

ISSUE #2 | SEPTEMBER 2016

TRADECOM II NEWS

INFORMATION BULLETIN OF TRADECOM II PROGRAMME

PAGES 2-3

FOCUS ON PMU ACTIVITIES

RESULTS OF OUTREACH PHASE
FROM THE NEEDS TO PROJECTS
TENDERS IN PROCESS & CALL FOR PROPOSALS



PAGE 4



UNCTAD 14 SIDE EVENT
HARNESSING THE BLUE ECONOMY FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

PAGE 5



EDD16
GREAT SUCCESS FOR TRADECOM II CO-EVENTS

PAGE 6



WTO PUBLIC FORUM 2016
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR A MORE INCLUSIVE TRADE IN ACP COUNTRIES

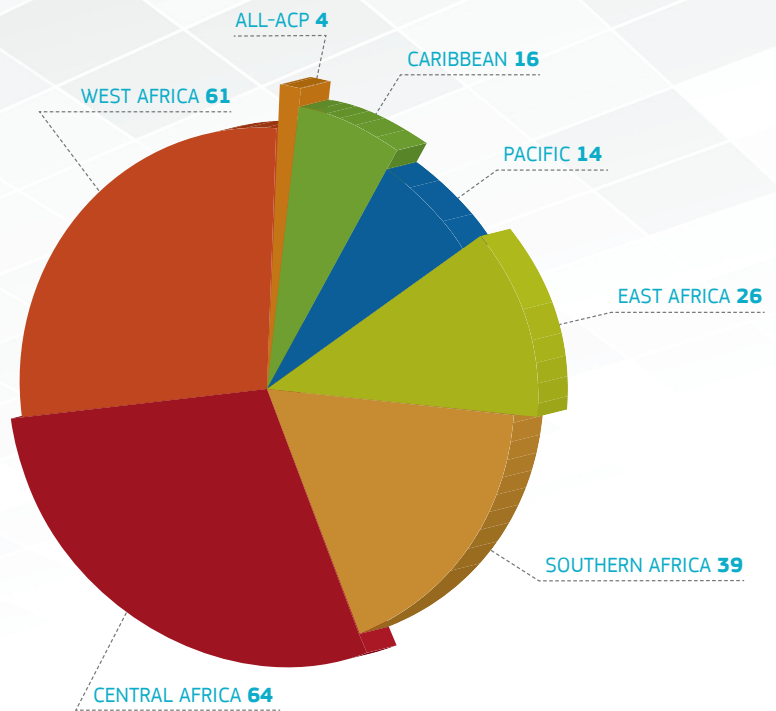
FOCUS ON PMU ACTIVITIES

RESULTS OF OUTREACH PHASE

With the aim to identify the specific needs of the beneficiaries, the inception phase of TradeCom II was dedicated to run several outreach activities across the ACP countries and Europe. TradeCom II experts carried out several missions in the field to sensitise ACP beneficiaries and key stakeholders on how to formulate and submit requests to the PMU for technical assistance.

The PMU has thus far received a total of 224 requests. A first set of 190 requests received by June 30, 2016 was assessed by the internal validation team and submitted to the ACP-EC Validation Committee. 72 requests were bundled together to form 24 projects approved by the ACP-EC Validation Committee. The bundling of requests serves to maximize coverage and synergies of the technical assistance interventions. Currently, the remaining requests are being processed and will shortly be submitted to the internal validation committee.

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF REQUESTS



FROM THE NEEDS TO PROJECTS

TradeCom II Programme has now translated the needs of ACP beneficiaries into a number of relevant projects. 24 projects that will be implemented in all ACP regions are now being prepared by our team of experts covering the key priorities of TradeCom II Programme which are, inter alia:

- 🌐 Support in the formulation and implementation of trade policies;
- 🌐 Support for the effective participation of ACP beneficiaries in trade negotiations and in the implementation of agreements, in particular EPA, FTAs, TFTA;
- 🌐 Enhance trade facilitation and private sector competitiveness;
- 🌐 Strengthen regional integration institutions.

