



Support to the Mauritian agro-business to establish Global Gap Standards and food safety systems to export to the European Union Market

The **Mauritius National Export Strategy (NES) 2017-2021** emphasises on the need to develop an agro processing industry based on value addition as well as diversification into non-sugar crop sector. Creating a solid agro food processing definitely relies on the need to adopt international best practices mostly in terms of respecting quality norms and standards from farm to fork.

It is also a requirement on part of food producers and fresh produce growers and exporters, involved in export promotion in the EU which need that food is certified according to international standards. This certification gives the guarantee of food safety to consumers as well as brings the trust of quality products for import and acceptance with food distributors in the EU. It will further ensure that products from Mauritius can gain a competitive edge in the markets which are mainly asking for foods certified according to international standards.

Recognising the importance of certification, Enterprise Mauritius with the funding of the European Union and support from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development as well as the International Trade Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is proposing a **capacity building programme in HACCP and Global Gap standards**, targeting entrepreneurs who are producing:

- Fruits and vegetables
- Cut flowers and foliage

- Pickled and jam products
- Spices
- Snacks/ Chips
- Honey and honey based products
- Transformed fruit products
- Frozen snacks, including seafood based products

For the execution phase of this programme, technical assistance is being provided by **BKP Development Research & Consulting Ltd.** Assistance will include coaching and training programme for a period of 9 months starting as from October 2017.

Global Gap is a voluntary market standard that seeks to establish the operations that are geared towards achieving both environmental sustainability and reduction of misuse of harsh pesticides that will otherwise harm food production. The Government of Mauritius is laying much emphasis on the production of bio products and to reduce the excess application of pesticides and insecticides that are harmful to human health. In line with this perspective, various measures have been taken including control on importation of chemical pesticides, reduction of tariffs on import of bio-fertilizers, pesticides, training and awareness on bio-production and coming into force of **Mauri Gap** which ensures meeting the basic standard of quality control for the domestic market.

Technical support to address **Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP)** is a systematic preventive approach to food safety from biological, chemical, and physical hazards in production processes. Implementation of HACCP in food production will provide current non-HACCP food manufacturers through gap analysis, training and development of Critical Control Points the best options to proceed ahead with HACCP implementation and certification. Technical support for implementation of both global Gap standard and HACCP food safety standards will act as a preparedness to be Global Gap and HACCP compliant and certified and further enhances the producer capability for market entry and development. This programme is targeting 10 enterprises for HACCP and 8 enterprises for Global Gap.



Two consultants namely Mrs. Ruth Nyagah and Dr. Antoine Kabwit Nguz are currently in Mauritius meeting with selected enterprises.

Mrs. Ruth Nyagah, a Global Gap expert has been involved in supporting producers both large and small in training, implementation and coaching on GLOBAL G.A.P towards compliance. One of the companies' supported by the expert won the GLOBAL G.A.P 2016 award for excellence in compliance with the standard. Mrs. Nyagah has competence in stakeholder training having carried out public and private stakeholder capacity building in a similar project in Rwanda and Haiti. Moreover, she is a fully licensed GLOBAL G.A.P Farm Assurer. She holds an MSc in Post-Harvest Horticulture from University of Greenwich, Natural Resources Institute (NRI), UK and a BSc in Agriculture from University of Eastern Africa, Baraton, Kenya. She is also a GLOBAL G.A.P Associate Member (Kencert International Ltd) and since 2014: **GLOBALG.A.P.** Licensed Farm Assurer. Member of the first **GLOBAL G.A.P** Certification Body Committee, and first GLOBAL G.A.P Africa co-Ambassador.

Dr. Antoine Kabwit Nguz has more than 39 years' experience in the field of agriculture/ fruit and vegetable sector/ fisheries/ livestock/ food processing (plant and animal origin), and more than 11 years' experience in the preparation of procedures for precautionary measures and contingency plans and crisis management, specifically in food and feed safety field, in line with EU legislation. Dr. Nguz has also developed a sectoral self-assessment guide that defines control measures based on risk that food business operators in a specific sector have to implement at each stage in the value chain to meet safety and quality requirements, specific market requirements and traceability. The guides were developed for the beef sector in Botswana and Kenya, for the dairy sector in Kenya, for the fishery sector in Kenya, for the French beans and snow peas in Kenya, for the passion fruits sector in Kenya, for the pineapple sector in Mauritius, for the honey sector in Zambia. Dr. A. Nguz holds a PhD in Applied Biological Sciences from Gent University, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Food Science and Technology, Gent, Belgium. He holds two masters, namely, Master of Science in Agricultural Development from Gent University and Master of Science in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology from Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Graduate School of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, Brussels, Belgium.



Enterprise Mauritius in collaboration with the consultants, will also be organizing dedicated training workshops at the end of each phase where institutional stakeholders and private sector operators will be invited to participate and take stock of the findings and recommendations.

