



THE GAMBIA

PROGRAMMES EN COURS

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



ICR Facility



FD4ACP



Boost Africa



ACP Quality Infrastructure



Digital Finance for Resilience (DF4RES)



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.

In 2019, COLEACP organised a workshop in Gambia with key private and public stakeholders from the horticulture industry to define an action plan to improve the national SPS system. This workshop, followed a request for support from FFM SPS submitted by the Gambian Plant Protection Services. In 2021, a meeting was organised in preparation for the mango export season, as it is essential to ensure that both public and private sectors take all the necessary steps to implement the integrated measures defined in the systems approach to ensure that fruit fly control measures are fully implemented.



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DESCRIPTION OF INTERVENTIONS

Some of the main objectives were to:

- acquire information and agree relevant measures to facilitate the implementation of activities in the mango dossier
- ensure adequate integrated management practices to control fruit flies.
- boost the export of mangoes to the EU while ensuring a reduction of interception notifications due to fruit flies
- provide a reminder of the main hygiene measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19 along the export mango value chain.

Early 2022, a workshop was organised by COLEAD to launch the "Regional Guide to Good Mango Practices in West Africa". Fresh mango was selected as a priority commodity chain for the development of a Good Practice Guide due to the SPS requirements to which it is subject, particularly relating to compliance with EU phytosanitary regulations concerning fruit flies. As the problem of fruit fly (Tephritidae) control transcends the administrative borders between countries, a regional guide is needed. Eight of the ECOWAS countries, including The Gambia, are particularly concerned, as they have already submitted a dossier to the EU competent authorities presenting their systematic approach to managing the phytosanitary risk associated with fruit flies, in line with European legislation. January 2023 saw the local launch of the **FFM+** programme. The event co-hosted by COLEAD and **Gambia Investment & Export Promotion Agency**, was attended by around 40 representatives of the Gambian horticultural industry. Participants showed great interest in both COLEAD and the modalities of **FFM+**. Following the workshop, site visits and meetings have been held to further analyse requests for support under **FFM+** that have already been received, and initiate the drafting of development projects.

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.

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.



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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.

FO4ACP. The overall objective of the **Farmers' Organizations for ACP countries** programme, implemented by IFAD, is to improve food and nutrition security and safety, and to increase income levels by strengthening local farmers' organizations, national and regional. In West Africa, the program supports the **Network of Farmer and Producer Organizations in West Africa (ROPPA)**, and its technical staff called the **CNIEP** (National Councillor for PO economic initiatives) in the consolidation of three sectors priorities (potatoes, sweet potatoes, poultry). In addition, nineteen women's and youth cooperatives were selected and received capacity building support from the **CNIEP**. Three networks of farmers' organizations (**APESS, RBM, ROPPA**) have set up a Monitoring and Action Committee which aims to be a space for encouraging and structuring cooperation between all the networks of farmers' organizations and CSOs in the face of to the COVID-19 crisis. The **ROPPA Women and Youth platform** also organized consultations between its members.

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.



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DFS4RES Digital Finance for Resilience in ACP countries aims to deploy digital finance solutions at the scale and speed needed to deepen financial inclusion and accelerate economic recovery from COVID-19, in order to make economies and societies more resilient to external shocks. The program helped the **Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO)** automate the collection of data on financial inclusion indicators and the geolocation of financial service points in the WAEMU region, improving thus the efficiency of data collection from financial service providers, storage, analysis and dissemination of data.

Boost Africa is a joint initiative of the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the European Investment Bank (EIB), which offers blended finance and focuses on supporting entrepreneurial, start-up and start-up SMEs on the African continent. IN 2022, the EIB invested EUR 10 million in **Jango Capital Start-up Fund** under the Boost Africa initiative, to strengthen digital innovation and stimulate job creation in several countries in Africa, including the Gambia. In addition, through its Entrepreneurship Lab (Elab), Boost Africa has supported the training of hundreds of start-up creators, including in the Gambia.

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/>