



**TBT PROGRAMME**  
OVERCOMING TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE



*African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States*

**Provision of a project management unit  
for the implementation of a Programme  
in the field of Technical Barriers to Trade  
(FED/2012/310-259)**

**ACP-EU TBT  
PROGRAMME  
(REG/FED/022-667)**

**FINAL  
REPORT**

Programme funded  
by the EU at the request  
of the ACP Group  
implemented  
by AESA

March 2013 – June 2017



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1 Executive Summary .....</b>	4
<b>2 TBT Programme Overview .....</b>	6
2.1 Objectives and Remit .....	6
2.2 The TBT Programme's Initial Phase.....	7
2.3 TBT Programme Governance Structures .....	7
2.4 PMU Personnel.....	7
2.5 Missions.....	8
<b>3 Programme Activities .....</b>	10
3.1 Projects Undertaken .....	10
3.2 Project Operations.....	30
3.3 Results of Programme Interventions.....	30
<b>4 Financial Update .....</b>	33
4.1 Introduction.....	33
4.2 Programme Estimate 1 (PE1).....	33
4.3 Programme Estimate 2 (PE2).....	33
4.4 Overall TBT Programme Finances.....	34
4.5 Financial Verification Audits .....	34
4.6 Pool of Experts .....	35
<b>5 MONITORING.....</b>	36
5.1 Monitoring of the Programme's Project Cycle .....	36
5.2 Monitoring of Projects Performance Indicators.....	41
5.3 Field Monitoring of PMU Projects .....	42
5.4 Good Practices Identified.....	43
5.5 Lessons Learnt from TBT Programme Work.....	45
<b>6 Communications .....</b>	48
<b>7 PMU Closing Activities .....</b>	49
<b>8 TBT Programme Experiences .....</b>	50
<b>9 Conclusions .....</b>	53

# TABLE OF ANNEXES

- Annex 1: Budget PE1
- Annex 2: Detailed Budget PE1
- Annex 3: Budget PE2
- Annex 4: Detailed Budget PE2
- Annex 5: PE1 & PE2

# LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACP	Africa Caribbean and Pacific
AESA	Agriconsulting Europe
AFRAC	African Accreditation Cooperation
AFRIMETS	African Metrology System
AFSEC	African Electrotechnical Standardization Commission
ARSO	African Organisation for Standardisation
AU	African Union
CAF	Central Africa
CAMI	Conference of African Minister of Industry
CAR	Caribbean
CEMAC	Communauté Economique et Monétaire d'Afrique Centrale
CDE	Centre de Développement des Entreprises
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CROSQ	CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality
EAF	Eastern Africa
EC	European Commission
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EDF	European development Fund
EQM	Export Quality Management
ERSD	Economic Research and Statistics Division (WTO)
EU	European Union
IO	Indian Ocean
ISO	International Standard Organisation
ITC	International Trade Centre
ITTC	Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation (WTO)
MSTQ	Metrology, Standardization, Testing and Quality management
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
OTC	Obstacles Techniques Au Commerce
PAC	Pacific
PAQI	Pan African Quality Infrastructure
PE	Programme Estimate
PMU	Programme Management Unit
QI	Quality Infrastructure
SAF	Southern Africa
SC	Steering Committee
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
SRF	Standard Request Form
STDF	Standards and Trade Development Facility
TA	Technical Assistance
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
TL	Team Leader
UEMOA	Union économique et monétaire ouest-africaine
WAF	West Africa
WTO	World Trade Organisation

# 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Operations of the TBT Programme commenced in March 2013 with a PMU staff complement of 6 full-time professionals and one part-time (the Communications Expert). The initial phase of the TBT Programme was marked by the promulgation of work plan, Programme Estimate, PMU Manual of Procedures and management information systems. There was also a concerted effort to introduce the Programme's work and instruments through either roadshows with prospective beneficiaries or attending high-profile events. The 45 missions undertaken by PMU staff members contributed to both promoting the TBT Programme's work and deepening the collaboration with beneficiaries and partners.

In its 51 months of operations, the TBT Programme received 141 requests, distributed as follows: Completed (53); Not Pursued (36); Implementation/Running (32); Rejected (17); and Cancelled (3). In geographic terms, the requests came from the following sources – All-ACP (8); Continental Africa (10); Western Africa (38); Eastern Africa (34); Caribbean (18); Central Africa (17); Pacific (10); and Southern Africa (6). The 85 projects have been assigned to the 3 Programme pillars as follows: Support to Quality Infrastructure Institutions (52); Empowering Economic Operators (22); Dissemination of Results and Experiences (11). The main beneficiaries of PMU-support interventions remain bureaux of standards (28); national ministries (15); regional organisations (11); and ACP Group (9) with other projects directed at laboratories, accreditation bodies, private sector bodies and metrology bodies. Geographically, the 85 projects are distributed as follows: All-ACP (8); Central Africa (5); Caribbean (11); Continental Africa (7); East Africa (21); Pacific (8); Southern Africa (5); and West Africa (20). It is instructive to note that one-half of the requests received came from LDCs and one-half of the projects undertaken were done in LDCs.

The TBT Programme's work resulted in the design and implementation of 85 projects. Main highlights of the portfolio of TBT Programme includes: (a) 4 national/regional QI policies drafted with inputs to another 50; (b) 40 QI institutions strengthened, (c) 130 training seminars held resulting in the training of 2474 public officials; (d) 36 standards developed; (e) 2 laboratories attaining international accreditation; (f) 3 geographical Indications drafted and registered; (h) 162 SMEs coached of which 4 attained certification; (1) 15 product-specific codes of practices developed; and (j) 30 ACP delegates supported to attend meetings of the WTO TBT Committee. Notwithstanding the results enumerated in the table above, the most compelling indicator of the TBT Programme's work is the increased understanding and interest in TBT issues currently expressed by ACP countries and regions. One proxy for

this burgeoning ACP interest is the Group's enhanced participation in meetings of the WTO TBT Committee and the strengthened institutional capacity of ACP continental, regional and national QI bodies. Finally, ACP Members' advanced understanding of the contribution of their respective TBT compliance capacity to gain effective access to global markets has also catapulted QI trade capacity building requests to the EU and other international development partners.

Concerning financial management, the TBT Programme spent a total €9,014,208 in Programme Estimates 1 and 2. This figure constitutes 87% of the total Programme budget of €10,339,320. In terms of the 3 Programme pillars, the respective budget exhaustion rates are as follows: Upgrading and Strengthening of QI Institutions (93%); Empowering Economic Operators and Export Sectors (81%); and Disseminating Results and Experiences (87%). It should be noted that the figure for empowering economic operators was adversely affected by the cancellation of a project in Cote d'Ivoire. In addition, 5 financial verification audits were conducted with the results of the first 4 already published. All 4 audits published to date found zero ineligibles on TBT Programme expenditures. 15 projects were administered with the use of the pool of experts facility with the initial 1000 days (for both senior and junior experts) being fully subscribed. The 8<sup>th</sup> Addendum to the Services Contract facilitated an increase in 25 days to the facility and these were also fully utilised.

Competitive negotiated procedure remained the most widely used tool used by the TBT Programme to deliver support with 50 projects. Other instruments applied are the pool of experts (15); direct agreement/single tender (16); including the mix of direct agreement and pool of experts (6). In administering competitive negotiated tenders, the PMU received expression of interest 641 contractors (consultancy firms). Here, it should be noted that this number includes double counting as most firms submitted multiple expressions of interest.

PMU Internal monitoring of the 85 projects was greatly aided by the establishment of a management information system. The use of the MIS allowed for easy access to updated timelines of projects and the compilation of regular updates to the 2 validating partners. In its final 2 years of operations, the TBT Programme conducted 11 monitoring missions that generated 20 monitoring reports. The monitoring applied OECD DAC criteria, namely, Relevance; Efficiency; Effectiveness; Impact; and Sustainability and its conduct generally reflected both geographical and thematic balance. A review of the monitoring reports indicated a number of observations, notably (a) the absence of any “D” score i.e. strong difficulty; (b) “B” grade dominated the scoring in all 5 criteria, most particularly for effectiveness, impact and sustainability; and (c) almost all projects were considered relevant, thereby confirming that the TBT Programme’s demand-driven approach to ensure project ownership was positively viewed. In addition, this score reaffirms the belief that short-term interventions can positively address capacity gaps without losing relevance (efficiency criteria overall scored positively).

Communication of the results of TBT Programme constituted an important element of the work undertaken. This area of PMU work resulted in the design, production and dissemination of a raft of PMU-specific communication tools. This included TBT Programme-branded website, brochures, posters, folders, bags, pen sand USB keys. In addition, the key results of each project were reported on the TBT Programme along with a review of national/regional

media reports pertinent to TBT Programme-funded interventions. Another key facet of the PMU communication work stemmed from regular publications such as PMU Newsletters and Insights with contributions from key PMU partners and beneficiaries. The visibility of the TBT Programme was further enhanced through targeted presentations (e.g. EuropeAid InfoPoint) or keynote presentations at final validation workshops, beneficiaries’ general assemblies and WTO meetings.

Finally, the TBT Programme has significantly contributed to enhancing ACP QI regulatory capacity, albeit with a modest budget. The majority of the projects enhance sustainability, particularly through the use of the train the trainers’ method and the preparation of training material. The short-term projects have also yielded tangible results such as needs assessments or advanced preparation for laboratory accreditation or SME certification. These results could be further amplified by the leveraging of complementary funding from other EDF-funded facilities or donors. The TBT Programme has also bequeathed a wealth of experiences in the design and implementation of QI trade capacity building support in ACP countries. It would therefore be highly instructive if ACP beneficiaries, TBT Programme’s validating partners, technical assistance providers and other development partners internalise the PMU’s experience and apply suitable lessons in designing and managing future TRTA facilities, most notably in addressing TBT issues in ACP countries and regions.



## 2. TBT PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

### 2.1 Objectives and Remit

*The TBT Programme's terms of reference (TORs) poignantly outlines the PMU's general objective, namely, "[t]o contribute to improved competitiveness in local, regional and export markets by enhancing the export capacity of economic operators in ACP countries." The TORs also identifies the Programme's specific objective as "strengthen[ing] the capacity of ACP countries and regions to influence and comply with Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) on external markets, as well as to define and enforce legitimate and adequately harmonised TBT on internal markets while drawing maximum advantage of the existing WTO TBT Agreements."*

In this context, the PMU was expected to deliver the following concrete results: (a) enhanced capacity of regional and continental quality infrastructure institutions: (i) to coordinate and harmonise ACP Technical Regulations, Standards and Conformity Assessment Procedures to facilitate intra-regional trade and (ii) to represent ACP countries' and regions' interests in TBT related international fora, in particular the WTO TBT Committee; (b) broadened capacity of economic operators to comply with Technical Regulations, Standards and Conformity Assessment Procedures set by major trading partners in selected ACP priority sectors; and (c) dissemination of results and experiences to raise capabilities for providing support at the intra-ACP level. Accordingly, the TBT Programme's work was organised around three clusters of work, i.e.

- a. Upgrading and strengthening quality infrastructure institutions;
- b. Empowering economic operators and export sectors; and
- c. Disseminating results and experiences

These three clusters were enumerated as the TBT Programme's pillar of support and adumbrated the PMU's work programme. The 2007 introduction of EU REACH Regulation heavily informed the ACP decision to seek mitigating support for the Group's exporters. That EU legislation was indicative of the ever more demanding global trade policy environment faced by ACP exporters. The TBT Programme was launched with the objective of contributing to improved competitiveness in local, regional and global markets by enhancing the export capacity of economic operators in ACP countries. In discharging this aim, the TBT Programme sought to strengthen the capacity of ACP countries and regions to consult on, and comply with TBT requirements of major trading partners, as well as to define and enforce legitimate and adequately harmonised TBT measures in manner consistent with the WTO TBT Agreement. The Programme's work was organised around delivering the

three aforementioned support areas, namely; (a) upgrading and strengthening quality infrastructure institutions; (b) empowering economic operators and export sectors; and (c) disseminating results and experiences. Support for quality infrastructure recognizes this cluster of regulatory issues' important role played in the implementation and enforcement of TBT agreements. Specific needs addressed by the TBT Programme included the following: (i) strengthening ACP participation in international fora exchanges on pertinent TBT issues, (ii) facilitating improved ACP TBT compliance capacity relative to trading partners' requirements, and (iii) promoting intra- and inter-regional development, harmonization, equivalence and mutual recognition of technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures. The second cluster of TBT support interventions revolved around supporting ACP economic operators to comply with the increasingly demanding product safety and environmental regulations of major trading partners. In delivering this objective, the PMU Programme applied two broad approaches, namely (a) develop coaching programmes aimed at advancing if not finalising the certification of select firms and (b) deploy a train the trainer methodology to enhance firms' capacity to develop and apply quality schemes. The third area of PMU's work - dissemination of results and experiences was discharged through conferences and uploading of documents on key online platforms.

The financial administration of the TBT Programme's work was principally organised around 2 Programme Estimates. These Programme Estimates (PEs) were designed by the PMU and approved by its validating partners. Design of the PEs framed the respective sums to be allocated to the Programme's three principal clusters of work, thereby providing strategic orientation to the treatment of requests made and projects undertaken. The Programme's demand-driven nature of requests received resulted in the PEs being reviewed and revised to adjust the volume of assistance per prioritised areas. In managing the PEs, the most favoured implementation tool used was competitive tender procedure followed by direct agreements. The PEs were complemented by financial management facility, namely, a pool of experts. This provided for the short-term contracting of expertise mobilized through specific terms of reference. The Pool of Experts facility was heavily used at the start of the Programme as this tool was easier to implement relative to the more time-consuming competitive negotiated procedure (i.e. tenders). It should be recalled that the original TBT Programme design called for the PE and Pool of Experts to be administered as separate contracts. In cancelling the Pool of Experts contract, its slate of working days was added to the PMU's contract and the PE budget increased.

## 2.2 The TBT Programme's Initial Phase

The March 11, 2013 TBT Programme Kick-off meeting provided orientation on the initial set of activities aimed at launching the PMU. Resultantly, the PMU prepared an inception that was reviewed and subsequently approved by ACP Sect. and DEVCO in April 2013. The PMU inception report enumerated the programme synopsis (specific objectives, expected results and technical activities); questionnaires crafted and distributed to canvas beneficiaries TBT needs; the Programme's log-frame reviewed after discussion with main stakeholders, PE1 framed and subsequently endorsed by the ACP Secretariat and DEVCO and a manual of procedures prepared to define the Programme's treatment of requests, eligibility criteria established, financial management rules drafted and policies on reporting and monitoring defined.

The initial phase also saw the TBT Programme convening consultations with key stakeholders in ACP regions, Brussels and Geneva resulting in awareness of the PMU's existence, priority areas and modus operandi. The TBT Programme's engagement with prospective beneficiaries was further aided by the development and execution of a visual identity that included preparation of a logo and launch of a website. A final plank of the integrated communication strategy was designing a series of promotional materials, most notably, information sheets, brochures and posters in both English and French.

In order to promote best practices in management and quality support of PMU-funded projects, two interventions were executed during the launch phase of the TBT Programme. First, a PMU monitoring system was established to gauge progress towards achieving the expected results. The operation of this monitoring system facilitated the revision and specification of indicators and means of verification in the log-frame if deemed required. Second, and complementing the monitoring system was the establishment of a management information system within the PMU. This activity (undertaken as Project 22-14) resulted in the emergence of a PMU project monitoring system based on traffic lights "that provided an immediate overview on project status, timelines, log-frame and all administrative steps required during the entire project cycle. The use of the project monitoring system allowed for the seamless uploading of project data unto the TBT Programme's website and production of the regular update on PMU projects submitted to the two validating partners.

## 2.3 TBT Programme Governance Structures

Operations of the TBT Programme are overseen by two major governance structures. First, the Steering Committee meets at least twice per annum and considers semi-annual reports, work plans and other Programme initiatives. The Steering Committee comprises representatives of the ACP Secretariat, European Commission, AESA and PMU staff. It has become the tradition that key stakeholders such as ACP continental or regional bodies are invited to Steering committee meetings along with other EDF-funded entities such as the CTA and TradeCom II. Since commencing operations in March 2013, the TBT Programme has held 7 meetings of the Steering Committee with an eighth and final one scheduled to be held in June 2017. Second, a series of validation committees was held with variable configuration of PMU staff. Meetings were generally chaired by the PMU's Administrator with the Project Assistant acting as secretary. These meetings reviewed tenders submitted for eligible projects and forwarded its results and requisite tender dossier to DEVCO for final approval. Both validating partners were invited to observe meetings of the validation committee along with Brussels-based representatives of the beneficiary.

## 2.4 PMU Personnel

The original slate of PMU staff at the start of the TBT Programme's operations was as follows:

Project Director (KE1):	Amb. Lingston Lloyd Cumberbatch
Team Leader (KE2):	Amb. Shree Baboo Chekitan Servansing
Administrator (KE3):	Mrs. Frédérique Brosseau
TBT Expert (KE4):	Mr. Bruno Doko
Monitoring Expert (KE5):	Mr. Carlos Martin Calcopietro
Communication Expert (NKE1):	Ms. Caroline Garcia
Programme Assistant:	Mr. Bernard Kalonji

Implementation of the TBT PMU saw a number of changes to personnel and the addition of one new post. Notably, Amb. Servansing left his post as PMU Team Leader in October 2014 and was replaced by Mr. Junior Lodge in May 2015. During the interregnum, the Project Director – Amb. Cumberbatch acted as Team Leader. Mr. Gianluca Vedova succeeded Amb. Cumberbatch as Project Director in July 2015. Mr. Doko resigned his post as TBT Expert in December 2014 and was replaced by Mrs. Irina Kireeva in March 2015. Mr. Giuliano Rosciglione became the Monitoring Expert (KE5) in August 2013 but was replaced in March 2016 by

Mr. Diego Ruiz. Ms. Alice Bulgarelli assumed the role of Project Assistant in January 2014. A new post of Programme Manager (NKE2) was established and Ms. Claudia Schiattarella formally commenced duties in November 2014.

In spite of various changes to personnel, the TBT Programme's was generally not unduly affected or compromised. In some instances, the realignment of PMU staff enhanced the Programme's work as

best evinced by the addition of the Programme Manager post that allowed for improved processing of requests, crafting of terms of reference and management of projects. In addition, the PMU staff met on a weekly basis with representatives of validating partners in attendance on special occasions. These regular exchanges among PMU staff allowed for an overview on project design, implementation and monitoring and addressing specific issues that might emerge in the TBT Programme's work.

## 2.5 Missions

Since operations began in March 2013, the PMU undertook 45 missions involving 57 staff members. The initial volley of missions in the period May-July 2013 (in Cameroun, Zambia and Switzerland) was aimed at promoting the new TBT Programme to prospective beneficiaries and partners. Subsequent missions centred on attending final validation workshops and monitoring PMU-sponsored projects. These encounters resulted in deeper understanding of TBT Programme beneficiaries' priorities and promoting enhanced implementation of PMU projects. PMU missions also promoted improved visibility of the TBT Programme. This is particularly the case in instances of PMU experts' presentations, most notably, the WTO TBT Committee TRT- Thematic Session, Project 71-16 Final Validation Workshops, ARSO General Assemblies, AFRIMETS General Assembly and WTO Global Aid for Trade Reviews.

In addition, the PMU missions also resulted in the emergence of additional requests, and ultimate, PMU projects. Prime examples of projects that emerged from such PMU interactions are Projects 081-16, 087-16, 088-16 and 090-16. In addition, the PMU strove

to attain financial efficiencies in undertaking missions by visiting geographically-physical locations. For example, the Monitoring Expert's mission to the Pacific (October/November 2016) entailed monitoring projects in both Fiji and Vanuatu. Similarly, the Project Manager's attendance of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Caribbean Agri-business Forum in Trinidad (January 2017) also allowed for monitoring of an additional slate of projects in both Trinidad and Barbados. A final example comes from the TBT Expert attending Project 089-16 Final Validation Workshop and monitoring Projects 047-15/054-15/070-15 and 090-16 (January 2017).

Finally, missions of the TBT Programme were generally designed to discharge a comprehensive set of tasks as logically possible. For example, the Team Leader's participation of the Second Caribbean Agri-Business Forum in Barbados allowed for meetings with PMU beneficiaries and that resulted in significant progress in drafting the terms of references of both Projects 063-15 and 072-15. Similarly, attendance of meeting of the WTO TBT Committee yielded a series of complementary tasks, for example, interaction with ACP project beneficiaries, Geneva-based multilateral partners and monitoring/ follow-up effort on Project 026-14.

Date	Mission	PMU Staff	Country Visited
May 2013	WTO Geneva Week	Team Leader	Switzerland
Jun. 2013	19 <sup>th</sup> ARSO General Assembly	Communication Expert	Cameroun
Jul. 2013	7 <sup>th</sup> AFRIMETS General Assembly	TBT Expert	Zambia
Jul. 2013	4 <sup>th</sup> WTO Aid for Trade Global Review	Communication Expert	Switzerland
Sep. 2016	Meeting with PTB Officials	Team Leader	Germany
Oct. 2013	Meetings with WTO Director General and ITC Executive Director	Communication Expert	Switzerland
Dec. 2013	COMSEC/OIF Hubs and Spokes Seminar	Team Leader	Cote d'Ivoire
Apr. 2014	24 <sup>th</sup> CROSQ Council	Communication Expert	Barbados
Jun. 2014	20 <sup>th</sup> ARSO General Assembly	Team Leader	Rwanda
Jun. 2014	Supported implementation of Project 007-14	Communication Expert	France
Sep. 2014	5 <sup>th</sup> AFRAC General Assembly	Team Leader	Ethiopia
Oct. 2014	2014 Launch of AFRIMETS Legal Metrology School	TBT Expert	Tunisia

Nov. 2014	UN DESA Capacity Building Workshop on the Use of Trade Related International Support Measures.	Monitoring Expert	Switzerland
Feb. 2015	Project 21-14 Final Project Workshop.	Team Leader	Vanuatu
Mar. 2015	Monitoring mission of ARSO Traditional Medicine Project	Administrator	Mauritius
Jun. 2015	Triennial meeting of the WTO TBT Committee	Team Leader	Switzerland
Jun./Jul. 2015	5 <sup>th</sup> Global Review on Aid for Trade	Communication Expert	Switzerland
Aug. 2015	Participated in the 21st ARSO General Assembly	TBT Expert	Ethiopia
Sep. 2015	Project 23-14 Final Validation Workshop and Monitored Projects 05-14 and 24-14	Monitoring Expert	Botswana/Zambia
Sep. 2015	WIPO Caribbean sub-regional seminar	Project Manager	Grenada
Oct. 2015	6 <sup>th</sup> AFRAC General Assembly	Monitoring Expert	Tunisia
Oct. 2015	CTA Conference: Agribusiness Investment in Partnership with Farmers' Organizations in ACP Countries	TBT Expert	Italy
Oct. 2015	50 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the International Committee for Legal Metrology (OIML)	Project Manager	France
Nov. 2015	WTO TBT Committee	Team Leader	Switzerland
Nov. 2015	2 <sup>nd</sup> Caribbean Agri-business Forum	TBT Expert	Barbados
Feb. 2016	Project 27-14 Final Training Workshop	TBT Expert	DR Congo
Mar. 2016	WTO TBT Committee	Monitoring Expert	Switzerland
May 2016	LES/Ramphal Institute Symposium 'Implications of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership on ACP Countries'	Project Manager	United Kingdom
Jun. 2016	Monitoring Mission on Project 026-14	TBT Expert	Switzerland
Jun. 2016	22 <sup>th</sup> ARSO General Assembly	Project Manager	Tanzania
Jul. 2016	10 <sup>th</sup> AFRIMETS General Assembly	Team Leader	Egypt
Jul. 2016	ACP sidebar event - Harnessing the Blue Economy for Sustainable Economic Growth and Development at UNCTAD 14		Kenya
Sep/Oct 2016	7 <sup>th</sup> AFRAC General Assembly and Monitored Projects 046-15/053-15	Project Manager Administrative Assistant	Nigeria/Côte d'Ivoire
Oct 2016	WTO TBT Committee Thematic TRTA Session	TBT Expert	Switzerland
Oct 2016	UEMOA Regional Workshop on Legal Metrology and Project 066-15 Final Workshop	Team Leader	Benin/Senegal
Oct/Nov 2016	Monitored Projects 042-14/078-16	Monitoring Expert	Fiji/Vanuatu
Dec 2016	Project 071-15 Final Workshop	TBT Expert	Guyana
Dec 2016	Project 072-15 Training Materials Validation Meeting	Monitoring Expert	France
Jan 2017	Projects 089-16/075-15 Final Workshops and Monitoring of Projects 047-15/054-15/070-15 and 090-16	Project Manager	Kenya
Jan 2017	Project 080-16 TBT Good Practices Final Workshop and 7 <sup>th</sup> Steering Committee	Monitoring Expert	Kenya
Jan 2017	Monitoring Mission on Projects 011-14 and 043-14	Team Leader	Rwanda
Jan/Feb 2017	3 <sup>rd</sup> Caribbean Agri-business Forum and Monitoring of Projects 050-15/065-15/076-16 and 081-16	Project Manager	Trinidad/Barbados
Mar 2017	2 <sup>nd</sup> ARSO President Forum	Monitoring Expert	Zimbabwe
Mar 2017	WTO TBT Committee	TBT Expert	Switzerland
Mar 2017	30 <sup>th</sup> CROSQ Council Meeting and Monitoring Mission of Projects 050-15 and 065-15	Monitoring Expert	Antigua and Barbuda/Jamaica

### 3. PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

#### 3.1 Projects Undertaken

##### **Project 004-13: Capacity Building to Strengthen the National Quality Infrastructure (NQI) and Enforcement of WTO TBT Agreement in Zimbabwe**

The project supported the development of existing capacity of the major Zimbabwean national quality infrastructure bodies, i.e. Standard Association of Zimbabwe (SAZ) and National Laboratory Association of Zimbabwe, specifically by strengthening their ability to comply with WTO TBT Agreement requirements and supporting the accreditation process of key proficiency testing facilities. Project implementation was grouped around the delivering of the following 3 main tasks, i.e. (a) identify and prioritise main capacity building needs of national TBT structures; (b) enhance the understanding and implementation capacity of relevant Zimbabwean officials and stakeholders to implement the WTO TBT Agreement; and (c) support and advance the ISO 17025 accreditation process of SAZ water and food microbiology laboratory. In preparation for ISO 17025 Accreditation, a gap analysis was undertaken instead of an audit due to the low level of compliance of the QMS of the microbiology laboratory. Conduct of the gap analysis was based on the requirements of ISO 17025 and ISO 7218 with each identified non-compliance discussed and appropriate action plans formulated to address non-conformity. Project experts also reviewed laboratory quality assurance and shared recommendations on the choice of experts to undertake relevant inter-laboratory comparisons.

