

**INFORMATION ON SPS-RELATED RECENT AND FORTHCOMING ASSISTANCE AND
OTHER ACTIVITIES FROM THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE (ITC)
(JULY - SEPTEMBER 2012)**

The following communication, received on 15 October 2012, is being circulated at the request of the ITC.

I. PROJECTS

A. EIF - SECTOR COMPETITIVENESS AND EXPORT DIVERSIFICATION IN THE GAMBIA (2012-2015)

1. The Quality Enhancement component of the project has started in August 2012 with the development of the quality assurance framework for cashew nut and sesame. Overall the component will **address product food safety and quality issues and address technical barriers** hindering market access of Gambian exports of groundnuts, cashew nuts, and sesame, by implementing activities which will include:

- (a) Upgrading NARI's lab testing capacity and recognition at international level (aflatoxin);
- (b) Developing standards for groundnuts, cashew nuts and sesame;
- (c) Providing training and tools for enhanced quality segregation of groundnuts by quality control inspectors;
- (d) Enhancing food safety of groundnuts through implementation of HACCP¹ and pre-requisites such as GAP² and GMP³;
- (e) Developing a Quality Assurance Framework for cashew nuts and sesame;
- (f) Enhancing farmer capacity to grow groundnuts, cashew nuts and sesame of better quality and higher productivity through a Farmer Field School Approach.

B. NETHERLANDS TRUST FUND (NTF II) - SENEGAL

2. The project, funded by the Netherlands, has the objective to create a competitive and sustainable value chain for mango export to Europe from the Niayes region in Senegal.

¹ Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points.

² Good Agricultural Practice.

³ Good Manufacturing Practice.

3. Within the framework of the project, the ITC Quality component assists mango exporters to access the EU market and improve their competitiveness (January 2012 - March 2013).

4. Key interventions delivered by ITC with the support of ASEPEX and other trade support institutions:

- (a) The diagnostic analysis of three enterprises and two groups of farmers was conducted and assistance to accompany them to implement the schemes is being delivered (June 2012 - March 2013). Two enterprises were successfully certified to GlobalGAP by an internationally-recognised certification body in August 2012.
- (b) A programme of short training and communication courses was held along the supply chain in July-August 2012:
 - four training sessions for the producers to prevent and treat fruit fly infestation and implement good agricultural practices (101 trained people);
 - five "animations pédagogiques" to prevent and treat fruit fly infestation (131 trained persons);
 - two sessions for the exporters on good cold chain practice (78 trained persons).
- (c) To monitor the sanitary compliance of mango with the EU regulation on maximum residue limits (MRL), a series of analysis on pesticide residues have been conducted by an internationally accredited lab. All the samples were found to be in conformity with EU MRL requirements.

5. A national mango day was organized in Dakar on 4 October 2012 to take stock of the campaign, NTF II results, planning of next steps and to provide recommendations vis-à-vis the strategy against fruit fly infestation.

C. STDF/PG/172: "EXPANDING NIGERIA'S EXPORT OF SESAME SEEDS AND SHEANUT/BUTTER THROUGH IMPROVED SPS CAPACITY BUILDING FOR PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR"

6. The Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) is the implementing agency of the STDF 172 project, with ITC as supervisory agency. The project duration was approved to be extended from October 2012 till March 2013 at the last STDF WG meeting, to address the delay accumulated with regard to the issue of completing the premises and shelters in the selected states to house the machines and their delivery and use. In the last months, the project advanced on the completion of the documentation such as characterization of the two value chains; development of a simple predictive model to reduce aflatoxin; updating of manuals of safety and quality and training materials. Significant effort has been put by NEPC to get the states mobilizing funds and progressing on the construction of the sites based on the model funded by NEPC, and also on monitoring the delivery of seven sets of machinery. A request for additional funding is being submitted to the STDF WG to support the completion of a few activities, initially not properly budgeted in the project or omitted, such as continuous lab testing, adequate support by the international consultant, and contribution to the building of the shelters.

7. The third ITC monitoring mission is planned to take place on the occasion of the mission of the International Consultant (if funded) once four sites are completed for the implementation of the HACCP system and training of trainers on HACCP in November 2012.

D. CUSTOMS UNION (BELARUS, KAZAKHSTAN AND RUSSIA)

8. A guide on EU market access conditions for pasta and flour exporters of the Customs Union and a study on the quality and SPS infrastructures supporting exports of flour and pasta to the European Union from Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia are under development within the framework of the project "CIS regional trade development".

9. ITC is planning to host one roundtable in Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia in October – November 2012 to present the findings and finalise the guide and the study.

