For sustainable fruit and vegetable sector development in ACP countries

COLEACP (the Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Union Committee) is an intergovernmental network that aims to defend the interests of producers/processors/exporters in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, and EU importers of horticultural products. Its 36 members account for 85% of ACP fruit and vegetable exports to Europe. Growers, exporters and importers are joined by associate members (advisers, service providers, etc.) who contribute their analysis of the situation in the horticultural value chain. "COLEACP was a forerunner of today's cooperation policies," emphasized Guy Stinglhamber, the COLEACP Brussels office director. "Increasingly, these are the asking partners to take part in the development of southern countries. That is what COLEACP does, as our objective is to facilitate trade in order to support social and economic development in the emerging countries of the south."

Technical assistance and training

COLEACP has been managing European Development Fund-endowed programmes since 2001 (PIP since 2001 and EDES since 2005). These programmes have provided the ACP horticultural sectors with 200 million euros worth of technical assistance and training. "Initially, the aim was to help ACP growers and exporters to meet the demands of EU regulations and supermarket standards. In Germany, it was in the late 1990s and early 2000s that COLEACP first became aware of the need for technical assistance and training," Stinglhamber explained. "In the late 2000s, the focus shifted to digitalisation and the need to assist with the use of information technology in the sector."

In Senegal

**Buursine International produces and exports organic mangos**

Buursine International was established in Senegal in 2014. It produces and exports organic mangos to the EU market. The company produces organic mangos in several regions of Senegal, including the Casamance region. The company employs around 200 local workers and has established partnerships with local farmers to ensure the sustainability of the production process.

**In brief**

- Buursine International is a Senegalese company that produces and exports organic mangos to the EU market.
- The company has established partnerships with local farmers to ensure the sustainability of the production process.
- Buursine International is committed to using sustainable practices and ensuring fair labor conditions for its workers.

In 2021, Buursine International exported 480 tonnes of mangos to Europe. The company plans to increase its exports in the future to meet the growing demand for organic mangos in the EU market. Buursine International is a model of successful collaboration between Senegalese farmers and European importers, and it serves as a valuable lesson for other companies looking to enter the organic fruit and vegetable market.