



Zambia gears up for trade driven by a new national quality policy

Zambia's industry falls short of realizing its full export potential in global markets.

A fundamental reason for this is that its national quality infrastructure and its technical regulation regime are not harmonized with those of its trading partners. Zambia needs to upgrade both. In particular, and of most immediate concern, it needs to formulate a national quality policy (NQP) that can be integrated with a strengthened technical regulation regime.

UNIDO has set up a project, funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), to assist Zambia to develop and implement such a policy. Zambia's national quality policy (NQP) has now been approved by the Zambian Government, and UNIDO and the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry (MCTI) have developed an implementation plan to ensure that Zambian goods and services are designed, produced and supplied to meet the requirements of purchasers and consumers in local and export markets and satisfy their regulatory authorities.

The project is already taking important steps towards the implementation of this plan by:

- Assisting the MCTI to review the overall organizational framework for the national quality infrastructure, including the related legislation;
- Establishing a credible conformity assessment infrastructure;
- Upgrading the facilities of the Zambian Bureau of Standards (ZABS), the Zambia Weights and Measures Agency (ZWMA) and the Food and Drug Control Laboratory (FDA), with special emphasis on the food sector's ability to prove conformity.

The honey sector is a good example of the tangible benefits brought by this intervention. A capacity-building module for this sector is being finalized in cooperation with the Zambia Honey Council. With its abundant forest cover and local knowledge and skills, Zambia has an environment that

is highly conducive to bee keeping. Trade in honey and bee wax already provides up to 25% of annual income for tens of thousands of households in the country. The main beneficiaries are:

- The small growers who will be able to contribute to bulk products that are certified as conforming to standards;
- The large bulk packers and exporters who will have greater assurance of the quality of the end product.

The increased production of quality-certified Zambian honey will find ready markets in the United States and the European Union. This and similar initiatives to build its production capacity and demonstrate the conformance of its products with international standards will do much to ensure that Zambia is integrated into the multilateral trading system and its rich export potential is realized.

At a glance

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Project title	Joint UNIDO-WTO trade capacity-building programme framework for Zambia
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