



# MAURITIUS

## ONGOING PROGRAMMES

### Fit For Market (FFM, FFM SPS, FFM+)



### Boost Africa



### FO4ACP



### Women Entrepreneurship for Africa



### ACP Business-friendly



### ICR Facility



### Business ACP



### ACP Quality Infrastructure



## 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+ 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.

For example, **Proxifresh Co. Ltd**, a Mauritian company specialising in the import, export and distribution of fruits and vegetables under the VegMe brand for supermarkets, hotels and restaurants, benefited from FFM. A technical assistance was provided to help the company identify appropriate methods to increase the shelf life and stability of its processed products and to identify ways to recover waste from its various activities. **INNOVAGRI Ltd** is a fruit and vegetable – onion, potato, carrot, pepper, tomato, pumpkin, pineapple, passion fruit – production company based in Rivière des Anguilles, Mauritius. The company operates a 55-hectare farm with 2500 m<sup>2</sup> of greenhouses. All the fruit and vegetables produced, estimated at around 3,000 tonnes for 2019, are currently sold on the local market.



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With a view to continuous improvement and at the request of its main client, in 2022 **INNOVAGRI** wished to set up a sanitary quality management system that complied with the requirements of GLOBALG.A.P. **FFM** provided training to the staff in order to complying with the new requirements of the standard.

At regional level, COLEAD and EAC officialised a partnership to jointly work on different elements to support the development and strengthening of fruit and vegetables value chains. Exchanges between the EAC and COLEAD were the subject of a specific presentation in November 2021 at the "1st Meeting of the EAC Region Platform on Fruits and Vegetables on the Future of processing and trade in Fruits and Vegetables: Building Resiliencies past the Pandemic".

The **ACP Business-friendly** programme 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 macro level intervention, the 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 **ACP Quality Infrastructure (QI)** 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.

**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. Farmers' Organisation for ACP is active at the regional level through the **East African Farmers Federation (EAFF)**, which adopted a new Strategic Plan 2021-2028 and rolled out a regional COVID-19 sensitisation campaign supported by the programme.



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Two regional policy studies – for dairy and maize value chains – were conducted aiming at improving business environment. In this context, two business to business (B2B) meetings for the above value chains were organised, and MoUs were signed.

The **ICR Facility** focuses on supporting private and public stakeholders and regional institutions, to improve their investment climate and business environment by facilitating public-private dialogue, among other actions. In Mauritius, ICR Facility supports the **National Women Entrepreneur Council (NWECC)** and will undertake a business environment analysis of the handicraft sector with a gender approach.

**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.

**Component 1** of the programme provided gender sensitive entrepreneurship training and seed capital through the the Tony Elumelu Foundation; **component 2**, implemented by GIZ through the "Employment and Skills for development in Africa" (E4D) project, links African women entrepreneurs (TEF alumni) to private sector initiatives and provide technical assistance to build commercial bridges with larger lead businesses and integrating their supply chains; and **component 3**, led by the Swiss Association for Entrepreneurship in Emerging markets (SAFEEM), supports African women entrepreneurs to secure second stage financing as a major stepping-stone to be becoming fully bankable and capitalizing on the employment potential of their businesses

Two Mauritian companies were selected to receive up to an additional €50,000 in grant funding as well as an additional three months of training focused on growth under the WE4A Acceleration Programme. **Eco Hustle Ltd** equips rural African women with affordable, effective and 100% biodegradable sanitary napkins through an innovative sanitary napkin production unit, otherwise known as a "mini-factory" where women are employed to manufacture and distribute the pads in their own villages. **Fenou Packaging** helps agripreneurs find the right packaging for their product, respectful of the environment, via an agripack web platform and shop.



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**Boost Africa** 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.

Training by AfDB's "Entrepreneurship Lab" for Mauritian startup owners, has been provided through Boost Africa.

## MORE INFORMATION

- **Read the Monitoring Report 2021:**

<https://businessacp.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Annual-Report- online-version.pdf>

- **Visit the "Programmes' Highlights" page on the Business ACP website:**

<https://businessacp.com/en/94071-2/>