

**INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK PILOT SCHEME:
STATUS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FOLLOW-UP
ACTIVITIES TO THE ROUND TABLES IN
BANGLADESH, THE GAMBIA, HAITI, TANZANIA AND UGANDA
(as of 12 July 2002)**

Report by the International Trade Centre

Addendum

1. At the Third Session of the Integrated Framework Steering Committee held on 12 October 2001, the five projects to follow-up on Round Tables held under the old IF scheme were approved, with a budget of US\$ 291,000 each. They become operational in January 2002.

A. BANGLADESH

2. The project aims at raising awareness of global market opportunities, customer preferences, quality standards and design requirements amongst leather sector entrepreneurs, in order to maximize export revenue. Capacity building is at the core of project activities. Access to market intelligence and improved promotional skills are other building blocks.

3. Following the consultations held during the first ITC mission in February 2002, a cooperation framework has been established, through the Ministry of Commerce, with the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), in particular with the Chamber's Business Advisory Service (BAS) and the Design and Technology Centre for Product Development. The relevant Technical Assistance Programme Pro-forma (TAPP), required by the Government of Bangladesh, has been prepared and approved by the Ministry of Commerce, and it has been submitted to the Planning Commission for the final approval. Meanwhile, a diagnostic survey of the leather sector is under way in order to address supply side-related capacity building needs in the most effective way.

B. THE GAMBIA

4. The two main focus areas of the project are to assist in the preparation of sub-sector strategies for products having good export potential and to strengthen the capacities of the Department of State for Trade, Industry and Employment (DOSTIE) and of the Gambia Investment Promotion and Free Zone Authority (GIPFZA) to provide efficient trade and invest promotion related services.

5. Activities under both project modules are underway. For the trade information module, a national consultant is carrying out a survey of trade and investment information needs and of existing information service providers. A first draft will be ready in early August.

6. Under the second module, the export potential matrix study is being carried out and will be ready at the end of July. The export potential matrix will provide the short-list of sectors having good export potential based on market analysis. A national workshop is planned for the second week of

August during which the sectors for sub-sector analysis and strategy formulation will be short-listed, sector strategy counterpart teams will be established and the strategy formulation methodology will be explained. The preparation of sub-sector studies and the Action Plan will begin after the national workshop and will be completed in September or early October 2002. The implementation of the Action Plan including the market tours will take place in the last quarter of the year.

C. HAITI

7. The project focuses on the following areas: (i) improvement of the legal framework for trade and building the capacity of lawyers to draw up international contracts; (ii) strengthening of the capacity of the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) through the analysis of the plan for institutional restructuring; (iii) development of human resource capacities in trade information and trade negotiation; and (iv) preparation of a diagnostic study on the export supply potential to support the formulation of an export promotion and development strategy.

8. Concerning the first area, an analysis of the legal status related to commercial and contract law, has been undertaken by the ITC Senior Adviser. Based on this work, a matrix for the reform of various texts was submitted to the Government of Haiti. This matrix covered the amendment of the Code of Commerce and related laws, the drafting or adoption of some fundamental international treaties related to commerce, as well as some other laws and agreements such as the law on arbitration and alternative dispute resolution, and the law for recognition of digitalized messages, agreements and contracts.

9. In addition, two training seminars on international contracts were held in April 2002 at Port-au-Prince, for 40 lawyers, legal advisers and teachers from both the public and private sectors. In order to ensure a sustainable training activity on international trade usages, practices and rules, a framework cooperation agreement between the Ministry of Commerce, the University Laval of Quebec and ITC, has been proposed, with the aim of organizing one training seminar per year in Haiti.

10. In relation to the third area, a workshop on trade information was organized by ITC in mid-March 2002 in Port-au-Prince, for 12 participants from public and private sectors in charge of providing business information to local companies. This training event focused on sources of trade information (business contacts, market research, etc.), and search techniques on the Internet (by using search engines and web directories). Furthermore, the ITC Senior Adviser on Institutional Aspects of Trade Promotion visited Haiti in June 2002 to hold consultations with private and public sectors, and analyse the institutional restructuring plan proposed by a private Haitian consulting enterprise to the MOC. ITC recommendations relating to this matter will be submitted to the Government in August 2002.

11. With regard to the export promotion and development strategy, the national consultant is undertaking a diagnostic study on the export supply of essential oils, organic foods, mangoes and vegetables, on the basis of which an export strategy will be formulated and submitted to the stakeholders before October 2002.

D. TANZANIA

12. The focus of the project is to build the capacity and strengthen the Inter-institutional Technical Committee (IITC) to ensure a more effective participation of Tanzania in the Multilateral Trading System (MTS). In addition, the project aims to assist in the preparation of sectoral export

strategies for priority products. Work undertaken under the IF project is closely linked and builds on activities implemented in the context of JITAP.

13. In terms of strengthening the capacity of the IITC, four areas of intervention have been identified. These are:

- Review of Tanzanian Trade Laws in view of their adaptation to the WTO Agreements
- Formalize the legal mandate of the IITC
- Strengthen the reference centres, and build the capacity of reference centres managers
- Provide technical assistance to the IITC sub-committees.

14. The activities related to the review of Tanzanian Trade Laws will be managed and coordinated by the WTO. The activities related to formalizing the legal mandate of the IITC and to providing technical assistance to the IITC's sub-committees will be managed by UNCTAD. Finally, the IITC will manage the activities related to strengthening the reference centres. A detailed budget for these activities has been agreed with the Ministry of Trade and activities are planned to start in July 2002.

15. In terms of preparing the sectoral export strategies, horticulture and fish have been selected as priority sectors. In addition to the formulation of the export strategy, the project includes activities specifically focused on strengthening export management skills of mushroom and green beans producers. A detailed work plan and a detailed budget have been agreed with the Board of External Trade (BET). The terms of reference for the international and national consultants were prepared and submitted to BET for comments. Recruitment of international consultants has been initiated.

E. UGANDA

16. The main focus of the project is to assist in the preparation of sectoral export strategies for products having good export potential followed by the formulation of a national export strategy. It also aims at providing assistance for strengthening the Inter-Institutional Committees and the network of trainers established under the JITAP programme.

17. Work is well under way for the preparation of a diagnostic trade policy and trade development study. The study will be completed in August 2002.

18. Sector strategy work is ongoing for both the silk and the legumes/grain sectors. As far as the silk sub-sector is concerned, a thorough review of the current state of the silk industry, its opportunities for development and constraints affecting mulberry and silkworm production and productivity is together with an assessment of secured export markets. This will be completed by the end of August. The silk sector strategy and action plan will form the basis for concrete training activities and procurement of essential farm inputs for silk farmers in the latter half of the year. For the legumes and grain sector, a similar supply side and market demand assessment is under way which will result in the formulation of a strategy for the sub-sector together with an Action Plan and a project proposal.

19. Funds have been made available to the Ministry of Trade for strengthening the network of trainers established under JITAP and resources have been transferred to UNCTAD for implementing activities aimed at facilitating the work of the Inter Institutional Committees created under the JITAP programme.
