



Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt
Braunschweig und Berlin
Nationales Metrologieinstitut

TECHNICAL
COOPERATION

Documentation of the CALIDENA Follow-up Workshop for mango in Accra, Ghana

Strengthening of the quality infrastructure system to increase the competitiveness of
agricultural export products

Technical Cooperation with Ghana Standards Authority (GSA)

Country | region: Ghana

City | country: Accra, Ghana

Date: 21 February 2018

Consultant: Katharina Telfser



Abbreviations | Explanation of terms used

BBS	Bacterial Black Spot
BVL	Bundesamt für Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit, Germany
DAkkS	Deutsche Akkreditierungsstelle, German Accreditation Body
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana
FAGE	Federation of Associations of Ghanaian Exporters
FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions
GSA	Ghana Standards Authority
MOFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ghana
MRL	Maximum Residue Limit
PPRSD	Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate, Ghana
PTB	Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt, Germany
QI	Quality Infrastructure
TC	Technical Committee
VC	Value Chain

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1. Objective of the CALIDENA Follow-up Workshop

The general aim of a CALIDENA exercise is:

- to enhance awareness about quality and food safety issues,
- foster the demand of quality services within selected value chains and
- strengthen the demand-orientation of quality infrastructure in the country.

The CALIDENA Follow-up Workshop for mango products had the following objectives:

- assessment and revision of the progress of actions
- opportunity to broaden and deepen the diagnostic
- definition of new joint activities.

2. Agenda of the workshop

Time	Activity
9.00 – 9.30	Arrival and welcome (coffee and tea)
9.30 – 10.30	Opening and introduction
10.30 – 11.10	Review of the progress in implementing the agreed actions
11.10 – 12.30	Challenges and how to overcome them
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch
13.30 – 15.30	Definition of action plan: Identification of actions to be continued, new necessary actions, and definition of due dates and people in charge
15.30 – 15.50	Planning of the next steps
15.50 – 16.00	Closing and evaluation

3. Results of the workshop

a) Opening and introduction

After the opening prayer spoken by Sylvia A., Paul Date welcomed the participants in the name of GSA. He highlighted the pioneering role of Ghana in the use of the CALIDENA methodology and the great potential of improving quality for export products in a joint effort by the stakeholders.

Lysbeth Adetola shortly introduced the agenda and objectives of the workshop, then the participants were invited to express whether they felt optimistic or pessimistic about quality in the mango value chain. Overall, the participants had a positive view, for the following reasons:

- Mango farmers want to make a difference
- Collaboration in the sector
- There are solutions for challenges that arise
- Only a little push needed to get there
- People apply what they learn

However, some points regarding persistent challenges were raised:

- Standards as important tool still not used sufficiently (also for local market)
- More work with other stakeholders (e.g. input providers) needed

Kommentiert [bc1]: Carola, wie lautet Sylvias Nachname? Das müsste auch in der Teilnehmerlist noch vervollständigt werden. Und die Emailadresse nochmal prüfen. Ich konnte ihre Schrift nicht lesen.

- A platform exists with the Mango Round Table but policy makers are not there
- Government support for mango should be stronger
- This year the season was shorter and there was a BBS outbreak.

b) Review of the progress in implementing the agreed actions

Next, the action plan that had been agreed on during the Kick-off Workshop was reviewed. For that purpose, the coordinator of each activity shortly presented what had been achieved and it was decided whether the activity should be continued. In a short discussion with all participants, questions and important aspects to be considered for each set of activities were identified.

Activity	% of fulfilment	Need to continue	Questions / comments
Compatibility of Green Label Standard TC meeting on Green Label Standard Green Label as procurement requirement	100%	yes	Will buyers accept the standard? Get domestic market to accept Green Label Incentive for producers missing Create awareness of Green Label among stakeholders (hotels, market women...) Media coverage for Green Label
Tour at the GSA pesticide residue laboratory Factsheet on sampling Consultancy for pesticide residue laboratory	100%	yes	Checklist / FAQ for farmers to distribute Electronic version of factsheet to farmers and on website Delivery time should be faster Trust issues addressed? Random sampling to create demand for safe fruit? Funding?
Standard operating procedure for pesticide spraying	80%	yes	Input providers who calibrate to work with GSA? Distribution of information?
Calibration training on site			Calibration of weighing scales
Calibration at the port	50%	yes, calibration date fixed	Penalties for not doing regular calibrations?
Pilot study on pesticide quality	25% (list of key products and ingredients, engagement with stakeholders, meetings, protocol...)	yes, even beyond the CALIDENA timeframe complex activity	EPA list of registered chemicals for farmers? Information about application of pesticide for specific product How can not registered products be on the market? Where are they sold? Are ports as porous as our borders? Chemical handling by input dealers Support from accredited laboratory to GSA chemistry laboratory for pesticide quality testing?
			Policy maker awareness How can collaboration between different stakeholders be made more efficient?

c) Challenges and how to overcome them

Having looked at the progress so far, the workshop participants were invited to reflect on the following questions:

- *Do we have to revise our goal of improving quality in the mango value chain?*
The participants agreed that the goal should remain the same, as there are still some quality issues to be addressed in the value chain.

