

**TRADECOM II | BUILDING ACP TRADE CAPACITY**

KNOWLEDGE SHARING ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT  
"GOOD PRACTICES"  
20-21 February 2018 - Brussels, Belgium

# **National and Regional Trade Policy Support**

## **Good Practices and Lessons Learnt in sustaining trade expansion and overcoming trade obstacles**



**Teddy Soobramanien**  
**Head, Hub and Spokes Programme**  
**Commonwealth Secretariat**

# Consolidation Phase and Sustainability/Ownership of H&S II

7 RECS  
IN ACP REGIONS

22 ADVISERS CURRENTLY  
DEPLOYED

16 ACP COUNTRIES  
INCL REC

- Result 1** Key ACP Stakeholders trained on trade policy issues
- Result 2** Effective trade Policy drafted and relevant international agreements successfully negotiated and implemented
- Result 3** National and regional Trade Consultative networks established and strengthened
- Result 4** Collaboration and partnerships strengthened to maximise benefits of AFT opportunities
- Result 5** Intra-ACP Communications and sharing of knowledge and best practices on trade development
- Result 6** Capacity of beneficiaries to take over and fund the programme on their own and/or develop a successor programme on contemporary trade challenges are enhanced

# Programme provides support to address:

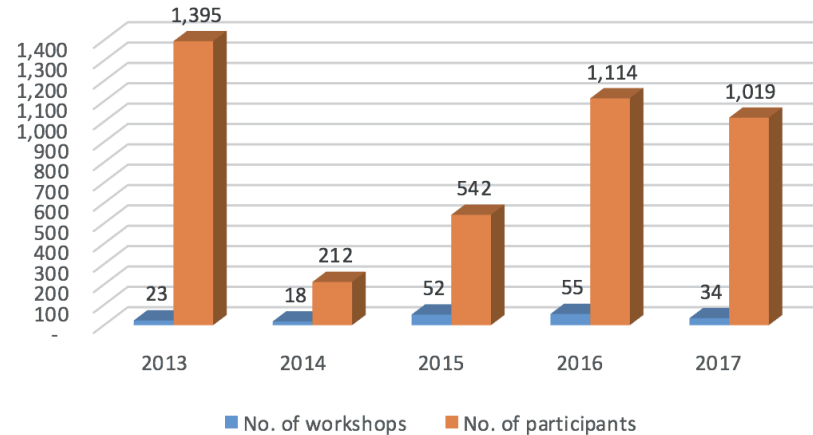
- Inadequate trade policy formulation skills – through training and capacity building;
- Inadequate trade analytical, negotiation and implementation skills - through training and capacity building;
- Limited knowledge on multilateral and regional trade policy issues – through technical support and policy advice, while building capacity;
- Inclusiveness of all stakeholders in discussions and policy formulation esp private sector

# National and Regional Trade Policy Support

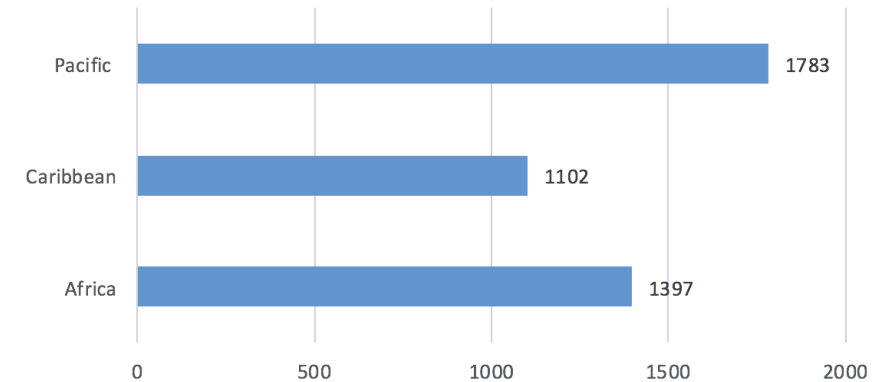
## Enhancing trade capacity -

4,280 persons in public/private sectors trained. Trade in services, trade policy formulation, distilling trade policies and agreements to stakeholders, and other trade policy issues. Enable countries to leverage negotiating abilities, assist in development and implementation of effective and evidence-based trade policies and strategies (3600 HSII + 680 CP)

