



COLE4CP

40 YEARS WORKING FOR DEVELOPMENT

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IDENTIFICATION OF A SUPPORT PROGRAMME
TO THE ACP AGRI-FOOD SECTOR

(UPSCALING PIP AND EDES ACTIVITIES)

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**IDENTIFICATION OF A SUPPORT PROGRAMME
TO THE ACP AGRI-FOOD SECTOR
(UPSCALING PIP AND EDES ACTIVITIES)**

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1. *Justification of the action*

Created 40 years ago as an association of companies trading in exotic fruit and vegetables, the Comité de Liaison Europe ACP (COLEACP) has evolved into an organisation which goal is to contribute to poverty alleviation in the Africa-Caribbean-Pacific (ACP) countries through the development of sustainable horticultural value chains.

By up-scaling and disseminating the progress made in the export sector to also benefit production for local and regional markets, horticultural exports are used as a driving force in modernising food production in ACP countries, and thereby contribute to improving food security and nutrition, food import substitution and economic diversification.


In recent years, COLEACP has been entrusted to manage the PIP2 Programme, which provides technical assistance to ACP suppliers and ensures that they were able to comply with the new requirements. COLEACP is also in charge of the implementation of EDES programme; EDES supports the establishment of risk-based food safety systems for export products in ACP countries in line with regional, international and EU Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) regulations. COLEACP has been operating in nearly 50 ACP countries through a network of 1000 experts (80% of them from ACP countries), and has benefited more 1 million small-scale producers and 85% of the horticultural export industry.

Mid-term external assessments were conducted in 2013 for the PIP2 and EDES programmes. These assessments were very positive, with the PIP2 singled out as an example of "best practice" that helped to "maintain horticultural export levels from ACP countries to the EU and in professionalising the agro-industrial sector of the countries involved". The satisfaction rate for the programme's beneficiaries was 96%.

COLEACP plans to build on this positive experience in order to promote a new agricultural model combining innovation, new technologies and sustainable agriculture and to empower small-scale farmers to be recognized as competitive suppliers in sustainable value chains. Enhancing market access through demonstrating compliance to regulatory and commercial changes will remain an important aspect of the future strategy, but COLEACP's approach will also on focus on encouraging the development of value added ACP exports and diversification of products and markets, improving the business environment, developing Public Private Partnerships, and, more generally, contributing to the business development of small and medium companies and small holders involved in the ACP horticultural industry.

COLEACP has therefore articulated a new programme that, using export horticulture as a modernisation factor in agriculture, aims to improve food quality and quality controls for the local and regional markets; extends the know-how from horticulture to other major sectors like coffee, cocoa, tea and food-producing agriculture; increases the number of beneficiaries; expands the work to countries that haven't been covered by the previous programmes due to the lack of resources; targets more directly the food processing industry and the transformation of products; develops integral intervention logics through the establishment of partnerships with key stakeholders.

COLEACP has been praised in recent years for its gender approach and for the high percentage of women amongst the beneficiaries of the programmes. Particular attention will be paid to maintaining the same line, and youth will also be given a high level of priority.





2. Objectives

2.1. General Objective

Contribute to poverty reduction, and food and nutrition security in the ACP countries

2.2. Specific Objectives

- Contribute to the strengthening of inclusive, resilient, and sustainable value chains in the agri-food sector
- Contribute to improving, from a quantitative and qualitative point of view, the agri-food products' offer for export and for local and regional markets

3. Beneficiaries

All stakeholders of the ACP agri-food value chains, in particular:

- ➔ **Small producers / land-holders and farmers** of the below mentioned value chains,
 - ➔ **Producers, manufacturers and exporters of food** for local and export markets,
 - Fruits and vegetables
 - Spices
 - Cocoa
 - Coffee
 - Tea
 - ➔ **Service providers involved in the above mentioned agri-food chains (trainers, consultants, and certification bodies).**
 - ➔ **Governments and public institutions** providing support to the agri-food value chains
 - ➔ **Training & research institutions**
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4. *Guiding Principles*

- Local appropriation / No substitution to local stakeholders
- Investment in local expertise and human resources
- Pooling of problems and solutions / Economies of scale
- Demand-driven intervention / cost-sharing
- No substitution of local stakeholders / Participatory approach
- South-South cooperation
- Transversal focus on youth and gender

5. *Themes*

5.1. Sustainable Intensification

Valuation of products, innovation, sustainability, added value

5.2. Market access

Compliance, competitiveness, Corporate Social Responsibility

5.3. Food and nutrition security

Adequate food (quantity, quality, safety, socio-cultural acceptability), healthy and decent life

5.4. Resilience capacity

Capacity building, business climate

5.5. Inclusiveness of value chains

Partnerships, networking, advocacy

6. *Components of the new Programme*

6.1. Market Intelligence

- Surveillance of the evolution of norms and requirements
- Identify obstacles and opportunities
- Risk analysis





6.2. Research and Development

- Elaboration of technical solutions allowing beneficiaries to enhance the quality and the profitability of their products and services
- Sustainable agricultural practices
- Safe use of pesticides
- Crop protection / IPM

6.3. Business Development

- Improvement of competitiveness
- Innovation
- Ethical working conditions
- Identification and search of business opportunities including through the participation in business forums and fairs
- Added value
- Promotion of ACP origin
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Facilitating access to finance


6.4. Capacity Building and Resilience

- Identification and diagnosis of beneficiaries' needs
- Technical assistance
- Training
- Quality management systems
- Dissemination and experience sharing

6.5. Advocacy

- Policy dialogue
- Networking along the value chains and outside
- Experience sharing
- Promotion of partnerships and community building
- Promotion of interests of the ACP agricultural sector at national and international level
- Enhancement of the business environment

6.6. Information and Communication

- Cross-cutting component covering all activities of the project
 - Production and dissemination of material related to the projects' activities
 - Visibility (programme, donor, institution, sector)
 - Information to stakeholders about the programme implementation
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7. Duration of the Programme

5 – 10 years

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