##### **Project 005-13: Capacity Building for National TBT-Related Structures in The Gambia**

The project experts worked closely with senior staff at the Gambia Standards Bureau (TGSB) to augment the capacity of different national TBT-related structures and increase stakeholders' awareness of the WTO TBT Agreement and its requirements. Project implementation was designed around dispensing the following concrete tasks, namely, (a) enumerate the capacity building needs of national trade-related institutions and consult with relevant stakeholders, (b) strengthen national standards and technical regulations committees in major priority sectors to address relevant TBT issues; and (c) train relevant personnel at both the National Notification Authority (Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment) and national TBT Enquiry Focal Point (TGSB). The execution of the project first resulted in the crafting of a needs assessment to identify The Gambia's current capacity, gaps and needs to fully implement the WTO TBT Agreement. The results of the needs assessment guided the development and

implementation of specialised training courses of TGSB officials and members of technical committees. A final validation workshop reviewed the experts' raft of recommendations but also facilitated deeper engagement among public and private sector stakeholders on provisions, benefit, current capacity gaps and anticipated constraints to the implementation of the TBT Agreement in The Gambia and proposals for future intervention.

##### **Project 006-14: Capacity Building to Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) on WTO Notification and Information Systems**

The project assisted the UNBS to establish an effective WTO notifications information systems for proper management through delivering the following tasks, i.e. (a) strengthening and operationalising national technical committees, national TBT Notifications Authority, and Enquiry Focal Point; (b) implementing notifications of revised technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures in accordance with the WTO TBT Agreement; and (c) conducting a need assessment for implementing a national TBT information management system. The use of a training of trainers' approach deepened the officials and stakeholders' understanding of the management of WTO notification requirements. Specifically, UNBS Information Resource Centre staff was trained on using the TBT Online Notification Submission System (NSS). The project also resulted in the crafting and holding of consultations on a proposed structure of an Information Exchange Mechanism for the TBT Information Management System.

##### **Project 007-14 : Renforcement Technique de Formation de Cadres de l'Agence Béninoise de Métrologie et du Contrôle de la Qualité (ABMCQ)**

The project supported Benin's quality infrastructure, specifically through the development of the ABMCQ's human resources capacity in metrology domain and quality management. Specific project results were the (a) training of select ABMCQ personnel on metrology; (b) establishing a Quality Management System; and (c) supporting the metrology to enhance its quality through the application of ISO/ IEC 17025 Regulation. Project implementation also supported the training of 10 ABMCQ technicians and its Director on specific areas of metrology such as volume, temperature, mass and pressure. The specialised training was delivered by LNE in Paris. Another training course was conceived and delivered on the application of ISO / IEC 17025, quality measurement in metrology, and preparation for accreditation. Project implementation took full note of ABMCQ's role as one main quality sector pillar within ECOWAS.

### **Project 008-14: Renforcement des Capacités de la Direction de la Normalisation et de la Promotion de la Qualité (DNPQ)**

The project aimed at increasing the awareness of the national Quality Infrastructure in order to promote Mauritania's regional and global economic integration and strengthen its capacity in the fields of metrology, standardisation, accreditation, certification and evaluation. Working in close collaboration with the beneficiary – DNPQ, the project experts delivered the following concrete tasks, i.e. (a) trained select technicians on metrology, application of ISO/IEC 17025 regulation, good practices, quality and accreditation of laboratories; (b) strengthened DNPQ and technical regulations committees in priority sectors to address relevant TBT policy and institutional needs; (c) DNPQ experts trained to award preselected institutions certificates such as ISO 9001, ISO2200 and ISO 14001; and (d) DNPQ laboratories and structures are evaluated and audited for possible accreditation. LNE (Paris) was contracted to train 5 DNPQ technicians on metrological dimensions (Mass, temperature, Volume and pressure). Beyond training, the project resulted in pre-auditing of DNPQ laboratories and services in their approach towards the accreditation and the certification of companies as well as the evaluation of the service of standardization and the evaluation of the DNPQ accreditation and certification services.

### **Project 009-14: Harmonisation of African Standards in Traditional Medicine**

This project supported ASRO's harmonization of standards of African Traditional Medicine (ATM) products. Experts supported ARSO harmonization efforts by drafting 7 ATM standards including on Terms and Terminologies; GMP for herbal medicines; guidelines on Good Agricultural & Good Collection Practices for Medicinal Plants; certification scheme for medicinal plant produce; minimum requirements of registration of herbal medicines; and technical guidelines for safety, efficacy and quality of raw materials and herbal medicines. These standards are under current consideration by members of the Technical Harmonization Committee on African Traditional Medicine (ARSO/THC 13) – a body of African plant and standards experts that has met 4 times. In anticipation of effective implementation of the emergent ATM standards, the project also delivered 2 tailor-made training courses (based on train the trainers approach) on the key requirements and obligations of ARSO Member States in compliance with the WTO TBT Agreement informed by modules crafted by the project experts. These training sessions were held on the context of THC meetings that also benefitted from the technical expertise of the TBT Programme-contracted experts.

### **Project 010-14: Capacity Building to Strengthen MAURITAS and National Conformity Assessment Bodies**

The project supported Mauritius Accreditation Service (MAURITAS) – the sole national accreditation body for accrediting the competence of conformity assessment bodies in Mauritius. The concrete result of the intervention was to support MAURITAS' compliance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011, General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies and additional relevant ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation) and IAF (International Accreditation Forum) requirements. This MAURITAS institutional review served as the platform for a successful evaluation by an ILAC/IAF/AFRAC Peer Evaluation team. In pursuit of this aim, MAURITAS was required to conduct a needs assessment against the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011 and make recommendations for bridging these gaps and provide technical assessor training to MAURITAS staff assessors and pre-selected part-time assessors in ISO/IEC 17021; 17025; and ISO 15189 to increase the pool of assessors available for conducting assessments on behalf of MAURITAS. 60 assessor candidates for both medical and general testing and calibration laboratories were trained and another 25 medical and general testing laboratories have undergone training and benefitted from direct consultancy to assist them become accredited for either ISO 15189 or ISO/IEC 17025. MAURITAS secured ILAC signatory status and AFRAC MRA/MLAs for the following technical disciplines - Testing ISO/IEC 17025; Calibration ISO/IEC 17025 and Certification ISO/IEC 17021 (QMS sub scope).

### **Project 011-14: Strengthening the capacity of Rwanda Bureau of Standard (RBS) Conformity assessment services towards Accreditation**

The TBT Programme supported the training of key staff and prepare targeted laboratories towards accreditation purposes. The specific project aim centred on supporting ISO 17025 accreditation of RBS' Biotechnology and Metrology Laboratories as the basis for fostering national compliance with both the EAC common market protocol and WTO/TBT Agreement. The needs assessment and institutional review established highlighted the Rwandan laboratories still need to implement a batch of requirements and complete and compile supporting documents. In support of this objective, the project experts recommended the drafting of a work plan and the processes to be pursued. The project also facilitated training of RBS personnel on ISO/IEC 17025 Accreditation processes/procedures: Management and Technical Requirements of ISO 17025. Quality Manual preparation of RSB NMSD: Filing an

Application, Receiving the Quote, Entering the Contract, Preparing for Accreditation, Preliminary Assessments, Laboratory Management System Documentation Review, The Accreditation Assessment, Taking Corrective Action, Preventive Actions, Complaints, Disputes and Appeals.

#### **Project 012-14: AFRIMETS Logistic Organisation for Metrology School**

In close collaboration with AFRIMETS, the TBT Programme provided 10-day advanced training course on legal metrology for African metrology experts. The project enhanced the human capacity of junior metrology experts to develop a nucleus of trainers on metrology and contribute to the emergence of potential managers of legal metrology services. Working in close collaboration with BIPM, OIML and UNIDO, African officials were trained in techniques on the requirements of legal metrology. Training was provided to 87 participants from over 37 countries of which, 59 were supported by the TBT Programme, predominantly from African countries (Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Mali, Mauritius, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe) and regional bodies including SADCMET. The TBT Programme's support centred on payment of participants' flights and per diem while the cost of actual training was funded by UNIDO, OIML and BIPM.

#### **Project 013-14: Appui à l'Accréditation du Laboratoire Central des Analyses (LCA) de l'Office National du Cacao et du Café (ONCC)**

The ONCC's LCA functions as key institution playing an important role in Cameroon's Food Safety Management System. LCA seeks ISO 17025 accreditation in order to improve the quality of the agricultural products from Cameroon and the sub-region and to ensure consumers' safety. In this context, the project sought to strengthen LCA's capacity to comply with European food safety regulations on contaminants in cacao and coffee and also improve the quality of Cameroon exports. Specific tasks undertaken were (a) Technical and human resources potentialities of LCA evaluated; (b) laboratory staff trained on good laboratory practices, management, regulations on contaminants and application of ISO/IEC 17025:2005 requirements; and (c) the process of LCA ISO 17025 accreditation is advanced. An assessment of the LCA's needs was undertaken and select personnel on chemical and physical analysis trained. One concrete result was that the LCA secured a documentary basis

that met the requirements of the ISO 17025 accreditation standard. However, in order to proceed with LCA accreditation, additional capacity building measures are needed to support its conduct of tests on the determination of contaminants (pesticide residues, heavy metals, mycotoxins, aromatic hydrocarbons) and metering.

#### **Project 014-14: Strengthening Quality and Food Safety Managements Systems for Pineapple Producers with Export Potential in the Dominican Republic**

By promoting synergies and collaboration with COLEACP-PIP, the TBT Programme supported the Dominican Centre for Export Promotion (CEI-RD) to train pineapple exporters on food safety and export promotion (traceability, access to markets, food quality and certification, etc.). The project also augmented the capacity of the CEI-RD, Pineapple Growers Association of Cevicos Inc. (APROPIC), other intermediary organizations and consultants. Another key project result was training 18 consultants on food safety, export quality management system, traceability, access to markets, food quality, etc. The results of the diagnostic study undertaken by COLEACP-PIP justified the selection of 6 farms that were coached towards Global GAP certification.

#### **Project 015-14: COMESA Strategic Plan for Standardisation and Quality Assurance**

The primary aim of this effort was to assist COMESA Member States to develop a 5-year strategic plan as a framework to guide and underpin activities for quality infrastructure, specifically covering standards harmonization, industrial/scientific and legal metrology, conformity assessment, accreditation, technical regulations and harmonization. The project was designed also for its results to be synergistic with other regional standardization and quality assurance initiatives. The priority accorded to the project activities sought to foster standardisation and quality assurance in the COMESA region but guided by objectives such as the promotion of health, enhancement of the standard of living, rationalisation and reduction of unnecessary variety of products, facilitation of inter-changeability of products, promotion of trade, consumer protection, creation of savings in government purchasing, improved productivity and the facilitation of information exchange. Project implementation resulted in the drafting of the COMESA Strategic Plan for Standardization and Quality Assurance (SQA). The policy document will not only serve to promote the development of QI within COMESA region but also underwrite the Tripartite (COMESA/EAC/SADC) initiative on QI and inform African SQA policy development by other key actors such as ARSO, EAC and SADC.

### **Project 021-14: Facilitating the Role of Ecolabelling Schemes in Enhancing Market Access for Pacific Fish Products in the European Union**

This intervention was requested by the Embassy of the Republic of Vanuatu and the country's Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Livestock and Biodiversity (MAFFLB). Although initiated by one ACP country the project was regional in scope with the objective of promoting the development and implementation of ecolabelling schemes to support proper access of environmentally efficient fish products from the Pacific countries to regional, European and global markets. Tasks undertaken were an assessment of national and regional enabling policies, reviewed national QI institutions on all pertinent TBT regimes and gauged trade opportunities and enabling conditions for the development and use of ecolabelling for ACP Pacific fisheries products. A 4-day validation workshop increased awareness of Pacific key stakeholders on the benefits of eco-labelling schemes in the fishery sector in the region. The project developed a common marketing brand (Pacifical) for Pacific skipjack fish. The regional project underscored that despite its high cost of certification, a stringent ecolabel coupled with a marketing brand-sharing strategy can generate new trading opportunities to fishery-rich Pacific countries.

### **Project 023-14: Draft Botswanan National Quality Policy, Strengthen QI Institutions and Support Economic Operators/ Exporters to Comply with WTO TBT Requirements**

Working in close collaboration with Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS), the project executed the following activities, namely, (a) drafted a National Quality Policy; (b) trained BOBS staff; (c) supported selected SMEs for certification; (d) and convened a final workshop on WTO TBT Agreement. This intervention was implemented in full collaboration with the national Private Sector Development Programme implemented by CDE and facilitated the use of locally trained experts as company assessors. Project implementation resulted in the drafting of a National Quality Policy and the training of BOBS audit and inspection. In addition, collaboration with the CDE resulted in 10 service providers trained and coached in auditing and support to certification in the agro-industry (horticulture, diary, beef) and manufacturing sectors. A validation workshop provided further input into the draft QI policy in which BOBS was reaffirmed as the premier national standards organisation providing standards and conformity assessment services as well as acting as the custodian of the national measurement standards. The policy document also established SADCAS as the de facto national accreditation body along with the review of domestic legislation on standards and metrology.

### **Project 024-14: Support to Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS) in the field of Standardisation and Quality Management Systems**

This project built on the development of a Zambian national quality policy funded in 2010 by UNIDO and NORAD to enhance the country's QI regulatory framework. The intervention sought to upgrade ZABS' capacity in terms of standardisation and management systems and enhance the accreditation process of key proficiency testing facilities (ISO/IEC 17025:2005). The project was designed to train ZABS staff on Quality Management Systems and national, regional and international standards. Select laboratory technicians were also trained on testing protocols of food and feed products and have the possibility to benefit from a one week secondment at Botswana National Veterinary laboratory for benchmarking and experience sharing. The training sessions allowed ZABS to advance towards its ISO/IEC 17025:2005 accreditation process that was finally achieved in June 2015.

### **Project 025-14: Capacity Building Programme to Strengthen the Seychelles Bureau of Standards (SBS) Conformity Assessment Services**

This project aimed at strengthening the capacity of Seychelles Bureau of Standards (SBS) to implement sound national quality policy. The project outlined the activities along 2 sections, namely, (a) revision of the National Quality Policy framework, and (b) development of the SBS capacity by training selected staff. The intervention generated a situation analysis and audit of the SBS services and working modalities. In addition, the national quality policy framework was reviewed and reform measures drafted. Also, NQI institutions staff was trained on standardization and technical regulation procedures. There were parallel specialised training sessions for staff at both metrology, chemistry and microbiology laboratories. A validation workshop adopted recommendations embedded in the draft national quality policy, and in particular, the institutional reforms required to advance the treatment of QI issues in The Seychelles.

### **Project 026-14: TBT Support to ACP Geneva Office**

In recognition of the increasing importance of TBT issues and their complexity in multilateral trade fora, the project responded to a request made by the ACP Geneva Office. Support was delivered to assist the ACP to increase its understanding of salient TBT issues affecting the Group's economies and participate more deeply in major WTO consultations on TBT issues. The project

supported ACP capital-based officials at 6 meetings of the WTO TBT Committee through convening of preparatory meetings and drafting of technical briefs; drafting of a technical brief at the 7<sup>th</sup> Triennial Review, preparing brief on draft GRP Principles; engendering outreach through the holding of 4 regional meetings (Southern Africa, East Africa, Caribbean and Pacific); and promoting intra-ACP collaboration through technical exchanges on draft QI regulations. In order to sustain the project and first increased intra-ACP coordination and cooperation on TBT issues, an ACP TBT Network was mooted to spur improved ACP collaboration. Project implementation also supported the request of 3 ACP regional bodies – ARSO, IGAD and CROSQ to gain observer status in the WTO TBT Committee. Both ARSO and CROSQ secured observership in the WTO TBT Committee in March 2016.

#### **Project 027-14: Renforcement des Capacités de L'Office Congolais de Contrôle (OCC)**

This project aimed at strengthening of the capacity of the inspection and certification divisions of the OCC. The specific task involved supporting the organisation's accreditation as an ISO/IEC 17020 inspection body and certification (management systems, products and people). The project was designed to support the establishment of the OCC inspection and certification systems for accreditation with a needs assessment followed by 3 training phases. The project delivered the envisaged results, i.e. (a) strengthen OCC capacity as certification body to enhance national and regional industry competitiveness; and (b) promote quality standards in a more deeply integrated CEEAC. The project experts recommended that the OCC focussed its efforts on accreditation of inspection activities and implement a management system certification exercise, initially limited to ISO 9001 and ISO 22000 to address the needs of the domestic market. The needs assessment was complemented by training of OCC officials on both inspection and certification and management of quality systems and food safety (ISO 9001 and ISO 22000). ECCAS experts were also trained on quality control systems and food safety and environmental management (QSE).

#### **Project 029-14: Renforcement des capacités de l'Infrastructure Qualité au Burundi**

The project supported the Bureau Burundais de Normalisation et Contrôle de La Qualité (BNN) by strengthening the capacity of national quality infrastructure institutions to comply with international standards re normalisation, metrology and harmonisation. Project implementation entailed two key tasks, namely, (a) undertake a comprehensive operational audit of

Burundi QI institutions and agricultural production; and (b) review the national quality policy framework. The assessment of the QI framework impacting on Burundi agricultural and industrial sectors yielded a report that recommended a reform of the country's quality policy framework. Full implementation of the project was acutely impaired by political instability that began in May 2015. The implementation period was twice extended to allow convening of a validation workshop to review the draft QI reform report. Despite these efforts, the sustained political instability compelled the PMU to abort full implementation of the project.

#### **Project 030-14: Renforcement des capacités du Laboratoire VAGNY-LAB en vue d'accréditation conformément aux exigences de la norme ISO/CEI 17025:2005**

This project sought to promote the quality and increase exports of agricultural products from the Ivory Coast by supporting VAGNY-LAB laboratory to implement a quality management system per ISO standards. The work of the project was organised around following specific tasks, namely, (a) conduct an audit of the laboratory and analyse its organizational and technical framework; (b) benchmark the lab's activities and responsibilities relative to the requirements of ISO 17025; and (c) support the VAGNY-LAB's ISO 17025 accreditation. The successful implementation of the project would allow for a tripling of the number of tests conducted to 15,000; diversification of the lab's customer portfolio to extend to international clients; and attain a 90% customer acceptance of products on export markets to the EU. TUNAC's technical evaluation of VAGNY-LAB comprised 4 distinct steps, including findings identified during the visit to the laboratory and validation of the remedial measures to address the identified gaps. Arising from its evaluation, TUNAC confirmed that VAGNY-LAB has the necessary skills for conducting analysis within the required scope of accreditation. The evaluation also found several technical deficiencies re management of the laboratory but also acknowledged that the required human skills are available to address these gaps identified in the initial assessment. In August 2016, TUNAC declared that VAGNY-LAB had secured ISO 17025-2005 accreditation of two laboratories for physical chemistry and microbiology.

#### **Project 036-14: Support to ACP Delegates to Participation at the WTO TBT Committee**

At the request of the ACP Geneva Office, the TBT Programme supported the participation of two capital-based ACP TBT experts at the March 2015 meeting of the WTO TBT Committee. Sponsored participants were representatives of ARSO and Ghana Standards

Authority. The two ACP delegates attended the regular WTO TBT Committee meeting and ACP preparatory meetings. In accordance with the conditions of TBT Programme supported, the two delegates submitted back to office reports on activities undertaken in Geneva.

#### **Project 037-14: Conduct of a Trade Regulatory Impact Assessment in Mauritius**

The intervention was designed to deliver 3 main tasks, i.e. (a) draft Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) guidelines to provide guide Mauritian government officials on the future drafting of RIAs; (b) conduct 2 pilot RIA exercises to verify the added value, and risks and opportunities of conducting RIA in Mauritius and the attendant legislative demands; and (c) execute training sessions to build capacity within both the government and private sector on the RIA system and methodology. The project aimed at promoting of the use of RIAs as a means of improving policy formulation and ensuring the implementation of better quality regulations and the improvement of transparency in the decision-making process and to ensure that proper decisions are taken on an informed basis. Indicative of the sustained public-private partnership that Mauritius has applied, the project beneficiaries were the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, regional Integration and Foreign Trade and the Mauritian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The 2 pilot projects centred on using RIA methodology to review the impact on existing trade legislation on the proposed ban the sale and use of plastic bags in Mauritius and on the use of PET bottles, respectively. Mauritian public officials and private sector actors were trained extensively on RIA, and the draft Mauritian guidelines and international regulatory experience reviewed. The experts also recommended a complementary slate of institutional reforms, including the establishment of a RIA oversight unit and the general internalisation of RIAs as a policy tool across the span of Mauritian trade policy.

#### **Project 038-14: Renforcement des Capacités de l'infrastructure Qualité pour une Meilleure Intégration du Niger au Commerce International**

The specific objective of this project aimed at improving the Niger's legislative and regulatory framework and strengthen the capacities of its QI institutions and sensitize rural-based agricultural actors on the importance of quality approach and support them towards gaining certification. In close collaboration with the primary beneficiary Niger Standards, Promotion, Quality and Metrology Directorate (DNPQM) as well LANSPEX and the National Analytical Laboratory, project experts supported 10 agri-food firms to benefit from coaching and support for the implementation of a health quality

management system. Of the 10 SMEs that benefited from coaching and support, 2 - Laitière du Sahel and Société de Transformation Alimentaire gained additional support to obtain certification to international standards, i.e. both ISO 9001 v. 2015 and ISO 22000 v.2005. The remaining 7 agri-food SMEs all appointed quality managers and established Quality Committee with definition of action plans. A mock audit was prepared for LANSPEX that resulted in recommendation for ISO 17025 accreditation.

#### **Project 039-14 Development and roll out of an Accreditation E-Learning Programme - AFRAC**

This project resulted in the development of an e-learning platform for AFRAC to enhance the sharing of valuable technical knowledge and experience in a cost-effective manner. The platform facilitated the placement of African regulatory frameworks on MRAs, accreditation conformity assessment in one user-friendly and freely accessible digital platform. The e-learning platform consists of 6 technical courses designed to facilitate knowledge transfer among African QI practitioners. Upon successful completion of each course, participants receive a training certificate that serves as a pre-requisite for additional AFRAC courses and training. The online platform (<http://afracelearning.onlinecf.net/login/index.php>) was launched in September 2016 at the AFRAC General Assembly and is hosted by South African National Accreditation System (SANAS). The collaboration will allow for French language site to be added once the results of Project 096-16 have been received.

#### **Project 040-15: Strengthening the competitiveness of Ghana-based exporters through effective Export Quality Management Systems**

The project was organised around three core activities, namely, (a) training service-based firms on ISO 9001:2015 and EQMS; (b) convening a sensitisation seminar for participating SMEs. One sensitisation session resulted in 15 SMEs being coached on ISO 9001 and EQMS while another course was attended by 30 SMEs of which 15 advanced to ISO 9001 certification. The experts reported that one-quarter of the participating SMEs are on-track to quickly attain certification soon and another 50% are due to gain this status within six months. The project also resulted in increased awareness on Quality Management Systems, with the impact of positive dissemination extending to SMEs that have not directly participated in the project. The project's sustainability has been augmented by the beneficiary devising two complementary interventions, namely, (a) GHASMEC 100 Quality Certification aimed at developing the Ghana SME Competitiveness through the

adoption of quality standards, and (b) Q-Alert Programme, aimed at increasing awareness on quality issues among the public. Project implementation was also supported by sustained coordination with a raft of major stakeholders, most notably, TRAQUE Project (another EDF-funded programme), the Ghana Export Promotion Authority, the National Bureau of Small-Scale Industries, the Institute of Packaging of Ghana, the Ghana Chamber of Commerce and Industry and The Ghana Standard Authority actively contributed to the seminar programme with a presentation on QMS certification.

