



**The Republic of Sierra Leone
Ministry of Agriculture, forestry and Food Security (MAFFS)**

**REPORT OF THE TRAINING ON PRIVATE STANDARDS AND
ORGANIC CERTIFICATION FOR OFFICIALS, FARMERS AND
AGRICULTURAL EXPORTERS IN SIERRA LEONE**

(Hill Valley Hotel, Freetown and Capitol Hotel, Kenema)

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To

**The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA ACP-EU)
The TradeCom Facility ACP-EU**



Final report, June 2010

Executive Summary

The past two or so decades has seen the food industry being globalised. No longer do we find on the shelves of supermarkets in the EU products from member states but also other produce of tropical origin that have travelled several kilometres from the areas of production. However, for a product to be placed on the EU market, it is obligatory for the producer or exporter to meet health, safety and environmental legislation that exist at the EU level as well as that of the national level. Besides these obligatory legislations, there are also a range of voluntary market requirements to ensure that the consumer's requirement for good quality food produced in a sustainable way with minimum destruction to the environment is met.

To enter into the export market without the risk of non-compliance and its attendant impact of heavy losses in both export volume and value to the exporter, a series of training was initiated by Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone with the support of various donors including the EU.

In early 2009, a request was made by the MAFFS in collaboration with DAFO to the ACP-EU Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) to support a two weeks training on EU food safety laws. Following the success of this training held in Freetown and Kenema in October 2009 in collaboration with the Wageningen University, the participants including representatives from the MAFFS strongly recommended the need for a second training this time focusing on the private standards with emphases on GLOBALGAP and organic certification especially for the coffee and cocoa sectors. Subsequent discussions took place at the end of 2009 with the CTA which agreed to co-fund this follow-up training session in partnership with the TradeCom Facility in Brussels.

GLOBALGAP and organic certification workshop funded by CTA in partnership with TradeCom and effective collaboration between the staff of MAFFS and DAFO, was successfully held from April 19 to May 1, 2010 in Freetown and Kenema, Ghana. The overall objective of the training was to contribute to Sierra Leone's agricultural exports development in a post-conflict economic context. The workshop aimed at ensuring an improvement in the quality of Sierra Leone's agricultural produce with a view to increase the level of farmers' incomes.

In all a total of 44 persons were trained (22 in Freetown and 22 in Kenema). Eager and willing participants were selected by DAFO in consultation with MAFFS from the

Ministries (Agriculture, Trade) and public institutions (Bureau of Standards, Agency for Exports Promotion, etc.) as well as from farmers' organizations, chambers of commerce and private agribusiness associations.

The workshop met its goals by providing detailed information on standards particularly GLOBALGAP, organic, ethical trade initiative required for export.

The recommendations from the workshop included:

- Further training on a train-the-trainer basis for selected participants (at most ten) who will provide technical backstopping and implement either the Organic or GLOBALGAP standards.
- Organizing small growers to grow chillies and be GLOBALGAP or organic certified for export to the EU.
- Capacity building in the MAFFS or DAFO staff and the academics in ISO 9000 series and other systems in order to qualify them as internal inspectors, auditors and lead auditors for the groups.
- Selecting at least two participants for the GLOBALGAP Summit 2010 which comes off in London the United Kingdom on the 7th and 8th October 2010 to provide an insight into the GLOBALGAP Version 4.