



The Gambia SCEDP NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER –NOVEMBER 2013

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.



MOTIE Permanent Secretary / EIF Focal Point Naffie Barry hands over Trade Information Network Equipment



10/01/2013

❖ TRADE INFORMATION REFERENCE CENTRE AND NETWORK

Trade Information

- ❖ During the period a mission from ITC arrived in the Gambia to initiate and formalize a national level trade information network in the Gambia and to provide capacity building trade information coaching and training. This also provided an opportunity for equipment procured for the Trade Information Network to be handed over.

Sector Strategy Formulation

- ❖ MOTIE in collaboration with ITC are currently reviewing the Terms of Reference (TORs) for committees to oversee implementation for both Cashew and Sesame sectors as agreed upon during the last Sector Strategy mission held in August. Cashew Alliance of the Gambia (CAG) and the National Women Farmers Association (NAWFA) were consulted to review and endorse the TOR prior to Parliament review.

SECTOR DEVELOPMENT AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT

Inclusive Tourism Feasibility Study

- ❖ A wider stakeholder review of the project document was held with stakeholders and after a series of consultative meetings based on the different components of the project with stakeholders, comprehensive comments were made with significant observations on the activities and budget.

SCEDP in the Media

- ❖ The media which plays an important role in creating awareness for activities being implemented under the SCEDP and the overall EIF Programme, once again provided a tool for the NIU to reach out to various stakeholders such as farmers, farmer groups, exporters, business sectors, NGOs and other local and international bodies in the Gambia.

Quality Enhancement

- ❖ A workshop for Quality Control of Groundnuts was held to enable the CPMS and depots to apply quality control best practices.
- ❖ The Quality Taskforce also held a meeting to review the Farmer Field Schools implementation process.

Sector Strategy Implementation

- ❖ ITC in collaboration with (ASPA) organized a three day workshop on Groundnut market and product options analysis for stakeholders within the Groundnut Value Chain. This workshop enabled ITC to provide direct support to the Groundnut sector by creating the necessary linkages between buyers and sellers in the industry.



During the period, the Farmer Field Schools International Consultant (IC) arrived in the Gambia from 15th – 19th September for the FFS third mission. The NIU, national consultants and IC embarked on a monitoring visit to two Farmer Fields in the West Coast Region to review activities being implemented as part of the FFS activities.



Farmer Field Schools Monitoring visit by NIU, NC and IC

During the third mission of the FFS international consultant in the Gambia, the NIU invited all Master Trainers and Core Trainers for Groundnut and Sesame upon the completion of the Core Trainers training to a Half-Day Consultation with the three National Consultants and the Chairman of the National Codex and SPS Committee. The meeting attended by thirteen (13) Master and Core Trainers gave the International Consultant, National Consultants and NIU an opportunity to review the implementation of the FFS especially in the field as well as to discuss issues and concerns affecting the successful implementation of the FFS in the Gambia.

During the meeting several recommendations were made based on observations from the monitoring visit. It was agreed that more monitoring of the FFS is required by both the lead institutions, NIU and National Consultants. Some of the recommendations were:

- Farmers in the FFS need to keep records such as financial and attendance records.
- Farmers should be kept motivated and interested in the schools for sustainability.
- Incentives and motivation should come from the group as MT and CT were urged to encourage farmers to have open discussions about other issues pertaining to their lives and not just limit the discussions to farming activities.
- The FFS should also be regarded as a community activity while also encouraging the farmers to see the benefits of the FFS activities.

On 19th September, the Quality Taskforce held a debriefing with the FFS IC review the status of implementation. The IC informed the taskforce that the third mission is being held based on experiences from the second mission and to finalize the training manuals with the national consultants. The meeting was informed that master trainers' manuals are already completed but core trainers are pending because the Cashew sector has still not done their core trainers training. All three lead institutions selected to coordinate the implementation of FFS in the three sectors, ASPA (Groundnut), NAWFA (Sesame) and CAG (Cashew) have already held community sensitizations and selected farms where the FFS will be held.

The meeting attended by nine members of the quality taskforce, the national consultants and international consultant enabled the members to have an input and contribute to the overall quality of the three sectors targeted by the project – Sesame, Cashew and Groundnut. The upcoming Quality Control training for Groundnuts and HACCP training was also discussed and the TOR for participants reviewed.



Training for Quality Control of Groundnuts

The NIU in collaboration with ITC held a ten (10) day training for quality control of groundnuts from 1st – 11th October. The training attended by a total of 56 (fifty-six) participants (6 women) included the Gambia Groundnut Corporation (GGC), ASPA Secretariat, Private Operators/Exporters, CPMS representatives and other stakeholders in the groundnut industry in the Gambia.

In addition to the quality control expert from ITC and the national consultant, local experts from the Gambia were invited as resource persons as various topics were covered during the ten (10) day training.

