



17 October 2013

(13-5705)

Page: 1/4

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

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

The following communication, received on 16 October 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. Following this workshop, the Bureau has been able to finalise and publish its first ten national 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 and 44 quality control inspectors of the sector have been trained;
- 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 (FFS) has started by the preparation of training materials and a Master Trainers Training course held from 8 to 15 June 2013. For each of the three sectors, five Master Trainers and 40 core facilitators have been trained and 20 FFS have been established; and
- g. Assistance to enhancing food safety of groundnuts through implementation of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and pre-requisites such as Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) and Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) is initiated with the launch of the expression of interest for operators and Trainers-cum-Counsellors. Classroom and hands-on training is due to start in December/January.

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. The project is due to end by the end of 2013 and the final project workshop is scheduled in December 2013.

1.3. The activities conducted so far are:

- a. Seven processing sites (four for sheanuts/butter and four for sesame seeds) have been established with the installation of sets of equipment. ITC participated to the commissioning of two pilot sites to the cooperatives (Oyo and Kogi States) in August 2013 with a high representation of government;
- b. Four sessions of two-day training workshops have been delivered by International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in August/September for a total of 190 extension officers, farmers and traders on reduction in occurrence and levels of fungi and aflatoxins in sesame seeds and sheanuts/butter in Oyo, Kogi, Niger and Benue States;
- c. A training workshop was conducted by National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) in Lagos on 26 and 27 August to expose traders, exporters and regulatory agencies officers to the newly introduced safety and quality systems in the production of sesame seeds and sheanuts/butter (HACCP, Traceability and Sampling Principles and application in the production of the commodities). One hundred people attended the opening ceremony and about 60 people were in attendance at each of the technical sessions;
- d. Harmonization and finalisation of the ongoing studies/reports¹;
- e. Code of practices and standards for sesame seed and sheanuts published by Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON); and
- f. A model for sustainability of management of the sites under finalisation.

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

1.4. 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 (CCC) (March 2013-February 2015). The activities conducted so far are:

- Project management structure in place with MoU signed between ITC and CCC, project launch and first project steering committee meetings held on 27 September;
- Value chain analysis of selected crops conducted and under finalisation;
- Six crops selected (tomatoes, green chili, protected agriculture, pineapples, papaya, mango); and
- Website launched: <http://www.spsrilanka.lk>.

1.4 Fiji "Improving key services to agriculture"

1.5. 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.

1.6. 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-cum-Counsellors (TcCs) and nine enterprises are participating in training and coaching on food safety and receive advisory services:

- The second mission of the international consultant took place in June-July 2013, where further classroom and hands-on training to the enterprises to implement HACCP and GAP and coaching of the TcCs and further sensitization on food safety was delivered;

¹ 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.

- A second awareness building workshop on food safety in international trade was conducted in July 2013 for more than 50 stakeholders from both public and private sectors;
- One guest lecture at the Hospitality Institute of the Fiji National University was conducted in July 2013 on hygiene, highlighting its requirements pertaining to food service and the catering industry;
- The third mission of the international consultant on food safety is ongoing (14 October to 29 October 2013). Further assistance (classroom training on Internal Verification Audit and Training Skills and field visit) to the enterprises to implement HACCP and GAP and coaching of the TcCs. Sensitization workshops on food hygiene and food safety for market vendors will also be delivered.

1.5 Bosnia Herzegovina – Workshop on the Provisions of the WTO SPS Agreement

1.7. A three-day workshop on the Provisions of the WTO SPS Agreement was conducted (24-26 October) by experts from the ITC and WTO. Thirty stakeholders from national agencies located in different districts, the government, and the chamber of commerce participated in the workshop. The institutions present included the Food Safety Agency, Veterinary Office, Plant Health Protection Administration, Inspection Services, and Ministries responsible for Health, Agriculture and Civil Service.

1.8. The sections covered included an overview of the SPS Agreement and its key features including risk assessment, harmonisation, equivalence and regionalisation; the functioning of the SPS Committee; transparency provisions with regard to the notification authority and enquiry point; control, inspection, and approval procedures and the differences between SPS and TBT measures.

1.9. Participants grasped the central role of public authorities in order to ensure an effective functioning SPS infrastructure to promote national exports and the related requirements with regard to WTO accession. The need for a legislative basis to ensure a working infrastructure in line with WTO requirements was highlighted. The participants expressed a desire for further workshops on SPS and TBT compliance in relation to the WTO accession.

2 OTHER ITC PROJECTS OF INTEREST

2.1 2013 Advanced course on the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

2.1. On 10 October ITC delivered a presentation on the ITC technical assistance programmes within the session on "The SPS Agreement, the STDF and WTO Technical Assistance". The session was held at the ITC office.

2.2 International Trade Forum, Issue 3/2010

2.2. The issue 3/2013 focuses on Aid for Trade; in particular on the fourth global review of Aid for Trade. On line version is available at <http://www.tradeforum.org>.

2.3 Non-Tariff Measures (NTM) project

2.3. 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.

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

2.5. The next national stakeholder NTM workshop is scheduled to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 27 November. This workshop aims to bring together more than 50 participants from the public and

private sectors of Indonesia. The results of the ITC NTM survey in Indonesia 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 for Indonesia.

2.6. The NTM team delivered a presentation on the project at the STDF Working Group meeting on 16 October 2013.

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

2.4 Trade for Sustainable Development (T4SD) project

2.8. 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.

2.9. As of October 2013, the Standards Map covers over 125 private standards, codes of conduct and audit protocols operating in over 200 countries and applicable to over 80 sectors/ subsectors. For example, the Standards Map now includes the IFC Performance Standards. The team is working on an additional five private standards that will be loaded on the website by the end of 2013, including Fair Trade in Tourism South Africa, GlobalGAP crops, and Codex Alimentarius Food Hygiene, among others.

2.10. The Standards Map team is also leading a consortium composed of four partner organizations (ITC, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, Fair & Sustainable Advisory Services and FAQ) to develop a new online platform called SustainabilityXchange. SustainabilityXchange will become a community-owned online platform for improving producer and exporter organisational capacity, sustainability performance and ability to manage and control quality. This includes access to relevant documentation (document library), access to expertise (yellow pages), capacity development (calendar of events), exchange of experiences (community of practice) and the latest news related to sustainable agriculture. The SustainabilityXchange launch is planned for March 2014.

2.11. We aim to have approximately 130 standards fully loaded on the website by the end of 2013. Should you be interested in a live demonstration of the website or in a webinar, please contact Joseph Wozniak, Program Manager (wozniak@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
