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## THEMATIC HIGHLIGHT

### *The Role of Standards in Promoting Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security in Africa*

Given that African economies depend largely on agriculture and that smallholder producers are the driving force behind the agricultural production, there is an evident recognition of the importance to address agricultural policy and trade-related constraints that prevent smallholder producers and traders from accessing high value regional and global markets. In this regard, the focus is more and more on new agricultural technologies, mechanisation, increased use of plant protection means, specialisation and government policies promoting reduced labour demands – in brief, increased attention and reliance on standards, technical regulations and conformity procedures in relation to all agricultural commodities in Africa. However, Africa's participation in standards setting has been limited for a number of reasons, but largely due to insufficient scientific data and low awareness of standards setting process, leading to inadequate ownership and recognition of standards by relevant stakeholders such as farmers and private sector. The objective of standards and technical regulation is also to respect the sustainable use of resources, addressing environmental and social concerns, offering innovative and economically viable opportunities for all actors of the entire food chain. The use of standards in agriculture allows ensuring better quality and efficiency in production since useful information and innovation is shared without having to deal with problems of restricted access. This aspect is fundamental since it accelerates the process of generating knowledge and helps balance the costs of technical compliance, verification and transitional arrangements. Agricultural standards are equally important for all consumers and producers of agricultural products (and not only for exports and requirements of international markets as it often presented): in the sense that they reflect the demands and expectations and ways how to achieve them in a simplified way. (...)

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## PROJECTS' HIGHLIGHTS

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### *MAURITIUS: RIA Project completed in Mauritius*



*RIA Training, Mauritius, September 2015*

The ACP-EU TBT Programme financed Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) in an ACP country, Mauritius this year. This project was undertaken by Economisti Associati in cooperation with BKP Development with implementation done by two experts, i.e. Gustav Brink (South Africa) and Giacomo Luchetta (Italy).

RIA is a methodology aimed at assessing ex ante the impacts of new legislative proposals. In a nutshell, RIA provides information to policymakers about what happens if a new policy is adopted, and what is the best policy option to achieve the government targets. More specifically, it is a method of analysis that, starting from the determination of the problems requiring intervention, compares different policy options in terms of economic, social and environmental effects. RIA objective is to ensure that 'better regulation' is enacted, that is, that government interventions attempt to achieve the greatest good for the society.

Strongly demanded by both the Mauritian government and private sector, the project 'Trade Regulatory Impact Assessment – Mauritius', consisted of different strands of activities. First, a RIA methodology based on international best practices and tailored to the Mauritian environment was drafted in the form of guidelines. These guidelines represent both a tool to raise awareness about RIA, and the starting point for the possible introduction of RIA in Mauritius.

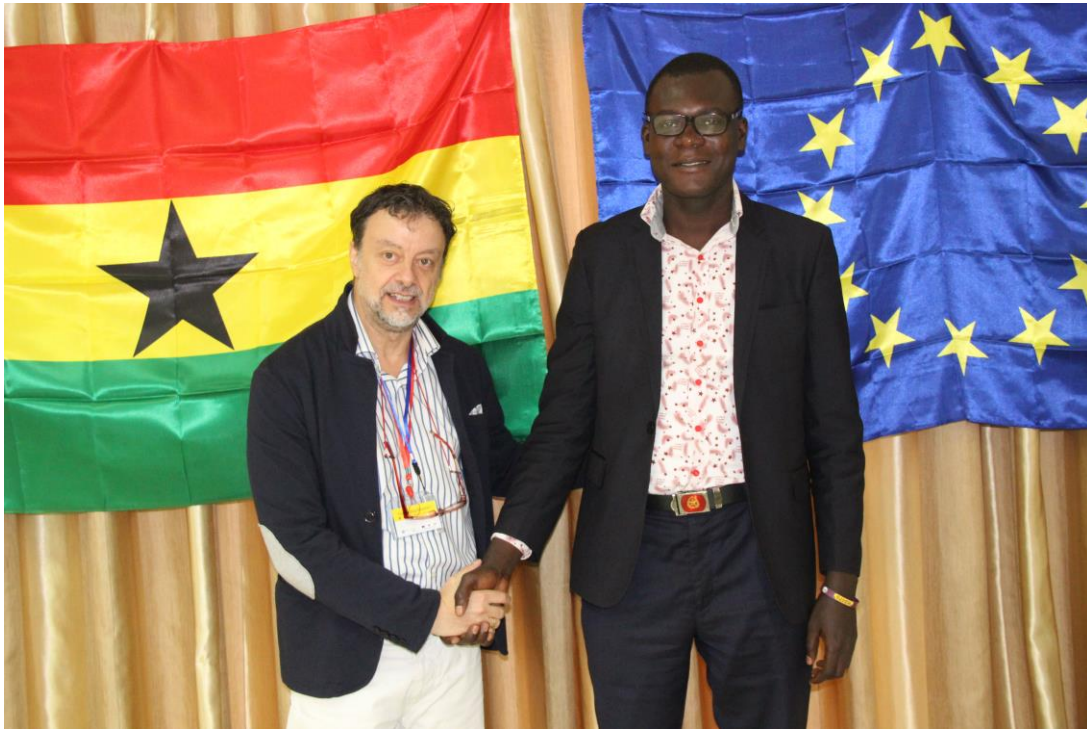
Alongside the guidelines, the project also foresaw three weeks of RIA training for the local government and professionals. (...)

