



# West Africa Competitiveness Programme *News*

Focus on the WACOMP  
projects implemented  
by UNIDO

Issue N°03

September 2022

Funded by



European Union

Implemented by



UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

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This newsletter has been produced by UNIDO as part of the West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP). The West Africa Competitiveness Programme is financed under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF). The views expressed herein are not to be taken to reflect the official position of the EU or ECOWAS.

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).



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Ms. Brikena Keco-Ukelli



*UNIDO-WACOMP Regional Programme Coordinator  
Division of SME Competitiveness, Quality and Job Creation*

## Dear readers,

Women are an essential part of global value chains. From material producers in agribusiness, employees in post-harvest activities, to technical roles in laboratories, women help businesses succeed and grow. Yet, they continue to face barriers to achieving their full potential at work, in the marketplace, and in many other aspects of the value chains.

Increasing the representation of women in leading roles across value chains takes more than just recruiting efforts—it starts with fostering an inclusive work culture and improving access and opportunities for growth and advancement.

Competitive markets provide access opportunities and the possibility of expanding businesses to women entrepreneurs. Advocacy for women producers, traders or laboratory technicians will encourage wider participation of women in the market and allow them to further grow as market players.

Under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) pledged to attain gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by 2030. It is the vision of UNIDO that women and men equally lead, participate in, and benefit from inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

UNIDO actively builds partnerships with the private sector to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development. Business partnerships are an effective way of leveraging support for initiatives that contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

A special focus has been paid to strengthening private–public dialogues through UNIDO’s implementation of projects under the EU-funded West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP), which is a partnership initiative between the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the European Union (EU).

In line with “UNIDO Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, 2020-2023”, UNIDO through its WACOMP projects has been following organizational practices to address gender inequalities in industry and to harness women’s full potential as leaders and economic agents of change, thereby transforming economies and generating inclusive growth.

While the overall objective of the Programme is to strengthen the competitiveness of West Africa and to enhance the countries’ integration into the regional and international trading system, including the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), it also has a bearing on regional economic integration and highlights a commitment to the Economic Partnership.

Under the WACOMP, many female professionals are working to strengthen competitiveness in West Africa and foster women empowerment throughout the various Programme activities.

UNIDO has been entrusted as implementing partner of the WACOMP for eight 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, and seven national covering Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Cabo Verde and Senegal.

This newsletter is the third edition of a series of bulletins compiling highlights from the eight WACOMP projects implemented by UNIDO.

In this edition of our newsletter, you will hear from successful women on how their business environment has evolved with the support of the EU-funded WACOMP.



Ms. Brikena Keco-Ukelli

Division of SME Competitiveness, Quality  
and Job Creation



# National components of the WACOMP

- \* UNIDO is the Lead Implementing Agency
- ⚡ UNIDO in collaboration with other Lead Agencies



**Benin**

**Amount:** €5m

**Lead ministry:** Ministry of finance

**Implementing partner:** GIZ

**Selected Value Chains:** Soya, ICT



**Burkina Faso**

**Amount:** €7.5m

**Lead ministry:** Ministry of Trade, Industry & Handicraft

**Implementing partner:** Chamber of commerce

**Selected Value Chains:** Honey; Cotton; Renewable energy



**Cabo Verde**

**Amount:** €5m

**Lead ministry:** Unit (Office of Prime Minister)

**Implementing partner:** UNDP & UNIDO

**Selected Value Chains:** ICT; Renewable energy; Culture, events & media, tourism & leisure



**Côte d'Ivoire**

**Amount:** €9m

**Lead ministry:** Ministry of Regional Integration

**Implementing partner:** Chamber of commerce

**Selected Value Chains:** Tropical fruits; Cassava; Cashew; Textile & garment; Rubbers & plastics; ICT



**The Gambia**

**Amount:** €4m

**Implementing partner:** UNIDO, United Purpose

**Selected Value Chains:** Onion



**Ghana**

**Amount:** €9m

**Implementing partner:** UNIDO

**Selected Value Chains:** Cassava & derivatives; Tropical fruits/processed fruits; Cosmetics & personal care products



**Guinea**

**Amount:** €5m

**Implementing partner:** UNIDO

**Selected Value Chains:** Pineapple



**Guinea Bissau**

**Amount:** €4m

**Implementing partner:** UNIDO

**Selected Value Chains:** Mango



**Liberia**

**Amount:** €5m

**Selected Value Chains:** Cassava



**Mauritania**

**Amount:** €4m  
**Selected Value Chains:**  
Poultry; Hide & Leather; Gum arabic



**Mali**

**Amount:** €5.5m  
**Selected Value Chains:**  
Tropical fruits; Cereals



**Niger**

**Amount:** €5m  
**Selected Value Chains:** Skin, Hide & Leather



**Nigeria**

**Amount:** €10m  
**Implementing partner:** GIZ  
**Selected Value Chains:**  
Ginger; Tomatoes/pepper; Textiles & garments; Skin, hide & leather



**Senegal**

**Amount:** €8.3m  
**Implementing partner:** ITC & UNIDO  
**Selected Value Chains for the UNIDO component:**  
Accommodation & restaurants, Transport, Fishing & fish farming, the Pharmaceutical industry, & the Agri-food industry



**Sierra Leone**

**Amount:** €4.3m  
**Implementing partner:** UNIDO  
**Selected Value Chains:**  
Cassava & derivatives; Cocoa; Palm oil



**Togo**

**Amount:** €5m  
**Implementing partner:** GIZ  
**Selected Value Chains:** Pineapple



# UNIDO's WACOMP projects overview

# WAQIP | West Africa Competitiveness and Quality Infrastructure Project

FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION | IMPLEMENTED BY UNIDO

	Project title	West Africa Competitiveness and Quality Infrastructure Project - WACQIP
	Contract Agreement Signature	01 August 2018
	Value chains	Cassava & its derivatives; Mango, Textiles & garments, and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as a cross-cutting value chain.
	Upcoming activities	<p><b>20 – 21 September 2022</b> West Africa Connect, 2nd edition</p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>October 2022</b> Launching of the Regional data base (ECOQUIB)</p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>October 2022</b> Presentation of the 2019 edition of the ECOWAS Quality Awards</p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>November 2022</b> Training on good manufacturing practices, packaging and traceability</p>



Project title

**WACOMP – Cabo Verde**

Response to the COVID-19 crisis and recovery of the tourism sector in Cabo Verde



Contract agreement signature

1 August 2020



Closing ceremony

8 October 2021



Budget

€187,067.83



Value chains

Information and Communication Technology (ICT); Renewable energy; Culture, tourism & leisure





Project title

**WACOMP – Ghana**

Building competitiveness for export of cassava, fruits and cosmetics value chains in Ghana



Contract agreement signature

29 March 2019



Budget

€6,350,000 (EU/ 11e FED: €6,200,000; UNIDO: €150,000)



Value chains

Tropical fruits; Cassava & derivatives; Cosmetics and personal care products



Upcoming activities

**August- September 2022**

Quality Training (ISO 9001, Food Safety Management, Good Manufacturing Practices)

**August 2022**

Fruit processing technical training (fruit juice, jams and dehydrated products)

**December 2022**

5th Steering Committee Meeting



Project title

**WACOMP – Guinea**

REFILA, Revival of the Pineapple Industry



Contract agreement signature

August 2, 2019



Budget

€4,990,000 (EU/11th FED: €4,900,000; UNIDO: €90,000)



Value chain

Pineapple



Upcoming activities

**19 August 2022**

Workshop on incentives for promoting youth entrepreneurship in the Guinean agricultural sector

**7 September 2022**

Practical training on the technique of laying plastic mulch

**12 September 2022**

Establishment of a consultation framework for packaging sector's actors

**September 2022**

3rd Steering Committee Meeting



Project title

**WACOMP – Guinea Bissau**

Improving the Competitiveness of the Mango Value- Chain in Guinea Bissau: Production, Local Processing and Export Support



Contract agreement signature

30 December 2019



Budget

€4,080,000 (EU/11th FED: €4,000,000; UNIDO: €80,000)



Value chain

Mango



Upcoming activities

**September 20-23, 2022**

Marketing and Communication Training and Preparation/ Review of Marketing and Communication Plans for 13 mango value chain stakeholders

**October 2022**

3rd Steering Committee Meeting

**October 2022**

Inauguration of 2 of the Mango Processing Units





<b>Project title</b>	<b>WACOMP - The Gambia</b> Increasing competitiveness through enhanced quality and compliance along the onion VC
<b>Contract agreement signature</b>	1 August 2020
<b>Budget</b>	€4,000,000, of which €2,350,000 is implemented by UNIDO and €1,250,000 by United Purpose, an international development charity.
<b>Value chain</b>	Onion
<b>Upcoming activities</b>	<p><b>August 2022</b> Meeting of taskforce to prepare the first draft of the identified standards</p> <p><b>September 2022</b> Training of Traditional Communicators (Kanyelengs) on WACOMP and best post-harvest handling</p> <p><b>September 2022</b> Establishment of steering committee and taskforces for the development of National Laboratory Policy</p> <p><b>November 2022</b> 3rd Project Steering Committee</p>





Project title

**WACOMP - Senegal**

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Resilience and Recovery Programme (P2R)



Contract agreement signature

1 April 2021



Budget

€2,000,000



Value chains for the UNIDO component

Accommodation & restaurants, Transport, Fishing & fish farming, the Pharmaceutical industry, & the Agri-food industry



Upcoming activities

**October 2022**

Workshop on "Access to adapted finance by MSMEs"





<b>Project title</b>	<b>WACOMP – Sierra Leone</b> Increasing Sierra Leone’s Competitiveness through Enhanced Productivity and Trade Compliance in selected Value Chains
<b>Contract agreement signature</b>	14 December 2018
<b>Budget</b>	€4,376,971
<b>Value chains</b>	Cassava & derivatives; Cocoa; Palm oil
<b>Upcoming activities</b>	<p><b>October-November 2022</b> Global accreditation of Sierra Leone Standards Bureau (SLSB) Management System Certification Body (MSCB)</p> <p><b>September 2022</b> SLSB Food Chemistry laboratory to participate in international proficiency testing for Cocoa, cassava and palm oil</p> <p><b>Ongoing activity</b> Capacity development of cocoa farmers in Kono, Kailahun and Kenema</p> <p><b>Ongoing activity</b> Global GAP implementation at two selected farms, in Bo district and Moyamba District for cassava farms</p> <p>Food Chemistry Lab accreditation</p> <p><b>November 2022</b> Project Steering Committee Meeting</p>



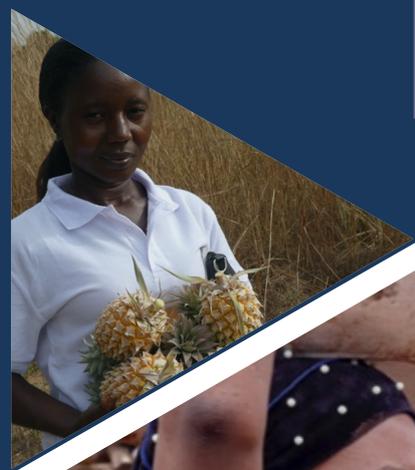


# Gender mainstreaming and women empowerment under WACOMP





# Promoting inclusive value chains in West Africa



# The Gambia

## Market Analysis on Tomato, Chili Pepper and Sweet Potato

The Gambia component of the WACOMP, on the 1st April 2022, concluded a 6-day field mission to conduct a Rapid Market Analysis (RMA) on tomato, chili pepper and sweet potato to determine areas for improvements and recommend potential intervention areas to address the quality-related gaps and constraints along the value chains.

