

Using digital tools to improve compliance with food safety standards in West Africa

Building on the challenges and opportunities posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, this project aims to use digital tools to improve compliance with food safety standards. The project will apply an innovative approach by using digital technologies and hybrid methods in the accreditation, conformity assessment and capacity development processes led by the West African Accreditation System (SOAC).

STDF/PG/770

Status

On-going

Project Value (US\$)

\$1,376,247

STDF Contribution (US\$)

\$837,314

Beneficiaries

Benin

Burkina Faso

Côte d'Ivoire

Guinea

Guinea-Bissau

Mali

Niger

Senegal

Togo

Implementing Entities

West African Accreditation System (SOAC)

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Directorate of Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Industrial Development

Partners

Regional Consular Chamber of the UEMOA (CCR/UEMOA)

ECOWAS

Food Safety Agency (Benin)

Agency for Standardization (Burkina Faso)

Metrology and Quality (ABNORM) (Côte d'Ivoire)

National Directorate for Quality Promotion and Standardization (DPQN) (Guinea)

Institute of Standardization and Metrology (Guinea-Bissau)

National Accreditation Focal Point to the SOAC (Mali)

Agency for Standardization and Quality Promotion (AMANORM)

Ministry of Health and Social Development (INSP/DNSSA)

Directorate for the promotion and quality control()

Ministry of Industry (Niger)

Association for Standardization (ASN) (Senegal)

High Authority for Quality and Environment (HAUQE)(Togo)

Chambers of Commerce of Beneficiary Countries

Background

West African countries face challenges in promoting agricultural exports and protecting consumers' health. These include the ability to verify compliance with food safety standards and requirements, which could reduce the occurrence of rejection of exported agricultural products. The availability of internationally recognized competent conformity assessment bodies (CABs), such as food safety laboratories or product and management certification and inspection bodies, is integral for consumer health protection and trade facilitation of safe food. The need for these services to support producers and exporters, as well as the need to strengthen national SPS Competent Authorities, is evident in the African continent.

This project aims to overcome these challenges using digital tools to improve compliance with food safety standards. Led by SOAC, the project will use digital technologies in the accreditation, conformity assessment, and capacity development processes.