



Mozambique

Strengthening of Quality Infrastructure in the Agriculture and Food Sector

Objective Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) of the agriculture and food sector have better access to quality infrastructure (QI) services.

Approach This project is based on a multi-level approach strategically oriented toward the promotion of quality awareness in agricultural production and the processing of raw materials and food, on the one hand, and the provision of information on the importance of quality criteria for the competitiveness of SMEs and on the possible role of QI services on the other. Two main methodological approaches are applied at the meso and micro levels which complement each other in terms of their content: a pilot approach in the agricultural sector which addresses quality problems and criteria in selected value chains; and a strategic technical approach to assist key QI actors in the identification process, development and provision of demand-oriented, quality-relevant services. This includes the introduction of quality management systems in testing laboratories, the calibration and verification of measuring instruments, and access to and use of standards and certification schemes. The links between stakeholders in the agriculture and food sector and QI service providers are strengthened, thus allowing quality problems in selected value chains to be more easily identified and addressed.

The main intervention areas are as follows: enhancing awareness of SMEs in the agriculture and food sector concerning quality requirements and quality infrastructure services; supporting local QI institutions in expanding the scope of their services in compliance with international standards; and establishing and strengthening networks among the stakeholders of selected value chains.

Impact By using standards and QI services, SMEs can improve the quality of their produce through quality assurance of their raw materials and manufacturing processes. Furthermore, compliance with regulatory and market requirements via conformity assessment institutions such as testing laboratories enhances the competitiveness of SMEs in local and international markets.

In this way, the project's activities contribute to the programme for sustainable economic development of the German Cooperation to enhance broader, inclusive growth of SMEs. In order to tap the potential of the agriculture and food sector in rural regions, a wide range of services must be developed and made accessible to meet the quality demand of businesses and consumers. QI services play a key role here. All measures are aligned with the national priorities and policies in this sector to assure long-term commitment by relevant stakeholders.

Cooperation This project is part of the programme for sustainable economic development of the German Cooperation. It cooperates closely with two projects, "Improving the Framework Conditions in the Private and Financial Sector" and "Green Innovation Centres in the Agricultural and Food Sector", implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

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