Focus on the WACOMP projects implemented by UNIDO
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The West Africa Competitiveness Programme aims to support a number of selected value chains at the national and regional levels to promote structural transformation and better access to regional and international markets while taking into account social and environmental concerns. The WACOMP consists of one regional component and sixteen national components (15 ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania).
Foreword

Dear Readers,

There is no longer any doubt that industrialization and the promotion of the business environment are an essential factor in economic growth and sustainable development in the ECOWAS Region. They enable the creation of productive jobs, income generation and the facilitation of social integration.

Certainly, inclusive and sustainable industrialization is an important part of the way forward for the ECOWAS region, as a key element in advancing economic diversification and structural transformation to achieve the ECOWAS 2050 vision. More than ever, inclusive and sustainable pathways to industrial development require systematic approaches as well as innovative, collaborative, transformational and flexible solutions.

In light of the need for quality standards in West African countries to compete on the international market, UNIDO’s interventions through major technical cooperation programmes, such as the West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP), have been systematically supporting the overall business environment in these countries and regions through improved quality infrastructure, with a particular focus on selected value chains.

The path, covered together with the ECOWAS Commission and UNIDO at regional level and the country at national level is covered by convincing results and full of promise for the future and all these advances realized within the framework of Competitiveness and Quality Programmes are significant and must be sustained for the benefit of the region.

UNIDO has been entrusted as implementing partner of the WACOMP for several project components, of which one at the regional level, the West Africa Competitiveness and Quality Infrastructure Project (WACQIP) in co-operation with the International Trade Centre (ITC), and seven components in Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Senegal and Cabo Verde.

A closer look at this edition of the newsletter will manifest that WACOMP has been visible in getting development closer to the people the programme serves.

For example, in March this year, 31 draft ECOWAS Standards (ECOSTANDS) related to three regional value chains - Mango, Cassava, and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) - were validated by the Ministers of Industry of ECOWAS Member States. The standards have been adopted by the ECOWAS Parliament, now waiting for final validation by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers. Once adopted by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers, the West Africa region will have 31 harmonized ECOSTANDS which, through their application, will be of great support in the promotion of the ECOWAS Regional Conformity Mark (ECOQMARK) and ensure an increase of consumer protection in the region.

Furthermore, WACOMP has created markets for entrepreneurs in the regions to take advantage of the AfCFTA. In Guinea Bissau, for example, six women agro-processors participated in Cabo Verde International Fair.

WACOMP continues to strengthen the quality infrastructure of the region. For example, in Ghana, Guinea and The Gambia, the programme held capacity building sessions to improve the work of technicians and entrepreneurs in the public and private sectors.

It is my pleasure to share with you some milestones achieved. Hear from WACOMP’s stakeholders and particularly the project beneficiaries who continue to embrace and take greater ownership of the Programme.

Happy Reading!

H.E. Massandjé TOURE-LITSE
Commissioner for Economic Affairs and Agriculture
ECOWAS Commission
Public inquiry on the draft technical regulations on Mango, Cassava & derivatives, Textiles & garments and ICT

In view of the adoption of the fourteen (14) draft technical regulations concerning the value chains: Mango, Cassava & derivatives, Textiles & garments, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), the said drafts are submitted to the public enquiry (Consultation).

The process of elaboration and adoption of these draft technical regulations follows the principles and rules of Regulation C/REG.10/6/21 on harmonization procedures, adoption and revision of ECOWAS technical regulations (ECOTHIRAM) and the principles of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreements on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS).

Interested parties were invited to send comments or observations on the draft technical regulations listed below that were made available to them.

- Draft technical regulations on Mango;
- Draft technical regulations on Cassava & derivatives;
- Draft technical regulations on Textiles & garments;
- Draft technical regulations on ICT.

Validation of 31 ECOWAS Standards: An important step towards strengthening competitiveness of West African products and services

On 30 March, 31 draft ECOWAS Standards (ECOSTANDs) related to three regional value chains - Mango, Cassava, and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) - were validated by the Ministers of Industry of ECOWAS Member States.

Once adopted by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers, the West Africa region will have 31 harmonized ECOSTANDs which, through their application, will be of great support in the promotion of the ECOWAS Regional Conformity Mark (ECOQMARK) and ensure an increase of consumer protection in the region.

To achieve this result, the UNIDO-implemented regional component of the West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP), the West Africa Competitiveness and Quality Infrastructure Project (WACQIP) organized, from 21 to 24 March 2023, together with the ECOWAS Commission, the 18th meeting of the Technical Management Committee (TMC) of the ECOWAS Standards Harmonization Mechanism (ECOSHAM), held in Banjul, Republic of The Gambia, to validate the draft standards and recommend them for endorsement by the Ministries in charge of Industry of the ECOWAS Member States. Subsequently, on
27 March 2023, the 31 standards were validated by experts from the sectoral ministries of ECOWAS Member States, who are responsible for quality in their respective countries. Consequently, the Ministers met on 30 March 2023, in The Gambia, and validated all submitted draft standards.

The development of a Regional Quality Infrastructure and regional standards is an enabler for sustainable development and sustainability, encompassing economic, social and environmental aspects and an essential element of a conducive business environment, as it will ultimately make quality control and certification affordable for any company willing to sell quality and safe products in the region. This will improve overall competitiveness in West Africa. The past results achieved with the support of UNIDO through the EU-funded West Africa Quality Programmes (WAQP) and the current result achieved through the validation of these 31 ECOWAS standards, prove that quality is making its way into the minds and attitudes of practitioners and politicians alike.

The WACOMP is funded by the European Union, and this programmatic initiative between the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, and the European Union with the support of the West African Economic and Monetary Union Commission (UEMOA) includes 01 regional component and 16 country components. With a portfolio of 29 million Euro, UNIDO is one of the main implementing agencies of the Programme.

In 2017, as part of the process of harmonization of statistics, through the EU-funded West Africa Quality System Programme (WAQSP) implemented by UNIDO, in collaboration with Member States, ECOWAS had developed regional quality and industrial database named “ECOQUIB”.

In 2022, in the framework of the regional component of the EU-funded West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP) also implemented by UNIDO, the ECOQUIB platform has been updated including new features and new data on 04 selected regional value chains as well as other domains. Its purpose is to collect and make available various information related to quality and industry within the Member States. Its establishment thus enables policy makers, researchers, investors, students, journalists, etc. to have a reliable source of data on quality and industry within ECOWAS.