#### **Project 041-15: Renforcement des capacités de l'AMANORM en vue de la Promotion de la Qualité et amélioration de la compétitivité, conformément au respect de l'accord OMC sur les OTC au Mali**

This project aimed at strengthening the capacities of AMANORM (Malian Bureau of Standards) by improving the knowledge of standards and compliance of agri-food and artisanal products (textiles, hides and skins). The intervention had multiple tasks, namely, (a) assessing the QI needs of AMANORM and SMEs in the agri-food and textile sectors; (b) training AMANORM executives on the development, development and adoption of standards; (c) extending and promoting existing standards; (d) targeted training of executives of selected SMEs subsequent to the conduct of diagnostic study; and (e) provide technical support for selected SMEs. As a result of the project, 28 firms were diagnosed of which 13 were selected to participate in training sessions and benefit from support for the implementation of quality management systems. A review of AMANORM Directory of Standards and analysis of the range of the main products produced by the players in the various sectors highlighted the need for updating standards. Equally, labelling of garments and standards on dyes could foster development of the Malian textile sector. In pursuit of this objective, the project experts crafted an action plan to update AMANORM's standardization programme.

#### **Project 042-14: Scientific and Legal Assistance for the Development of a Quality and Safety Standard for Kava Production and Trade in the Pacific Region**

This consultancy has been conceived with the overall objective of enhancing the participation of kava producing Pacific countries in international trade and of addressing current technical barriers to trade in order to improve exports. The purpose is to address the specific technical barriers to trade faced by kava producers, processors and exporters by means of improving the quality and safety of kava and kava based products. The results to be achieved

by this consultancy were two-fold: (b) complete the scientific sampling of all trade relevant kava cultivars and ensure that kava is produced and processed according to good agricultural practices, and recognised by FAO/WHO Codex regional and international standards; and (b) contribute to the definition and preparation of the draft kava regional/international standard, based on the results achieved through the scientific assessment, for it to be put forward for adoption within the FAO/WHO Codex regional process, more specifically in the Codex Coordination Committee North America South West Pacific (CCNASWP). A draft standard was prepared and submitted to September 2016 CCNASWP meeting where an Expert Working Group has been established to consider this document.

#### **Project 043-15: Horticulture Trade Enhancement and Certification in Rwanda**

The referenced project sought to enhance the competitiveness and effective market access of Rwandan horticultural exporters to attain certification to enter the EU market. Specific activities entailed training select small-scale farmers for the Global-GAP certification and strengthening the capacity of local service providers and trade-related organisations to support horticulture producers and exporters in the certification exercise. 20 experts were trained on the principles of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and international Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures with staff at 10 farm sites. Mock audits were completed for 3 farms resulting in advancing towards pursuit of Global GAP certification. One firm, Garden Fresh aims to shortly complete its final inspection for certification while the remaining farms (Global Farm and Nature Fresh Foods) are also ready for certification but found it challenging to fund the capital costs of compliance. In addition, a survey of market opportunities of the EU horticultural market for Rwandan exporters was conducted. This exercise identified new EU-based clients in thereby providing real business linkages, and ultimately, supported Rwandan producers to reap commercial returns from their respective investment in attaining certification.

#### **Project 044-15: Appui institutionnel et Renforcement des Capacités de l'Infrastructure Qualité en Union des Comores**

The project centred on delivering 2 overarching objectives, namely, (a) strengthening Comoros' QI institutions; and (b) promoting the country's capacity to comply with its WTO commitments. The project resulted in rendering support to the national competent authorities in the review, development and implementation of standards of quality and standardization. In pursuit of this endeavour, a diagnostic study revealed the country's weak QI framework evinced from the effective

non-operationalisation of the National Council for Standardization (CNN), paucity of national legislation on the absence of domestic legislation to support accreditation, certification or laboratories. The training project resulted in the training of 27 senior officials on ISO 17025 and ISO 15189 standards and quality control of food and water. Project experts also recommended merger of laboratories to benefit from economies of scale and ultimately, a reduction of the cost of services rendered. The merger of the labourites would also facilitate the purchase and use of more modern equipment.

#### **Project 045-15: Appui au Bureau Haïtien de Normalisation – Haïti**

This intervention supported the Haitian Bureau of Standardization (BHN) by strengthening its capacity on Quality Management. Specific deliverables included the conduct of a training programme for BHN officials on food safety and control systems (HACCP and ISO 22000 systems) and training SMEs on quality performance prospects to aid Haitian exports. Additional training sessions resulted in the strengthening of the management and support capabilities of the National Information Point (NIP) on TBT. Working in conjunction with the BHN, the NIP notified stakeholders CROSQ standards whose adoption is advancing in Haiti. Project implementation also yielded the transmission of 2 notifications to the ISO-IEC Information Centre consistent with Haiti's commitments under the WTO TBT Agreement. A second phase of the project facilitated direct support of 11 SMEs in the agri-food sector for HACCP accreditation through the development of a quality diagnosis and crafting of a medium and long-term action plan for HACCP accreditation. Finally, a final public seminar was held aimed at sensitizing public and private actors on the WTO TBT Agreement and on the procedures for notifications, information. The workshop validated a slate of recommendations to empower BHN to develop complementary interventions to support SMEs pursuing HACCP accreditation.

#### **Project 046-15: Capacity Building in Strengthening Product Testing Laboratories, Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON)**

Project 046-15 was designed to train SON staff on modern approaches to standards development in a manner consistent with WTO TBT Agreement with respect to both standards development and harmonisation with international standards. The project resulted in the development of 14 codes of practice on varying parts of the value chains of main agricultural products (i.e. honey, melon seeds, dried beans, rice and cocoa). 40 SON staff were also trained on the application of the referenced good practice guidelines. Two laboratories were subjected to a diagnostic study to review

their respective readiness in terms of systems, documentation, personnel and equipment. The study resulted in the crafting of recommendations on the laboratories' readiness for formal accreditation audits. In addition to the teaching and assessment activities, the project supported the attachment of 5 senior SON laboratory personnel to at the Ghana Standards Authority (GSA). This mentoring and attachment programme enhanced SON experts' understanding of the operation of accredited laboratories. The project also supported the training of Chairpersons of Technical Committees (TCs) thereby allowing them to engage more effectively with stakeholders in the development of standards, promotion of the use of standards and underscoring the importance of voluntarily conforming to standards rather than imposing regulations.

#### **Project 047-15: Supporting the Participation of KEBS in ISO Meeting, May 2015**

The TBT Programme supported the participation of a Kenya Bureau of Standards' senior official to attend the ISO/CASCO WG 42 meeting in May 2015. Attendance allowed Chairperson of the KEBS/TC/155 (Technical Committee on Conformity Assessment) to effectively participate in an ISO/CASCO WG 42 meeting tasked with reviewing ISO/IEC 17011:2004 – Conformity Assessment – General requirements for Accreditation Bodies accrediting Conformity assessment bodies. Follow-up activities undertaken by the KEBS Senior official included (a) reviewed the ISO WG draft and submitting comments to the ISO Secretariat; (b) prepared a meeting of the National Mirror Committee and facilitated stakeholders feedback to prepare a national Kenyan position; and (c) coordinated KEBS' internal positions on the ISO draft and advanced preparations for the subsequent December 2015 ISO/CASCO WG 42 meeting.

#### **Project 048-15: Implementation of the Namibian Standards Institution's Strategic Objectives**

This project resulted in the strengthening of the Namibian Standards Institution (NSI) in terms of standardisation, inspection, management systems and technical assistance to SMEs and revise the National Quality Policy (NQP). The revised NQP resulted in changes to the Standards Act and Legal Metrology Bill, as well as the drafting of key legislative regulations on quality infrastructure. Training led to the strengthening of the WTO-TBT Enquiry and Notification Point, auditing of HACCP and specific ISO standards (ISO 9001 and ISO 22000), and enhanced NSI skills on product sampling techniques, packaging and labelling requirements of relevant SADCML documents. Further training courses were organised to ensure that NSI staff gained an in-depth understanding of various International

Standards in conformity assessment and certification (ISO/IEC 17021, 17024 and 17065). The gap analysis on the NSI Laboratory in Walvis Bay was supplemented by ad hoc interventions to assist with accreditation in certain analytical techniques required for the certification of seafood exports. An international attachment was also organised for the laboratory's QA officer to gain experience on the operation of a Laboratory Information and Management System.

#### **Project 049-15: Participation of ACP Officials at the June 2016 WTO TBT Committee Meeting**

Initiated by the ACP Geneva Office, 10 capital-based ACP officials were supported to attend the June 2016 meeting of the WTO TBT Committee. Delegates included representatives of 3 PAQI institutions (ARSO, AFRAC and AFRIMETS). In addition to the formal TBT meeting, supported ACP officials attended an ACP briefing meeting and informal WTO TBT Committee sessions on Good Regulatory Practice principles and a thematic session on the 7th Triennial Review.

#### **Project 050-15: Market Access Capacity Building Programme for the CARIFORUM Region**

The project's purpose was to support CARIFORUM agro-processing firms' capacity to export by developing and executing a comprehensive one-year programme on certification on food safety. In addition to assisting the main beneficiary - Caribbean Export Development Agency, project implementation entailed direct support to firms based in Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. Using a train the trainer approach, the project supported the training of 41 service providers who in turn coached 38 agro-processing firms in the 3 participating countries. A recast of the original TORs allowed facilitated 12 SMEs to be supported in preparing specific action plans for the implementation of food safety requirements in the EU and US markets. Based on the complex nature of the EU/US food safety requirements, coached SMEs will require an additional 18 months before certification can be attained (assuming that financing is secured.) in addition, the training material serves as sound background for Caribbean food safety specialists, thereby adding to the project's sustainability.

#### **Project 051-15: Mise en Place d'un System de Management de la Qualité Intègre au Sein de l'ABNORM**

Implementation of this project had 3 main clusters, namely (a) implementation of a quality management system consistent with

the requirements of the ISO9001 V 2015 standard in ABNORM - the Burkinabe Agency for Standardization, Metrology and Quality; (b) supporting 2 test/calibration laboratories to implement a Management System in accordance with the requirements of ISO 17025 V 2005 in order to be accredited and recognized internationally (the ABNORM Temperatures Measurement Laboratory and the IRSAT DTA Microbiology Laboratory); and (c) train ABNORM select staff to undertake tasks such as product conformity assessment, corporate audit and market surveillance. The project delivered training to all 35 ABNORM operational staff members on the requirements of ISO 9001 (v. 2008 and 2015), ISO 17025 (accreditation of laboratories), ISO 22000 and HACCP requirements, ISO 17065 certification of products, techniques for setting up a ISO 9001 Quality, sampling techniques, internal audits and QMS evaluation. 85 officials based at ABNORM and its partner organisations were trained on the requirements of "contractual" standards such as ISO 17025, ISO 17065 and ISO 22000. Approximately 50 executives, representing all stakeholders in the national conformity assessment system (public structures, NGOs, associations), were sensitized through the organization of a two-day final workshop on, The organization of the WTO, TBT rules, conformity assessment. Two laboratories - ABNORM Temperatures Metrology Laboratory and DTA-IRSAT were support on the implementation of an ISO / IEC 17025 Quality Management System on the general requirements for the competence of calibration and testing laboratories. Both supported laboratories will shortly submit request for COFRAC accreditation.

#### **Project 052-15: Capacity Building for the Ethiopian National Accreditation Office and Conformity Assessment Bodies**

The project complemented the September 2015 joint ILAC/AFRAC peer evaluation by extending ENAO's services to include accreditation of certification and inspection; supporting ENAO testing and medical laboratories staff towards attaining ISO/IEC 17025:2005 and ISO 15189:2012 accreditation; and training select staff at national conformity assessment bodies to become ENAO Assessors. Implementation of the project advanced ENAO's readiness to apply for membership in both International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for certification and the ILAC MRA for Inspection and the drafting of two new policy and procedural documents on certification and inspection. These new documents were important inputs to the ensuing training of certification assessors. 40 laboratory staff of selected medical and testing laboratories were trained on the requirements of the international laboratory standards, i.e. ISO 15189 and ISO/IEC 17025 respectively. Support and assistance

for 5 inspection bodies was also provided through courses on awareness and implementation training based on the ENAO accreditation requirements (ISO/IEC17020), a GAP Analysis of documentation and associated implementation of the requirements of the international standard for inspection bodies, ISO/IEC 17020, individual workshops / training and internal auditing at each inspection body aimed at increasing awareness and practical application. The diagnostic of ENAO's resulted in the identified gaps in policy, procedures and operational documentation that have subsequently been addressed.

#### **Project 053-15: Mise en Place d'un Label Qualité et Ethique au Profit des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises, Membres du MPME – Côte d'Ivoire (contract terminated)**

The mission aimed at operationalising the Quality and Ethics Labelling Mechanism initiated by the Small and Medium Enterprises Movement (MPME) in Côte d'Ivoire and increase its recognition among by Ivorian SMEs. Such a demarche would allow SMEs to gain certification for their products traded in in both national and regional markets. The project would have allowed a first wave of selected companies to gain compliance support of Bronze, Silver and Gold levels of the MPME label. The basic level bronze certification enables SMEs to prove their compliance with national requirements for creation and legal existence. Intermediate-level silver certification allows the company to justify the implementation of a structural and organizational arrangement enabling it to prepare itself for compliance with all international standards applicable to its sector activity. Finally, advanced level gold certification is awarded to SME that secure at least a certification of an international standard such as ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 22000, etc. despite sustained PMU efforts, the project was terminated by the beneficiary that opted to pursue alternative sources of donor funding.

#### **Project 054-15: Capacity Building for the Quality Infrastructure Institutions of Kenya**

The overall objective of the project was to enhance Kenya's Quality Infrastructure (KEBS and KENAS) to facilitate trade. More specifically, the project had the following three specific tasks: (a) enhance the understanding of the WTO TBT and Trade Facilitation Agreements among Kenyan QI institutions; (b) strengthen the capacity of KEBS to develop and harmonize regional standards within EAC countries and enhance KENAS' conformity assessment capacity; and (c) enhance KEBS and KENAS' institutional capacity to deliver technical assistance on QMS to the Kenyan private sector. Activities of the project were grouped around four concrete tasks , namely,

(1) the conduct of a situation analysis to identify major challenges, constraints and specific capacity building needs as far as the implementation of the WTO TBT and Trade Facilitation Agreement is concerned; (2) strengthen capacity of KEBS to develop and harmonize regional standards within EAC countries and enhance capacity of KENAS for credible conformity assessment; (3) support SMEs of 3 leading sectors – flower, leather and increasing their engagement in the QI agencies' activities, and (4) organization of a final conference on project results and discussion of the WTO TBT and Trade Facilitation Agreements, International Standards Setting Organisations, Standards Development Process with engagement of the private sector to be conducted. The project resulted in the framing of a series of recommendations, most notably that KENAS should enhance its accreditation and assessment processes and increase its role in developing the accreditation infrastructure in both Kenya and East Africa while KEBS should implement a more customer-focussed approach consistent with the new requirements of ISO 9001:2005, upgrade the equipment of its material testing laboratories and introduce a centralised database to reduce paperwork.

#### **Project 055-15: Participation of ACP Officials at the WTO TBT Committee**

This project supported the attendance of 9 ACP officials to the WTO TBT Committee meeting, September 2015 with another 9 capital-based experts attending the November 2015 meeting. ACP Delegates supported the establishment of A Trade Obstacle Alert Mechanism. Consider establishment of such a mechanism at the WTO in collaboration with the ITC. Uganda, one of the sponsored candidates, also mooted the braider use of Regulatory Impact Assessment in various facets of the WTO TBT Agreement. At the November edition, participants attended the WTO Workshop TBT@20 on Reducing Trade Friction from Standards and Regulations where ACP participants highlighted the need for sustained engagement on TRTA on QI in ACP Member States and Attending ISO/UNECE Conference on Using and Referencing ISO/ IEC standards to support public policy. The participation of ARSO, another of the TBT Programme-sponsored candidates, contributed to that continental body's attaining observer status at the WTO TBT Committee.

#### **Project 056-15: Preparation of a Booklet for Ethiopian Standards Agency (ESA)**

At the request of the Ethiopian Standards Agency (ESA), the TBT Programme produced a booklet on Standards and Technical

Regulations for the Ethiopian national standards body. The booklet provided information on importance of standards and role of ESA in standards development in Ethiopia and thereby enhanced the ESA's visibility and promoted the dissemination of standards. The activity was undertaken in a context of ESA hosted the ARSO General Assembly in August 2015 with the vast majority of the copies distributed to ASRO Member States and the remaining number circulated to Ethiopian stakeholders.

#### **Project 057-15: Projet d'« Appui aux Acteurs des Filières Agricoles en Vue de la Promotion de la Qualité et de l'Amélioration de la Compétitivité du Togo**

Requested by the Ministry of Agriculture, project implementation was based on delivering two specific objectives. These were (a) improving the legislative and regulatory framework and strengthen the capacities of the QI constituent institutions, and (b) sensitizing actors in the agro-food sector on quality approach and supporting their certification efforts. SMEs and pertinent QI actors were trained on a wide array of international standards, with the most relevant being ISO 17025; ISO 9001, ISO 22000, ISO 14000, Global Gap and HACCP. 10 select firms also benefited from follow-up and coaching on the application of food safety and environmental management systems: ISO 9001, ISO 22000, ISO 14000 and Global GAP. The implementation of the project resulted in the drafting of a strategic document on the upgrading of Togo's National quality infrastructure policy with particular emphasis on improving the country's legislative and regulatory framework and strengthening the capacities of the NQI constituent institutions. An additional technical study enumerated Togo's capacity building needs to effectively apply its NQP. Furthermore, 12 key professional laboratory executives have been trained to implement the ISO / IEC 17025 standard in their respective laboratories.

#### **Project 058-15: Projet Communautaire de Formation de Formateurs en Management de la Qualité – UEMOA**

The project's overall objective was to implement quality training among UEMOA Member States' educational institutes with the following 3 components – 3 training modules were designed developed on quality management courses; training experts using the "Training of Trainers" approach; and executing a publicity campaign to raise awareness and promote quality in the region. A total of 24 teachers were trained on quality issues in both Abidjan and Ouagadougou and a technical manual on salient quality issues booklet produced.

#### **Project 059-15: Renforcement des capacités du Laboratoire VAGNY-LAB en vue d'Accréditation Conformément aux Exigences de Norme ISO/IEC 17025 : 2005**

This intervention aimed at promoting the quality and increased exports of agricultural products in Côte d'Ivoire by assisting VAGNY-LAB laboratory to implement a quality management system in accordance with ISO 17025 standard. The project resulted in the conduct of an audit of VAGNY-LAB laboratory and an analysis of its organizational and technical framework VAGNY-LAB Laboratory undertaken by TUNAC – the Tunisian accreditation service. As a result of this effort, VAGNY-LAB laboratory gained ISO 17025 accreditation in August 2016.

#### **Project 060: Soutien à l'Accréditation pour le Laboratoire National d'Essais de Qualité, de Métrologie et d'Analyses (LANEMA), Côte d'Ivoire**

This project supported LANEMA - the UEMOA-designated regional calibration laboratory for pressure to attain accreditation. The project generated specific training for its technical staff through training of 4 LANEMA experts on pressure training; training in temperature for 4 experts; training in mass and volume training for 4 experts; training in electricity for 3 people. The PMU contracted the services of LNE to offer specialised training in metrology while Mettler Toledo delivered specialised training on Training on Mass / Weighing, both based in Paris.

#### **Project 061-15: Appui aux Acteurs Publics et Privés Gabonais dans le Domaine des Obstacles Techniques au Commerce**

The project was initiated by Agence Gabonaise de Normalisation (AGANOR) and had 3 main components, namely, (a) enhancing the TBT capacity building of both public and private actors, (b) strengthening the legislative framework for environmental protection and waste management in the Building and Public Works (BTP) sector; and (c) increase awareness and promotion of quality. The training sessions focussed on TBT Agreement and its implications for international trade; Metrology; ISO 9001, ISO 14001 / OHSAS 18001; ISO 9001/ ISO 14001 for cement producers; and coaching and initial audit of AGANOR to initiate the ISO 9001 - 10/10-22 /10 certification process. 5 AGANOR officials were trained by INNORPI in Tunis on ISO 9001 standard with 4 succeeding to become an IRCA auditor for this ISO standard. The project also enumerated a series of recommendations to complement the training of AGANOR officials. The central advice centred on AGANOR advancing the

establishment of a quality management system and obtaining ISO 9001: 2015 certification within 2 years based on a proposed action plan.

#### **Project 063-15: Promotion of the Agro-Tourism Sector in the Caribbean**

The project aimed at fostering exports of regionally-produced agricultural products (with special accent on staples and condiments) by empowering Caribbean Agri-business Association (CABA) to promote quality certification schemes among selected Caribbean agro-food producers and thereby meet global market requirements. The project supported 7 beneficiary SMEs based in Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Guyana and St. Vincent and the Grenadines to secure pursue GMP-based HACCP programme. In Jamaica, 1 firm pursued a GMP scheme in support of their eventual implementation of HACCP while 2 others implemented Safe Quality Food (SQF) and FSSC 22000. Following visits to the companies, the staff of over 10 SMEs was trained, 3 HACCP teams were formed and a specific HACCP System Manager appointed. The specific training contributed to improvements in production and working modalities and real changes for the project beneficiary companies. Complementing the TBT Programme-funded intervention was the establishment and subsequent launch of CABEXO - a digital business to business platform created by CABA to match Caribbean SMEs with key food importers based in North America and Europe. Representatives of the targeted SMEs also benefitted from direct interface with Caribbean hoteliers and restaurants at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Caribbean Agri-Business Forum.

#### **Project 064-15: REACH Compliance among COMESA Footwear Tanners and SMEs**

This project was initiated to support the COMESA Leather and Leather Products Institute (COMESA-LLPI) aimed at train Ethiopian and Sudanese QI regulators and firms on complying with EU REACH legislation. The intervention was designed to harmonise COMESA regional footwear standards by referencing those deployed by Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS). The experts also assessed the use of chemicals in tanneries in the 2 COMESA countries and drafted a detailed capacity building programme for tanneries and selected SMEs. 4 Ethiopian and 6 Sudanese tanners were tested for leather swatches, lining leathers, upper leather, outsoles and metal eyelets. The REACH compliance review found the absence of in-house testing either countries' tanneries and basic testing equipment lacking. The project also delivered a Train-The-Trainer course that attracted the participation 11 officials from 5

COMESA countries. Finally, experts initiated the accreditation of selected laboratories providing testing services to the Ethiopian/Sudanese leather sector and advised to build and extend facilities to encompass full ISO 17025 accreditation, thereby becoming National Centres of Excellence to service domestic manufacturers.

#### **Project 065-15: Enhancing Competitiveness in the Caribbean via Patent Examination Training**

This project was relaunched subsequent to the tender award due to professional differences between the contractor and key experts. However, its later implementation benefitted from a broadening of scope to include a regional dimension. The project aimed at enhancing patent promotion, standardisation and harmonisation and foster patent examination uniformity in the Caribbean with particular focus on Belize, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. Experts developed training modules patent process and specifics examination techniques in Mechanics, Chemistry, Biology and Electronics. A European Patent Office (EPO) specific module was also developed to showcase that regional body's processes and procedures re the treatment of patent applications.

The specific training in patent examination was oversubscribed with a total of 155 participants (Belize 31; Jamaica 85; and Trinidad and Tobago 39). The experts also prepared a series of recommendations to underpin the training exercise with a call for the development of IP offices with procedure manuals for patent examination; applying a regional Caribbean approach to spur greater number of patent applicants and moots the filing of a single patent examination application to attract increased investment.

#### **Project 066-15: Appui à l'Association Sénégalaise de Normalisation**

The project aimed to improve the Association Sénégalaise de Normalisation's (ASN) management of its WTO TBT Notification system, support ASN to revise certification systems for water in small plastic bags and hydraulic binders (cements) and strengthen ASN's staff competence in the field of conformity assessment. The overall objectives through a series of concrete deliverables, namely, (a) a database of standards and notifications was designed and developed along this mission; and the preparation of a manual for the use of the databases by ASN; (b) an analysis of Senegalese standards resulted in recommendations made on improving accessibility on the ASN website; (c) recommendations for revision of regulations for the certification of cement and drinking water; and (d) ASN experts trained in ISO 17065 standards yielding improved ASN competence to advance certification. The project

resulted in a marked streamlining of the number of standards published annually each year while increasing the number of standards sold and (90). Finally, 2 ASN officials were trained in ISO 9001 in Paris and attained IRCA certification.

#### **Project 067-15: Promotion of Quality Standards and Certification for Handicrafts from Ghana and Sierra Leone**

The project beneficiaries were ATAG/SLIEPA – two private sector bodies respectively based in Ghana and Sierra Leone. This project reviewed the technical and market-driven barriers to trade such as standards, certifications, and trademarks, collective marks and GLs faced by artisanal producers of handicrafts and developed solutions to advance SMEs' prospect to increase value-added production and sales and ultimately income. Handicraft stakeholders including regulatory officials and private sector were trained on EU quality schemes, standards and certification and encouraged to develop West African regional systems to protect traditional knowledge and formulate GLs. With few certification schemes in both Ghana and Sierra Leone, the pursuit of Fair Trade certification was encouraged. Artisanal handicraft producers were also trained on wood sourcing environmental issues, specifically on legal and environmental regulations. The project resulted in the creation of both a WhatsApp platform to disseminate information and an Artisan Directory to directly links artisans with buyers, thereby promoting market opportunities.

