



## BURUNDI:

### *Ensuring quality and sustainability along the coffee value chain*

#### Context

Burundi has a high potential in terms of production of agricultural products, especially coffee, thanks to its altitude, geographical situation and weather conditions. However, like most developing countries, the limited capacity of conformity assessment services related to food safety and quality along the value chains impact negatively on overall competitiveness.

#### Main approach

UNIDO is helping Burundi improve the performance of exports and facilitate the access of the local products to regional and international markets by strengthening the country's capacity to comply with sanitary and phytosanitary measures. The project uses a quality value chain approach to improve the quality of the products along the selected value chains and the capacity of the structures responsible to verify the quality required to access international markets.

The first component of the project addresses the need to strengthen the national quality infrastructure (standardization, inspection and testing) and its services. The second component uses training and the involvement of national and international expertise to enhance local organizational capacities and to build-up human capital at each level. The aim is to improve the quality of production and the competitiveness of the exported coffee.

#### Impact and results

The project will contribute to the creation of required conditions for sustainable growth in Burundi by training at least 1000 actors from different value chains, including at least 800 in the coffee sector; supporting at least 100 companies in targeted sectors, and five laboratories in

different technical fields; and by setting up at least three consortia.

At mid-term, there have already been several notable achievements showing an increasing national ownership: around 80 inspectors have been trained in ISO/IEC 17020 and market surveillance; over 100 executives have been sensitized on standardization and regulation; a pool of national experts on international food safety and environmental standards is available; 110 executives of processing units have been trained in quality and food safety; and two consortia, BUCOCO (48 containers already sold) and COCOCA, have been established and are operational in the coffee sector.

In addition, institutional support is being provided to the organized private sector. The project also supports Intercafe, an inter-professional coffee trade association, in increasing the number of coffee testers and supports the participation of local producers in international competitions. By identifying Burundian fine-quality coffee with high potential for export and for sale at higher prices the project helps bring in extra earnings to small producers, including women entrepreneurs.

#### *At a glance*

Project title: Trade Capacity Building in Burundi- Renforcement des capacités commerciales du Burundi
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