

Documentation of the CALIDENA hand-over 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: 10 July 2018

Consultant: Katharina Telfser



Abbreviations | Explanation of terms used

BBS	Bacterial Black Spot
CALIDENA	Methodology Name (Calidad y Cadena – Quality and Chain)
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana
FAGE	Federation of Associations of Ghanaian Exporters
FBO	Farmer-Based Organisation
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
GSA	Ghana Standards Authority
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
MoFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ghana
PPRSD	Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate, Ghana
PTB	Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt, Germany
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure

Table of Contents:

1. Objective of the CALIDENA Hand-Over Workshop	4
2. Agenda of the workshop	4
3. Results of the workshop	4
a) Opening and introduction	4
b) Overview and reflection on activities so far	5
c) Continuation of activities within the Mango Round Table	7
d) Definition of further activities	7
e) Official hand-over to the Mango Round Table	9
f) Evaluation	10
Annex A: Participant list	11
Annex B: Presentation on the status of CALIDENA for mango	11
Annex C: Letter of intent	11

1. Objective of the CALIDENA Hand-Over Workshop

Overall process goal:

Foster quality in the mango value chain and promote exports of processed mango products from Ghana to promising international markets.

Workshop objectives:

- Review the activities carried out so far.
- Assess where further action is required.
- Define how the CALIDENA approach to foster quality in the mango value chain will be carried on in the frame of the Mango Round Table.
- Formally hand over the process to the Mango Round Table.

2. Agenda of the workshop

Time	Activity
8.30	Registration
9.00	Opening and introduction
10.00	Overview of activities so far
10.30	Coffee break
10.45	Reflection on the activities so far
11.45	Continuation of the activities within the Mango Round Table
12.15	Definition of further activities in groups
13.00	Presentation of group work and validation of action plan
14.00	Lunch
15.00	Official hand-over to the mango round table
16.00	End of the event

3. Results of the workshop

a) Opening and introduction

Paul Date welcomed the participants in the name of the Ghana Standards Authority (GSA). He described the CALIDENA activities so far, from the training of trainers in July 2017, over the Kick-Off Workshop for the mango value chain in October 2017 and the Follow-Up Workshop in February 2018. Several quality issues in the mango value chain could already be addressed by the group of motivated stakeholders, which shows that collaboration is key to fostering quality in value chains.

After a short presentation of the workshop objectives and agenda, the participants were invited to reflect on their experience with CALIDENA so far. The following points were raised:

What are the major achievements of the CALIDENA process so far?	What are personal learnings and takeaways from the process?	What doubts remain regarding the CALIDENA process for mango?
The CALIDENA methodology is FEASIBLE and PRACTICAL and thus farmers can easily adopt it	Acquaint ourselves with processing facilities and products	Do FAGE and GSA have the capacities to continue the activities of CALIDENA effectively / efficiently?

Awareness creation	New possibilities	Ability to sustain and improve
Place of quality in international trade highlighted	Evaluation of mango industry in Ghana	Control of BBS still a challenge to farmers
Analysis of mango industry for exports	Ownership of the process by individual actors	Implementation of the activities among the actors?
Creation of awareness among stakeholders on metrology	Opportunity to assess a value chain rapidly	How to achieve ownership and expand the learnings?
Bringing together the major stakeholders across the value chain	Acquaint ourselves with procedures for analysis of fruit quality by GSA	How the system will be continued
Identification of critical flaws along the value chain	Metrology is important in maintaining quality standards	Continuation of support from CALIDENA after workshop
Standards need to enhance in the mango value chain and get all stakeholders involved in the process	It helps to bring awareness into system of the chain which needs to continue	How will the CALIDENA process help the mango value chain control BBS?
Assembled major stakeholders in mango value chain to identify constraints and possible interventions in quality mango production	Got the opportunity to learn a lot more on other value chains apart from my end of the chain	Is the Mango Round Table ready / committed to take over the process and continue?
Highlight major issues and possible solutions in the mango value chain	Fusion with CALIDENA process together with other standards, e.g. Green Label scheme	The acceptance by the stakeholders along the value chain
Bringing key stakeholders together	Need for more research on BBS	Ensuring the buyers buy into the Green Label Standard
Pesticide quality study	Need to involve buyers	Sustainability
Involvement of different key stakeholders	Presentation of knowledge areas and workshop facilitation	
Local facilitators trained		
Ability to identify gaps and opportunities within a value chain		
Sensitizing stakeholders on quality issues across the value chain		

b) Overview and reflection on activities so far

Then Katharina Telfser gave an overview of the initially identified quality gaps and the activities that were already carried out in the frame of the CALIDENA process, highlighting also what is still missing in the different focus areas. The presentation can be consulted in annex A.

