

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 |

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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