



## The Gambia SCEDP NEWSLETTER DECEMBER – FEBRUARY, 2014

*The Sector Competitiveness and Export Diversification Project (SCEDP) aims at responding to some of the trade related development priorities identified in the Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS) by providing agriculture sector specific support for cashew nuts, groundnuts and sesame through finding new export opportunities and product diversification.*



NARI Sesame Seed Multiplication Centre



Women in the Sesame FFS

### ❖ SECTOR DEVELOPMENT AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT ❖ TRADE INFORMATION REFERENCE CENTRE AND NETWORK

#### Trade Information

- ❖ Two trainings were held during the period – one on Website training and the second one on Eurotrace. The trainings enabled stakeholders of the Trade Information Centre and MOTIE to build capacity on the use of the Website and on Eurotrace.

#### Sector Strategy Formulation

- ❖ Upon signing of the MOUs and disbursement of funds to the Cashew Alliance of the Gambia and the National Women Farmers Association, several meetings were held to establish an Executive Secretariat for the National Coordinating Committees of both the Cashew and Sesame sectors.

#### Inclusive Tourism Study

- ❖ More consultations were held with stakeholders - the Gambia Tourism Board, Department of Fisheries, Agriculture and the NIU to finalize the project document.

#### SCEDP in the Media

- ❖ The project received publicity through the newspaper and television as various activities were highlighted in the media. Media representatives were also invited as part of the trainings and workshops to address some of the communication barriers to the value chain.

#### Quality Enhancement

- ❖ The NIU at the Ministry of Trade received two missions from the International Trade Centre to address Quality issues arising on Component A, which focuses on finding new export opportunities, product diversification, improved value addition and quality enhancement and strengthening of institutions.

#### Sector Strategy Implementation

- ❖ Eight trainers-cum-counsellors were selected to participate in visits to operators to identify gap analysis in each enterprise to enhance quality in cashew nuts, sesame and groundnut products being processed.



**NARI Lab to be refurbished**

The Project Steering Committee (PSC) of the Sector Competitiveness and Export Diversification Project (SCEDP) held a country wide monitoring mission from 9th to 14th December with the overall objective of evaluating the implementation and sustainability of all interventions in the field. Several intervention sites were visited including the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) lab and Seed Multiplication facility as well as Farmer Field Schools in all the five regions in the Gambia. The monitoring mission as recommended by the PSC is a requirement to guide the implementation of the SCEDP. The SCEDP which places great emphasis on quality as part of its efforts to improve the quality of products especially in the three sectors (Cashew, Groundnut and Sesame) has provided a means of achieving quality products in the Gambia through the NARI Seed Multiplication facility and the FFS in all the regions in the Gambia. The five (5) day mission brought together stakeholders and FFS lead institutions across the country to assess the level of implementation, constraints, and achievements and most importantly the sustainability of the SCEDP activities.



**PSC Mission visit Women in the Sesame FFS**

To increase awareness of Hygiene Practices and Food Safety Systems on HACCP, the NIU in collaboration with the International Trade Centre conducted a one day sensitization workshop on “Building Awareness on Pre-requisites Programmes (GAP, GHP, GMP) and Food Safety Systems based on HACCP in International Trade”. The one day workshop was part of a mission with a series of events commenced from 15<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> January. The mission team consisting of one international consultant, an expert from ITC and a national consultant also conducted a three day workshop on “Implementing HACCP” and a one day workshop on “Documentation for HACCP”.



**Participants at the HACCP Sensitization**

The one day sensitization workshop attended by fifty-nine representatives included senior managers of groundnuts, cashew nuts and sesame and other agri-food processing supplying to domestic markets and exporting enterprises, personnel responsible for establishing and implementing the organizations of food safety system including pre-requisite programmes (PRPs) and HACCP plan. Other participants include government officials who need to implement the country food regulations, agencies promoting and funding the implementation of food safety in groundnuts, cashew nuts and sesame and other agri-food sector and the eight trainer’s cum-counsellors selected to participate in the EIF programme. The workshop provided an opportunity for participants to be enlightened on a wide variety of topics such as: Concepts of Food Quality and Global Trends, Understanding WTO and Agreements on TBT and SPSP, Food Safety and Quality Act 2011 and the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and various food safety Standards. Participation during the workshop was interactive as most participants were pleased with the knowledge of the international consultant and ITC expert.

The EIF NIU once again collaborated with ITC as part of the Quality Enhancement component of the project, to conduct a series of workshops and consultations geared towards enhancing the quality of groundnuts, cashew nuts and sesame. The project which provides specific support for the three sectors under Component A focuses on finding new export opportunities, product diversification, improved value addition, quality enhancement and strengthened sector support institutions. The mission involved a series of meetings and consultations with stakeholders. The events held from 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> February, commenced with a two day Export Quality Management workshop from 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> February for Trade Support Institutions and Enterprises for the three sectors: groundnut, cashew nuts and sesame. The workshop was attended by forty-four people including seven women who had an opportunity to learn more about the Technical Barriers to Trade, TBT, WTO and its Agreements on TBT and SPS. Other topics covered included Standards, Technical Regulations and SPS Measures, Conformity Assessment and Quality Management.