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## PROJECTS' HIGHLIGHTS

### *GHANA: Reinforcing the competitiveness of Ghana based exporters*



*Dario Caccamisi - Project Team Leader; Emmanuel Turkson - CLSCE Managing Director*

The Project “Strengthening the Competitiveness of Ghana-Based Exporters through Effective Export Quality Management Systems” has the objective of assisting 15 Ghanaian SMEs operating in the plastics, textile, transport & logistics, aluminium ware, pharmaceutical sectors. Within this scope, the Project is currently training 15 quality specialists to become advisors and auditors on the ISO 9001:2015 quality management system standard. The overall 65-hour training started on Tuesday, 22nd of September and is planned to continue for 10 days until Friday, 2nd October.

The main topics covered during the training include use of Export Quality Management Systems, potentialities of export of the considered sectors in term of exports and first assessment of key exports requirements, the international quality standard ISO 9001:2015: structure, implementation, certification and auditing practices, the

application of excellence models in Ghana and establishment of National Quality Awards in the Ghana logistics sector.

The first three days of training have achieved excellent results, with an over 95% level of satisfaction of the attendants regarding the contents and the presentations given during the training. The export management cycle and capability review & the marketing-mix are the topics that have provided the attendants with an expert insight in export quality management systems. (...)



<http://www.eqmsgghana.org>



#eqmsgghana #ghanatrade #ISO9001v2015

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## NEWS & EVENTS

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### *WIPO Sub-Regional Seminar on the Dynamics of Intellectual Property Rights*



Expert on Technical Barriers to Trade of the ACP-EU TBT Programme took part in the WIPO seminar “The Dynamics of Intellectual Property Rights for the Countries of the Eastern Caribbean States” in St. George, Grenada on September 10-11, 2015. The World Intellectual Property Organisation is an important collaborative partner for the TBT Programme, as it provides technical assistance taking into account the priorities and special needs of developing countries, especially LDCs, oriented to the intellectual property issues. The scope of WIPO’s work is relevant for, and directly focused on the ACP counties. In that respect, projects on patent examination for the Caribbean are under elaboration by the TBT Programme. WIPO also provided some comments for the TORs of the contemplated project given its close collaboration with governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations. Furthermore, WIPO works

with multiple public and private sector stakeholders worldwide to help them realize the benefits of the intellectual property protection systems and encourage innovation and technical progress for the society.

The focus of the WIPO seminar was on promotion of intellectual property protection linked to the support of traditional and specific origin produced products. So, contribution of the Expert on Technical Barriers to Trade of the TBT Programme, Ms. Irina Kireeva was targeted at enhancing knowledge on EU experience in agricultural quality certification schemes and their benefits and interlinkage in addressing food safety and security problems. (...)

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## NEWS & EVENTS

### *Participation of the TBT Programme at the ARSO 21st General Assembly*



*21<sup>st</sup> General Assembly of ARSO, August 2015*

The TBT Programme participated in the 21st General Assembly of the African Organization for Standardisation (ARSO), held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, August 10-14, 2015.

The latest ARSO General Assembly focussed on the promotion of sustainable agriculture and food security in Africa. In that context, the TBT Programme was invited to deliver a presentation on the “The Role of Standards in promoting sustainable Agriculture and food security in Africa”. \*

Over 80 officials from African regional and national standardisation organisations participated in this high-ranking event. With a significant number of participants also being direct stakeholders of the TBT Programme, the ARSO General Assembly provide a platform for the exploration of deeper professional collaboration. The TBT Programme’s attendance at the Addis meeting also allowed for the entity to develop a deeper understanding of ARSO stakeholders’ TBT needs and concerns.

