



联合国
粮食及
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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Fifteenth Session

Virtual Meeting, 16, 18 March and 1 April 2021

**Written reports from international organizations - COLEACP SPS
activities**

Agenda item 15.2

Prepared by the COLEACP

English only



COLEACP SPS ACTIVITIES

COLEACP is an interprofessional network promoting inclusive, sustainable trade in fruit & vegetables and food products, focusing on the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific countries' trade with one another and with the European Union. As a multi-programme management and implementation organisation, COLEACP currently operates the following programmes, all with a focus on support for SPS capacity-building.

Programmes financed by the EU at the request of the ACP Group of States, with funding from the 11th European Development Fund

- Fit For Market (co-financed by the French Development Agency; 2016–20)
Strengthening the competitiveness and sustainability of the ACP horticultural sector (primarily private sector)
- Fit For Market SPS (2019–22)
Strengthening the sanitary and phytosanitary systems of the ACP horticultural sector (primarily public sector)

Programmes financed by EU Delegation in Kenya (2021–24)

- Kenya
NEXt Kenya (New Export Trade) programme for enhancing horticultural exports

Programmes financed by other development partners

- Cameroon (STDF) (2019–21)
Improving the SPS quality of Penja pepper to facilitate access to international markets
- Guinea (STDF) (2019–21)
Strengthening the phytosanitary monitoring and certification system in Guinea
- Togo (STDF) (2018–20)
Strengthening the phytosanitary monitoring and certification system for Togo's fruit and vegetable sector
- Guinea (UNIDO) (2020–22)
COLEACP actively collaborates in the West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP), Guinea Component: «Revival of the pineapple sector through support for production, local processing and export» (REFILA)
- Guinea-Bissau (UNIDO) (2021–22; under development)
COLEACP actively collaborates in the West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP) – Guinea-Bissau Component: «Improving the competitiveness of the mango sector in Guinea-Bissau - Production, local processing and export support»
- Benin (ENABEL) (2020–21)
COLEACP was recently selected as a service provider by the Belgian Development Agency (ENABEL) to provide support and quality assurance services for the implementation of a blockchain technology-based traceability solution in the pineapple sector, building on the experience of a pilot carried out on a similar solution for the mango sector in Côte d'Ivoire (through the FFM programme)





Over the past 20 years, COLEACP has delivered technical assistance in over 50 ACP countries. It has developed and trained a network of some 1000 local ACP (mainly SPS) experts, and has created an established and proven system for delivering training, technical support and institutional strengthening in both public and private sectors. In addition to core programme activities, COLEACP is regularly approached by both public and private ACP and EU stakeholders for assistance to address food safety and plant health crises in ACP countries, in particular where SPS non-compliances have resulted in special measures and the risk of disrupted trade.

Despite - and also in response to the COVID pandemic - COLEACP has remained focused on its activities throughout 2020, serving its partners, remaining agile and adapting to the changing environment in Europe, ACP countries and the rest of the world. This has been achieved by accelerating our digital activities and through increased regional anchoring. COLEACP has strengthened its programme activities to help mitigate the negative effects of COVID-19 on the agricultural and food economy of ACP countries. A dedicated COVID Action Plan was established and implemented, articulated around 5 main Work Streams, and delivered through digital learning and distance technical assistance.

Core programme activities

At the core of all COLEACP programmes is sustainable intensification – increasing production while minimising negative impacts on climate, ecosystems and the productive environment. Activities also address the social and economic dimensions of sustainability, including livelihoods, economic viability, social justice and inclusiveness.

For the past 5 years, **Fit For Market** has been the main all-ACP programme managed by COLEACP. Its specific objective is to enable smallholders, farmer groups and organisations, and MSMEs to access international and domestic horticultural markets by complying with SPS issues and market requirements, in a sustainable framework. **Fit For Market** facilitates growth while increasing the resilience, inclusiveness and sustainability of ACP horticultural value chains. The programme also focuses on the transfer of advances made in the export sector in terms of production, food safety, plant health and sustainability, to also benefit local and regional markets and consumers. As an experienced private sector player, COLEACP is well placed to support the ACP horticultural industry by partnering with local and global companies to help deliver on development goals and stimulate investment.

While **Fit For Market** focuses on the private sector, the new **Fit For Market SPS** programme supports ACP competent authorities, in particular National Plant Protection Organisations (NPPOs) and inspection services, to enhance their capacity to manage and enforce SPS standards. In its first year, **Fit For Market SPS** has received 57 applications for technical assistance from Competent Authorities in 28 countries, resulting in 26 Memoranda of Understanding. Programme support focuses in particular on NPPOs, SPS official controls, and regulatory authorities for plant protection products. Activities include help to NPPOs to adapt to the new EU plant health rules, covering training in Pest Risk Analysis, dossier preparation, and new requirements concerning export documentation and phytosanitary certificates. With the Gambia and Ghana NPPOs, COLEACP is exploring the possibility of establishing pest-free country status for citrus greening.

