

Sub-Saharan Africa



**Benin**

## Strengthening the Quality Infrastructure for the Soy Value Chain – ProQUAL

<b>Objective</b>	The project aims to improve the conditions for increasing the quality all along the soy value chain focusing on extending the quality infrastructure services.	
<b>Approach</b>	<p>Within the scope of the ProQUAL initiative, the project and the complementary measure of GIZ's "Trade for Development Fund" aim to increase the quality in the soy value chain in Benin by means of a systemic approach.</p> <p>PTB's module mainly focuses on developing the capacities of the QI institutions, responsible for inspection, metrology, testing and standardization, to meet concrete needs. To this end, the relevant institutions will be supported, in particular by providing technical and institutional advice. The central aspect of this approach consists in ensuring that the new QI services focus on concrete needs of the soy value chain. For this purpose, PTB, in cooperation with GIZ, will use a special method to analyse the value chains with an emphasis on the requirements related to the quality infrastructure. Furthermore, the stakeholders will be trained in applying this method.</p> <p>The ProQUAL activities will then encourage exchanges between the QI institutions and the stakeholders of the soy value chain. This ensures that Benin's quality infrastructure will develop sustainably while meeting the needs of the respective target groups.</p>	
<b>Impact</b>	<p>Developing the quality infrastructure, and more precisely standardization, testing and calibration services as well as raising public awareness, encourages sustainable economic development, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) no. 9. Implementing international best practices and providing more transparency contribute to increasing export potentials – and thus competitiveness.</p> <p>By focusing on the agricultural sector's needs, this module contributes to reducing poverty (SDG 1.4) thanks to enhanced productivity in the food sector (SDG 2.3). Improving the prerequisites for quality assurance facilitates access to safe and healthy foodstuffs.</p> <p>The project's impacts are not limited to the soy value chain. Other chains may also benefit from the improvement of the metrological and testing procedures.</p>	
<b>Cooperation</b>	The measure is one of the two parts of the ProQUAL initiative, the other being the measure of the "Trade for Development Fund" implemented by GIZ. While carrying out the parallel measures, GIZ and PTB coordinate their strategical approaches closely. The ProQUAL initiative is being implemented in close coordination with the other Green Sector projects of GIZ, in particular with the programmes on "Green Innovation Centres for the Agriculture and Food Sector" (ProCIVA) and on the "Promotion of Agriculture" (ProAgri). Moreover, there is strong cooperation with PTB's regional measure "Setting up regional metrology in the ECOWAS region".	
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