



Capacity Building Experiences in Least Developed Countries

The Gambia Experiences

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Introduction

- The Gambia participated in the past CDP DESA activities relating to:
 - The survey on ISMs Specific to LDCs, in particular, ISMs related to WTO provisions and preferential market access;
 - Identification and cataloguing ISMs leading to the development of the LDCs Web Portal on ISMs for increase awareness and access;
 - Capacity building for removing constraints in utilizing trade-related international support measures for Least Developed Countries.
- In the first project, the Gambia worked closely with the consultant on **52 trade-related LDC-specific ISMs** as well as around **30 ISMs not related to trade** to assess whether the Gambia benefits from these ISMs and what assistance is needed to access the support measure.
- The project helped in increasing the Gambia's awareness of most of the international support measures .
- The Second project on institutional capacity building was well received and it helped in
 - Identifying institutional constraints for use of ISMs
 - Putting in place institutional structures to strengthen collaboration with private sector on SPS and TBT issues and for use of ISMs.



National experience in use of ISMs since first DESA project



Since the first project, The Gambia made progress in accessing support from some LDC-Specific ISMs:

- **The Gambia benefited from the EU funded West African Quality Programme which successfully led to the establishment of:**
 - The Gambia Standards Bureau in 2012
 - The Food Safety and Quality Authority in 2013
 - The formulation of a National Quality Policy in 2015
 - Drafting of a Consumer Protection Law in 2014
 - Strengthened a number of national laboratories
- **STDF – two Project Preparatory Grants were approved by STDF**
 - PPG for a Comprehensive Assessment and Development of a Project Proposal for the Strengthening of the National Plant Protection System approved by STDF in 2012
 - PPG for the operationalisation of the Scientific Affairs and Food Control Directorates of the newly established Food Safety and Quality Authority of The Gambia approved in Oct 2013.
 - The Gambia is currently working with the support of officials of STDF to submit one of the project on Strengthening of the National Plant Protection System in July 2016.



National experience in use of ISMs since first DESA project cont.



- **Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF)**
 - Donor Facilitator was secured (Turkey is the current DF for the Gambia)
 - First Tier 2 Project approved in 2012 – Sector competitiveness and export diversification project (US\$2.3 million)
 - EIF Secretariat and support the revision of the Gambia DTIS in 2012 to increase focus on MSME development and redirect trade issues to the attainment of the new national development programme – Programme for Accelerated Growth and Employment.
 - Second Tier 2 project was approved by the EIF board in 2013 – Trade Facilitation Project (US\$2.5 million)
 - Three addition Tier 2 project documents have also been development through EIF support:
 - **Strengthening integrated sanitary and phytosanitary controls in the Gambia**
 - **Sustainable Fisheries Landing Site Project – Developing productive capacities**
 - **Inclusive Tourism Development in The Gambia**
 - Receive approval of the EIF to support the update of Industrial Policy and to formulate a Trade Strategy . To be implemented by UNCTAD in 2016.



National experience in use of ISMs since first DESA project cont.

- **TBT - ACP-EU TBT Programme - Capacity Building for National TBT Related Structures in The Gambia (2014)**
 - **Challenges – Limited coordination with other Departments and consultations with private sector and development partners for access to other ISMs.**
- Our awareness of the ISMs has improved significantly - there is a very informative LDC web portal to refer to on LDC-specific ISMs.
- We need to increase our sensitisation of the members of our stakeholders on the LDC portal so that we take advantage of this important tool to increase our efforts to access ISMs to support our development process.



Main Findings from Survey on Institutional Constraints



- Main constraints for accessing ISMs that are identified in the survey:
 - Lack of information (eg. UNCDF not known to most of the correspondents)
 - Insufficient arrangement between stakeholders
 - Coordination failures between the public and private sectors
 - Public sector receives limited request from the private sector for accessing technical assistance
 - Notifications on SPS and TBT requirements hardly shared with the private sector
 - Limited capacity of the stakeholders to use and disseminate SPS and TBT-related notifications
 - Engagement with development partners need to be strengthened
 - There is limited donor presence in the Gambia.



Main Findings from Survey on Institutional Constraints Cont.



- **Main barriers for entering international markets:**
 - Inability to meet SPS and TBT requirements
 - Limited SPS certification and testing facilities
 - Number of rejections of smoked fish by EU markets due to high levels Benzo(a)pyrene.
 - Lack of packaging material
 - Aflatoxin in G/nuts still a challenge meeting the EU requirements
 - Limited or no request for technical or financial assistance to enhance SPS or TBT-related capacity due to lack of knowledge of requirements for these ISMs
- **Main constraints for Duty-Free Quota-Free (DFQF) market access:**
 - Lack of knowledge of requirements for accessing DFQF schemes
 - The Gambia faces relatively high tariffs for some of its key exports products
 - G/nuts – India (30%), Turkey (30% and 20% for G/nut oil), Brazil (10%), Korea Republic (In-quota 24% and out-of-quota 230.5%)
 - Cashew – Turkey (30%), Brazil (10%)
 - Mangoes – India (30%), Turkey (45%), Korea, Republic (30%), Brazil (10%)



Main Findings from Survey on Institutional Constraints Cont.



- **Enhanced Integrated Framework**
 - Most stakeholders are aware of the existence of the EIF and its role in facilitating private sector and export development
 - Currently supporting quality enhancement in G/nuts, cashew and sesame through collaboration with ITC
 - Supporting IIC to improve coordination and trade mainstreaming
 - Resource mobilisation for Tier 2 projects and DTIS action matrix is still a challenge due limited donor presence in the Gambia.
- **UN Capital Development Fund**
 - Access to finance to support MSMEs operations is stressed by the private sector and need to be improved.
 - UNCDF currently have no programmes in the Gambia
 - The Private sector stakeholders expressed keen interest in accessing this ISM.
 - Gambia submitted its request to have a programme with UNCDF but is yet to receive any confirmation.



Way forward

- Effective access and utilisation of ISMs can facilitate LDCs towards the attainment of SDGs through trade. We are focusing on the following areas:

A. SPS and TBT capacity enhancement programme

- SPS and TBT enquiry points are all functional
- The SPS and TBT National Committees have been established and launched in February 2016 for effective consultations on SPS and TBT issues.
- Improve sensitisation of the stakeholders on the LDC Web portal for increase knowledge of LDC-specific ISMs
- Work with private sector stakeholders to request SPS related ISMs to enhance capacity in meeting export market requirements.
 - Strengthens collaboration with STDF
 - Strengthen the capacities of FSQA and TGSB to provide technical guidance to producers and exporters
- Improve dissemination of SPS and TBT notifications through the ePing



Way forward cont.

B. Support to development of productive capacities through EIF programme

- Sector competitiveness and Export Diversification Project Action Plan has been developed in 4 key areas for Cashew and Sesame:
 1. High volumes for quality nuts
 2. Strengthen support services
 3. Market penetration
 4. Enhanced value addition
- Collaborate with EIF and other development agencies to develop projects to request support from partners .
- Pursue for UNCDF to re-activate its services in The Gambia to support MSMEs in strategic sectors- Initial contact have been made through CDP-DESA support.
- Work with the Donor facilitator and partners to fund DTIS related projects
- Collaborate with partners to improve knowledge and requirements of DFQF schemes .
- Utilise LDC-specific ISMs to support development process.



THANK YOU