#### **Project 068-15: COMESA SQAM Action Plan in 3 Sectors**

This project complemented the COMESA Strategic Plan for Standardisation and Quality Assurance (SQA) - the drafting of which was support by the TBT Programme in 2014. However, in implementing the SQA, the imperative of undertaking a deeper assessment of SQAM strategic needs and priorities was recognised in the three product clusters, i.e. cotton and garments, light engineering and chemicals and chemical products. This project supported the development of a regional QI policy on the 3 product groups and identified specific needs assessments for the reviewed products with capacity building priorities enumerated for both QI policymakers and economic operators. Finally, the contacted experts recommended a series of measures to be enacted by COMESA, most importantly, (a) increased cooperation with other African QI bodies such as PAQI, ARSO, AFRAC and AFRIMETS to advance coherence/harmonization issues and the thereby spur continental trade; (b) establish a framework for the development of technical regulations and to harmonize regulations in COMESA technical regulations in the three sectors; (c) establish mutual recognition arrangements

among trade partners' laboratories through cross border inspection agreements and proficiency testing/ inter-laboratory comparisons schemes in Africa; and (d) create regional centres of excellence among COMESA-based laboratories and testing facilities.

#### **Project 069-15: Appui à l'Infrastructure Qualité en Madagascar**

The project centred on improving the Malagasy QI legislative and regulatory framework by supporting the drafting of the national QI policy and revising technical regulations for priority products. In addition, the project also supported the strengthening of the country's two principal QI bodies - Le Bureau des Normes de Madagascar (BNM) and Le Service de la Qualité et du Conditionnement (SQC). Project implementation resulted in a diagnostic study of the country's QI framework, stakeholders' validation of a draft national QI policy, training of civil servants on ISO 17065 standards on prioritised Malagasy products and upgrading national standards for coffee, cocoa, vanilla, clove and pepper. The project also supported BNM's 17065 accreditation to allow the national standards body to implement product certification through coaching of 5 key personnel. The anticipation remains that BNM should secure ISO 17065 accreditation by 2018.

#### **Project 070-15: ARSO Dissemination of Information and Creation of Awareness on African Agricultural Standards**

African Standardisation Organisation (ARSO) secured support to enhance its capacity to facilitate trade and empower African farmers to participate in the domestic and global value chains. The specific project resulted in the upgrading of the African Trade Web Portal to act as a "one-stop-shop" source of information and the dissemination of African agricultural harmonised standards and conformity assessment. The project implementation entailed the preparation of technical studies charting SPS/TBT requirements, tariff treatment and trade statistics. A platform linking the websites of African national QI to those of National Bureaus of Standards emerged. The project also resulted in the development and harmonisation of existing standards that has been uploaded to the ARSO DISNET website. The African Trade Web Portal now offers information on 234 standards affecting intra-African trade in agricultural products. The project also allows users to access all African standards and support ARSO to communicate with its Members and encourage them to provide statistical data on trade thereby advancing the improvement of African trade statistics. Improvements to the ARSO trade portal will require continuous improvement and investment to approach the EU Export Help Desk website or even mirror that of the EAC Trade Help Desk.

### **Project 071-15: Enhancing Market Access and Promoting Certification for Quality Origin Products in Guyana**

The project supported the Guyanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs to develop and register 3 Geographical Indications (GIs) for rum, molasses and sugar – products produced in Demerara, Guyana. Informed by a situation analyses that identified challenges and applicable regulatory framework for quality products in Guyana the experts produced both technical specifications for the 3 GIs and practical guidelines on their application and protection in Guyana and EU. The GI applications are currently being reviewed by the Commercial Registry - the Guyanese competent authority for the registration of GIs with a decision anticipated to be released later in 2017. To support the likely adoption of the GIs, training was also provided to key experts at national bodies such as the Commercial Registry and Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) along with key commercial operators such as Demerara Distillers Ltd. and Guyana Sugar Corporation. A final component of the project was the development of an online platform to allow producers to network, exchange experiences and best practices with their EU counterparts and act as a business and developmental tool to promote local quality products. The online network is currently housed on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' website but discussions are ongoing on finding a permanent solution. The establishment of a Guyanese GI legislative framework also spurs demands for Caribbean GI registry and the inclusion of a GI list in the CARIFORUM-EU EPA.

### **Project 72-15: Development and Roll-out of an E-Learning Programme on Metrology**

Design of this project was predicated on the recognition that while ACP countries internalise the role and value of legal metrology, they lack both the institutional framework and personnel to effectively administer this QI pillar. The PMU recalibrated an initial CROSQ request by extending its scope to include AFRMETS members and pursue a financially viable digital platform. The e-learning platform offer two courses - “Introduction to Metrology as an Element of Quality Infrastructure” with 3 modules and “Legal Metrology in Detail” comprising 7 modules. Project implementation benefitted from the active partnership with OIML that contributed teaching materials and will also host the e-learning platform. The ownership of the project displayed by the international organisation on legal metrology ensures project sustainability, specifically on both maintenance and upgrade.

### **Project 073-15: Strengthening Kiribati's Quality Infrastructure**

This project's overall objective sought to strengthen Kiribati's QI institutions and support the country's producers and exporters to comply with TBT-related requirements. The effort centred on developing a national quality policy (NQP) to foster the delivery of export-related quality and conformity assessment services in the mid-term while also assisting economic operators to improve TBT-compliance for select export products. With respect to the NQP, the Consumer Protection and Food Safety Acts and Food Regulations and Standards were analysed with amendments proposed to address identified gaps. in addition, a draft QI law was prepared, including chapters on scope definitions, standardisation, (principles, standards unit, technical regulations, technical committees), accreditation, metrology, conformity assessment, and market surveillance. 14 national QI actors were trained on Standards and Conformity Assessment; Standards development and the Code of Good Standardisation Practice; and Normative QI Framework. The draft NQP was endorsed and adopted by the Kiribati Cabinet in March 2017.

### **Project 74-16: Enhance Trade Capacities of Pacific Agribusiness and Improve Access to International Markets**

This intervention - requested by PIPSO – the Pacific regional private sector body, sought to advance the food safety certification used by select agro-processing firms and skills of services providers in Fiji and Tonga. The project centred on training 16 SMEs from the two ACP pacific countries on export quality management (EQM) and selected certification – most notably, HACCP, Global GAP and ISO 22000:2005 as tools to gain effective access to international markets.

In a pilot phase, contracted experts coached three SMEs (two in Fiji and one in Tonga) on identifying the major constraints that could hamper the delivery of the coaching and capacity building to SMEs in the two assisted Islands. Three SMEs were additional coached - one for Global GAP in hydroponic vegetables, another for HACCP in frozen vegetables a third a Tongan processing plant attending to SMEs needs particularly on frozen cassava and other roots processing and packaging on HACCP. An additional 13 SMEs will be directly assisted on HACCP and Global GAP certification by trained trainers. The sustainability of the project as bolstered by the production of training materials on food safety certification that can form the basis of future training initiatives.

### **Project 075-16: Developing Awareness and Professional Skills of IP Tools in Tanzania**

At the behest of Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College (KCMUCo), the overall objective of aimed to develop awareness and professional skills of intellectual property (IP) tools among key stakeholders at public, academic and private levels as a trade catalyst and means to enhance local, regional and international export capacity. The project centred on supporting a cluster of Tanzanian academic institutions, participants from Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe also heavily contributed to the implementation of the project. Tailor-made training manuals were developed with 40 participants trained using the Training of Trainers approach. It should be noted that the training material developed remains valuable for future human development efforts. The intervention also raised awareness of IP issues and training methodologies. The training session highlighted a series of follow-up interventions, most importantly, participating entities should further develop their respective IP policies and continue the establishment of dedicated IP units. This policy effort should be complemented by the development of incubators or labs to commercialize research and generate additional income streams.

### **Project 076-16: Training Programme on International Standards for the Printing, Plastics and Packaging Industry in Trinidad and Tobago**

The project resulted in the development of two targeted courses for the operation and maintenance of modern printing, plastics and packaging machinery in compliance with international standards. The motivation of the project was to empower the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) to support the country's firms develop new and innovative packaging by meeting international standards and thereby ultimately enhanced their respective capacity to access the EU market. In addition to the two courses conducted at the UTT, the project delivered a train the trainer course to potential trainers interested in advising firms on international standards requirement for the EU market. 12 persons were trained in: Course 1 "Operation and Maintenance for Printing, Plastics and Packaging Machinery for International standards" and another 17 participated in Course 2 "Printing Plastics and Packaging (including new and innovation packaging)." 5 employees of printing and packaging SMEs were trained for delivery of training course while 3 plastics and packaging firms were supported on meeting international standards in Printing, Plastics and Packaging. Of the 29 class attendees, 27 trainees graduated signifying a 93% success rate for the final exam. This was yet another project with a sustainable

dimension due to the training material developed for future use.

### **Project 077-16: Participation of ACP Delegate at the WTO TBT Committee**

Consistent with previous interventions, the TBT Programme supported the participation of an ACP delegate to attend the March 2016 session of the WTO TBT Committee. However, due to the full exhaustion of resources under the relevant budget line (Activity 1.1.2: Representation of the ACP countries and regions' interests), TBT support in this instance was limited to one delegate. Preference was given to supporting the participation of the ASRO delegate, given that organisation's continental membership. Another consideration stemmed from the fact that ARSO secured observer status to the WTO TBT Committee in November 2015. According to the delegate's report, the ASRO official's tasks included a presentation to the WTO TBT Committee meeting in which ARSO programmes and support rendered by the TBT Programme were both referenced; participation at the ACP preparatory meeting; and acting as a resource person at an ACP panel on standardisation.

### **Project 078-16 Legal Support for Implementation of the Quality and Safety Standards for Kava Production in Vanuatu**

At the request of the Vanuatan Mission in Brussels, this project sought to support a definition of legislative/regulatory measures, draft enforcement mechanisms for kava standard and prepare an Action Plan to implement recommendations for kava production in Vanuatu consistent with good agricultural practice. The project was administered per direct agreement with the expert consulting a slate of senior officials, kava farmers, processors, retailers and exporters, and development partners. The project resulted in the preparation of outlines of 2 technical regulations, a code of practice (CoP) and a standard operating procedures (SoP). These legal instruments provide a solid basis for developing a coherent system in the Vanuatan kava industry and contributing to enhanced product quality. Draft regulation for implementing the amended Kava Act to address quality, hygiene, packaging and labelling requirements and another on traceability establishing a kava business operators register were prepared. Implementation of this project served to complement the drafting of a regional kava standards (Project 042) and anticipate the CCNAWSWP adoption of the draft standards submitted at the September 2016 meeting of the regional Codex Alimentarius body.

## **Project 079-16: Strengthening the Quality Infrastructure Institutions of Ethiopia**

The project had two national QI beneficiaries, namely, the Ethiopian Standards Agency (ESA) - the national standards body and the Ethiopian Conformity Assessment Enterprise (ECAE) – the major conformity assessment organization in the country providing inspection, testing and certification services to public and private industries. The gap analyses on ESA delivered a number of concrete findings, most notably, review its legal status and structure, policies and the operational environment; upgrade its facilities and resources; overhaul its standards development practices; enhance the sales and information of standards, ISO balloting, WTO Enquiry Point, etc.; and upgrade the operation of the Training and Technical Support Directorate. The gap analysis on ECAE found, *inter alia*, that the body had progressed significantly in terms of capability, capacity and productivity over the past 3 years as is evidenced in the growth of business and potential growth with new testing and inspection resources and projects. The experts also submitted a series of recommendations including (a) developing a National Quality Policy to ensure buy-in at all levels and provide direction for the future growth of the NQI; (b) establishing a modern Technical Regulations framework to assure the quality of exports; and (c) expanding quality-related products and services to meet the demands of a growing market, while addressing SMEs' needs. The project therefore sponsored the translation and simplification of a further 25 such standards (approximately 400 pages of original text before simplification) and the scanning of 8121 pages of paper-based standards into pdf files. While the training carried out under the project was directed mainly at ESA and ECAE staff, an attachment of two ECAE staff was also undertaken, to the South African Grain Laboratory (SAGL) and the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS).

## **Project 080-16: Knowledge Dissemination on TBT Practices**

At ARSO's initiative and heavily supported by the TBT Programme, the implementation of this project sought to share the Programme's experience on donor-funded TBT and trade-related interventions with a wide array of stakeholders and international development partners. The project had 3 dimensions, i.e. (a) develop case studies informed by a review of TBT Programme-funded projects' (b) develop an online dissemination platform to propagate case studies and TBT project outputs; and (c) convene a validation workshop to promote a deeper understanding of successful TRTA interventions on TBT issues that could be both propagated and reflected in the design, implementation and management of future projects and programmes. 4 case studies were developed on key clusters of the TBT Programme's work, notably, standardization, certification and accreditation, quality infrastructure, and training that all enumerated good practices on project design, management, effectiveness, sustainability, and results dissemination. The final validation workshop was held in Nairobi in January 2017 and was attended by 60 participants, of which 26 were sponsored by the TBT Programme. The online portal developed for the propagation of TBT Programme outputs is initially housed on capacity4dev website but will in the future be permanently hosted by PAQI and CROSQ. Thus far, 24 outputs of recognised good practices have been uploaded.

## **Project 081-16: Development and Implementation of Technical Regulations and Methods of Referencing Standards in Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago**

This project emerged from 3 TBT Programme-sponsored Caribbean officials attending the March 2016 meeting of the WTO TBT Committee and discussing the region's QI needs with the TBT Programme expert also in attendance. A subsequent request emerged aimed at assisting in the development of regional technical



regulations, and in particular, good regulatory practice. The project aimed to strengthen the 3 NSBs through the development and harmonisation of technical regulations and methods of referencing standards. In recognition of the regional efforts on QI and its pivotal role, CROSQ was included as a key implementation partner. Project results included training NSB staff and other national stakeholders on the development of policy documents based on GRP and RIAs possibly resulting in the drafting of legislation or technical regulations instead of compulsory standards. Subsequent to the delivery of training, each NSB was anticipated to develop a plan for legislation reform re compulsory standards and commence the development of technical regulations. Technical regulations on Precautionary Labelling of Gas Cylinders (Barbados), Used Tyres (Jamaica) and electrical sector (Trinidad and Tobago) were selected with the 3 countries respectively producing an RIA and Trinidad and Tobago also the technical regulation. Both Jamaica and Barbados opted to instruct their respective Chief Parliamentary Counsel to draft an official technical regulation but time constraints precluded the timely delivery of this result. Instead, actual technical regulation will be developed based on the RIAs policy documents drafted by this project.

#### **Project 082-16: Capacity Building of the Ethiopian Laboratories Association (ELA)**

This project supported the strengthening of EPA's institutional capacity through the conduct of a needs assessment and development of a 2017-2021 strategic plan. ELA is a non-profit network of Ethiopian laboratories and that has advanced to assume a key role in National Quality Infrastructure (NQI). The support intervention, administered under the Pool of Expert facility, delivered a needs assessment highlighted key priorities on which ELA should focus over the next 5 years. The draft strategy plan recommendations include revising ELA's vision to reflect the value added that laboratories contribute to increased public health and safety; enhance advocacy effort on ELA's mission of ELA; collaborate with national Ministry of Science and Technology to create a national laboratory plan; develop a regional African Laboratory network (AFROLAB) and sign an MoU with international bodies such as ILAC and EURACHEM.

#### **Project 083-16: Capacity Assessment and Provision of Advisory Services for the Implementation of the Legal Metrology Bill**

The project supported the Fair Trading and Codex Alimentarius, Consumer Protection and Metrology Division (FTCD) of the Samoan Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour through (a) the review

of the Metrology Act and the development of its implementation strategy; (b) conduct of a needs assessment re the establishment of a dedicated metrology unit within FTCD; and (c) enhance national metrology competence through training in specific areas of metrology. The project had two components with the aid on legal metrology bill and need assessment and metrology training both administered per direct agreements. The contracted expert contributed significantly to enhancing the effective implementation of the 2015 legal metrology act and itemised the human resource and training inputs required to establish the national metrology unit. The other facet of the project saw 3 FTCD staff members being trained at Laboratoire national de métrologie et d'essais (LNE) in France on specific areas of metrology, including weights, weighing pressure, volume and temperature measurements. The specific training content emerged from the prior conduct of the need assessment.

#### **Project 085-16: Participation in European Development Day 2016 (EDD 2016)**

In collaboration with the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development (CTA) and ACP-EU TradeCom II, the TBT Programme developed two proposals to convene sessions at EDD 2016. The initiatives were for a large room session on "Recent Global Developments in Agricultural Trade and ACP SDG Pursuits" under the topic Trade, Growth and Sustainable Development; and a lab debate on "The Treatment of Food Standards in Mega-RTAs," both under the topic "Trade, Growth and Sustainable Development." The large room session resulted in a panel discussion involving Viwanou Gnassounou, ASG, ACP Secretariat; Arancha Gonzales, ITC Executive Director; Dr. Shenggen Fan, Director-General, IFPRI; Daniel Gad, CEO, Omega Farms; and Roberto Ridolfi, Director of Sustainable Growth and Development, DEVCO. The more technical exchange on Mega-RTAs and Food Standards attracted interventions from a slate of experts - an ACP academic and, head of a London-based research institution, a senior DG SANCO official and trade researcher at a South African-based think tank. The events augmented the Programme's visibility and reinforced the strong collaboration enjoyed with two other EDF-funded vehicles, i.e. the CTA and TradeCom II.

#### **Project 086-16: Renforcement de L'Infrastructure Qualité Sanitaire et Phytosanitaire (outils législatifs et institutionnels - acteurs privés et publics)**

This project was implemented using the Pool of Experts' facility and aimed at delivering two concrete results, i.e. (a) draft a legal

report on the current state of legislation and institutional framework for agrochemicals in Cameroon and (b) recommendations for strengthening of select Cameroon laboratories. The intervention was undertaken at the behest of Le Conseil Interprofessionnel des Sociétés D'Assainissement au Cameroun (CISAC) – an inter-professional body tasked with promoting SPS regulations among national public authorities. The resulting study registered the strong convergence amongst stakeholders in exploiting the benefits of private standards and recommended a harmonized approach between international standards, national standards and market requirements expressed by private standards. An inventory of the equipment and infrastructure and skills survey of 6 laboratories was also undertaken yielding well-developed human resources and well-structured units, but all requiring enhanced capacity building efforts to undertake more recent testing techniques. In particular, the reviewed laboratories were unable to detect residues and contaminants in foodstuffs, water and the environment. It was also recommended that the laboratories are networked through a technical platform to attain quality control in both upstream and downstream production lines.

#### **Project 087-16: Analysis of the TBT and SPS Provisions of the EU-SADC Economic Partnership Agreement**

This project, initiated by the SADC Secretariat, sought to support implementation of the SADC –EU Economic Partnership Agreement through an analysis of potential opportunities and benefits presented by the Agreement, preparation of national plans for Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia and Swaziland to comply with SPS and TBT measures and elaboration of national/ regional project proposals to address identified legal and regulatory needs among SADC EPA states. The study resulted in a number of key recommendations including the updating of existing laws and regulations; developing an integrated and electronically accessible SPS database for planning, management and decision making; strengthening or introducing plant pest and food safety risk analysis activities and the associated establishment and ongoing maintenance of pest free areas; harmonization of food safety and pesticide registration requirements; building appropriate and sustainable capacity in the private sector given their major role in implementing effective and sustainable SPS measures; and identifying and strengthening technical infrastructure including cost effective and internationally recognised conformity assessment capability for identified national priority SPS/TBT related products and produce. The study also yielded national-specific action plans for the 5 participating SADC EPA Members. The results of the study were considered at a final validation workshop held in January

2017 and further considered at the March 2017 meeting of the SADC-EU EPA Trade and Development Committee.

#### **Project 088-16: Renforcement des Capacités des Laboratoires en Mauritanie et au Tchad**

This project combined the expressed needs of two West African laboratories, namely, the Centre for the Quality Control of Foodstuffs (CECOQDA) in Chad and the National Institute for Research in Public Health (INRSP) in Mauritania. A training programme resulted in the training of 29 CECOQDA staff members in (a) ISO 9001 2015 certification (b) training in metrology; and (c) training ISO 17025 2005 accreditation. While at the INRSP, 10 people were trained in accreditation according to ISO 17025, ISO standards 19011 (audits), OHAS 18001 version 2007 (QHSE) and ISO 14001 version 2015 (Environment); A further 6 persons were trained to accreditation according to ISO 15189. In addition to the training sessions, the 2 laboratories were prepared for certification and accreditation via the conduct of a mock audit. The project resulted in both CECOQDA advancing its ISO 9001 and ISO 17025 certification and INRSP its ISO 15189 certification processes with both laboratories scheduled to be audited in 2018. Finally, in order to secure full ownership of the results achieved, two final validation workshops were held in January 2017 in Chad and Mauritania with 120 and 50 participants, respectively.

#### **Project 089-16: AFSEC – Harmonization of Electrotechnical Standards in Africa**

This project was initiated by AFSEC – one of the principal African QI continental body and a core PAQI member. The PMU-supported intervention aimed at delivering 3 results, namely, (a) develop a database of electrotechnical standards; (b) collate and assess information on the capacities of African electrotechnical laboratories to be accredited to test electrical products; and (c) draft AFSEC action plans on the organisation's future work programme to be adopted at the final validation workshop (Nairobi, Kenya) in January 2017. The database was developed thereby allowing AFSEC to evaluate the use of the standards AFSEC recommends for common adoption by its members. The database also serves as a tool for the stakeholders such as universities, firms, laboratories, consumers associations, etc. to identify national electrotechnical committees, finding standards in force, note the status of the standards and being informed on accredited laboratories where they exist in AFSEC Member States. The second project result proved challenging to attain as detailed information on the capacity and needs of laboratories was not feasible due to

inability to physically visit affected laboratories. Such an approach was necessary to check the veracity of submitted questionnaires and the level of implementation of the facilities (test equipment, quality management practices, business plans, etc.) to establish sustainability of the laboratories' business plan engender an evidence-based assessment of which bodies are eligible for support in pursuit of accreditation.

#### **Project 090-16: Training for Regulatory Authorities, Businesses and Communities of the ARSO Members from EAC and SADC on Risk Management in Regulatory Frameworks: Towards a Better Management of Risks**

The project reflected a tripartite collaboration among ARSO and the United Nations Economic Commission on Europe (UNECE). The intervention entailed applying UNECE-developed methodology risk management techniques. The specific project centred on developing risk management approaches in marine fishery (Namibia) and inland fisheries (Uganda). The project relied on using the EU support system for risk-informed regulations coupled with the use of the EU Integrated Fisheries Data Management (IFDM) Programme aimed at establishing an integrated European information system for fisheries management. The project resulted in a detailed assessment of the regulatory frameworks for both Uganda and Namibia that then informed the drafting of the action plans for both countries. The respective studies provided an overview of the fishery and aquaculture value chain situation in the countries, legislative and regulatory framework, and enumerated recommendations for immediate action. In addition, 2 workshops were held in Uganda and 3 in Namibia aimed at validating the respective Action Plans and training technical managers from regulatory authorities, business managers from fish processing factories, fish producers, experts at consumer protection agencies and conformity assessors. The trained was principally based on UNECE-developed material "Risk Management in Regulatory Frameworks - Towards a Better Management of Risks."

#### **Project 092-16: Support the Convening of the ACP Sidebar Event on "Harnessing the Blue Economy for Sustainable Economic Growth and Development," held within the ambit of UNCTAD 14**

The Programme supported the ACP Sect. to hold a sidebar event on opportunities in the blue economy at UNCTAD 14, July 21, inst. The panel discussion centred on the following key issues: (a) what opportunities to ACP States are generated by the blue economy? (b) do trade agreements, including the new generation

of fisheries partnership agreements, support the ACP blue economy prospects? (c) what are the policy and support interventions required to harness the blue economy? (d) does Agenda 2030 provide an adequate framework for development aspirations in the blue economy to be met? and (e) What are the ACP priorities under SDG 14 of the 2030 Agenda and what specific contribution can development partners, such as UNCTAD make to ACP efforts in the blue economy? Addressing this issue were the following panellists - Honourable Faiyaz Siddiq Koya, Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism, Fiji; Amb. Guillermo Valles, Director, UNCTAD; Stephen Karingi, Director, UNECA with H.E. PI Gomes, ACP Secretary-General acting as moderator. Complementing the panel interventions was an animated exchange among other participants that shared their respective national perspectives. Another notable participant was Honourable Aviol Fleurant, Haiti's Minister for Planning and Development Cooperation. In supporting this ACP event, the TBT Programme again benefitted from close collaboration with both the CTA and TradeCom II. All three entities supported the ACP Secretariat to draft concept notes, frame questions with TradeCom II supporting the publishing of an event brochure.

#### **Project 093-16: Support the Formation of a New CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) Special Committee – Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Information Management Systems and Enquiry Points (TIE)**

This project sought to support the CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) establish the "CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) Special Committee – Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Information Management Systems and Enquiry Points (TIE)". This new regional body is envisaged to address TBT issues at 4 levels, viz.: national, intra-CARICOM; extra-regional bilateral (e.g. CARIFORUM-EU); and extra-regional multilateral TBT matters (e.g. WTO/ ACP relationships). The intervention was administered as a direct agreement and benefitted from the insights of the Project 026-16 (Support to the ACP Geneva Group on TBT Issues) key expert. Working in close collaboration with key actors from both CROSQ and select Caribbean NSBs, the project delivered draft terms of reference for the TIE Committee; draft criteria for the selection of CARICOM members of the CROSQ TIE Special Committee; and a Work Programme for the TIE Committee. The CROSQ Council met in October 2016 and approved all three documents developed courtesy of the project with the work programme amended to reflect a multi-annual implementation period.