On 15th February 2023, UNIDO handed over the database to ECOWAS that officially launched it as its first regional quality and industry database. Its implementation mobilised statisticians, computer scientists, quality experts and 30 focal points who collected data at the national level over 2 campaigns: 2019 and 2022. Today, this database ECOQUIB is ready for use by economic actors in the region and other interested parties. The event was held in the presence of stakeholders such as UNIDO, European Union, ECOWAS through a ceremony in hybrid format: face-to-face and online, under the chairmanship of the ECOWAS Commissioner in charge of Economic Affairs and Agriculture, H.E. Massandjé Toure-Litse.
In 2017, through the Regulation C/REG.17/12/13 adopted in 2013, the ECOWAS Commission set up the ECOWAS Quality Award, with the aim to reward the best organizations in the region for their efforts to improve the quality of products and services.

For the second edition, 24 companies from 13 ECOWAS Member States applied for 1 Excellence and 4 special Awards.

With funding from the European Union and on behalf of ECOWAS, UNIDO mobilised a pool of 18 auditors (15 national and 03 regional) to evaluate them.

The Excellence Award was won by Nestlé Ghana (big company), Cabinet Audit Expertise Comptable - AEC, Togo (medium company) and Ecole supérieure des affaires – ESA, Togo (small company).

The 04 Special Awards went to the following small, medium and large companies respectively:

- **LEADERSHIP**
  - Laboratoire du Centre Médical Sans Frontières (Côte d’Ivoire)
  - Tropical Cable and Conductor (Ghana)
  - Niger Dock (Nigeria)

- **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**
  - Best Experts Conseils (Benin)
  - Inno Faso (Burkina Faso)
  - Société de transformation alimentaire (Niger)

- **PRODUCT MANAGEMENT**
  - Medicines Control Agency (The Gambia)
  - Zaika Foods (Nigeria)
  - SOCOCIM (Senegal)

- **ORIENTATION OF INTERESTED PARTIES**
  - Sonia (Niger)
  - PROSLAB (Mali)
  - Coris Bank (Burkina Faso)

Honorary Awards were granted to personalities or institutions that have contributed to the development and promotion of quality in the ECOWAS region through their actions: Amb. Kalilou Traoré, Dr. Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento, the European Union, UEMOA Commission and the Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON).

The event held at ECOWAS Commission, in Abuja, Nigeria, on 15th February 2023, in the presence of stakeholders such as UNIDO, European Union, ECOWAS through a ceremony in hybrid format: face-to-face and online, under the chairmanship of the ECOWAS Commissioner in charge of Economic Affairs and Agriculture, H.E. Massandjé Toure-LITSE.
Industrial development in West Africa: Women’s economic empowerment to reduce poverty

UNIDO hosted a gender mainstreaming awareness session, and the WACOMP-Ghana interventions and achievements towards gender empowerment were presented.

The event organized both in English and French, on 28th and 29th November 2022, raised gender equality in the context of industrialization and UNIDO’s Technical Cooperation activities. Women’s economic empowerment is key to achieving gender equality and contributes to reduce poverty, raise incomes, minimize social inequality and achieve better development outcomes, including climate change mitigation. Industrialization can create new, relatively higher-paying jobs, which contribute to economic growth and prosperity. Often, however, many women struggle to participate and benefit equally from this growth due to discriminatory social norms or legal barriers.

To address these inequalities, industrial policymaking and development must be gender-responsive and inclusive of women which will be contributing to productivity, higher income levels and better products and outputs at the company level.

Participants learnt the links between gender inequalities and industrial development and how women’s economic empowerment can be promoted, based on best practices and practical examples.

WACOMP-Ghana Project Manager, Ms. Ebe Muschialli, presented the results obtained so far by the project. Speaking on the achievements towards gender and women empowerment, she revealed that 24,323 women farmers and entrepreneurs have been empowered to be economically independent. She also shared information on lessons learnt in Gender mainstreaming in cluster development, sharing concrete examples and testimonials of women having benefited from UNIDO technical assistance.

Rita Dampson is one of the entrepreneurs supported by WACOMP in Ghana. In 2011, she started mobilizing women to process shea nuts into handcrafted butter and black soap. She has trained over 1000 women in shea and black soap processing and exports cosmetics products to Taiwan, Dubai, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Canada through UNIDO’s technical support and training in e-marketing.

“I have always transferred knowledge learned through WACOMP –Ghana to others. After my Masterclass training in cosmetics formulation, I have been approached by several NGOs to train more young girls in handcraft soap making, packaging and high-grade unrefined shea butter and black soap to sustain their economic empowerment and livelihoods in our rural communities.”

MRS. HAJIA RITA DAMPSON  
CEO of Rita Damps Ventures and Head of Bandisuglo Shea Processing centre
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In June 2021, the REFILA project initiated the creation of the NAFASO consortium. This consortium, led by businesswomen, brings together companies involved in the processing and marketing of agricultural products (dried fruit, juice, jam). NAFASO aims to create a semi-industrial or industrial production unit and to train technicians specialized in fruit processing. For its members, this platform will enable them to increase the production and diversification of agricultural products, mainly pineapple, for a better participation in the development of Guinea.

It is within this framework that the NAFASO consortium participated in the second edition of the Label Guinea Trade Fair, which focused on the theme: "SMEs, booster of Made In Guinea". This participation of NAFASO is part of the accompaniment and support to companies and structures of the REFILA Project. The Label Guinea Trade Fair, a meeting place for local production in the agribusiness, industry and craft sectors, was launched on 31 October 2022 by the Prime Minister, Head of Government, Dr Bernard GOMOU, in the presence of the Minister of Culture, Tourism and Handicrafts, Mr. Alpha SOUMAH, the UNIDO Country Representative, Mr. Ansoumane BERETE, the UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Luc Joël GREGOIRE, executives from several ministerial departments and private sector stakeholders.

NAFASO’s participation in this trade event was an opportunity for its members to give visibility to the consortium and to promote local pineapple products “Made in Guinea” to the general public and to public and private sector authorities.

