



SIERRA LEONE

ONGOING PROGRAMMES

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



ICR Facility



ABC Fund



ACP Business-friendly



ACP Quality Infrastructure



FO4ACP



Business ACP



DESCRIPTION OF INTERVENTIONS

FFM & FFM SPS 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 (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.

FFM SPS provided support with crop-specific dossiers required as a prerequisite for exports into the EU of Capsicum files from Sierra Leone. As part of the **FFM SPS** programme, a development project has been signed and, Sierra Leone, among others has received tailor-made support through a local **Federation for Agricultural Produce Exporters of Sierra Leone (FAPESL)**. Since the operational launch, **FFM SPS** programme organised group and specific training sessions. Additionally, technical assistance support activities were arranged to coach competent authority staff in enhancing their national SPS system.



SIERRA LEONE

DESCRIPTION OF INTERVENTIONS

In the fourth year of the program, public services were invited to attend various training sessions aimed at improving their skills and knowledge in specific areas. Participants from Sierra Leone have participated, successfully trained and awarded certificates. These individuals demonstrated exceptional commitment by completing all assignments and attending every session. Further, public sector services were supported in Sierra Leone through training that implemented improved SPS analytical, control and enforcement procedures for local and export markets.

FO4ACP Farmers' Organizations for ACP aims to increase the incomes and improve the livelihoods, food and nutrition security, and safety of organized smallholders and family farmers in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries by strengthening regional, national and local farmers' organizations. The programme supported the **Network of Farmers' and Producers' Organizations of West Africa (ROPPA)** and their technical support staff called **CNIEP (Conseiller national aux initiatives économiques des OP)** in consolidating three priority value chains (potato, sweet potato, poultry). In the Western African Region including Sierra Leone, the focus of the programme is on strengthening capacities of economic initiatives beneficiaries on management through training/refreshing courses according to specific needs; facilitating partnerships within the value chains in upstream and downstream production or processing to provide quality and volume to markets (e.g.: agreement with smallholder producers to supply raw material to processing units); close following up of processing units to provide support and advise when adjustments are needed. Ensure that business plans are consistent and profitable and facilitating access to financial resources. Following up on regional advocacy activities as well as national advocacy plans to enable the delivery of better economic services to smallholders and; Improving governance and FO's feeling of belonging through better communication on ROPPA's and NFOs actions to their members.

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.

Under the macro pillar's Rapid Response Window, the World Bank brings key stakeholders together to ensure policy dialogue, build counterpart capacity to contribute to economic recovery efforts, and support policy actions towards green, resilient, and inclusive development in addition to building a robust analytical foundation for further policy reform, among other areas of assistance.



SIERRA LEONE

DESCRIPTION OF INTERVENTIONS

In Sierra Leone, the objective is to support the **Government** in attracting green and inclusive tourism private investment and to increase government institutional capacity to implement investment promotion and retention actions for targeted tourism development sites through destination investment assessments and profiles.

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.

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.

The ICR Facility supports the **National Investment Board (NIB)** of Sierra Leone, which was established in 2022 to promote investment opportunities, to act as a facilitating body and assist investors to obtain facilities relating to their business enterprises and generally to improve the investment climate. The **ICR Facility's** intervention will focus on supporting the **NIB** to establish a centralized and coordinated approach to investment activities. This involves developing two main outputs: (i) National Investment Strategy to guide investment-related matters, identify priority sectors for inward investment such as food and agriculture, information and communication technology, transport as well as develop a roadmap on strategic development of **NIB**, its goals, stakeholder engagement methods and women economic empowerment; (ii) Framework (or "how-to" guide) for Aftercare Services to provide support to investors with respect to contractual issues, collaboration with public bodies and prevention or settlement of disputes that should enhance the predictability of their investments.

At regional level, the **ICR Facility** supported the private sector section of the **Commission of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA)** to develop a partnership and dialogue between the public and the private sector in the Sahel region and to thus improve the business and investment climate. The technical assistance provided to ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) was aimed at creating a tailor-made capacity building programme for its staff and management.



SIERRA LEONE

DESCRIPTION OF INTERVENTIONS

A tailored workplan has been developed and includes works on a learning management system and specialized training. It also provided 2 technical assistance to **FEWACCI (Federation of West African Chambers of Commerce and Industry)**: one focused on promoting the harmonization of business law in ECOWAS Member States; the other was an assessment of the main factors influencing the business environment for women-led enterprises in agribusiness value chains in the ECOWAS region. Additionally, the program supported the **Regional Capacity Building Office of the World Customs Organization** in the organization of a series of online workshops on topics related to the effects of the COVID-19 crisis on organizations customs.

Another recent intervention was the development of a policy brief with the aim of positively influence the design of the AfCFTA Digital Trade protocol. The intention being that the protocol addresses issues and challenges for the African innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem and contributes to creating an enabling environment for African entrepreneurs and innovators.

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/>