### **Project 094-16: Organisation d'un Atelier Régional Relatif à la Mise en Place de la Fonction Métrologie dans les Laboratoires d'Essai, Benin**

At the request of ECOWAS, the TBT Programme funded the participation of 12 delegates to attend the regional workshop on metrology and conformity assessment. The workshop's main objective was to train resource persons involved in the measurements, in the analysis and testing laboratory (notably metrology managers). In implementing the project, 22 laboratories from 11 ECOWAS countries and Mauritania were selected for training. Specifically, the training entailed reviewing steps to implement the requirements of ISO 10012 and metrological confirmation processes in relation to mass, volume and temperature. The project enhanced ECOWAS members' capacity to describe the steps in setting up a measurement management system, and empower participants to conduct metrological confirmations at test laboratories. Within the framework of the training session, the second meeting of the Regional Enlarged Steering Committee of the West Africa Quality System Programme (WAQSP) implemented by UNIDO was organised on October 18-19, 2016. This meeting, attended by a slate of development partners, including the EU, PTB, GIZ, and TBT Programme reviewed the WAQSP's work at both regional and national levels and charted the second phase of the EDF-funded programme.

### **Project 095-16: Évaluation du Cadre Institutionnel et Normatif et Analyse des Besoins du Secteur Public dans le Domaine des OTC - Cameroun**

In response to a request from the Cameroon Ministry of Commerce, the TBT Programme supported the conduct of a needs assessment to guide the definition of its TBT strategy. Stakeholders recognised the benefits of recent support programmes, most notably, the Central Africa Quality Infrastructure Program (PIQAC) and the Central Africa Restructuring and Adjustment Program (PRMN) but also expressed the lack of clarity on institutional competencies and the need to modernize legal frameworks, address potential conflicts of interest at some organizations and inject sustainable financial resources. Implemented under the Pool of Experts facility, the contracted experts' main findings included (a) Cameroon lacks an accreditation body similar to French COFRAC or Belgian BELAC;

(b) drafting and implementation of a national quality policy would support Cameroon's exports, in particular to the CEMAC regional market; (c) adoption of the draft law on quality infrastructure currently should be expedited; (d) upgrade the Ministry of Commerce's system of WTO notifications of standards; and (e) establish a CEMAC accreditation body to spur regional exports.

### **Project 096-17: Translation of Key Documents E-Learning Platforms**

At both the 7<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee and Workshop on TBT Good Practices, ACP stakeholders requested the translation into French of main documents on the e-platforms developed thanks to TBT Programme. The rationale behind this request was to allow for TBT Programme-funded material to be accessed support by Francophone ACP QI experts. OIML confirmed its availability to manage a French version of the e-platform on metrology developed in the framework of Project 072-15 and the PMU mobilized the remaining resources under the Pool of Expert facility to recruit translators and a metrology expert.

## 3.2 Project Operations

In its 51 months of operations, the TBT Programme received 141 requests, distributed as follows: Completed (53); Not Pursued (36); Implementation/Running (32); Rejected (17); and Cancelled (3). In geographic terms, the requests came from the following sources – All-ACP (8); Continental Africa (10); Western Africa (38); Eastern Africa (34); Caribbean (18); Central Africa (17); Pacific (10); and Southern Africa (6). The 85 projects have emerged and assigned to the 3 Programme pillars as follows: Support to Quality Infrastructure Institutions (52); Empowering Economic Operators (22); Dissemination of Results and Experiences (11). The main

beneficiaries of PMU-support interventions remain bureaux of standards (28); national ministries (15); regional organisations (11); and ACP Group (9) with other projects directed at laboratories, accreditation bodies, private sector bodies and metrology bodies. Geographically, the 85 projects are distributed as follows: All-ACP (8); Central Africa (5); Caribbean (11); Continental Africa (7); East Africa (21); Pacific (8); Southern Africa (5); and West Africa (20).

*Note: QI other policies include references to contributions to national/regional QI policies, Gap Analyses conducted, Market Access strategies and any other policy documents prepared.*

## 3.3 Results of Programme Interventions

TBT Programme Pillar	Specific Results	Number
1. Upgrading and strengthening quality infrastructure (QI) institutions	QI policy drafted	4
	QI policy (other inputs)	50
	QI legislation drafted	11
	QI institutional capacity strengthening	48
	QI Training platforms developed	4
	QI Training and Seminars	130
	QI Training Participants	2474
	Standards - developed (new and revised)	36
	Standards - compliance cases	15
	Laboratories coached to develop action plans toward accreditation	79
	Laboratories accredited	2
	Geographical Indications drafted and registered	3
	ACP TBT fora participants	30
	Codes of practice drafted	14
	ACP TBT fora meetings	10
2. Empowering Economic Operators and Export Sectors	Participants in SME Trainer of trainers	139
	SME Training Participants	224
	SME Coached and Action Plans Developed	162
	SMEs Certified	4
3. Disseminating Results and Experiences	Seminars/Events Held	52
	Publications	907
	Outputs uploaded online	104

In its implementation of over 80 specific projects, the TBT Programme can demonstrate concrete results directly attributed to its interventions. The table below enumerates a slate of metrics grouped around the three TBT Programme pillars. Main highlights of the portfolio of TBT Programme includes: (a) 4 national/regional QI policies drafted with inputs to another 50; (b) 40 QI institutions strengthened, (c) 130 training seminars held resulting in the training of 2474 public officials; (d) 36 standards developed; (e) 2 laboratories attaining international accreditation; (f) 3 geographical Indications drafted and registered; (h) 162 SMEs coached of which 18 attained certification; and (i) 30 ACP delegates supported to attend meetings of the WTO TBT Committee. Notwithstanding the results enumerated in the table above, the most compelling indicator of the TBT Programme's work is the increased understanding and interest in TBT issues currently expressed by ACP countries and regions. One proxy for this burgeoning ACP interest is the Group's enhanced participation in meetings of the WTO TBT Committee and the strengthened institutional capacity of ACP continental, regional and national QI bodies. Finally, ACP Members' advanced understanding of the contribution of their respective TBT compliance capacity to gain effective access to global markets has also catapulted QI trade capacity building requests to the EU and other international development partners.

A more detailed sketch of concrete results should emerge through a review of the results of a sample of PMU-funded projects. For example, Project 010-14 (Strengthening MAURITAS and Mauritian laboratories) resulted in all MAURITAS technical staff and technical assessors being trained on select accreditation standards and laboratories on medical testing coached by PMU-contracted experts to support implementation of accreditation standards. Two trained labs are well advanced in the accreditation process. In addition, the TBT Programme-funded intervention has facilitated MAURITAS' application for signatory status with ILAC and IAF in July 2015 with the anticipation that ILAC/IAF full evaluation of MAURITAS will be completed by the end of 2017 or beginning of 2018, thereby allowing the Mauritian accreditation service to attain signatory status latest in 2018.

Project 024-16 (Strengthening the Zambia Bureau of Standards) resulted in the secondment of 6 ZBS lab technicians at the Botswana National Veterinary Laboratory. The project's training and secondment was instrumental in facilitating the accreditation of ZBS Microbiology Laboratory by SADCAS in June 2015. Project 038-15 (Renforcement des Capacités de l'IQ pour une meilleure intégration au commerce international, Niger) complemented UNIDO's development of a national QI strategy by supporting the drafting of

a strategic action plan; training on standard development; and the preparation of an elaborated 2017-2018 action plan for LANSPEX. The last-named pillar of the project will prepare the laboratory for accreditation, a process due to be completed in the third trimester of 2018.

Project 039-15 (Development and implementation of an AFRAC accreditation e-learning Platform) has to date attracted the participation of 137 African accreditation experts. This number is impressive in light of the growing appeal of the digital platform as seen from the rising number of participants, namely, 81 thus far in 2017 relative to the 55 that enrolled in 2016. Furthermore, participants reside in 32 countries with Kenya (26); South Africa (22); and Ethiopia (14) delivering the most participants.

Implementation of Project 046-15 (Strengthening Product Testing Laboratories in Nigeria) supported the training to Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) staff on modern approaches to standards development consistent with the WTO TBT Code of Good Practice. With the aim of supporting the development of agricultural exports products, SON developed 14 codes of practice at varying stages in the value chains for honey, melon seeds, dried beans, rice and cocoa. SON's switch away from mandatory edicts has also resulted in the development of 5 implementation manuals for the aforementioned key agricultural products. Furthermore, a train the trainer approach has contributed to the training of 40 SON staff members and a review of SON's project standards development procedure to align it with international best practices. In addition, the project implementation contributed to the evaluation of 2 laboratories and resultant advance of their respective accreditation processes.

Project 054-15 (Strengthening Kenyan Quality Infrastructure Institutions) facilitated the institutional strengthening of the two major Kenyan QI bodies, i.e. KEBS and KENAS. The project facilitated the emergence of concrete results such as (a) comparison scheme for Kenyan high precision calibration laboratories with 10 of 12 entities already gaining accreditation and the other 2 waiting receipt of accreditation, so all laboratories passed that test of precision; (b) attachment of KENAS staff to both HKAS (Hong Kong) and SANAS (South Africa) allowed for the reduction in the accreditation process from 8 to 4 months. A complementary project (047-15) supported the participation of a KENAS senior officer to attend international meetings of CASCO (ISO Committee), as well as ILAC MCC / IAF CMC workshop and ILAC/IAF mid-year conference. KENAS representative CASCO chairmanship lead to the revision and adoption of the new version of ISO 17011 standard on

Conformity Assessment “General Requirements for Accreditation Bodies Accrediting Conformity Assessment.”

Project 065-15 (Enhancing Caribbean Competitiveness via Patent Examination Training) yielded the publication of a 36-page booklet “Understanding Patents and the Patenting Process.” In addition, 15 training sessions attracted the participation of 155 IP experts from Belize, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. Additional concrete results to have emerged from this project are (a) TTIPo officials deepening their understanding of the invention disclosure requirements and patent claim interpretation, as well as examination in the three criteria needed for patenting: novelty, inventive step (non-obviousness) and industrial applicability (utility); (b) JIPO external examiners acquired greater knowledge on key aspects of the patent examination process; and (c) BELIPO officials gaining improved insights on the patent examination process will result in reduced dependence on Mexican counterparts that currently undertake this important task.

Project 71-16 (Enhancing Market Access and Promoting Certification for Quality Origin Products in Guyana) began with the recognition that no GI was registered in accordance with the country’s Geographical Indications Act since the legislation was promulgated in 2005. The project therefore sought to address this gap by identification of GIs, the drafting of specifications, the implementation of control systems and the registration of GIs in practice. The project was designed to identify at least three (3) GIs and to assist farmers and producers in all the steps necessary to achieve the identification and registration of GIs in Guyana working with both the private and public sectors. So, already during the project implementation cycle the applications for the national registration and protection have been made. The project resulted in the drafting of specifications on three GIs for rum, molasses and sugar and their attendant submission to the Intellectual Property Office at the Commercial Registry. By May 2017, the registration of all three Guyanese geographical indications had been completed and ownership with the publication of the news generating a spill over effect with other Guyanese products such as Takuta cassava bread and Pomeroon coconut oil considering applying for GI designation.

Project 73-15 (Strengthening Kiribati’s National Quality Infrastructure) trained the country’s policymakers on Trade Facilitation, WTO TBT Agreement, QI normative framework, technical regulations, conformity assessment and implementation of the National Quality Policy. In March 2017, Kiribati’s Cabinet endorsed the draft law on national quality policy prepared by TBT Programme’s contracted experts and implementation has already begun.

Project 089-16 (Harmonisation of electrotechnical standards in Africa, AFSEC) was designed on the premise that African electricity consumers of electricity need to be assured that electrical products are subject to certification through appropriate conformity assessment systems, from both performance and safety perspectives. Project implementation not only contributed to deeper African continental economic integration but more specifically enhanced the capacity of African electrotechnical industry to implement common standards. As a result, the project will contribute to increased access to and use of electricity throughout Africa.

## 4. FINANCIAL UPDATE

### 4.1 Introduction

The implementation of the activities of the TBT programme was realized under two programmes-Estimates following the rules and procedures set out in the “Practical guide to Procedures for Programme estimates financed by the European Development Fund

(EDF) and the general budget of the European Union (BUDGET”). The PMU updated monthly office accounts and operated the EDF Imprest Account without any difficulty. During the lifetime of the programme, 50 tenders for contracts services under €200,000 were processed.

### 4.2 Programme Estimate 1 (PE1)

PE1 was signed in May 2013 and spanned the 18-month period May 7, 2013 - October 31, 2014. A 6-month extension to the PE1 period was granted in June 2014, thereby allowing for a 24-month implementation period. The initial PE1 budget amounted to €3 million Euros. However, a series of reallocations resulted in funds shifted within the PE budget headings to accommodate for the implementation of projects approved by the Validation Committee. These reallocations have not resulted in any change to the PE1 overall budget provided. It should be noted that 6 contracts span

both PE1 and PE2, arising from implementation commencing in PE1 and completion during PE2. In such instances, an advance payment was paid under PE1, the interim payment was paid according to the time of the execution of services to cover tasks dispensed under PE1 and final payment made under PE2.

Under PE1, €1,725,600 million was spent, representing 58% of the available €3 million, thereby resulting in a remaining balance of € 1,274,400. For more details see also Annexes 1 and 2. PE1’s official closure in March 2016 facilitated the allowed the recommitment of unspent funds under PE2.

Programme Priorities – PE1	PE 1 (final €)	Spent (€)	Spent (%)
1. Upgrading and Strengthening of QI Institutions	1,400,000	947,190	68%
2. Empowering Economic operators and Export Sectors	1,000,000	386,094	39%
3. Disseminating Results and Experiences	300,000	243,979	81%
Total - Project Activities	2,700,000	1,577,263	58%
Other expenses	300,000	148,337	49%
Total Overall	3,000,000	1,725,600	58%

### 4.3 Programme Estimate 2 (PE2)

PE2 was endorsed by DEVCO on December 22, 2014 and came into effect on May 1, 2015. It initially covered the last 18 months of the Programme and was expected to end by 31 October 2016. PE2’s initial budget amounted to €6,939,320.

A first rider was signed in June 2015 to insert the new imprest administrator (and his substitute). In September 2015, a second rider granted a 6-month extension to PE2 was concluded aimed at increasing the implementation period to 24 months, with PE2 thereby ending on April 30, 2017. The PMU sought an extension to the length of the PE2 implementation period was motivated by an interest to grant additional time for the processing, and where deemed necessary, implementation of then strong number of requests received by the TBT Programme. In this context, the extension in the length of PE2 facilitated the delivery of a greater number of capacity building projects that generally tend to require more than 6 months for implementation.

A third rider to PE2 was signed by all the parties on April 12, 2016. This resulted in an increase of PE2 budget of €1,674,399 thereby resulting in a total TBT Programme budget of €8,613,719. The increased funding stemmed from two sources, namely:

- €1,274,399 from the de-commitment of the PE1 funds as indicated before, and
- €400,000 from the budget line for contingencies in the Financing Agreement.

Finally, a fourth rider was signed in October 2016 and facilitated an increase of €1 million of the PE2 advance, thereby resulting in a total TBT Programme budget advance of €3 million.

Reallocation within the PE budget headings allowed the PMU to better accommodate requests received, and where deemed necessary, fund support interventions. The total amount of payments made up to the April 27, 2014 amounted to €7,288,606.92 against the budgeted amount of €8,613,719, thereby leaving a balance

of €1,325,112.08. The rate of consumption for each heading is indicated in the table below with the rate of 86% for activities and

85% for the total budget. For more details see also Annexes 3 and 4.

Programme Priorities – PE2	PE 2 (final €)	Spent (€)	Spent (%)
1. Upgrading and Strengthening of QI Institutions	4,440,000	4,048,366	91%
2. Empowering Economic operators and Export Sectors	2,987,000	2,329,434	78%
3. Disseminating Results and Experiences	847,399	708,349	84%
Total - Project Activities	8,274,399	7,086,149	86%
Other expenses	339,320	202,458	60%
Total Overall	8,613,719	7,288,607	85%

## 4.4 Overall TBT Programme Finances

The combined sum spent under PE1 and PE2 amounts to €9,014,208. This represents 87 % of the total Programme budget of €10,339,320. For more details see also Annex 5.

Programme Priorities	PE1 & PE 2 (final €)	PE1& PE2 Spent (€)	Spent (%)
1. Upgrading and Strengthening of QI Institutions	5,347,190	4,995,556	93%
2. Empowering Economic operators and Export Sectors	3,373,093	2,715,527	81%
3. Disseminating Results and Experiences	1,091,379	952,329	87%
Total - Project Activities	9,851,662	8,663,412	88%
Other expenses	487,658	350,796	72%
Total Overall	10,339,320	9,014,208	87%

## 4.5 Financial Verification Audits

Ernst & Young was commissioned by EC services through framework contracts to conduct financial verification audits on TBT Programme expenses under both PE1 and PE2. The first PE1 audit was conducted on February 9-11, 2015 and covered the period May 7, 2013 – February 6, 2015. The total expenditure subject of the verification amounted to €843,219.39 with an Expenditure Coverage Ratio of 81% (i.e. percentage of total amount of expenditure verified by the auditors out of the total amount of expenditure selected for

verification). The second and final PE1 audit was conducted on July 14-15, 2015 that verified €882,380.97 spent during the period February 7, 2015 - April 30, 2015. In this instance, the Expenditure Coverage Ratio was 87%. Both financial verification audits found no ineligible expenditure.

Details of PE2 audits - the period concerned, the amount subject to verification, the expenditures coverage ratio and the amounts of ineligibles are indicated in the table below.

Audit Num-ber	Date	Period	Amount (€)	Coverage Ratio	Ineligibles
1	April 18-20, 2016	May 1, 2015 - April 15, 2016	1,624,611.37	73,45 %	Zero
2	October 13-14, 2016	April 16 - October 12, 2016	1,724,614.22	70,82%	Zero
3	December 22-23, 2016	October 13 - December 22, 2016	1,219,566.91	78,09%	Zero
4	March 23-24, 2017	December 23, 2016 – March 23, 2017	1,673,256.86	82,39	Zero
5 (final)	Scheduled for May 16-17, 2017	March 24 - April 27, 2017	1,046,557.66	-	-

## 4.6 Pool of Experts

Initially, 1000 days were allocated under the Pool of Experts facility. This comprised 800 days for senior experts and 200 for junior experts. The 8<sup>th</sup> Addendum to the Services Contract resulted in an extension of the TBT Programme's work until June 23, 2017, a reallocation of work days among PMU staff and an increase of the total days assigned to the pool of experts. This increase resulted in an additional 25 days – 10 senior experts and 15 junior experts. The PMU fully used all 1025 days – 810 for senior experts and 215 junior experts. This facility was used to implement 15 TBT Programme-funded projects. The 15 projects administered through the pool of experts facility are amplified below:

1. Project 004-13: Strengthening the National Quality Infrastructure (NQI) and Enforcement of WTO TBT Agreement in Zimbabwe
2. Project 005-13: Strengthening National TBT-Related Structures in The Gambia
3. Project 006-13: Strengthening Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) on WTO Notification and Information Systems
4. Project 007-14: Renforcement Technique de Formation de Cadres de l'Agence Béninoise de Métrologie et du Contrôle de la Qualité (ABMCQ)
5. Project 008-14: Renforcement des Capacités de la Direction de la Normalisation et de la Promotion de la Qualité (DNPQ)
6. Project 010-14: 010-14 Capacity Building to Strengthen MAURITAS and National Conformity Assessment Bodies
7. Project 011-14: Strengthening the Capacity of Rwanda Bureau of Standard (RBS) Conformity Assessment Services towards Accreditation
8. Project 013-14: Appui à l'Accréditation du Laboratoire Central des Analyses (LCA) de l'Office National du Cacao et du Café (ONCC)
9. Project 014-14: Strengthening Quality and Food Safety Managements Systems for Pineapple Producers with Export Potential in the Dominican Republic
10. Project 059-15: Renforcement des capacités du Laboratoire VAGNY-LAB en vue d'accréditation conformément aux

exigences de Norme ISO/IEC 17025 : 2005

11. Project 068-15: COMESA SQAM Action Plan in 3 Sectors
12. Project 082-16: Capacity Building of the Ethiopian Laboratories Association (ELA)
13. Project 086-16: Renforcement de l'infrastructure qualité sanitaire et phytosanitaire (outils législatifs et institutionnels-acteurs privés et publics)
14. Project 095-16: Évaluation du cadre institutionnel et normatif et analyse des besoins du secteur public dans le domaine des OTC - Cameroun
15. Project 097-17: Provision of translators for the e-learning platforms

9 of the 15 projects implemented through the pool of experts were undertaken during the TBT Programme's first year of operations. This underscores the point made earlier, namely that the pool of experts was widely used during the Programme's initial phase due to its relative prompt implementation time schedule, at least compared to competitive tender procedures. 3 of the projects were executed in Cameroun, namely, Projects 013-14; 086-16 and 095-16. The 15 projects averaged 68.3 days of implementation but varied in length from 133 days (Project 014-14) to 20 days (Project 095-16).

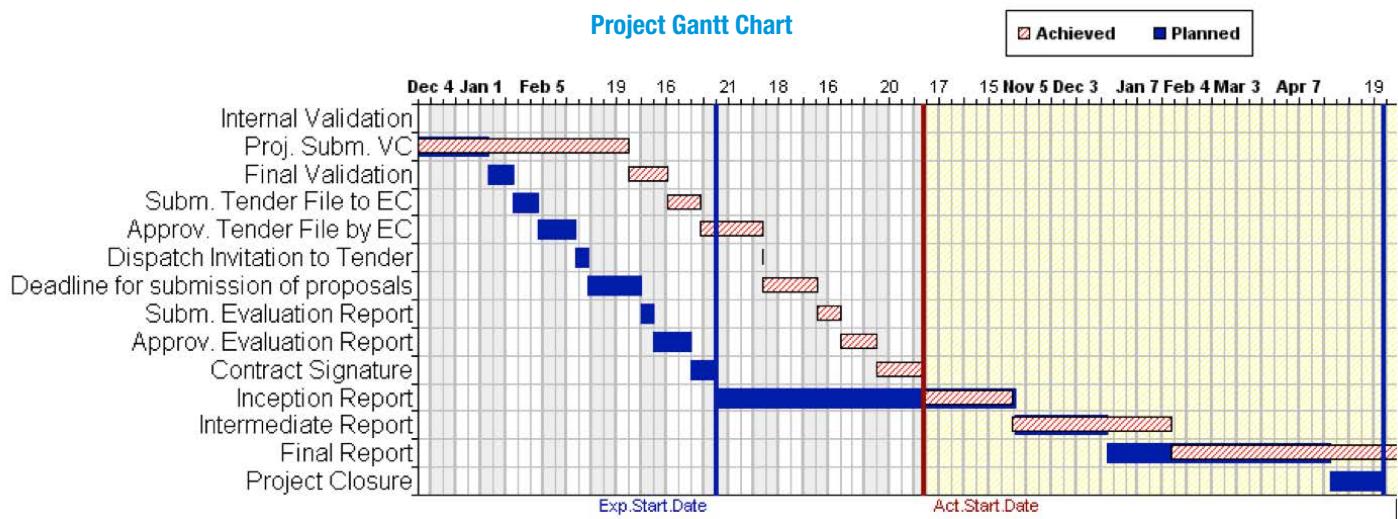
Competitive negotiated procedure remained the most widely used tool used by the TBT Programme to deliver support with 50 projects. Other instruments applied are the pool of experts (15); direct agreement/single tender (16); including mixed direct agreement and pool of experts (6). In administering competitive negotiated tenders, the PMU received expression of interest 641 contractors (consultancy firms). Here, it should be noted that this number includes double counting as most firms submitted multiple expressions of interest. On average 12 firms submitted expression of interest ranging from Project 009-14 (a low of 4 firms) and Project 087-16 (a high of 24 firms). 4 consultancy firms – AETS, BKP, Landell Mills and PBLH each won 4 tenders followed by Enabling Environment that prevailed in 3 instances. 7 other contractors each won two victories, namely, ARCA, D'Appolonia, FGB, HCL, Prysmia, Quality Africa, Soges and Sogerom. In other words, 33 of the 50 tenders were won by firms that prevailed in multiple cases.