UNIDO and REFILA: major actors of the 2nd Guinean Industry fair

The 2nd edition of the Guinean Industry Fair, under the theme: “In the era of the African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA), what strategies for strengthening the competitiveness of industrial enterprises”, was opened on Monday 19 December 2022 by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Guinea, at the Chapiteau by Issa. Co-organised by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and SMEs, the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the agency, Afri-competence, the fair saw the participation of professionals and visitors over 3 days through visits to stands and panels.

This Industry Fair was a platform that allowed the actors of the industrial sector of the country and the sub-region, to define adapted strategies, to share experiences and to exchange on the implementation of the necessary tools for the achievement of sustainable objectives that will contribute to the improvement of the industrialisation of Guinea and the ACFTA countries. In this context and with the aim of strengthening cooperation between Guinea and the countries of the continent, two countries were honoured: Mali and Morocco, notably through participation in panels and the occupation of stands. For the Malian Minister of Trade and Industry and the Moroccan Ambassador to Guinea, this event was an opportunity to draw inspiration from each other’s actions and to share experiences in terms of industrialisation with a view to strengthening regional competitiveness.

UNIDO presented the Pineapple Sector Revival Project in Guinea (REFILA), which is one of the levers on which the institution acts to strengthen an inclusive and sustainable industrialization. Indeed, the UNIDO country representative, Ansoumane BERETE, through his opening speech, reaffirmed his commitment and that of his institution to work further for the promotion and development of Guinea, in line with the country’s social and economic development objectives. Finally, the Prime Minister reiterated the main objective of this event which is to improve the business climate of the country.
The new ambassador of the European Union (EU) to Guinea, Mrs. Jolita PONS, has toured the country in order to take stock of the projects financed by the European Union. During this first field visit, she met with the REFILA project team in Kindia, one of the main pineapple production areas in Guinea and a crossroads town with favourable climatic conditions for horticulture.

The revival of the pineapple sector in Guinea, implemented by UNIDO and financed by the European Union under the West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP), supports the actors of the sector along the value chain. The beneficiaries of Kindia received, on 7 and 8 December 2022, the EU ambassador and her team, accompanied by the national coordinator of the project, the UNIDO country representative in Guinea and the local authorities of the prefecture.

The programme of these meetings included a visit to the processing unit of Mrs Fatoumata CISSOKO, one of the beneficiaries of the REFILA project and member of the NAFASO consortium. Her unit, EFK, produces bottled juice and dried pineapple from responsible production. The components produced are low in chemical fertilisers and are mainly composed of organic fertilisers and pesticides with the contribution of an associated crop. Finally, it should be emphasised that the products of the EFK unit are appreciated by Guinean consumers because of their natural composition and the dynamism of the founder.

The mission then visited the ALG plantation in Samaya, located 15 km from the centre of Kindia, which benefits from REFILA’s support in accelerated production techniques in order to produce quality rejects. The specificity of ALG in pineapple production is due to its ability to operate as an aggregation structure, grouping together a number of youth and women’s cooperatives. Indeed, this arrangement allows ALG, through contracts with growers, to ensure the continuous supply of inputs and technical advice and to guarantee the supply of pineapples for export.

On 21 March 2023, the meeting room of the paper and cardboard packaging company, SOGEPAC, served as a framework for consultation between the REFILA project, the Export Agency (AGUIPEX), SOGEPAC and the Service National de Conditionnement de Produits Agricoles (SNCPA). This meeting, organised by REFILA in collaboration with AGUIPEX, brought together stakeholders in the pineapple sector concerned with the production and promotion of quality local packaging. It should be noted that SOGEPAC is the only paper and cardboard packaging company in Guinea. The objective was to support the establishment of a consultation framework to improve access to packaging.

From REFILA’s point of view, this consultation framework on packaging will make it possible to create a rapprochement between the packaging producer, SOGEPAC and the actors in the fruit sector in Guinea. It will also evaluate the technical specificities of packaging in order to meet the requirements of the target markets. Finally, it will allow for a diagnosis of SOGEPAC’s production and propose a plan to upgrade the structure to ensure continuous, high-quality production of paper and cardboard packaging.

After the discussions, a visit to SOGEPAC’s facilities took place. It allowed to appreciate the manufacturing processes of paperboards, to have an idea on the production capacity of the factory and to identify the difficulties. This first consultation framework was a source of real satisfaction for the stakeholders, who wish to extend it to other structures in order to validate the objectives mentioned on a large scale and eventually sign an agreement for the production of packaging.
Training of selected 1D1F and SMEs in the Northern Cluster of Ghana:
Improving quality management and good manufacturing practices

Issues of conformity to standards, product regulation and product safety in general have become key considerations influencing the choices of today’s consumer. Many markets require products reaching their regions to have acquired certain certification, quality or at the minimum, be registered by national conformity bodies.

As Ghana works to transform from a raw material-based country to a sustainable, industrial nation and scale up its sustainable structural transformation, it is imperative that the cosmetics, cassava and fruit value-chain integration is strengthened.

As part of a joint effort by UNIDO, Government of Ghana, and the European Union to sustain the future of the manufacturing eco-system, another session of quality assurance training workshop was organised on 25th and 26th October in Kumasi and targeted 50 “One District One Factory” (1D1F) companies in the middle and northern regions of Ghana. The training session aimed to support 1D1F enterprises to improve and sustain quality, hygiene and good manufacturing principles to minimise the risks associated with production and to improve product quality.

In his opening speech, Dr. Charles Sackey, WACOMP-Ghana Chief Technical Advisor, confirmed that “One District One Factory” Secretariat and UNIDO are committed to ensure that products are consistently produced and controlled according to the prescribed quality standards. The Chief Commercial Officer and Head of government’s flagship 1D1F Initiative, Mr. Kofi Addo, recounted that the Secretariat and UNIDO agreed to support the beneficiary factories and SMEs of the programme to implement the appropriate standards in food safety and quality management to enhance competitiveness and market access.

“The feedback from selected quality assurance officers of 1D1F enterprises after the first training in Accra, on the 29th and 30th August 2022, has been very positive as standards have improved,” he noted. “We are glad those in the northern and middle zones have had the opportunity to benefit from such training”, he concluded.

Eighty (80) factories have so far benefitted from the partnership between the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTi) and WACOMP-Ghana.

