

NATIONAL COMPONENT

WACOMP SIERRA LEONE



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ABOUT WACOMP SIERRA LEONE

The International Trade Centre (ITC) will work as an implementing partner of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) on the Sierra Leone national chapter of West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP) from 2019 to 2022.

The WACOMP Sierra Leone programme aims to increase the private sector competitiveness within selected agricultural sectors to boost the country's opportunities in connecting regional and global value chains, creating jobs and strengthening its economic resilience. In addition, ensuring women and youth have equal access to benefits from newly adopted national policies remains at the fore.

Agricultural development is a priority for the country, in order to support sustained economic growth and development. This will also contribute towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2: No poverty and Zero hunger respectively.

The programme focuses on supporting the country's integration into regional and international trading systems with a focus on the **cassava, cocoa and palm oil** value chains. These sectors hold large employment and export potential will ensure Sierra Leone diversifies from being a mineral-based economy.

Following the programme activities, MSMEs and smallholder farmers will improve their opportunities to increase income and access markets.

ITC's ROLE

Through WACOMP Sierra Leone, ITC seeks to enhance value addition, product diversification and export opportunities for MSMEs as well as smallholder farmers with a focus on the programme's selected crops.

To increase export performance, employment and income opportunities in the country, ITC will target its interventions by:

- identifying production potential, processing capacity and export opportunities;
- training the private sector on best practices in value addition and export promotion;
- organizing business networking events;
- Facilitating access to finance services for MSMEs and small holders farmers;
- re-designing the portfolio of services of intermediary organizations and scaling up their advocacy capacity to better serve their clients;
- strengthening the country's public-private dialogue mechanism and providing it with adequate monitoring tools;
- building synergies between national, regional and continental policies to increase market opportunities.



PROGRAMME VALUE CHAINS

- **Cassava** holds great potential in contributing to enhanced food security and reduced poverty in Sierra Leone. ITC will coordinate capacity-building activities to reinforce registered farmer organisations, marketing entities, agri-businesses as well as other rural businesses.
- In the **cocoa** sector, ITC will work towards increased transparency in the processing operations to improve quality, quantity and competition, establish sustainable tracing mechanisms, reinforce producer associations, increase export market diversification and enable access to finance.
- To boost the dwindling relationship between producers and market buyers in the **palm oil** sector, ITC will provide technical assistance to boost trade and export by establishing a conducive business environment with a focus on promoting synergies between national and regional trade policies.

PROGRAMME PARTNERS

Under the guidance of UNIDO and the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), ITC will work primarily alongside Sierra Leonean private sector operators (including cooperatives, producers associations and SMEs) as well as key government ministries, departments and public institutions including, among others, the:

- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)
- Sierra Leone Investment and Export Promotion Agency (SLIEPA)
- Produce Monitoring Board (PMB)
- Sierra Leone Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency (SMEDA)

- Sierra Leone Standard Bureau (SLSB)

ABOUT THE WACOMP REGIONAL

The objective of WACOMP is to strengthen competitiveness of the ECOWAS member countries and enhance their integration into the regional and international trading system by improving:

- the performance, growth and contribution to industry, regional trade and exports of selected value chains (mango, cassava, textile and ICT) and;
- the business climate at national and regional levels.

WACOMP countries comprise the 15 member regional group of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) including Mauritania. Member States constitute Cabo Verde, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone; as well as the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) states - Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo.

ABOUT ITC

The International Trade Centre is the joint agency of the World Trade Organization and the United Nations. ITC assists small and medium-sized enterprises in developing and transition economies to become more competitive in global markets, thereby contributing to sustainable economic development within the frameworks of the Aid-for-Trade agenda and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.



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