



**INFORMATION ON SPS-RELATED RECENT AND FORTHCOMING ASSISTANCE AND
OTHER ACTIVITIES FROM THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE (ITC)
(OCTOBER 2013 – MARCH 2014)**

The following communication, received on 25 March 2014, 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 latest activities conducted so far and ongoing are:

- a. Implementing HACCP: Assistance to enhancing food safety of groundnuts, cashew nuts and sesame through implementation of HACCP¹ was launched in January 2014. A one-day sensitisation workshop for a large audience of stakeholders, and a four-day workshop on HACCP and documentation for selected enterprises and trainers-cum-counsellors were conducted in January. An ITC full-fledged programme on HACCP, with classroom and hands-on training, will continue until February 2015 to coach five selected trainers-cum-counsellors and seven enterprises;
- b. Development and enforcement of technical regulations: In February 2014, a workshop was conducted for representatives of regulatory bodies to sensitise them on developing and enforcing technical regulations based on a guide developed jointly by ITC and PTB;
- c. Aflatoxin testing capacity: A mission of an international lab technician is planned for 6-11 April 2014 to ensure the functionality of a versatile modern high performance liquid chromatograph (HPLC) machine for aflatoxin analysis and to prepare in situ training for staff;
- d. The first ten national standards have been finalized and published, most of them being adoptions of international (Codex and ISO standards); and
- e. Around 60 Farmer Field Schools have been established and are functional in the three sectors.

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.

- a. The project has established eight processing sites (four for shea nut and four for sesame seeds) in eight states with the installation of sets of equipment, with the aim to improve

¹ Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points.

the compliance of shea butter and sesame seeds with SPS measures. Four have been commissioned to the local cooperatives;

- b. A new national project manager was appointed by NEPC in October 2013;
- c. Management of the sites: Potential investors to partner with the cooperatives to manage the processing sites were selected by NEPC. Sidley law firm is assisting to develop a framework for managing the sites on a pro-bono basis. One mission of a lawyer to Nigeria was conducted in February to meet relevant stakeholders and draft an MoU for management of the sites. The MoU is under finalisation;
- d. Harmonization and finalisation of the studies/reports is ongoing with the support of an International Consultant.² These documents shall represent the operational package of the processing sites for the food safety practices along the chain;
- e. A six month progress report was submitted by NEPC/ITC to the STDF Secretariat, August 2013 -January 2014; and
- f. A final workshop of the project is planned in April/May 2014 with ITC and possibly STDF representative participation.

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

1.3. The project has the objective to analyse 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 (March 2013-February 2015). The key activities conducted since October 2013:

- a. An intensive training of trainers programme for two divisions of the Department of Agriculture: Plant Quarantine Office and Extension Division. In total, 145 officers have been trained through:
 - i. Ten-day training of Plant Quarantine Officers, for 20 participants from the National Plant Protection Organisation, 30 October–8 November 2013, in Negembo, on International and EU Market Phytosanitary Standards, Plant Pest Surveillance, Phytosanitary Treatments, Pest Risk Analysis based on IPPC methodology;
 - ii. Two batches of five-day training for 50 Field Level Plant Quarantine Officers, 28 January to 1 February and 2 February to 6 February 2014, conducted by the eight best performing trained Plant Quarantine Officers under guidance of an international phytosanitary expert;
 - iii. 11-day training for 28 master trainers of the Extension Training Division, 4-15 December 2013, in Kandy, on Pest and Disease Management at Field level; Good Agricultural Practices; Phytosanitary and Safety Standards; Post-harvest Handling; Marketing; Business Management and Finance; Training and Extension Methodology; Field visit;
 - iv. Two batches of ten-day training in parallel for 47 Field Level Trainers, 10-21 February, in Kandy, by the six best selected trainees of the Master Trainers. The best performing Field Level Trainers and Master Trainers will train 150 Field Level Extension Officers and consequently 400 farmers.
- b. Updating of the regulated pest list commenced by an appointed team of three Plant Quarantine Officers (Senior Plant Pathologist, Senior Entomologist, Senior Weed Scientist);
- c. Two-day workshop on SPS and EU requirements for fruits and vegetables for about 70 food and drug inspectors, exporters and other relevant stakeholders conducted on 13-14 March 2014;
- d. Establishing a platform for private and public partnership: a series of meetings conducted with exporters and the Department of Agriculture to share SPS issues

² Simple predictive model for mould growth and aflatoxin production in the Nigerian sesame and sheanut/butter production chains, establishment of HACCP plan, traceability system, farmers' guide to quality production of shea and sesame in Nigeria.

hampering export (i.e. lack of hot water treatment facility) and find ways to address them;

- e. Second project steering committee meeting conducted, 12 March 2014;
- f. Ongoing update of the <http://www.spssrilanka.lk> website; and
- g. Ongoing mapping of extension officers, farmers and exporters to enable backwards linkages.

1.4. The STDF 354 project is featured in the ITC annual report 2013.

1.4 STDF PG 242: Development of an SPS Strategy, Comores

1.5. ITC is contracted by UNDP, as implementing agency of the project, to prepare and animate a workshop related to SPS issues for trade support institutions, scheduled for May 2014.

1.5 Fiji "Improving key services to agriculture"

1.6. 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.