The RMA followed WACOMP's earlier analysis on onion which was held in August 2021.

Women form the majority of the country's horticulture value-chain, working relentlessly – despite challenges of storage and market – to feed households with their produce and help fund their children's school fees and other needs with the little proceed they make from sales.

They are renowned for their role in growing high value vegetable crops such as onion, chili pepper, sweet potato and tomato which attract the international market. In tandem with this, the project in The Gambia will increase the country's competitiveness through enhanced quality and compliance along the onion value chain

and enhance its integration into the regional and international trading systems.

The mission is also aimed at discussing with marketing federations and regional stakeholders the selection of sites for the construction of curing and storage facilities.



WACOMP team posed with vegetable gardeners in Nema, Lower River Region, after administering a questionnaire



WACOMP officials posed for a picture with the marketing federation representatives in Kerewan, North Bank Region (NBR)

Funded by the European Union (EU), The Gambia component of the WACOMP project is increasing The Gambia's competitiveness through enhanced quality compliance along the onion value chain by improving the performance, growth and contribution to the industry, regional trade and exports of onion and other horticulture value chain.

The team, led by Mr. Musa Saihou Mbenga, UNIDO – WACOMP-GM International Horticulture Value Chain Specialist, held meetings with producers of the allied horticultural crops, representatives of marketing federations, regional departments of agriculture and WACOMP-GM implementing partners.

Mr. Mbenga said the value chain assessments on the allied crops determined areas for quality

Mr. Mbenga said the value chain assessments on the allied crops determined areas for quality

improvements, underperformance, volume of production, and the feasibility to stimulate change in the market system.

The selected gardens for the construction of onion curing and storage facilities are Pakau Njogu and Kani Kunda Suba in North Bank Region (NBR), Jahaur and Medina Lamin Kanteh in Central River Region North (CRR-N), Njoben and Nanaba in Central River Region South (CRR-S), Bureng and Nema in Lower River Region (LRR) and Berefet and Mandinaba in West Coast Region (WCR).

“Properly cured onions will store longer without spoiling. This development will benefit the whole value chain. The women don't have to sell off their onions at a cheap price at harvest. They can keep them longer and catch better price windows down the year,” said Mr. Musa Saihou Mbenga, UNIDO - WACOMP International Horticulture Value Chain Specialist.

The availability of the facilities, he added, will greatly help to reduce post-harvest losses in the onion sector.

Fatoumatta Jagne, the President of the Marketing Federation (Solicita) in the North Bank Region (NBR), said the intervention of WACOMP is timely and it will greatly help to reduce post-harvest losses and promote production.

*“NBR is one of the largest producers of onion, but we have many challenges. I am excited that WACOMP will help us with storage facilities and market linkages. This will increase our profitability and help us to better preserve our onions,”* the president said.

Fatoumatta thanked UNIDO for their plans to improve the onion value chain and the financier of WACOMP – the European Union - for their relentless support of rural women.





## Guinea

### Voice from the field: "Contributing to the fulfillment of women in local farming communities"



Financé par  
l'Union européenne



République de Guinée



ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES  
POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT INDUSTRIEL



Anne-Marie Bangoura, agro-entrepreneur, member of UGPAM. The REFILA project enabled her to specialize in the multiplication of shoots. Thanks

to REFILA, Anne-Marie encourages women to take an interest in the pineapple sector to guarantee a future for their children.



## Guinea-Bissau

### Small-scale agro-processing women receive technical support in the application of Good Hygiene and Manufacturing Practices

The national project of WACOMP in Guinea-Bissau, WACOMP-GB, has been providing technical support to the women of the Association of Women in Economic Activity, AMAE, in the application and adoption of Good Hygiene and Manufacturing Practices in mango and other fruit processing.

Compliance with international standards and practices is critical to ensuring the safety and quality of the final derived products, as well as business empowerment.

In the improved artisanal processing centers, on-the-job training was provided to share best practices and skills in processing techniques, packaging/labeling, pricing, and marketing of products among the various groups and cooperatives of small-scale agro-processing women.

The project will provide custom-made agro-processing kitchens as well as work requirements to upgrade each selected facility in the regions of Cacheu, Oio, Bafatá, and Bissau.

The supported products are already available in supermarkets, and a marketing and awareness-raising campaign aimed at increasing local production and consumption has been launched in collaboration with government agencies and other partners.







# Empowering women in post-harvest activities (processing, industry, marketing)

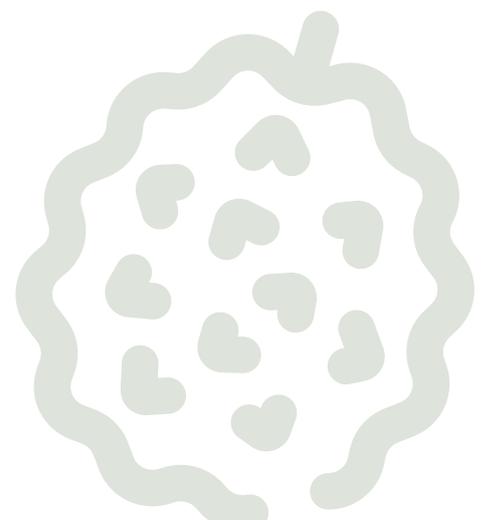
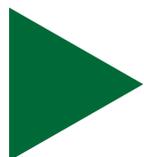




Voice from the field: “The training really opened my eyes to the importance of developing an effective business plan.”



Mrs. Nancy OBI, Entrepreneur (Cassava, avocado, passion fruits) based in Liberia. Under the framework of the WACQIP, she was one of the 450 entrepreneurs that were trained in the “Start and Improve Your Business” (SIYB) training. The project certified 32 trainers to deliver these modules which will effectively support existing and future entrepreneurs. This will help create job opportunities and improve sustainable livelihood opportunities.





## Ghana: 103 Women-led Entrepreneurs Trained on Handcraft Soap Bar Formulation

In line with UNIDO, WACOMP aligned Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, and 12 and as part of support to Ghana's female entrepreneurs in the natural cosmetics, sector to enhance knowledge sharing and strengthen market access for cosmetics, WACOMP – Ghana organized a cosmetics formulation training for entrepreneurs active in the cosmetic and personal care products value chain from 1st to 4th March 2022 to support the SMEs to be more competitive in the domestic and international market.

110 entrepreneurs (103 women) have so far benefited from the specialized training aimed at providing entrepreneurs with the technical knowledge to formulate natural cosmetics products for the domestic and international markets and to understand the manufacturing standards needed to access these markets.

The 4 – days session focused on using standards for Shea butter-based creams, handcrafted soap bars, lip bars, and black soap cosmetics for local and international markets.

Ms. Christabel Ofori is of the 103 women entrepreneurs that have benefited from UNIDO WACOMP Hand craft cosmetics training.

She is the manufacturer of Flocare beauty products, 100% natural skin and hair care products mostly targeting mothers and newborn babies. She had been reading theories on producing safe skin formulations for handcrafted soaps for her personal use but was having challenges with how to do it in the standardized format until the training.



Practical session of cutting handcraft soap bars at the cosmetics formulation training for SMEs



Group photo of the participants of the cosmetics formulation from March 1st -4th, 2022

Christabel said: *“Before this training with UNIDO, I had some theoretical knowledge about home processing of handcrafted soap, but the training helped me to put it into practice. We learned about the right and safe techniques, soap designs, and commercializing our soaps for the global market.”*

*On 24th June 2022, Christabel finally launched a specially produced hand bar soap range made with 100% natural butter and oils live on her Instagram account @flocarebeauty.*

*She acknowledged the support by UNIDO EU-funded WACOMP – Ghana and the training by WACOMP as one of the inspirations to start a new soap line for*

*her business during the launch. She confirmed: “I have been wanting to do this for a long time but WACOMP’s training boosted and gave me the confidence to start producing soaps”*



*The trained SMEs still receive constant technical backstopping and remote coaching on how to maintain their newly acquired competencies and ensure their competitiveness.*

*All trained SMEs have a common WhatsApp platform which facilitates communication among the SMEs (inter-cluster interaction) and the resource person.*



## Voice from the field: “Empowering female CEO through e-marketing cosmetics marketing”



*I was one of those struggling to do the Product Information File (PIF), which is a critical requirement standards for cosmetic products for export into the European Union (EU) and United Kingdom (UK) markets but with WACOMP’s support I started the process.”*

**MRS. MICHELLE AYOG – NYING DASSAH,**  
CEO Laam Shea Products

Michelle Ayog-Nying Dassah, CEO of Laam Shea is one of the SMEs in the WACOMP–Ghana cosmetics cluster since 2019 and took part in virtual and on-site learning programmes such as the product conformity webinars, E-marketing, Cosmetics formulation training and benefitted from six-month personalized coaching in 2021. A critical aspect of WACOMP- Ghana’s support is that she now prepares the Product Information File (PIF), which is a vital requirement standard for cosmetic products for export into the European Union (EU) and United Kingdom (UK).



