



## COLEAD SPS ACTIVITIES

On the first of January 2022 COLEACP changed its name to COLEAD, the Committee Linking Entrepreneurship-Agriculture-Development. COLEAD is a network of companies, professional organisations and experts committed to inclusive and sustainable agriculture.

We design, manage and implement development programmes. Providing online and on-the-ground technical assistance, professional training and support services that cover regulatory monitoring, market intelligence, networks and alliances, research and innovation brokerage and access to finance. COLEAD is therefore a useful resource for those who are committed to more sustainable agriculture, particularly in developing countries. These programmes and their activities are funded by donors including the European Union, the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), the French Development Agency (AFD), ENABEL, the World Trade Organisation (through the Standards and Trade Development Facility - STDF) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Most of the COLEAD programmes include a focus on support for SPS capacity building.

### Programmes financed by the EU at the request of the OACPS, with funding from the 11th European Development Fund

- **Fit For Market SPS (2019–23)**

Strengthening the sanitary and phytosanitary systems of the ACP horticultural sector (primarily public sector)

- **FFM Plus (+) (2022-2025)**

Mitigating the impacts of the COVID–19 pandemic by strengthening the sustainability of the ACP horticultural sector. This new Programme will incorporate the lessons–learned from COLEAD’s COVID–19 action plan (implemented from March 2020) and leverage the outputs and support provided through the FFM and FFM SPS programmes.

### Programmes financed by EU

- **AGRINFO - Towards a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system:** addressing compliance with EU regulatory and non-regulatory measures. This programme focuses on identifying and monitoring EU policies, regulatory and non-regulatory measures, standards and market trends that have a potential impact on the competitiveness, market access



and trade dynamics of agricultural value chains linked to the EU market. The aim is to ensure that EU policies and measures, as they evolve under the EU Green Deal and Farm to Fork strategy, are leveraged to provide benefit to developing and emerging economies, while avoiding any unforeseen negative consequences for agricultural production or export to the EU market, or the externalisation of social and environmental harm as EU Member States apply stricter internal practices and controls. 143 EU partner countries are concerned.

#### **DeSIRA–LIFT (in consortium):**

- Leveraging the DeSIRA initiative for agri–food systems transformation. COLEAD has been identified as leader of the Work Package 2 – Actions in support of CAADP ex–pillar 4 organisations (FARA, AFAAS, ASARECA, CORAF, CCARDESA, GFAR). This work package identifies and implements support for the ex– pillar 4 organisations, in close consultation with these organisations.

#### **Programme financed by EU Delegation in Kenya (2021–24)**

- **NExT Kenya (New Export Trade)** programme for enhancing horticultural exports. It aims to increase the sector’s contribution to the household incomes.

#### **STDF Togo : Strengthening the phytosanitary control and certification system for the fruit and vegetable sector in Togo.**

- In year 4 (launched in September 2018), last activities were implemented and the programme was officially closed in October 2022. Final results from the technical evaluation are foreseen before the end of the year.

#### **STDF Cameroon : Improvement of the sanitary and phytosanitary quality of Penja pepper in Cameroon to facilitate access to international markets.**

- The programme was closed in October 2022. Positive outcome from the technical evaluation which was organised over the summer period.

#### **STDF Guinea : Strengthening the phytosanitary control and certification system in Guinea.**

- In year 3 (launched in October 2019). This has been extended to October 2023 to address activities on mango surveillance which can be reallocated through SyRIMAO (a regional programme funded by the EU and AFD).

#### **ENABEL (DEFIA) : Support the transition to increased agro-ecological practices in the pineapple sector in Benin.**

- Officially launched beginning of 2022 with an expected programme duration of 18 months. A Team in Cotonou has been established and activities are ongoing.

#### **UNIDO Guinea :**

- Project to support the revival of the pineapple sector. Closure is foreseen by end of Q1/Q2 2023.

#### **UNIDO Guinea Bissau :**

- Improving the competitiveness of the Guinea Bissau mango sector: production, local processing and export support. An extension has been requested to the end of Q2 2023.

