The main objective of the project is to maintain market access for cocoa beans from the West Africa Sub-region through capacity building in SPS in order to produce good quality cocoa that complies with the relevant international regulations and legislation on pesticide residues and other harmful substances.

In Ghana, the project commenced with the setting up of a National Steering Committee and a Project Implementation Committee. This report provides in some details the key activities that the project has undertaken since inception.

Key Activities – 1

FORMATION OF THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

The Project Implementation Committee (PIC) was put in place on the advice of the National Steering Committee (NSC). It is chaired by Mr. K. Gorkeh-Sekyim, Managing Director of Quality Control Company. Other members are Dr. Francis Baah, Head, Social Sciences and Statistics, CRIG; Dr. Sammy Lowor, Senior Biochemist, CRIG; Mr. William Azalekor, Entomologist, QCC; Mr. George Okyere, Senior Quality Control Manager, QCC and Mr. Francis Enyan, Deputy Quality Control Manager, QCC.

ACTIVITIES – 2

LAUNCHING OF SPS AFRICA COCOA PROJECT

The project was launched successfully at the College of Physicians and Surgeons Building, Ridge, Accra on Friday 9th September 2011.
ACTIVITIES -3

INAUGURATION OF THE NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

ACTIVITIES - 4

The development and pretesting of media materials such as posters, leaflets and flyers, development of content for sensitization on the media, and the planning of regional, district and community sensitization workshops
TRAINING

ACTIVITIES – 5

1ST EDES/COLEACP TRAINING OF TRAINERS WORKSHOP AT BUNSO COCOA COLLEGE, 6 - 19 NOV 2011

2ND EDES /COLEACP TRAINING OF TRAINERS WORKSHOP, BUNSO COCOA COLLEGE, 21 NOV – 3 DEC 2011

Workshop Aims

- Present the methodology for two concepts:
  1. Preparation of a 'Sectoral Guide' to facilitate the introduction of a self-monitoring system for businesses in this sector
  2. The Gap Analysis conducted during the same project

- Train you in running this type of 'project' in various sectors, step by step
Mr E. Owusu facilitating at one of the sessions

PARTICIPANTS AT THE 5-DAY EDES/COLEACP TRAINING IN KENYA

Topics covered included:
- The regulatory context and role of private operators
- Self-monitoring principles and sector self-assessment guide concept
- EDES methodology and facilitation techniques
- Process analysis and diagnosis
- Audit and sampling plans in the context of self-monitoring
- Risk analysis
- Traceability in the context of self-assessment
- Preparation, distribution and the management of a sector self-assessment guide

ACTIVITIES – 7
5-DAY EDES/COLEACP TRAINING ON CAPACITY BUILDING IN SELF-ASSESSMENT METHODS AND GAP ANALYSIS PROCEDURES
Limuru, Kenya for English-speaking ACP experts, 28 NOV – 2nd DEC 2011

Themes covered included:
- The regulatory context and role of private operators
- Self-monitoring principles and sector self-assessment guide concept
- EDES methodology and facilitation techniques
- Process analysis and diagnosis
- Audit and sampling plans in the context of self-monitoring
- Risk analysis
- Traceability in the context of self-assessment
- Preparation, distribution and the management of a sector self-assessment guide

Workshop Organisation: Eight sections
1. Introduction, regulatory context and role of private operators
2. Self-monitoring principles and Sectoral Self-Assessment Guide concept
3. EDES methodologies and facilitation techniques
4. Process analysis and diagnosis
5. Audits and sampling plans in the context of self-monitoring
6. Risk analysis of the process
7. Traceability in the context of self-assessment
8. Preparing, distributing and managing a Sectoral Self-Assessment Guide

SCENES OF THE WORKING GROUP AT THE EDES/COLEACP TRAINING, KENYA
The workshop equipped our participants with skills to analyze SPS systems, build self-assessment guides and self-monitoring systems, and evaluate quality assurance systems among others.

ACTIVITIES – 8

TRAINING WORKSHOP ON ANTI COUNTERFEIT PESTICIDES

Quality Control Company of Ghana Cocoa Board, the implementer of the Ghanaian component of SPS Africa Cocoa Project deemed it right to equip the various players in the Cocoa industry with the requisite knowledge on counterfeit and illegal pesticides.

Participants were drawn from pesticide suppliers, pesticide dealers, farmer groups, Plant protection and Regulatory Services Division of Ministry Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana Standards Authority, Ghana Cocoa Board, Police, Customs, Immigration, the Bar and the Bench.

The workshop focused on issues such as:
- What pesticides are,
- How to read pesticide labels,
- The motivation for counterfeit and illegal pesticide trade,
- The consequences of counterfeit and illegal pesticide trade
- Usage and what one should look for on shipping documents covering pesticides.
- Factors which promote the entry of counterfeit pesticides into the pesticide market
- Suggested remedies for the weaknesses in the system
- Conclusion and recommendations

ONE OF THE PESTICIDES USED IN COCOA WAREHOUSES
PESTICIDE LABEL
- Fastrack label showing three panels

**PESTICIDE LABEL HAZARD CLASSIFICATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GROUP</th>
<th>COLOUR</th>
<th>INTERPRETATION</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ia</td>
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<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>BLUE</td>
<td>CAUTION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>GREEN</td>
<td>ACUTE HAZARD UNLIKELY IN NORMAL USE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF COUNTERFEIT AND ILLEGAL PESTICIDES

**Consequences for the consumers/buyers**
- Health risk.
- Arrest and detention.
- Loss of money.

**Consequences for the pesticide industry**
- Unfair competition: genuine products vs fake ones.
- It damages the image of the industry.
- Loss of confidence - customers.
- Arrest and detention.

**Consequences for the regulatory officers**
- Officers could be jailed if found to have allowed illegal products into the country.
- Loss of confidence in the regulatory officers.

ACTIONS TO SOLVE THESE WEAKNESSES

- Capacity building of all the stakeholders
- Awareness creation
- Strengthening institutional collaborations
- Purchase of pesticides from registered/reputable suppliers
- Intensification of surveillance

**ACTIONS TO SOLVE THESE WEAKNESSES**

- Periodic training of stakeholders
- Setting up court for pesticide related issues
- Development of technologies to avoid counterfeiting
- Incorporation of pesticide related policies in all the educational curricula
- In-house cleaning e.g. anti-counterfeit clauses in contracts
ACTIONS TO SOLVE THESE WEAKNESSES

- List of all pesticides in the country should be published.
- Pesticide formulations should have unique colors or texture.
- Vigilance by ensuring that pesticides have a proper label, registration number, expiration date, properly packaged and sealed.

CHALLENGES

The key challenge remains cash inflows to ensure that project activities are implemented as planned. Changes in the original project budget for Ghana have resulted in the project having to rely largely on internal funds for many of its activities.

CONCLUSION

The implementation of the planned activities of the project is on course. The NSC and PIC are committed to ensuring that all SPS Africa Cocoa Project objectives were met. The main challenge remains the timely release of all committed funds.

Thank you