## Guinea-Bissau



*Voice from the field: “Strengthening agro-entrepreneurship: the key to job opportunities”*



**Micaela Inumba** – “I am an animator at the NGO COPE (Cooperation between Emerging Countries), which works in the area of Horticulture, Fruit and Agriculture. I came to this training to learn about Agro-entrepreneurship, about studying the market, the target audience, launching a brand and business plans. It was an opportunity that allowed me to gain knowledge that I will now be able to pass on to my colleagues because I already know how I am going to work in my organization and help all those who are in this mango business.”



## The Gambia: Linking SMEs to Markets: Onion Producers Participate in International Trade Fair



WACOMP-GM participated in the 15th edition of the Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) International Trade Fair at Bijilo.

The fair, which attracted over 450 participants from the ECOWAS region, Europe and Asia, took place from the 26th of February to the 27th of March 2022.

With the theme "Accelerating Intra-Africa Trade for the realisation of AFCFTA through innovation", the platform availed participants the opportunity to network and promote their goods and services.

Both implementing agencies, UNIDO and United Purpose (UP), jointly facilitated stalls for onion producers and the marketing federation representatives to promote locally produced onions and allied crops, and create the much-needed market linkages.

The National Horticulture Value Chain Expert of UNIDO WACOMP, Mr. Malamin Drammeh, said as part of WACOMP's initiative to increase quality compliance in the onion value chain, it will create market linkages for growers of onion and allied crops to meet potential buyers.

WACOMP's participation in the trade fair, he said, is one of the many strives they will embark on to create more platforms for their beneficiaries.

"We will support onion producers through various post-harvest activities including the construction facilities for curing and storage in conformity with best practices," said Drammeh.

Ms. Ngansa Touray, the Project Manager of the UP component of WACOMP, expressed delight over the rainy season variety of the onions which are on sale at the trade fair for the first time in recent history.

This is a breakthrough, she said, adding that will promote year-round onion production as WACOMP seeks to achieve.

Jimbi Ceesay, the President of the National Vegetable Growers Association (Sosalaso), expressed gratitude to UNIDO and UP for the initiative and European Union for funding the project, saying it has gone a long way in helping vegetable growers to promote their produce, network and learn from other participants at the trade fair.



Locally produced onions on sale at the WACOMP stall

“This is a huge empowerment for women. We have learned a lot since we came here and we have sold our goods too. We have now been introduced to the use of measurement in the marketing of our produce and this has increased our profits,” she rejoiced.

Another WACOMP participant, Maimuna Jabang of Pirang Mansa Garden, thanked UNIDO and UP for providing such an opportunity to them. She called on fellow onion producers to adhere to standards and promote the rainy season onion variety for an all-year-round production.



Entrance of the WACOMP-GM Stall at the Trade Fair



Entrance of the WACOMP-GM Stall at the Trade Fair



## Sierra Leone

Voice from the field: “Proudly made in Sierra Leone”



Ms Abibatu Bangura is a beneficiary of the WACOMP Sierra Leone project who is working at an SME called “Absolute Barrkee” in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The WACOMP Sierra Leone team selected SMEs and cooperatives in different districts of the country for the implementation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and ISO standards.

Meeting international standards will increase their market competitiveness and create sustainable job opportunities for young entrepreneurs and employees like Abibatu.





# Female technicians in laboratory support





## Ghana



Voice from the field:  
*“Offering employment security of more than 3,000 rural women in Ghana.”*



Hajia, Safia Alhassan is the head of Pagsung Shea pickers and processors association. Through the Support of WACOMP–Ghana, the group registered and received FDA certificates for their shea soap, shea butter, and African black soap and was able to improve the income and employment security of more than 3,000 rural women members of the Association.



*“ I gained insight into appropriate product labeling and have been able to get FDA certificates for our shea soap, shea butter, and African black soap. This success is because of the WACOMP coaching. Also through the the project, we are able to improve the income and employment security of more than 3,000 rural women members of the Association”*

**HAJIA SAFIA ALHASSAN ANDANI**  
Head of the Pagsung Women Shea Butter Producers Cooperative





## The Gambia: Testimonial: How WACOMP-GM Training Have Enhanced My Work as a Certification Officer



Therese Munchu Gomez at the TGBS Metrology Laboratory in Abuko

“My name is Therese Munchu Gomez, a Certification Officer at The Gambia Standards Bureau (TGSB) under the Certification Body of the Conformity Assessment Division.

As a Certification Officer for Quality Management System (QMS), I manage certification services offered to organizations based on the QMS standard (ISO/IEC 9001), implement and maintain a quality management system according to ISO/IEC 17021, promote certification services of the Certification Body (CB), especially QMS certification services and serve as an auditor for other certification schemes other than QMS.

I participated in WACOMP-GM awareness raising training on ISO 22000, ISO/IEC 17025:2017, ISO 22000:2018 and on Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP).

Most of my responsibilities are based on QMS and Food Safety Systems standards, which has been offered by the training through the WACOMP project, especially GHP, HACCP and ISO 22000. The training on these standards have additionally equipped me to effectively execute my responsibilities as a Certification Officer, to audit and certify food businesses on GHP and HACCP. The ISO/IEC 17025 standard training came at a time when the CB was helping the National Metrology Laboratory to implement the

standard by developing relevant documents required by the standard.

The GHP, HACCP and ISO 22000 training have widened my knowledge to better understand and implement these standards as a Certification Officer and has improved my auditing skills so as to serve as an auditor to other schemes. With the knowledge acquired during these training, I was able to implement other requirements of the standards that weren't in place.

The training were well delivered and came at a time well needed. The contents were specific to the subject matter thus, objectives of the training were achieved. I would like to solicit for WACOMP to provide the advanced levels of the training already conducted for better understanding and implementation.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to UNIDO and EU for making it possible for these training to be availed to us. These training will serve a long way in promoting food safety and security in our country."



Therese Munchu Gomez at the TGBS Metrology Laboratory in Abuko





# WACOMP celebrates International Women's Day, on March 8 2022





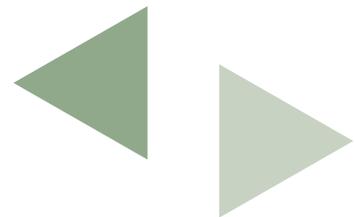
On International Women’s Day (IWD 2022, 8th of March), the EU-funded WACOMP reaffirms its commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls around the world.

In alignment with the theme for the United Nations Observance of IWD 2022, Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow, the UNIDO-WACOMP team posed for the Equality Pose Challenge to further pledge our support to work with women and for women empowerment across regional and global competitive spaces.

At the same time, women are active agents of change and transformation. They lead the way on climate

change adaptation, mitigation, and response, to build a more sustainable future for all.

WACOMP is committed to promote gender-sensitive and human rights-based approaches, policies and practice in the context of climate change. We need to ensure gender equality and diversity inclusion in the decision-making process and implementation of policies and programmes in all spheres.





## Women Praise WACOMP-GM for Improving Livelihoods as they commemorate International Women's Day

On the International Women's Day (IWD), women beneficiaries of WACOMP-GM expressed gratitude to the project for its significant role improving the livelihood of rural women.

IWD, marked annually on March 8, is a UN day that celebrates the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality.

The women commend WACOMP-GM during their participation in the 15th edition of the annual International Trade Fair organized by Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) at Bijilo from the 26th of February to the 27th of March 2022.

The President of the National Marketing Federation (SOSALASO), Jibbi Ceesay, said a significant number of women engaged in horticulture grow onions and earn their living through it. Developing the value

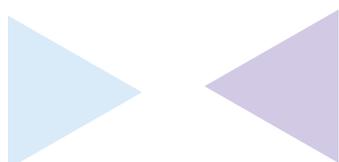
chain, she said, will improve their production and consequently increase profits.

"WACOMP has come to ease the burden on us. When our capacities are developed, and we are supported with curing and storage facilities and others, we will be able to address post-harvest losses and be more competitive in the market," she said.

The president said women are crucial drivers of the country's economy and as such, they should be further supported to maximize their potentials.

Speaking at the trade fair, Jibbi thanked WACOMP for facilitating the participation of their members in this year's edition of the trade fair.

"We are grateful for this opportunity. We sold their produces and made contacts with potential buyers too," she rejoiced.



The president said the trade fair has introduced them to the use of measurements in selling their produce. This, she noted, has significantly increased their profitability.

She called on women to be committed to horticulture and adhere to best practices of production and post-harvest management practices to enhance the quality and compliance of their produce as envisaged by WACOMP-GM.

Maimuna Jabang of Pirang Women's Garden in West Coast Region (WCR) and Jalima Cham of Pakalinding Women's Garden in Lower River Region (LRR) expressed delight over their successful participation in the trade fair.

"I brought some onions and sold all of them, using the measurement scale. I have received a lot of

compliments from spectators and networked with some value chain actors too," Maimuna said.

For SMEs and public institutions to recover from the impact of the pandemic, it is crucial to strengthen the overall regional quality infrastructure in order to remain resilient and foster a competitive business environment. The WACOMP has hence prioritised the capability to respond and mitigate the effects of the pandemic through copious activities.

In order to meet the evolving challenges imposed by the pandemic, UNIDO has identified priority needs that are vital on a regional stage through the integration of contingency plans that will follow at each national component.



Jibbi Ceesay and Jalima Cham holding WACOMP brochure and newsletter at the trade fair



# Latest news under WACOMP



# UNIDO launches WACOMP video

In the West African region, the main economic challenges include the difficulties of many enterprises to compete in international markets, the lack of competitiveness and national and regional value chain integration. UNIDO has been entrusted as implementing partner of the WACOMP for eight 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, and seven national covering Ghana, Guinea,

Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Cabo Verde and Senegal. With a portfolio of 31 million euros, UNIDO is one of the main implementing agencies of the WACOMP and is working to make sure that West African economies are becoming more competitive, dynamic, inclusive and sustainable.

UNIDO is proud to announce the release of a video on this key WACOMP initiative.