Sixth steering committee meeting: Stakeholders and European Union satisfied with the implementation efforts of WACOMP-Ghana

WACOMP-Ghana held its sixth Steering Committee Meeting on the 6th of December 2022, to discuss the progress of the project and provide recommendations for further action for implementation.

Representatives of the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTi), Ministry of Finance, European Union, Food and Drugs Authority (FDA), Ghana Standards Authority (GSA), Ghana Export Promotion Authority (GEP), Association of Ghana Industries (AGI), One District and One Factory (1D1F) Secretariat and other stakeholders reviewed the outcomes of the project and discussed future interventions for the last year of the project implementation.

On regional collaboration, Madam Mercy Asuong, representing the Ministry of Finance updated the committee on the regional Steering Committee Meeting with the ECOWAS, where WACOMP – Ghana was commended for its outstanding performance and considered as a benchmark for other WACOMP implementing countries. She was proud of the WACOMP implementation efforts and thanked the team for the good work done so far.

Mr Jeppe Skytte Hansen, Programme Officer of the European Union, also further commended the project implementation team and added that the EU is very satisfied with the implementation efforts.

The chairperson of the SC, Mr Patrick Yaw Nimo, Chief Director of the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTi) was impressed with the sustainability plan of the project for Ghana and commended the team for making sure that all the success achieved by the project is also serving as a foundational infrastructure for Ghana’s industrial promotion and success.
The need for all value chain stakeholders, within a given society, to understand the meaning, importance and potential benefits of improved levels of quality in their products and services, is at the heart of the concept of the “Culture for Quality”.

This underlining objective was the focus of the workshop organized by WACOMP-Ghana on 30 November 2022 and gathering various value chain stakeholders of the cosmetic clusters.

The one-day event assembled identified influencers to obtain their insights, through the “Culture for Quality” diagnostic tool developed by UNIDO. These would serve as a critical input for the subsequent development of demand-driven interventions to address identified gaps within the cultural dimension of organizations within the value-chain.

Key components of the diagnostic tool are questions bordering on the seven quality management principles identified as the underlying basis for the ISO 9000 series of standards. They included customer focus, leadership, engagement of people and process approach.

The Government of The Gambia, through the Food Safety and Quality Authority (FSQA), validated the National Food Safety Policy on Friday 13th January 2023 at Sunprime Tamala Beach Resort in Kotu.

The Policy, developed by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) with funding from the European Union (EU), aims to ensure that food and feed sold or made available in The Gambia, locally produced or imported, or exported from The Gambia are safe and suitable for consumption. It will serve as a reference document in The Gambia that can provide the framework in relation to food safety and quality policy and guidelines development and implementation.

FSQA as an Act of Parliament, came into being in 2011 while operating since 2020, without a national policy document to guide and control its mandate of promoting and evaluating food quality and safety in The Gambia.

The absence of a national policy is viewed to have created a deficiency in their oversight functions, as a result of which a national policy document was drafted. A cross section of stakeholders participated in the review and validation of the Policy.

Mamadou Bah, Director General of FSQA, underscored the importance of having a policy document that will enhance the work of the Authority.
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The Gambia

When I came in 2020 as the director general at food safety and quality authority, part of my challenges were these kinds of documentation to guide a direction. To start up, I needed to have a National Policy Document and I am glad the dream is coming true as we gather to validate this milestone achievement not only for FSQA, but for the entire country”, Bah rejoiced.

The Director added that the Policy will strengthen the efficiency of FSQA because the domain is diverse and requires harmonization from various institutions in enforcing food safety laws and regulation. The Policy, he went on, will also help to maintain a robust monitoring system and empower FSQA to promote inter-institutional collaboration.

“The next step is to initiate a National Strategic plan that will operate parallel to the National Food Safety Policy”, Bah noted.

Representing the European Union (EU), Lumana Kamashi said the EU is committed to support the country in having a more effective food control system.

“Ensuring food safety and quality assurance is a matter of must and not an option”, Kamashi said.

To attain this, Kamashi said it requires political, social, legal and national recognition, adding that FSQA Act of 2011 and its structure of operation is a manifestation of political commitment.

The National Communications Expert of United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) under the West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP), Saikou Suwareh Jabai, hailed the success of the partnership between FSQA and UNIDO-WACOMP. He thanked the EU for their continued support in all the processes that were undertaken to finally develop a food safety and quality document.

“The establishment of food safety and quality authority is pivotal in ensuring the safety of national food supplies as well as food products for regional and international trade”, he said, noting that the development and validation of the national food safety policy is an essential component of The Gambia’s efforts to attaining an effective food safety and quality system.

The validation of the National Food Safety Policy is supported by UNIDO’s WACOMP project, through funding from the EU.

A 3-day-long training on Horticultural marketing was organized for gardens and marketing Federations from the 14th to the 16th of March 2023 at Soma, Lower River Region (LRR).

As highlighted by the project’s Rapid Market Assessment (RMA) report, marketing remains one of the major challenges onion producers continue to face in The Gambia. Producers of onion and allied crops are mainly illiterates in formal education and as a result, they have limited knowledge in marketing techniques and strategies. They are also unable to tap the potential digital media presents in linking them with potential buyers.

The training raised the awareness of producers in gardens and regional marketing federations on marketing strategies, and use of social media and mainstream media to market their produce.

Participants created official communication sites for their gardens and Federations as part of the training outcomes. Email addresses, Facebook pages and WhatsApp Business accounts where among the marketing tools they developed to help them boost their sales.

The workshop introduced participants to WACOMP-GM and its key awareness raising messages.

“This training was very helpful for us. We learned a lot in terms of increasing our sales and supporting our regional marketing Federations to be more formal and engaging. As a result of this training, each of the regional marketing Federations now has an official email, Facebook page and WhatsApp Business account”, said Foday Jarjusey, the Manager of Hewal Marketing Federation in Central River Region – North (CRR-N).

For his part, Christian Lasser, the Project Administrator of UNIDO, who was on official working visit to The Gambia, said the training forms an important component of the project. He said UNIDO WACOMP-GM is committed to working with gardens and regional marketing Federations to continuously develop their capacities and collaborate on initiatives to enhance their competitiveness and increase sales.

In strengthening its partnership with partner organizations in The Gambia, WACOMP-GM collaborated with the International Trade Center (ITC) in providing a platform during the training for the ITC to promote and sensitize the participants on the Jokalante online market system. The software serves as a link among stakeholders of the vegetable value chains – producers, transporters and buyers.

