



Brussels Rural Development Briefings
A series of meetings on ACP-EU development issues

**Briefing session n° 11: Meeting food safety standards:
Implications for ACP agricultural exports**

11th May 2009

Biodata of speakers

Philip Borel – Greenfields Uganda Ltd.

Philip Borel is currently the director of Greenfields Uganda Ltd, working in the fields of fish processing for exportation from Uganda.

He holds a degree in Philosophy and a diploma in Development studies from the Universities of Louvain and Louvain-la-Neuve.

He started his professional career teaching in RDC, and has worked as a researcher with the “Centre Continental” and “Centre d’Etudes Africaines” in Belgium. He has also worked as a project manager for OXFAM Belgium and was the managing director of “Quality Foods Ltd” in Uganda. Between 2002 and 2005, he worked as the managing director of “Industrial Inputs Ltd”, a company working in the field of poultry.

He has also been involved as chairman and vice-chairman respectively in Uganda Fish Processors and Exporters Association (UFPEA) and Uganda Commercial Fish Farmers Association.

Dr. Medhat El-Helepi – African Union / Interafrican Brueau of Animal Resources

Dr Medhat El-Helepi holds a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Cairo University, Egypt and a Masters in Environmental Economics from McGill University, Canada, and Ph.D. from Cairo University.

Before his current job, he was an Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics at Cairo University teaching economics, policy analysis, macro and microeconomics, marketing, business management, financial management at both graduate and undergraduate levels. He has a versatile research experience working as freelance consultant with several international development agencies, including USAID, GTZ, and CIDA. Experience spans over different fields of agricultural economics including marketing, socio-economics, feasibility studies, and training in teaching, business and marketing.

Dr. El-Helepi is currently working with the African Union-Interafrican Bureau of Animal Resources (AU/IBAR) as an Economist directly responsible for the developing, and the implementation and management of several actions in the broad area of animal health and trade in Africa’s livestock sub-sector. Moreover, he has been assigned to coordinate IBAR’s newly established SPS project, PAN-SPSO.

Robson Fernandes – WTO

Robson Fernandes is an Economic Affairs Officer in the Agriculture and Commodities Division of the World Trade Organization (WTO) since 2007. His responsibilities involve the coordination of the WTO technical assistance activities on sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) issues, encompassing the WTO SPS Agreement and Members' rights and obligations, the work and latest developments in the WTO SPS Committee, and outcomes of the SPS disputes brought before the WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism. Mr. Fernandes is also directly involved in the work of the SPS Committee on various issues, such as special and differential treatment for developing countries, discussions on private standards, and regionalization. He also works closely to the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), a funding and coordination mechanism for technical assistance in SPS, whose secretariat is based in the WTO.

Andrew Graffham – Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich

Dr Andrew Graffham (a.j.graffham@gre.ac.uk) is a food safety and quality specialist working for Natural Resources Institute part of the University of Greenwich in the United Kingdom. He has 19 years experience in food microbiology, and food safety and quality assurance systems at farm and processing level. He has worked with producers and exporters of fresh fruits and vegetables and aquaculture products in 15 developing countries on cost effective ways to comply with market requirements. He has also worked in Poland supporting Polish farmers and regulatory authorities to meet EU norms for SPS measures following accession to the EU. He has a particular interest in working with smallholders on compliance issues and is an active member of the GLOBALGAP smallholder taskforce.

Steve Homer – BIOS Partners – United Kingdom

Steve has spent most of his life working with companies that supply or have a desire to supply the supermarket industry with fast moving fresh products. He has just completed seven years as Group CSR Manger with Flamingo Holdings, a €500M vegetable and flower company.

Brand values and the private standards implemented to protect those values now impact the lives of millions of consumers, suppliers and workers worldwide. Ten years ago he became involved in the writing, management and implementation of private voluntary standards (PVS). He believes that good governance, transparency and technical integrity are pivotal if PVS are to aid rural development. He has always fought hard to ensure that these key measures are rigorously applied and that the voices of those in least developed countries that are impacted hardest by these standards are heard.

Returning to consultancy for the last two years he has been using his experience of developing and working within these private standards, the practical working implementation and, more recently, the measuring of the impact on livelihoods for many organisations, particularly in respect of smallholder farmers in Sub Saharan Africa.

