

Sub-Saharan Africa



East African Community

Strengthening the Regional Quality Infrastructure for Selected Sectors

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| Objective | The quality infrastructure (QI) in the East African Community (EAC) has been strengthened to meet the needs of the leather and fruits & vegetables sectors. | |
| Approach | <p>The leather and fruits & vegetables value chains are among the economic sectors prioritized for development in the EAC Industrial Development Strategy. The EAC Partner States are striving to promote agricultural production for domestic and export markets in order to increase their contribution to socio-economic development in the region.</p> <p>However, the existing QI, which relies on metrology, standardization, accreditation, conformity assessment, and market surveillance (in regulated areas), and the pool of qualified technical staff may in some instances not meet international standards or ensure world-class quality and safety. It is for this reason that the project will develop capabilities and capacities which support continuous improvement, thus ensuring that the QI services along the selected value chains are upgraded and impactful.</p> <p>The project supports and strengthens cooperation and dialogue between public (legal and regulatory) authorities and private-sector stakeholders.</p> <p>Activities aimed at strengthening the QI anchored in the respective regional strategies and action plans for the selected sectors will be sustained and mainstreamed into the EAC reporting structures and policy organs.</p> <p>The EAC Secretariat will be supported in taking up and addressing the private sector needs for enhanced quality infrastructure and harmonization of standards to improve the framework conditions towards more value addition and trade in the region as well as beyond its borders. National QI authorities will be supported by targeted capacity-building measures to ensure reliable laboratory analyses. The overall aim is to improve the quality of products placed on the market and to ensure compliance with relevant standards while enhancing product safety for consumers in both domestic and international markets.</p> | |
| Impact | <p>The regional production and processing businesses in the selected economic sectors have better access to quality assurance services, and the regulatory authorities have improved capacities and capabilities to verify and certify products. This creates the essential framework conditions to better exploit the development opportunities of the value chains with stronger competitiveness and increased trade in the region and beyond. These efforts will increase opportunities for positive social and economic impacts, including raised employment, higher income, and added value for the EAC population. It is also expected that the project will increase the share of improved quality agricultural products in the market, thereby contributing to consumer well-being and protection.</p> <p>Strengthening the regional QI with the participation of numerous private-sector and public-sector stakeholders from the Republic of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Rwanda, the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Republic of South Sudan, the Republic of Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania will contribute to enhanced regional economic integration in line with the aspirations of the EAC Treaty.</p> | |
| Cooperation | The project is an integral part of the German development programme to support the East African Community Integration. | |
| Financing | Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) | |
| Term | 2023–2026 | |
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