The Gambia: Training of gardens and marketing federations on marketing

Participants in regional groups creating Facebook pages for their marketing federations
WACOMP handed over field laboratory equipment to Conformity Assessment Bodies in The Gambia

The West Africa Competitiveness Programme – The Gambia (WACOMP-GM) handed over field laboratory equipment to quality infrastructure institutions such as Food Safety and Quality Authority (FSQA), Plant Protection Services (PPS), Agriculture Extension Services (AES) and The Gambia Standard Bureau (TGSB).

The handing over ceremony was held on the 28th of October 2022 at WACOMP-GM’s office along the Sukuta-Brusubi Highway.

Funded by the European Union (EU), the WACOMP project’s objective is to increase competitiveness in The Gambia through enhanced quality compliance along the onion value chain, thereby strengthening the country’s competitiveness and enhancing its integration into the regional and international trading systems.

WACOMP in The Gambia is implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), in close concert with United Purpose (UP).

Food Safety and Quality Authority (FSQA) received equipment to assess the safety and quality of raw materials, intermediary and finished food products, including signals of possible adulteration. The field equipment consists of: – moisture analyser, heavy metal testing kit, aflatoxin testing kit, thermometers, refractometers, palm oil tester.

Agriculture Extension Services (AES) received equipment to help value chain actors determine crop maturity according to the market needs/demands. The field equipment consists of: – fruit ripeness scale, vegetable fruit sizer, kit for pyruvic acid determination.

Plant Protection Services (PPSs) received equipment for monitoring contaminants such as heavy metals, aflatoxins, and possible adulteration of certain foods. The field equipment consists of: – heavy metal and aflatoxin testing kits, refractometer, palm oil tester.

The Gambia Standards Bureau (TGSB) received equipment useful for monitoring the condition conformity of foods, including possible adulteration. The field equipment consists of: thermometers, pH meters, refractometer, palm oil tester.

Joseph Ndenn, the National Technical Coordinator of WACOMP-GM, said the donation is in line with his project’s efforts to strengthen the technical capacity and competence of the beneficiary conformity assessment institutions. This, he added, will lead to an increased onion value-chain compliance and performances, leading of expansion of market access.

Ms. Lumana Kamashi, the Development Cooperation / International Aid Officer of the European Union Delegation, said the gesture will complement the development of the country’s quality infrastructure system by improving the performance of the respective beneficiary institutions.

She hoped that the beneficiary institutions will judiciously utilize these valuable items to help enhance their competence in relation to food conformity assessment in the country and better serve the Gambian people.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Regional Integration, Mr. Assan Gaye, said the donated equipment will enormously support the efforts of TGSB to roll out conformity assessment services for the benefit of the public. He therefore enjoined the Bureau to judiciously make use of the items.

“With the support of WACOMP-GM, the Ministry of Trade is taking the lead in the development of a national laboratory policy for The Gambia and the development of a food testing laboratory that will be internationally accredited”, he noted.

Fatou Jammeh – Touray, the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, said the equipment will greatly improve the effectiveness with which the beneficiaries execute their mandates in general and in particular, will facilitate their delivery of improved services to the horticulture gardens targeted by WACOMP-GM.

She said: “While urging Plant Protection Services (PPS) and the Agriculture Extension Services to take good care of the equipment, I wish to thank the European Union through WACOMP-GM for this kind gesture. This support is a clear testament to the EU’s continued coordination and support to the Government of The Gambia”.

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Focus on the WACOMP projects implemented by UNIDO

The donated items

**Enhancing Competitiveness: UNIDO-WACOMP supplied equipment to 120 gardens**

The European Union-funded West Africa Competitiveness Programme - The Gambia (WACOMP-GM) of United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has provided equipment and materials to 120 gardens in the country. They comprise of 120 bench weighing scales, 120 portable stitching machines, 120 portable onion moisture meters, 120,000 onion leno mesh bags and 200 standard plastic pallets.

In August 2021, WACOMP-GM conducted a Rapid Market Analysis (RMA) on onion and allied crops in The Gambia. The report revealed that the quality and safety of local onions are below the international standards of quality and safety due to pre-mature harvesting, absence of post-harvest curing and drying, absence of sorting, grading, weighing, packaging, labelling and inadequate basic tools and materials.

These materials supplied are geared towards addressing some of these challenges and contribute to the improvement of the quality of onions produced to meet the expectations of both local and international markets.

Speaking at the start of the countrywide tour to deliver the materials to the respective gardens, Mr. Malamin Drammeh, the National Horticulture Value Chain Expert of WACOMP-GM said the support will increase performance along the value chains related to food safety and quality compliance and market access of the onion and allied products.

He urged the women beneficiaries of the vegetable gardens to make proper use of the equipment provided, using them for activities to strengthen the compliance of their horticulture and allied crops. He added that they should ensure the maintenance and proper use of the equipment in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions and best practices.

Karafanding Badjie, President of the Berefet Women’s Garden, expressed delight over the reception of the materials.

“We have been working in this garden for a long time, but we have never received this kind of support. Tools are very important in gardening. The pallets we received and other materials like the weighing scales and onion bags will greatly help in our efforts to improve our livelihood,” she said.

She said the materials and the follow-up trainings which will be conducted are going to improve their knowledge, skills and boost their income. President Badjie thanked the UNIDO-WACOMP-GM and the European Union for the timely gesture.

Ousman Manneh, the President of the National Marketing Federation (Sosalaso), expressed gratitude and hailed the timeliness of the delivery of the onion bags and portable stitching machines as the marketing federations have just started mobilizing members to gather at collection points for the marketing of their produce to wholesalers.

“Access to new onion bags and stitching machines was a major constraint in the regions. Now that is history,” he said. In February 2023, 19 participants comprising technicians from the Ministry of Agriculture, the private sector and The Gambia Standards Bureau (TGSB) were trained in the assembly, operation, maintenance and repair of the Bench Weighing Scales. These trainees will now work with the beneficiary gardens to assemble the weighing scales and provide step-down training.