E. PERU - EXPORT DEVELOPMENT IN PERU'S NORTHERN CORRIDOR⁴

10. The export quality management component of the project has the objective to build the capacity of trade related institutions in the Costa area of Peru to complement their programmes aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of small enterprises through compliance with food hygiene and safety requirements in international markets and enhance and increase their exports. The project (April 2012 – March 2013) is building the capacity of 10 selected Trainers-cum-Counsellors (TcC) to assist 10 small and medium-sized enterprises from Chiclayo and Piura to understand and implement food safety systems based on HACCP through the ITC methodology of TcCs and related Training Pack. A second mission of the national consultant took place in August 2012, when the following was delivered:

- Follow-up visits to enterprises to monitor the implementation of the road map for HACCP and on how to prepare documentation for HACCP, August 2012;
- A two-day workshop on "Understanding Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points Determination", Piura, 20-21 August 2012;
- A one-day workshop on "Principles and Methods of Training" for TcCs, Piura, 22 August 2012.

The next mission of the national consultant is planned in November 2012 to continue the practical training on implementing HACCP of the TcC and enterprises.

II. OTHER ITC PROJECTS OF INTEREST

A. NON-TARIFF MEASURES PROJECT

Non-Tariff Measures (NTM) project

11. In September 2012, ITC launched a new NTM survey in Indonesia: this will be one of the largest NTM surveys carried out so far, with 1,300 companies planned to be interviewed in the country. To date, 23 ITC NTM surveys have been launched worldwide. Two new official requests have been received in October from the governments of Thailand and Papua New Guinea for the implementation of ITC NTM surveys. In the meantime, the draft NTM report for Madagascar and Malawi are nearly finalized. It has been agreed with the local authorities in Madagascar that a national stakeholders meeting be held on 31 October to discuss results of the survey. The Malawi stakeholder workshop is scheduled to be held on 11 October in Lilongwe to present and discuss ITC NTM survey results in the country.

⁴ The project is funded by the Economic Cooperation and Development Division at the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO).

12. The Peru NTM report has been published and is now freely available online at <http://www.intracen.org/peru-company-perspectives-itc-series-on-non-tariff-measures/>. Another successful NTM National workshop was held in July in Rwanda, where the national NTM report was validated by the local authorities. Comments from the workshop and the meetings in Kigali need to be incorporated before the final report is published and made available on the ITC website.

13. The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCC) of Sri Lanka developed an STDF project building on some critical findings of the survey conducted by ITC on NTMs faced by Sri Lankan exporters. The survey revealed that the majority of reported NTM cases adversely affecting agricultural companies in Sri Lanka are technical regulations (SPS and TBT) and related conformity assessments. This project funding has been approved by the STDF Working Group and the kick-off of the project is pending the finalization of the implementation framework between STDF/ITC and CCC.

14. For more information about NTM projects, 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.

B. TRADE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (T4SD)

15. ITC's Standards Map allows users to compare private standards with regards to, for example, social, environmental and economic criteria, geographic and product-related scopes, compliance policies and requirements for implementation. Compliance to these standards is not legally required by governments or regulations, but it could lead to more sustainable social and environmental practices and improved competitiveness for exporters.

16. As of June 2012, the Standards Map covers 75 private standards developed by non-governmental organizations, companies, multi-stakeholder coalitions and other private entities. The new standards loaded include Worldwide Responsible Accreditation Production (WRAP), Verified Carbon Standard and Union for Ethical BioTrade (UEBT). The team is working on an additional ten standards that will be loaded on the website by the end of October 2012, including Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), Global Social Compliance Programme (GSCP) and the European Ecolabel, among others. The T4SD team also published several papers in the past months, among which a paper series on the impacts of private standards on global value chains (part 1), on the producers level (part 2) and on the interplay of public and private standards (part 3). The three papers are accessible at: <http://www.standardmap.org>.

17. In collaboration with the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) Platform, the Dutch Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) and IMD's Corporate Sustainability Management Platform (CSM), the team is also developing a business guide for sustainable sourcing. This guide will lay out the key issues companies need to take into consideration when planning and implementing a sustainable sourcing strategy, with particular focus on developing a sustainable supply chain. Illustrating the main challenges in developing sustainable supply chains, this guide will develop a set of concrete actions and strategic responses to support businesses in dealing with sustainability issues along the supply chain. The final publication is expected in December 2012.

18. The team aims to have approximately 110 standards fully loaded on the website by the end of 2012.

19. Should you be interested in a live demonstration of the website or in a webinar, please contact Joseph Wozniak, Program Manager (wozniak@intracen.org).

III. OTHER ITC INTERVENTIONS OF INTEREST

A. WTO ADVANCED COURSE ON SPS AGREEMENT (8-26 OCTOBER)

20. ITC hosted two sessions of the training course on 10 October, one on the STDF presented by an STDF representative and one on technical assistance in the SPS area provided by ITC (ITC Representative).

B. WEDF 2012: LINKING GROWTH MARKETS: NEW DYNAMICS IN GLOBAL TRADE

21. The World Export Development Forum (WEDF), the ITC flagship event, will this year focus on the opportunity of linking some of these growth markets through inter-regional trade between the ASEAN region, Latin America and Africa, and the potential for this process to contribute to trade-led inclusive sustainable development. The event is being hosted by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and will be held from 15-17 October 2012 in Jakarta.

22. Information on topics and the programme will be available on <http://www.intracen.org/trade-support/wedf>.

For more information:

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