



ENHANCING OF CAPACITIES ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE TRADE AGREEMENTS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL AGRICULTURE AND FOOD MARKETS MARKETS

College of Agriculture (CAGRIC), University of Education
Winneba-Ghana

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EU-WEST AFRICA TRADE PICTURE

The West African region is the EU's most important trade partner in the African, Caribbean and Pacific region accounts for 40% of all trade between the EU and the ACP region. Ivory Coast, Ghana and Nigeria account for 80% of the exports to the EU. Despite advanced regional integration processes in the region, barriers to intra-regional trade remain a challenge for the economies in West Africa. Regional trade lags behind compared to trade with developed and emerging countries outside West Africa. However, the countries in the West Africa region except for Liberia which is currently undergoing



the accession process are members of the WTO. The EU imports from the West African countries are dominated by a limited number of basic commodities. Nigeria is a major oil exporter,

recently followed by Ghana. Ghana and Ivory Coast are the world's two largest cocoa exporters. They also export bananas and, together with Cape Verde and Senegal, processed fisheries products. Other exports from the region include a range of agricultural commodities (mango, pineapple, groundnuts, cotton etc.) and to a far lesser extent metals (copper, gold) and diamonds.

Culled from ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/regions/west-africa

Regional trade lags behind compared to trade with developed and emerging countries outside West Africa

Effect of the Ebola Crisis on Agricultural Productivity in Sierra Leone

Current Ebola outbreak poses huge social, economic and political challenges on the country development pathway especially farmers in the rural areas where the epidemic has severely affected. This situation is getting more complicated as a result of restricted government instituted regulations to combat the disease.

The Ebola outbreak first hit the most agricultural productive district (Kailahun District) in May 2014 in Sierra Leone and soon extended to the adjacent district of Kenema.

The major obvious effects of the Ebola outbreak on agriculture and farmers' livelihood activities in Sierra Leone include disrupted rural rice farming activity in Sierra Leone, declining trend in Inland valley swamp cultivation due to the fear of catching fever as being one of the obvious symptoms of Ebola virus and its accompanying high potential to drastically scale down rice productivity which is the staple food for Sierra Leoneans. The disappearance of extension experts from the farming communities where the Ebola epidemic is most prevalent in the country, has impacted grossly on the few farmers left and worsened



the food security situation. These experts are essential to enhancing agricultural productivity because they introduce relevant farming innovations to farmers at farm gates. The absence of these experts therefore signifies a serious challenge on agricultural productivity especially



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in the areas like Kailahun and Kenema districts where the Ebola outbreak has appeared alarmingly fatal in the country.

Transportation of agricultural Inputs and implements are on the standstill. Unfortunately, the Ebola Outbreak in Sierra Leone has forced the government in the containment effort of the disease to impose restrictive measures on travelling within, into and out of the country. The Population of Animal pests is on the increase. Prior to the Ebola outbreak, farmers used to hunt animal pests for the primary purpose of protecting their farms and for consumption and generation of income from the sales of the meat. Now that there is a strong recommendation from Health officials to reduce the consumption of bush meat, such as monkeys, bats and chimpanzees, the culture of hunting is reduced considerably and therefore there is increase in population of these animal pests which causing serious damage to agricultural crops in the country. Farmers are also getting poorer because they no longer realize income from the sales of bush meat. The alarmingly adverse picture has led to the call for humanitarian food aid in the affected areas to rescue the situation.

*Momodu Kanu, Sheik Dyfan Massaquoi, Prof Edwin J. J. Momoh
Njala University ECIATA Team. emomoh@njala.edu.sl*

EU Promotes Food Security & Livelihoods in Liberia



The EC Delegation in Liberia continues to support the Agriculture Sector to promote Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods.

At a meeting in Monrovia with the ECIATA-EDULINK Team from the University of Winneba and University of Liberia, the Head of Cooperation Mr. Manuel Iglesias explained that the Delegation has been providing support to farmers in Liberia to support them with post-harvest processing, market linkages, infrastructures and improved efficiencies. Low-income food-importing countries such as Liberia with high rates of poverty and malnutrition are the most vulnerable. Liberia vulnerability is exacerbated

Increased agricultural production will help solve problem of unemployment.

by the post-conflict environment, and its high reliance in food imports to feed rural and urban population. However it intends to address food security through the National food security and nutrition strategy (FSNS) to make certain that all Liberians have reliable access to the food they need and are able to utilize that food to live active and healthy lives.

Under the 10th EDF and to continue under the 11th EDF, the EC Delegation has been supporting the agricultural sector to improve access to food through enhanced opportunities for higher incomes and sustained employment, better markets and strengthened safety nets for rural and urban communities. The meeting was aimed at exploring opportunities for collaboration between the ECIATA Team from the University of Liberia and the EC Delegation on the EDULINK-ECIATA Project.