Similar training on the use of the other equipment supplied such as the portable onion moisture meter and portable stitching machines will be organized to strengthen the capacity of the beneficiaries for effective and efficient use of these materials.
Six women agro-processors, members of the Associação das Mulheres de Atividade Económica, AMAE, participated between the 16th and 19th of November 2022, in the 25th International Fair of Cabo Verde, with the support of the WACOMP-GB project.

The Guinea-Bissau stand had artisanal agro-processed products displayed for publicity, and moreover B2B contacts were facilitated for future partnerships.

During the four days of participation and with a view to consolidating, increasing and reinforcing partnerships, investments, business opportunities and promotion possibilities, WACOMP-GB facilitated the holding of various meetings and workshops, with local authorities from the industrial sector and agriculture, importers, female empowerment institutions and hotels.

The activities carried out on this stand aroused a lot of enthusiasm among the visitors, having as its high point, the visit of the President of Cape Verde, Dr. José Maria Neves, who was very interested in Guinea-Bissau products and in the work that both Governments are developing to guarantee maritime transport between the countries.

The Fair had more than 200 stands representing European and American countries and countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Two winners of start-up competitions merged their companies for greater sustainability to their internal processes, products and services.

Elizabete Punguram, founder of Elmeva Sarl, which is dedicated to the agro-processing of local products, is a nurse by profession, married and mother of 5 children. She is one of the winners of DESAFIO GB, a Business Plan Competition financed by the World Bank, which has received technical and financial support from the WACOMP-GB project, in the application/adoption of Good Hygiene and Manufacturing Practices in the processing of mangoes and other national fruits, including labelling, business management and entrepreneurship.

Ligínia Gomes Caetano, one of the winners of IDEA App 2022, promoted by the WACOMP-GB project, is the founder of Wisun Agrothec. “Since I was a child, I always thought about creating my own business, that’s why I chose the Management Informatics course with the objective of having my
own job, providing computer services but, because of the initial difficulties, I had to postpone it. After finding that pestle rice, better for health, is free of chemicals and has more fibers than imported rice, and supposedly, a national product, was practically unavailable to the population, I decided to take advantage of the opportunity and combine the two aspects, selling pestle rice online and making home deliveries through the “Fass Ferra” platform, created mainly for women, in particular, for those who they don’t have time to go to the markets”, she testified.

They started with 5 assistants and today, they have around 15 employees and more than 600 regular customers. These two female agro-entrepreneurship winners are living testimonies of stories of courage and dedication.

“Working at the intersection between beauty and health, Nahusa Usecoroa is one of the first companies in the cosmetics sector to sell exclusively products based on natural ingredients from Guinea-Bissau.

Nadilet Saraiva is an inspiring model of the new generation of entrepreneurs who was recently awarded as one of the winners of the Digital Incubation Program, IDEA App 2022, boosting the diversification, appreciation and consumption of local products.

“I think that my passion for cosmetics is cream, but I think it only started to become a real possibility after I went to study in Brazil. I was graduating in Social Communication and Public Relations when I participated in an intensive training in hair trichology during summer vacations. Since then, I have never stopped researching hair and skin diseases*, she confessed.

She said that the second impulse came sometime after returning to the country, with the implementation of her first project, which consisted of following women with different hair pathologies, most with alopecia and dermatitis. Of the 107 women followed during that period, 87 had recovered their hair health, with the rest being referred to nutritionists and dermatologists.

“I then started, myself, to manipulate the raw material extracted directly from nature, which are our natural products that were already used in the past”, she stated.

The boldness of opening a store arose after our participation in the International Fair of Cape Verde, in Mindelo, at the invitation of WACOMP-GB. Due to the demand for our products and partnership requests, we feel the importance of having a physical store that will facilitate our service, reducing delivery expenses*, she added.

“We would like you to continue to support us through our participation in these international events, training and partnerships. We hope that there will soon be a product quality certification body, which does not yet exist in Guinea-Bissau”, she advocated.

Launch of IDEA App Guinea-Bissau 2023: Digital Incubation Program for young entrepreneurs

The 2nd edition of the Digital Incubation Program - IDEA App Guinea-Bissau 2023 was launched last March 9th 2023. The program, like the 1st edition, will last for 5 months during which 15 business ideas will be selected through a public tender. Entrepreneurs will be assisted by mentors and supported with materials and financial means to materialize their projects and will have access to tablets equipped with a keyboard and headphones, as well as a SIM Card and internet with 10GB/ month.

As a result of the 1st edition, more than 180 jobs are expected to be created in a turnover of around 449,549,377 FCFA (686,335 €).

The IDEA App program was developed through a partnership between UNIDO and Bridge for Billions. https://bit.ly/ideagb2023-emp

GB: Entrepreneur and one of the IDEA App 2022 winners opens the first store selling exclusively cosmetic products made with natural ingredients

Nadilet Saraiva, entrepreneur and one of the IDEA App 2022 winners
About 30 MSMEs trained on clean production or processing and valorisation of by-products and energy saving

On 19 October 2002, the P2R/WACOMP Senegal project organized a training workshop at the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture in Kaolack (about 200 km from the Senegalese capital), which brought together about 25 MSMEs working in the agro-food and cosmetics sectors. This workshop, organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade, Consumption and SMEs, aimed to train these MSMEs on "Clean production and energy saving in the food industry". The objective was to present them with solutions for the control of conservation and processing processes on the one hand, and solutions for better energy saving on the other, depending on the process and the product concerned.

After a 6-month national tour toward the Programme’s beneficiaries, P2R experts identified the sectors (activities) affected by the covid-19 pandemic in addition to those cited in the Senegalese Economic and Social Resilience Programme / PRES (developed by the government in 2020).

The in-depth analysis of these beneficiaries' needs allowed the identification of very important and cross-cutting themes that interested MSMEs. These include clean production or the processing and valorisation of by-products and energy saving in MSMEs.

The next step is to select national consultants as soon as possible and send them to these enterprises to implement the action plans approved by the technical committee.

Among other results, the workshop made it possible to companies in the P2R portfolio was organized during the decentralized meeting to allow members to appreciate themselves the support provided by P2R.