- *Are we the right people to achieve our goal?*
Representatives of most relevant value chain links were present at the workshop and included in the CALIDENA process for mango products. However, it was highlighted that the following important stakeholders should be considered and increasingly involved in the activities:

EPA	extension officers
Green Label Foundation	researchers (e.g. on climate change)
buyers (including restaurants, hotels, supermarkets, malls and market women)	agric institutions from mango producing districts
seedling producers/ nursery operators	Ministry of Health
large input distributors	Mango Round Table

- *Which quality challenges do we face?*
In addition to the challenges and question brought up in the discussion of the activities that were already carried out (see last column in table b), the participants mentioned the following issues:

Transport and traceability → standards (including awareness raising and ensuring understanding) as basis for training and certification	Soil testing to assure fruit quality (BRIX) – an issue that will be increasingly important
Disease spread from private gardens etc. that cannot be controlled	BBS → subcommittee of Mango Round Table is preparing a policy paper

Next, the workshop participants divided into four groups (standards, metrology, testing and pesticide quality) to define what can be done about the identified challenges.

Standards

Make buyers aware of the Green Label standard → promotion	Make Green Label certification an incentive for producers
Sensitization of buyers	Let the buyers know the how (checklist)
Periodic revision of the Green Label standard by GSA (land preparation, MRLs)	Upholding the integrity of the standard at every stage
Training of value chain actors, e.g. on basic record keeping / data collection	Engaging media with extension agents to get media coverage for Green Label standard

Metrology

Formal training for input providers on how to calibrate equipment (GSA, MOFA)	Distribution of standard operating procedure for pesticide spraying
Awareness raising for farmers on need to calibrate (GSA, MOFA) → small scales can be brought for calibration to GSA; platform scale could be purchased by farmers' association for joint use (calibration on site)	Find out whether sanctions for lacking calibration is included in standards bill; if not, make a case and have it done

Testing

Checklist for farmers / FAQ about laboratory procedure to distribute to (potential) clients	Send electronic version of fruit sampling factsheet to farmers and publish it on GSA website
Ensure availability of resources and necessary staff for 24h lab service to shorten delivery times → Meeting with management	Get funding for random sampling → write to ministry and funding agencies; write proposal to media for publication of results
Trust assured through accreditation by DAkkS	

Pesticide quality

Ensure updated list of approved pesticide (2017) is available on EPA website and from MOFA, PPRSD and extension officers	Where necessary information about scope of pesticides is included in approved list
Customs shall check according to approved list. EPA to ensure custom use the list	Initial testing of pesticides to be registered → which testing laboratory?
EPA to engage with farmers → questionnaire, interviews; provide information on proper application (time, dosage, equipment)	Inform farmers about scope of application (herbicide, fungicide...) → intensify training manuals, posters, fact sheets
Intensify training / sensitization of input dealers	

d) Definition of action plan

The suggested approaches to address the identified quality challenges were discussed with all the participants and a selection of activities was included in the action plan. The selection criteria were the availability of resources and the possibility for the stakeholder present to immediately implement the actions, achieving quick wins. The action plan is included in annex B.

Two activities – the pilot study on pesticide quality and the consultancy programme for the pesticide residue testing laboratory at GSA – that were included in the previous action plan from October 2017 were taken out of the CALIDENA process, as they resulted being too complex to be tackled in only a few months. The pilot study will be carried out in the frame of the PTB project. The next steps were defined as follows:

- Sampling protocol / plan by PPRSD & EPA (including sampling at importer, open market / retailer, and farmer level)
- Testing at GSA and German BVL, additional accredited laboratories to be identified

- Summary report to inform stakeholders (input dealers, farmers, policy makers, exporters, etc.)
- Post-registration monitoring and surveillance to weed out sub-standard or unregistered products by EPA & PPRSD / MOFA in the open market.

Regarding the consultancy programme for the pesticide residue laboratory at GSA, PTB will exchange with GSA management to clarify priorities for support and define the details of a possible consultancy.

For the distribution of information passed on and developed in the frame of the CALIDENA process (e.g. factsheet on sampling for pesticide residue testing, standard operating procedure for pesticide testing), it was agreed that documents will be sent by email and put on the GSA website, when the content is related to GSA activities. Moreover, the information will be placed on the website of FAGE once it is finalized and running.

e) Planning of the next steps

The CALIDENA process for mango products will be concluded in June / July 2018. To assure that quality issues will still be discussed by the stakeholders and support the continuation of the process, a possible handover to the Mango Round Table has been discussed. The CALIDENA activities will be presented at the next meeting of the Mango Round Table in March 2018 by Richard Nyumuah. After that, a decision about the handover can be taken. At the same meeting it will also be decided, whether the Mango Week event will be organised again in July 2018. If so, a formal handover of the CALIDENA process could take place during the event.

To follow-up on these decisions and plan the handover of the CALIDENA process, a meeting between representatives of the CALIDENA process and representatives of the Mango Round Table should be organised in April.

At the beginning of April, Katharina Telfser will follow-up on the process made on the new action plan and send an overview document to all the workshop participants.

f) Closing and evaluation

Paul Date closed the meeting with inspiring words, thanking the participants for their time and efforts and encouraging them to keep working together to foster quality in the mango value chain.

At the end of the workshop, the participants provided the following feedback:

Categories	1	2	3	4	5	6	Comments
Preparation/ Advance Information		1	1	1	7	3	
Working method				3	5	5	
Subjects of the meeting				2	5	6	
Facilitation				4	6	3	The facilitation should be to coordinate the participants to ensure effective participation.
Group Dynamics				3	7	2	
Benefit for your work			1	3	6	3	
Satisfaction of your expectations				3	8	2	
Organisation, logistics			1	1	7	4	
Time schedule				5	6	2	
Meeting room				5	3	5	
Meals				4	6	3	

1 = very bad; 2 = bad; 3 = average; 4 = good; 5 = very good; 6 = excellent

Annex A: Participant list
Annex B: Action plan