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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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**INFORMATION ON SPS-RELATED RECENT AND FORTHCOMING ASSISTANCE AND
OTHER ACTIVITIES FROM THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE (ITC)
(MARCH–JUNE 2013)**

The following communication, received on 21 June 2013, is being circulated at the request of the ITC.

The International Trade Centre is continuing its efforts to assist enterprises to meet technical requirements. An update of the projects of interest to the SPS Committee is provided herewith.

1 PROJECTS

1.1 EIF - Sector Competitiveness and Export Diversification in The Gambia (2012-2015)

1.1. In this project, technical barriers hindering market access of Gambian exports of groundnuts, cashew nuts, and sesame are being addressed. The activities conducted so far are:

- a. Training on ISO 17025 and quality documentation has been provided to 16 laboratory technicians;
- b. A training workshop on standard development procedures based on the Code of Good Practice of the TBT Agreement was organised for the technical committee members of the Gambia Bureau of Standards;
- c. A one-day sensitisation workshop on the control of pre-packages according to OIML Recommendations was organised for staff of the Weights and Measures Department;
- d. A manual for quality control of groundnuts for quality control inspectors has been developed;
- e. A Quality Assurance Framework has been finalised for cashew nuts and sesame after a validation workshop held in February 2013;
- f. The implementation of Farmer Field Schools has started by the preparation of training materials and a Master Trainers Training course held from 8 to 15 June 2013; and
- g. Assistance to enhancing food safety of groundnuts through implementation of HACCP¹ and pre-requisites such as GAP² and GMP³ is due to start in September.

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

1.2. The Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) is the implementing agency of the STDF 172 project with ITC as supervisory agency. Four sites have been completed with the installation of equipment. The project activities, in particular the training on HACCP on the sites newly built, has been postponed from April to July/August 2013 due to the change in the project management structure of NEPC.

¹ Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points.

² Good Agricultural Practice.

³ Good Manufacturing Practice.

1.3 STDF/PG/354: "Improving Safety and Quality of Sri Lankan Fruits and Vegetables"

1.3. The project has the objective to analyze SPS constraints along the value chains, enhance public and private sector stakeholders' capacity to meet international SPS requirements and improve public-private cooperation. The project is implemented by ITC in close coordination at national level with the Ceylon Chambers of Commerce (2013-2015). A Memorandum of Understanding between ITC and CCC was signed on 10 June 2013. Through the grant and activities conducted within the framework of STDG/PG/354, ITC is committed to contribute to strengthening the CCC's capacity in assisting the private sector in Sri Lanka to enhance its export capacity. The value chain analysis of selected crops is due to start in July 2013 and the kick-off workshop is planned for the first week of September 2013.

1.4 Fiji "Improving key services to agriculture"

1.4. An EU programme, funded from the Multi-Annual Indicative Programme on Accompanying Measures for Sugar (AAP2011), implemented by ITC and the Secretariat of the Pacific Communities (SPC), aims at improvement of key services to non-sugar agriculture in order to improve and consolidate farming systems in Fiji with the ultimate goal of income generation through alternative livelihoods for poverty alleviation.

1.5. The food safety component is currently focusing on (i) building the capacity of enterprises and local Trainers Counsellors (TcCs) to comply with and advise on food safety requirements (Fiji Food Act, HACCP, GAP); and (ii) setting up a system of registration for trainers, advisory and training services in the area of food safety. In particular:

- Nine Trainer-Counsellors (TCs) are participating in training and coaching on food safety standards.
- Nine enterprises are currently participating in the project, and also participated in trainings and received advisory services.
- The TCs have completed six draft Food Safety "Gap Analyses" (i.e. measuring the enterprise's current status in food safety standards relative to requirements for desired markets) and draft plans for implementing food safety systems for six local agri-enterprises.
- The next mission of the international consultant on food safety is planned from 28 June to 15 July 2013. Further assistance (classroom training and field visit) to the enterprises to implement HACCP and GAP, coaching of the TCs and further sensitization on food hygiene and food safety will be delivered.

1.5 EIF Lesotho - Horticulture Productivity and Trade Development Project

1.6. This project aims at contributing to the enhancement of Lesotho's sustainable economic growth, employment, food security, and poverty alleviation through building and strengthening the capacity of smallholder producers to commercialize, diversify, and promote production of fresh fruits and vegetables (FFVs) for export markets. A first mission was conducted in May 2013 to develop operational work plans with the heads/directors of lead departments involved in the project, and to assess the needs the Department of Standards and Quality Assurance (DSQA) and the testing laboratories to support the FFV sector.

1.6 Workshops on Export Quality Management, Nepal in collaboration with PTB

1.7. Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB), the national metrology institute of Germany, and ITC jointly conducted two-day workshops on Export Quality Management in Nepal on:

- 11-12 June, Kathmandou; and
- 13-15 June, Pokhara.

1.8. More than 25 participants from various manufacturing sectors participated in the workshop in Kathmandou and more than 25 from the food and agriculture sectors (tea and coffee, honey, ginger, dairy products, noodles and biscuits) in the workshop in Pokhara. Participants gained a working knowledge, *inter alia*, on quality, the nature of technical requirements (standards, technical regulations, SPS measures), the fundamentals of conformity assessment, metrology and accreditation that would enable them to plan for the export of their products to major regional or

international markets. The workshops were presented within the framework of SAARC – PTB cooperation on quality infrastructure in collaboration with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) and other local partners, and ITC. The ITC/PTB publication: "Export Quality Management: A Guide for Small and Medium-Sized Exporters" was used as background material for the training and copies were distributed to the participants.

2 OTHER ITC PROJECTS OF INTEREST

2.1 Non-Tariff Measures (NTM) project

2.1. This project aims to increase transparency and understanding of NTMs – in order to facilitate trade in the long-run. It helps countries to understand the non-tariff obstacles to trade faced by their business sector, and assists in defining strategies and solutions that meet their exporters' needs to speed up and ease cross-border trade. This project is implemented with the close collaboration of ministries, export promotion agencies, research institutes, business associations and local experts in each country.

2.2. ITC has launched large-scale company surveys on NTMs and obstacles to trade in 23 developing countries worldwide. As of early June 2013, the results of the survey have been thoroughly analysed and discussed in 19 countries in public-private dialogue. These stakeholder workshops have validated the survey results and elaborated technical recommendations, policy options and practical solutions for problems reported by the private sector. The results of the workshops are used to finalize detailed country reports. Such reports are currently available for five countries (Burkina Faso, Malawi, Morocco, Peru and Sri Lanka) and accessible at <http://www.intracen.org/publicationlist.aspx?taxid=2314>.

2.3. For example, the stakeholder workshop in Jamaica brought together more than 100 participants from the public and private sectors of Jamaica. The meeting was opened by Senator Arnold J. Nicholson, QC - Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade. One of the main recommendations suggested that effort needed to be exerted collaboratively between governmental export facilitating agencies (in particular, the Bureau of Standards) and exporters to attain HACCP certification/recognition, especially steps to reduce the cost of the process where possible.

2.4. For more information about NTM project, please contact ntm@intracen.org.

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