

## **Improving quality along agri-food value chains in Africa for market access Global Review of Aid for Trade - WTO**

Thursday, July 28, 2022 – Videoconference format

On the occasion of the eighth Global Review of Aid for Trade, the World Trade Organization is organizing an international conference that will bring together political leaders, experts, representatives of international organizations, and civil society actors to discuss key Aid for Trade issues under the theme "*Empowering Connected, Sustainable Trade*". This global review will identify and address supply-side and trade infrastructure barriers in order that developing countries can benefit from international trade.

In this context, this session organized by **the Directorate General of the French Treasury** and the **Standards and Trade Development Facility** will aim to discuss the issue of **improving quality along agri-food value chains in Africa for market access**.

This session will put a spotlight on existing pathways to assist producers, farmers, processors and exporters in developing and least-developed countries in Africa to improve access to international markets for safe and high-quality food and agriculture products.

### **Context:**

The agriculture sector is crucial to the global economy (accounting for 25% of GDP) and for employment in developing countries, according to the World Bank. International trade can harness the agricultural potential of developing countries by improving competitiveness and productive capacity and, when accompanied by appropriate policies, be a key driver in achieving food security and sustainable development objectives. This implies raising standards and complying with international regulations, particularly in the areas of sanitary and phytosanitary, environmental and other technical standards. Beyond international regulations, producers must comply with growing demands of consumers in the face of environmental, health and social issues inherent in agricultural supply chains.

Aid for Trade can play a key role, particularly through technical assistance, in helping producers to meet high standards and take advantage of global trade opportunities, while protecting the health of consumers, animals and plants.

## 16h30 – Opening of the session

- **H. E. Mr. Fodé SECK**, Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations

### **Roundtable schedule**

- **Moderator:** *AFD - French Development Agency*

- **Guests** (8 minutes per speaker)

- *Ms Delphine Marie-Vivien OR Mr Mikaël Olivera Linder Cirad – Agricultural Research Center for International Development*
- *M. Melvin Spreij - STDF Secretariat – Standards and Trade Development Facility*
- *Mr Elimane Dramé – CEO of SCPL Deli-Cajou*
- *Mr Bimal Kantaria, chair of ASNET - Agriculture Sector Network*

- **Covered Issues:**

- Which are the barriers encountered in the trade of agricultural products from African countries to international markets? How to improve the access of these products to international and European markets?
- How to enable the recognition and the enhancement of the quality of the production in Africa (including the development of geographical indications)?

## 17h25 – Closing remarks

**Etienne OUDOT DE DAINVILLE**, Permanent Representative of France to the World Trade Organization

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### **Participating organizations:**

**The Standard and Trade Development Facility (STDF)** is a global partnership that helps developing countries to build their sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) capacity, based on international standards, guidelines and recommendations. The objective is to improve their health status and their ability to gain and maintain access to global and regional markets. The STDF, which operates as a knowledge platform and funding mechanism, was established in 2004 by five international organizations (FAO, WHO, WOA, World Bank and WTO) and includes participation by the Secretariats of Codex Alimentarius and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), as well as many other international and regional organizations. The STDF Secretariat is housed at the WTO, which also manages the STDF trust fund.

**The French Development Agency (Agence Française de Développement, AFD)** is a public agency that helps to implement France's development and international solidarity policies: climate, biodiversity, peace, education, urban planning, health, governance... Teams carry out more than 4,000 projects with a high social and environmental impact in the France's overseas department and territories and 115 countries. AFD is thus contributing to France's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**The Agricultural Research Center for International Development (Cirad)** is a French agricultural research and international cooperation organization working for the sustainable development of tropical and Mediterranean regions.

Cirad works with its partners to build knowledge and solutions and invent resilient farming systems for a more sustainable and inclusive world. It mobilizes science, innovation and training in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Its expertise supports the entire range of stakeholders, from producers to public policymakers, to foster biodiversity protection, agroecological transitions, food system sustainability, health (of plants, animals and ecosystems), sustainable development of rural territories, and their resilience to climate change.