PHYTOSANITARY SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT FOR THE VEGETABLE SECTOR IN GHANA

Locations
Ghana

Dates
01/05/2015 - 31/05/2019

Summary
Ghana’s vegetable sector has the potential to create 20,000 skilled jobs, and increase exports to the EU. But exports are hampered by quarantine pests. This project aims to improve the current system and develop a new organic supply chain by establishing an effective phytosanitary system, facilitating strategic alliances between importers and producers/exporters, and investing in technical expertise to help producers and exporters meet quality standards.

The problem
At nearly 40% of GDP, agriculture is the largest sector of Ghana’s economy. As a big part of this, the vegetable sector has the potential to create as many as 20,000 skilled jobs and increase exports to the EU. However, the Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate (PPRSD) are regularly notified by their European counterparts that quarantine pests are present on Ghana’s vegetable exports, leading to bans on certain exports and a loss in revenue to the country. Vegetable exports have therefore drastically declined because of the failures in food safety and phytosanitary issues.
What we are doing

This project aims to work with the entire supply to establish an effective SPS system. This public-private partnership builds on the existing phytosanitary system and aims to develop Ghana’s technical and organizational capacity for core phytosanitary competencies related to export.

To do this, CABI’s team will work to strengthen the responsible government institutions so that they can provide regulations, protocols and standard operating procedures. We are also setting up phytosanitary surveillance systems for the horticultural sector, and overcoming phytosanitary problems in the vegetable sector through Good Agricultural Practices in order to regain export markets in the UK and the Netherlands.

With partners, we plan to develop a new supply chain of organically certified produce from Ghana to Europe, and will do this by helping importers develop strategic alliances with producers and exporters in Ghana. Technical expertise in country (producers and exporters) will be enhanced to meet the quality standards required.

Results so far

Partnership agreements have been signed. The CABI team assisted the Export Task Force with an audit visit from the European Commission Directorate-General For Health And Food Safety (DG SANTE) and also contributed to responses to issues raised. These actions contributed to the lifting of the export ban on selected vegetables.

Field trials/demonstrations for the management of False Codling Moth, Thrips, White fly and Fruit fly were initiated at seven sites and we developed standard operating procedures for field production of selected vegetables. Pest surveillance equipment has been procured and seven packhouses have been identified to be upgraded or built.

Donors

Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Partners

Sunshine Organic Farms, Ghana Association of Vegetable Exporters (GAVEX), Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate (PPRSD) of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ghana

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https://www.cabi.org/what-we-do/cabi-projects/