# 5. MONITORING

## 5.1 Programme's Project Cycle

As mentioned in the section on the PMU's initial phase, a Management Information System (MIS) was established to provide information on the full project cycle. The data sets allowed for a

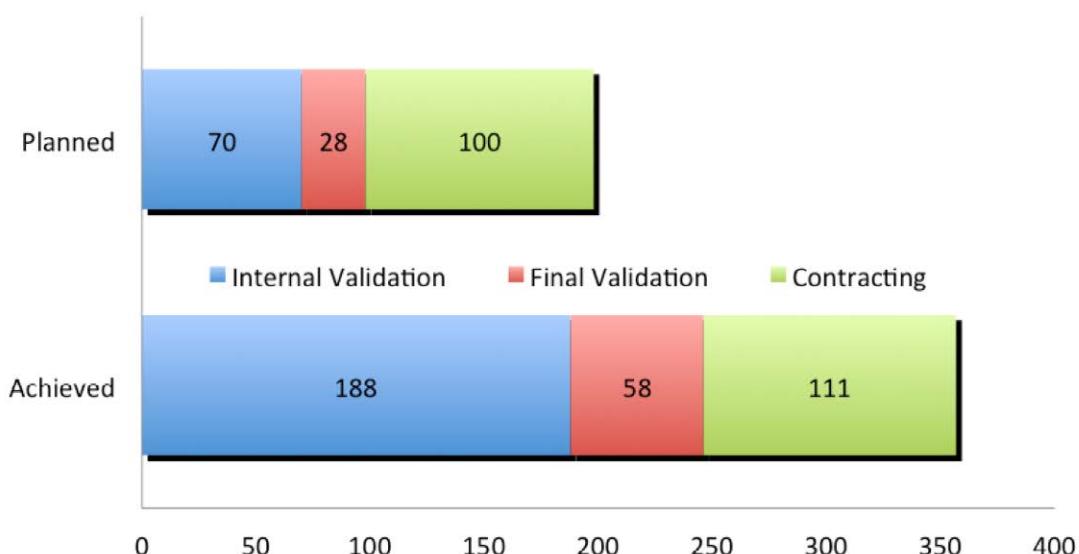
clear comparison of planned versus achieved timelines (that is, from the date of internal validation to the date of project closure). The MIS allowed the distillation of results to be captured on the PMU intranet and depicted the entire project cycle in one single chart, as can be seen below:



The MIS allowed for the compilation of achieved milestones of each Project relative to planned dates in accordance with the TBT Programme's Manual of Procedures. Specifically, this entailed 70 days for the internal validation; 28 days for final validation; and 100 days for tendering/contracting; implementation varying according to the terms of the contract).

A review of MIS data indicate that average delay of the entire project cycle amounted to 222 days with the following breakdown: 118 days' delay for phase 1 of internal validation; 30 days' delays for phase 2 of final validation; 11 days' delays for phase 3 of tendering/contract signature; and 49 days' delay for phase 4 of implementation.

Limiting the review to the first 3 phases with similar planned reference dates<sup>1</sup> indicate an average delay of 159 days with internal validation providing the most significant source.



<sup>1</sup> With the exception of the pool of experts' modality with a shorter planned period for contracting.

A graphic depiction of project's cycle churned out by the MIS is shown below. The table shows 61 projects out of the 85 existing,

considering only those with significant length/scope, hence not considering small interventions such as supports to attend meetings

Project	Total Duration (days)	Total Delay (days)	Days Delay by phase			
			Internal Validation	Final Validation	Contracting	Implementation
005-13	425	59	17	66	-34	-61
004-13	309	-42	12	58	-37	-146
008-14	740	312	158	1	-20	102
009-13	734	292	97	36	9	150
007-14	472	91	61	53	-53	-41
006-13	498	125	119	-6	-60	1
013-14	664	180	20	44	-53	98
014-14	636	164	-2	69	-68	94
010-14	459	66	58	33	-79	-17
011-14	662	259	85	25	-56	205
024-14	610	217	166	6	1	44
044-15	890	460	264	100	13	83
015-14	535	95	-2	32	42	23
021-14	516	183	42	48	53	40
027-14	851	349	51	69	26	203
037-14	699	287	165	4	36	82
042-14	704	274	156	9	35	74
026-14	1039	220	49	40	26	105
025-14	459	92	65	11	-17	33
023-14	658	157	-15	66	67	39
038-15	1010	516	143	76	51	246
051-15	1054	554	341	16	33	164
057-15	960	459	340	51	12	56
058-15	955	394	327	81	13	-27
041-15	856	379	161	30	46	142
045-15	849	350	194	-1	25	132
046-15	674	258	134	22	41	61
039-15	788	296	110	24	60	102
048-15	867	195	120	55	29	-9
043-15	742	284	54	87	30	113
061-15	892	367	267	27	36	37
052-15	795	371	176	9	42	144
066-15	901	428	268	20	29	111
072-15	914	474	358	39	19	58
040-15	684	115	9	-1	8	99
070-15	864	396	229	81	47	39
054-15	734	282	97	23	10	152
086-16	819	499	418	16	85	-20
074-15	825	364	254	30	28	52
089-16	771	420	412	-21	14	15
088-16	788	413	397	-18	1	33
063-15	760	297	82	141	62	12
064-15	727	180	109	6	39	26
067-15	645	167	89	54	45	-21
065-15	638	61	9	33	10	9
073-15	635	172	104	27	28	13
075-16	650	209	102	54	13	40
076-16	646	232	145	-16	46	57
069-15	576	117	24	12	65	16
068-15	595	120	8	108	-15	-52
071-15	506	42	7	-5	54	-14
083-16	420	104	87	-2	-72	91
081-16	485	98	32	12	25	29
087-16	438	36	29	39	-24	-8
080-16	457	40	-28	45	2	21
079-16	412	19	-24	5	39	-1
082-16	381	-3	27	-23	29	-107
078-16	248	27	-16	-3	-14	-65
090-16	336	-15	-22	-6	13	0
093-16	210	60	32	-44	-102	103
095-16	262	-27	22	-1	-81	33

Average:

222

118

30

11

49

At the start, the use of pool of experts allowed for shorter contracting periods. As PMU implementation has progressed, increased delays are observed across all phases. The end could discern significant decrease across all phases. By the same token, delays were less significant over the years due to a combination of two factors. First, during the early years of the TBT Programme, larger sized projects commencement was far lengthier, and second, enhanced PMU experience and acute time schedules towards the end of the Programme resulted in speedier implementation periods.

Finally, the MIS permanent update of request/projects statuses allowed the production of Bi-Monthly reports shared with DEVCO and the ACP Secretariat. These reports did show progress of both financial and project technical statuses along the TBT Programme implementation.

The following figures aims to illustrate such reports, from the **Bi-Monthly Report** dated November 18, 2016:

1.1

## 141 Requests

**83 projects = 3 pipeline (4%) + 34 running (41%) + 46 closed (55%)**  
**PE 2 budget for activities: 96% Committed -> 42% Disbursed**  
**Pool of experts: 98% Committed**

Financial Overview - Programme Estimate 2 – Activities

### Strengthening of QI Institutions

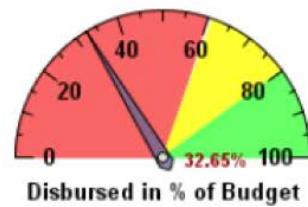
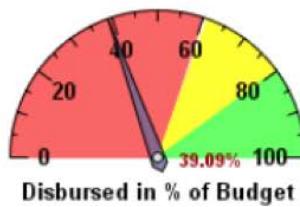
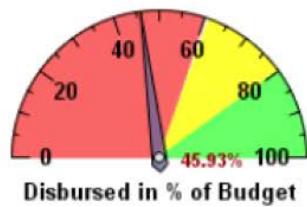
Validated	0
Contract signed	4,397,310
Disbursed	2,039,365
Committed	4,397,310
Budget available	4,440,000

### Strengthening Export-oriented services

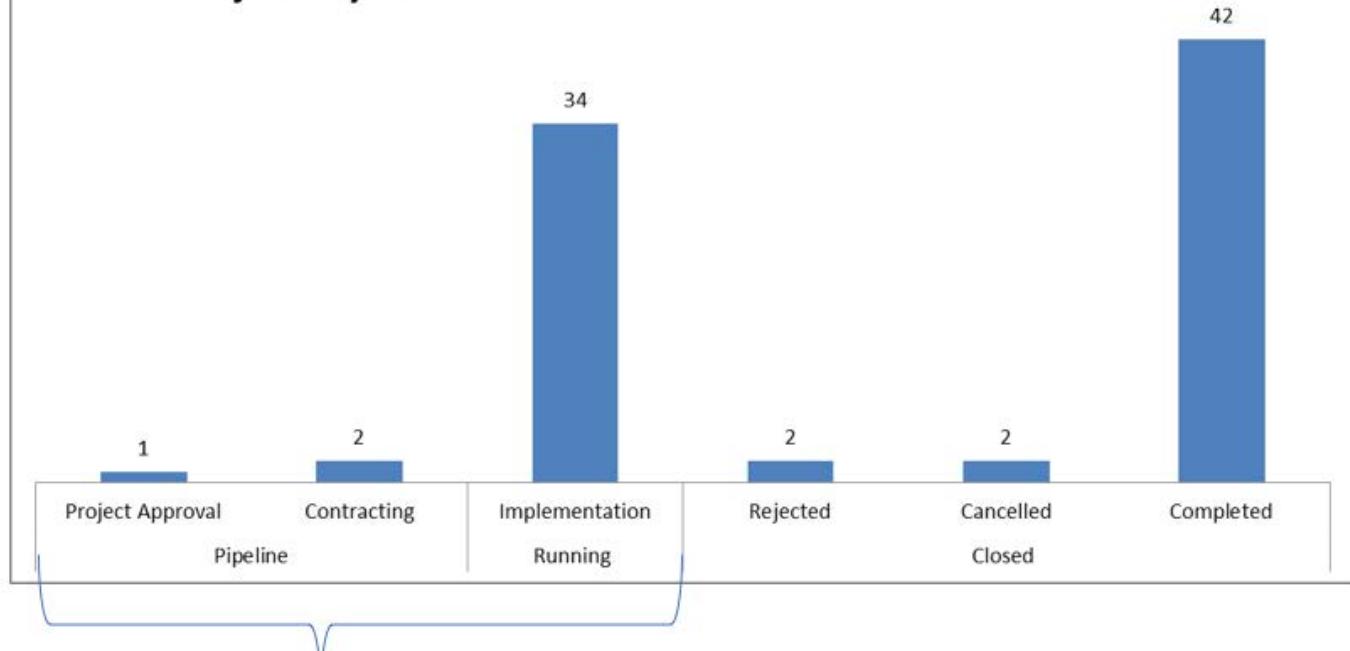
Validated	0
Contract signed	2,818,189
Disbursed	1,167,515
Committed	2,818,189
Budget available	2,987,000

### Dissemination of results and experiences

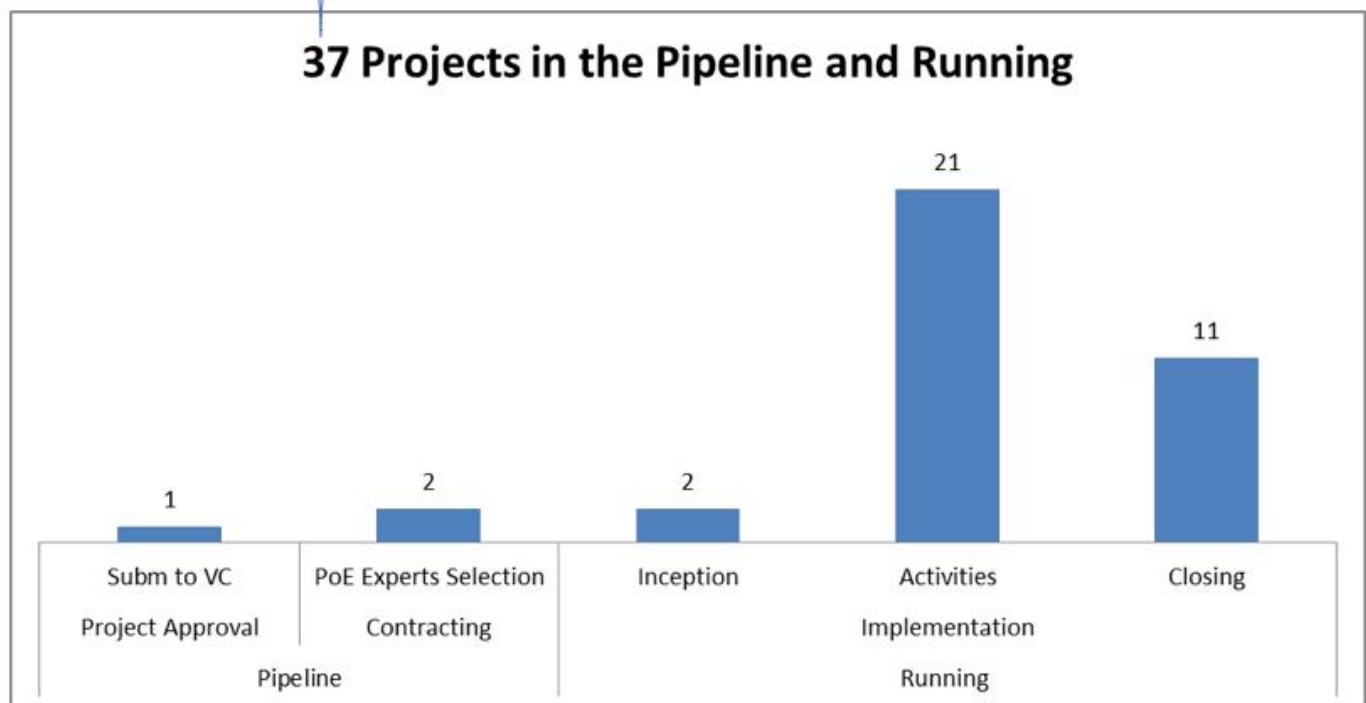
Validated	0
Contract signed	764,799
Disbursed	276,701
Committed	764,799
Budget available	847,399



## 83 Projects by Status

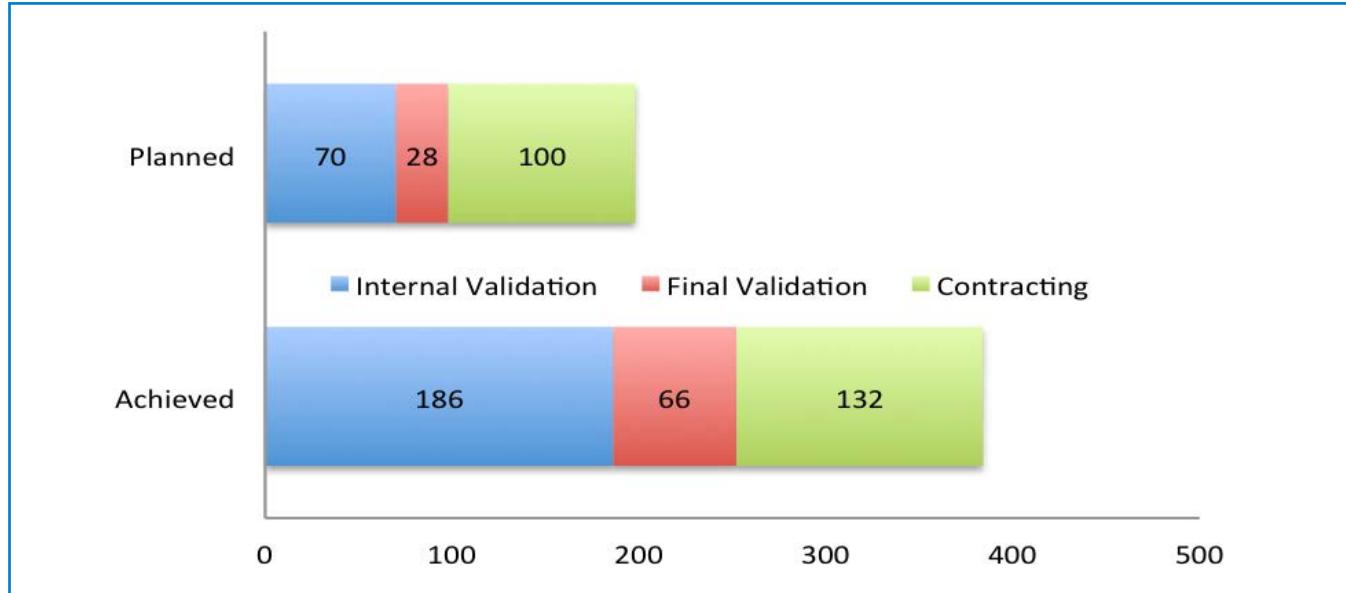


## 37 Projects in the Pipeline and Running



# PROJECTS OVERVIEW

SFR Received		Total Number of Projects	27 + 12 in Stand-by
<b>APPROVAL</b>			
<i>Proj. Subm. VC</i>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PACIFIC - Facilitation of Implementation of the Quality and Safety Standards for Kava Production in the Pacific	[151]	Total Number of Projects 1
<b>TENDERING</b>			
<i>Approv. Evaluation Report</i>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cameroon - Evaluation et analyse des besoins des agents publics et des opérateurs économiques dans le domaine des OTC	[5]	
<i>Experts Validation</i>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cameroon - OPTIMISATION DES PRESTATIONS SANITAIRES ET PHYTOSANITAIRES POUR L'ACCES DES PRODUITS VEGETAUX AUX MARCHES EUROPEENS	[35]	Total Number of Projects 2
<b>IMPLEMENTATION</b>			
<i>Contract Signature</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	ECOWAS - Renforcement de capacités des laboratoires d'essai de la région signée		
<i>Inception Report</i>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CROSQ & AFRIMETS - E-learning training course on Legal Metrology		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	COTE D'IVOIRE - Appui à l'organisation et la mise en place d'un label qualité et éthique au profit des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises, membres du MPME.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PIPSO - Building the capacity of PIPSO to enhance the trade capacity of Pacific agribusinesses		
<input type="checkbox"/>	AFSEC-Harmonisation of Electrotechnical Standards in Africa		



## 5.2 Monitoring of Projects Performance Indicators

In Section 3.5, a snapshot of concrete results of TBT Programme support interventions was outlined. PMU project managers monitored their respective projects with the aid of performance indicators. The table below depicts the results of use of 19 performance indicators clustered around the 3 prioritised pillars of TBT Programme support.

EU-ACP TBT Programme Performance indicators	R1: Strengthening capacity of quality infrastructures	1.1	QI - Policy drafted	4
		1.2	QI - Policy - other inputs	50
		1.3	QI - Legislation - drafted	11
		1.4	QI - Institutional capacity strengthening	48
		1.5	QI - Training - platforms developed	4
		1.6	QI - Training & Seminars	130
		1.7	QI - Training - Participants	2474
		1.8	Standards - developed (new and revised)	36
		1.9	Standards - compliance cases	15
		1.10	Laboratories coached to develop action plans toward accreditation	79
	R2: Compliance issues of productive sectors	1.11	Accreditations (e.g. in Laboratories)	2
		1.12	Geographical Indications Drafted and Registered	3
		1.13	ACP TBT fora - Participants	30
		1.14	Codes of Practice Drafted	14
	R3: Dissemination of TBT related knowledge	1.15	ACP TBT fora - Meetings	10
		2.1	PSD - Trainers of trainers - Participants	139
		2.2	PSD - Training SMEs - Participants	224
		2.3	PSD - Coached SMEs & Action Plans	162
		2.4	PSD - Certifications in SMEs	4
		3.1	Seminars/Events	52
		3.2	Publications	907
		3.3	Outputs uploaded online	104

The monitoring of TBT Programme's overall effort to support ACP QI actors and economic operators generated a number of concrete insights that are of general relevance in terms of trade capacity building but more saliently, to TBT trade support measures. Major elements include the following:

- Initiative: the demand-driven approach engenders participation and interaction with the PMU with project selection boosting the design capacities of a full proposal for final validation;
- Adaptation: most particularly during implementation, EU procedures and revisions in the context and/or unforeseen activities and costs must be considered as well as answered by the beneficiaries in a short time period;

- Results: project design and implementation powers their capacity to achieve results, including monitoring and evaluation systems embedded in the use of performance indicators that involves beneficiaries' intervention such as final certification/ accreditation;
- Networking: support to participation at international events, conduct of well-designed training sessions generally contribute to strengthened relationships and influence;
- Coherence: Executing needs assessments, actions plans, harmonization processes and new approaches/methodologies contribute to improving beneficiaries' strategies and result in the establishment or revision of their respective priorities.

### 5.3 Field Monitoring of PMU Projects

During the period 2015 to 2017, the TBT Programme conducted 11 monitoring missions that generated 20 monitoring reports. The

drafting of these monitoring reports was guided by the five OECD DAC evaluation criteria, i.e. Relevance; Efficiency; Effectiveness; Impact; and Sustainability. The table below highlights the projects monitored and the scores attributed.

Refs.	Grades	Relevance	Efficiency	Effectiveness	Impact	Sustainability
09-14	ARSO - Harmonisation of African Standards - Traditional Medicine	A	B	A	B	B
11-14	RWANDA - Strengthening the capacity of Rwanda Standard Board	B	C	B	B	C
12-14	AFRIMETS - Organisation de l'Ecole de Métrologie Légale	A	B	B	B	C
15-14	COMESA Strategic Plan for Standardisation and Quality Assurance	B	C	C	C	B
23-14	BOTSWANA - Build the capacity of Botswana Quality Assurance Institutions	B	B	A	B	B
23-15	BOTSWANA - Build the capacity of Botswana Quality Assurance Institutions	B	C	C	C	B
24-14	ZAMBIA - Capacity Building to the Zambia Bureau of Standards	A	B	B	B	B
26-14	ACP Geneva Office Secretariat of ACP Group	B	C	B	B	C
42-14	PACIFIC - Scientific and Legal Assistance for the Development of a Quality and Safety Standard for Kava Production and Trade in the Pacific Region and related project	B	B	B	B	B
43-15	RWANDA - Horticulture Trade Enhancement and Certification in Rwanda	B	B	B	C	B
46-15	NIGERIA - Capacity Building in Strengthening Product Testing Laboratories	A	C	B	B	B
50-15	CARIBBEAN EXPORT - Regional Market Access Capacity Building Programme – Food Safety	C	C	C	B	B
54-15	KENYA - Capacity Building for the Quality Infrastructure Institutions of Kenya	A	A	A	A	A
63-15	CABA - Promotion of the Agro-Tourism sector in the Caribbean Region	B	B	B	B	B
65-15	JAMAICA-BELIZE-T&T - Enhancing Competitiveness via Regional Patent Examination	C	B	B	B	B
70-15	ARSO - Dissemination of Information and Creation of Awareness on African Agricultural Standards and Conformity Assessment	A	C	B	B	B
76-16	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO - Training programme on international standards for the Printing, Plastics and Packaging industry in Trinidad and Tobago	B	B	B	B	C
81-16	BARBADOS, JAMAICA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: Development and implementation of technical regulations and methods of referencing standards in Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago	A	A	A	B	B
89-16	AFSEC – Harmonisation of Electrotechnical Standards in Africa	A	A	B	A	B
90-16	ARSO - Training for Regulatory Authorities, Businesses and Communities of the ARSO Members from EAC and SADC on Risk Management in Regulatory Frameworks: Towards a Better Management of Risks	B	B	C	C	C

In pursuit of its monitoring effort, the PMU strive to establish balance, measured in varying manners, e.g. covered geographic scope (12 regional and 8 national projects); geographic location – projects in all ACP regions monitored with the notable exception of Central Africa; and type of beneficiaries 13 public sector entities and 7 firms. An overall assessment of the monitoring reports showed that TBT Programme support to QI institutions – at both regional and national levels, delivered satisfactory results. In contrast, support to private economic actors attracted a satisfactory grade in only 22 projects. In addition, the 20 monitoring reports offer the following relevant observations:

Grades	Relevance	Efficiency	Effectiveness	Impact	Sustainability
A	8	3	4	2	1
B	10	10	12	14	14
C	2	7	4	4	5
D	0	0	0	0	0
	20	20	20	20	20

The table above offers several interesting insights. First, of the 20 monitoring reports, no “D” score (i.e. strong difficulty) was reported. Second, “B” dominated the scoring in all 5 criteria, most particularly for effectiveness, impact and sustainability. Third, almost all projects were considered relevant, thereby confirming that the TBT Programme’s demand-driven approach to ensure project ownership was positively viewed. In addition, this score reaffirms the belief that short-term interventions can positively address capacity gaps without losing relevance (efficiency criteria overall scored positively). Fourth, efficiency concerns reflect the 7 instances of “C”, consistent with the afore-mentioned delays. However, this score could also inform lessons learnt and good practices established by comparing different projects.

Review of the results of PMU monitoring missions generated the following conclusions,<sup>2</sup> details of which can be found in the individual monitoring mission reports.

<sup>2</sup> Note that some monitoring reports are made with fewer interviews (days in the field) than others.

## 5.4 Good Practices Identified

The work of the TBT Programme was guided by the application of a series of key overarching good practices, including:

- ownership (demand-driven approach and proactive TBT Programme Steering Committee observed by representatives of specialised QI bodies);
- alignment of beneficiary objectives (e.g. training to draft technical regulations support to address the intensified use of TBT measures);
- harmonization (e.g. support to CROSQ TBT Committee to also support Caribbean Members’ efforts in the WTO TBT Committee; drafting of international/regional standard on kava as the basis for the promulgation of Pacific national standards).

The review of PMU monitoring reports also aided the enumeration of a number of conditions for effective TBT Programme-financed support. The three most important conditions are as follows:

- In order to effectively comply with TBT requirements, ACP beneficiaries must retain ownership of project intervention (1<sup>st</sup> condition).
- In order for ownership to be effective, the TBT Programme, while ensuring submitted/proposal are eligible from a donor’s perspective, should align its efforts to beneficiaries’ priorities (2<sup>nd</sup> condition).
- In order to avoid an increase in trade barriers by randomly support any request, harmonization efforts should be pursued to ensure policy coherence (3<sup>rd</sup> condition).

