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## NEPC, ITC to Establish Regional Trade Information System

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484 words

1 September 2011

14:47

[All Africa](#)

AFNWS

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English

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Sep 01, 2011 (Daily Trust/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- The Nigeria Export Promotion Council (NEPC) and the International Trade Centre (ITC) will soon establish a Regional Trade Information System to provide a platform for trade information exchange within the ECOWAS through the ECOWAS Trade and Enterprise Experts Network (ECOWAS TEN).

A Senior Commodity Specialist with ITC, Micaela Maftei stated this in Abuja when she visited the Executive Director/CEO of NEPC, David I. Adulugba.

She said that the establishment of a regional trade information system anchored within the ECOWAS community secretariat and national institutions is a key component of the "Programme for building African capacity for trade - **Pact II**."

She also said that part of the strategy adopted by ITC market information service is the establishment of a regional focused and customized news service in collaboration with the ECOWAS TEN secretariat.

She revealed that the project will start with newsletters on mango and cashew to be produced on a monthly basis to provide market information on the sectors in the areas of prices, available stocks, production among others.

She said: "Trade information and monthly market newsletter with a particular regional focus are scheduled to be issued on mango and cashew nuts in 2011 and on sesame and palm oil in 2012."

She said that the regional trade information networks established would serve as platforms for trade information exchange, answering exporters' information needs, increasing their knowledge about markets as well as increasing their capacity to promote regional products.

Maftei disclosed that arrangements have been concluded to organize a workshop on the trade information in October this year, adding that Nigeria, as part of a larger West Africa, was visited to set in motion the process for the take off of the newsletters.

Responding, Executive Director/CEO of NEPC, David I. Adulugba thanked the ITC for its efforts in enhancing the development of the export capacities of Nigeria, and indeed the ECOWAS region through their numerous programmes.

He said that the council is fully behind ITC and ECOWAS in the **PACT II** programme to make sure that Nigeria derives the full benefits of all the projects under the programme.

He said that the council is gathering data on each product sector with a view to providing adequate information to exporters and the general public regarding the potentials of exportable products from Nigeria.

Adulugba who disclosed that Nigerian oranges, mangoes and pineapples were in high demand in Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados, said that there is need to stop the perennial wastages of the commodity occasioned by inadequate storage facilities to preserve them for export.

He said that the introduction of the newsletters is not only a welcome but timely development, adding that in pursuant to its mandate, the NEPC would do everything within its powers to nurture and support the project to fruition.

All Africa Global Media

Document AFNWS00020110901e791000pi

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