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INCEPTION MEETING



On 9th January 2017 The CARIFORUM Directorate in GUYANA held the Inception Meeting to launch the activities of the Project on “TARGETED SUPPORT TO ENHANCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CARIFORUM-EU EPA”. This project is funded under the Tradecom II Programme.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Percival Marie (Director General of the CARIFORUM Directorate), Ms. Alexis Downes-Amsterdam (Senior Legal Officer and Officer in Charge for the project implementation at the EPA Implementation Unit) and by the AETS Project Implementation Team, in the person of Ms. Andrea Ewart (Team Leader), and Mr. Timothy Little (Key Expert 2).

During that meeting the team of experts provided a general overview of its understanding of the Terms of Reference and the modalities for the project implementation while the Beneficiary provided the CARIFORUM interpretation of the TOR and their specific anticipated outcomes.

Divided in three components, the project has a duration of 12 months.

The first component enhances the legal and regulatory framework of CARIFORUM States by, inter alia, updating the four service sector model bills. The project also supports the preparation of a Mutual Recognition Agreement [the CARIFORUM MRA].

The second component supports the effective monitoring of the EPA through the design and operationalization of a monitoring system, and revision of the EPA Implementation Roadmap. The new Monitoring System is based on internationally accepted monitoring and evaluation principles that can be effected at the national and regional levels.

The third component promotes awareness activities, in particular knowledge sharing regarding the opportunities and benefits of the CARIFORUM-EU EPA, through the preparation of public education materials.



The outcome of this inception meeting will be captured and further analyzed in the Inception Report due to be shared among the Beneficiaries and the PMU by January 23rd in draft version and 27th January in the final version.



PROMOTE 2017

THE 6TH INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION FOR ENTERPRISES, SMES AND PARTNERSHIP OF YAOUNDÉ

PROMOTE 2017, the 6th International Exhibition for Enterprises, SMEs and Partnership of Yaoundé, will be held at the Yaoundé Conference Centre (Palais des Congrès), from 11th to 19th February 2017.

As a major political actor on the international scene for over 60 years, the European Union is the main trade partner of Cameroon and, in the framework of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with EU, Cameroon is able to have free access to the EU market.

With the aim to increase the visibility of the EU and its role of political and commercial partner of Cameroon, the Delegation of the European Union to Cameroon will set up a stand and a dedicated

meeting room at Yaoundé Conference Center. This initiative is aimed to increase understanding in the context of enhancing the country's trading capacity with the EU and the strengthening of the competitiveness of the private sector.

TradeCom II, as Programme funded by the EU at the request of the ACP Secretariat, is called upon to make presentations and to organize workshops, led by the Administrator of TradeCom II Mr. José Lambiza, on how to request Technical Assistance through EU calls for proposals. The Presentation of TradeCom II is scheduled on 13th February; workshops will take place on 14th and 15th February.



TCII – 3RD STEERING COMMITTEE

The third Steering Committee (SC) of the TradeCom II Programme will be held at the ACP House on Wednesday, February 08, 2016.

During the meeting, the Team TradeCom II will present to the stakeholders (ACP Secretariat, EU Commission, DG DEVCO, DG TRADE, AESA Consortium representatives) a report on the activities carried out during the period July-December 2016 and will define the future implementation strategies for the first semester of 2017.

Moreover, the meeting will provide the opportunity to exchange views on "TBT Programme Good Practices cases" after the final validation workshop of the TBT Programme held in Nairobi in January 2017.