The PMU’s main achievements include:

- Enhancing networking capacities with strategic support to continental/regional bodies, e.g. ARSO, AFRAC, AFRIMETS, AFSEC and CROSQ;
- Supporting regional/continental projects that are of strategic importance in addressing networking/harmonization/coherence concerns;
- Collaborating with continental bodies/members that share similar background and challenges promotes South-South knowledge and exchange of experience;
- Addressing continental African countries in projects deepens the sharing of experiences and practices;
- Support to sub-regional groups also contributes to deeper regional integration;
- Accentuating regional/national champions promotes other countries to catch up; and
- The strong visibility of regional QI organisations further spurs increased project intervention.

Supporting the training of QI officials and economic operators with the right profiles tends to yield positive results. For example, a review of the results of Project 012-14 (AFRIMETS Metrology School) highlighted the focus on supporting young metrologists based in beneficiary institutions. Previously, most senior policy officials were trained on quality infrastructure but their generally weak permanent job status decreased the intervention's potential impact. Support for emerging areas of QI such as legal metrology documents ACP beneficiary's recognition of QI's relevance to trade development. In this regard, the TBT Programme's collaboration with AFRIMETS and support for delivering training in legal metrology (also Project 072-15) were important indicators of burgeoning ACP interests and needs in a broad span of QI issues.

Flexibility during the implementation remains of paramount importance, particularly in instances where the project is considered to hold strategic value. Such approach underpins the need to develop and execute support reflective of specific needs and policy environment and allows adapting project implementation, for example to the phase and atmospherics of WTO negotiations. Applying flexibility also contributes to improved efficiency and effectiveness in projects whose design failed to correctly align actions with needs. As an example, the implementation schedule of Project 026-14 (Support to the ACP Group on WTO TBT Issues) was extended to 18 months due to both the need to support an additional slate of WTO TBT Committee meetings and overcome the fact that ACP WTO Members were otherwise detained by preparations for the 10<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference. Similarly, Project 063-15 (Support to Caribbean Agribusiness Association was modified to allow for focus and resources on SME support to be accentuated.

TBT Programme prioritised developing region-wide (or at least multi-country) projects to complement, establish frameworks and complement interventions that were national in scope. TBT Programme flexibility also allowed complementarity with regional projects, or alternatively pursues varying geographic dimensions in parallel project implementation. For example, the Pacific kava sector benefitted from implementation of a regional project (Project 042-14) and the subsequent implementation of a national one (Project 078-16). Similarly, Project 026-14 supported the ACP Group's increased participation in the WTO TBT Committee the implementation of which resulted in, *inter alia*, CROSQ gaining observer status in the WTO TBT Committee. Subsequently, the TBT Programme implemented Project 093-16 to support CROSQ in establishing its own regional TBT Committee with both projects developing synergies due to their complementarity and synchronization.

TBT Programme also extensively applied the harmonization principle by designing projects supportive of the use of international standards as the basis of crafting national regulation. Project 009-14 (Harmonisation of African Standards in Traditional Medicine) supported ARSO's continental pursuit of international standards. Also, Project 081-16 to aid the drafting of technical regulations with emphasis on Good Regulatory Practices and Risk Impact Assessments was designed to support the convergence of all Caribbean countries and CROSQ in the use of such instruments. Equally, the overall objective of Project 089-16 (AFSEC – Harmonisation of Electrotechnical Standards in Africa) was to increase the capacity of African electrotechnical industry to implement common standards in support of increasing access to and use of electricity throughout Africa. This project identified priorities for harmonisation efforts for electrotechnical standards, thereby ensuring synergy with the efforts of the various African regional economic communities.

TBT Programme projects were also designed to facilitate collaboration of ACP capital-based TBT experts at both regional/continental and multilateral levels. For example, support for the participation of Pacific officials to attend meetings of the WTO TBT Committee complemented national and regional consultations on kava. In addition, support for the participation at all levels of policy making and implementation enhanced increased capacity for coherence. In this regard, Projects 081-16 and 093-16 stemmed from joint initiatives made by TBT capital-based experts meeting on the margins of WTO events. Project 087-16 saw the conduct of a diagnostic study of SPS/TBT measures in the SADC region, allowing TBT experts from 5 participating countries to compare their respective QI challenges/approaches, as well as potential synergies.

The monitored project highlighted the value of executing targeted actions supporting laboratories through conferral of specific recommendations issued by competent accreditation bodies. The request that triggered implementation of Project 046-15 was made subsequent to an accreditation body audit of Standard Organisation of Nigeria's (SON) laboratories. Similarly, Project 011-14 supporting Rwandan Bureau of Standards led to the hire of experts from accreditation bodies to conduct gap analysis of the standard body's laboratories.

Project 046-15 included the training of Chairmen of the Technical Committee of Standards and also facilitated the use of a participatory approach resulting in the elaboration of standards/code of good practice in 5 key agricultural products. Therefore,

innovative approaches that emphasise voluntary compliance with standards rather than mandatory enforcement of regulations spurs standard development. This orientation is further enhanced by the delivery of complementary training of public servants also involved in national standards development. Similarly, Project 081-16 on drafting technical regulations with emphasis in RIA and GRP approached respective national Parliamentary Counsels to draft the final versions of regulations.

Developing in-house training programmes also facilitated the development of human resource key staff in select laboratories and also yielded the crafting of practical approaches. Deploying such an orientation allowed, for example, training to be extended to heads of units, thereby promoting the prospects of effective reforms being both owned and implemented at the affected institutions. This approach was applied on Projects 011-14 and 046-15 - both of which delivered in situ training to laboratory experts and thereby conveyed practical human resource development. With respect to SME support, in situ coaching chimes with the conduct of audits of economic operators and the attendant elaboration of implementation plans. In this context, SMEs value the delivery of tailored support as key to advance the certification process.

## 5.5 Lessons Learnt from TBT Programme Work

The TBT Programme is heavily predicated on its orientation as a demand-driven initiative. In delivering this overarching principle, the PMU's internal prioritisation of requests to be actioned must be complemented by the articulation of clear communication with affected beneficiaries on the status of their respective requests. This is in line with the observed significant delay of the internal validation phase (see Section 5.1 above).

### a. Design

Needs and sustainability assessments should be conducted during the project design phase as the results of both assessments greatly shape the design of a project. Subsequent to receiving a request and an initial selection is observed, a needs and/or sustainable assessments could benefit from the work of experts (PMU or otherwise) to further revise and improve the TORs. Furthermore, one universal approach can be unhelpful as in instances where the needs assessment at the design phase is weak, the PMU tends to deploy its standard use of "training of trainers" schemes. However, in some cases, beneficiaries are not favourably disposed to the use of this approach and therefore seek its removal from the TORs. On the other hand, the train the trainers approach constitutes a

sustainable means of delivering trade capacity support. However, this delivery facility can generate unease among beneficiaries (e.g. Project 043-15) and internal human resource capacity (e.g. Project 063-15). Beyond this, the conduct of needs assessments should be coordinated with all main beneficiaries<sup>3</sup>.

The PMU also learnt the importance of reaping synergies through encouraging coordination between actors in the public and private sectors. There have been instances of a request submitted by a public sector body to support the private sector without the active consultation or consent of economic operators. TBT Programme experience underscored the value of demand driven requests delivering improved results when multi-beneficiaries are actively engaged. Executing regular private-public sector consultation in project submission would not only diminish the risk of lack of ownership and effective participation but also rob the support intervention of the direct experience and advice of a key strategic partner.

In TBT Programme-funded training activities, securing trainees' certification constituted a major interest among participants. A number of training-based projects failed to provide certificates indicating formal completion of a course or coaching resulting in a diminished capacity of the trained beneficiaries to professionally leverage the PMU-funded training.

<sup>3</sup> In Project 50-15, trade promotion agencies (e.g. JAMPRO and ExporTT) and similar implementing partners in the other countries, and not limited to Caribbean Export.

The PMU should have developed a complete set of indicators to gauge performance in respective projects. Such an endeavour would have improved the measurement of project results beyond outputs. In this regard, it might have been instructive to enumerate a series of complementary quantitative indicators (e.g. number of developed standards; number of accredited laboratories; and number of SMEs certified). In addition, these performance indicators would have been augmented by development of a set of QI-related indicators based on processes measurement. Specific examples would include:

- QI: National QI Committee meetings and plans; National QI Policy draft, approvals and budgeting;
- Standards: steps for new standards; steps for harmonization and mutual recognitions;
- Accreditation: a six steps approach
  - documents compilation;
  - book record testings' and internal audit conducted;
  - competence records;
  - calibration or verification of equipment as well as audits undertaken;
  - methods validation; and
  - uncertainty of measurement determination
- Certification: action plans, management responsibilities designation, investments and audits/actions plans milestones implementations.

In the majority of projects reviewed, monitoring indicators were articulated in the TORs by the PMU rather than the beneficiary. This approach resulted in weak ownership of project indicators by both the beneficiaries and contracted experts. Consultancy firms tend to actively pursue indicators due to PMU contractual requirements but without these commercial operators' displaying genuine ownership or conviction of the monitoring indicators. Greater effort needs to be invested to develop more relevant indicators that match beneficiaries and donors' needs.

In designing training-based projects, it is imperative that the training activities are scheduled in a feasible manner for concerned participants. Specifically, effective project implementation can be compromised in instances of beneficiary staff requesting too many consecutive days off in order to attend training on a full-time basis.

SME certification remains a complex process that requires time and resources beyond specific training intervention. Allied to this, the selection criteria for companies to benefit from PMU support often

lacked consideration of national priorities in terms of value chains and ignored SMEs' muted capacity to invest or access financing. Here, future funding initiatives could apply more transparent criteria for SME selection with two examples cited below:

- Use of a value chain approach in SMEs selection. Choose among selected sectors, clearly prioritized in their National Developments Plans/Strategies;
- Use of financial ratios and market prospects in SMEs selection. Choose among SMEs that are the best candidates to secure financing (e.g. already exporting to selected markets, thus guaranteed contracts) and link support to others related supports (e.g. EU blending mechanisms/supports);

One repeated difficulty experienced by the TBT Programme pertains to the rather compact timetable used to deliver SME support. This lesson holds particular pertinence given the lengthy timeframe to select SMEs to benefit from training. In addition, a further complication stemmed from SMEs' preference to maintain contact/relationship with contracted experts over a longer time-period, in most instances, beyond the project implementation deadline.

Interviews with supported SMEs highlighted the importance of visits to their facilities/factories along with the elaboration of audits and related implementation plans to advance certification. In this context, the focus of short-term assignment such as those delivered through the TBT Programme is limited to initiating the process of certification of addressing specific gaps. It might therefore be prudent to refine the cluster of indicators used to evaluate SME support.

A number of private sector beneficiaries have proposed developing new tools to promote certification schemes. However, operationalising such a goal engenders a number of challenges, most notably (a) finding expertise to train/coach a relatively unknown approach to certification can be risky, and (b) impact in such instances remains local as the certification scheme remains unknown beyond the domestic market and must compete with other certifications that might be better known. Hence, the value of SME support can be diluted through support for new certification schemes.

### **b. Implementation**

The value and impact of TBT Programme support for SME certification might have been enhanced through the regular use of pilot schemes. Such initiatives would have allowed the PMU to test specific design and implementation approaches and apply

lessons learnt in future private sector support projects. In addition, the recommendations of Project 43-15 Final Report highlighted the need to avoid focusing on a numerically significant set of farms but rather instead conduct pilot projects on a limited number of exporting farms.

The Programme experienced a considerable number of difficulties with project budgets – a feat that underscored the need to engender full clarity on prioritised interventions in each project budget. Allied to this, most beneficiaries fail to receive the full project budget thereby triggering serial discussions with contracted experts and firms. Indeed, the PMU experiences demonstrated two extreme reactions by beneficiaries – either displaying a strong willingness capacity to adapt (see monitoring report of project 46-15 Government of Nigeria) to low capacity to adapt (e.g. the suspended MPME project in Cote d'Ivoire. From the perspective of beneficiaries, full disclosure of the budget serves to further enhance ownership of the project. Receipt of the budget also supports beneficiary organisations to be accountable towards their respective constituents in addition to being able to field questions from local/regional media on project implementation. This observation should be tempered by the fact that the TBT Programme always shares the project incidental budget with beneficiaries. However, in some cases beneficiaries demand to see the full budget to internalise that the project priorities are adequately funded. As amplified at the TBT Good Practice workshop, it also became evident that while beneficiaries receive the TORs replete with a hyperlink to the height of EU per diem, a conference participant might be informed of this value too late to establish alternate arrangements. Such instances tend to result in diminished appeal of the project intervention.

### **c. Sustainability**

The PMU should have also granted active consideration to the development of exit strategies. For example, the sustainability of training of trainers initiatives was generally weak due to the limited size of domestic markets and the attendant impact on beneficiary firms (e.g. SMEs willingness to pay for certification). As a result, such SME pursuits remained dependent on donor support. In addition, both e-learning platforms supported by the TBT Programmes could have benefitted from the articulation of plans to engender increased visibility and communicate to users the nature of certificates to be awarded.

## 6. COMMUNICATIONS

TBT Programme communication initiatives began simultaneously with the launch of the PMU in March 2013. As noted in the PMU staff constellation, the services of a communication expert was contracted resulting in, *inter alia*, a communication work-plan being devised. The communication expert commenced work in March 2013 with an initial allocation of 240 working days but this was increased in 2014 to 340 working days. The rise in maximum working days reflected the recognition of additional efforts required on communication.

During the TBT Programme's inception phase, communication activities centred on the following tasks - establish and roll out a visual identity, develop suitable communication tools; and organise outreach events to familiarise the TBT Programme to prospective beneficiaries. Specific activities undertaken on communication included:

**Official Programme Title:** During the design phase, the Programme was formally named "TBT Programme" but was modified during the inception phase to "ACP-EU TBT Programme." The change in appellation was aimed to make the scope of the Programme more lucid and more appealing to a wider audience.

**Logo:** The Programme logo was revamped to include a specific motto ("overcoming technical barriers to trade"). Additionally, the logo was designed to include a globe crossed with lines and complemented with the EU and ACP logos. The design objective was to transmit a strong message of highlighting the depth of ACP-EU partnership on trade.



**Website:** A high quality website was designed to serve the Programme's communication needs as well as inform on PMU project-related activities. Website users could therefore simultaneously be informed of the latest Programme news as well as the projects' activities under implementation. (<http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org>)

**Material:** Communication material was prepared to ensure widespread promotion of the Programme during meetings and events. Specific materials developed included brochure, poster, folder, bag, pen and USB key.



Programme Management Unit  
5000 Brussels - Belgium  
+32 912 738 00-00

**Outreach events:** A number of events were organized during the launch phase aimed at familiarising the Programme to non-Brussels-based ACP QI actors and economic operators. Specific activities included attending WTO Geneva Week (May 2013); COMESA workshop with QI actors and economic operators (September 2013); and UEMOA workshop with QI actors (October 2013).

During the entire period of TBT Programme implementation, communication efforts undertaken by the PMU comprised the following specific 7 areas, namely,

- **Events:** PMU team members participated in several events that increased the Programme's profile and promoted its achievements. Highlights of events that attracted TBT Programme participation were - WTO Geneva Week (2013), ACP Open Day (2013), ARSO and AFRIMETS General Assembly (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016); 8<sup>th</sup> Global meeting of the European Business Organisation (2014); (European Year of Development (2105); Expo Milano (2015); EDD 2016 and 2017; High-level ACP-UNCTAD Event at UNCTAD 14 Nairobi (2016); WTO TBT Committees (2014, 2015, 2016); ACP Sub-Committee on Trade (2016), EuropeAid InfoPoint Presentations (2015 and 2017).
- **Publications:** Communication efforts included the preparation of a number of publications to communicate on the Programme activities as well as the events of the sector. A total of 11 Newsletters and 9 Insight publications were produced to present different technical topics related to the TBT sector. The TBT Programme's publications included contributions from both PMU staff and partners such as ARSO, CEN/CENELEC, CDE, AFRAC, AFRIMETS, DG TRADE, TRALAC and CROSQ.
- **Website:** The TBT Programme's website was serially updated to distribute regular bi-monthly project news and events.
- **Media:** press reviews were regularly conducted to track stories published on TBT Programme's interventions in ACP national and regional media. The more appealing media reports were publishing on the Programme website.
- **Multimedia:** A TBT Programme dedicated page was created and regularly moderated on the EC web platform "Capacity4Dev"

(<https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/tbtprogramme/dashboard>). This allowed for TBT work and assets to be engaged by a wider span of development practitioners. In addition, a video was created to showcase the work of the TBT Programme. The video comprised of interviews with the two validating partners, key partners (ARSO, CROSQ and Pacific Forum) and PMU staff members. The video was widely distributed at TBT Programme-supported meetings and events.

- Strategic partnership: Key partnerships were established and leveraged in executing communication activities. Notable pursuits under this rubric were with other EDF- funded Programmes (COLEACP, TradeCom II); international organisations (UNCTAD, WTO, ITC); as well as sector-based organisations (CTA, CEN). The partnership with CTA and TradeCom II was best expressed in joint events at EDD 2016 and 2017.
- Project-related communication: The TBT Programme's communication work also included execution of visibility activities implemented in each PMU project as defined by the respective TORs and undertaken by the responsible contractor. In addition, a poster was developed on Project 064-15 (COMESA REACH Leather and Tanners) and displayed at the EU High-level Conference on Responsible Management of the Supply Chain in the Garment Sector, April 2016. Furthermore, an ESA booklet was published (Project 056-15) on standards and technical regulations and distributed at the 21st ARSO General Assembly (Addis Ababa, August 2015).

In discharging its communication work, the TBT Programme's effort was guided by respect of the communication visibility guidelines of both DEVCO and the ACP Secretariat.

The Programme's TORs generally framed communication activities in terms of the development of a website as the key tool to promote the PMU's work. However, experience showed that the communication activities to be implemented for such a Programme should not be limited only to a website development but rather to be viewed as a more global role supporting the Programme overall activity. Operationalising this crucial distinction generates two main implications. First, the profile of the communication expert be extended beyond programming skills (as captured in the TORs) to skills enabling him/her to draft and implement a comprehensive communication strategy for the Programme. Second, the number of working days of the communication expert should be re-evaluated to reflect a more expansive understanding and role of communication.

The communication work engendered by initiatives similar to the TBT Programme should be undertaken at two distinct levels. First, at the PMU-wide level, communication efforts should aim at promoting the work of the Programme in manner equivalent to those of partner institutions in the case of joint initiatives. Second, at project level where communication work should aim at promoting activities designed and financed by the TBT Programme but implemented nationally or regionally by a contractor. This implies that all pertinent PMU staff, including the communication expert, should be involved in the design and the preparation of the PMU project activities together with the beneficiaries to determine the choice of the most suitable level and type of visibility for the project.

## 7. PMU CLOSING ACTIVITIES

All TBT Programme-financed projects were concluded in a timely manner, that is, latest on January 31, 2017. This achievement reflected PMU planning to identify potential projects that might experience delayed implementation and liaise extensively with contractors and experts to ensure that the Programme's deadlines were upheld. Subsequent to the completion of all projects, the next step was to ensure that all outstanding final reports (both technical and financial) were reviewed and invoices settled. This financial administration of the last batch projects assumed greater importance in light of the April 30, 2017 deadline for the closure of PE2. Once again, the PMU's proactive

effort resulted in the identification of two potentially problematic cases of project contractors either submitting unsubstantiated invoices or failing to deliver financial reports in a timely manner. Once these potentially problematic cases were flagged, the PMU launched direct communication with the concerned commercial partners. PE2's timely closure allowed the PMU to facilitate and support the conduct of the financial verification audits, respectively in March and May 2017.

One major PMU effort entailed uploading documents on identified

good practices – a result of Project 080-16 on TBT Good Practices Knowledge Dissemination. Specific work undertaken include collaborating with both Capacity4Dev and PAQI/CROSQ in webhosting the outputs on TBT good practices projects. The collaboration with Capacity4Dev has already resulted in a vastly streamlined and improved user interface and reformatting images, adding banners and a thumbnail icon. The importance of the thrust with Capacity4Dev rests on ensuring that the outputs of TBT Programme-funded projects can be propagated across the span of ACP/EU QI actors and TRTA experts and therefore further the sustainability of the Programme's efforts far beyond the expiry of the PMU in 2017.

The TBT PMU supported the work of the EC-contracted external evaluators reviewing the overall effectiveness of the TBT Programme in a number of respects. For example, PMU experts granted direct interviews with the 2 external evaluators, shared requested PMU documentation; and advised on the scheduling and

location of missions to interface with PMU project beneficiaries. In the field of communications, a final TBT Programme publication will be developed and distributed to highlight the PMU's overall work and instances of best practices in TBT TRTA design and delivery. A more direct communication task is to inform all ACP QI actors and SMEs on the status of their requests and counsel possible alternative sources of assistance that can be pursued.

Finally, a series of administrative tasks will be executed to effect the successful closure of the TBT Programme. This includes arrangements securing, transporting and delivering all TBT Programme documents to the contracting authority, i.e. the ACP Secretariat along with updating and relaying PMU digital archives to the ACP Secretariat, DEVCO and AESA for safekeeping. As stated earlier, the TBT Programme's website will be linked to those of the ACP Secretariat and possibly to those of key partners such as ARSO/PAQI, CROSQ and TradeCom II.

## 8. TBT PROGRAMME EXPERIENCES

The 4-year implementation of the TBT Programme allowed to the distillation of a number of concrete experiences that could possibly inform the design and management of future EDF-funded trade capacity initiatives in ACP countries. These insights – spanning both administrative and technical issues deserve special consideration and future rumination as a prelude to possible action in administering donor-funded trade-related technical assistance in support of ACP QI bodies and economic operators.

First, the demand-driven nature of the Programme resulted in the overwhelming majority of PMU-implemented projects reflected beneficiaries' requests. In translating beneficiaries' submissions into concrete projects, the PMU executed its prescribed tasks of filtering and improving the quality of requests by crafting coherent and development-supportive terms of references. In that context, the effectiveness of the TBT work stems from the quality of projects and the nature of the proposed TORs. Nevertheless, the impact of the TBT Programme's projects should be framed in a context where there are demonstrable limits on effective results to be attained from short-term trade capacity building projects with implementation periods of 11 months and less and subscribe to the EDF10 limits for competitive negotiated procedures of €199,999 tender value. The focus of the TBT Programme resulted in the vast majority of requests aimed at training, drafting of revised regulation, preparing SMEs' certification and laboratories' accreditation and QI institutional reform. In this

context, the requests submitted to the TBT PMU reflected a deepened ACP countries and region's appreciation of the role of enhanced QI compliance capacity to spur effective access to major trading partners' economies.

Second, and complementing the first observation, the TBT Programme's existence as a dedicated TBT TRTA delivery platform strongly contributed to any success garnered. The 141 requests submitted itself reflects beneficiaries' confidence that their interests will be professionally treated by PMU experts knowledgeable on TBT issues, especially those in ACP countries and regions. Beneficiaries often expressed the view that the existence of a dedicated TBT PMU allowed ACP beneficiaries to avoid the internal confrontation with regional/national authorising to prioritise within their respective EDF envelopes. This issue of a dedicated TBT TRTA facility transcends the ACP-EU partnership as reflected in the regular exchanges at the WTO TBT Committee.

Third, project implementation highlighted a marked difference in the quality of impact between two main pillars of the TBT Programme. The results of projects on "Upgrading and Strengthening Quality Infrastructure Institutions" were generally far more impressive relative to those executed under "Empowering Economic Operators." The primary reason for this sharp difference in impact stems from the

lengthy time expended on selecting SMEs to benefit from certification. This paucity in time assumes even more acute impact due to the length of training required to attain certification. Allied to this, the vast majority of the TBT Programme's support on this second pillar was directed at preparing SMEs for certification. It was generally the case that coached SMEs contemplated advancing towards full certification due to the lack of financing and the relative high cost of securing the desired certification. In this context, sustainability of the TBT PMU's interventions could have been enhanced by earnest collaboration with validating partners to promote increased liaison with ACP/EU financial service providers.

Fourth, most of the technical reports generated by TBT Programme-projects produced streams of recommendations directed at beneficiaries. The Programme benefitted from the work of a monitoring expert and a universal appreciation of project review and evaluation by all TBT PMU staff members. Nevertheless, the impact of this collective effort remains blighted by the absence of sustained tracking of TRTA intervention beyond the end of projects. In this regard, it might be useful to consider establishing a permanent review mechanism drawing on the combined work of RAO/NAOs, EU Delegations and EDF-funded facilities. As an example, Caribbean Export which benefits from EDF support and is responsible for private sector development in the Caribbean could be tasked with overseeing the application of recommendations on TBT Programme-funded projects assisting the region's SMEs. Such a mooted institutional mechanism would promote the sustainability of TBT Programme interventions.

Fifth, the TBT Programme garnered limited success in contracting greater number of either ACP consultancy firms or able ACP technical experts. For example, 2 firms that prevailed in tenders were based in the ACP (winning a total of 4 contracts). In order to arrest this development, the ACP and EC should consider a number of practical solutions to develop specialised interventions aimed at further development of a pool of skilled ACP contractors and experts. Examples of targeted intervention could be developing a system of promoting mentoring of ACP experts with EU counterparts and developing stronger ties with major internationally organisations, universities and think-tanks to tap into the pool of young competent ACP experts. Allied to this, initiatives to enhance the capacity of ACP-based firms to navigate the EDF tender procedures and revising and improving their preferential treatment.

