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THEMATIC HIGHLIGHT

European Development Days (EDD) 2016



The EDD community recently launched preparations for the 10th edition of the European Development Days (EDD), which will take place in Brussels on June 15-16, inst. This 2016 edition will focus on the implementation of the [2030 Agenda on sustainable development goals recently adopted by the UN](#).

The preparation of the event has already started with a first preparatory meeting organised early in January 2016 at the Committee of Regions in Brussels. At this inaugural meeting, the organisers underscored their interest in EDD 2016 becoming a deeply participatory forum and thereby advancing to become Europe's leading forum on international cooperation and development.

More information can be requested at: community@eudevdays.eu



PROJECTS' HIGHLIGHTS

RWANDA: Horticulture Trade Enhancement and Certification



Awareness Seminar on Global G.A.P, Kigali, November 2015

On November 17, 2015, an Awareness Seminar on Global G.A.P was held in Kigali. The Seminar titled “Horticulture Trade Enhancement and Certification in Rwanda” was organized as a part of the TBT Programme and implemented by a consortium of International Economics Consulting and IBF Consulting.

The workshop was attended by 45 participants, mainly Rwandan horticulture farmers, members of the Chamber of Agriculture, exporters, and representatives of Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Rwanda Agriculture Board, National Agriculture Export Board, Rwanda Standards Board, Rwanda Development Board and the Private Sector Federation (PSF).

The workshop intended to achieve two main objectives, namely, first to raise awareness on food safety and quality certification systems in Rwanda; and second, to secure the commitment of the agencies present for the HORTEC project implementation.

The CEO PSF made opening remarks, reiterating the organisation’s commitment to support the horticulture sector in their endeavours to increase the value of exports. The Director General of the Rwanda Agriculture Livestock Inspection Services (RALIS) made the keynote address on behalf of the Ministry of State for Agriculture. (...)

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PROJECTS' HIGHLIGHTS

NIGERIA: Strengthening Product Testing Laboratories in Nigeria



Capacity building seminar, Abuja, December 2015

The ACP-EU TBT Programme supported the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON) through the design and implementation of a capacity building project on strengthening product testing Laboratories in Nigeria. The overall objective of this project is to enhance trade competitiveness and support the SON staff in delivering an improved service to economic operators.

The specific purposes of the project are two-fold, i.e. (a) to enhance the overall institutional capacity of SON in delivering technical assistance to SMEs; and (b) build the technical competence of SON laboratory staff in quality-

related aspects of measurement uncertainty, validation of methods, quality control systems and sample preparation in order to be better prepared for accreditation.

SON is mandated by the Standards Organization of Nigeria Act to, *inter alia*, elaborate standards for products and services and to ensure compliance to such standards, where necessary, and to provide conformity assessment services all for the common good of economic development. (...)

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NEWS & EVENTS

Expo Milano 2015: TBT Programme invited by the European Commission



ExpoMilano 2015

DG Agriculture & Rural Development and the Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States invited the TBT Programme to participate in the two-day event on “Agribusiness investment in partnership with farmers’ organizations in ACP countries” that took place on October 14-15, 2015 in Milan, Italy.

The event was organised by the European Commission, in partnership with the African Union Commission, the ACP Secretariat, UNIDO, the Pan African Farmers' Organisation (PAFO), the European Investment Bank, the

COLEACP and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA).

On the day 1, 3 workshops were organised around the themes of Trade and export opportunities, Value addition, Access to finance. On the day 2, a High Political Level Seminar took place in the EU Pavilion of Expo Milano 2015. (...)

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NEWS & EVENTS

Capacity4Dev filmed interviews for Voices & Views *“Helping ACP exporters overcome trade barriers”*

A journalist from Capacity4Dev undertook video interviews with both Mrs. Mere Falemaka, Permanent Representative of The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and Mr. Hermogène Nsengimana, Secretary General African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO) Joint Committee Chairperson, Pan African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI). The interviews captured the two experts' respective experience on addressing TBT issues in ACP countries and regions. The article below summarises both interventions while the video interview can be accessed either on the Capacity4Dev web page or by clicking on the link below.



*Mrs. Mere Falemaka,
Permanent Representative of
The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat to the
World Trade Organisation (WTO)*



*Mr. Hermogène Nsengimana,
Secretary General African Organisation for
Standardisation (ARSO)
Joint Committee Chairperson, Pan African
Quality Infrastructure (PAQI)*

Trade is an increasingly international business, but not all countries are able fully to take part. Products must meet exacting international standards, which can be a barrier to trade for countries without adequate infrastructure, regulations, quality testing and certification. They are working with the EU to address these requirements by supporting exporters to gain effective market access.

Although the ‘red tape’ of regulations is often

bemoaned, the need for internationally recognised standards is clear in the case of kava. The calm-inducing root, used for thousands of years by Pacific islanders as a ceremonial drink, became a major export to the EU in the 1990s. Islanders set aside land to cultivate kava, and came to depend on its revenues: on average \$200 million per annum. (...)

[Read more and watch the videos](#)



INSIGHT

THE IMPORTANCE OF LEGAL METROLOGY IN QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

The importance of legal metrology to the Caribbean, by David Tomlinson, Technical Officer – Metrology, CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ)

The importance of metrology - the science of measurement, to the development of national economies and its critical role in international trade has been receiving increasing international attention and promotion since the signing of the Metre Convention on 20 May 1875. Recent advances in modern technology have both contributed to and benefited from significant leaps in how accurately mankind measures however, the fundamental need to ensure confidence in trade has not changed in the over 5000 years since the first metrology systems were developed in ancient Egypt.

During colonial times, the Caribbean played a significant role in international trade as the major supplier of the most highly prized and traded products of that time such as sugar, cotton and spices. Although the Caribbean has significant influences from the four (4) largest metropolises, Britain has left the strongest legacy on the governance of the majority of countries within CARIFORUM, the Caribbean Forum of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States. Many Caribbean countries inherited a system of Weights and Measures that gave the State the sovereign right to declare a national measurement standard without contest or need for international traceability and where the National Police Force was responsible for the promulgation and enforcement of these standards.

After independence, the Caribbean continued to be a major source of natural resources and products trading mostly with European countries. During this time the Caribbean benefitted from preferential trade agreements, which provided a favourable environment for the growth of the Caribbean export and manufacturing sector(. ...)

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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

- European Development Days (EDD) 2016, Brussels, **June 2016**
- Workshop on Institutional Strengthening in the QI sector, Comoros, **February 2016**

Additional information can be requested at:

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