



COLEACP



AN INTERNATIONAL NETWORK
PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE
HORTICULTURAL TRADE

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MISSION STATEMENT

COLEACP (Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee) was established in 1973 as a not-for-profit interprofessional association. It represents and defends the collective interests of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) exporters/producers and EU importers of fruit, vegetables, flowers and plants.

Its main goal is to **promote competitive trading between ACP countries and with the EU** notably by building capacity of food business operators, facilitating matchmaking among members of its network and advocating on behalf of the industry.

The association encourages operators to adopt best practices in the areas of food safety, human health and environmental protection.

Placing particular **emphasis on sustainable development** and poverty alleviation, the COLEACP pleads for a better integration of small farmers into the horticultural supply chain.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- To develop and **strengthen our network** of ACP-EU horticultural industry stakeholders and linkages with other relevant partners.
- **To encourage development of value added ACP exports** and diversification of products and markets.
- To improve the business environment in order to promote employment creation and income generation.
- To initiate, **maintain and improve effective public/private dialogue** on development issues, especially through the creation and strengthening of national and regional Task forces.
- **To enhance market access** through demonstrating compliance to regulatory and market requirements, particularly for sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) and marketing standards.
- **To represent the horticultural private sector** amongst agricultural research for development (AR4D) bodies in order for the economic, social and environmental needs of operators to be taken into account and generate innovative solutions for those directly involved in local farming.

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OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Opened EU markets to off season vegetables and tropical fruits from Africa and the Caribbean countries through promotional campaigns.
- Conducted numerous technical and commercial assistance missions throughout ACP countries.
- Organised trade missions for ACP exporters into selected European and Middle East markets.
- Developed a membership base of more than 300 professionals - EU importers, ACP exporters, local consultants - from about 35 countries.
- Is entrusted since 2001 with the responsibility of implementing PIP, a cooperation programme financed by the European Development Fund (EDF) at the request of the ACP (Africa, Caribbean, Pacific) Group of States.
- Conducted the diagnostic study on impacts of the new EU Regulation on Official Feed & Food Controls in 2005 and subsequent challenges/ opportunities for ACP countries.
- Is entrusted since March 2010 with the implementation of the EDES programme.
- Has joined the Consortium for implementing the EU-funded PAEPARD programme (2009 - 2012) aiming to develop dynamic interactions and innovative partnerships between researchers and users of AR4D results (Agricultural research for development).



OUR VALUES
PROFESSIONALISM
CREATIVITY
RESPECT
SOLIDARITY



OUR SERVICES

- Information and communication
- Market intelligence and analysis of regulatory changes, based on information collection, the network's experience, exchanges of knowhow and institutional support
- Technical advice, training and learning materials on food safety and crop protection
- Promotion and creation of partnerships
- Advocacy with financial institutions and development agencies
- Representation/participation in the works of international trade committees and agricultural research centres





FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
OF THE ACP HORTICULTURAL TRADE

PIP : «FOR A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AFRICAN-CARIBBEAN-PACIFIC HORTICULTURAL INDUSTRY»

From 2001 to 2009, PIP provided support to export companies to install and implement food safety risk management systems and thereby comply with EU food safety law. Together these companies supplied over 80% of fresh fruit and vegetables coming into the EU from ACP countries and sourced from over 100,000 smallholders.

Since October 2009, due to new and evolving regulatory and market requirements, a second phase of the programme was launched : besides food safety, the remit of PIP's activities has been enlarged to also include issues such as the respect of the environment and ethical production/trade.

Through PIP's activities, COLEACP encourages and supports its members and other private sector players (e.g. retailers) to ensure that the horticultural trade contributes to the achievement of the Millenium Development Goals : poverty alleviation, food security, and environmental protection.





EDES : « SAFE FOOD THROUGH THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF THE PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AND THE ACP FOOD BUSINESS OPERATORS THROUGHOUT THE PRODUCTION/TRANSFORMATION/EXPORTATION CHAIN»

Protection of the consumer's health is high on the agenda of countries. This has framed laws and standards that must be complied with by operators all along the food supply chain. The coming into effect in 2006, within the European region, of a new regulation on "Official SPS feed & food controls", whether produced locally or imported, has created the need for third countries to adapt their SPS related regulatory, supervisory and control systems applied to food products of plant or animal origin destined for export to the EU.

True to its advocacy role in the promotion of the ACP/EU fruit and vegetable industry, COLEACP had carried out in 2005 an impact study on this new piece of legislation. It was concluded that ACP countries would need to receive support both for being able to demonstrate SPS compliance of their food exports and for benefiting of local, regional and international trade opportunities that could arise from the setting-up or strengthening of reasonable and sustainable SPS management and control systems.

Hence the objective of the EDES Programme, the implementation of which has, since March 2010, been entrusted to a COLEACP-led consortium made up of the major players of the European arena in matter of food safety, is to strengthen ACP SPS systems. With a view to achieving this in a sustainable way, while taking into account the risks and requirements per sector, EDES focuses on promoting interactions between public authorities (national level) and food business operators (internal due diligence) in both plant and animal sectors. Special attention will be devoted to the specific needs of vulnerable groups (small producers, farmers and artisanal fishermen) so as to contribute to the goals of poverty reduction while enhancing access to safe food.



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COLEACP DELEGATION GENERAL

5, rue de la Corderie
Centra 342
94 586 RUNGIS Cedex
FRANCE
Tel: + 33 1 41 80 02 10
Fax: + 33 1 41 80 02 19
Email: coleacp@coleacp.org

COLEACP BRUSSELS OFFICE

Rue du Trône, 130
1050 Brussels
BELGIUM
Tel: + 32 2 508 10 90
Fax: + 32 2 514 06 32

CONTACT US:

EMAIL : network@coleacp.org
WEB SITE : www.coleacp.org



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