To assess the CALIDENA activities so far, the workshop participants split into three groups and discussed what went well, what was difficult and what still needs to be worked on regarding the Ghana Green Label Standard, calibration and pesticides in the mango value chain.

The following tables summarize the results of the group discussions.

Ghana Green Label Standard

What worked well? Why?	What was difficult? Why?	What still needs to be worked on?
Compatible with the mango value chain	Getting all the actors involved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Consumers / Buyers ➔ Public institutions ➔ Private sector 	Standard needs to be revised
Guarantees minimum requirements for local and export markets	Inadequate awareness creation	Awareness creation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Revise strategy (involve FBOs)
	Price difference / cost element	
In line with international food safety standards	Sourcing funds for Ghana Green Label	Consumers should want to buy Green Label mangoes

Calibration

What worked well? Why?	What was difficult? Why?	What still needs to be worked on?
Calibration of SHED 9 (port)	Calibration at Akorley packhouse: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thermometers - Weighing scales - Waxing machine - Fungicide machine 	Annual calibration of SHED 9 at the port
Draft SOP for calibration of knapsack-sprayer		Link the Akorley packhouse to GSA and extend practice to other packhouses
SOP for canopy spraying		Print and distribute SOP to farmers Training of farmers

Pesticides

What worked well? Why?	What was difficult? Why?	What still needs to be worked on?
Receiving input from farmers	Roles and responsibilities of PPRSD / EPA	Dissemination of updated list of registered pesticide
Commitment by stakeholders including PPRSD	Transport of samples to Germany <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Import permit - Labelling of containers by PPRSD / EPA 	Pesticide study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Testing at GSA and in Germany - Reporting, publication and dissemination - Regulatory actions by EPA and PPRSD
Cooperation among involved parties	Scope of the pilot study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How to proceed with unregistered products 	Training for farmers on adequate and safe use of pesticides and information on website of PPRSD / EPA
		Disposal of expired pesticides
		BBS agrochemicals: farmers lack information

c) Continuation of activities within the Mango Round Table

Marjorie Abdeen and Tony Sikpa from the Federation of Associations of Ghanaian Exporters (FAGE), represented the Mango Round Table. They explained that the round table currently has approximately 60 participants, including farmers from across the country, and is meeting 4 times per year. The round table provides a framework for awareness raising, information sharing and learning. Often experts are invited to discuss a specific topic.

By taking over the CALIDENA activities, the Mango Round Table will discuss regularly about quality-related issues which are necessary for maintaining and increasing market share. Issues that affect the quality of mango will be promptly addressed and solutions found to them, which will be acted upon by all actors of the value chain. To achieve this, commitment and collaboration will be required by all actors. GSA will become a member of the Mango Round Table and the CALIDENA participants will be involved in future activities. Participation in round table meetings is welcomed and can be requested to FAGE. Through strengthening the collaborations established in the CALIDENA process, quality shall become a part of the DNA of the mango value chain and the application of the methodology to other topics shall be promoted by the participants and the Mango Round Table.

d) Definition of further activities

Next, the workshop participants returned to the working groups and defined further activities needed to foster quality in the mango value chain. As before, they focused on activities related to the Ghana Green Label Standard, calibration and pesticides. The activities defined will be followed-up upon in the frame of the upcoming meetings of the Mango Round Table.

Ghana Green Label Standard

Activity	Institutions to be involved	Main responsible
Awareness creation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategy - Information events for relevant stakeholders - Training for farmers and other stakeholders 	Green Label Foundation, GSA, regulatory bodies, MoFA, agribusinesses, certification bodies, FBOs / associations, policy makers, development partners, media	Green Label Foundation GSA / PPRSD
Standards review	Mango stakeholders	GSA
Influencing policy	Green Label Foundation Associations / FBOs Parliamentarians	Green Label Foundation
Marketing Green Label certified mangoes	Mango FBOs Green Label Foundation	Mango FBOs Green Label Foundation
Compliance (enforcement)	MoFA Green Label Foundation	GSA MoFA

The presentation of possible activities regarding the Ghana Green Label resulted in a heated discussion among workshop participants. It was thus suggested to take the topic up in the frame of the next meeting of the Mango Round Table.

