

ISSUE #25 | JANUARY 2021

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THE 7TH COMESA ANNUAL RESEARCH FORUM COMESA

Since 2014 COMESA has been organizing Annual Research Forums. The main purpose of the research forum is to bring together the academia, think tanks, government officers and the private sector to discuss emerging topical issues in regional integration.

The 19-21 October 2020 COMESA organized the Seventh Annual Research Forum, funded by COMESA, OACPS and the European Union through the TradeCom II Capacity Building Programme under the COMESA Grant Action on “Enhancing COMESA Capacity in Trade Policy Analysis, Research and Training for Deeper Regional Integration and Participation in Global Economy.”

The theme was “Harnessing intra-COMESA trade through the interface with African continental free trade area (AfCFTA)”. The theme had five sub-themes namely: COMESA industrialization programmes and the AfCFTA; AfCFTA opportunities and challenges to boosting Intra-COMESA Trade; COMESA Role in Implementation of the AfCFTA; COMESA trade in services liberalization and the AfCFTA; and AfCFTA and COMESA trade regimes. As underlined by H.E. Chileshe Mpundu Kapwepwe, COMESA Secretary General, in her opening statement “The theme of this forum could not have come at a better time when there is renewed impetus for shaping the African political, economic and social development. Indeed, the ACFTA is the strategic framework for delivering on Africa’s goal for consolidating a single market, fostering structural transformation, and attaining inclusive economic growth and sustainable development”. H.E. Chileshe also pointed out that the COMESA TradeCom II Grant Action is carrying a mixed basket of outputs. First, the outputs from the 7th Annual Research Forum aims at

sharing expert ideas on regional economic integration. In this particular case, leveraging on the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA) to advance regional economic integration and providing readily applicable recommendations for policymakers. In addition, the Project is acting as a training ground for building the capacity of young researchers, trade experts, public servants and analysts who are looking towards honing their skills in the area of research and policy analysis.

Besides, the other important component of the programme is the collaborative Masters Degree Programme on Regional Integration. The latter is a professional course designed for government officials handling trade, aspiring trade policy analysts and a whole range of business and trade related professionals.

COMESA has signed MoUs with the following universities:

- i. Kenyatta University, Kenya;
- ii. University of Mauritius;
- iii. Open University of Mauritius;
- iv. l’Institut Supérieur de Gestion des Entreprise (ISGE) of Burundi;
- v. University of Zambia; and
- vi. University of Zimbabwe

So far, Kenyatta University based in Nairobi, Kenya and the University of Mauritius have already admitted the first batch of students to undertake the two-year virtual course. University of Zambia is at advanced stage on of seeking approvals to commence admitting students to the programme.

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE AFRICAN TRADE ARRANGEMENTS UNECA

The implementation of this TCII contribution agreement by UNECA aims to build the capacity for inclusive and equitable trade targeting policy makers and the private sector to increase the capacity of African private sector to take better advantage of preferential trade agreements and arrangements. This Project is part of a broader programme of the ECA/ATPC that aims to boost intra African trade and accelerate private sector development.

In line with the project work plan, the studies on the impacts, challenges and opportunities arising from preferential trade arrangements/agreements for Africa to spur more inclusive and equitable benefits have been completed. The five main studies are as follows; i) E-Commerce Provisions in Preferential Trade Agreements to strengthen the capacity of the African private sector to take better advantage of e-commerce in preferential

trade agreements and arrangements, with focus on EAC ; 2) Extending the benefits of free trade to informal cross border traders with a view to strengthen the capacity of both private and public sector actors to support informal traders to better tap into preferential market access opportunities and gradually formalize their trade, with focus on ECOWAS; 3) Negotiating Institutions: Putting in the Right Foundations to strengthen the capacity of the African private sector to better engage in the negotiation and implementation of preferential trade agreements and arrangements, and particularly those relating to trade in services, with focus on ECCAS; 4) Preferential Trade Agreement Compliance to strengthen the capacity of the African private sector to comply with and take better advantage of preferential trade agreements and arrangements, focusing on Southern Africa; and

5) PTA utilization by the private sector in Africa, and particularly vulnerable groups within the private sector, the constraints they face, and where support to improve the use of PTAs should be prioritized, with continental focus.