Workshop Participation for H&S Programme  
(Phase II and Consolidation Phase)  
from 2013 - 2017



Number of Persons trained by H&S Programme  
(H&S II & Consolidation Phase) by REGIONS  
2013 - 2017



# National and Regional Trade Policy Support

## AFRICA

- CFTA Negotiations – conclusion of the Framework Agreement establishing the CFTA and the Protocol on Trade in Services.
- EPA - different stages - Implementation underway for SADC region, Implementation and further negotiation of Interim EPAs with ESA Group. EAC still in limbo.
- Tripartite – SADC-COMESA-EAC focus on market integration, infrastructure industrial development. Roadmap for TFTA adopted.
- Implementation of Industrialization Strategy and roadmap in SADC region.
- H&S supported trade policy frameworks for Kenya, Malawi, EAC regional trade policy. Trade Remedies Acts for Malawi and Kenya.



# National and Regional Trade Policy Support



## CARIBBEAN

- Free Circulation of Goods Regime in OECS region – Advisers analysed customs data to identify/recommend products for free circulation under the first phase of the implementation of the FCG Regime.
- Belize currently completing trade policy framework – launch in 2018 – sensitization of private sector.
- WTO TFA Implementation – stocktake of national implementation for CARICOM MS – 12 MS have TFC.
- Monitoring and Implementation of CARIFORUM EU EPA.

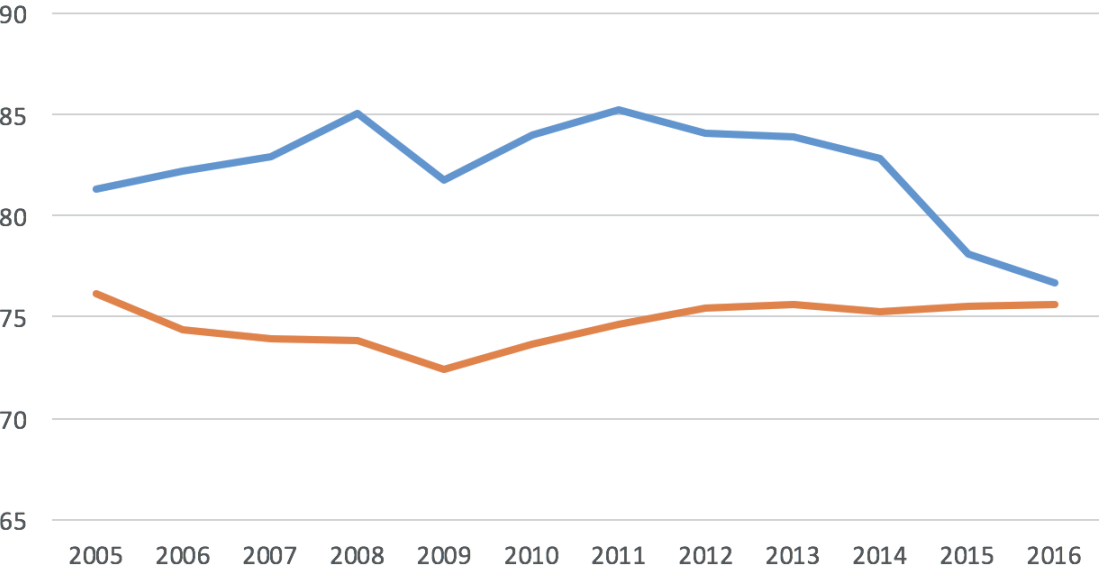
# National and Regional Trade Policy Support

