

PTB in brief

A globalized international economy calls for globalized metrology. This is why the orientation and impact of PTB, the National Metrology Institute of Germany, is not restricted to national borders.

In fact, with its 2,000 staff members, PTB is a global player in the world of metrology, and it therefore addresses its resulting responsibility for society, industry, and science.

PTB's international responsibilities include collaboration with other members in a variety of metrological organizations (the Meter Convention being the most prominent example) and cooperation with national metrology institutes worldwide. Furthermore, PTB International Technical Cooperation advises and supports both the conceptual design and the practical implementation of the establishment of quality infrastructure in developing and transition countries.

The clients of Technical Cooperation projects include the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), which finances the majority of projects with PTB participation, but also the European Union, the World Bank, and other organizations. A network of strategic partners is available for project implementation.

Overall, PTB's global networking activities have one major objective: the international harmonization and mutual acceptance of quality infrastructure.



Project Data

Quality assurance of agricultural products through metrological and testing services in Ghana

Source of finance

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany

Commission value

1 000 000 EUR

Implementing agency

Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB)
National Metrology Institute, Germany

Term

February 2013 - May 2016

Contact

Ministry of Food and Agriculture
Plant Protection & Regulatory Services Directorate
P.O. Box M 37
Accra, Ghana

PTB Project coordinator

Mr. Tobias Diergardt
phone: +49 531 592 8228
fax: +49 531 592 8225
tobias.diergardt@ptb.de
www.ptb.de/q5



Quality assurance of agricultural products through metrological and testing services in Ghana

Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt
Bundesallee 100
38116 Braunschweig, Germany
www.ptb.de



Background

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.

However, the competitiveness of Ghana's agricultural commodities and processed products is low, both on domestic and on foreign markets. Producers and processing companies, in order to achieve and maintain adequate product quality and safety levels, are in need of a variety of educational, awareness creation and capacity building measures. Simultaneously, modern and differentiated legislation should be put in place, whilst strengthening the competent regulatory authorities' capacity for effective enforcement of regulations and promoting the application of voluntary standards.



Quality of maize is classified in different grades

As a technical prerequisite for the implementation of an effective regulatory regime for food safety and the gradual upgrading of the productive sector towards meeting international standards, it is imperative to improve the performance of food testing laboratories – and Quality Infrastructure institutions in general.

Taking this into account, the project pursues an integrated approach comprising 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 programme).

Objectives

The project will be deemed to have been successful if towards its completion a network of testing and metrological laboratories as well as other QI institutions is in place, which provides demand-based services that ensure compliance with relevant national, regional and international standards and mandatory requirements for the agricultural and food sectors along the maize value chain.

Components of support:

- Capacity development of QI-Institutions in order to offer improved quality services along the maize value chain
- Institutional support to the Ghana Laboratory Network
- Implementation of Quality Management Systems in laboratories
- Consultancy regarding the reform of the national Quality Infrastructure



Maize trade at a rural market



Temperature calibration at GSA

Project partners

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

Political counterpart is the Plant Protection & Regulatory Services Directorate (PPRSD) within the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA).

The main implementing partners are the Ghana Standards Authority (GSA, reporting to the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI)), the Food Research Institute (FRI, reporting to the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MEST)), the Food and Drugs Board (FDB, reporting to the Ministry of Health (MoH)), the Ghana Laboratory Network and the Ghana Grains Council.