The studies highlighted the existing gaps on the respective thematic areas in each region. The findings of the studies lays the foundation for the provision of technical assistance to RECs and Member States and the delivery of capacity building to policy makers and the private sector.

EXPERT GROUP MEETING (EGM) ON PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENT COMPLIANCE IN THE SADC REGION

The EGM on preferential trade agreement compliance in the SADC region was held on 5th October 2020. The study focused on two crucial non-tariff measures that must be complied with for private sector operators to access preferences: (1) Rules of Origin (RoO) and (2) Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) measures. The objective of the meeting was to receive constructive feedback from experts in attendance to inform the finalisation of the study.

A centrepiece of the experts' group meeting involved critical feedback and discussion on the research findings. Issues were raised and emphasised including lack of awareness and knowledge over how to comply with the preferential trade arrangements, particularly given the lack of harmonization on these rules across Africa. With African trade being driven by SMEs, there was argued to be particular efforts required in these areas to improve the utilisation of preferential trade arrangements. Another critical area cited was the underdevelopment of national quality infrastructure.

EGM ON 'NEGOTIATING INSTITUTIONS: PUTTING IN PLACE THE RIGHT FOUNDATIONS'

The EGM on 'Negotiating Institutions: Putting in Place the Right Foundations' was held virtually on 7th October 2020. This study focused on the Central African region and focused on developing guidelines on how to strengthen the capacity of the African private sector to better engage in the negotiation and implementation of preferential trade arrangements.

The expert group meeting welcomed the findings of the study and provided useful feedback, including on the need to expand the analysis to cover the pre- and post-negotiations stages given the critical importance of design, implementation and enforcement. Experts also stressed the particular importance of transparency in negotiations and the need to ensure full participation by MSMEs, the youth and women.

EGM ON THE PTA UTILISATION STUDY

The Expert Group Meeting on the PTA utilisation study was held virtually on 14th October 2020. This study is the widest in scope, covering all African sub-regions, and providing an overarching framework for the ECA-OACPS project to assess issues related to preference utilization in Africa and identify areas for improvement. The objective was to evaluate the extent to which African businesses are utilizing the trade agreements available to them, with a specific focus on shining light on the challenges African producers face with preferential trading agreements 'within' Africa, which is an under-studied area.

Experts praised ECA on the timing of the study, and for the strong policy focused recommendations and prescriptions emerging

from the analysis. Issues were raised and emphasized included the need to expand the scope to include other challenges such as the often impermanence of PTA market access opportunities, the unpredictability of PTA requirements which can change with limited notice, the impact of preference erosion over time, and language barriers. Experts noted the need for customs to play a more supportive role in collating and providing detailed data to inform the analysis on PTA utilisation.

EGM ON THE STUDY ON EXTENDING THE BENEFITS OF FREE TRADE TO INFORMAL CROSS BORDER TRADERS IN THE ECOWAS REGION.

The EGM on the study on extending the Benefits of Free Trade to Informal Cross Border Traders in the ECOWAS Region was held virtually on 27 October 2020. The objective was to assess the options presented for overcoming the challenges of ICBT and in particular policies for extending the benefits of free trade to informal traders. Two key areas are the focus of this study: i) systems for more structured ICBT, including the potential for a simplified trade regime in the ECOWAS region; and ii) institutionalizing ICBT data collection for policymaking.

The main part of the experts' group meeting involved critical feedback and discussion on the research findings. Suggestions were made around the importance of complementary initiatives, such as simplifying related documentation online and in accessible languages for informal traders and access to finance for SMEs. In terms of ICBT data collection, it was acknowledged that currently this area is donor-led and sustainability requires a transition to greater national responsibility by customs agencies, but that a breadth of important institutions already operate in this area and can be leveraged and strengthened. The interaction of human mobility and immigration with ICBT was also raised, with the suggestion that immigration data could be improved to capture ICBT flows but that caution has to be taken to ensure that data collected on informal traders isn't used against them or scares them away from formalizing their activities.