The quality training participants had an opportunity to learn the basic concepts of quality, food safety quality, quality control system and standards on groundnuts in the Gambia. The Chairperson of the National Codex SPS Committee (NCSPSC) which is also the lead institution for the Quality Taskforce participated fully in the training and discussions. Several work sessions were held to define the minimum specifications for groundnut to be purchased with reference to the standards developed by The Gambia Standards Bureau and the Food Safety and Quality Authority, also represented at the training.



National Consultant Demonstrating the Testing Equipment during the Quality Training

Prior to the quality training ITC had procured testing equipment to be used by Quality Control Inspectors and Depot Managers. During the training participants had an opportunity to be trained on sampling, testing, maintenance of equipment and facilities as well as communication along the value chain on quality and food safety issues (this portion was done by members of the media).

The Gambia Trade Information Network held its second training from 30th October to 1st November as a follow up to the training held in November 2012. The ITC mission to the Gambia, as part of Component B of the SCEDP Trade Information Services consisted of three (3) representatives from ITC, two (2) of which were part of the first mission and conducted the previous training. During the mission several goals and objectives were set, these were all geared towards ensuring that staff and personnel of the Trade Information network were capacitated to run the Network in their institutions and that the Centre was up and ready for use. During the mission the trade information portal was developed and the back office procedures integrated while several consultations were held with network members to address any issues and concerns.



Experts from ITC to Conduct Workshop on Trade Information Systems

At the end of the training twenty-seven (27) participants including six (6) women from several different institutions were trained on the Trade Information Network. The participants skills were enhanced on mechanisms to identify, collect, produce and disseminate trade information. During the mission, the NIU and MOTIE also took the opportunity to distribute equipment such as computers and UPSs procured by ITC as part of the Trade Information Network to the eight (8) institutions forming the network.

Project Partners

- ❖ Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment (MOTIE)
- ❖ Ministry of Agriculture
- ❖ Gambia Bureaus of Statistics
- ❖ National Codex SPS Committee (NCSPSC)
- ❖ The Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- ❖ The Gambia Revenue Authority

Project Beneficiaries

- ❖ MOTIE
- ❖ Agribusiness Services and Producers Association (ASPA)
- ❖ The National Women Farmers' Association (NAWFA)
- ❖ Cashew Alliance of the Gambia (CAG)
- ❖ Farmers and Processors of Groundnut, Cashew nut and Sesame

Items delivered to each institution included CPUs, Monitors and USPs. Handover agreements were signed by representatives of all Trade Information Network beneficiaries. (Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Trade, Gambia Revenue Authority, Gambia Bureau of Statistics, Central Bank of the Gambia, Department of Planning Services (MOA),

ITC in partnership with Agribusiness Services and Producers Association (ASPA) held its second workshop for groundnut stakeholders in the Gambia from 14th – 17th November. After the success of the first buyer-sellers meeting last November, ITC provided funding through the SCEDP for a three (3) day workshop for stakeholders within the Groundnut Value Chain. The workshop which also gave special attention to quality management issues of groundnut was held at the Jenoi Agricultural Training Centre, LRR.



Members of the High Table at the Jenoi Groundnut Workshop

The EIF through the SCEDP places great importance on enhancing the Gambia's competitiveness in the local and international export markets as well as increasing crop production and export as well as reducing poverty in the Gambia. ASPA in line with its mandate to manage the Groundnut Sub-Sector and in recognition of Governments efforts to dramatically increase groundnut production decided that an increase in quantity without a corresponding increase in quality is meaningless to the sector. The workshop therefore emphasized the recognition of quality assurance which cannot be achieved without adequate sensitization, training and capacity building.

It was in this context that ITC organized a Mission from the Gambia consisting of groundnut farmers and major stakeholders of the groundnut industry such as representatives of the Gambia Groundnut Corporation (GGC) and the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI). The mission to South Africa and Malawi were able to witness first-hand how the two countries transitioned from a small groundnut producing country to a major actor in the production and export of groundnut in the world. Representatives from the study tour shared experiences on Food Safety and Quality management both in Malawi and South Africa, Agricultural best practices from the two countries, Research and Development and the relationship between the value chain actors in both countries.



Stakeholders at the Jenoi Groundnut Workshop

Various topics covered by experts in the groundnut industry during the workshop included addressing the ten (10) point recommendations that emanated from the 2012 Jenoi workshop, a review of the 2012/13 groundnut marketing season, and a presentation of the Malawi/South Africa Study Tour. At the end of the training the participants were able to increase their knowledge on the importance of quality versus quantity when it comes to the production and marketing of groundnuts. It is anticipated that the workshop will have a positive impact to the upcoming groundnut season as it did in 2012 where prices were significantly influenced due to the outcome workshop.

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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