\* [Summary of the Opening Address of Ms Irina Kireeva](#)

\* [The Role of Standards in Promoting Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security in Africa, Ms Irina Kireeva](#)

\* [See the complete information of the GA including the key highlights in the 21st ARSO GA Special Newsletter](#)



## INSIGHT

### *EU - US transatlantic trade and investment partnership - Technical Barriers to Trade - Initial EU Position Paper, by DG Trade*



The EU Position Paper in relation to Technical Barriers to Trade and elements of the EU - US Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (prepared in July 2013) provides a comprehensive overview of the issues concerning technical regulations, standardization, conformity assessment and transparency. The scope of coverage is exclusively within the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (therefore, services, public procurement or SPS issues are not addressed by this document). The EU views on TBT component within the TTIP can be summarized as following: barriers to trade stemming from the content and application of the technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures should be minimized or entirely removed and countries agree to take measures aiming at that objective. However, in doing so, it is recognized that systems of two regions are different and approaches should be fair, transparent and not more trade-restrictive than necessary. By no means, co-operation between the EU and US should result in further hindrances to the trade with other countries. The final outcome of the negotiations is still to be seen.

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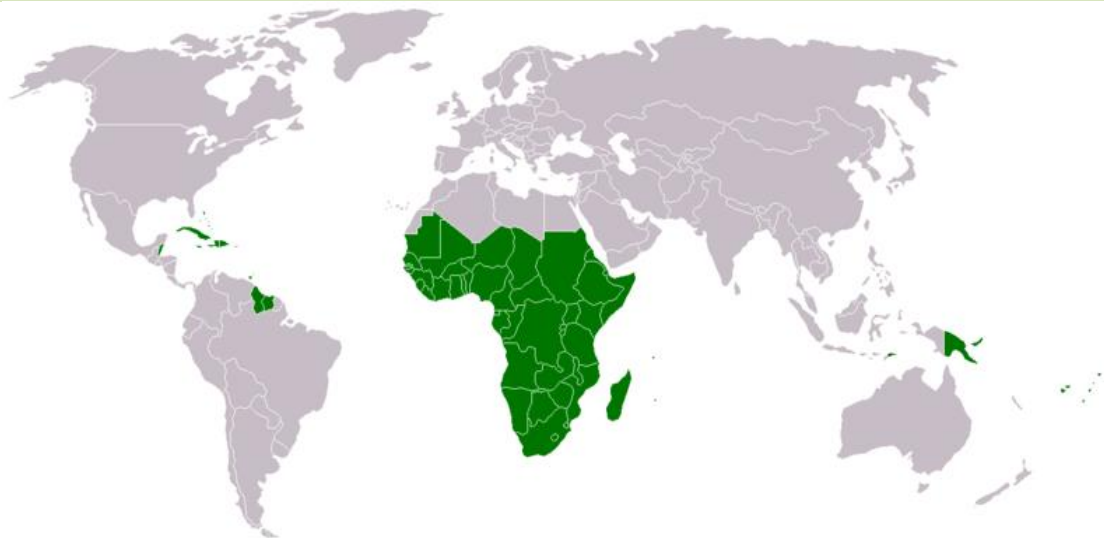
#### ***Paper Introduction***

The final report of the HLWG refers to five basic components of TTIP provisions on regulatory issues, as follows: cross-cutting disciplines on regulatory coherence and transparency; provisions concerning technical barriers to trade (TBT) and sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS); provisions aimed at promoting (greater) regulatory compatibility in individual sectors; and a framework providing an institutional basis for future cooperation. With respect to the horizontal TBT Chapter, the HLWG specifically recommends the following: (...)

See the complete paper >> [EU - US transatlantic trade and investment partnership - Technical Barriers to Trade - Initial EU Position Paper](#)



## 18 ONGOING PROJECTS



*\*Map showing the origin of projects*

**ACP Geneva** -Support to the ACP Group

**AFRAC** - Accreditation e -earning Programme

**BOTSWANA** -Reinforcement of QA Institutions

**BURUNDI** -Reinforcement des capacités BBN

**COMORES** - Appui à l'infrastructure qualité

**COTE D'IVOIRE** - Appui accreditation ISO

**COTE D'IVOIRE** – LANEMA, formation métrologie

**GHANA** - Strengthening competitiveness of exporters

**HAITI** - Renforcement des capacités; mise à niveau qualité

**KENYA** – Capacity Building for QI Institutions

**MALI** - Appui à la Normalisation et promotion de produits

**MAURITIUS** - Regulatory Impact Assessment

**NAMIBIA** - Implementation of the NSI Strategic objectives

**NIGER** - Renforcement des Capacités de l'IQ

**NIGERIA** - Strengthening Product Testing Laboratories

**RDC** - Appui système de certification

**RWANDA** - Trade Enhancement & Certification

**VANUATU** – Assistance for Kava production

## UPCOMING TBT EVENTS

- **WTO Committee meeting on Technical Barriers to Trade, Geneva, November 2015**
- **2nd CARIBBEAN AGRIBUSINESS FORUM, Barbados, November 2015**

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