EGM ON THE STUDY ON "E-COMMERCE IN PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENTS: IMPLICATIONS FOR AFRICAN FIRMS AND THE AfCFTA"

The EGM for the "E-commerce in Preferential Trade Agreements: Implications for African firms and the AfCFTA" study was held virtually on 29 October 2020. In January the AU Assembly decided that the AfCFTA will include negotiations for an additional "phase III" Protocol on E-commerce. The objective of the meeting was to provide feedback to ensure a well-aligned and informative research foundation to build the capacity of African negotiators on e-commerce, with a focus on the East African region.

A number of key action points were identified including the need to connect firm responses to the applicability within trade negotiations; explain why the survey responses and recommendations are important for policy; and incorporate inclusivity dimensions into the analysis, with a focus on women, youth and MSMEs. Experts also recommended that greater attention should be paid to assessing how to strike the right balance in intra-regional vs international negotiations, highlighting the need to weigh up positions in the AfCFTA limiting policy space at the WTO versus not allowing WTO positions to inhibit Africa-level discussions given the difference in contexts.



21 OECS OACPS-TRADECOM II SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS PRESENTED THEIR RESEARCH INTERESTS TO OFFICIALS FROM THE OECS COMMISSION, EU COMMISSION, OACPS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND STAKEHOLDERS FROM THE OECS REGION

OECS

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission, in collaboration with the University of the West Indies (UWI) Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services (SRC), hosted a webinar on November 11, 2020 for the 21 students of the 16th cohort of the UWI-SRC's Master's in International Trade Policy (MITP).

The purpose of the webinar was to allow the students to briefly introduce their research interests and identify opportunities for research collaboration and internships, to fulfill their research paper and internship requirements of the degree programme. Participants included officials from European Union Commission, the OACPS, the OECS Commission and its respective organs, OECS Government officials, partners in the regional business community and the UWI community.

The students are beneficiaries of a scholarship fund awarded through grant funds secured by the OECS Commission to implement the Project, "Consolidating the OECS Economic Union through Trade Capacity Building" under the EU-ACP TradeCom II Programme. Through the joint efforts of the OECS Commission and the UWI - SRC, the MITP Programme was adapted to the peculiarities of the OECS Economic Union and to meet a key objective of the Project, to address the institutional deficiencies hindering the effective formulation of trade policy and negotiating positions in the region, and to advance the implementation of the OECS Economic Union. Scholarships were awarded to two staff members of the OECS Commission and to 19 nationals from the six OECS Protocol Member States (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines).

In his opening remarks, the Director General of the OECS Commission, Dr. Didacus Jules, noted the value of empowering youth in the Caribbean to identify solutions to addressing the challenges facing the region with respect to international trade, trade negotiations and facilitating the movement of goods and people within the OECS. He also noted the need for accelerating the development of solutions amidst the challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. He concluded his remarks by highlighting the importance of utilizing expertise in the region and collaborations between educational institutions and organizations in the region, such as the collaboration between the OECS Commission and the UWI-SRC in executing this degree programme to address the challenges facing the region and the world.

Other remarks were made by the Principal of the UWI Cave Hill Campus, Dr. Eudine Barribeau; the Director of the UWI-SRC, Mr. Neil Paul; and the Deputy Director, UWI-SRC, Dr. Jan Yves Remy. Mr. Winsbert Louison, Programme Manager, ACP TradeCom II at the OECS Commission provided a brief overview of the implementation of the degree programme and Ms. Shameilla Moses, Programme Assistant, OACP TradeCom II, OECS Commission, provided the vote of thanks.

The participants commended the students for their hard work, the quality of research topics and their relevance for the region. Information was also provided on complimentary work being done in the region and shared research interests. Students also had the opportunity to provide more details on their research topic in the Q&A segment of the webinar.



STRENGTHENING THE PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION SYSTEM IN CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICA

OAPI

Access to quality seeds is a real challenge for African farmers in a context marked by climate change. To meet this challenge, it is necessary to provide them with suitable plant material through the plant variety system.

With this in mind, the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) launched the Project for the Strengthening and Promotion of the Plant Variety Protection System (PVP), with the financial and technical support of the EU Commission, the OACPS within the framework of the TradeCom II Program, and the international structures competent in the field of plant varieties. This initiative aims at strengthening the promotion of the plant variety protection system in the 17 OAPI Member States, with a view to boosting agricultural productivity, ensuring food security and promoting sustainable development while giving the agriculture of the Member States better chances to compete on the local market.