Steffen Kaeser – UNIDO

Steffen Kaeser holds an advanced degree in economics and business administration.

He worked as an independent consultant for multi-lateral and UN Agencies in a large number of developing countries in Africa, Asia and the Arab region in the area of standards development and harmonization, upgrading and accreditation of metrology and testing laboratories, setting-up of accreditation services, certification bodies etc. His field level interventions has particularly focused on the needs of Least Developed Countries (LDCs), specifically concentrating on improvement of support services for their trade participation. He was posted at the UNIDO field office in Algeria from 1990 to 1994. Since 2000, he works at the Trade Capacity Building Branch, UNIDO Headquarters and has been a key contributor for the conceptualization of UNIDO's Trade Capacity Building Initiative. He is responsible for the design and the implementation of inter-agency cooperation and technical assistance programmes in this area, particularly in Africa and Asia. He also is in charge of global forum activities such as TCB related research, publications and advocacy.

Dr Jacky Le Gosles - DG Health and Consumers, European Commission

Jacky is a veterinarian who worked in the French veterinary services as from end 1980 dealing with various contagious animal disease control and eradication policies and in food safety, being head of office and then deputy to the sub Director for food safety and from 1994-1998 Sub Director for food safety, conducting the French delegation to the CCFH (codex Committee for Food Hygiene Washington).

Since January 1999, he worked as Principal Administrator at the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO), DG SANCO (Health and Consumer), European Commission being successively acting deputy head of Unit and acting Head of Unit dealing with animal diseases, food of animal origin safety and animal welfare and from May 2000 to mid April 2008 Head of Unit dealing animal diseases, food of animal origin safety (Bird and Fish). Since mid April he is Adviser to SANCO Directorate D dealing with European neighborhood policy (SPS aspects), management and training regarding food of animal origin (especially fishery products) import and follow-up of FVO missions on animal health and welfare to Member States.

Stephen Mbithi Mwikya - Fresh Produce Exporters Association of Kenya (FPEAK)

Dr Stephen Mbithi is the Chief Executive Officer of Fresh Produce Exporters Association of Kenya (FPEAK), an association bringing together 120 companies that export flowers, fruits and vegetables from Kenya, and those that provide direct support services. He is also the coordinating CEO of Horticultural Council of Africa (HCA) that brings together 11 associations in Eastern and Southern African Countries. Dr Mbithi has extensive experience in the export sector, having served in a similar capacity in the fish sector for 5 years prior to joining horticulture. He has consulted for organizations such as COMESA, UNEP, ICTSD, OECD and published widely on international export trade, especially on aspects such as SPS measures, and access/trade agreements.

Michael Scannell - DG Health and Consumers, European Commission

Michael Scannell is a Counselor, with special responsibility for international and trade issues, in the Directorate General for Health and Consumers (SANCO) of the European Commission. He is the spokesperson for the European Community in the Codex Commission and in the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Committee of the World Trade Organisation. He is also a member of the Animal Production Food Safety Working Group of the OIE. An economist, he has an extensive background in trade, economic, food safety and animal health regulatory issues. This includes eight years in the private offices of European Commissioners. He was also a Head of Unit with responsibility for international issues in DG SANCO for five years prior to his current appointment

Guy Stinglhamber – PIP COLEACP

Guy is specialised in tropical agronomy and has more than 20 years of professional experience in the production and trade of fruit and vegetable products. In addition to having managed several European Commission development projects that promoted trade from developing countries to European Union markets, Guy Stinglhamber was, for a time, a producer and exporter of fruit and vegetables in Central America. Before becoming the PIP Project Manager, Guy was in charge of the PIP Good Company Practice Component where he developed concrete actions to assist ACP companies.

Morag Webb – COLEACP PIP

Morag Webb has a B.Sc. in Environmental Science (Applied Ecology) and an M.Sc. in Tropical Pest Management. She has 20 years experience in tropical agriculture, notably in farmer participatory research and smallholder farming. In the past she managed several projects financed by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) in South America and Africa, as well as advising the DFID Crop Protection Programme. After several years within the Capacity Building Component, Morag is now acting as Policy Adviser for the Director covering subjects such as European market access, smallholder participation in the supply chain, PIP position papers and communications. Morag represents the Programme in numerous international forums and meeting.