

1st virtual session of the vTPA Partnership Platform Session

Date: 07/06/2021

Purpose of the session:

The first session of the vTPA partnership platform was held on Monday 7th of June 2021 organized by UNIDO in collaboration with STDF and IICA through the Zoom virtual platform. The overall purpose of the vTPA Partnership Platform is to coordinate the efforts of potential partners, as well as resulting resource mobilization (public-private sector in-kind contributions) among interested entities.

Presentation:

The session started with a brief presentation conducted by UNIDO and STDF and was structured as following:

- Presentation of the project background by STDF
- Presentation of the vTPA approach by UNIDO
- Presentation of the two Vtpa pilot Project (West Africa covered by UNIDO and Latin America covered by IICA)

Round table Discussion:

The session was pursued then by an open discussion among the participants. The below points were mainly mentioned:

- The vTPA Partnership Platform is an open platform that welcomes every partner who is interested and would like to contribute to pilot initiatives in West Africa and Central America. The vTPA Partnership Platform would be mostly interested in having in-kind contribution in terms of expertise and capacity building sessions in the pilot countries.
- Certain preparatory work would be required related to the sectors (e.g. development/harmonization of standards) and the current capacities and practices of the competent authorities.
- The Platform encourages anyone to become a vTPA ambassador in their respective country of intervention with the support of other partners that could eventually provide awareness and capacity building to the National authorities and local stakeholders.
- The Codex guidelines on vTPA does not differentiate among enterprises producing for local or international markets as the competent authority still has the legal responsibility to undertake inspection visits.

- With the actual worldwide situation, the capacity building content should be harmonized and available for all interested countries, virtually through an accessible platform.
- Incremental local schemes are something which partners could consider but it needs to be investigated how it can function as a sustainable approach in the local context.
- The partners are encouraged to share their vTPA best practices and success stories in order to have some substantial metrics.

Next steps:

- Organization of the 2nd vTPA Partnership Platform session by UNIDO
- Every participant is encouraged to share its vTPA related data in the targeted countries:
 - Guidelines developed for sectors in target countries
 - Any information on certification partners

List of Participants:

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