The implementation of the project will stimulate agricultural research in the 17 Member States through capacity building of research centres, human resource training and awareness raising. It was in the context of capacity building that OAPI organized in Lomé, TOGO, from January 18th to 22nd 2021, the second phase of the training of experts from research centers and OAPI on the technical examination of distinctiveness, uniformity and stability (DUS) of new plant varieties.

The training workshop was attended by 20 trainees, including 17 from Member States and 3 from OAPI in charge of the examination of applications for plant variety certificates and the examination of DUS reports.

The speakers recalled the interest of this training, which contributes to give human resources of OAPI Member States, the capacity to produce quality plant varieties and ensure their optimal exploitation, to contribute to the development of agriculture in African countries and more specifically those of the OAPI area.

The training focused on several points, including :

- 📍 The Plant Variety Promotion and Protection Project (PVP) ;
- 📍 The Presentation of the work carried out in the research centres of the States in the field of production and recognition of plant varieties (sharing of experiences);
- 📍 Carrying out technical examinations for DUS (UPOV protocol, adaptability to States) ;
- 📍 Role of breeders and research centres in the development and recognition of new plant varieties ;
- 📍 Registration in national or regional catalogues (DUS and VAT) ;
- 📍 Setting up a reference collection: modalities and challenges ;
- 📍 Interest of plant variety protection.

The results of the Workshop were the training of some 20 experts from OAPI Member States in DUS testing, experience sharing between the various agricultural research centers of OAPI Member States and training of experts in the establishment and use of UPOV protocols through the mechanisms for the protection and development of plant varieties





STRENGTHENING THE ECOWAS CUSTOMS AND PORTS OPERATIONS - MID TERM TRAINING

FAIMM

The Grant action “Improvement of port customs and operation efficiency in Africa (IPCOEA)”, implemented by Fondazione Accademia Italiana Marina Mercantile (FAIMM), Académie Régionale des Sciences et Techniques de la Mer (ARSTM) and the Port Management Association of West and Central Africa (PWA/WCA), is aimed at efficiency of customs and administrative clearance process of port operations in accordance to EPAs in Ports of the ECOWAS Area through the implementation of Single Window Systems.

The action has been developed by implementing a number of training sessions as one of the core activities of the project. A program of medium-term training and shorter, additional, sessions, were implemented in port communities of West Africa by an e-learning tool (Zoom platform with simultaneous translation in English, Portuguese and French and all course material available for participants).

26 participants from 7 Ports/Customs in ECOWAS area attended the Mid-term training from the 2 November to the 18 December 2020, a 35-days training with 105 hours of lessons given by 11 trainers - 8 from Europe and 3 from Africa. The training was structured in 7 sessions:

SESSION 1/2020 Nov, 2 – 6

The works have deepened the role of the international organizations in cargo transport such as WTO TFA, UN and WCO. Furthermore, the trainers gave definition, principles and best practices worldwide on National Single Window, Port Community System and Maritime Single Window.

SESSION 2/2020 Nov, 9 – 13

The session focused on bringing together the community around the port, including port authorities, users, shipping lines, Customs and other business or government agencies that have an interest. Moreover, the trainees analyzed UNCEFACT Suite of Recommendations 33-37 (In detail, study and analysis of each Recommendation and its purpose)

SESSION 3/2020 Nov, 16 – 20

The session implemented the analysis of main port processes under Port Community System (messaging or data models, international data standards, electronic technologies, development of software and logistic single window)

SESSION 4/2020 Nov, 23 – 27

During this session were discussed emerging trends in Technology supporting Trade Facilitation, National Legal Considerations, IMO & FAL (2018) - IMO security framework /cybersecurity / terrorism/crime – FAL, EU - Africa Trade relations and Data Protection, Compliance with international and national Data Protection laws covering both Private and Commercial information

