



POST-MISSION SHEET MAURITIUS

REMINDER OF THE MISSION

Title	Participation to ACP-EU PSD Information, Knowledge Sharing & Networking Event for East Africa and Southern Africa (14-16 May 2019) and meetings with FFM and FFM SPS partners and beneficiaries
Country	Mauritius
Programmes	Fit for Market – Fit for Market SPS
Experts	Bénédicte WERNER (BW)
Calendar	From 12.05.2019 to 17.05.2019

OVERVIEW OF COLEACP / PROGRAMMES ACTIVITIES IN MAURITIUS

In May 2016, the European Commission (EC) and COLEACP signed a five-year grant contract “Fit for Market - Strengthening competitiveness and sustainability of the ACP horticultural sector (FFM)”, with a total budget of EUR 25 million, funded up to EUR 20 million by the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) and EUR 5 million by the AFD (French Development Agency).

In December 2018, the European Commission (EC) and COLEACP signed a 4-year grant contract “Fit for Market - Strengthening sanitary and phytosanitary systems of the ACP horticultural sector (FFM SPS)”, with a total budget of EUR 15 million funded by the 11th EDF.

FFM and FFM SPS form part of the Intra-ACP indicative programme (2014-2020) of cooperation between the EU and the ACP Group of States.

The overall objective of both programmes is to reduce poverty, improve food security and food safety, and ensure sustainable and inclusive growth by strengthening the agri-food export sector in ACP countries. The specific objective is to enable smallholders, farmer groups and organisations, and MSMEs to access international and domestic horticultural markets by complying with SPS issues and market requirements, in a sustainable framework.

The expected results of FFM and FFM SPS are fully complementary and integrated into an implementation framework aimed at strengthening and build capacities at country and regional level to ensure that all the elements needed for efficient and effective national SPS systems are in place for the ACP horticultural industry (private and public).



CONTEXT OF THE MISSION

The ACP Secretariat and European Commission, with technical support from Business ACP, are preparing a series of regional meetings: “ACP Private Sector Development (PSD) Knowledge Sharing and Networking Events” with the main purposes being :

- to provide comprehensive information on relevant intra-ACP, External Investment Plan (EIP), EIB-managed and other EC-related PSD facilities and programs targeting the ACP regions;
- to provide a platform for peer-to-peer learning and experience sharing in the area of private sector development;
- to ensure a high degree of interaction among ACP private sector participants, and with project implementation agencies as well as EU stakeholders, in the form of networking and/or B2B in the areas of finance, trade, know-how and technology transfer.

The first regional meeting took place in Mauritius, from 14 to 16 May 2019. As part of the Intra-ACP projects implementation agencies, COLEACP has presented the Fit for Market programme to the audience. It was also the opportunity to network with relevant stakeholders.

The mission has also allowed individual meetings with company/cooperative’s manager and/or technical staff to analyse the request for support already received. It is important to individually meet with the different structures to:

- better identify the concrete issues they may encounter regarding their production / activity and the market access (including regulatory and commercial compliance of fruit and vegetable products);
- determine their specific needs and expectations regarding COLEACP;
- present the type of support COLEACP and the Fit for Market program can provide to their structure.

The mission has included a working meeting with the National Plant Protection Office : the FFM SPS programme has been presented and opportunities for collaboration under the new programme will be addressed according to the needs (and request) of the competent authorities.

Finally, meetings with the EU Delegation and the AFD Office took place in Port Louis during the last day of the mission in order to share the objective and outputs of the visit.

OBJECTIVES OF THE MISSION

- ⊙ FFM Programme is presented to the conference participants
- ⊙ Requests for support already received are analysed during field and pack house visits (when possible) and working meetings with the concerned structures
- ⊙ Public services and institutions are met and opportunities for collaboration between COLEACP and these structures are discussed, as appropriate
- ⊙ The EU Delegation and AFD Office are updated about COLEACP activities

RESULTS OF THE MISSION

FFM Programme is presented to the conference participants

Was the objective achieved ?