## PACIFIC

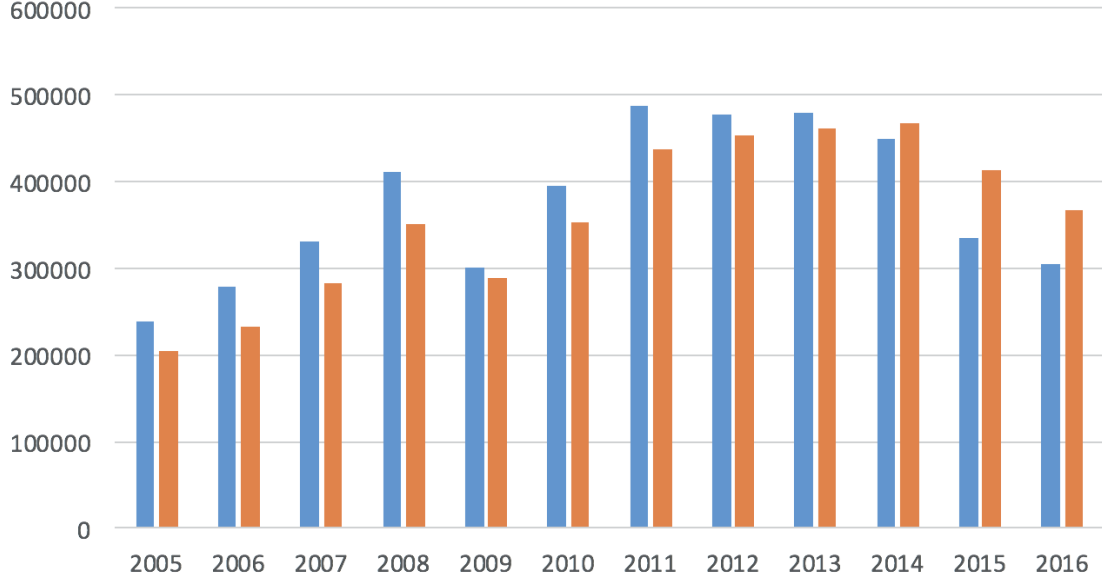
- Pacific EU EPA (interim) being implemented in specific countries, Implementation WTO TFA
- Support for countries acceding to Pacific EU EPA – SI and Samoa – (possible Tonga, Kiribati)
- Negotiations and Implementation of PACER Plus and PICTA – legislation/ setting up monitoring agencies
- Investment Policy Consultation Mission Kiriritimati - Kiribati - final report will be translated into investment policy statement and comments / views from stakeholders informed review of the foreign investment Act
- Development and implementation Trade Policy for FSM, RMI, Fiji, Palau; Tonga TPF in draft submitted to parliament.



# Statistics on ACP Countries



— % Exports in goods of total trade in goods and services  
 — % of imports in goods of total trade in goods and services



■ Exports of total goods in (US Dollars at current prices in millions)  
 ■ Imports of total goods in (US Dollars at current prices in millions)



# Challenges with implementation in the ACP Regions

- 1** Beneficiary's ability to prioritize the heavy trade agenda (domestic/sub-regional/regional/international)
- 2** Limited human resources in Ministries/REC for monitoring and implementation
- 3** Limited private sector involvement - lack of knowledge of trade agenda/rules barriers and impact on business/utilisation rate - taking advantage of agreements etc - SMEs in particular
- 4** Aid for Trade resources mobilized from development partners for training and sensitization to support regions

# Sustainability and Good Practices

- 1** COMESA's set of trade facilitation instruments that have proven effective in advancing regional trade and integration objectives example: COMESA STR (Simplified Trade Regime) - for facilitating SMEs and other small cross border traders
- 2** Building inclusive and effective trade networks is crucial for trade policy formulation, negotiation and implementation – eg. CARICOM Regional TFA committee established, stock take of ratifications, Regional EPA groups to discuss/ review monitoring and implementation.
- 3** Sustainability - beneficiary's strong commitment to the objectives of technical assistance programs is crucial – buy in and contribution from beneficiaries from the start of programmes is important

# Future and changing dynamics in trade policy

- 1** E-Commerce and technological advances for cross border trade - Effective legislation in place/implementation of trade agreements
- 2** Climate change/changing weather patterns and impact on trade esp for small island states/green markets and investments, SDGs and trade policy
- 3** Changing trends - Trade in Services, GVCs, RVCs and deepening supply chains, regional integration efforts