DISTRIBUTION PER PE1 OBJECTIVES

CAPACITIES OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL TRADE INSTITUTIONS STRENGTHENED



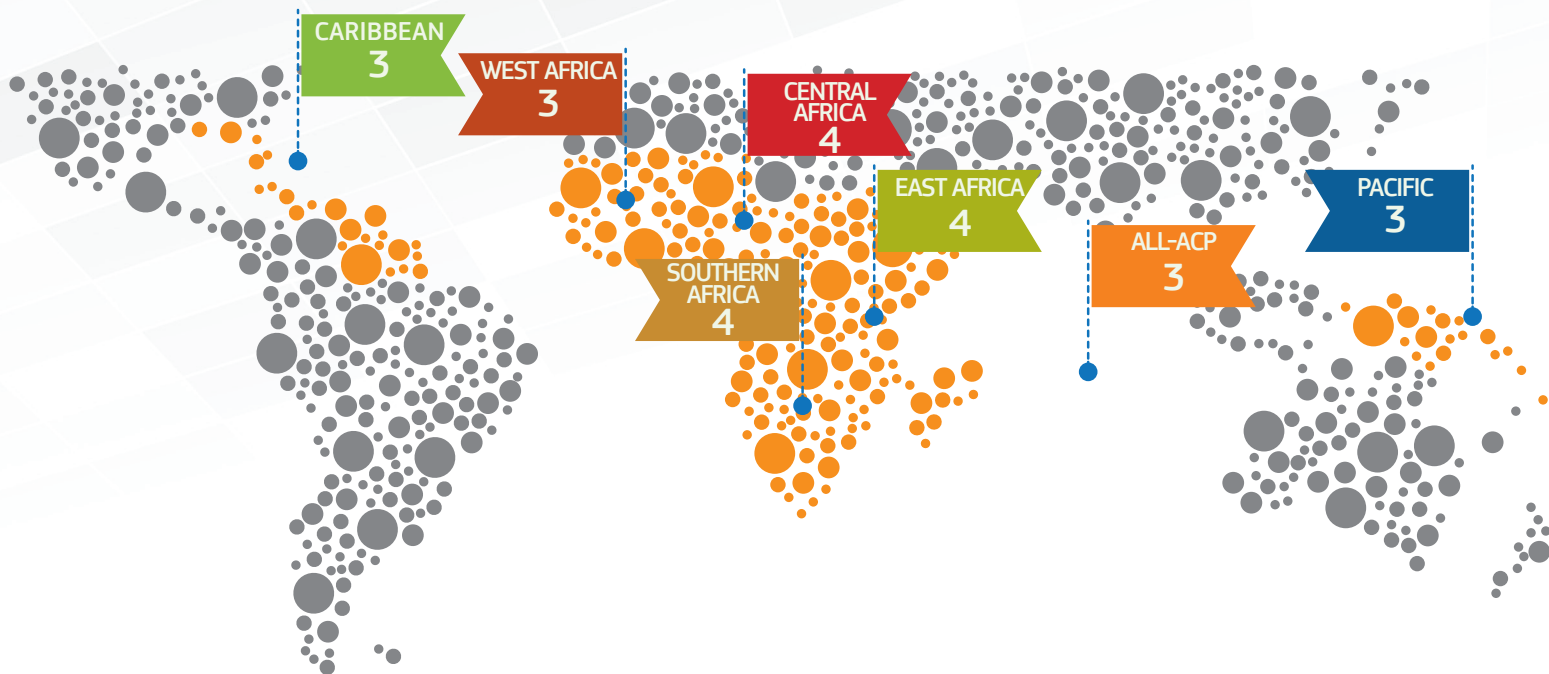
TRADE NEGOTIATION CAPACITIES OF ACP BENEFICIARIES STRENGTHENED & AGREEMENTS IMPLEMENTED



TRADE FACILITATION & COMPETITIVENESS STRENGTHENED



REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF PROJECTS



TENDERS IN PROCESS & CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Four Projects have now reached the tendering phase and three other tenders will shortly be launched upon approval by the Validation Committee. The projects approved are the following:

SUPPORT TO ENHANCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CARIFORUM-EU EPA

The purpose of this project is to enhance the legal and regulatory framework of CARIFORUM States and to strengthen capacity of the EPA Implementation Unit to monitor the effective implementation of the CARIFORUM-EU EPA.

ASSISTANCE TO THE EAC FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRIPARTITE FTA AGREEMENT-TRADE POLICY AND EXPORT DEVELOPMENT TO THE EU MARKET

The objective of this project is to develop a Framework for the Elimination of NTBs, foster trade development and expansion under the Tripartite FTA, and design the EAC's long-term export development strategy.

