



“Building women’s capacities in the field of agriproducts transformation is the most effective way to contribute to inclusive growth and to create jobs.”

Biendi Maganga Moussavou, Minister, Ministry of Agriculture of Gabon

UNIDO and Japan to strengthen food security and quality in Gabon

The Government of Japan and UNIDO, in partnership with the Gabonese Ministry of Trade and SMEs and Small and Medium sized Industries, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Industry and National Entrepreneurship have jointly launched in May 2019 the: “Strengthening food security and quality to improve livelihoods in Gabon”, SEQUA Gabon project. This intervention is part of nine new projects implemented around the world by UNIDO with Japanese funding, totaling US\$ 5.8 million.

UNIDO’S APPROACH

The project will provide direct technical assistance to inspection and market surveillance institutions and to small scale food producers to comply with international standards and technical regulations. Furthermore, it aims to promote awareness to consumers on the importance of quality and to support national institutions in better integrating in regional quality initiatives. The project builds on the results achieved through the Quality Infrastructure for Central Africa Programme (PIQAC), where after the organized workshops, a network of women producers was established. Through this new project, women producers and processors of agricultural products will be trained on quality awareness, good hygienic practices and design and management of health risk plans.

IMPACT

The overall expected impacts of the project are an improved framework conditions for SMEs, increased food security and access for consumers to quality products. The intervention will therefore be at three levels:

- (i) Consumers’ awareness raising campaigns and public training sessions for the food distribution network to help control risks related to handling, distribution and preservation of food products.
- (ii) Support to women processors by conducting pre-diagnosis of their SMEs to identify their specific issues and develop an action plan for health risk control. Furthermore, women processors will be trained on quality awareness, good hygienic practices and design and management of health risk plans. Such support will allow these SMEs to comply with consumers’ expectations, international standards and technical regulations.

- (iii) To provide SMEs with the required services, the project will enhance Quality Infrastructure by strengthening national market surveillance and inspection institutions, training various Quality Infrastructure stakeholders, including regulatory authorities on the Regional Quality Policy, and promoting the Regional Quality Award developed under the UNIDO PIQAC Programme.

WAY FORWARD

Quality Infrastructure plays a vital role in the socio-economic development of Gabon. Many improvements have been achieved through UNIDO projects and thanks to the Japanese government, UNIDO will further strengthen Gabon’s economic competitiveness, boost access to international markets and improve livelihoods. This project contributes to the achievement of the National Strategic Plan “Gabon Emergent” and the “Ten-year plan for empowerment of women (2015-2025)”.

AT A GLANCE

Project title	Strengthening food security and quality to improve livelihoods in Gabon
Thematic area	Advancing Economic Competitiveness
Donor	Government of Japan
Project counterpart	Ministry of Industry and National Entrepreneurship Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of SMEs and Small and Medium Sized Industry of Gabon
Budget	US\$ 419,682
Duration	12 months (April 2019 – April 2020)