



TBT PROGRAMME
OVERCOMING TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Objectives of the project

The ACP EU TBT Project «Enhance trade capacities of Pacific Agribusiness and improve access to international markets» is focussed on the improvement of the capacities of selected agribusiness in the Pacific region to overcome barriers to trade in regional and international markets and take advantage of existing exporting opportunities as overall objective. This project aims at developing and executing a Market Access Capacity Building Programme for the Pacific Islands by strengthening the export capacity of agro-processing companies and skills of services providers in the field of certification in Fiji and Tonga with emphasis on food safety.

Summary of activities

The Project Team Specialists have delivered an advanced training on food safety and empowerment of access to market to 20 Trainers (14 service providers, including a laboratory for analysis, and 6 company representatives involved with grower suppliers) from Fiji and Tonga. The training and capacity building programme included HACCP, GLOBALG.A.P., BRC, ISO 22000:2005. Three sensitisation seminars have been organised. From 14th to 18th November 2016 the Project Team Leader has delivered a formal training on food safety and empowerment of access to market. Trainers have been working along with the Team Leader in two groups during the two pilot-assistance in Fiji and in only one group in Tonga. The assisted SMEs worked with the teams of trained Quality Specialists to implement HACCP or GLOBALG.A.P. in various sub-sectors, with large prevalence of horticultural businesses. A final workshop was organized with the primary objective to communicate the results of the Project to different interested parties and think to viable alternatives for exit strategy on opportunities to follow up the capacity building

Summary of results

The Project has trained 20 Service-Providers on food safety standards (HACCP, ISO 22000:2005, BRC-7 and GLOBALG.A.P.), 52 specialists have participated in the three sensitisation seminars, with 33 SMEs representatives, 24 SMEs have been trained on certification and 17 SMEs are accompanied in the certification process.

Main lessons learn

The recognition of the need for SMEs to comply with international requirements in quality and safety if they are willing to increase participation as reliable suppliers is a key issue, along with the responsibility of other stakeholders to support the sector. The Ministries of Agriculture and Industry, laboratories, universities and private service suppliers, such as Certification bodies should work together and implement strategies with other donors in the region, such as in Tonga.

Main recommendations

Future projects will have to take into account the timing to certification in the field level. Additionally more emphasis should be done to have the experts in site by the time of coaching to discuss methodology and achievements and support service providers and SMEs more closely

