

**FACILITATING ACCESS TO *GEOGRAPHIC INDICATIONS (GI)* PROJECT FUNDING-  
“*The Role of the African Union Commission*”**

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**Opportunities for funding GI projects**

- 1) The G20 Summit of Heads of States and Governments: There is a window of opportunity through value chains for accessing markets
- 2) Existing agricultural strategies ,programs and vehicles- such as the CAADP/NEPAD -GIs should have a prominent place in these,
- 3) The African Union Commission through the Heads of States summits and other AU administrative structures and continental fore, communicates freely with its Member States and Regional Economic Communities. For Gis, closer ties with ARIPO and OAPI should aim at encouraging and *facilitating* these offices in harmonising legislation *on Gis* among African Member States.

# Role of the AU

## ❖ Facilitator and communicator of joint initiatives:

1. **JOINT AFRICA-EU STRATEGY:** GI projects in the African Union EU are Supported through the EU Programme (the 55 million euro facility) for the 2012-2013 action program.
2. **LIAISON WITH ACP.** Supporting value chains identified as priority by CTA in Intra-ACP cooperation Multiannual Indicative Programme.

## ❖ Interlocutor on the main Funding vehicles:

1. Through Existing agricultural programs- e.g. in CAADP roundtables-29 countries have signed CAADP (with Multi-stake consensus and partner buy- ins).
2. Facilitating networking and exchange of information through workshops such as this.
3. Facilitates the Pan African Farmers Organization (PAFO) activities.

## National and regional funding

- Need to raise profile of Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development (AFSRD) in national programmes. Over half African countries have *not* put AFSRD as focal sector.
- Main national funding vehicle are NIPs, multiannual National Indicative Programmes (NIPs).
- Need to share experience, e.g. on GI regulation, between Member States.
- Regional strategy papers and Regional Indicative Programmes (RIPs) also have potential where agriculture has been prioritised.
- G20 Heads of State and Government in Cannes Final Declaration last week call for market inclusion and empowerment of small-holders in value chains. GIs provides an ideal vehicle.
- MDG initiative also prioritises agriculture and rural development.
- EU Food Security Thematic Programme has potential.

## **Conclusions**

- AU is committed to building capacity for GIs- we have as result of this workshop; and also as a result of the bilateral discussions between our two Commissions (African Union and EU), included GIs in our strategic planning for 2012 that *may include a continental conference on GIs and other deliverable actions.*
- We intend to consult with our partners on the feasibility for establishing an African Website on GIs.
- With ARIPO and OAPI we shall revisit the African Model law on the protection of farmers rights, community rights and indigenous/ Traditional knowledge for purposes of an African policy on GIs

## **Conclusions**

- The AU Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture will use the conclusions of this workshop to disseminate and spread information on GIs and sensitize policy makers through the policy organs of the AU.