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Watch the video in English under the following link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TFXrNF\\_snpw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TFXrNF_snpw)



Watch the video in French here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vrQEzOtZkTk>



# UNIDO-EU Exhibition

In the framework of the **European Year of Youth 2022**, **UNIDO-EU Photography Exhibition “Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development: a boost to youth employment”** was held in Brussels, from June 8th to June 22nd.

The exhibition, in English and in French, showcased 20 projects around the world implemented by UNIDO in partnership with the EU, which contribute in different ways to empowering youth and creating jobs towards a more sustainable future. These stories highlight the impact of the collaboration between UNIDO and the EU in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals - in particular SDG 9 “Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure” - in transforming people’s lives, and in leaving no youth behind.

Among these 20 projects, the UNIDO implemented WACOMP projects on the Regional level, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Guinea, The Gambia and Senegal, were featured.

The WACOMP project panels are available here: <https://bit.ly/3yepCPU>

The final UNIDO-EU Report “State of the International Partnership 2021 Report” is also available in English and in French here: <https://bit.ly/3AkKFD3>

The respective WACOMP projects implemented by UNIDO can be found from page 52 – 63. A teaser video is also available on UNIDO’s main YouTube channel: <https://bit.ly/3acfcZ7>

By highlighting the successful results, achievements, stories of beneficiaries, and partners involved, we at WACOMP believe they will improve the visibility of our joint work and contribute to strengthening the overall partnership between UNIDO and the European Union.



20

Projects



Funded by the European Union



Implemented by UNIDO

from

8 June

2022

to

22 June

2022

# WACQIP

## West Africa Connect boosts the region's trade of mango, cassava, and ICT services

After a successful edition in 2021, West Africa Connect is back with a new event on September 20 and 21, 2022. This time, the focus is placed on promoting mangoes, cassava, and ICT services from West African suppliers to agribusiness buyers from West Africa, Africa, and other continents. Buyers can connect to over 150 selected fresh and processed mango and cassava suppliers as well as ICT service

providers from 16 countries. Throughout the event and thereafter, the platform will offer B2B meetings with partners and access to exhibitors' digital profiles.

At West Africa Connect, buyers can source from a wide range of regional products and services, benefitting from the tailored support provided by the organizers.

### Meet suppliers face-to-face and online



Last year, 441 registered participants from 31 countries around the world engaged in lively online exchanges. West Africa Connect 2022 will be held as a hybrid event on the 20th and 21st of September both in Accra, Ghana and online. Buyers can register via:

<https://event2022.westafricaconnect.com/signup>

and find more information at

<https://westafricaconnect.com/the-event/why-attend-as-buyer/>





## First ECOWAS Regional PPP Stakeholder's Forum



The ECOWAS Project Preparation and Development Unit (PPDU), the ECOWAS Private Sector Directorate and UNIDO in the context of the WACOMP jointly organized the first ECOWAS Regional Public Private Partnership (PPP) Stakeholder's Forum from the 8th-10th June 2022. The event was organized in a hybrid format from Dakar, Senegal.

Over 60 participants representing national PPP Units, government representatives, development partners, regional business associations, financing institutions, the private sector and the media engaged in active discussions with a view to creating synergies that will accelerate the development, implementation, and funding of economic and social infrastructure in West Africa.

This Forum, which was the first of its kind in West Africa, provided an excellent opportunity for stakeholders to exchange information and engage on PPP issues in a series of interactive briefing and knowledge/experience sharing sessions as well as thematic parallel group discussions. The various participants emphasized the importance of creating enabling regional legal and institutional frameworks, capacity building and developing appropriate financing strategies for the development of infrastructure built on collaboration and synergy within the region.

Specifically, the ECOWAS Regional Infrastructure Master Plan, which constitutes the strategic framework for regional infrastructure development, was presented to the participants. Adopted by the Summit of ECOWAS Assembly of Heads of State at its 60th



Ordinary Session held in December 2021, the Master Plan contains 201 projects including 145 investment projects and 56 soft projects (institutional and capacity building projects) at a cost of US\$131 billion over 25 years (2020-2045). In addition, a presentation was delivered on the ECOWAS Policy and Guidelines for Regional PPP projects, which covered the initial National PPP legal framework analysis conducted, the definition of regional PPP projects, the roles, and responsibilities of regional institutions through the PPP project cycle, the need to define an applicable legal framework early in the development of each regional PPP project and the requirement of disclosure.



During the Forum, the ECOWAS Private Sector Directorate and UNIDO presented the results of the work accomplished under the WACOMP, including the establishment of a regional ECOWAS PPP stakeholder's network and a regional PPP on-line platform to foster exchanges between various entities and maximize PPP knowledge, experience and information sharing in the region. The official handover of the platform to the ECOWAS Commission was marked by the presentation of a certificate by Mr. Christophe Yvetot, UNIDO representative for Senegal, Cabo Verde, The Gambia,

Guinea-Bissau, and Mauritania, to representatives of the Commissioner for Private Sector and Industry and the Commissioner for Infrastructure from the ECOWAS Commission.

As part of an experience-sharing session, the Forum also featured a presentation of the Dakar TER (Regional Express Train) project by the APIX Managing Director, Mr. Mountaga Sy. The presentation highlighted the institutional, technical, and operational arrangements and measures taken by the Government of Senegal to ensure the project is successfully financed and implemented. The participants were then invited to join a site visit to the TER to appreciate the earlier presentation of the project.



Elhadji Y. Karim Ndiaye, Director of Administration and Personnel at the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Cooperation of Senegal, indicated that "this Regional PPP Forum is an effective framework for sharing good practices between ECOWAS member states. This type of initiative allows all member states to come together to harmonize PPP policies and develop common projects".

**60+**

Participants

from to

**8 June 2022** **10 June 2022**

## "CALZADILLA - KOUASSI": An award to promote quality in West Africa through accreditation

1<sup>st</sup> edition of a writing competition on accreditation of conformity assessment bodies for journalists and students in West Africa organised by SOAC



The West African Accreditation System (WAAS) [Système Ouest Africain d'Accréditation, SOAC, in French] organised the first edition of an article writing competition on accreditation of conformity assessment bodies for journalists and students in West Africa.

The award is named after two prominent ambassadors of quality in West Africa: Mr. Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento, Managing Director of the Digital, Technology and Agribusiness Directorate (DTA) of UNIDO and Mr. Aka Jean Joseph Kouassi, Senior Technical Advisor of the West Africa Competitiveness and Quality Infrastructure Project (WACQIP).

The Board of Directors of SOAC wished to salute through this initiative, their decisive contribution to the creation and development of SOAC in particular and the Quality Infrastructure in general, in the West African region.

Indeed, "When UNIDO proposed to the UEMOA sub-region the establishment of a Quality Infrastructure, following the example of those existing elsewhere in the world, and thus the international recognition could be ensured by a sub-regional accreditation body, covering 8 countries, **very few people believed in it**", recalled Mr. Calzadilla-Sarmiento.



The theme of the competition was "The signing of the AFRAC - ILAC - IAF Mutual Recognition Agreements by ECOWAS accreditation bodies, what are the stakes in West Africa for the Sustainable Development of health systems, in the framework of the fight against COVID-19 and for a winning participation of the region in the FTAA & in international trade?"

The results were announced during a gala dinner presided over by the Commissioner in charge of Enterprise Development, Mines, Energy and Digital Economy of the UEMOA Commission, Mr. Paul Koffi Koffi, in the presence of the President of the SOAC, Mr. Aboubacry Baro, and the UNIDO Representative in Côte d'Ivoire and Togo, Mr. Tidiane Boye. The Jury, represented by its president, Mrs. Khady Evelyne Denise Ndiaye, also director of the private sector at the WAEMU Commission, awarded the prize in the "journalist" category to Mr. Mahamadi Sebogo, from the newspaper Sidwaya of Burkina Faso, and the student prize to Mrs. Rosalie Dibor Diene, from the *École supérieure de journalisme, des métiers de l'internet et de la communication (EJICOM)* of Senegal.

The ceremony was also marked by the presentation of the certificate of mutual recognition by the African

Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC). "*The accreditations that SOAC grants you are valid all over the world (...)*", said Mr. Aboubacry Baro, Chairman of the SOAC Board of Directors. "*The SOAC has been accredited by international bodies,*" added the Commissioner of UEMOA, Mr. Paul Koffi Koffi.

The ceremony was an opportunity for SOAC to thank UNIDO for its constant support.

The day before, SOAC held its fourth General Assembly which saw the renewal of the SOAC board's mandate for two years and the accession of new members. A workshop on the development and financing of accreditation in West Africa was also organised at the same time, with the effective participation of Mr. Bernard Bau, Head of WACQIP/WACOMP at UNIDO, in charge of the development of the SOAC. It was a question of exploring the avenues of financing which should allow the perpetuation of the SOAC beyond the financing of the UEMOA, which supports the SOAC to the tune of 430 million CFA francs [655,777 euros] over three years through an agreement whose renewal is underway for the same amount over the period 2022-2024.





## Cabo Verde

## Closing ceremony of the WACOMP Cabo Verde project



Eighteen months after its implementation, the project "Response to the COVID-19 crisis and revival of the tourism sector in Cabo Verde", WACOMP Cabo Verde, ended on October 8, 2021.

The closing ceremony was chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, and attended by the Minister of Tourism and Transport, representatives from the EU and the UNDP. The participants reflected on the project retrospectives, highlighting key results that were captured results through the eyes of beneficiaries.

In the context of the project, UNIDO was entrusted with the component to foster synergies with the regional quality infrastructure component of the WACOMP, the West Africa Competitiveness and Quality Infrastructure Project (WACQIP). The project was implemented in 5 months from April to September 2021 in close collaboration and coordination with the Institute for Quality Management and Intellectual Property (IGQPI) and the Ministry of Tourism and Transport, for a total budget of USD 191,756.

In the context of the project, UNIDO's component has supported the country to establish the 'conformity assessment' certificate for products, processes, and services, through a Simplified Certification Scheme. This Certification Scheme for Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) has been prepared and is operational for test, for 1 product (cheese) and for services (food services). In addition,

27 Pilot Units with GMP or HACCP are in the process of implementation of the Scheme for certification.

Another crucial achievement is the contribution to the development of the national quality management infrastructure, in certification on GMP and HACCP, where certification schemes have been developed and implemented under the National Certification Commission (CONCERT).