**UNIDO Senegal :**

- Inclusive and sustainable industrial development for job creation in Ethiopia and Senegal (COLEAD inputs focus on the mango value chain in Senegal). The Programme was finalised in June 2022.

**Value chain analysis for development, VCA4D :**

- Provision of ad-hoc services on value chain analyses in fruit and vegetable value chains that fall within the remit of COLEAD activities.

**OECD : Design and implementation of an e-learning course based on the publication « OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme's Recommendations On Conformity Checks Of Fresh Fruits And Vegetables ».**

- The aim of this document is to define an appropriate control method to assess the conformity of produce (fresh, fruit and vegetables) against marketing standards. Targeted audience: inspectors, later extending to other stakeholders.

Over the past 20 years, COLEAD 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 to both public and private sectors. In addition to core programme activities, COLEAD is regularly approached by both public and private ACP and EU stakeholders for assistance to address food safety and plant health challenges in ACP countries, in particular where SPS non-compliances have resulted in special measures and the risk of disrupted trade.

The main focus in 2022, in the post-COVID-19 context, was to start two new major programmes (FFM+ and AGRINFO) while continuing to implement the ongoing activities (FFM SPS, NEXt Kenya, STDF projects, etc.), and finalising the administrative and financial closure of the FFM programme.

**Core programme activities**

At the core of all COLEAD 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.

**Fit For Market** was completed in 2022. Its specific objective was 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. The programme also focused 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, COLEAD 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. Many of these activities will be taken forward under the **Fit for Market Plus Programme**.

While Fit For Market focused on the private sector, the **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. The Programme targets, in particular, NPPOs, SPS official controls, and plant protection product regulatory authorities. Activities include support 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, COLEAD is exploring the possibility of establishing pest-free country status for citrus greening.

By end 2021, FFM SPS had received 466 requests for support for technical assistance. .

### **Supporting SPS Compliance**

COLEAD 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. COLEAD 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 required under Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 (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, COLEAD designed tools, documents, technologies and training 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 themes related to plant health. Examples of tools developed are interactive dashboards compiling all SPS notifications from ACP countries, Sector Good Practice Guides, an SPS rapid assessment tool, and new educational content on plant health.

## Joint activities with the IPPC Secretariat

On 19th November 2021, an MoU was signed between COLEAD and the IPPC Secretariat during a virtual ceremony. The new partnership has strengthened collaborative actions in plant health in order to minimize the impacts of plant pests, and to facilitate safe trade, development, and economic growth.

COLEAD representatives have been selected as members of 3 working groups coordinated by the IPPC Secretariat. These include the IPPC Working Group to develop e-learning materials on Surveillance and Reporting Obligations, IPPC Working Group to develop e-learning materials on Inspection, and the Capacity Development Committee (IC) Team on *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* Tropical Race 4 (TR4). These groups addressed the development of training and guidance documents covering inspection, pest surveillance and Banana Fusarium Wilt (TR4) in collaboration with the FAO elearning Academy.

During 2021 and 2022 COLEAD made considerable advances in the development of e-learning courses on PRA (Pest Risk Analysis) and Export Certification. Those new e-Learning courses were developed in the frame of the “FAO support to COMESA trade facilitation programme” and support the implementation of the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM)..

COLEAD 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 import regulation.

The next step should 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 due to the pandemic situation. Contacts are ongoing to run a physical workshop as soon as the situation permits, hopefully in 2023.

COLEAD has translated nine 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:

- Pest Status Guide (new)
- 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

As in previous years, COLEAD remains ready to support partner countries to attend the CMP.

COLEAD's vision is "Growing People". Because we believe that the inevitable changes in the global agri-food model necessitate new generations of players. This is particularly the case in sub-Saharan Africa. Where the opportunities are as great as the challenges. And where sustainable agriculture is a driving force for a sustainable future.

COLEAD's mission is to facilitate and implement all actions that directly and/or indirectly increase the contribution of the agricultural sector - and horticultural sectors in particular - to reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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**COLEAD**

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