





### ONGOING PROGRAMMES

















## **ACP Business-friendly**







#### FO4ACP





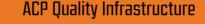
Women Entrepreneurship for Africa







**Boost Africa** 











## DESCRIPTION OF INTERVENTIONS

Fit For Market (FFM) programmes support companies in the horticultural sector and their environment to ensure their international access to horticultural and national markets while complying with sanitary and phytosanitary regulations and market requirements, individually or collectively. Support includes food safety, environmental management, social compliance and business management. The main types of support are related to the implementation of a management system (on social themes, environment, quality) meeting the requirements of international certification standards required by customers (GLOBALG.A.P., HACCP, Rainforest Alliance, SMETA, etc.).

Set up in the continuity of FFM past programmes, the new FFM Plus programme support is tailored to facilitate the transition of ACP horticulture towards more sustainable food systems, addressing the priority areas identified in the Farm to Fork strategy of the European Green Deal. As of April 2023, 65 FFM Plus applications for support were received. Specifically, FFM+ applications have been received from 47 horticultural MSMEs (producers, processors), 12 support structures for smallholder farmers, 5 service providers and 1 professional association.







### **DESCRIPTION OF INTERVENTIONS**

The **ACP Business-friendly** is designed to achieve two key outcomes of:

- Adopting and implementing business-friendly, inclusive and responsible national policies and legal frameworks;
- Strengthening productive, processing, promoting and marketing capabilities and value chains.

At the macro level intervention, ACP Business-friendly's Regional Engagement Window aims at fostering inter- and intra-regional knowledge exchange around Investment Climate reforms and policy outcomes within the ACP countries. It represents a channel to promote learning opportunities and disseminate knowledge and experiences acquired through the Country Engagement and Rapid Response Windows to the broader group of ACP countries. A **peer-to-peer learning event** took place on December 6, 2022, in Luanda, Angola, on the margins of the OACPS Heads of State Summit. The objective was to foster peer-to-peer learning among ACP policymakers, to facilitate capacity building by discussing the latest global and regional investment climate trends and best practices, and to showcase achievements of the ACP Business Friendly program to date.

The programme's regional-level initiative to develop a SADC Investment Climate Scorecard, that assesses foreign direct investment regulatory restrictiveness in the region, is progressing well with full support and engagement of the relevant authorities (SADC member States Ministries of Industry and Trade/Commerce and Investment Promotion Agencies). In the coming months, the World Bank Group is expected to deliver a series of sessions providing the global and regional context for investment and private sector development, presenting the overall and country-level results of the Scorecard, discussing reform priorities, and agreeing on the next steps for its launching and implementation.

The Global Corporate Tax Incentives (CIT) Database aims to systematically report on the availability of corporate tax incentives, tax parameters, conditions (including sectoral classification) and generosity of each of the incentives for countries over time (2009–2020). The current database only covers 40 countries. The WB will be working throughout 2023 on additional coverage in order to inform counterpart operations and research efforts, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa.

**Support to implementation of AfCFTA**: ACP Business-friendly working with a few select AfCFTA Member States and the AfCFTA Secretariat to support the process of AfCFTA implementation with a focus on investment.







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The <u>ACP Quality Infrastructure (QI)</u> programme supports ACP policy makers, institutions and private sector actors to (i) enhance the regional Quality and Regulatory infrastructure governance; (ii) strengthen the availability of the value chain-specific QI services; (iii) promote quality culture and practices. The programme complements and builds on the ongoing achievements of the ACP Business-friendly programme reinforcing the UNIDO's programme action. **ACP QI** for the African region was officially launched in Luanda in December 2022, during the OACPS Business Days held on the margins of the OACPS Heads of State Summit.

<u>DFS4RES</u> Digital Finance for Resilience in the ACP Countries, implemented by UNCDF, aims at deploying digital finance solutions at the scale and speed necessary to deepen financial inclusion, and accelerate economic recovery from COVID-19, in order to make economies and societies more resilient to external shocks. In April 2023, the <u>Inclusive Digital Economy Scorecard (IDES)</u> for Malawi was launched. IDES is a strategic performance and policy tool that has been developed to support countries in better understanding and monitoring the status of their digital transformation, with a view to helping them make it more inclusive. Based on four pillars – Policy and Regulation, Infrastructure, Innovation and Skills, – the IDES facilitates governments in setting the right priorities with stakeholders to foster the development of a digital economy that benefits all. As Malawi works towards becoming an inclusively wealthy and self-reliant upper middle-income country by 2063, digitization can accelerate the achievement of these goals.

WE4A aims to improve the business capacity of women-led enterprises to increase their chances of raising follow-on funding from private sector investors. Both the Initial acceleration and follow-on growth programmes aim to assist women entrepreneurs in Sub-Saharan Africa to flourish and contribute to employment creation in their communities through enhanced business capacities, access to formal financial services, and integration into local/regional value chains. Recently, one woman entrepreneur from Malawi was selected to receive an additional grant funding as well as an additional three months of training focused on growth under the WE4A Acceleration Programme. *Kwanza Cocoa* is a multifaceted business combining agriculture and manufacturing of cocoa products in Malawi. The company currently produces bespoke artisan chocolates and aim to expand into the production and sales of chocolates, cocoa powder, cocoa butter and a series of other products including locally sourced additives such as milk, cream, soya, coffee, macadamia, moringa and dehydrated seasonal fruits. As it expands its cocoa plantation on the farm, Kwanza Cocoa has established an out growers' program that will create a sustainable supply chain, with the goal of being able to manufacture cocoa products for Malawi and the SADC region.

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FO4ACP The overall objective of the programme is to increase income and to improve livelihood, food and nutrition security and safety of organised smallholder and family farmers in ACP countries. FO4ACP supported the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) activities focused on facilitating access to markets and the marketing of agricultural produce, provision of technical training and business to business meetings as well as the development of project proposals and business plans. The National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi (NASFAM) is the largest smallholder owned membership organisation in Malawi. NASFAM benefits from FO4ACP trainings. With the support of FO4ACP, the Central Region Milk Producers Association (CREMPA), an umbrella body of dairy farmers in Malawi's central region. The Malawi Dairy Value Chain Project focuses on triggering changes on dowstream dairy value chain activities. The project supports the production and marketing of locally produced high value dairy supplementary feed based on high protein/energy crops. It is expected to benefit 11,000 small holder farmers.

<u>Boost Africa</u> is implemented by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the European Investment Bank (EIB). It offers blended finance and focuses on supporting entrepreneurially-driven, early stage, and start-up SMEs on the African continent. Boost Africa targets innovative investments in any sector, with special focus on those that have a high potential for economic impact. Boost Africa also provides technical assistance to: i) venture capital funds which are considered for investment by Boost Africa; ii) investee companies of funds in which Boost Africa has invested. ElabTraining to start-up owners covered Malawi.

#### MORE INFORMATION

- Read the Monitoring Report 2021: https://businessacp.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Annual-Report- online-version.pdf
- <u>Visit the "Programmes' Highlights" page on the Business ACP website:</u> https://businessacp.com/en/94071-2/