



THE AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP
LE PARTENARIAT AFRIQUE-UE



High Level side event to the 3rd AU-EU Agriculture Ministerial Conference

Continental Strategy for Geographical Indications in Africa: launching of activities

21 June, 2019 | 12.45 to 14.15

Sheikh Zayed Centre, FAO HQs, Rome

On 21 June 2019, the African Union (AU) and European Agriculture (EU) Ministers will meet for the third time in four years, focusing on *Promoting sustainable regional agri-food value chains*.

During the AU-EU Conference a side event on the AU Strategy for Geographical Indications (GI) will be organized by the African Union Commission and the European Commission.

Background

The African Union with FAO's support prepared a continental strategy for GIs in Africa with three main objectives: (1) enhancing GI stakeholders' networking at national level; (2) preserving and promoting traditional products on local markets and (3) positioning them on international markets. This strategy was officially endorsed by the African Union in October 2017.

An action plan has since been prepared to implement the strategy and was endorsed in Yaounde on 18 October 2018. A Consultative Committee was created which members include the following organizations: AU Commission, Organisation Africaine de la Propriété Intellectuelle (OAPI), African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), European Commission (EC), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), French Agency for development (AFD) and FAO. In March 2019, the Consultative Committee decided to develop three priority activities of the action plan, specifically the development of:

- a training plan for GIs in Africa,
- a web platform for the dissemination of updated information on GIs in Africa,
- pilot GIs projects in Africa.

The Continental Strategy for GIs will definitely contribute to **the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)**. Among the four CAADP pillars, the Continental Strategy will contribute to pillars 2 and 4 in relation with trade related capacities for market access and agriculture research and technology dissemination and also to pillar 3 by promoting healthy and diversified diet.

The Malabo declaration outlines also a set of targets or commitments. The continental strategy will contribute to several targets and in particular to targets 4 and 5 related to inclusive agriculture growth and transformation, and boosting intra-African trade.

Side Event

The side event on *Continental Strategy for Geographical Indications in Africa: launching of activities* will present the strategy, its action plan and will launch the implementation of the three core actions. It will seek support and

involvement of African Ministries of Agriculture in developing GIs in Africa as a tool for rural development, with potential in several areas such as gender empowerment and nutrition improvement.

Proposed participants:

- Dan Gustafson, Deputy Director-General Programmes, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- Higino Francisco de Marrule, Minister of Agriculture and Food Security of Mozambique
- Gaston Cossi Dossouhoui, Ministre de l’agriculture, de l’élevage et de la pêche du Benin
- Denis Loukou Bohoussou, Director General, Organisation Africaine de la Propriété Intellectuelle (OAPI)
- Pierre Runiga, Head of Policy, Legal and International Cooperation, African Regional Intellectual property Organization (ARIPO)
- Maimouna Sambou, President of GIE Casa Ecologie, Casamance, Senegal
- Godfrey Bahiigwa, Director, Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission
- John Clarke, Director of International bilateral relations, Directorate general for agriculture and rural development, European Commission

Exhibition:

During the side event, African producers will exhibit their products and present their experience in a “speaking corner” model.

Proposed Agenda:

12.00 - 12.45	<i>Exhibit in the Atrium</i>
12.45 – 13.00	<i>Welcome remarks by Dan Gustafson, Deputy Director General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</i>
13.00 – 13.10	<i>Perspective from the African Union Godfrey Bahiigwa, Director, Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission</i>
13.10-13.20	<i>Perspective from the European Union John Clarke, Director of International bilateral relations, Directorate general for agriculture and rural development, European Commission</i>
13.20 - 13.30	<i>Presentation of Producer’s experience Maimouna Sambou, Présidente de Casa Ecologie, Casamance, Senegal</i>
13.30 – 13.40	<i>Perspectives from the Intellectual Property Organizations Denis Loukou Bohoussou, Director General, Organisation Africaine de la Propriété Intellectuelle (OAPI) Pierre Runiga, Head of Policy, Legal and International Cooperation, African Regional Intellectual property Organization (ARIPO)</i>
13.40 – 13.50	<i>Experience from Mozambique Higino Francisco de Marrule, Minister of Agriculture and Food Security of Mozambique</i>
13.50-14.00	<i>Experience from Benin Gaston Cossi DOSSOUHOUI, Ministre de l’agriculture, de l’élevage et de la pêche du Benin</i>
14.00-14-10	<i>Q&A Session</i>
14.10 – 14.15	<i>Conclusions</i>