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Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: Priority Theme: Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Statement submitted by Union Syndicale des Agriculteurs, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

Agriculture Indicators; Crops, Livestock, Water and Resources

Food and Beverages businesses in Togo are under increasing pressure from consumers and regulators to deliver sustainable, high quality nutritious products. To be as a business leader in this industry, we need to be operating in a highly competitive, global environment. To help Togo minimise risk and seize opportunities to create business advantage, the project need a team of experts that understands the market. So we are in need of global team of agriculture and food experts combines industry insights with years of experience from working with local, regional and global clients to deliver custom services that will help our business grow in Togo as Niger and the rest of West-Africa countries.

Objective

The economic and technical capacities of actors in selected agricultural value chains have improved and their capacity for self-sufficiency has been strengthened.

Approach

The project will be piloting improvements to individual value chains and is co-financed by the A/N. It will be working closely with the Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et du développement rurale and Ministère du commerce, de l'industrie et de la consommation locale with cooperatives and producer associations as well as with processors and retailers.

Small farmers are cooperating with small-sized to medium-sized processing enterprises to reduce transaction and production costs and, in this way, to increase production in the processing plants. This approach can give farmers in particular an opportunity to generate sufficient income. In the long term, it will create and safeguard jobs in the local food transformation and processing industry. The project will be supporting production for the national and international market as well as the self-sufficiency of small farmers. Together with financial services providers, the project will be developing loans that are adapted to the circumstances of small-scale farming. It advises the Government of Togo on improving the overall framework conditions for agriculture. The project will need support from both investments in the country and exports in order to positively influence long-term economic growth.

Results

- The development of the selected fruit, spices, coffee, cocoa and pineapple production chains made significant progress in the preceding project stages. The self-organisation of the actors in the value chains was strengthened above all in the coffee, cocoa and vegetable sector associations.
- The project has supported over 30,000 vegetable, coffee, cocoa and pineapple producers in their organisational development.
- More than 9,600 farmers have been trained in better agricultural practices and entrepreneurship. More than 77 per cent of the participants are demonstrably applying the new skills and, as a result, their income increased by an average 30 per cent in 2021 and years coming.
- The producers have gained access to international markets thanks to the alliance with the private sector.

- Processing enterprises have been supported and new jobs created. Today, 26,400 people are employed in cashew production and around 4,000 in pineapple production.
- ProDRA has established environmentally friendly production practices. In the pineapple sector, 76 per cent of companies have already adopted environmentally friendly production practices. Furthermore, there are now almost 13,000 organic cocoa producers.
- More than 3,750 cashew and pineapple producers have been trained in finance management.

Further training in agricultural risk assessment has been provided to 87 bank employees. More than 850 producers received loans between 2021 and 2022.

The food and beverage industry in Togo services a number of high-value niche markets. As a result of stringent safety and quality systems these industries must provide premium quality food and beverage products to customers throughout the nationwide and world.
