

Ghana

Quality assurance of agricultural products through metrological and testing services (Projekt-No.: 2012.2106.8/ PTB-No.: 95076)

Brief description

With a constantly positive gross value added per capita of the population over a period of more than two decades, Ghana has become one of the socially most stable and economically leading countries of West Africa. Even before 2015, Ghana will be the first African country to have reached the millennium development goal consisting in reducing poverty and hunger. At the same time, however, approximately one third of the population still lives below the poverty line, especially – but not exclusively – in rural areas.

However, the competitive strength of rural producers and other stakeholders involved in the manufacturing industry and trade is low, both on domestic and on export markets. The lack of competitiveness is due, besides other factors, to the fact that the value chain stakeholders are not able to ensure the quality of foodstuffs from the producer to the consumer, and also to the fact that the legislative power as well as the executive power lack the necessary skills and capacities when it comes to assessing the conformity of foodstuffs with standards. The fact that testing and metrological laboratories as well as other QI (quality infrastructure) institutions are effective enough yet results in significant inefficiencies with regard to the utilization of state resources; furthermore, this impedes the development of competitive value chains (core problem).

Given these facts, the objective of the module is: "The utilization of services of internationally accepted QI institutions in the agricultural and food sector has clearly increased".

The project pursues an integrated approach at several levels: the macro level (political dialogue), the meso level (improving the range of public and private services), and the micro level (improving the competitiveness of smallholders, processors, and retailers as the target groups of the program). The expected results are: (1) treating quality problems occurring along the corn value chain by means of selected metrological and testing services; (2) consolidating the services provided by the network of laboratories; (3) improving the services supplied by metrological and testing laboratories; (4) conveying good practices to the political stakeholders for developing skills at the level of the national quality infrastructure (QI).

The project is integral part of the German programme for the promotion of market-oriented agriculture in Ghana.

Term and commission value

Term:	2/2013 – 05/2016
Amount of the German contribution:	1 000 000 EUR