

Enhancing Intellectual Property Capacities for Agricultural Development - IP4Growth

The action is based on the relevance of Intellectual Property (IP) management for agricultural and socio-economic growth. Within the IP rights system, Geographical Indications constitute very particular IP rights because, as indications and signs linking agricultural and other products with a specific origin and thus singular characteristics and quality, they protect and promote collective interests. Higher Education Institutions constitute a primary link in the knowledge transfer chain and in innovation-driven development. Enhancing their understanding and expertise in the IP field will bring their local communities enduring benefits for development and poverty reduction. The project will be based on:

- 1) Building the capacity of the HEIs and
- 2) Local actions to facilitate knowledge transfer to farming communities.

Contract
FED/2013/320-273

Co-ordinator
Universidad de Alicante
(UA)

Partners
Queen Mary and Westfield
College, University
of London,
Université Ouaga 2,
Université de Cocody,
Université de Thiès

Project duration
36 months

EU grant
EUR 453,193.41

**ACP regions and
countries involved**
Region WEST AFRICA:
Burkina Faso (Ouagadougou),
Ivory Coast (Abidjan),
Senegal (Thiès),
Spain
United Kingdom

**Technical
Assistance Unit**

www.acp-edulink.eu
info@acp-edulink.eu

© ACP Secretariat 2014
Reproduction is authorised provided
the source is acknowledged.

This publication has been produced
with the assistance of the ACP Secre-
tariat and the European Union. The
content of this publication is the sole
responsibility of the authors and can
in no way be taken to reflect the views
of the ACP Secretariat or the European
Union.

Challenge

West African countries face particular challenges when it comes to agricultural innovation, structured practices, trade policy or IP management. Despite their considerable diversity, a heavy dependence on natural resources vulnerable to climate hazards and undiversified small economies characterised by high levels of poverty, and political fragility are commonplace. These challenges undermine the role played by agriculture in rural development, growth and employment. Investment in Higher Education, support for trade policy and institutional capacity building with assistance to develop tools and strategies to address such challenges are urgently needed.

Focus

IP4Growth will contribute to improving knowledge and capacities for IP Management, in particular in terms of Geographical Indications and Appellations of Origin (GIs/AOs) and knowledge transfer. The project will work towards enhancing the expertise and competitiveness of the region, facilitating the necessary skills enhancement of the members of West African trade associations and farmers associations. The development and organisation of training sessions will aim to improve the skills and knowledge of the target groups and improve their access to and understanding of regional and international markets.

Rationale

The agricultural sector represents the main livelihood of the vast majority of the population in the partner countries. It is crucial to find ways in which the sector could yield higher returns and add value to the economy and income. Through applying IP management

tools, such as Geographical Indications and Appellations of Origin, together with marketing strategies, the value of the products produced in these countries could increase significantly. Consequently, small producers in the agricultural sector could earn higher profits. By improving knowledge and skills for IP Management in Agriculture, particularly for GIs/AOs, in West African stakeholders, IP4GROWTH will contribute towards enhancing the competitiveness of the region, leading to significant improvement in agricultural and social development.

Method

IP4GROWTH will involve a wide range of stakeholders: staff from the HEIs' Agricultural and Business Faculty and R&D and Technology Transfer offices, university researchers and students, farming communities and their associations, local development agencies and NGOs in the field of IP and Agriculture, and finally the management staff of the Associated Partners and relevant ministries.



Chapeau de Saponé, from Burkina Faso. A project has been established to register its name.



Implemented by the ACP Secretariat



Financed by the European Union

Programme theme(s)

Agriculture and food security

Sector

Agriculture and economy

Keywords

Intellectual property management for agriculture
Geographical indicators
Appellations of Origin
Capacity building
Teacher training
Knowledge transfer

Contact the project

University of Alicante
International Project
Management Office

Tel: +34 965 90 97 18

Fax: +34 965 90 97 15

E-mail: Project.management@ua.es

Website: www.ua.es

Project website

<http://www.ip4growth.eu/>



The project's activities can be divided into two phases:

- Phase 1 – HEIs' Capacity Building**
 During this phase a benchmarking needs analysis & market diagnosis will be done which will be the basis of the rest of project stages. Based on the identified needs, the consortium will implement training actions for HEIs' staff and students (on-site/online), which will be replicated internally for wider effect. An efficient Info-service (elaboration of guides, documents of reference and resources & Helpline point to solve IP related questions of the HEIs' communities) will be established.
- Phase 2 – Knowledge Transfer to Farming Communities**
 Trained members from the HEIs will prepare and implement local actions for farming communities' engagement and improved capacities, including field visits, workshops -exploring options in GIs related procedures.

Throughout the project dissemination and networking actions will be key to ensuring the project's visibility, to stimulating policy debate and connecting the relevant stakeholders at national and regional level.



Results

- Increased awareness in HEIs and farming communities of the importance of IP for agricultural and rural development.
- Strengthened competences of HEIs in the field of IP - GIs.
- Increased economic & business opportunities for the local farming communities.
- Reinforced/built up synergies between HEIs/ farming producers and associations.
- Online Info-service and repository of relevant documentation and training materials.