

**INFORMATION ON SPS-RELATED RECENT AND FORTHCOMING
ASSISTANCE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES
(PERIOD: JULY - SEPTEMBER 2011)**

Communication from the International Trade Center (ITC)

The following communication, received on 18 October 2011, 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) 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 the end of October 2011.

All ACP Agricultural Commodities Programme - Samoa

2. 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 2011. 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 Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) – Component 2

3. 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 in Africa for the building capacity of 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; and
- GSB, KEBS, UNBS have developed action plans to deliver programmes on food safety for sustainability.

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

B. OTHER ITC PROJECTS OF INTEREST:

Non-Tariff Measures project

5. 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 surveys will be in 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 also continues 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)

6. The European Commission (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.

7. As of October 2011, Standards Map covers 43 private standards developed by non-governmental organizations and private entities. The new standards loaded since June 2011 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.

8. 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.

9. 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 (TPOs) and National Standards Bodies (NSBs) for Export Success"

10. 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 2011.¹

11. 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").

12. 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.

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

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¹ 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.