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Senegal is the country with the longest mango season, from May to September

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Buursine International has been producing and exporting organic fruit and vegetables for the past seven years.

After studying in Germany and setting up a textile company there, in 2005 Amacodou Diouf decided to return to Senegal and set up a business near Dakar to produce and export organic mangos. His company, Buursine International, works with 75 small-scale growers with 123 ha of mango trees. "In Senegal we can grow mangos from May to September", he explained. "The country harvests 100 thousand tonnes a year and exports between 6 and 8 thousand tonnes. Apart from anthracnose, organic growing poses few problems". The mangos are packed near Dakar and exported by sea, the majority to BioTropic, a German firm which specializes

in importing and distributing organic (essentially tropical) fruit and vegetables. Buursine International sells part of its mangos to Morocco and to Ghana, where they are dried in processing units before being exported.

Thanks to COLEACP and the EU's PIP programme, Buursine International and its 75 growers have benefited from technical support (training and advice) that among other benefits have made it possible for the company to achieve GlobalGAP, Bio Europe, Bio Suisse and Fairtrade accreditation. Marie-José Neveu Tafforeau of COLEACP-PIP emphasized that "we have been supporting Buursine since 2010, enabling the company to keep up its export

volumes". The programme made it possible to carry out experimental programmes such as the current testing of biopesticides to combat anthracnose.

Processing development

In 2011, Buursine International exported 480 tonnes of mangos. In 2012, it exported 300 tonnes to Europe and 200 tonnes to Morocco and Ghana. "The difficulty is that there are many losses because we do not export enough", Amacodou Diouf reckons. "The COLEACP-PIP programme has allowed us to get the certification we need in order to export. But now we need to get moving

on setting up processing units so that we can limit the losses". To diversify his production, Amacodou Diouf has brought 15 ha into cultivation on which he grows organic onions, papayas and pumpkins, which he will begin to export in 2013, as well as red chillies, sweet peppers and spices for the local market. He wants his 15 ha to serve as a model for other farmers to develop the growing and export of other fruits and vegetables. In the framework of his partnership with BioTropic, Amacodou Diouf also implements social initiatives in the neighbourhood, such as making oil presses available, setting up a training centre for women and contributing hospital supplies.

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