DISTRIBUTION PER PE1 OBJECTIVES

CAPACITIES OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL TRADE INSTITUTIONS STRENGTHENED



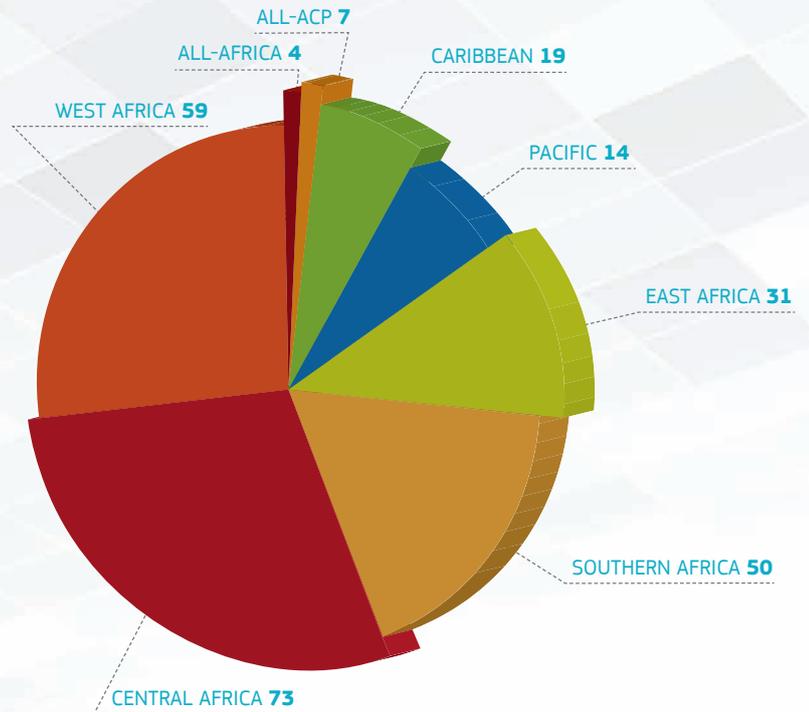
TRADE NEGOTIATION CAPACITIES OF ACP BENEFICIARIES STRENGTHENED & AGREEMENTS IMPLEMENTED



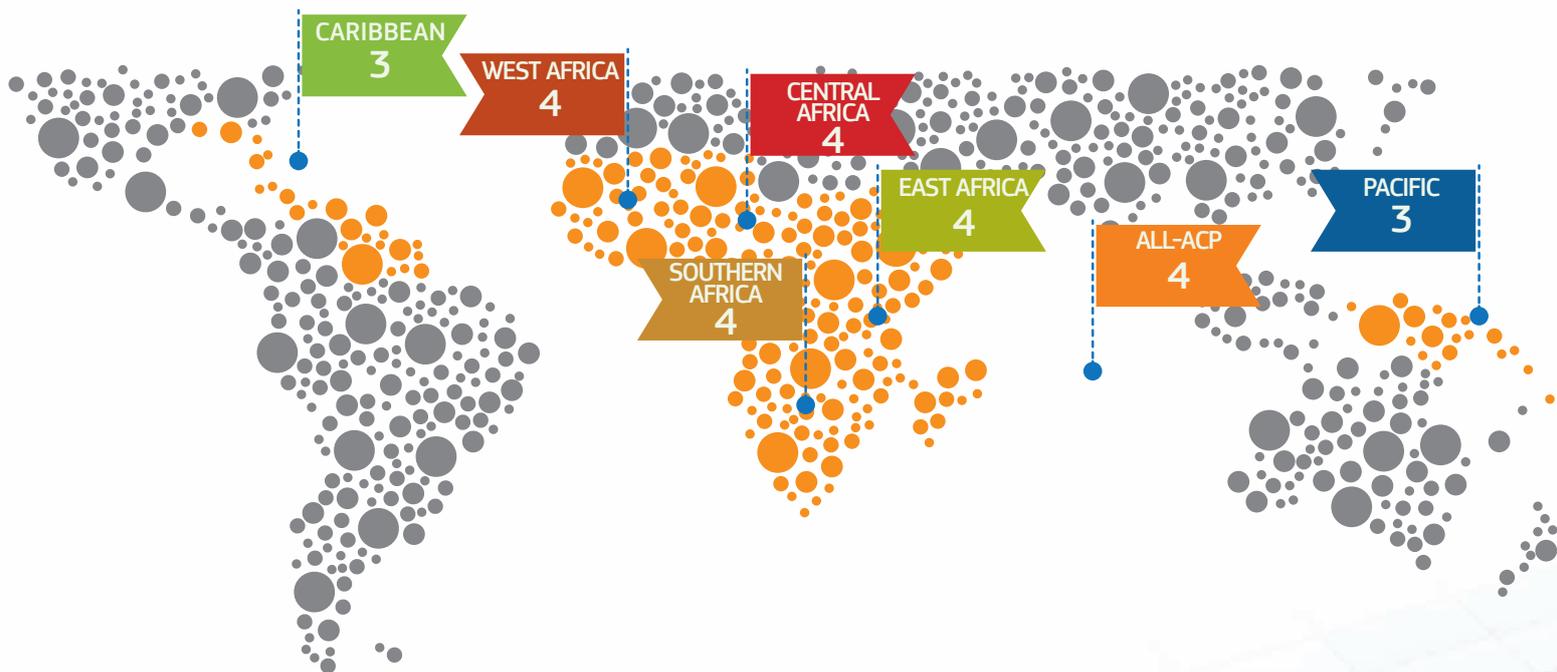
TRADE FACILITATION & COMPETITIVENESS STRENGTHENED



REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF REQUESTS



REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF PROJECTS



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

TARGETED SUPPORT TO THE ACP GROUP IN GENEVA TO STRENGTHEN THE GROUP'S PARTICIPATION IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS UNDER THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION (WTO)

The project is designed by TradeCom II Programme in collaboration with the ACP Office in Geneva.

It is designed to support the ACP Group in Geneva to participate effectively in the multilateral trade negotiations under the WTO and to draft legal text for incorporation in the outcome of the WTO negotiations.

The African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) is an organisation created by the Georgetown Agreement in 1975. It is composed of 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific States that seek to be integrated and connected to the global trading system but face an array of constraints including supply-side constraints and high trade costs. The ACP Geneva Office was established in December 2001 to assist the ACP Group in Geneva to enhance its effective participation in the multilateral trade negotiations under the WTO. It now has a more permanent status and has widened its mandate to include, inter alia, facilitating coordination among the Representatives of ACP countries in Geneva and, providing technical assistance to ACP States with regard to issues dealt with in Geneva.

Based on the ongoing WTO negotiations, the ACP Group has identified its offensive and defensive interests in the key areas of the multilateral trade negotiations: agriculture, non-agricultural market access, services, fisheries and intellectual property rights.

The Project contributes to:

- 🌐 empower ACP Delegations in Geneva to participate effectively in trade negotiations/deliberations in the WTO;
- 🌐 guide ACP delegates to participate in the drafting of legal text/elements for incorporation in the outcome of the WTO negotiations;
- 🌐 ensure that ACP Group's positions are fully reflected in the legal text and outcome of the 2017 11th Ministerial Conference.

TARGETED SUPPORT TO INCREASE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF PRIMARY PRODUCERS IN TANZANIA AND DIVERSIFY THE EXPORT BASE IN LIGHT OF THE TRADING OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE EU

The project was designed by TradeCom II Programme in collaboration with REPOA, an independent trade-related research and think-tank institution with a mandate to create and facilitate utilization of knowledge for socioeconomic advancement towards greater attainment of SDGs .

The Project contributes to strengthen the competitiveness of Tanzanian exporters and to strengthen REPOA's research capacity on trade policy, competitiveness and elimination of NTBs.

Trade and agriculture are inseparable in Tanzania, the latter is the largest sector in terms of export and an examination of the major sources of imports and destination of exports reveals that the EU is Tanzania's largest single trading partner.

However, Tanzania ranks in the bottom quintile of the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index, at 120th out of 140 countries. Poor and unreliable infrastructure, weak education and training and limited access and absorption of technology in undermine the realisation of recent gains in labour market efficiency, institutional and macroeconomic environment to improve the competitiveness of productive sectors, including agriculture.

