

# ZIMBABWE: STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

NOVEMBER 2016 – NEWSBRIEF 1

ENHANCED SUPPORT TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN CERTIFICATION,  
INSPECTION AND TESTING ON PHYTOSANITARY STANDARDS

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

The project aims to contribute to the increase of Zimbabwe's international trade of agricultural goods, based on i-EPA implementation. More specifically, it aims to enhance knowledge of technical and Sanitary and Phytosanitary standards and their monitoring, including creating or upgrading laboratories as necessary, at the national level, ensuring consistency with regional and continental policies.

## EU, ZIMBABWE, AND ITC LAUNCH PROJECT



*July 2016:* Honourable Dr. Joseph Made, Minister of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development and H.E. Ambassador Philippe Van Damme, Head of the EU

Delegation in Zimbabwe launched the project in July 2016. > [Read more](#)

## LABORATORY NEEDS ASSESSMENT



*August 2016:* In August, ITC conducted an assessment of the capacity and needs of four SPS-related testing laboratories (Government Analyst Laboratory, Plant Quarantine Services Laboratory, National Biotechnology Authority Laboratory, and Laboratory of Veterinary Services). These laboratories are now being furnished with required equipment for improved testing facilities.

## WORKSHOPS ON TBT/SPS, RULES OF ORIGIN

*October 2016:* Experts held an interactive workshop to sensitize SMEs on key aspects of



the WTO Agreements on Technical Barriers to Trade and Implementation of Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures. The training held in October 2016 was preceded by a workshop on Rules of Origin, their determination, methodologies and preferential status vis-a-vis different regional agreements Zimbabwe is party to. Over 60 SMEs have been sensitized on these topics in order to improve their ability to participate in regional and international trade.

### TRAINING ON RISK-BASED OFFICIAL CONTROLS



*September 2016:* 30 technical officers, food inspectors and control authorities from various

SPS regulatory institutions were trained on risk assessment and risk-based controls, its principles and approach, establishment classification, microbiological criteria, sampling, determination of frequency of inspections and EU requirements for third countries exporting food to the EU.

### PREPARING LABORATORIES FOR ACCREDITATION



SPS related laboratories will be trained on Laboratory Quality Management System and ISO 17025 to support them for accreditation. These trainings will be held from 28 November to 2 December 2016. ISO 17025 standard provides general requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories. Certificates from accredited laboratories helps exporters by improving acceptability of their certified products and systems in target markets.



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