**Export Quality Management Workshop**

On 26<sup>th</sup> February, a one day sensitization workshop on Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) for Cashew nuts and Sesame was held to enlighten participants on the elements of the QAF, the Good Practices and Food Safety Management Systems. The QAF prepared in 2012 as part of the SCEDP requirements was reviewed in the context of, the National Quality Policy, the National Quality Infrastructure and the National Technical Regulatory Framework. Issues relating to Quality and Food Safety in the Farmer Field Schools were addressed during the sensitization by the FFS National Consultant. The sensitization ended with break sessions on the application of the QAF for the Sesame and Cashew Nut sectors and presentations of the brainstorming session.



**Participants at the Sensitization Workshop**

Upon completion of the sensitization on the QAF, there was an official launching of the QAF document and the Farmer Field Schools Manuals for Groundnuts, Cashew nuts and Sesame. The manuals were developed under the SCEDP with support from national and international consultants in close collaboration with sector stakeholders. The FFS manuals (eight in total) includes a Production Field Guide, Guidelines for Quality Enhancement and Food Safety in Export Crops in the Gambia for the three crops as well as a manual for Master Trainers and Core Trainers. The QAF for import/export products is based on: Good Agricultural Practices, Good Hygiene Practices, Good Manufacturing Practices, Food Safety and Quality Management Systems (HACCP, ISO Standards, e.g. ISO 9001 and ISO 22000).



**Launching of the QAF and FFS Manuals**

**Project Beneficiaries: Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment, Ministry of Agriculture, Gambia Bureaus of Statistics, The Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, The Gambia Revenue Authority Farmers and Processors of Groundnut, Cashew nut and Sesame**

**The Quality Taskforce (QTF) held a meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> February** to discuss the current implementation status of the project relating to quality enhancement and to review the roles and terms of reference of the QTF and sustainability mechanisms. The meeting attended by eight representatives of the taskforce addressed issues pertaining to quality enhancement such as the refurbishment and accreditation of the NARI lab and the training on the HPLC equipment. Discussions revealed that the WAAPP project has started building a new lab instead of refurbishing the old lab which is found to be more ideal. The accreditation of the lab and the HPLC machine was another issue that dominated the discussions as it was revealed that ITC is currently in the process of recruiting an expert to come to the Gambia to train technicians on the machine and without the refurbishment of the lab accreditation cannot be done. The meeting discussed the quality equipment (Afla test kits, moisture meters and tarpaulins) distributed to stakeholders in December and how it will be sustained by beneficiaries. NAWFA, which has been handed the Tarpaulins, informed the meeting that its distributions and proposed mechanism of monitor and terms set out by the project will be discussed during its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in order to ensure they are not mismanaged. The QTF decided that it will monitor the equipment distributed to stakeholders through monitoring. The meeting highlighted issues pertaining to the FFS by addressing weaknesses and issues arising. The Senior Advisor from ITC urged the lead institutions to submit their narrative and financial reports to ITC before the expiration of the MOU. The QTF debated on whether their work can be sustained after the project. The meeting decided to draft a TOR of the quality committee which would focus on the implementation of Food Safety and Quality.

**Project Partners: Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment, Agribusiness Services and Producers Association, National Women Farmers' Association, Cashew Alliance of the Gambia, National**



**Quality Taskforce Meeting**

**A workshop on Guidelines on Elaboration and Enforcement of Technical Regulations for Regulatory and Enforcement Bodies** was held on 27<sup>th</sup> February. The objective of the workshop was to review the technical regulations and standards from the point of view of the state. The workshop attended by seventeen participants included regulatory bodies and government institutions charged with overseeing food safety and quality issues in the Gambia, focused on the enforcement of technical regulations through an effective market surveillance, the way forward with the development and enforcement of Technical Regulations in the Gambia was discussed with relevant government institutions.

**On the last day of the mission a planning workshop** with lead institutions: ASPA, CAG and NAWFA and national consultants for FFS was held to review implementation in each sector. The lead institutions provided feedback on the FFS in terms of their accomplishments. The need for proper monitoring by the lead institutions to ensure that mechanisms are in place for a successful second season and to ensure the involvement of the Ministry of Agriculture was part of the discussion. The workshop concluded with an Action Plan discussed for the second season.

**The SCEDP is funded by the EIF Trust Fund and implemented by the International Trade Centre with local partners including the EIF Programme under the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment (MOTIE)**

*"The project aims at responding to our trade and development needs with the objective of employment creation and reducing poverty in the Gambia. It is one of four Tier 2 projects developed by The Gambia under the EIF Programme and the first to be approved by the EIF Board for The Gambia, hence making it a challenging endeavor. Therefore, the collaboration of key stakeholders is paramount for the successful implementation of the project."*

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