SESSION 5/2020 Nov, 30 – DEC 4

Port Community System (Definition), steps to Set up a PCS - IPCSA Guidelines on “How to Set Up a PCS”, Governance Models, Business Models, Core Processes of a PCS, Additional Processes - Integration of Port operations, safety, security, dangerous goods, communication and Engagement, process development groups (Simplification and harmonisation of processes), integration of PCS with Maritime Single Window

SESSION 6/2020 DEC 7 – 11 SESSION 7/2020 DEC 14 - 18

Example of Assignments for Students – preparation of the final exercise -Stakeholder Mapping – Ask Participants to map stakeholder they consider should be involved in NSW/ MSW and PCS or just one and then ask them to share a 15-minute presentation with other participants. This helps to understand how stakeholders both private and public should be involved

In addition to the project website www.ipcoea.net, the training outcomes will be published on the 4th issue of the IPCOEA Newsletter and the LinkedIn page which, in addition to the dissemination of project results is also used for networking activities, conveying news and initiatives on topics similar to those developed by IPCOEA.

TRADE POLICY FOR ENHANCED EXPORT COMPETITIVENESS

REPOA

The TCII Grant action “Trade Policy for enhanced export competitiveness”, implemented by REPOA, aims to support exporters, trade support institutions (TSIs), the government officials and other development stakeholders to enhance the capacity of Tanzania as an ACP country to formulate and implement suitable trade policies, including strategies for strategic measures to harness the opportunities arising from effective implementation of regional and international trade agreements.

As part of the activities carried out under this Grant Action, REPOA conducted 2 capacity building trainings on “Strengthening exporters’ capacity to sustain and enhance export competitiveness and diversification”.

RICE MILLERS TRAINING (KAHAMA, SHINYANGA)

This was the first of a series of three-day intensive short-term training of rice millers aimed at building their capacity in good rice milling practices (GMP), and to inculcate entrepreneurship and skills to transform millers from being not only service providers but also business operators, which in turn will facilitate growth and transformation. The training was conducted from 20th – 22nd January 2021 in Kahama, Shinyanga region. The location was purposefully selected because Kahama is one of the districts with the highest rice production in Tanzania and it was officiated by the Kahama District Administrative Secretary (DAS) Hon. Timothy Ndanya who represented the Shinyanga Regional Commissioner Hon. Zainab Taleck and the Kahama District Commissioner Hon. Anamringi Macha.

The capacity building followed a training needs assessment of 100 millers that determined various operational gaps that millers are currently experiencing in the production of quality rice that is competitive in the domestic, regional and international markets. The gaps identified included:

- 📍 Awareness on good rice milling practices
- 📍 Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) certification
- 📍 Food safety and personal hygiene in rice processing
- 📍 Financial management, record keeping and filing tax returns
- 📍 Rice standards and grades
- 📍 Packaging and branding
- 📍 Milling machine maintenance and spare parts
- 📍 Warehouse management
- 📍 Compliance issues.

Prior to the training each miller had to indicate their willingness to be involved in the project which included attending the milling training on improved milling technology, upgrading their milling machine components, and improving the workplace environment.



COMPETITIVE TRADE CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR SEAWEED FARMERS

This was a seven-day short term training of trainers (ToT) aimed at stimulating local production and trade of seaweed was conducted on 14th -20th December 2020 in Pemba, Zanzibar and officiated by the minister responsible for agriculture in Zanzibar (ZMANRLF) Hon. Soud Nahoda Hassan, the outgoing minister of Marketing, Trade and Investment (ZMTI) Hon. Amb. Amina Salum Ali, and ZMTI's Permanent Secretary Mr. Juma Reli. The training focused on competitive farming methods and trade for comprehensive deep-water seaweed which is key to the production and trade of high quality and high value Cottoni specie in Zanzibar. The training included both classroom-based instructions and

field demonstration in onshore subtidal waters with depth of between 4 and 6 metres. Skills imparted by the training included appropriate site selection, preparation of farming materials, farm setting and planting of propagules/seeds. The training followed year-long engagement with ZMTI and ZMANRLF leading to the joint-identification of capacity needs at the upstream of the value chain, and the design of the training using the beneficiaries' seasoned seaweed experts. The training worked with 30 seaweed and aqua farming trainers— 19 women and 11 men. A second phase of the training on farm management and good harvesting practices will be conducted in early February 2021 in Unguja, Zanzibar, and will work with the initial clusters of trainees as well as additional 30 processors and exporters of seaweed who did not participate in the first phase of the training.