CAPACITY BUILDING TO MAINSTREAM PIF'S TRADE AGENDA & NIUE'S TRADE POLICY FRAMEWORK (TPF)

The project will support the PIFS' trade mainstreaming agenda for the PACPS through the effective use of the National Trade Policy Frameworks and will assist Niue's Government in the implementation of its NTPF, and use that case as a "good practice" for the PACPS in their implementation of respective NTPFs.

SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WEST AFRICA – EU EPA AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A DISPUTE SETTLEMENT REGIONAL FRAMEWORK

The first component of the project aims at developing training modules on the EU / West Africa Economic Partnership Agreement and to disseminate information on the benefits and other aspects of the EPA in order to enable ECOWAS citizen to have a better understanding of the agreement. This will also serve to ensure its effective implementation and to allow the West African countries to benefit from the advantages of the development of their trade and the resulting economic growth. The second component of the project is intended to establish a regional legal framework for the settlement of trade disputes.

TRADECOM II GRANT SCHEME

THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS IS NOW OPEN.

The Guidelines and related documents are available on the EuropeAid website: <http://bit.ly/2ddVrP3>.

The deadline for the submission of the Concept Notes is November, 8th 2016.

UNCTAD 14 - Side Event

“Harnessing the blue economy for sustainable economic growth and development”



The fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD 14) took place in Nairobi (Kenya) from 17 to 22 July 2016. It brought together Heads of State and Government, ministers and leaders from the private sector, civil society and academia to tackle global trade and economic development issues.

The theme was “From Decisions to Actions”. As the first UN Ministerial Conference of the post-2015, It provided a timely opportunity to assess the changes needed in economic policy to deliver on the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and to consider the most appropriate means of delivering on the post-2015 as a starting point and to translate ambitions into concrete plans of action.

Ahmed Ndyeshobola, TradeCom II Team Leader and El Hadji Diouf, Multilateral Trade Expert represented TradeCom II programme to the event. They joined the team of the Secretariat of the ACP Group that was led by its Secretary-General, H.E. Dr. Patrick I. Gomes.

The side-event was organized by TradeCom II Programme in collaboration with the EU-ACP Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), and the EU-ACP Technical Barriers to Trade Programme (TBT) under the title “Harnessing the blue economy for sustainable economic growth and development”.

The event was moderated by H.E. Dr Patrick I. Gomes, Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (the ACP Group). The high-level panel of speakers included Mr. Guillermo Valles, Director of the Division on International Trade in Goods, Services, and Commodities – UNCTAD; Mr. Faiyaz Siddiq Koya, Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism of the Government of Fiji; and Mr. Stephen Karingi, Director of Regional Integration and Trade Division – UNECA.

The event discussed the implementation of blue economy initiatives as they relate to trade and investment. Discussions focused on how to reach the 14th sustainable development goals “conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”.

H.E. Dr Gomes opened the debate highlighting emerging opportunities that the blue economy offers in areas such as coastal fisheries and aquaculture, biotechnology, maritime transport and energy.

The panel of speakers underlined the strategic importance of the blue economy and the urgency of a global governance for the sustainable management of the ocean and inland water environment. ACP countries can play a key role and contribute in shaping international blue economy governance and moving towards more effective and better enforced frameworks.

TradeCom II experts participated in other fora at the UNCTAD14 such as the 7th Global Commodities Forum and the World Investment Forum. It was a unique opportunity for TradeCom II representatives to participate in the high-level round tables to better understand the inclusive trade development issues and their impact on ACP trade and investment interests, to engage with key stakeholders and build partnerships. It also served as a platform to promote the TradeCom II programme.

TradeCom II representatives took this opportunity to meet Kenyan institutions such as Eastern African Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (EACCIA), Kenya Flower Council, Kephis, Kenya Bureau of Standards, and the Kenyan Ministry of Trade, etc. which have submitted requests for technical assistance to the TradeComII Programme to discuss on the bundling of the requests into composite projects.

European Development Days 2016

Great success for TradeCom II co-events

The tenth edition of the European Development Days (EDD 2016) took place in Brussels at Tour & Taxi on 15-16 June 2016. The EU-ACP Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), TradeCom II Programme and the EU-ACP Technical Barriers to Trade Programme (TBT) jointly organised two debates on pressing development issues in the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (the ACP Group).