Sixth, the impact of the TBT Programme could be further enhanced by beneficiaries displaying full ownership of the respective projects. This issue transcends the aforementioned systematic review of implementation of recommendations. Instead, the focus here is on the extent to which project results are internalised, reviewed and

appropriated by all ACP beneficiaries. For example, would the release of the output of Project 071-16 (Development of Guyanese GIs) trigger increased interest in developing similar instruments in other ACP countries, or Project 042-15 (Development of a regional Pacific kava standard) spur enhanced interest in standard development in other ACP regions/countries or finally, Project 087-16 (SADC-EU EPA TBT/SPS Provisions) engender similar pursuits among other ACP regions/countries that concluded EPAs? The use of the extensive volume of TBT Programme outputs would not only augment the PMU's work but also inform ACP beneficiaries consideration and treatment of similar QI needs. In this regard, the anticipation that Project 080-16's outputs will gain full ACP QI actors' traction.

Seventh, the interaction with beneficiaries needed to be more focussed on the project delivery of results, as opposed to outputs. In preparing this Programme Final Report, TBT PMU staff liaised with an array of important beneficiaries to establish the results of respective interventions. This effort was deemed necessary in light of the fact that a substantive number of projects were completed over 2 years ago and therefore their respective impact could be easily discerned. In spite of this noble effort, the monitoring of project results should have constituted an essential plank of the TBT Programme's work and complemented by collaboration with institutionalised partners such as project beneficiaries, RAO/NAOs, EU Delegations and ACP regional secretariats where necessary. Accentuating the monitoring of project results (as opposed to outputs) would have also further enhanced the regular tracking of the TBT Programme's development impact in affected ACP countries and regions.

Eight, greater efforts should have been invested in developing increased coherence among the TBT Programme and other EDF-funded trade capacity programmes. Notable exceptions resulted in strong professional collaboration was established with EDF-funded actors such as Trade Com II and CTA, as expressed in joint EDD sessions and project implementation in the Caribbean and Pacific. There were also regular exchanges with other EU-funded international organs such as ITC, STDF and UNIDO and national partners such as PTB. Collaboration with the UN specialised agency facilitated project design in a series of projects based in West and Central Africa. Also, implementation of Project 014-14 was based on training material drafted by COLEACP. Finally, the TBT Programme benefitted from insights conveyed at the TBT Good Practices workshop by TRAQUE representative. In spite of this myriad of efforts, a more systematic and streamlined engagement would have allowed the exchange of best practices on project design and management and more complementary engagement with ACP beneficiaries. The same insight could be applied to leveraging the partnerships secured with Steering Committee members. For example, the TBT Programme

could have benefitted from the systematic review of TORs in affected countries and technical disciplines of ACP QI entities participating in the Programme's Steering Committee meetings.

Ninth, the TBT Programme had 6 instances of a single bid in projects administered under the competitive negotiated procedure. While multiple bids are to be encouraged and tend to deliver better evaluation (and implementation) results, there is nothing inherently wrong with single bid tender processes. However, one specific single tender-based project created undue challenges in implementation. The concerned consulting firm underestimated the wave of professional and inter-personal disputes between the two key experts. This issue was further compounded by the issue being brought rather late to the PMU's attention. A far more engaging consultancy firm would have allowed the replacement of key experts, as discerned from the examples of Projects 044-15 and 073-15. This issue of managing relations among key experts is attenuated by the serial challenge of always attracting the finest technical experts to contribute to tenders.

Tenth, and segueing from the previous point, the TBT Programme merged requests in a few instances. Two instances of this approach were Project 72-15 (Development and Roll-out of an E-Learning Programme on Metrology) and Project 088-16 (Renforcement des Capacités des Laboratoires en Mauritanie et au Tchad).

Eleventh, there were two projects executed by a contractor – both of which were exceedingly problematic to administer. Specifically, the consultancy firm was notoriously tardy in paying its experts resulting in protracted delays in delivery of final, intermediate and interim reports. The concerned company also failed to pay participants at validating workshops on a timely basis. A host of anecdotal evidence emerged that the contracting firm has amassed a considerable reputation for nefarious business practices in managing EDF-funded projects. The TBT PMU advised that the concerned contacting firm should be placed on the EU Early Warning System. Nevertheless, a more robust due diligence exercise would have resulted in the company being barred from participating in TBT Programme-funded projects.

Twelfth, the TBT Programme's demand-driven nature must be complemented by a pro-active PMU. For example, in designing the Project 072-15, the PMU reshaped CROSQ's initial request by expanding its geographic scope to continental Africa and settling on a more cost-effective digital platform as opposed to a physical training facility. Similarly, the Vanuatuan request to convene a regional Ministerial to validate the results of Project 042-15 was expanded to transpose the regional standard into national regulatory framework. Other illustrative cases of PMU pro-activity stems from the merger of requests from geographically-proximate beneficiaries and prioritising continental/regional interventions. The endeavour to secure the strongest development impact of TBT Programme-funded projects remained paramount in framing the PMU's work.

## 9. CONCLUSIONS

The Programme's main work centred on supporting ACP QI bodies with their QI regulatory capacity and aid economic operators to comply with the TBT requirements of major trading partners. The very existence of the TBT Programme reflects the universal recognition that non-tariff measures as the key factor behind ACP effective access to regional and international markets. The work of the TBT Programme resulted in the design and management of 85 projects during the 4 years of the PMU's operations. The overwhelming majority of these projects were satisfactorily implemented and thereby contributed to enhanced ACP capacity to meet trading partners' TBT requirements and advance national/ regional/continental QI regulatory frameworks. Another metric to gauge the TBT Programme's role stems from its strict observation of the clutch of policy guidelines that framed its work, most notably, EDF Regulations, PRAG and PMU Manual of Procedures. More specifically, the TBT Programme managed to deliver successful pro-development trade capacity building support while respecting EU financial management procedures (i.e. zero ineligibles found during the various financial verification audits).

The TBT's work was heavily framed by a series of global trade policy developments. First, global trade is increasingly shaped by global value chains (GVCs) the impact of which compel ACP countries to enhance their respective national regulatory capacity or risk remaining commodity producers. Even those on the lowest rungs of the GVCs, i.e. commodity producers risk being either removed or further marginalised. GVCs herald the emergence of strong trade regulatory requirements, with ACP exporters exposed to over 400 agricultural standards in accessing the EU market. This problematic underscores the veracity of prioritising both the development of standards in ACP countries and regions along with supporting ACP economies operators to comply with TBT requirements of major trading partners.

Second, standards are assuming an increasing role in launching WTO trade disputes. Recent DSB cases involve tuna, COOL (country of origin labelling) and tobacco plain packaging with two ACP countries – Cuba and the Dominican Republic initiating cases (DS 441 and DS 458, respectively) on the last-named dispute. Currently, 50 WTO trade disputes cite possible infringement of the WTO TBT Agreement as the basis of complaints. Another expression of the increased role of TBT issues is the rapid rise in the annual notifications submitted to the WTO TBT Committee and ACP countries being subjected to complaints on serious trade concerns (STCs). Here, TBT Programme support to both the all-ACP treatment of TBT issues in the multilateral trading system and participation at the WTO TBT Committee were both pivotal and impactful.

Third, there is renewed vigour to advance continental and regional integration across ACP regions. In that context, the efforts to negotiate the Continental Free Trade Area in Africa and implement the respective Economic Partnership Agreements were fully internalised by the PMU and framed its activities. ACP pursuit of strengthened regional economic integration also reflects the recognition that bolstered internal markets can offer substantial trade opportunities but presence of the requisite QI regulatory framework remains a sine qua non. The negotiations of mega-RTAs such as TTP, TTIP, CETA and RCEP serves as an additional source of the emerging global trading context facing ACP countries and regions. This is a case that ACP's marginalisation in global trade will be further advanced by Group members' non-participation in these mega-RTAs. Again, the TBT Programme efforts sought to underpin continental and regional approaches as can be discerned from the slate of projects to benefit PAQI Members and other ACP regional integration movements.

These global TBT policy developments warrant earnest treatment in terms of the comprehensive development of ACP TBT compliance capacity. In this context, the TBT Programme has made a significant contribution, albeit a modest one relative to the overhang of trade capacity needs. Considerably greater effort is needed to further bolster ACP TBT compliance and development capacity. In that context, the underlining ethos of the TBT Programme with its heavily circumscribed value of individual interventions was that the project results serve to lever additional trade capacity building support, e.g. from EDF-funded Regional/National Indicative Programmes. There are innumerable opportunities for the results of the TBT Programme to inform an additional wave of requests in remedying the systemic deficit in ACP TBT compliance and development capacity by harnessing support from other international donor partners. It would also be instructive if these attendant TRTA interventions could be designed and managed in manner reflective of the experiences garnered by the TBT Programme.

# ANNEXES

## Annex1: Budget Programme Estimate 1

### TBT PROGRAMME REG/FED/022-667 - PROGRAMME ESTIMATE n°1

COVERING THE PERIOD FROM 07/05/2013 TO 30/04/2015

INDIVIDUAL FINANCIAL COMMITMENT No 2013/316-918

Summary table of budget consumption by budget heading in EURO

Code	Title	Programme estimate budget (1)	Sum total of records (2)	Available balance (1) - (2)	Rate of consumption (%) (2) / (1)
1.	ACTIVITIES	€ 2,700,000.00	€ 1,577,262.71	€ 1,122,737.29	58%
1.1	Strengthening capacity of QI	€ 1,400,000.00	€ 947,189.77	€ 452,810.23	68%
1.2	Compliance issues of productive sectors	€ 1,000,000.00	€ 386,093.24	€ 613,906.76	39%
1.3	Dissemination of TBT related knowledge	€ 300,000.00	€ 243,979.70	€ 56,020.30	81%
2.	INVESTMENTS	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	0%
3.	OPERATING COSTS	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	0%
4.	BANK CHARGES	€ 160,000.00	€ 107,097.72	€ 52,902.28	67%
5	VISIBILITY	€ 60,000.00	€ 15,636.91	€ 44,363.09	26%
6	Participation Steering Committee	€ 50,000.00	€ 25,603.02	€ 24,396.98	51%
7	CONTINGENCIES	€ 30,000.00	€ 0.00	€ 30,000.00	0%
TOTAL		€ 3,000,000.00	€ 1,725,600.36	€ 1,274,399.64	58%

## Annex2: Detailed Budget Programme Estimate 1

### TBT PROGRAMME REG/FED/022-667 - PROGRAMME ESTIMATE n°1

COVERING THE PERIOD FROM 07/05/2013 TO 30/04/2015

INDIVIDUAL FINANCIAL COMMITMENT No 2013/316-918

Summary table of budget consumption by budget heading in EURO

Code	Title	Programme estimate budget (1)	Sum total of records (2)	Available balance (1)-(2)	Rate of consumption (%) (2)/(1)
1.	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	€ 2,700,000.00	€ 1,577,262.71	€ 1,122,737.29	58%
1.1	<b>Strengthening capacity of QI</b>	€ 1,400,000.00	€ 947,189.77	€ 452,810.23	68%
1.1.1	<b>Coordination &amp; Harmonisation of Procedures</b>	€ 1,000,000.00	€ 693,433.96	€ 306,566.04	69%
	004-13 Zimbabwe		€ 20,065.50		
	005-13 Gambia		€ 11,443.84		
	006-13 Uganda		€ 10,978.80		
	007-13 Benin		€ 62,310.90		
	008-14 Mauritanie		€ 30,685.63		
	009-14 ARSO		€ 195,651.70		
	024-14 Support to Zambia		€ 131,569.90		
	025-14 Seychelles		€ 132,187.69		
	027-14 RDC - Office Congolais de Contrôle		€ 46,690.00		
	029-14 Burundi		€ 51,850.00		
1.1.2	<b>Representation of ACP countries and region interests</b>	€ 400,000.00	€ 253,755.81	€ 146,244.19	63%
	015-14 Comesa		€ 166,312.19		
	026-14 ACP Group Geneva		€ 82,509.06		
	036-15 TBT meeting		€ 4,934.56		
1.2	<b>Compliance issues of productive sectors</b>	€ 1,000,000.00	€ 386,093.24	€ 613,906.76	39%
	014-13 Dominican Republic		€ 41,020.33		
	021-14 Vanuatu Eco labelling		€ 171,331.27		
	023-14 Botswana		€ 87,553.02		
	037-14 Mauritius		€ 53,049.42		
	042-14 Vanuatu - Kava		€ 33,139.20		
1.3	<b>Dissemination of TBT related knowledge</b>	€ 300,000.00	€ 243,979.70	€ 56,020.30	81%
	001-13 Event COMESA		€ 48,182.36		
	002-13 Event ECOWAS		€ 39,165.57		
	012-14 AFRIMETS		€ 144,631.77		
	022-14 MIS system		€ 12,000.00		
2.	<b>INVESTMENTS</b>	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	0%
3.	<b>OPERATING COSTS</b>	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	0%
4.	<b>BANK CHARGES</b>	€ 160,000.00	€ 107,097.72	€ 52,902.28	67%
5	<b>VISIBILITY</b>	€ 60,000.00	€ 15,636.91	€ 44,363.09	26%
6	<b>Participation Steering Committee</b>	€ 50,000.00	€ 25,603.02	€ 24,396.98	51%
7	<b>CONTINGENCIES</b>	€ 30,000.00	€ 0.00	€ 30,000.00	0%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	€ 3,000,000.00	€ 1,725,600.36	€ 1,274,399.64	58%

# ANNEXES

## Annex3: Budget Programme Estimate 2

**TBT PROGRAMME REG/FED/022-667 - PROGRAMME ESTIMATE n°2**  
**COVERING THE PERIOD FROM 01/05/2015 TO 30/04/2017**  
**INDIVIDUAL FINANCIAL COMMITMENT No 2014/354-135**

Summary table of budget consumption by budget heading in EURO

Code	Title	Programme estimate budget (1)	Sum total of records (2)	Available balance (1) - (2)	Rate of consumption (%) (2) / (1)
<b>1.</b>	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>€ 8,274,399.00</b>	<b>€ 7,086,149.23</b>	<b>€ 1,188,249.77</b>	<b>86%</b>
1.1	Strengthening capacity of QI	€ 4,440,000.00	€ 4,048,366.51	€ 391,633.49	91%
1.2	Compliance issues of productive sectors	€ 2,987,000.00	€ 2,329,433.75	€ 657,566.25	78%
1.3	Dissemination of TBT related knowledge	€ 847,399.00	€ 708,348.97	€ 139,050.03	84%
<b>2.</b>	<b>INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>€ 0.00</b>	<b>€ 0.00</b>	<b>€ 0.00</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>OPERATING COSTS</b>	<b>€ 0.00</b>	<b>€ 0.00</b>	<b>€ 0.00</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>BANK CHARGES</b>	<b>€ 180,000.00</b>	<b>€ 158,166.53</b>	<b>€ 21,833.47</b>	<b>88%</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>VISIBILITY</b>	<b>€ 60,000.00</b>	<b>€ 23,357.64</b>	<b>€ 36,642.36</b>	<b>39%</b>
<b>6</b>	Participation Steering Committee	€ 60,000.00	€ 20,933.52	€ 39,066.48	35%
<b>7</b>	<b>CONTINGENCIES</b>	<b>€ 39,320.00</b>	<b>€ 0.00</b>	<b>€ 39,320.00</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>€ 8,613,719.00</b>	<b>€ 7,288,606.92</b>	<b>€ 1,325,112.08</b>	<b>85%</b>

## Annex4: Detailed Budget Programme Estimate 2

### TBT PROGRAMME REG/FED/022-667 - PROGRAMME ESTIMATE n°2

COVERING THE PERIOD FROM 01/05/2015 TO 30/04/2017

INDIVIDUAL FINANCIAL COMMITMENT No 2014/354 135

Summary table of budget consumption by budget heading in EURO

Code	Title	Programme estimate budget (1)	Sum total of records (2)	Available balance (1) - (2)	Rate of consumption (%) (2) / (1)
1.	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>€ 8,274,399.00</b>	<b>€ 7,086,149.23</b>	<b>€ 1,188,249.77</b>	<b>86%</b>
1.1	<b>Strengthening capacity of QI</b>	<b>€ 4,440,000.00</b>	<b>€ 4,048,366.51</b>	<b>€ 391,633.49</b>	<b>91%</b>
1.1.1	<b>Coordination &amp; Harmonisation of Procedures</b>	<b>€ 4,238,000.00</b>	<b>€ 3,850,038.80</b>	<b>€ 387,961.20</b>	<b>91%</b>
	027 -15 RDC		€ 133,510.00		
	029 - 14 Infrastructures Qualité - Burundi		€ -3,219.70		
	038 -15 Renforcement des capacités de l'IQ - Niger		€ 169,859.46		
	041-15 Renforcement capacité AMANORM - Mali		€ 177,781.06		
	044-15 Appui institutionnel - Renforcement QI - Comores		€ 168,731.85		
	045-15 Appui au bureau de normalisation - Haïti		€ 144,603.43		
	046-15 Capacity Building - Nigeria		€ 191,442.09		
	047-15 KENAS - Geneva		€ 2,345.46		
	048 - 15 Standards Institute - Namibia		€ 181,069.92		
	051-15 Management de la Qualité - Burkina Faso		€ 156,390.79		
	052-15 Capacity Building - Ethiopia		€ 181,077.95		
	054-15 Capacity Building Quality Infrastructures - Kenya		€ 150,637.11		
	056-15 Booklet - Ethiopia		€ 4,622.52		
	057-15 Appui aux acteurs filières agricoles - Togo		€ 178,020.01		
	058-15 Formation de formateurs Qualité - UEMOA		€ 178,613.66		
	059- 15 Accreditation VagnyLab - Côte d'Ivoire		€ 10,170.00		
	060- 15 LANEMA - Côte d'Ivoire		€ 56,024.78		
	061-15 Appui aux acteurs publics et privés - Gabon		€ 188,941.39		
	066-15 Appui à l'association de normalisation - Sénégal		€ 148,902.71		
	069-15 Appui à l'infrastructure qualité - Madagascar		€ 152,269.69		
	071-15 Quality origin products - Guyana		€ 189,458.58		
	073-15 Quality Infrastructure - Kiribati		€ 190,880.41		
	079-16 Ethiopia		€ 166,091.12		
	081-16 Technical regulations Jamaica, T&T, Barbados		€ 162,779.75		
	083-16 Samoa		€ 52,737.51		

# ANNEXES

	087-16 SADC		€ 181,700.00		
	088-16 Tchad & Mauritanie		€ 182,646.85		
	090-16 ARSO Risks management		€ 121,148.72		
	093-16 CROSQ Special Committee TBT		€ 11,406.68		
	095-16 Cameroun		€ 19,395.00		
1.1.2	<b>Representation of ACP countries and region interests</b>	<b>€ 202,000.00</b>	<b>€ 198,327.71</b>	<b>€ 3,672.29</b>	<b>98%</b>
	049-15 Participation of ACP to TBT meeting June 2015		€ 33,132.89		
	055-15 Participation of ACP to TBT meeting sept Nov 2015		€ 48,823.93		
	077-16 Participation of ACP to TBT meeting - march 2016		€ 2,559.66		
	026-14 Support to ACP Geneva		€ 113,811.23		
1.2	<b>Compliance issues of productive sectors</b>	<b>€ 2,987,000.00</b>	<b>€ 2,329,433.75</b>	<b>€ 657,566.25</b>	<b>78%</b>
	023-14 Botswana bureau of Standards		€ 82,296.39		
	037-14 Mauritius – Trade Regulatory Impact Assessment		€ 83,217.90		
	040-15 Strengthening the competitiveness of Ghana-based exporters		€ 199,625.10		
	042-14 Development of a Quality and Safety Standard for Kava Production - Vanuatu		€ 144,262.08		
	043-15 Horticulture Trade Enhancement and Certification in Rwanda (HORTEC)		€ 186,179.34		
	050-15 Market Access Capacity Building Programme for the CARIFORUM region		€ 168,534.28		
	053-15 Mise en place d'un label qualité et éthique au profit des PME - Côte d'Ivoire		€ 27,500.00		
	063-15 Caribbean region - agro-tourism		€ 178,068.06		
	064-15 REACH compliance among COMESA footwear tanners and SMEs		€ 195,425.53		
	065-15 – Enhancing Competitiveness via Regional Patent- Jamaica, Belize, T&T		€ 186,549.45		
	067-15 – Handicrafts - Ghana & Sierra Leone		€ 185,762.28		
	074-15 Pacific Agribusiness		€ 167,350.24		
	075-16 IP tools - Tanzania		€ 166,042.03		
	076-16 Printing, plastics, packaging - Trinidad & Tobago		€ 168,202.28		
	078-16 Legal Support - Vanuatu		€ 19,990.00		
	089-16 AFSEC		€ 152,303.15		
	092-16 Workshop CEDEAO UNIDO		€ 18,125.64		
1.3	<b>Dissemination of TBT related knowledge</b>	<b>€ 847,399.00</b>	<b>€ 708,348.97</b>	<b>€ 139,050.03</b>	<b>84%</b>

	039-15 AFRAC - e-learning programme		€ 157,884.66		
	070-15 ARSO dissemination		€ 188,102.05		
	072-15 E learning		€ 189,234.79		
	080-16 Good practices		€ 173,127.47		
<b>2.</b>	<b>INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>€ 0.00</b>	<b>€ 0.00</b>	<b>€ 0.00</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>OPERATING COSTS</b>	<b>€ 0.00</b>	<b>€ 0.00</b>	<b>€ 0.00</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>BANK CHARGES</b>	<b>€ 180,000.00</b>	<b>€ 158,166.53</b>	<b>€ 21,833.47</b>	<b>88%</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>VISIBILITY</b>	<b>€ 60,000.00</b>	<b>€ 23,357.64</b>	<b>€ 36,642.36</b>	<b>39%</b>
	Video promotionnelle		€ 7,859.00		
	Comesa poster		€ 799.00		
	085-16 EDD participation - June 2016		€ 6,500.95		
	092-16 UNCTAD event		€ 8,198.69		
<b>6.</b>	<b>Participation Steering Committee</b>	<b>€ 60,000.00</b>	<b>€ 20,933.52</b>	<b>€ 39,066.48</b>	<b>35%</b>
	5th Steering Committee		€ 9,630.18		
	6th Steering Committee		€ 3,216.93		
	7th Steering Committee		€ 8,086.41		
<b>7.</b>	<b>CONTINGENCIES</b>	<b>€ 39,320.00</b>	<b>€ 0.00</b>	<b>€ 39,320.00</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>€ 8,613,719.00</b>	<b>€ 7,288,606.92</b>	<b>€ 1,325,112.08</b>	<b>85%</b>

## Annex5: PE1 & PE2

### TBT PROGRAMME REG/FED/022-667 - PROGRAMME ESTIMATE N°1 & N°2

#### Summary table of budget consumption by budget heading in EURO

Code	Title	Programme Estimate TOTAL BUDGET	Programme estimate budget 1	Programme estimate budget 2	TOTAL SPENT	Rate of consumption (%)
<b>1.</b>	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>€ 9,851,662.00</b>	<b>€ 1,577,263.00</b>	<b>€ 7,086,149.23</b>	<b>€ 8,663,412.23</b>	<b>88%</b>
1.1	Strengthening capacity of QI	€ 5,347,190.00	€ 947,190.00	€ 4,048,366.51	€ 4,995,556.51	93%
1.2	Compliance issues of productive sectors	€ 3,373,093.00	€ 386,093.00	€ 2,329,433.75	€ 2,715,526.75	81%
1.3	Dissemination of TBT related knowledge	€ 1,091,379.00	€ 243,980.00	€ 708,348.97	€ 952,328.97	87%
<b>2.</b>	<b>INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>€ 0.00</b>	<b>€ 0.00</b>	<b>€ 0.00</b>	<b>€ 0.00</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>OPERATING COSTS</b>	<b>€ 0.00</b>	<b>€ 0.00</b>	<b>€ 0.00</b>	<b>€ 0.00</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>BANK CHARGES</b>	<b>€ 287,098.00</b>	<b>€ 107,098.00</b>	<b>€ 158,166.53</b>	<b>€ 265,264.53</b>	<b>92%</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>VISIBILITY</b>	<b>€ 75,637.00</b>	<b>€ 15,637.00</b>	<b>€ 23,357.64</b>	<b>€ 38,994.64</b>	<b>52%</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Participation Steering Committee</b>	<b>€ 85,603.00</b>	<b>€ 25,603.00</b>	<b>€ 20,933.52</b>	<b>€ 46,536.52</b>	<b>54%</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>CONTINGENCIES</b>	<b>€ 39,320.00</b>	<b>€ 0.00</b>	<b>€ 0.00</b>	<b>€ 0.00</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>€ 10,339,320.00</b>	<b>€ 1,725,601.00</b>	<b>€ 7,288,606.92</b>	<b>€ 9,014,207.92</b>	<b>87%</b>



## TBT PROGRAMME

OVERCOMING TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE



**ACP Secretariat**  
Avenue Georges Henri 45  
B-1200 Brussels  
Belgium  
email : [info@acp.int](mailto:info@acp.int)  
Tel: +32 2 743 06 00



**European Commission**  
Development and Cooperation  
B-1049 Brussels  
Belgium  
Tel: +32 2 299 11 11



Web site:

<https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/tbtprogramme>