PRESENTATION OF THE STUDY ON THE REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE BETWEEN HINTERLAND AND COASTAL COUNTRIES TRADE CAPACITY BUILDING FOR WAEMU

Within the framework of the project “Strengthening WAEMU Trade Capacity”, implemented under the auspices of the TradeCom II programme, a Workshop to validate the report of the study on a regional strategy for “developing trade between Hinterland and coastal countries” was held by videoconference on the morning of 16 September 2020, due to the sanitary restrictions caused by the COVID 19 crisis. A total of about 30 participants were connected online representing different organizations, including: the WAEMU Commission; six participants per member country representing the Ministry of Trade, involved in trade negotiations and promotion, private sector professional associations, the representative of the Delegation of the European Union.

The presentation “Development of Trade Between Hinterland and Coastal Countries” highlighted the difficulties associated with the development of formal trade between coastal and hinterland countries within the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and then proposed ways to alleviate these difficulties.

In a first part, the presentation proposed a mapping of trade in the region on three levels: infrastructure (road corridors and railway lines), players (both for formal and informal trade) and finally, areas where the study highlights the best defined flows of goods exchanged between coastal and hinterland countries. This analysis

thus reveals that coastal states supply, for example, large quantities of oil and cement to the hinterland countries, which in turn supply the coastal countries with agricultural and mining products.

In a second part, the presentation proposed some solutions that will make it possible to strengthen the trade flows observed between the different states. It thus presents an analysis, for each state, of the promising sectors which have grown in recent years and which enjoy a revealed comparative advantage. These sectors, which are the strong points of the States in their trade relations with the other Member States, should therefore be strengthened. Bearing in mind the strengthening of these priority sectors, the study then seeks to assess the constraints on their development. At the production level, it is proving difficult to comply with sanitary, phytosanitary and quality standards while remaining competitive, which would be due to a lack of information on these standards and administrative procedures. In terms of transport, this is subject to repeated checks, which is a waste of time and money for all economic players.

Finally, on the basis of these observations, an action plan was presented. It proposes measures to be taken in the short, medium and long term that will improve exchanges between the coastal and hinterland countries of the WAEMU

DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF HAITI'S TRADE POLICIES AND RULES

RESULTS VALIDATION SEMINAR - VIDEOCONFERENCE SESSION

The activities carried out as well as the results and recommendations within the framework of the programme "Support for the Development and Strengthening of Haiti's Trade Policies and Rules", which ended on 23 November 2020, were the subject of a virtual meeting on the restitution of the results on 08 December 2020 which gathered the EU Delegation, the entire project team, the project manager on behalf of IBF and, the PMU TradeCom II was represented by the project manager, Ms. Gelsomina Pedalino and the Multilateral Trade expert, Ms. Emma Dinora Diaz.

The objective of this validation activity was to bring together the main players who benefited from the programme, including representatives of the private sector, CCIH, AMCHAM, CFHCI, FESP and ADH, and to provide them with the project deliverables.

Component 1 - Implementation of the Economic Partnership Agreement – EPA Cariforum-EU

Under this component, the Programme has developed :

- 📌 the Study on the institutional and legal impact of the adoption and implementation, as well as on the benefits of the EPA for the Haitian private sector;
- 📌 Two brochures for the dissemination of the benefits of the EPA for the private sector based on the above-mentioned study;
- 📌 A Draft Road Map to guide the elaboration of the National EPA Implementation Plan based on study and research on comparative experiences.