Furthermore, the capacity of national laboratories to support product certification using international good practices and standards has been reinforced, aiming at their sustainability. Training has been provided to 26 technical staff from 9 national laboratories on ISO/IEC 17025:2018. Moreover, a range of equipment and materials has been provided to laboratories. This will help to overcome technical barriers to trade, ensure food safety and guarantee consumer protection in Cabo Verde.

In addition to the work undertaken within the context of the WACOMP Cabo Verde project, UNIDO was also supporting laboratories in Cabo Verde towards accreditation, within the framework of the WACOMP regional project, WACQIP.

UNIDO was recommended by the EU and chosen for its long and fruitful experience in the fields of value chain and quality infrastructure development in the region and particularly in Cabo Verde. This brings UNIDO to a total of eight projects under the WACOMP umbrella.



# Ghana

## Support for Ghanaian Farmers to Showcase Exotic Fruits in Berlin

WACOMP–Ghana and the Ghana Export Promotion Authority (GEPA) supported the promotion of Ghanaian exotic fruits under the theme “Discover the superior taste of Ghana’s green gold” at FruitLogistica in Berlin, Germany, from 5th to 7th of April 2022.

One of GEPA’s focus during FruitLogistica 2022 was to promote the Ghanaian Sugarloaf, a much sweeter pineapple variety than MD2. Within this framework, seven GlobalG.A.P. certified members of the Sea-freight Pineapple Exporters of Ghana (SPEG) participated in the trade fair.

Ghanaian producers already export Sugarloaf pineapples to France, and it is anticipated that with the implementation of the action plans and strategy of the Sector Exporting Marketing Plans (SEMPs), co-created by WACOMP, GEPA and key stakeholders in the pineapple sector sugarloaf variety will also be introduced to other European markets.

Europe is the main destination of 90% of Ghanaian pineapples and among the top five European markets are Belgium, France, the UK, Switzerland, and Germany.



## ▶ Collective Branding

As part of a collective strategy, WACOMP–Ghana in collaboration with the Ghana Export Promotion Authority and the Sea-Freight Pineapple Exporters of Ghana (SPEG) formulated a collective brand development for the promotion of Sugar Loaf on the international market. The marketing

strategy created a unique and distinguishing image of Ghanaian pineapples from their competitors.

Sugarloaf pineapples are cylindrical in shape, slightly tapering at the crown with a thin and tough waxy rind that remains green even when ripe.

However, it is less known on the international market, perhaps because it is grown and exported from West Africa and these countries have not yet fully exploited its commercial potential in the international markets. It can be identified by its bottled shape.

## WACOMP Develops Traceability Software: “COSMOSTRACE”



As part of ensuring traceability within SMEs supported by WACOMP–Ghana, a tailor-made traceability software; “COSMOSTRACE” has been developed and tested with a sample cosmetics company for their daily use.

The project has so far supervised 15 selected companies from the Northern, Middle, and Southern clusters to have their traceability procedures installed and coached to ensure the use and integration of the software into their daily work.

### What is traceability?

A traceability system is a technical tool intended to help companies comply with set objectives and it is used, when necessary, to determine the history and/or location of a product and all of its components.

It is the process of identifying the origin of a product and reconstructing its movements from production to distribution or the ability to trace the history, application, or location of an entity or activity or similar entities or activities utilizing recorded identifications. Traceability is a legal obligation for companies (within the European Union) and often a requirement of the customers and buyers.

#### Some benefits:

- Enables tracking of a product throughout a production and distribution chain, from raw materials supplier to end-consumer.
- Enables controllers (internal and external) to identify the operations carried out and to assign responsibilities at each stage.



## Financial Management Training for 108 Members of Cluster Groups



As part of compete and credit axis of the 5 Cs for competitiveness WACOMP assists MSMEs within the program cluster to enable them overcome barriers to business growth by increasing their collective efficiency, helping them to access new markets and access to finance.

WACOMP – Ghana organized a series of training in group dynamics and financial management for pineapple cluster groups in the Eastern Region (from 28th to 30th March 2022) and for cosmetics cluster groups in the Upper East Region and Northern Region (from the 5th of April to 8th of April 2022). 108 MSMEs participated in the series of training organized.

Keeping accurate financial records has often been a challenge for MSMEs and this has an immediate impact on the proper management of their businesses,

as they are unable to make financial decisions that promote the businesses and prevent financial institutions to provide adequately needed financial assistance. Practical hands-on basic skills of group dynamics and accounting record-keeping were used during the training to help MSMEs understand the different concepts being taught.

These involved audited financial statements of businesses of the same nature and bank statements. The MSMEs were then taken through the components of the income statement, i.e., sales/revenue, cost of production, gross profit, administrative expenses, and net profit. Participants were given practical exercises within the training period to develop profit and loss statements for their respective cooperatives for March 2022.

### Engagement with financial institutions

Several financial institutions were invited to engage with the MSMEs to answer the queries and concerns of MSMEs with regard to challenges associated with access to finance. The financial institutions addressed questions from the participants and engaged with MSMEs directly concerning their credit requests on a one-on-one basis.



# Guinea

## A new approach to developing an industrial policy in Guinea

Several countries entrust international consultants and consulting firms with the development of their industrial policy. In many cases, policies do not correspond to the countries' economic, social, and environmental realities. As a result, there is a lack of stakeholder buy-in and the policy is not implemented.

In response to this observation, Guinea has chosen a new participatory approach, involving various sectoral departments coordinated by the Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Small and Medium Enterprises. This approach is the one that UNIDO has been

promoting worldwide as part of its strategy to foster inclusive and sustainable industrial development. In the context of the EU-funded Revival of the Pineapple Industry Project in Guinea (REFILA) project, support has been provided to the government of Guinea to implement this new approach. Thus, a preparatory workshop on "Capacity building for decision-makers, executives, and analysts on the process and formulation of policies" was held in Conakry from May 24 to 28, followed by an industrial policy formulation workshop from June 28 to July 2. The workshops were organized around the following four activities:



Several panels were organized during this meeting. Direct exchanges between political leaders and members of the private sector have occurred, assisting in defining a direction for the country's revised industrial strategy.

The writing of Guinea's industrial policy was overseen by international and national experts from UNIDO.



## REFILA launches the pineapple standards development program and donates IT equipment to IGNM

As part of the implementation of the REFILA project, the program for the development and popularization of standards on pineapple and derived products was officially launched in Conakry on Friday July 29, 2022 at the Guinean Institute for Standardization and Meteorology (IGNM).

The ceremony took place in the presence of the UNIDO Country Representative in Guinea, the Economic Advisor of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and SMEs, the Deputy Director General of IGNM and executives of the institutions.

On this launch, the REFILA project also donated computer equipment to the IGNM such as computers, printers, internet routers, etc. The objective is to support the IGNM in its accreditation process, to build the capacity of IGNM executives and to support them in the development of standards and technical regulations relating to pineapple.

Thus, it should be remembered that the development of quality standards will make it possible to integrate Guinea into marketing circuits at the regional, sub-regional and international levels.



## UNIDO's partner, ITC organizes a marketing and export price workshop to train REFILA's beneficiaries

In synergy between REFILA and the Guinean government, UNIDO promotes the support and technical capacity building of actors involved in the value chain with the goal of improving Guinea pineapple know-how and positioning.



In this context, the project organized, in collaboration with ITC, a capacity-building workshop at the Palm Camayenne Hotel on May 16-19, 2022. This workshop is part of REFILA's goal of promoting the Guinea pineapple known as "the baroness". It also aims to teach participants from the public and private sectors methods how to use marketing tools; how to set export prices and how to be prepared for international fairs.

As a result, this initiative has provided participants with the necessary tools to better position their businesses in sub-regional and international markets. To go further, it also allowed 19 of them to be accompanied by ITC in the creation of marketing kits (logo, business card, brochure and website).



Participants comparing different varieties of pineapple

## Beneficiaries of REFILA in Morocco for a study visit organized by UNIDO's partner ITC

Partner of UNIDO under the REFILA project, ITC works on: activating links with target markets, supporting and monitoring beneficiaries in the process of conquering export markets. In connection with its missions and the selection of the Moroccan market by Guinean public and private actors, ITC carried out a market study which made it possible to identify all the opportunities for the export of fresh pineapple from Guinea to Morocco.

As a result of this study and the desired express of organizing study visits to Morocco, representatives from 7 companies (of which 30% were women) participated in a series of training sessions on

the Moroccan market from May 8 to 14, 2022, in Casablanca.

This trip allowed identified producers, processors and exporters to train and visit sites in order to better understand the "Marketing" value chain of fresh pineapple in Morocco. It also enables them to see how the products are packaged, to explore packaging solutions and to know the transport circuit from Guinea.

Finally, this visit helps to improve the understanding of Guinean pineapple actors on the demands and requirements of the Moroccan market.



## Guinea-Bissau

### Guinea-Bissau validates its National Quality Policy (NOP)

The EU-funded WACOMP-Guinea Bissau (WACOMP-GB) promoted a workshop for the restitution and validation of its National Quality Policy (NOP), which took place on the 29th of April and was chaired by the Director General of Industry of Guinea-Bissau.

The proposal for the NOP was validated by 27 participants belonging to the main entities linked to Quality Infrastructure in Guinea-Bissau, Directorate General for Industry, Directorate General for Agriculture, Directorate for Fisheries, Inspection Services, Fisheries Laboratory, National Laboratory of Public Health, National Association of Farmers, Chamber of

Commerce and private operators in the industry and commerce sectors, among others.

The NOP is a top document of the National Quality Infrastructure (NQI), containing the main guidelines that must frame the strategic and operational plans regarding the quality infrastructure. The formalization of the NOP facilitates the coordination of initiatives and ensures the thoughtful development and profitability of technological infrastructures to support quality.



## ► WACOMP-GB distributes Fruit Fly Traps in the regions of Bafatá and Oio

The first phase of distribution of Fruit Fly Traps was successfully concluded last April in the regions of Bafatá and Oio, with the second phase planned for the region of Cacheu in May.

The distribution, which began on March 27, was accompanied by awareness-raising and necessary training on the use of chemicals used in traps.

