

MAIN – Market Access Information Network: A Model for the Development of the Private/Public Safety Control System for the Horticultural Sector in Guinea

Pineapple Cayenne –Burquiah Cooperative:
A pilot farm involved in the Guinea project



Country focus: Guinea

Banana plantation - Fabrik ferme Intégrée:
A pilot farm involved in the Guinea project



Market Access Information Network (MAIN) is dedicated to promote information sharing on concrete successful experiences related to key agricultural commodities of interest to developing countries.

Issues at stake addressed by the *MAIN* include (i) improving government's capacities to formulate effective and sequenced policies in this area; (ii) increasing the competence of exporters' and producers' associations in adapting their business strategies to the new international trading system; and (iii) enhancing the capacity of developing country small farmers to comply with emerging trade issues such as sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures and retailer's agri-food safety standards. Measures focusing on these areas are important and need to be strengthened, as many of the world's poorest countries have not yet been able to take advantage of global trading opportunities, and hence reap the growth-inducing and poverty-reducing benefits of trade.

One of the reasons for this is their inability to meet quality requirements of global supply chains or to build the legal and physical infrastructures conducive to international business development.

Consequently, strategies are needed to help developing country farmers meet the growing exigencies of markets in order to raise their incomes and move out of poverty. These strategies must ensure that small farmers can interact more effectively with global food supply chains (supermarket chains) and sell their products. The proposed model aims to raise the incomes for Guinean small farmers through compliance with international market requirements. To enable them to meet internationally recognised standards, UNCTAD, in 2005, completed a project on "*Agri-food safety and SPS compliance*" in the horticultural sector in Guinea, but also in other least developed countries (Ghana, Pacific Island Countries, Mozambique and Tanzania). The current follow-up project "**A Model for the Development of a Public/Private Safety Control System for the Horticultural Sector in Guinea**" financed by the **Standards Trade Development Facility (STDF)** was designed to assist producers' associations and export associations in Guinea to comply with SPS requirements and retailer's agri-food safety standards. It will enable national authorities to choose the most suitable options for their food control systems and strategies to protect public health, prevent fraud, avoid food adulteration and facilitate trade. This project was launched in November 2005 and will end in December 2007.

Accomplishments

- Establishment of a National Project Management Unit – with representatives of small farmers – responsible for overseeing the daily management of the project at national level, in close cooperation with UNCTAD and the Ministry of Trade and Industry.
- Developed teaching materials for training modules focused on quality management systems and ways to meet the growing exigencies of markets;
- Organized four training national workshops in 2006.

UNCTAD - DITC / Commodities Branch

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Conditioning chain of mangoes, Kindia region

Conditioning of pineapple in plantation
Cooperatives Burquiah, selected pilot project



Ongoing activities and expected outputs

- Train a safety assurance task force for the horticultural sector, which assist Guinean small producers and other SMEs to implement safety control systems;
- Review the national legislation on food quality issues in Guinea, and establish a Public Inspection Force for the horticultural sector, which will control quality aspects and labelling issues;
- Develop and implement Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and other safety assurance systems (such as HACCP, ISO 9000, ISO 22000 and other commercial standards) in three selected pilot farms seeking certification;
- Build a national certification capacity through the establishment of a collaborative framework between an internationally accredited certification body and national public/private auditors;
- Strengthen the capacity of laboratories in charge of delivering phytosanitary certificates to horticultural producers and/or exporters;
- Set up a website for the dissemination of project results and teaching materials, and the links with other portals in this area.

Impact and Results

- Improvement of market access: The project's activities will contribute to opening up new market opportunities through compliance with SPS requirements and retailer's agri-food standards.
- Improvement of Guinea's capacity to meet SPS requirements both at public and private levels.
- Empower poverty reduction strategies: The project increases the potential for market participation for more than 1500 small farmers selected from the three pilot farms.