

CALIDENA MAPs Nepal

Report of the Mission, May 11th – 18th Kathmandu/ Nepal

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Project Title: “Support to Nepal in the Field of Quality Infrastructure (second phase)”,

PN 2012.2204.1 / FV-95086

Chascomús/ Argentina May 29th, 2014

1 INTRODUCTION

From May 11th to 16th took place the first application of PTB's CALIDENA methodology in South Asia. Nepal was the selected country for the pilot case, given the possibilities to test the CALIDENA approach within a running project (Support to Nepal in the field of quality infrastructure (2nd phase), Project-No.: 2012.2204.1 / FV-95086). Among others, the project has a strong focus on the priority area "Sustainable Economic Development and Trade" and aims at complementing the corresponding VC projects implemented by GIZ in the area of QI. Additionally, the project design included exemplary pilot applications with the value creation chain approach, which was an ideal entry point for the CALIDENA pilot in this country.

The selection of the value chain was done in a pragmatic way limiting the choice to pre-selected value chain by the GIZ partner project. This decision limited the choice to three value chains, namely silver jewellery, honey and medicinal & aromatic plants (MAPs). Within these three options the MAPs VC was finally selected, because of its relative simplicity and due to the fact that Calidena would provide a good starting point and basis for further cooperation with the new project partner DPR / NPRL. . Finally, the PTB project manager (together with the main stakeholders) decided to scope the exercise to the processed product Essential Oils, which made the VC more relevant for QI services.

The preparation process for the CALIDENA workshop was much more time and resource intensive than traditional PTB project activities. Usually PTB project coordinators are identifying and contracting experts for specific technical consultancy, meanwhile in this case the coordination with multiple local and international stakeholders and resource persons was required. An additional challenge was also to establish contacts to organizations and experts beyond the habitual cooperation partners of PTB in the area of Quality Infrastructure (in this the Nepali Bureau of Standards and Metrology, NBSM). On the other hand the preparation process benefited from the availability of a local by PTB hired support person, Mrs. Poonam Thapa. Mrs. Thapa was in charge to coordinate the participation of the local stakeholders.

All in all the preparation of the CALIDENA process started at begin of 2014 and took in total four month. During this period several resource persons were involved: Mr. Khilendra Gurung, a Nepali MAP expert, elaborated a detailed feasibility study for the CALIDENA exercise which informed the organization and facilitation team about the specificities of the MAP VC. Additionally, PTB facilitated the technical support of Mrs. Birgitt Boor, expert in MAPs and organic agriculture. Mrs. Boor's expertise was especially to understand the requirements of European buyers and she established also the contact to Mr. Gerhard Benz, production manager of Primavera Life. Mr. Benz himself participated virtually in the CALIDENA workshop in Kathmandu through a Skype-interview, sharing his evaluation of

the quality of Nepali MAP's products. Finally, Dr. Ulrike Lechner, responsible iKZE for the project, took over a crucial role to support the project coordinator in the coordination of the preparatory activities for the CALIDENA workshop.

2 PROGRAMM AND RESULTS

The program of the expert mission in May was structured in the following way and achieved several outcomes:

Table 1: CALIDENA activity program

Day	Activity	Outcome
Sunday, May 11 th	Short CALIDENA ToT	Rapid immersion of local facilitators in the CALIDENA methodology; enabling of local experts to co-facilitate the CALIDENA workshop
Monday, May 12 th	Meeting with QI bodies, especially NBSM and DPR	Interchange of QI bodies and regulatory authorities about their mandates and identification of possible areas or cooperation; clarification of mutual expectation in regard of CALIDENA workshop and process
Tuesday to Thursday, May 13 th to 15 th	CALIDENA MAP Workshop	Sensitization of stakeholders of the MAP's VC about QI issues; identification of specific gap of QI services for the MAP's VC; agreement about joint action plan to improve QI services for MAP's VC
Friday, May 16 th	Wrap up meeting at DPR	Evaluation of the workshop; clarification about roles and tasks in the follow up of the CALIDENA workshop and for the implementation of the action plan

All details of the program activities are faithfully and completely documented in the documentation of the local facilitator, Mr. Sichan Shrestha. There is written also a minute of the wrap up meeting with DPR. Therefore this report dispenses the documentation of the workshop details. Nevertheless, in the following I summarize the main content of the joint action plan, the most tangible result of the CALIDENA workshop:

Table 2: Summary of CALIDENA MAP's action plan

Topic	Activities	Who
<i>Good practices</i>	Documentation of three types of Good Practices for Agriculture (GAP), Collection (GCP) and Manufacturing (GMP)	Private Sector organizations with support of DPR and NBSM
<i>Metrology and Calibration</i>	Calibration in distilleries (mass, pressure, temperature, volume) and laboratories (mass, temperature)	NBSM in cooperation with Private Sector Associations and

		Laboratories
<i>Standards</i>	Convene a standing committee for MAPs and essential oils	NBSM after request by Private Sector Associations and/ or DPR
<i>Laboratories</i>	Collaborative Test (ILC) with Nepali and foreign buyers (Refractive index, optical rotation, Specific gravity (triplicates) in Lemon grass oil)	Laboratory DPR/ NPRL
	Confirmation of testing standards used and required by buyers	Private Sector Associations

The action plan includes only activities which could be implemented and show results in a short time (3 to 6 month), and which can be started immediately and without substantial further funding. All relevant areas of QI are covered. The proposed activities for the documentation of good practices go beyond the strict competence area of QI and refer to quality management at the industry and firm level. Nevertheless, the implementation of these activities is important as they enable the firms to demand QI services. To make possible the implementation of activities at the micro-level the alliance with the parallel GIZ project is decisive.

