

CAMEROON WORKSHOP CONCEPT NOTE

A project funded by European Union's AAACP programme for "Cameroon"

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Background

The Cameroon project is funded by the All ACP Agricultural Commodities Programme initiated by the European Commission. Its aim is to provide ONCC with practical advice, analysis and training for the creation and growth of a commodity exchange in Cameroon under a public-private partnership approach.

The Government of Cameroon through the Ministry of agriculture and ONCC are the principal partners for UNCTAD's work.

A field mission to the region in the framework of the establishment of the national strategy by International Trade Center (ITC), in collaboration with INFOSHARE, to assess the possibilities of creation of a national commodity exchange already took place (July 2009). This field mission stressed the relevance of the creation of a commodity exchange in Cameroon in the form of an electronic platform to add value to the existing information system.

The current stage of the project consists in the organization of a workshop in Yaoundé, Cameroon, on 27-29 October 2009.

Objectives

The workshop has three main objectives:

- First, it will aim at discussing with representatives of private sector associations ways to move forward in the creation of a commodity exchange in Cameroon.
- Second, the workshop will provide capacity building on the following issues: i) prerequisites for the creation of a commodity exchange; ii) characteristics of successful commodity exchanges and how they can be replicated to Africa, and; iii) the linkages between commodity exchanges and commodity-based development.



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- Third, discussions during the workshop will provide the basis for validating the feasibility of a commodity exchange in the Cameroon context.

To achieve these objectives, the workshop will begin with a combination of presentations from local private sector stakeholders and public institutions involved in the development of the cocoa and the coffee sectors. Specific ways to strengthen both sectors and the requirements for the creation of a commodity exchange in Cameroon will be discussed. The second day will focus on the functioning of commodity exchanges. This will constitute the basis for discussing the feasibility of a commodity exchange based in Cameroon with a potential regional dimension. And finally, the third day will be devoted to identifying the support that donor agencies and the private sector can provide to the creation of such a commodity exchange.

Target participants

The workshop would benefit national and regional commodity chain stakeholders who could be interested in using the Cameroon Commodity Exchange for trade and risk management. These stakeholders would include producers, cooperatives, processors, traders, distributors and purchasers, as well as key actors of the physical, financial and regulatory infrastructure of a commodity exchange such as governments, financial institutions, warehouse and collateral managers.

Outputs

The workshop will aim at providing the following outputs:

- *Training materials:* workshop presentation handouts and study tour report. Participants will also be given the latest UNCTAD survey of commodity exchanges.
- *Statement of intent of workshop participants on the feasibility of a commodity exchange in the Cameroon context:* outputs from discussions held during the workshop will be combined with the conclusions of the feasibility study. It is hoped that discussions held during the workshop will shed more light on the conditions under which a commodity exchange can be implemented in Cameroon.

