

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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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)

For the period October 2011 – March 2012

The following communication, received on 27 March 2012, is being circulated at the request of the ITC.

### I. PROJECTS

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

1. The Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) is the implementing agency of the STDF 172 project with ITC as supervisory agency. The project duration was expected to be October 2010-October 2012. A request to extend the duration to March 2013 has been submitted to STDF to ensure the successful completion of all project activities and to address the delay accumulated with regard to the issue of securing the space needed in the selected states to install/house the machines and their delivery and use. The project has made significant progress in the last months in particular with regard to Component 1 "Improving documentation on current practices of quality control for sesame seed and Shea product exports" and Component 2 "Implementation of a robust field quality control and traceability system for Nigerian sesame and Shea products". The second ITC monitoring mission was conducted from 13 to 17 February 2012, combined with the International Consultant's visit and the mid-term stakeholders meeting on 16 February 2012 (attended by 25 participants). A shea butter pilot site is being designed for hosting and using the equipment in Oyo State and is being used as a successful model to encourage replication and allocation of funding in the other states. So far one state has completed its own structure (with an NEPC contribution), and another two states had funding for construction approved. There is a strong commitment of the implementing agency (NEPC) leading to cooperation with other stakeholders. The second six-month progress report was submitted to STDF and cleared, and the release of the third tranche of funding is pending STDF's clearance.

#### B. CUSTOMS UNION (BELARUS, KAZAKHSTAN AND RUSSIA)

2. Within the framework of the project "CIS regional trade development", 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 will be prepared, with particular focus on non-tariff barriers, especially in the SPS area. The study and the guide will contribute to the overall objective of the "CIS regional trade development" project in promoting sustainable economic development of the countries of the Customs Union. The activity is expected to start in April 2012 and end by September 2012.

C. PERU - EXPORT DEVELOPMENT IN PERU'S NORTHERN CORRIDOR

3. 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) will assist small and mediums-sized enterprises to understand and implement food safety systems based on HACCP through the sustainable support of selected trainers-cum-counsellors from the region. The project is funded by the Economic Cooperation and Development Division at the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO).

D. SADC - SUPPLY CHAIN AND LOGISTICS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (SCLP)- REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

4. A project funded by the Flemish Government, implemented by the National Agriculture Marketing Council (NAMC) and ITC, is helping emerging farmers in South Africa to enable their integration in domestic, regional or international supply chains.<sup>1</sup> The project started in January 2010 and is expected to end by December 2012. The project is assisting 15 farms of pome and stone fruits (including 200 permanent staff and 1000 casual seasonal workers) in the Western Cape (Ceres and Grabouw) on three pillars: (i) food safety improvement through training and certification of GlobalGAP or SAGAP; (ii) optimization of the orchard production by improving quality and quantity through direct advisory support; and (iii) marketing by enhancing linkages with export agents and international supermarkets. Appropriate linkages are established with various government, industry and private agencies and initiatives to ensure the sustainability of the programme in respect of funding and market access opportunities.

## II. OTHER ITC PROJECTS OF INTEREST

A. NON-TARIFF MEASURES PROJECT

5. The first ITC NTM report (Sri Lanka) was published and released to the public during the WTO Ministerial (15 to 17 December 2011) and is now also available on ITC website. ITC was requested to deliver further analytical work on certain key areas identified by the Sri Lankan authorities. Since then, ITC has also published and disseminated the Burkina Faso NTM report.

6. On 3 February 2012, ITC hosted a seminar entitled "Non-Tariff Measures: New Challenges and the Road Ahead", regrouping experts on non-tariff measures (NTMs), and the wider Geneva trade and development community to take stock of NTM issues and challenges as well as to discuss the first results of the NTM programme. About 150 persons participated in that event. More information is available at: <http://www.intracen.org/new-challenges-and-the-road-ahead/>.

7. Two NTM national workshops were held in February 2012 in Peru and Morocco; both draft national NTM reports were validated by the local authorities. These new NTM reports will be published and released by ITC in the near future.

8. ITC successfully launched the non-tariff measures (NTM) survey in three more areas (Palestine, Kazakhstan and Cambodia) during the period October 2011 - March 2012. Upcoming countries include Indonesia, Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea.

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<sup>1</sup> The SADC SCLP project is also implemented in Malawi and Mozambique addressing the local specific needs with a focus more on the local and regional markets.

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 – E-mail: mohun@intracen.org

## B. TRADE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (T4SD)

9. ITC's Standards Map allows users to compare private standards with regards to, for example, their governance structure, social, environmental and economic criteria, 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 or potentially open up new markets.

10. As of March 2012, the Standards Map covers 70 private standards developed by non-governmental organizations, companies and other private entities. The new standards loaded since October 2011 include Ekolabel Indonesia, Green Label Thailand, Green Choice Philippines, China Environmental Labelling- CEL, Food Justice Certified, Verified Carbon Standard, International Council on Mining and Metals – ICMM, Carbon Trust - Carbon Reduction Label, China Organic Product Certification Standard, International Sustainability & Carbon Certification – ISCC, among others. The team is working on an additional ten standards that will be loaded on the website by the end of July.

11. The T4SD team also published several papers in the past months, among which a series on the impacts of private standards in global value chains (part 1), at producers level (part 2) and on the interplay of public and private standards (part 3). The three papers are accessible at: <http://www.standardstmap.org>.

12. We aim to have approximately 110 standards fully loaded on the website by the end of 2012.

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

## C. PUBLICATIONS AND TECHNICAL PAPERS

### III. EXPORT QUALITY MANAGEMENT: A GUIDE FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED EXPORTERS

14. ITC and the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt - the National Metrology Institute of Germany) (PTB) has partnered in publishing this results-based book. The guide is structured in a question and answer format and targets small and medium-sized exporters in developing countries. It provides managers with answers to their most frequently asked questions about quality, technical requirements, management systems, conformity assessment, metrology, accreditation, and the WTO Agreements on Technical Barriers to Trade and the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

15. This is the second edition of the 2001 best-seller, *Export Quality Management: An Answer Book for Small and Medium-Sized Exporters*. It has been revised by ITC in partnership with PTB to take into account international trade developments during the last decade.

16. The contributions from many individuals and organizations are well acknowledged, such as from the network on Metrology, Accreditation and Standardization for Developing Countries (DCMAS), STDF and the Secretariats of the WTO Committees on TBT and SPS.

On line version is available in English at: <http://www.intracen.org/publications/>.

Printed version can be ordered through the ITC e-shop (at <http://www.intracen.org/about/e-shop/>).

The book will be made available in French and Spanish in the second quarter of 2012.

17. National institutions dealing with quality such as National Standards Bodies and Trade Promotion Organizations, are welcome to partner with ITC to adapt the book through the addition of two annexes that describe the national quality infrastructure and contact details in a particular country.

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](mailto:ghizzoni@intracen.org)

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

E-mail address: [quality@intracen.org](mailto:quality@intracen.org)

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