A Committee was created to follow up the implementation of the action plan. All relevant public and private organizations [DPR, NDSM, Private Sector Organizations (NEHHPA, JABAN, FECOFUN)] and the German development agencies (GIZ and PTB) are represented. PTB supports the work of the follow up committee by local (Mr. Puspa Raj Shrestha, Ms. Jyoti Joshi, Mr. Pramesh B. Lakhey, Mr. Sichan Shrestha) and international (Dr. Ulrike Lechner) experts.

The following activities/actions and timeframe are proposed:

Activities	Time frame	Responsibility
First follow-up meeting	May 26, 2014	DPR
First follow-up workshop	End of August, 2014	DPR
Workshop proceedings report	By May 30, 2014	Sichan, Poonam, Pramesh, and Ulrich Harmes-Liedtke
Complete inventory of all relevant standards for the MAP's VC		Association and NBSM

3 RECOMENDATIONS

3.1 For CALIDENA process with MAPs VC

The CALIDENA workshop set the base for a continuous collaboration between public bodies (DPR and NBSM) and private sector stakeholders and associations of the MAP's VC. The joint action plan gives the collaboration a clear orientation. Nevertheless, the collaboration process is still incipient and will require important additional efforts to be successful continued.

To maintain momentum of the process I recommend the following activities:

- *Define date for follow up workshop:* Having a date (possibly in August or September) for a one-day-follow-up workshop in sight could create the necessary time pressure for the committee and involved stakeholders.
- *Organize motivational visits:* Several international buyers and resource persons do visit Nepal on a regular basis. These visits could be used for CALIDENA stakeholder meetings to update and motivate the action plan. The collaboration with Primavera-Life and the envisaged collaborative laboratory testing are promising in that regard.
- *The follow up by the iKZE, Dr. Lechner* is key to relate the implementation of the CALIDENA action plan with the other project activities of PTB in Nepal.

During the CALIDENA workshop we collected basic information of the use of QI services by companies of the MAPs VC. This information can be used as input for a project base line study. Nevertheless, it is needed to verify and validate the data. Therefore I have suggested to do a cross verification with the databases of NBSM (calibration service to MAPs VC companies) and DPR (lab test for MAP VC companies). Maybe the local expert can check also with a knowledgeable person of the industry the correctness of the data of each company.

At the same I suggest not to measure the results and impact of the CALIDENA process only by the increase of conformity assessment services in the MAPs companies. There are possibly several external factors to our initiative which influence these numbers. In addition, the companies themselves are not the target group of the project. Projects targets QI and conformity assessment bodies and therefore the sensitization about QI and the elaboration of standards and technical regulations are also significant results.

In conclusion, I suggest elaborating a broader base line including indicators like n# of standards, technical regulations, guides of good practices and people in the VC knowledgeable about QI. To get the last information is possibly already too late, as the workshop itself improved the knowledge about QI. If you have time and resources, you

may verify the knowledge of the workshop participants and compare this with a group of non-participants.

3.2 For institutional strengthening of NQI (including DPR)

The main objective of PTB's project in Nepal is to strengthen the National QI. The CALIDENA workshop helped to identify several gaps in the QI services for the MAP VC. Possibly these gaps are not only relevant for this particular sector but also for the local economy as a whole. Therefore it is recommendable to evaluate the implication of the findings of the CALIDENA process also internally with the QI bodies, especially with NBSM. PTB could even offer carefully to NBSM more strategic advice for the broader development of the NQI.

3.3 For further CALIDENA activities of the PTB Working group Q.52 in Southern Asia

The CALIDENA process in Nepal was designed as a safe-to-fail experiment of the working group Q.52. After having finished successfully the workshop and started the implementation process of the action plan, the process should be further observed and analyzed about its potential to be replicated and adapted to other countries in South Asia. Important in that regard was the presentation and discussion of the Nepali CALIDENA experience during the Working Group meeting, May 19th in Braunschweig (see minute of the meeting).

In the near future it is planned to introduce the CALIDENA methodology also in the Philippines and Myanmar. These processes could benefit from the experience in Nepal, but will require a tailor made project design according to the national and project specificities. In that regard, it could be helpful to consult the different modalities to combine instruments and tools of the CALIDENA methodology (see documentation of Q.52 working group workshop 2013, May 31st).

The collaboration with GIZ programs is often helpful; especially it facilitates the identification of value chains and key stakeholders. Also, the GIZ is able to cover a broader scope of activities beyond the mandate and technical competence of PTB. At the same time it is recommendable, that PTB defines clearly its role in the support of the value chain and manages its interventions with the necessary autonomy. Therefore PTB needs to work with its own international and local experts who report direct and only to PTB.

The work with the CALIDENA methodology challenges also the traditional project management style of Q.52. CALIDENA is participatory and require a lot of collaboration activities, which require more time and resources than the organization of technical expert missions. It is not recommendable to squeeze in CALIDENA activities within already

planned and running projects. Quite the reverse, it is an opportunity to include CALIDENA as a component in future PTB projects.

If the demand of the use of the CALIDENA methodology increases significantly in South Asia it could be effective to plan a regional training of facilitators. The training of regional facilitators could be a contribution to build a capacity base for PTB projects and the regional counterparts which could be used for CALIDENA and other project activities. The availability of regional consultants could be a flexible response of PTB missing possibility to create local staff and office structure in the partner countries.

All in all, CALIDENA could be seen as an opportunity for Q.52 to involve in the strengthening of National and Regional QI more prominently the private sector and to experiment with new forms of project management and impact delivery.