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**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

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## **INFORMATION ON SPS-RELATED ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE (ITC)**

COMMUNICATION FROM ITC PERIOD COVERED: 1 OCTOBER 2019 – 1 MARCH 2020

The following communication, received on 9 March 2020, is being circulated at the request of the International Trade Center.

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The International Trade Centre is continuing its efforts to assist enterprises to meet technical requirements. An update of selected SPS-related activities of interest to the WTO Members is provided below.

### **1 PROJECTS**

#### **1.1 Guinée: Programme d'appui à l'intégration socio-économique des jeunes - INTEGRA (August 2018 - August 2022/ Donor: European Union)**

1.1. This project is a joint initiative of the European Union and the Government of Guinea to contribute to the prevention and minimization of irregular migrations by assisting Guinea's economic development through support to socio-professional insertion of youth and reintegration of returning migrants.

1.2. Regional sensitization campaign on quality and food safety (28 Oct-7 November 2019 and 13-24 January 2020): Amongst activities aimed at youth-oriented entrepreneurship initiatives, a sensitization campaign on the theme of "Quality: Strategy for youth of Guinea" was carried out by a team of trained trainers. As a part of this campaign, a team of 20 trainers comprised of representatives of quality related institutions, export promotion agencies, and private SMEs, conducted a series of workshops in 8 different regions, sensitizing 290 micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises' representatives on the advantages and methods of quality and food safety. Sets of posters and booklets were developed in French language, and widely disseminated as part of this campaign.

#### **1.2 Sudan: Supporting Sudan's Accession to the WTO and related trade policy reforms (Mar 2019 - Feb 2020/Donor Government of Japan)**

1.3. This project aims at WTO compliant reforms, and progress taken towards WTO Membership, contributing to inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

1.4. Pest risk surveillance training for NPPO (19-23 January 2020): Amongst activities aimed at strengthening SPS Institutions, the National Plant Protection Directorate of Sudan, 25 relevant officers were trained on pest risk analysis and surveillance, including update of the regulated pest risk in a five-day workshop, in accordance with International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) guidelines and methodologies. As per request from the NPPO, cases related to fruit flies, citrus canker, trogoderma granarium, and Aspergillus spp. were also discussed.

1.5. Participants from 12 regions of Sudan were trained and those from regions outside Khartoum welcomed and highlighted the importance of taking part in the workshop, stating this having been their first ever opportunity to do so.

### **1.3 Support to Facilitation of Trade between CEFTA Parties (January 2017 - February 2020 / Donor European Union)**

1.6. This project was carried out with Germany's international development agency, GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit), and aims to increase trade amongst the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) parties as a way to boost competitiveness, through actions aimed at reducing and eventually removing the most distortive non-tariff measures for a number of selected products.

1.7. Training on integrated risk-based import controls (10-12 Dec 2019); Amongst the activities of this project, a training workshop was held in Belgrade on "Building an integrated risk-based import compliance framework: tools for balancing trade facilitation and safety". Representatives of the SPS regulatory agencies of seven countries were present at the training which presented methodologies and engaged participants in exercises to apply those methodologies. The specific topics covered were: Introduction to Risk Management and context setting, Risk management in regulatory frameworks: setting regulatory requirements and compliance procedures, and Risk management in import compliance: addressing the risk of non-compliance.

### **1.4 EU-EAC Market Access Upgrade Programme - MARKUP (July 2018 - July 2022/Donor European Union)**

1.8. This EU-financed project aims to contribute to the economic development of the EAC region (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda), with the specific objective to improve market access of agro-industrial crop and horticultural sectors to the European Union, and among the five EAC partners. The selected products are avocado, cocoa, coffee, spices and tea.

1.9. Implementation of Global G.A.P. among avocado producers in Kenya, and Tanzania (June 2019-December 2020): Following a diagnostic assessment, nine Tanzanian avocado producer groups (comprising a total of 446 farmers) affiliated to exporting companies, are being assisted in the implementation of Global G.A.P. towards certification, in order to improve their access to EU markets. Producer groups have been training on good agricultural practices, good hygiene practices, and requirements of the said standard. Quality Management Systems have been developed and quality manuals prepared. Soil, water and product testing are ongoing. At the request of the partners, a Swahili translation of the related Global G.A.P. standard is being carried out in partnership with Global G.A.P. offices.