The intention is to gradually eradicate the fruit fly pest, which can significantly reduce the harvest and consequently impact the production of Mango and its derivatives, by using pheromone and chemical capture methodologies. The trap consists of a plastic bottle with an average capacity of 1.5 liters, placed every 50 meters on

a tree, containing inside a solution that emanates a smell that attracts the pest insects and another solution that once the insects are inside captures them.

This is the second year that traps have been effectively distributed to these regions, using them also to collect information through samples in the containers. The time for changing the traps is three months, when the effect of the chemicals begins to diminish.

One of the greatest benefits of the application of traps that combat fruit flies is the support of food security, favoring the harvest and promoting the mango trade.



## Digital Incubation Program: beginning incubation phase of the IDEA-App



**WACOMP-GB launched the IDEA App Guinea-Bissau Program in Bissau on April 28th 2022**

The IDEA App is a digital incubation platform, developed by UNIDO in partnership with Bridge for Billions (B4B), that connects entrepreneurs with mentors, follows a step-by-step incubation methodology with key definitions, examples, data visualizations and provides a final business plan. It will support 60 projects focused on agribusiness value chains, such as mango, cashew, fisheries and others, that offer enough employment opportunities, particularly in the processing and circular economy. The program in Guinea-Bissau is implemented with the 3 local IDEA Centres: Ajuda de Desenvolvimento de Povo para Povo (ADPP-GB); Agência Nacional de Empreendedorismo Juvenil (ANEJ); and Innovalab.

After the launching event, entrepreneurs and mentors entered a period of matching, during May, several one-to-one meetings were done on the platform to get know each other better. After a ranking is done, both by the entrepreneurs and the mentors, the program automatically made the match. Afterwards, each party signed the mentorship agreement and the incubation program began.

On the 1st of June, the entrepreneurs started the incubation program. The incubation program consists of a 5-month entrepreneurship program, divided into 8 modules of business areas to help the entrepreneurs go from a business idea to implementation, in a short period of time. The modules are: i) value proposition; ii) competition map; iii) stakeholder map; iv) business model & marketing; v) pricing & business viability;

vi) impact plan; vii) financial projections; and viii) growth plan.

During the next months, the entrepreneurs will receive tools, guidance, and capacity building to help them implement their business ideas, allowing all of the people, businesses, and cooperatives involved to quickly maximize their contribution to the development of a competitive business environment in Guinea-Bissau. They will work weekly with a personal mentor, receive 8 online training sessions in the business modules, participate in 3 sharing experience sessions and attend 9 presential training sessions.

With IDEA APP Guinea-Bissau, the following results are expected to be achieved:

**Strengthen local value chains**, fostering new businesses and supporting the acceleration and formalization of existing businesses, contributing to the promotion of partnerships and commercial interactions between stakeholders;

**Promote alternatives** to the training and mentoring that entrepreneur have access to, in order to reduce the failure rates of new businesses and job creation;

**Strengthen Local Innovation Centers (IDEA Centers) and ecosystem actors** by empowering them with the latest pedagogy and innovative frameworks, as well as equipping them with the technology needed to scale their incubation programs.



Participants in the first presential training session:  
Starting a Small Business



# The Gambia

## Training on ISO 22000:2018 – Food Safety Management System & HACCP System

WACOMP-GM has held virtual awareness training on ISO 22000:2018 – Food Safety Management System (FSMS) Standard on the 16th - 17th March 2022 and on food safety based on the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system for inspection and certification technicians of conformity assessment institutions on the 2nd - 3rd February 2022.

29 participants drawn from The Gambia Standards Bureau (TGSB) and other institutions were introduced to the Food Safety Management System (FSMS) Standard, one that is applicable to any Organization in the Food Chain.

An effective FSMS reinforces an organization’s control on food safety hazards and ensures that its products are safe for consumption.

Funded by the European Union, the WACOMP-GM project is aiming to increase competitiveness in The Gambia through enhanced quality compliance along the onion value chain, thereby strengthening

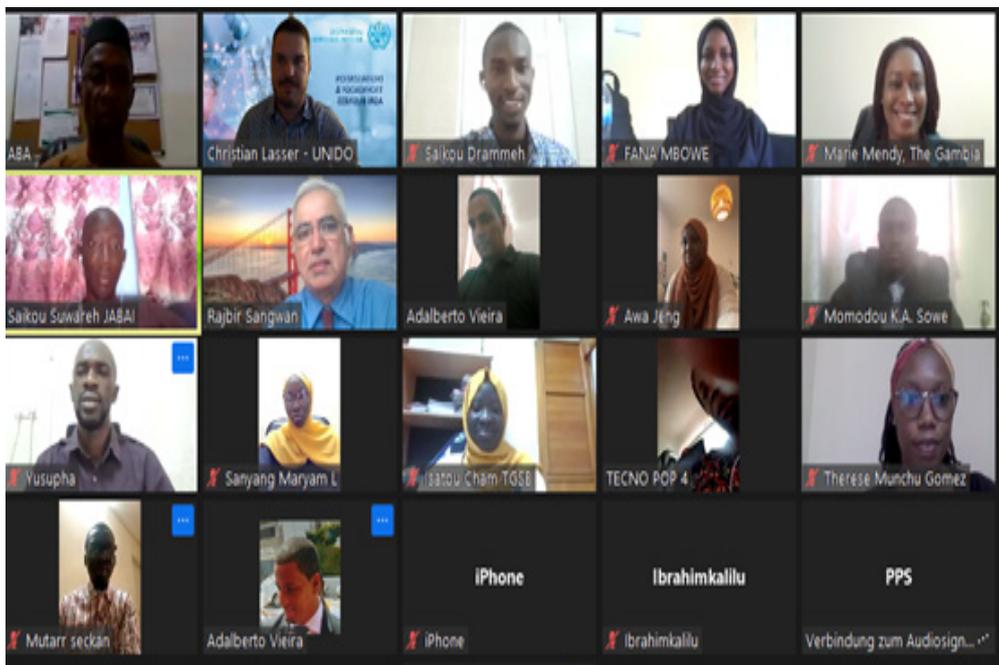
the country’s competitiveness and enhancing its integration into the regional and international trading systems.

The National Technical Coordinator of WACOMP-GM, Mr. Joseph Ndenn, said the training is the beginning of a process to build national capacity in professional auditing of food safety management systems.

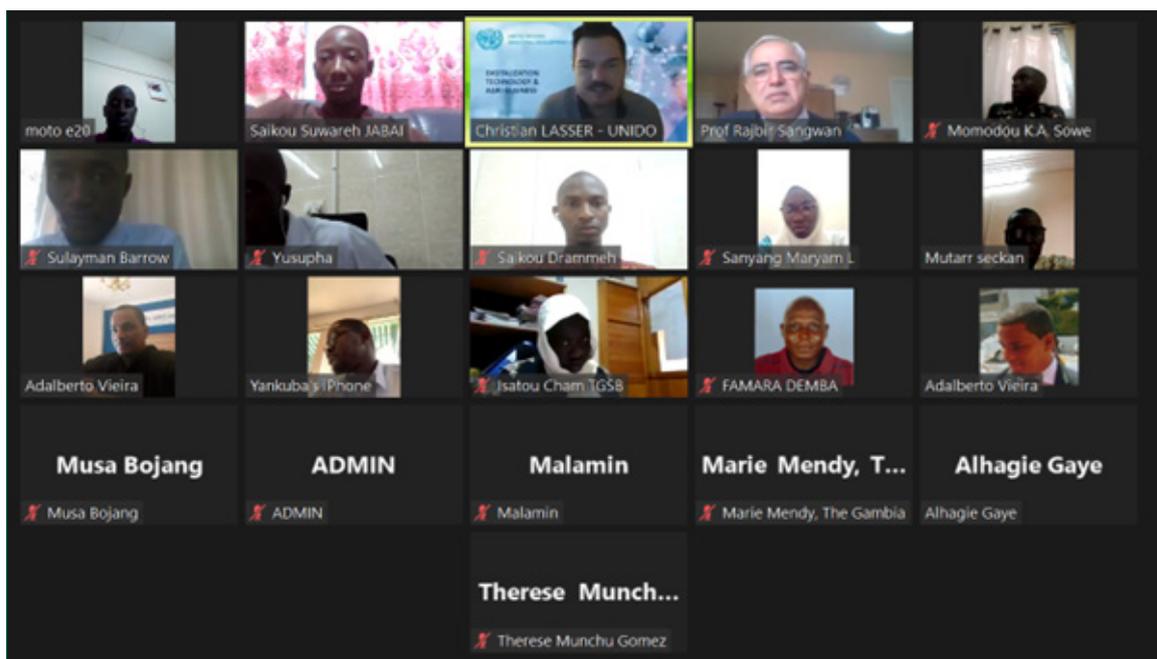
The awareness training is a pre-requisite for the more advanced Lead Implementer and Lead Auditor courses in ISO 22000:2018.

*“It is also hoped that the training will contribute to enhancing the participants’ interest in the food safety management in general and the ISO 22000:2018 food safety management standard in particular,” he noted.*

The co-facilitator of the training, UNIDO expert on Quality Infrastructure (QI) Prof. Dr. Adalberto Vieira, said the awareness training on ISO 22000:2018.



Participants of the ISO 22000:2018 – Food Safety Management System training



Participants of the HACCP training

shared with the participants the structure of the standard, the key steps for implementation as well as the importance of having a FSMS in the food sector organizations as a way of ensuring the manufacturing of safe food and access to new reference markets.

A participant, Saikou Drammeh, Standards Officer for Food and Agriculture at TGSB, described the training as timely, saying its significance cannot be over-emphasized.

*"It has equipped me with the necessary knowledge as standards officer for food and agricultural products to be able to help stakeholders, especially for agro-food processors to better process their foods in a way that is safer for everyone," he said.*

The HACCP training was attended by participants from the Food Safety and Quality Authority (FSQA), the TGSB, and Plant Protection Services (PPS).

The HACCP system identifies specific hazards and measures for their control to ensure the safety of food. HACCP is a tool to assess hazards and establish control systems that focus on prevention rather than relying mainly on end-product testing.

