

INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES OF THE ITC

The following information was provided by the ITC (International Trade Centre) at the TBT Committee meeting of 15-16 June 2012.

I. PROJECTS

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

1. The EIF-funded project, approved in April 2012, with ITC as Executing Agency, aims at responding to some of the trade related development priorities of The Gambia as identified in its Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS). The project's development objective is to reduce poverty through activities that (a) strengthen targeted sectors competitiveness, (b) promote new business opportunities in domestic, regional and international markets and (c) generate additional incomes and create employment. The project targets are:

- (a) Agri-sector specific support for cashew nuts, groundnuts and sesame. Key focus will be on finding new export opportunities, product diversification, improved value-addition, quality enhancement and strengthened sector support institutions (Component A).
- (b) Provision of cross-cutting assistance in the areas of trade information (Component B) and inclusive tourism (Component C).

2. The Quality Enhancement component of the project 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:

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

¹ Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points.

² Good Agricultural Practice.

³ Good Manufacturing Practice.

II. OTHER ITC PROJECTS OF INTEREST

A. TRADE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (T4SD)

3. 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.

4. As of June 2012, Standards Map covers 75 private standards developed by non-governmental organizations, companies, multi-stakeholder coalitions and other private entities. The new standards loaded include SMETA Best Practice Guidance, Electronics Industry Code of Conduct (EICC), International Sustainability & Carbon Certification (ISCC), Primus GFS, TerraChoice and Food Justice Certified. The team is working on additional 10 standards that will be loaded on the website by the end of August 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 in global value chains (part 1), on producers level (part 2) and on the interplay of public and private standards (part 3). The three papers are accessible at: <http://www.standardsmap.org>

5. In a 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.

6. We aim to have approximately 110 standards fully loaded on the website by the end of 2012. Should you be interested in a live demonstration of the website or in a webinar, please contact Joseph Wozniak, Program Manager (wozniak@intracen.org).

B. NON-TARIFF MEASURES (NTM) PROJECT

7. ITC NTM report for Morocco has been published and released to the public and is now also available on ITC's website at: "<http://www.intracen.org/maroc-perspectives-des-entreprises-serie-sur-les-mesures-non-tarifaires>."

8. At the request of the WTO Secretariat and the Mission of Barbados in Geneva, a presentation of ITC's NTM programme was made at the small and vulnerable economies (SVEs) Strategic Brainstorming on Non-Tariff Trade Measures held at the WTO on 10 May 2012. A number of SVEs are beneficiary of the programme, including Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, and Mauritius.

9. ITC also successfully launched the non-tariff measures (NTM) survey in two more countries (Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea) during the period March - June 2012. Upcoming countries include Indonesia and Tanzania.

10. For more information about ITC's NTM project, please contact Ms Poonam Mohun, NTM Market Analyst, Market Analysis and Research, ITC. Tel: +41 22 730 0277 - Fax: +41 22 730 0577 - Email: mohun@intracen.org.

11. For more information contact Ludovica Ghizzoni, ITC Adviser on Export Quality Management, Tel: +41 22 730 06 38 - Fax: +41 22 730 05 7, Email: ghizzoni@intracen.org, Website: <http://www.intracen.org/exporters/quality-management/>, Email: <mailto:quality@intracen.org>.