The Competitiveness Support Programme in West Africa (CSPWA) includes interventions at the community level and at the level of member countries. The Programme of Resilience and Relaunch of MSMEs (P2R) is part of the national component of PACAO for Senegal to include consideration of the difficulties faced by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The P2R
Focus on the WACOMP projects implemented by UNIDO

The WACOMP projects implemented by UNIDO Senegal were developed to contribute to the economic and social response to the Covid-19 pandemic that emerged in March 2020. The general objective of the P2R is to support the operationalization of the axis of the Economic and Social Resilience Program (ESRP) dedicated to businesses and the post-COVID Senegalese Emerging Program (PSE) taking into account the priority sectors identified therein. The specific objective is to support the resilience of MSMEs and their employees to the Covid-19 crisis and to initiate a rapid and sustainable post-Covid-19 recovery in sectors such as Accommodation and Catering, Transport, Fishing and Fish Farming, Pharmaceutical Industry and Agro-Food Industry set out by the government in the PAP2A strategic document (June 2020) as priority sectors ensuring the achievement of the government’s objective of Senegal’s economic sovereignty.

The technical committee also approved mutualised investments such as packaging production lines (PET plastic bottles), which would avoid several companies having to come to Dakar to obtain supplies. The support of the Ministry of Trade and SMEs in its “FRA for All” programme was also approved. Indeed, the price of the FRA depends on the product and is considered quite expensive by the companies diagnosed by the project, as an FRA authorisation is required for each product.

The P2R held 2 meetings of its Technical Committee in the second half of 2022

The first meeting of the P2R Technical Committee was held on Wednesday, September 7 to validate the resilience and relaunch plans of 55 selected Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. These MSMEs are from 8 regions (Dakar, Thies, Diourbel, Louga, Fatick, Kaolack, Kaffrine and Tambacounda). Their main activities are the processing of local products, sewing and tailoring, catering, hotels, health-related services, maintenance and transport. These activities or sectors have been negatively impacted by the covid 19 pandemic. The quick-diagnosis carried out with each company therefore made it possible to draw up a resilience plan including material and immaterial support, the implementation of which will make it possible to mitigate the effects of the crisis and relaunch the activities. Support to MSMEs will be in the order of 130 million FCFA in intangible investments and 215 man-days of support in capacity building, accompaniment in obtaining the FRA authorisation for 17 MSMEs.

This meeting marks a turning point for the project, which aims to provide direct technical support to selected enterprises.

With a total budget of 2 million Euro, the P2R is funded by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and will be implemented over 3 years.

Through its three main components and target groups (beneficiaries) which are MSMEs, P2R is positioned on “support to the health sector (M1)” and on ensuring macroeconomic and financial stability to support the private sector and maintain jobs (M3) of the ESRP. The programme therefore provides for support to MSMEs, which account for 98.2% of Senegal’s enterprises. Referring to the axes of the PSE, the P2R comes as a new device to contribute to inclusive growth (axis 1 “sectoral engine”: agriculture, livestock, seafood and agribusiness).

In the operationalization of the P2R, it will therefore:

- Confirm the impact of the pandemic on the sectors already affected and those complementary.
- Identify support needs to mitigate the negative effects of Covid-19.
- Develop partnerships with existing structures and ongoing projects.
Regarding synergies, the development of partnership with structures involved in the Program of Economic and Social Resilience of Senegal will strengthen the anchoring of P2R in this government strategy. In this sense, P2R will strive to strengthen some of the enterprises pre-selected in the WACOMP-Senegal through the mango, onion and ICT value chains, including enterprises in the southern Agropole and finally the enterprises of the Innovation and Employment Opportunities (INOE) - UNIDO project.

Post-COVID recovery and resilience: P2R builds MSME capacity in digital marketing (First group satisfied with results)

Quick-diagnoses conducted among enterprises selected by the Project have enabled P2R, funded by the European Union and implemented by UNIDO, to identify several specific support needs, including training in digital marketing and the establishment / development of related tools.

To this end, P2R has launched a training programme, followed by individualised in-company coaching, to equip MSMEs with digital marketing tools and materials to improve and expand their business opportunities. “An opportunity that all beneficiaries have recognized as essential, especially for online sales” said Mr. Ousmane SY, national coordinator of P2R in Dakar. This was during the training workshop held at the premises of UNIDO, which brought together a dozen companies for two days (7-8 February 2023). This workshop welcomed Mr. Luciano DE FLAVIIS, member of the European Union delegation in Dakar. He was delighted with the reactions of the participants who all positively appreciated the quality and positive results of this training.

After the acquisition and assimilation of the prerequisites, the participants all benefited, from 9 to 25 February 2023, from a personalised post-training accompaniment in their respective companies, provided by a consultant recruited by UNIDO, Mr Abdoulaye SECK.

The theoretical training enabled them, among other things, to:
- design visuals to promote their offers,
- know how to write the texts accompanying the publication of these visuals,
- make videos and broadcast them on the various platforms for sharing audiovisual media,
- understand the different digital platforms and their specificities, and
- communicate and do business prospecting online.

The one-to-one coaching has equipped them with the ability to make themselves visible on search engines and social networks, to sell online, to set up a web TV and to organize online events, including teleshopping shows, promotional operations, to carry out monitoring, to organize and carry out online studies, to monitor their e-reputation and to analyse the results of digital marketing actions.

This first set of companies, based in Dakar, now have complete digital platforms that they know how to use to sell their products and services. They now have the capacity to use them as communication tools within the framework of a private media policy. The latter will henceforth be an integral part of their CRM (customer relationship management) tools.

After Dakar, two other groups of selected companies based outside Dakar will be trained with the same format: in Kaolack (about 200 km from Dakar), from 8 to 13 February 2023, and in Saly Portudal (about 70 km from Dakar), from 14 to 31 March 2023.
Sierra Leone

Focus on the WACOMP projects implemented by UNIDO

Since 2019, UNIDO has supported SLSB in establishing the MSCB through the following steps:

- Provided detailed ISO17021 training courses in 2020 and 2021, adapting to remote or on-site delivery based on COVID-19 restrictions.
- Developed ISO 17021-compliant policies and procedures in 2021.
- Established the SLSB MSCB management system according to ISO17021 in 2021.
- Trained MSCB staff on ISO 9001, ISO 17021-1, ISO 17021-3, and ISO 19011, including an ISO 9001 IRCA Lead Auditor course, with 18 participants successfully passing a third-party exam.
- Pursued accreditation from the International Accreditation Service (IAS), a renowned US-based accreditation body, following a competitive international bidding process. SLSB MSCB obtained international accreditation after remote and on-site assessments.