Component 2 - Support for successful integration into the Caribbean Single Market and Economy

In the areas of the second component the programme has focused on :

- 📌 The drafting of an analysis document on the ratification of the Caribbean Single Market (CSME) focusing on the modification of the customs tariff, and
- 📌 The preparation of a presentation and analysis paper on competition law and consumer protection ;

Component 3 - Implementation of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Trade Facilitation

Component 3 of the program aimed at:

- 📌 The elaboration of the Draft TOR of the CNFE on the basis of consultation with the different stakeholders, a literature review and a brainstorming on some trade facilitation committees in developing countries;
- 📌 The drafting of the National Implementation Plan of the TFA of the Republic of Haiti
- 📌 The Preparation of a notification document for measures classified in categories A, B and C; indicative dates for the implementation of measures classified in categories B and C and the technical assistance required for the implementation of measures classified in category C

Component 4 - Support to the implementation of the Quality Management System of the BHN according to the ISO 9001 standard

Component 4 of the programme focused on strengthening the technical and certification capacities of the Haitian Bureau of Standardization, in order to ensure that companies are supported in implementing approaches that comply with standards.

Considering the short duration of the project, the programme focused on the implementation of an ISO 9001 Quality Management System (QMS) for the Haiti Bureau of Standards (BHN). The Program has achieved the following:

- 📌 the design of support approaches and their content
- 📌 a training session, coaching and remote support for this project
- 📌 the development of quality document templates
- 📌 a training course of trainers and a 5-day restitution session of the different works with 20 participants.

BHN certification may be examined once the QMS is implemented.

It is being recognized that all components of the programme are part of a sustainable impact intervention and the documents produced under the four components will enable the Haitian authorities and institutions to take the necessary decisions and actions to advance Haiti's integration into regional and international trade.

SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TRADE EXPORT STRATEGY FOR ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES AND A GI CERTIFICATION SCHEME FOR QUALITY EXPORTS IN GUYANA CLOSURE OF THE PROGRAMME

The Programme “Support for the development of a Trade Export Strategy for St. Vincent and the Grenadines and a GI Certification Scheme for Quality Exports in Guyana” was successfully completed in November 2020 with the submission of the Final Report covering the period June 2019 to November 2020 that summarize the results achieved under this Programme.

Firstly, the Programme identified 3 quality products to be supported by the Programme on the drafting of their Geographical Indication (GI) Technical Specifications for their registration in Guyana, such as:

- 📍 Barima Wild Hearts of Palm/Barima Wild Hearts of Manicole Palm/Barima Açai Hearts of Palm
- 📍 Guyana Rice and
- 📍 Guyana Greenheart Wood.

An additional result consists of a methodology to identify local quality products in Guyana with the potential to become GIs in the future.

The GI Technical Specifications for the 3 selected products were prepared, presented, validated and approved by related

stakeholders as well as by the Programme’s main beneficiary (the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation). Within the Programme, were also prepared, delivered and approved by the Project’s main beneficiary the “Guidelines to Geographical Indications in Guyana”, with the needed orientation to set up a GI, its GI management body and its internal control plan, as well as to draft the GI Technical Specifications to be submitted when applying for registration in Guyana

The Guidelines for Market Access Strategies for the 3 selected products were also prepared, and presented to related stakeholders, as well as validated and approved by the Beneficiary.

Further to the commitment of the Project Experts, achieving all results was possible thanks to the efforts of the stakeholders, as well as to the strong leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation was instrumental in ensuring the efficient liaison between the Project Experts and the key stakeholders and other related actors, confirming its great interest in taking full advantage of the technical assistance made available through the Programme.

Glossary

ACP	Africa Caribbean and Pacific	SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
CARIFORUM	Caribbean Forum	SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa	TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation	TFTA	Tripartite Free Trade Area
DG DEVCO	Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development	TRA	Trade-Related Assistance
EAC	East African Community	TRIPS	Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	TPP	Trans-Pacific Partnership
EDD	European Development Days	TPF	Trade Policy Framework
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement	TTIP	Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership
EU	European Union	UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
FTA	Free Trade Area	UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
ITC	International Trade Centre	WAEMU	West African Economic and Monetary Union
LDC	Least Developed Countries	WCO	World Customs Organisation
NAMA	Non-Agricultural Market Access	WTO	World Trade Organisation
NTB	Non-Tariff barriers		
NTPF	National Trade Policy Framework		
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States		
OIF	Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie		
PACPs	Pacific ACP States		
PIFs	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat		
PMU	Programme Management Unit		
RCEP	Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership		
RTA	Regional Trade Agreement		
SADC	Southern African Development Community		
SDG	Sustainable development goals		

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