These training followed WACOMP-GM's training on 'ISO/IEC 17025:2017 - General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories' which was held in December.



## WACOMP-GM Trains Journalists on Horticulture and Quality Infrastructure



*Journalists posed with the training certificates*

WACOMP-GM held a training of 20 journalists on the horticulture value-chain and quality infrastructure system in The Gambia on the 2nd and 3rd March 2022 at Metz Residence Hotel in Kololi.

The participants acquired basic knowledge of The Gambia's quality infrastructure, the onion and horticulture value-chains and were introduced to WACOMP's planned interventions in increasing the country's competitiveness.

"The media has a big role to play in the development of the country's horticulture and quality infrastructure system. Journalists are our valuable partners, and the training is timely as it has better equipped them to effectively report on the sector for positive societal change," said Mr. Joseph Ndenn, the National Technical Coordinator of WACOMP-GM.

He urged participants to increase their focus on these underreported sectors by producing in-depth human-interest stories that will make a difference for value chain actors.

Mr. Ebrima Bah, a Reporter at the Gambia Radio and Television Services (GRTS), said the training came at a good time and that it exposed them to fact-based reporting on horticulture and quality infrastructure.

"Knowing how to report on these subjects has enabled us to produce stories that will have a great impact on the lives and livelihoods of vegetable farmers," he said, adding that they now have the adequate capacity to take on value chain actors and policy-makers with a view to adequately addressing the challenges confronting the sector.



# Senegal

## Operationalization of the P2R: Signature of an Agreement between the Government of Senegal and UNIDO

As part of the implementation of the P2R, Ms. Assome Aminata Diatta, Minister of Trade and SMEs of Senegal, representing her government, and Mr. Christophe Yvetot, Resident Representative of UNIDO in Senegal, signed on June 24, 2022, in the premises of the Senegalese Ministry of Trade and SMEs, a Partnership Agreement.

This agreement organizes their joint actions within the framework of the implementation of the P2R project and the intervention of the SME Directorate, the focal point of the Ministerial Department at the project level.

The P2R is part of the national component of the WACOMP for Senegal, to include the consideration of difficulties encountered by MSMEs operating in activities (sectors) impacted by the pandemic. It aims, among other things, to support 200 MSMEs affected by COVID-19, to upgrade 5 laboratories in the fields of health and quality control of imported or exported products, and

to introduce at least 5 technological innovations to be transferred to MSMEs to diversify their activities or increase their range of products/services.



## The support of the P2R strongly awaited to find sustainable solutions to the issues of packaging in Senegal

Between August 2021 and January 2022, experts of the Resilience and Recovery Program (P2R) for MSMEs conducted a sensitization and promotion tour among potential beneficiaries in the 14 regions of Senegal. They identified several constraints to promoting local products and retained important and cross-cutting issues of interest to MSMEs. Among these is the packaging and its promotional role of local products.

In this context, the workshop was organized by the P2R project on June 23, 2022, at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Dakar in conjunction with authorities of the Ministry of Trade and SMEs and national private sector actors. It was in collaboration with the Investment for New Employment Opportunities (INOE) project that is implemented by UNIDO and funded by GIZ.

The Coordinator of P2R, Mr. Ousmane Sy, reported on the local supply noting that there are several companies in Senegal manufacturing metal packaging, plastic, and cardboard. However, there is no glass packaging industry. Industries that use glass packaging are obliged to import it.

Some food industries have integrated packaging units to produce metal cans and plastic bottles. Concerning packaging imports in Senegal, these are constantly increasing, from 9.78 billion in 2018 to 10.32 billion in 2020.

In addition, associations of local product processors have taken initiatives to resolve their supply of packaging. This is the case of "Transfruleg", an association

of fruit and vegetable processors: in partnership with SIMPA, has moulds at the manufacturer to produce PET bottles and sell to their members only. The same is true of the "Andando" buying centre, which imports and sells glass packaging (jars and bottles) to its members.



During this workshop, participants noted that the problems related to packaging used in the agri-food, cosmetics and textile-clothing sectors are at several levels: producers and suppliers of packaging, and processors of local products.

The workshop was an excellent opportunity for some actors in the packaging sector to exhibit their products in the hall of the Chamber of Commerce of Dakar.

This is the case of the Société Rufisque de fabrication de sacs (RUF SAC) whose sales manager, Isabelle Fort, explained in front of her stand where prototypes of bags for cement, flour, pharmaceuticals. She makes "ecological and recyclable paper packaging for various applications with ranges that meet the needs of industry but also those of traders and the general public".

According to Yacine Badji Diatta, commercial director of the *Société d'Emballage Industrielle du Sénégal* (SEIS), her company manufactures "everything that is cardboard packaging with an adaptation to the needs of the customer." "We work with food industries, breweries, chick producers..." she confided.

For such young companies, this meeting is a real opportunity to make itself known and meet potential customers. "We are in competition with a multinational established in Senegal for over 50 years and which held the monopoly of the market. These meetings are therefore crucial for us because they allow us to make ourselves known and to gain some market share," she said.

Overall, packaging manufacturers said they had no problems selling their products, but they all face a huge problem: the supply of raw materials. With the crisis linked to the pandemic and the war in Ukraine, import prices have soared. This makes the cost price of the product almost out of reach for MSMEs. In addition, there are difficulties in accessing the information and financial means necessary to ensure the ordering of a large quantity of raw material.

"If we manage to order by container, the product is cheaper. But individually, we must import by pallet

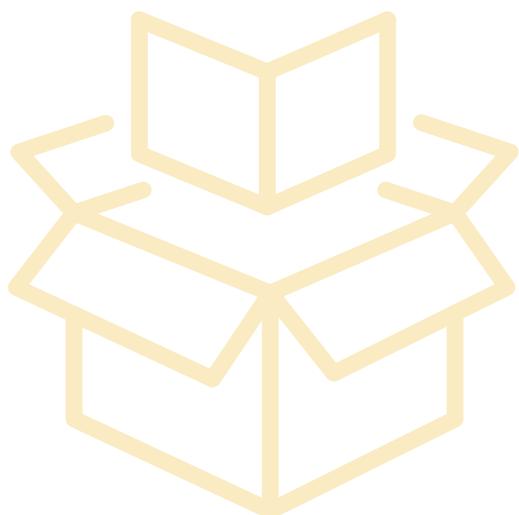
or in small quantities and in this case the cost of production suffers," noted Ms. Lucia Mendy, manager of Andando, a central purchasing of glass packaging that seeks to pool efforts to provide processors of local products with quality packaging and lower cost.

"The quality and availability of packaging play an important role in access to markets and the flow of products. That is why we will do our best, together with the P2R implemented by UNIDO with funding from the European Union, to solve this problem that is undermining the activity of many of our producers," said Mr. Seydina Ababacar Sadikh Ndiaye, representing the Minister of Commerce,

He also invited the national private sector to invest in the sector through the creation of production units of packaging in all regional capitals of the country. Beyond the creation of jobs, this would allow, according to him, to reduce the current selling prices of products by nearly 30%.

At the level of support structures, it was recommended to facilitate dialogue, meetings between producers/processors of local products and suppliers of packaging and to organize training on packaging and its environment (trends and new developments) and standards. It was also suggested and to introduce standards in schools of higher education and to train executives in packaging.

One of the strong recommendations of the workshop is the creation in Senegal of a Technical Centre for Packaging in Senegal that would take care of all the concerns. To this end, a Steering and Monitoring Committee chaired by the Ministry of Trade and SMEs was created for the conceptualization of the project.





# Sierra Leone

## WACOMP-SL joins the international metrology community in celebrating #WorldMetrologyDay2022

On May 20, 1875, International Day of Weights and Measures, the world signed an international treaty establishing a standardized system of weights and measures. To this day, the world annually commemorates metrology day.

Metrology is the science of measurement and constitutes the fundamentals of science and engineering. **Metrology is one of the pillars of QIS-Quality Infrastructure Services**, and QIS plays a vital role for any economy.

The theme for World Metrology Day 2022 is **“Metrology in the Digital Era”**.

This theme was chosen because digital technology is revolutionizing our community, and is one of the most exciting trends in society today.

To raise awareness about quality in general and metrology in particular, under WACOMP-SL, UNIDO celebrated with the European Union, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Mass Metrology Laboratory, and the now fully qualified Management System Certification Body (MSCB) team of the Sierra Leone Standards Bureau (SLSB) as ISO 9001 Lead Auditors. This was also the occasion to award IRCA certificates to the first-ever group of ISO 9001 Lead Auditors in Sierra Leone. Members of the group included staff from SLSB, University of Sierra Leone and the private sector.

With the financial support of the EU, WACOMP-SL is supporting Sierra Leone to improve the quality and standards while supporting SMEs in standards compliance.



20 May 2022. World Metrology Day 2022



20 May 2022. World Metrology Day 2022



## The EU visits SME in Kenema to observe WACOMP-SL's standards implementation

On March 18, 2022, Mr. Mario Caivano, head of Economic and Social sectors at the European Union, visited 'Capitol foods Limited', an SME that is one of the beneficiaries of WACOMP-SL.

ISO 22000. UNIDO experts have provided hands-on guidance to their staff to become one of the first-ever certified companies in Sierra Leone.

The SME receives technical support from the project pertaining to the implementation of ISO 9001 and

Complying with these ISO standards will increase the market competitiveness of SMEs.



18 March 2022. Visit of Capitol foods and training in Kenema, beneficiary of EU-funded WACOMP in Sierra Leone



18 March 2022. Visit of Capitol foods and training in Kenema, beneficiary of EU-funded WACOMP in Sierra Leone



18 March 2022. Visit of Capitol foods and training in Kenema, beneficiary of EU-funded WACOMP in Sierra Leone

## Implementation of Quality Management and Food Safety Management Standards for SMEs

WACOMP-SL is assisting in the selection Sierra Leonean SMEs to implement the ISO 9001 quality management system (QMS). The main advantages of implementing this globally recognized standard are that it is suitable for both small and large organizations. By having better internal management, efficiency, productivity, and profit are increased.

UNIDO received over 60 applications and interviewed 55 SMEs in its Freetown office. The applicants were then assessed and classified into three levels. The SMEs were assessed on the basis of their participation in the ISO 9001 webinars held. Management commitment is a key requirement of the standard and the commitment of the top management or QMS team was also taken into account.