ISO22000 (Food Safety Management System) and others. The body’s role is to assess and certify organizations’ management systems against the requirements of the relevant management system standards.

In 2022, with support from UNIDO, the MSCB pursued accreditation from the International Accreditation Service (IAS), a prestigious accreditation body based in the United States. Following remote and on-site assessments, on 23 March 2023, SLSB MSCB achieved international accreditation, marking a significant milestone in Sierra Leone. The accomplishment was commemorated through a ceremony held in Freetown, attended by esteemed guests including Dr. Edward Hinga Sandy, the Minister of Trade and Industry, and Mr. Gerald Hatler, Head of Cooperation of the Delegation of the European Union to Sierra Leone. This was also the opportunity to award certificates to the first SMEs in Sierra Leone certified for ISO 9001 by the newly established certification body.
Proficiency testing plays a crucial role in the quality management systems of laboratories. It involves laboratories participating in inter-laboratory comparison programs to evaluate their performance. By doing so, laboratories can assess their measurement capability and identify areas that require improvement.

Importance of Proficiency Testing:

Ensuring Accuracy and Reliability: Proficiency testing helps laboratories verify the accuracy and reliability of their results. By participating in such programs, laboratories can identify any issues with their measurement methods and take corrective actions to enhance their performance.

Accreditation Requirement: Proficiency testing is often a mandatory requirement for accreditation. Accreditation bodies like ISO/IEC 17025 necessitate laboratories to engage in proficiency testing as part of the accreditation process. Accreditation demonstrates that a laboratory meets international standards for quality and competence.

Demonstrating Competence: Proficiency testing enables laboratories to showcase their proficiency to customers and regulators. By participating in these programs, laboratories provide evidence of their competence and reliability, thus instilling customer confidence and ensuring regulatory compliance.

Proficiency Testing at Sierra Leone Standards Bureau (SLSB): Through the EU-funded West Africa Competitiveness Programme, UNIDO trained personnel from SLSB’s food chemistry laboratory to participate in proficiency testing programs. As a result, the laboratory qualified for the following two proficiency tests:

Food Chemistry PT14256 - Fatty Acids in Palm Oil: this proficiency test, organized by Fapas, a reputable accredited provider of proficiency testing based in the United Kingdom, took place in October 2022. The Food Chemistry Laboratory selected lauric acid, palmitic acid, and oleic acid as the analytes for assessment among the various fatty acids present in the provided PT sample. The results for lauric acid were successful.

NMISA-PT87 - Protein and Moisture Determination in Cassava Flour: in December 2022, the National Metrology Institute of South Africa (NMISA) organized and coordinated this proficiency test. The Food Chemistry Laboratory chose ‘moisture’ as the analyte for evaluation in the distributed cassava flour sample. The results obtained for moisture were highly successful.
UNIDO Farmer Coaching Initiative empowers cocoa farmers in Sierra Leone

Under EU-funded WACOMP programme in Sierra Leone, UNIDO has been implementing a cocoa farmer coaching initiative in Kono, Kenema, and Kailahun districts to enhance productivity and yield. Through this initiative, UNIDO provides targeted technical support to cocoa farmers, focusing on coaching and training to improve their farming practices. Farmers received personalized guidance on various aspects, including optimized planting and nursery techniques, effective pest and disease management, and efficient post-harvest processing methods. UNIDO's expertise and assistance empower cocoa farmers in these districts to adopt modern and sustainable farming techniques, leading to increased productivity and higher yields. This initiative not only improves the livelihoods of cocoa farmers but also contributes to the growth and development of the cocoa sector in Sierra Leone.

In February and April 2023, UNIDO carried out coaching sessions and practical exercises involving over 200 producers. These interactive sessions provided a platform for producers to share their farm experiences as well as expectations of UNIDO interventions. This allowed to identify additional factors that hinder cocoa plantation improvements such as damage to the floral area during harvest, inadequate removal of diseased fruits, and disorderly plantations. Recognizing these issues allowed for the development of a more relevant action plan tailored to the local context of these communities. In addition, UNIDO carried out practical demonstrations on pruning, black pod management, and tree density management, raising awareness regarding the importance of improving harvest practices and implementing the weekly collection of diseased fruits. This sensitization is crucial to protect the farms from diseases such as black pods.

In the upcoming period, UNIDO will continue the farmer coaching initiative and particularly focus on introducing innovative tools and methodologies to empower the cocoa farmers in Sierra Leone.

Implementation of Good Agriculture Practices in Sierra Leone

UNIDO is building the capacity of farmers in Sierra Leone to implement good agricultural practices in the cassava value chain. Cassava is a significant crop in Sierra Leone, providing both food security and income for smallholder farmers. However, the value chain is faced with numerous challenges, including low productivity, limited access to markets, and a lack of knowledge about effective farming practices.

To address these challenges, UNIDO is implementing a capacity-building programme with three cooperatives in Bo, Pujehun and Kenema districts of Sierra Leone to enhance the skills and knowledge of their farmers. The program focuses on promoting the adoption of good agricultural practices that can improve farm management efficiency, reduce food safety risks, and ensure compliance with food safety regulations. The capacity-building is led by UNIDO international expert through support of national support officers who regularly monitor, record and inspect the activities of farmers.

One key tool being utilized by UNIDO is the localg.a.p. standard, developed by GLOBALG.A.P. This standard is designed to be used as a capacity-building tool for agricultural value chains in developing economies and emerging markets. It helps producers adopt effective agricultural practices that are aligned with internationally recognized standards, such as GLOBALG.A.P. IFA certification, which is necessary for accessing high-demand markets.

Through this program, UNIDO is not only helping to improve the productivity and income of smallholder farmers in Sierra Leone but also contributing to the development of a sustainable cassava value chain in the country.
Training of farmers in Sierra Leone

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**Sierra Leone**

**Guinea-Bissau**

**Senegal**

UNIDO building the capacity of farmers in Sierra Leone

Relance de la Filière Ananas en Guinée
West Africa Competitiveness Programme

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Directorate of Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Industrial Development (TCS)

Division of SME Competitiveness, Quality and Job Creation (TCS/SME)

Division of Digital Transformation & AI Strategies (TCS/DAS)

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