



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

Briefing session n° 13

**Upgrading to compete in a globalised world:
What opportunities and challenges for SMEs in agriculture in ACP countries?**

Wednesday 23rd September 2009 – 8h30 – 13h00
European Commission, Borschette Center, Room 1D

<http://brusselsbriefings.net>

8h00-8h30 Registration
8h30-8h45 Introductory remarks

08h45-10h30 Panel 1 – Challenges for SMEs in agriculture

Due to demographic growth, urbanisation, expected economic growth and non-food use of agricultural products, there will be increased demand for agricultural products. While enterprises in developing countries have been affected by the financial and food crisis, would the crisis offer also opportunities to link local SMEs to global economies? Do SMEs receive the attention they deserve?

Panelists:

- Effects of financial crisis on trade and investment in ACP countries: SMEs in the context of the international financial crisis
Alberto Portugal Pérez, Development Economics Research Group, The World Bank
- What are the current challenges for SMEs competitiveness and upscaling?
Rafik Feki, Productivity, Quality, Enterprise Upgrading Unit, UNIDO
- Clusters, Value Chains and Technological Capabilities Building
Professor Carlo Pietrobelli, Professor of Economics, University of Roma Tre, Italy

10h30-10h45 Coffee break

10h45-13h00 Panel 2 – New opportunities for the ACP private sector in times of crisis

This session will discuss investment programmes needed to support SMEs in order to promote growth and investments, upgrade and upscale SMEs to reach regional and exports markets. This session will also share concrete examples of SMEs being successful by boosting innovation and technology, processing, value-addition, infrastructure upgrading.

Panelists:

- Provide equity capital and matching grants in agricultural investments to support agro-industries: the case of the African Agricultural Fund (AAF)
Vincenzo Galastro, IFAD
- Private sector investments in Africa's rural areas: the case of the AECF
André Dellevoet, Executive Manager, Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund, Kenya
- Experiences from the private sector: scope and need for upgrading
SUNRIPE (Kenya), Tijule Company Ltd (Jamaica), Noelville Ltd (Grenada)

Conclusions: H.E. Ambassador Patrick Gomes, Ambassador of Guyana

13h00-14h00 Networking Buffet Lunch