Through this process, 7 SMEs were selected from a wide range of sectors, from food manufacturers to cocoa exporters to juice processing.

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, initial training and engagement were conducted remotely via Zoom. Virtual site visits and a GAP analysis were conducted by an international expert. In October 2021, the UNIDO team and the international expert started the implementation. SMEs were supported with adequate procedures and documentation and practical

application of the standard. UNIDO will continue to work closely with the SMEs until they are certified.

## Cassava Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Training of Trainer (ToT) three-day course in Kenema

Under the implementation of capacity building in the cassava value chain, WACOMP-SL held a three-day course for Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). The training was a continuation of a five-day training course held in 2021, with participants required to pass the final exam to attend the next training. Members of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Produce Monitoring Board, cassava cooperatives, and cassava associations were among those who attended.

An international expert from Global GAP Egypt taught the course, which covered the updated version of GAP

(version 6) that went into effect in April 2022. She went on to explain how the standard makes use of quality management systems. Participants were assigned practical tasks and worked in groups to present feedback.

Visits to local cassava farms were made to truly comprehend the practical aspects of implementation. These participants are now qualified Sierra Leone national trainers and will work with UNIDO to implement Global GAP among cooperatives.



27 June 2022, Beginning of 3 days cassava Good Agricultural Practices training of trainers in Kenema



28 June 2022, Day 2 of the 3 days cassava Good Agricultural Practices training of trainers in Kenema



28 June 2022, Day 2 of the 3 days cassava Good Agricultural Practices training of trainers in Kenema



# People's stories





## Voices from the field: 47 national Quality Infrastructure experts conduct market research: strengthening value chains in a fight against poverty

WACQIP recruited 47 national Quality Infrastructure (QI) experts to identify relevant products in the value chain, quality control bodies in the value chain, known standards, technical regulations and analytical methods, quality needs of the different stages of the value chain.

They collected existing data on quality infrastructure, standards, technical regulations, and conformity assessment bodies (test methods and laboratories, inspection, certification) related to the selected value chains, based on a questionnaire sent by UNIDO.

The results of their work have benefited the continued support and improvement of regional QI through the development of standards and regulations; supporting and establishing regional reference laboratories and identifying priority products that would benefit from the ECOWAS certification mark.

Strengthening selected value chains by taking strategic decisions backed up by data will directly support actors in the value chains and strongly contributes to the fight against poverty.



## Benin



“ The mango sector in Benin: an immense hope on the national restructuring in progress and, a potential of its still embryonic agro-industrial fabric.

**S. Olawolé Serge OKE**  
Ir. Agronome - Chercheur Consultant Sénior  
Sp. en Innovations Agricoles, BENIN

## Cabo Verde



“ Learn, learn, always learn, we continuously improve our skills, for the benefit of society.

**Abraão Lopes**  
CABO VERDE

## Mali



“ My country, Mali, has great potential with regard to the cassava value chain, but it requires a profound reorganization for more value added.

**Salouma MACALOU**  
Ingénieur Agronome  
Institut d'Economie Rurale( IER)  
Délégation du Programme Fruit et Légumes, MALI

## Liberia



“ The study was rewarding and added a lot to our research knowledge thus showing the level of gaps that are currently existing in the textile and garment subsector of Liberia.

**William Kollie**  
LIBERIA

## Nigeria



“ Standardization is an iterative process; Commitment of human resources and time are key factors to make the process successful. The survey experience has a few key lessons learned:

- 1) Building partnership: A coalition of the able, willing, and knowledgeable
- 2) More attention needs to be paid to most of the laboratories.

**Ohazurike Lucky**  
NIGERIA

## Burkina Fasso



“ Textile and garment in Burkina Faso: a strategic sector for the socio-economic development of the country, especially since it directly supports more than four (04) million people and strongly contributes to the fight against poverty.

**Adama OUEDRAOGO**  
Expert textile et habillement, BURKINA FASSO

## Niger



“ Hoping for a more active and happy perspective for the quality sector in our countries, I wish for a group dynamic in favor of our rural world.

**ABDOU Ousman**  
Ingénieur Agrométéorologue  
Point Focal IG/OAPI/Ministère de l'Agriculture  
Chef Division Promotion Qualité et Labels/DPFVQ/DGA/MAG/EL, NIGER

## Côte d'Ivoire



“ The result of this study will serve as a catalyst to launch the promotion of products from the textile and garment sector at the local level in order to be competitive on regional and international markets and also meet local needs.

**COULIBALY Mourlaye**  
Responsable de Laboratoire TEXTILE  
Responsable QHSE, CÔTE D'IVOIRE

## Ghana



“ Although most existing firms in the industry have well-structured standards in their respective organizations upon going through the field research it was found out that standardization is not being complied to.

**Gregory A. Kankoh**  
Designer / GCEO, Groupe Nallem STM, GHANA

## Guinea-Bissau and Cabo Verde



“ The conformity with the quality requirements, is not an option, but, instead, a must, and a determinant factor for the success of a country and its economic agents, particularly, those located in the food sector domain.

**Adalberto Vieira, PhD.**  
Senior Consultant,  
Guinea-Bissau and Cabo Verde

## Senegal



“ The needs for strengthening the Quality infrastructure relating to the Textile and Clothing value chain in Senegal can be summarized as follows:

- Standardization;
- Sensitize the actors first;
- Engage stakeholders in technical standardization committees and build their capacities;
- Develop standards;
- Disseminate these standards;
- Set up a certification system;
- Metrology;
- Guarantee the accuracy of the measurements and the traceability of their connection to the international system of units;
- Ensure compliance assessment and consumer protection;
- Conformity assessment;
- Strengthen conformity assessment bodies;
- Ensure the quality of products in the value chain and promote the quality culture.

**Mbagnick NIANG**  
Senegal



## Guinea

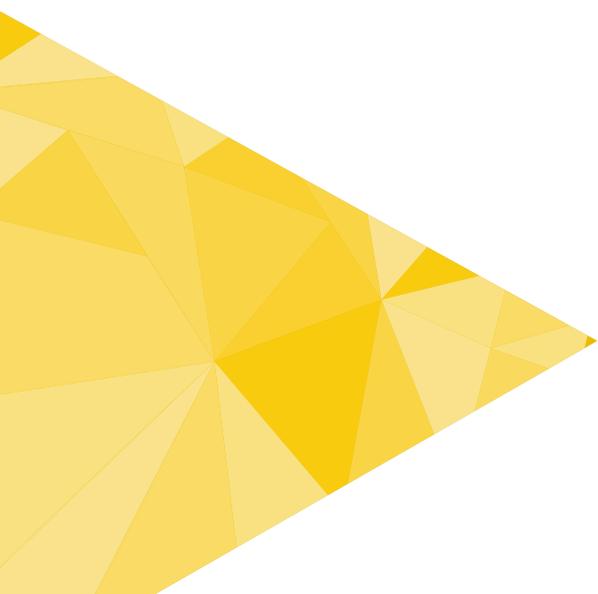


### Voice from the field: "Agrobusiness: young entrepreneurs are venturing in the pineapple industry"



Mr. Soumah Mangamory, pineapple producer in Maferinyah and beneficiary of REFILA's training sessions is the owner of a pineapple plantation in Maferinyah and Vice-President of UGPAM.

Thanks to the project, he was able to be trained in Good Agricultural Practices and techniques, which enabled him to hire 2 people, expand his plantation by 25,000 feet and facilitate his daily work. His investment in the pineapple industry is therefore instrumental in alleviating poverty and generating income in Maferinyah.





## Sierra Leone



### Voice from the field: "Promoting Food safety: making food safety a non-negotiable"



Mr Rashid Conteh, President of the Sierra Leone Cassava Association and beneficiary of Training of Trainers (ToT) course un-der WACOMP Sierra Leone.

With the support of the project, he was trained on the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points Principles (HACCP), and he confirms that the training will not only enhance producers and processors' productivity, but will also improve food safety, and reduce waste and post-harvest loss.

Rashid insists that this initiative is about job creation, to increase earnings and welfare, biodiversity, improve food security and diversification in Sierra Leone.





## Ghana



### Voice from the field: “Improving the livelihoods of small-scale farmers through the WACOMP-Ghana”



Mrs. Faustina Agyeiwaa Sakyi manages the Asueyi Agro Processing Centre with the support of her husband. Through WACOMP-Ghana’s support through GMPs, they have increased the export of Gari to neighbouring African countries such as Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso.

The Asueyi Agro Processing Centre employs over 200 farmers and workers and 130 women in the Asueyi community work as processors receiving daily wages.



“ The WACOMP - Ghana interventions and training on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) helped strengthened our quality requirements processes and export to neighbouring countries. We are able to employ over 200 farmers and labourers and 130 women in the Asueyi community work as processors. ”

MRS. FAUSTINA AGYEIWAA SAKYI,  
Managing Director of the Asueyi Agro Processing Centre





## Guinea-Bissau



“Greater returns and improved quality of life for Bissau-Guinean mango farmers”



Maria Camnaté and Fanta Danfa- “We received on-site training in grafting and we are currently responsible for grafting different varieties of mangoes on

one of the largest mango production farms in the country, in Oio region.”



Maria Camnaté and Fanta Danfa





## The Gambia



### Voice from the field: "Meet Harriet, a disabled onion producer changing the narrative"



Harriet Correa is a disabled onion producer who is breaking the barriers and inspiring a community to action.

She grows onion and allied crops at a community garden in Marakissa and rides on her wheelchair for over 20 minutes on daily basis to water and take care of her crops.

Harriet is a single mother. She uses the proceeds of her enterprise to take care of her 4 children.

WACOMP-GM supported Harriet and over 300 others in the garden with guidance on best agricultural practices to improve the quality of her produce. The project will construct curing and storage facilities for onions and further create market linkages. This will increase Harriet's profits and enable her to expand her production base.

WACOMP-GM facilitated the participation of onion producers in the 2022 edition of the annual International Trade Fair which took place from the 26th of February to the 27th of March 2022.



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# West Africa Competitiveness Programme News

Focus on the WACOMP  
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by UNIDO

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*This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of UNIDO and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.*

Funded by



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