

Testimonials over the ACP context

Complying with private standards: it's possible, but not alone and without means!

"Producers suffer from a lack of technical expertise and resources. It is essential for them to have a secure attachment to the market via the exporter. This enables them to compensate for their shortcomings with expertise provided by export companies who can bridge the skills gap and manage technical problems." Apollo Owuor, KHE, Kenya

"The problem is that the cost to attain these standards and obtain certification - even collective, are too high and this restricts the competitiveness of small producers. But we haven't really a choice if we want to export our produce." Issa Bagayoko, IB-Negoce, Mali

"It is harder for small scale producers to reach the first ladder of these standards. The costs represent a higher proportion of their earnings than larger growers and this limits market access" John Henderson, York Farm, Zambia

"When DG SANCO decided to withdraw a number of pesticides over a five year-period, the manufacturers of these pesticides no longer wanted to support these products. The MRLs for these pesticides no longer applied and their residue levels dropped down to 0, which is virtually impossible to achieve" Hélène Fiagan, ACP Group of States Secretariat, Brussels

"Traceability is a plus that helps us secure our earnings. We used to be at the mercy of importers who sometimes turned back a good part of our shipments. From now on, if our product complies with standards, we are no longer at risk of seeing it refused" Akyl Cassam, SCIM, Madagascar

"We know that if we want to keep exporting our products, we have to respect MRLs. But to do so, our staff has to know exactly which pesticides to use and the conditions for their use. We are still seriously handicapped by a lack of training. It is precisely to help us provide more support for all the people involved, to train them and bring them up to scratch that we need a programme like PIP" Yasmine HACHEM, Niram Maraîcher, Senegal

"Our company's needs mostly concern training. There is a need to train technical managers in the correct use of pesticides not only because our products have to meet European MRLs, but also to ensure total safety for our staff and our entire network" Charles VALLIER, Katopé, Côte d'Ivoire