Export Quality Management

Tel: +41 22 730 06 38; Fax: +41 22 730 05 76; E-mail: [ghizzoni@intracen.org](mailto:ghizzoni@intracen.org)

Web address: <http://www.intracen.org/eqm>; E-mail: [quality@intracen.org](mailto:quality@intracen.org)

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