1.10. On similar lines as above, support to eight Kenyan avocado producer groups has commenced in February 2020.

### **1.5 Burundi Market Access Upgrade Programme -MARKUP (July 2018 – June 2022/ Donor European Union)**

1.11. This project aims to enhance quality infrastructure services with particular focus on its support to coffee and tea sectors. Following an assessment of seven testing laboratories 11 lots of equipment (240 items) have been procured and are being delivered to the beneficiaries.

### **1.6 Myanmar Trade-Related Assistance (Arise Plus – Myanmar) (July 2019 - June 2023/ Donor European Union)**

1.12. The ARISE Plus project aims at building inclusive and sustainable trade growth in Myanmar through support to MSMEs in selected value chains (component 1), enhancing food safety and SPS compliance (component 2) and trade policy formulation and implementation (component 3). The project's inception phase has started in August 2019 and ending in February 2020. Under component 2 a number of activities in the area of food safety and SPS have been completed, such as design of awareness-raising on standards and SPS campaign, development of a draft booklet on Managing quality in Myanmar, laboratory assessment, awareness talks on EU regulations for import and export. Further support to implement the National Residue Monitoring Plan for export to

the European Union was provided with also training to inspectors, beekeepers and processors to comply with EU regulations.

1.13. The ARISE Plus project with its component on SPS will build synergies with ARISE+Regional, the other ITC ongoing projects and their related quality and SPS components. The projects are: Inclusive tourism development with focus on Kayah state (consolidation) & Tanintharyi (extension) (NTF IV), funded by the Netherlands Trust Fund; Myanmar Trade and Investment Project (TIP) funded by DFID; Myanmar: Upgrading horticulture supply and sustainable tourism to develop business linkages, UN Cluster on trade and productive capacity - funded by Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) trust fund).

### **1.7 Afghanistan: Trade-related support assistance (August 2016 – extended to March 2020/Donor European Union)**

1.14. This project aims to strengthen human and institutional capacities in trade policy, strategy formulation and implementation, including quality management and SPS measures. The Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MoIC) is the main counterpart. Beneficiaries include Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), Ministry of Health (MoPH), National Standards Body (ANSA) and relevant sector associations.

1.15. Technical support for laboratories has been provided by an international expert in the month of November 2019, a number of awareness-raising metrology-related events took place in February 2020, including upgrading of the metrology lab and purchase of related equipment.

### **1.8 Tajikistan: Enabling market access for agricultural products through improved food safety system (March 2018 - February 2021 STDF - PG-447)**

1.16. The goal of the project is to improve export competitiveness of Tajik SMEs and food safety through better use of agri-chemicals and veterinary medicines with focus on honey and apricot sectors. It enhances high value market access for Tajik agri-food producers and processors and increases the level of safety of Tajik domestic food by reducing the risk of contamination and improving the systems of control and monitoring of agri-chemicals and veterinary medicines.

1.17. ITC has trained 30 Tajik honey and apricot sector experts on topics of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Good Hygiene Practices (GHP), EU market access requirements as well as harvesting and post-harvest technology. The pool of advisers will be cascading the knowledge and content of the training to final beneficiaries, i.e. farmers, producers and processors of honey and apricots in three regions of Tajikistan.

1.18. The project has supported Tajikistan to set up a Task Force for preparation of a National Residue Monitoring Plan (NRMP) a pre-requisite for accessing the EU market for honey. It is expected that Tajikistan will submit the plan in March 2020 for the first time.

### **1.9 SYMST: Systematic Mechanism for Safer Trade (LAO PDR Component) (December 2018 – October 2021/Donor European Union)**

1.19. The overall objective of the project is to improve food safety through better governance. The project aims to strengthening the regulatory framework for control of plant health and pesticides in the fruits and vegetable sector and other plant products through the application of norms and standards and improve market access. In Lao PDR the identification phase was completed and in January 2020 a technical workshop validated the findings, the target sectors, regions and markets (watermelon in Luang Namtha for export to China; rice in Vientianne for export to the European Union and chili and basil in Pakxe for export to the European Union), the plan of action to address the main SPS identified problems.

1.20. The project was officially launched on 29 January 2020. A plan of action to address the problems was agreed with stakeholders.

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