Elsie Okulaja, ECIATA Project Communication Officer

LIBERIA'S ACCESSION TO THE WTO AND ITS IMPACT ON THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is spearheading the Government of Liberia's goal to become a



member of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Liberia is currently an "Observer" and seeks to become a full WTO Member. Liberia's accession to the WTO is expected to impact the agriculture sector in several ways. There is expected to be modernized sales of agriculture commodities leading to improved market access for agricultural products.

The provision of technical and financial assistance to improve agricultural productivity will ensure food security and enhance domestic growth.

Increased agricultural production will help solve problem of unemployment. An operational organizational structure for WTO accession has been established,



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consisting of three tiers: the WTO Steering Committee, the WTO Negotiating Team, and the WTO Working Group. Each tier is composed of inter-ministerial representatives.

Lamie A. Sallay, Graduate Student – Univ of Liberia ECIATA Team.
Lamie.sallay2013@gmail.com

EU - NIGERIAN BUSINESS FORUM HOLDS IN LAGOS



Dr Akinwunmi Adesina
Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Rural Devt,
Federal Republic of Nigeria

EU Nigerian Business Forum is expected to take place between October 3rd and 4th in Lagos, Nigeria. It is supported by the delegation of the European Union in Nigeria and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). While using this window of opportunity for Nigerian and European businesses in Nigeria to create mid and long term partnership, the forum will also serve as a lobbying platform for European companies and their representatives.

The Business Partnership focused event is organized by a core number of EU Member States. The Forum will also bring together policy makers and business representatives **in Agriculture & Industry** alike. The event will include a Trade Fair, which will provide further avenues for EU and Nigerian businesses to network with potential partners. The opportunity for delegates to participate in preregistered B2B meeting sessions will also be provided. Dr Akinwunmi Adesina is one of the Keynote speakers. His passion is to use agriculture to end hunger, create wealth and jobs and drive equitable economic growth in Africa to lift millions out of poverty. He has brought that passion to his native home Nigeria, in his present position as the Honorable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, where he is already spearheading major reforms to transform Nigerian agriculture. In 2013 he was awarded Forbes African Person of the Year for 2013.

Elsie Okulaja, ECIATA Project Communication Officer.

POSITIONING ECOWAS AGRIC FOR GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

EPA agreement is expected to protect the agriculture sector through the sensitive list, i.e. some products have been selected for protection, but will that really help West African farmers? One of the main problems in relation to the EU has been the huge domestic support granted to EU producers by the European Commission to make their products cheaper outside EU markets.

Will the EPA Sensitive list aid farmers?



The local African producers may not have access to this type of funding which will enable it meet especially International Quality Standards so as to take equal advantage of the Trade agreement. West African governments need to increase funding to the agricultural sector to enable their farmers meet international export stands, to take full advantage of the opportunities EPA offers West Africa



Farmers Day in Ghana



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The EDULINK-ECIATA Team Meets With Liberia Minister of Trade

The EDULINK-ECIATA Team during a meeting in Liberia last May met with Hon. Stephen Marvie (Jnr), the Assistant Minister and his Officials from the Trade Ministry. Hon. Marvie gave an overview of the Ministry, its structure and functions. He explained that all matters relating to external trade was under the purview of the Ministry, indicating the main exports as cocoa, oil palm, rubber and fish. He mentioned the importance of regional integration for the movement of goods in the sub-region and enhancement of agricultural trade in the sub-region especially.

Mr. Chris Addy-Nayo, Project Team Leader explained the need for collaboration between the local EDULINK –ECIATA Partner, University of Liberia and the Ministry of Trade. He further explained that the Projects' main goal was to help build capacity on international trade agreements in the sub-region and pointed out the indispensable role of Universities in supporting governments to enhance their capacities in areas such as trade negotiations.



Prof Leroy Cegbe from the University of Liberia explained that the main outputs of the project is to develop University Curriculum

and training courses on Agriculture Trade negotiations which would be availed to government officials, private sector and Non-governmental organizations to enhance their competencies on trade negotiations in the Agriculture sector.

Hon. Marvie said he was well apprised of the challenges facing his Ministry in the areas of limited capacity on trade negotiations. In the light of Liberia's accession to

the WTO he explained the timeliness of the project which would help produce the critical mass of local personnel with such expertise especially in the areas of Agriculture negotiations. He explained that in the past, efforts have been made by the Ministry to train staff in the area of trade negotiations but admitted that this has not been sufficient. He therefore thanked EDULINK for the Project and pledged support on behalf of the Ministry to its success in Liberia

Elsie Okulaja, ECIATA Project Communication Officer.

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- The Federal University of Agriculture - Abeokuta, Nigeria (FUNAAB),
- William R Tolbert College of Agriculture and Forestry (WRTCAF), University Of Liberia.
- Njala University, Sierra Leone.

For Further Information, Contact the ECIATA Project Communication Officer, info@eciata-winneba.com, CAGRIC - UEW, Mampong - Ashanti, Ghana

Coming Events

Weekly Online Discussion Meeting

Wed Sep 10 @ 8:00PM - 09:00PM (GMT)
Wed Sep 17 @ 8:00PM - 09:00PM (GMT)

Send Skype Request for Participation to "ceenayo"

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