During the first event “Developments in agricultural trade and the Sustainable Development Goals in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries”, panelists including **Mr. Edwin Laurent** (Director, Ramphal Institute) **Ms. Arancha González** (Executive Director of the International Trade Centre (ITC)), **Mr. Daniel Gad** (Managing Director, Omega Farms Ethiopia), **Mr. Viwanou Gnassounou** (Assistant Secretary General, ACP Secretariat) **Mr. Shenggen Fan** (Director General International Food Policy Research Institute) and **Mr. Roberto Ridolfi** (Director for Sustainable Growth and Development, DG DEVCO) debated the key issues relating to trade and the sustainable development goals as well as the role of agriculture and agribusiness for sustainable development in ACP countries. In particular, the discussion focused on the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and explored how key stakeholders could encourage nutrition-sensitive and resilient trade in agricultural goods.



The panel of the second event “The Treatment of Food Standards in mega-regional trade agreements” found the contributions of high level experts such as **Mr. Jean-Pierre Halkin** (Head of Unit, Rural Development, Food & Nutrition Security, DG DEVCO, European Commission) **Mr. Donald Mmari** (Executive Director, REPOA - Policy Research for Development), **Mr. Edwin Laurent** (Director, Ramphal Institute), **Ms. Catherine Grant** (Research Associate TRALAC) and **Mr. Jacky Le Gosles** (Senior Expert, DG Health and Food Safety, European Commission), expressing their respective insights on what recent global trade developments mean for ACP development. The rules governing global trade are defined by mega-RTAs such as TTIP (Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership), TPP (Trans-Pacific Partnership) and RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership), with important development implications for the ACP in terms of full integration into global value chains, capacity to negotiate regulatory frameworks, and ACP producers’ ability to meet compliance costs, including tighter food standards.



The panelists also provided an overview of how trade and development cooperation can be successfully partnered as an approach to achieve the Agenda 2030, particularly in the context of EU and ACP cooperation. They mentioned the importance of key achievements already met and future priorities for global stakeholders to ensure that the agricultural sector has an enhanced role in sustainable trade and development cooperation.



The two events were well attended and were considered by all the participants to have been a great success in terms of participation and quality of discussion.

WTO PUBLIC FORUM 2016

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR A MORE INCLUSIVE TRADE IN THE ACP COUNTRIES

The Public Forum is the WTO's largest annual outreach event, which provides a platform for participants to discuss the latest developments in world trade and to propose ways of enhancing the multilateral trading system. The event regularly attracts over 1,500 representatives from civil society, academia, business, the media, governments, parliamentarians and inter-governmental organizations.

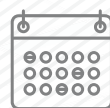
Under the theme "Inclusive Trade", the Forum will be an opportunity to discuss how a wider range of individuals and businesses can participate in the trading system and how WTO rules can help to ensure everyone benefits from trade. At a time when the business environment is changing and world growth is slowing, it is important to ensure that trade is truly inclusive, allowing small enterprises, women and innovative businesses to take an active role in the global trading system.

In the framework of the WTO's Public Forum, TradeCom II Programme will organise an unmissable event on Technical Assistance aimed at creating a more inclusive trade for ACP Countries.

The debate titled "Technical Assistance for a More Inclusive Trade for the Benefit of ACP Countries" will be held in Geneva on the 29th of September 2016. The event will see the contributions of experts such as Mr. Marwa Joel Kisiri (Ambassador, Head of Geneva Office), Mr. Koen Rossel-Cambier (Programme Manager, Trade & Private Sector Development, DG-DevCo), Mr. Zhuawu Collin (Counsellor for Economic Affairs, Commonwealth Secretariat), and Mr. Ahmed Ndyeshobola (Team Leader of TradeCom II Programme), Mr. Antoine Barbry (Economic and Development Counsellor OIF-Geneva), The debate will be moderated by Mr. El Hadji Diouf (Multilateral Trade Expert-TradeCom II Programme).

Glossary

ACP	Africa Caribbean and Pacific
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
DG DEVCO	Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EDD	European Development Days
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
EU	European Union
FTA	Free Trade Area
ITC	International Trade Centre
NTB	Non-Tariff barriers
NTPF	National Trade Policy Framework
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
PACPS	Pacific ACP States
PIFs	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PMU	Programme Management Unit
RCEP	Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership
RTA	Regional Trade Agreement
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
TFTA	Tripartite Free Trade Area
TPP	Trans-Pacific Partnership
TPF	Trade Policy Framework
TTIP	Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
WTO	World Trade Organisation



Upcoming events



TradeCom II Grant Scheme Information Session

ACP House - Brussels, 26 September

WTO Public Forum 2016

Geneva, 27-29 September

Technical Assistance for a more inclusive trade in ACP Countries

Geneva, 29 September