Calibration

Activity	Institutions to be involved	Main responsible
Sensitize farmers and service providers on calibration	GSA, PTB	Paul & Sylvia (GSA)
Calibration of thermometers, weighing scales, waxing and fungicide machines at pack houses	GSA, pack houses, GIZ	Pack house managers GSA GIZ
Design / draft SOP for calibration of other spraying equipment	PTB, GIZ	GIZ
Print and distribute SOP for calibration of knapsacks	PTB, GIZ	PTB, Richard (GIZ)
Training of farmers	PTB, GIZ	GIZ

Pesticides

Activity	Institutions to be involved	Main responsible
Education and training for farmers and other stakeholders on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lower use of pesticides - Integrated pest management (IPM) - Handling of agrochemicals (storage, preparation, application) 	Associations, individual farmers, market people, input dealers, processors, MoFA, PPRSD	Mango associations
Distribution of updated pesticide list and specification of pesticides (crop, dosage)	EPA, PPRSD District Departments	EPA (PPRSD)
Pesticide study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Testing of samples at GSA and German labs - Sharing / publishing results - Regulatory actions as necessary 	GSA, EPA, PPRSD, PTB, GIZ	GSA PPRSD
Standardization of copper-based fungicides for mango industry → Research	EPA, PPRSD	EPA (PPRSD)
Disposal of obsolete chemicals and empty containers	EPA, PPRSD	EPA PPRSD

e) Official hand-over to the Mango Round Table

In the afternoon, the official hand-over ceremony took place. The CALIDENA stakeholders and representatives of the press were present. Representatives from GSA, the Mango Round Table and PTB were seated at the high table. GSA and the Mango Round Table expressed their commitment to the CALIDENA process and welcomed the opportunity to take over the process and continue working on quality issues with the stakeholders of the mango value chain in Ghana. The Letter of Intent stating the parties' commitment to further collaboration on quality issues in the mango value chain was signed by Deputy Director General of Operations Mr. Frank Kofi Nagey on behalf of GSA and by the first Vice-President of FAGE and Convenor of the Mango Round Table Ms. Marjorie Abdeen on behalf of the Mango Round Table.



f) Evaluation

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

Categories	1	2	3	4	5	6	Comments
Preparation/ Advance Information			2	4	7	7	Great. FAGE got to know the handing-over date just a week to the event and had to reschedule another meeting. It should have been earlier to put in FAGE calendar. Inadequate advance information.
Working method				4	9	6	Was well done. The working method is very good because it is participatory. It affords all to get involved and make relevant contributions, comments and criticism where necessary. Quite effective.
Subjects of the meeting				3	6	11	Discussion topics could be precised to lead the discussion more to the point. Definite and straight on point. Relevant.
Facilitation				6	7	7	Having two moderators helped the flow and progress of deliberations. Excellent. Very good. Very good moderation by the two facilitators.
Group Dynamics				5	9	6	Good. What about an ice breaker at the beginning? Very good. Energetic group with good participation.
Benefit for your work			1	5	9	6	Very beneficial to my work and a step in the right direction. Enormous. Quite relevant. Great opportunity to promote my work in certification.
Satisfaction of your expectations			1	5	11	4	I was quite new to the whole concept, but the meeting has given me a lot of insight which I plan to read further on through / from the literature given. Workshop was satisfactorily organized and implemented. Very satisfied.
Organisation, logistics			1	1	11	7	Very good. Very good.
Time schedule			2	4	8	4	The opening time and closing time are feasible and thus can be maintained. Members should be encouraged to come in time next time so that the meeting can be started as scheduled. Convenient. Could start on time and close early. Adequate time given for all activities. Was not communicated and it was not followed as planned. Good.
Meeting room				3	11	5	
Meals				5	10	3	

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

**Do you want to continue this kind of exchange on a Directors level?
If yes, which topics would you like to address in these meetings?**

Yes. Green Label Certification.

Marketing of Green Label certified mangoes.

Other products.

Disposal of expired pesticide and containers.

Advance information and time schedule appropriately.

Yes, a strategy to deal with mango pests and fungi.

Other comments:

Very satisfactory.

Handing over is too early.

CALIDENA has been a useful process. Frequent updates should be shared with participants after the handing over.

How to set standards for imported chemical inputs.

Annex A: Participant list

Annex B: Presentation on the status of CALIDENA for mango

Annex C: Letter of intent