In the context of this Project, a team of experts will provide a range of specialized technical and research oriented services to REPOA and to the Ministry of Trade, Industries and Marketing of Zanzibar. These services involve:

- 🌐 Research on agricultural competitiveness, diversification and quality;
- 🌐 The provision of legal and advisory services for quality institutions and key stakeholder;
- 🌐 The provision of research capacity building to REPOA and to the Ministry of Trade, Industries and Marketing of Zanzibar on these subjects.

To support the REPOA's team of experts, the areas of intervention contemplated under this project are three:

- 🌐 The first support area is to identify bottlenecks that limits competitiveness and export diversification in the agriculture value chain and the trade policy framework to address them.
- 🌐 The second area will strengthen the competitiveness of exporters ensuring quality of goods and efficient services with regard to quality, quantity, potency, composition and price.
- 🌐 The third support area will enhance REPOA's and subsequently Tanzania's research capacity on trade policy, competitiveness and elimination of NTBs in the context of enhancing the country's trading capacity with the EU organising a Training and policy-dialogue workshop.

STRENGTHENING EXPORT COMPETITIVENESS FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH IN MAURITIUS, ESPECIALLY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE I-EPA IMPLEMENTATION

This project was developed by TradeCom II Programme in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of Mauritius.

It is designed to Promote exports of the Mauritius private sector including SMEs, Women and Young Entrepreneurs, enhancing the business environment of the country in the framework of the i-EPA Implementation.

At the end of August 2009 the interim EPA (i-EPA) between the European Union and four countries of the ESA group, namely Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles, and Zimbabwe, was signed in Mauritius. This is the first i-EPA under implementation in Africa, which is a major achievement in relations between Africa and the EU. The i-EPA establishes a stable and predictable trade partnership for the development of the countries of the region.

Under the i-EPA, Mauritius is able to have full duty free and quota free access to the EU market and, since the implementation of the i-EPA, there has been a diversification in the Mauritian export basket which now includes non-traditional products such as pharmaceutical products, fertilizers, essential oils, medical equipment, and electronic equipment amongst others.

Nevertheless, Mauritius continues to face several challenges which need to be addressed to strengthen the economy and its export performance. These challenges include the strengthening of regional integration, the gender disparity in the Mauritian labour market and an increased need of guidance and support of the private sector.

To promote exports of the Mauritius private sector including SMEs, Women and Young Entrepreneurs enhancing the business environment of the country in the framework of the i-EPA Implementation, the areas of intervention contemplated under this project are two:

- the first support area includes the strengthening of the capacities of quality and standards of SMEs, and the access to Business Intelligence services by SMEs.
- the second area will enhance the export capacity of business communities including women and youth entrepreneurs making them aware of the trading opportunities and benefits under the i-EPA and the Trade Facilitation Agreement.

Glossary

ACP	Africa Caribbean and Pacific
CARIFORUM	Caribbean Forum
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
DG DEVCO	Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
EAC	East African Community
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EDD	European Development Days
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
EU	European Union
FTA	Free Trade Area
ITC	International Trade Centre
LDC	Least Developed Countries
NTB	Non-Tariff barriers
NTPF	National Trade Policy Framework
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
OIF	Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie
PACPS	Pacific ACP States
PIFs	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PMU	Programme Management Unit
RCEP	Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership
RTA	Regional Trade Agreement
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SDG	Sustainable development goals
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
TFTA	Tripartite Free Trade Area
TRA	Trade-Related Assistance
TPP	Trans-Pacific Partnership
TPF	Trade Policy Framework
TTIP	Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
WTO	World Trade Organisation

Upcoming events



FEBRUARY

TCII - 3rd Steering Committee
Brussels, 08 February 2017

PROMOTE 2017
Yaoundé, 11-19 February 2017

PROMOTE 2017
Presentation of TradeCom II Programme
Yaoundé, 13 February 2017

PROMOTE 2017
TradeCom II special workshops
Yaoundé, 14-15 February 2017