1.7. The food safety component is currently focusing on i) building the capacity of enterprises and local Trainers-cum-Counsellors (TcCs) to comply with and advise on food safety requirements (Fiji Food Act, HACCP, GAP); ii) Setting up a system of registration for trainers, as well as advisory and training services, in the area of food safety under the national registration system; iii) improving hygiene at the markets.

- Nine TcCs and nine enterprises are participating in training and coaching. The third and fourth missions of the International Consultant on food safety took place 14-29 October 2013 and 3-26 February 2014. Further classroom training on internal verification and training skills and hands-on training to the enterprises to implement HACCP and GAP and coaching of the TcCs was delivered. An audit of six enterprises was conducted and gap reports drafted and recommendations to close non-conformities were given.
- A sensitization workshop on food hygiene and food safety was well received at the Lautoka market on 19 February 2014 by 70 market vendors, inspectors, market managers and cleaners
- A monitoring visit of the local EU delegates to two participating enterprises took place on 5 March 2014.

1.8. A selection of additional enterprises to implement HACCP with the support of the TcCs is ongoing.

1.6 Trade and Private Sector Development Programme, Zimbabwe

1.9. This project is funded by the European Union and implemented by ITC. It includes a component related to the capacity building of the testing laboratories of the Standards Association of Zimbabwe (SAZ) for pesticide residue testing as well as other testing for food products. This project has been launched in February this year.

2 OTHER ITC PROJECTS, PUBLICATIONS OR INTERVENTIONS OF INTEREST:

2.1 Training Seminar, Business Implications of Multilateral Trading System, for Russia; 7-11 April 2014, ITC, Geneva

2.1. The training course organised by ITC is designed as an introductory course to the multilateral trading system and the WTO trade rules for Russian representatives of the business community and government officials. The course provides fundamental and practical knowledge of the multilateral trading system and regulations, and international trade dispute settlement procedures.

2.2. A lecture on the "Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)" was provided by a representative of the WTO Agriculture and Commodities Division on 9 April 2014.

2.2 Trade for Sustainable Development (T4SD) project

2.3. Voluntary sustainability standards addressing issues related to environmental quality, social equity and trade practices have grown exponentially over the past decade. Small and medium-sized enterprises face challenges in keeping track of standards and meeting buyers' sustainability requirements. To address this challenge, a new version of the Standards Map was launched in February 2014. Standards Map 2.0 (<http://www.standardsmap.org>) allows users to compare voluntary standards side-by-side and to produce personalized reports that their companies can use to make better-informed decisions about certification and involvement in sustainable production and trade.

2.4. Trade support institutions, small and medium-sized enterprises, exporters, policymakers, producers and researchers can use Standards Map 2.0 to extract up-to-date information on more than 130 standards covering 80 sectors in 180 countries, as well as their requirements and scope of operations.

2.5. The user can then find summary reviews for each of the standards, as well as information about costs, scope, assurance, steps required to join an initiative and other information. Also available are charts and graphs that show the connection between a standard and different "hotspots": environment, social, economic, quality and ethics.

2.6. At the end of a user's analysis, there is the option to generate a customized sustainability diagnostic report, which serves as a company's roadmap towards sustainable production and trade.

2.7. ITC, with the support of HIVOS, IDH, SECO, 4C Association and UTZ Certified, is currently developing SustainabilityXchange, the first community owned, interactive platform on sustainable supply chain development. SustainabilityXchange will offer five services combined in one website:

- Yellow Pages: Access to expertise
- Library: Relevant training material on sustainable supply chains
- Community of Practice: Sharing of experiences, asking questions and participation in discussions
- Events Calendar: Promotion of training events and workshops
- Newsroom: Latest news on sustainable supply chains

2.8. SustainabilityXchange will be launched on 21 May 2014 during the ISEAL Alliance annual conference in London.

2.9. Should you be interested in more information please contact Joseph Wozniak, Program Manager (wozniak@intracen.org).

2.3 Non-Tariff Measures (NTM) programme

2.10. The programme 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.

2.11. ITC has already carried out large-scale company surveys on NTMs and obstacles to trade in 23 developing countries worldwide, and aims at covering more countries in the coming years. NTM country specific reports are currently available and accessible at <http://www.intracen.org/publicationlist.aspx?taxid=2314>.

2.12. The next national stakeholder NTM workshop is scheduled to be held in Tanzania, on 21 May 2014. This workshop aims to bring together more than 50 participants from the public and

private sectors of Tanzania. The results of an ITC NTM survey in Tanzania will be discussed in this public-private dialogue. The main objectives of the stakeholder workshop is to validate the survey results and elaborate technical recommendations, policy options and practical solutions for problems reported by the private sector. The results of the workshop will be used to finalize a detailed country report.

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

2.4 ITC 50 Anniversary

2.14. On the occasion of ITC's 50th Anniversary celebration, a number of events and initiatives will take place to build awareness around ITC's role in trade-related technical assistance among its major target audiences and amplify ITC messages. <http://www.intracen.org>

For more information:

Ludovica Ghizzoni, ITC Adviser on Export Quality Management

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

Khemraj Ramful, ITC Senior Adviser on Export Quality Management

Tel: +(41 22) 730 04 87 - Fax: +(41 22) 730 05 76 - E-mail: ramful@intracen.org

Web address: <http://www.intracen.org/exporters/quality-management/>

E-mail address: quality@intracen.org

Twitter: @QualityatITC
