



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
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Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO



Ministry of Trade and Industry
Republic of Ghana



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



GLOBAL QUALITY
AND STANDARDS PROGRAMME

Strengthening the quality of cashew, oil palm and cocoa exports from Ghana





Ghana's cocoa, oil palm and cashew

Ghana as a commodity-based economy depends on natural resources and agriculture as a major source of input for manufacturing, export and trade. The economy relies on cocoa as a major export commodity providing a livelihood for over 800,000 farm families. Other commodities like cashew and oil palm with great growth and export potential

have featured on the government's trade industrialization agenda as it is committed to diversifying agriculture to export other cash crops. Oil palm as one of the priority tree crops in the country is undergoing significant growth and raw cashew has also become one of the most important agricultural exportable crops and Ghana's leading agricultural

Non-Traditional Export (NTE). With the right quality infrastructure and compliance capacity measures, Cocoa, Oil palm and cashew can highly contribute to Ghana's value-added economic development, industrial growth, support employment creation and shared prosperity.



The opportunities and challenges

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), supported Ghana from 2007 to 2018 through the Trade Capacity Building (TCB) Programme to improve both technical and human capacity in the conformity assessment institutions and SME integration into world markets.

The Government of Ghana aims to double the GDP per capita by 2024. Its "Coordinated Programme of Economic and Social Development Policies (2017-2024)" targets achieving average annual economic growth rates of at least 7.2 per cent between 2017 and 2024, with a particular focus on reviving and strengthening

manufacturing, solving the energy crisis, and aggressively promoting exports, especially high value manufactures.

However, there is a higher demand for countries to demonstrate compliance with standards and market requirements. SMEs from Ghana must conform to accepted rules of international trade to access regional and global markets. The Global Quality and Standards Programme (GQSP) will build on the results of the TCB programme and continue to strengthen the development of quality and standards in Ghana by focusing on three selected value chains, namely: cashew, oil-palm and cocoa.



Objective

Strengthen the quality and standards compliance capacity to facilitate market access for Small and Medium Size Enterprises (SMEs) in the cashew, oil palm and cocoa value chains.

Approach

The value chain for cashew, oil palm and cocoa will comprise all processes from cultivation, harvesting and agro-processing to consumers following relevant food safety quality systems, quality management systems and market standards.



SMEs in the selected value chains will be assisted to meet the quality and standards required to access international markets.

This project will work with: 1) the quality infrastructure institutions and service providers serving the cashew, oil palm and cocoa VCs in order to prove and verify compliance to market requirements and 2) SMEs in the selected VCs to use available

quality services and produce goods and services that comply with market requirements, compete on an international level and connect to global value chains. At the same time, the project will work with both institutions and SMEs to embed the need for quality an all levels to ensure sustainability of the quality system and improve competitiveness.

Expected results

National Quality Infrastructure System and Conformity Assessment services enhanced.

Key QI institutions strenghtened to ensure quality and international recognition of their services.

- GSA Metrology Division assited to ensure traceability of measurements and measuring capabilities.
- Laboratories supported towards upgrade to ISO/IEC 17025:2017
- GSA and COCOBOD supported to upgrade inspection schemes (ISO/IEC 17020) - oil palm and cashew, GSA scope for product certification (cashew).

SMEs compliance to international standards and technical regulations enhanced.

Technical assistance provided to SMEs to achieve product certification and implementation of quality and food safety management system.

- SMEs supported to implement relevant quality (ISO/IEC 9001) and food safety (ISO 22000, HACCP, IFS) management systems.
- Pilot application of block chain technology implemented to improve traceability in the cocoa VC.

Awareness for quality is enhanced.

SMEs , relevant associations and government institutions and officials supported to understand and embrace the need for quality to improve productivity.

- Associations and organisations strenghtened through awareness and training programmes to promote culture for quality (oil palm and cashew industry).
- Creation and mandate of the Tree and Industry Crop Authority (TICDA) supported for the promotion of culture of quality.
- The QI Map is created to serve as a directory of labs, standards, inspection sites and institutions serving the VCs.



At a glance

The partners

Donor

State Secretariat
for Economic Affairs
(SECO)

Implementing Agency

United Nations
Industrial
Development
Organization (UNIDO)

Government Coordinating agency

Ministry of Trade and
Industry (MOTI)

Counterpart

Ministry of Trade and
Industry (MOTI)

Ghana Standards
Authority (GSA)

Ghana Export
Promotion Authority
(GEPA)

Association of Ghana
Industries (AGI)

The Beneficiaries

SMEs

Ghana Cocoa Board
(COCOBOD)

Stakeholders of the
Cashew, Oil Palm and
Cocoa value chains in
Ghana (i.e. producers,
farmer-based
organizations (FBOs),
enterprises, etc.)

Ghana Export
Promotion Authority
(GEPA)

National Board of
Small Scale Industries
(NBSS)

Relevant Quality
Infrastructure (QI)
institutions such as
testing laboratories,
certification bodies,
etc.

Ghana Standards
Authority (GSA)

Project budget

1,316,020.35 EUR

Duration

40 months

The Global Quality and Standards Programme (GQSP)

An innovative programmatic approach was developed by SECO and UNIDO to address the quality and standards compliance capacity challenges in partner countries to facilitate market access for SMEs by working in emblematic value chains per country.

The GQSP consists of two distinctive components:

1. Tools, methodologies and guidelines to tackle quality and standards related challenges at a national, regional and global level.
2. Country projects to address country-specific standards and quality compliance issues by implementing tailor-made interventions.

The interaction between the two components will facilitate synergies, enhance coherence among the interventions

and lead to increased effectiveness and efficiency.

In Ghana, the project will strengthen the capacity of SMEs to comply with market requirements along the cashew, oil palm and cocoa value chains. At the same time, relevant standards will be developed and quality infrastructure service providers will be supported to provide internationally recognized services.



Ministry of Trade and Industry
Republic of Ghana



About MOTI

The Ministry of Trade & Industry is the supporting government agency of this programme and the lead policy advisor to the government on trade, industrial and private sector development with

responsibility for the formulation and implementation of policies for the promotion, growth and development of domestic, international trade, and industry.



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About State Secretariat for Economic Affairs

SECO's Economic Cooperation and Development division is responsible for the planning and implementation of economic cooperation and development activities with middle income developing countries, countries of Eastern Europe as well as new Member State of EU. It is part of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER). It aims to contribute to sustained economic growth, high employment and fair working

conditions, by creating regulatory, economic and foreign policy framework. Based on its core competencies, SECO optimises existing resources and focuses on five priority themes: Strengthening of economic and financial policy; Improvement of urban infrastructure and utilities; Support to the private sector and entrepreneurship; Promotion of sustainable trade; Fostering of climate-friendly growth.



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About UNIDO

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is determined to carve its niche in contributing to Agenda 2030 and the SDGs by promoting and accelerating Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) to achieve shared prosperity and environmental sustainability around the world.

UNIDO is a key player in the fight to end poverty - while its activities contribute to numerous goals relating to people, prosperity, planet, peace and partnerships, its mandate is rooted in Sustainable Development Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.





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