Both COLEACP and the Fit for Market programme were presented to the audience of the regional conference. The presentation was followed by a Q/A session and it was also possible to share detailed information and discuss with relevant stakeholders, with others intra-ACP projects and potential beneficiaries after the formal session.

The organizers have made all presentations available as well as the list of participants, allowing for further discussion and networking, in particular with financial tools and programmes available for horticultural SME's (Boost Africa, EURIZ, ABC Fund ...).

Requests for support already received are analysed during field and pack house visits (when possible) and working meetings with the concerned structures

Was the objective achieved ?

During this mission, the COLEACP team met with two companies and one cooperative that had applied for assistance under the FFM programme. These meetings made it possible to understand their functioning and requests, mainly in terms of technical assistance and capacity building needs for their field staff and management team. This should lead to the draft of MoUs with a specific support for each of the beneficiaries in order to allow them to answer to their customer's requirements.

COLEACP also conducted individual meetings with two Mauritian expert / consultancy firm to allow discussion on their specific areas of expertise and on capacity building opportunities.

Public services and institutions are met and opportunities for collaboration between COLEACP and these structures are discussed, as appropriate

Was the objective achieved ?

In the frame of the COLEACP FFM SPS, a meeting was organised with the Agricultural services and the National Plant Protection Office in Réduit. COLEACP presented the programme and highlighted the changes in the EU regulations, as well as the needs and opportunities of strengthening sanitary and phytosanitary system in Mauritius.

An FFM-SPS request for intervention template was shared with the team: this document should allow an initial assessment of the current system and help the NPPO to set priorities to be shared with COLEACP.

The EU delegation and AFD office in Mauritius are informed of the COLEACP activities

Was the objective achieved ?

The Delegation of the European Union in Mauritius was informed of the objectives and agenda of the mission. The discussions with Mr Gonçalo Leitao, Attaché de Cooperation, focused on COLEACP past, current and future's activities in Mauritius. Information was given by the DUE to the mission regarding the business environment for the horticultural sector as well as the regional opportunities within the Indian Ocean Commission (COI).

The Director of the AFD office in Mauritius was also met and was informed of the outcomes of the mission. The discussions focused on COLEACP current and future's activities in Mauritius.

FOLLOW-UP

- Follow up with the different institutions, programmes and participants met during the regional event in order to explore opportunities for COLEACP SME's network;
- Finalize the analysis of the request for support from beneficiaries;
- Propose individual memorandum of understanding to implement the first support actions;
- Follow up with NPPO when the official request for support is received.

FINAL AGENDA OF THE MISSION

DATE	STAFF	ACTIVITIES	PERSON(S) TO MEET
13/05/19	BW	Visit farm / premises and meetings with Proxifresh	Mr Yan MAYER, Managing Director Proxifresh
		Meeting with Change Act	Mr Daniel GRANT, Senior Consultant and Manager
		Meeting with Pure Farming management	Mr Yoann MICHENET, Technical Director Pure Farming
		Meeting with Union management	Mrs Kareen THEODORE-COTRY, Quality Manager Union
14/05/19 - 16/05/19	BW	Participation to the conference "Information, Knowledge Sharing & Networking Event for East Africa and Southern Africa"	
16/05/19	BW	PM : Meeting with National Plant Protection Office (NPPO)	Mrs B. R. KUREEMUN, Assistant Director - National Food and Agricultural Technology Division Mrs P. SEEBUN, Principal Scientific Officer - National Plant Protection Office And NPPO team
17/05/19	BW	Visit LM Cooperative (pineapple - ginger)	Mr Kishan FANGOAA, Secretary
		Meeting AFD office	Mr André POUILLÈS-DUPLAIX, Director
		Meeting EU Delegation	Mr Gonçalo LEITÃO, Cooperation Officer
		Meeting with GIST	Mrs Rafia BUNDHUN, Managing Director



COLEACP

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