Supporting SPS Compliance

COLEACP monitors the evolution of SPS regulations and their implementation guidelines in order to identify decisions and trends that could have an impact on horticultural value chains in ACP countries. In particular the changes brought about by the new EU Plant Health Law (EU 2016/2031), which came into force in December 2019, and the establishment of uniform conditions for its deployment under the implementing regulation (EU) 2019/2072 of 28 November 2019.

Some new EU rules have required urgent action by competent authorities in order to maintain ACP-EU trade in the commodities concerned. It has also been important to address underlying structural reform to meet additional demands on ACP authorities in terms of skills, policy and

regulatory frameworks, as well as operational resources. COLEACP has provided information and raised awareness among public sector authorities, and has signed Memoranda of Understanding, with detailed action plans and budgets, tailored to the particular needs in each country. Specific activities include:

- Support to form national stakeholder platforms for the development and implementation of national action plans, and submission of dossiers to the EU, in the context of EU high risk commodities, priority pests, and emergency measures
- Supporting NPPOs to compile and submit dossiers (including mango, capsicum)
- Capacity building to support implementation of national action plans outlined in the dossiers, including training and coaching of support services, technical agents, and inspection services
- Capacity building of other target groups including extension services and laboratories

Based on regular contact with the public and private sectors, COLEACP designed tools, documents, technologies and trainings they need to enhance their capacity to manage and enforce SPS standards. The communication with NPPOs is strengthened by the organization of regular E-meetings on thematic related to plant health. Examples of tools developed are the COLEACP's E-GAP which is a database providing stakeholders with information on GAP to ensure compliance with the MRLs set by the EU and also interactive dashboards compiling all SPS notifications from ACP countries. Good practice guides, SPS rapid assessment tool and new educational content in plant health are also currently in development.

Joint activities with the IPPC Secretariat

COLEACP and IPPC are supporting the Sierra Leone NPPO to carry out a full Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE). The PCE comprises 13 modules to be completed jointly with all relevant stakeholders. A stakeholder workshop to launch the PCE was held in Freetown in November 2019, hosted by FAO, and facilitated and supervised by an IPPC PCE expert. A second ACP plant health expert was attached as a trainee in order to qualify as a new PCE facilitator (PCE experts trained by IPPC must conduct one on-site PCE to become qualified as PCE facilitator). To date, four modules have been completed in Sierra Leone: (1) country profile; (3) environmental forces assessment; (4) NPPO's mission and strategy; and (13) export certification, re-export and transit. The National PCE Team is currently working on modules (5) NPPO's structure and processes; (6) NPPO resources; and (10) import regulation. The next step will be a second stakeholder workshop with a PCE facilitator and a phytosanitary legislation expert, which will validate the completed modules and develop the logical framework. Initially planned for March 2020, the workshop has been postponed to a later date, hopefully in 2021.

COLEACP has translated eight IPPC guides into French to make them more globally accessible, particularly for the francophone countries in West Africa. French versions of the following guides are currently in press but can be made available in pdf format for training purposes. The topics covered are:

- Establishing a National Plant Protection Organization – Création d'une Organisation Nationale pour la Protection des Végétaux
- Operation of a National Plant Protection Organization – Fonctionnement d'une Organisation Nationale pour la Protection des Végétaux
- Import verification – Vérification des importations
- Export certification – Certification à l'exportation
- Pest risk communication – Communication sur le risque phytosanitaire
- Managing relationships with stakeholders – Gestion des relations avec les parties prenantes
- Delivering phytosanitary diagnostic services – Prestation de services de diagnostic phytosanitaire
- Plant pest surveillance – Surveillance des organismes nuisibles

COLEACP is a member of 2 working groups coordinated by the IPPC for the development of e-learning courses on PRA (Pest Risk analysis) and Export Certification. COLEACP is also collaborating closely with IPPC CABI in the development of new digital learning courses on PRA.

As in previous years, COLEACP remains ready to support a number of ACP countries to attend the CMP, when mitigation measures against the COVID-19 pandemic allow.

COLEACP's vision is that ongoing changes in the global agri-food model will require continuous capacity building and training for current and future generations of producers, entrepreneurs, consultants, technicians and all economic actors in the agricultural and food system. This is especially the case in ACP countries and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, which is well positioned to become the driving force behind a new, sustainable model of agriculture.

Growing people means moving forward and growing sustainably by giving companies and people the means to flourish while respecting the environment and the humanity of each individual.

It means continuously capitalising on and disseminating COLEACP's knowledge, know-how and specialised expertise, acquired over the years in all areas of the fruit and vegetable sector, to contribute to a profound transformation of agriculture that meets the needs of food security, ecosystem conservation and economic growth.

Growing people calls for members to achieve sustainable development objectives through building human capacity and value sharing in agri-food production and marketing chains at national, regional and global levels.