

Continental Strategy for Geographical Indications in Africa

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Introduction: Why a continental strategy for GIs in Africa (1/3)

Africa has an immense pool of traditional products with important economic, social and environmental impact

A few examples:

- **Kilishi in Niger, Cameroon, Nigeria**
- **Madd (tropical forestry fruit), honey, Yett in Senegal)**
- **Pineapple in Benin**
- **Dilhe spitulana algae in Chad**

Introduction: Why a continental strategy for GIs in Africa (2/3)

GI is more than intellectual property tool: it is a driver for more sustainable food systems by addressing sustainable development issues in relation with :

- **Economic local development:** empowerment of small holders and women, market access and added value, local economic development promotion,
- **Preservation of the environment, of biodiversity and of traditional culture and diet.**

GIs play an important role in rural and economic development as well as food security and nutrition of the continent.

Introduction: Why a continental strategy for GIs in Africa (3/3)

3 GIs contribute to different agendas and programs for Africa related to the agricultural sector development:



- In particular to the UN sustainable development goals
- The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and to the Malabo Declaration endorsed by the African Union Assembly.
- The Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

The continental strategy for GIs in Africa

- The continental strategy process relies on the involvement of key African players, at continental and regional levels, among which the African Union member States and the regional organizations specialized in GIs, OAPI and ARIPO.
- The document "*A continental strategy for Geographical Indications in Africa*" was endorsed by the Second Ordinary session of the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development Water and Environment in October 2017; the 5th AU-EU Summit 2017; the 3rd AU-EU; CAADP PP 2018 & Ministers of Agriculture Conference
- FAO is an important partner of the African Union for the elaboration of the Continental strategy as well as the European Commission and WIPO.

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Agriculture, our future-promoting sustainable regional agricultural value chains”



An AU-EU Political Declaration

- Reconfirmed commitments made at the AU-EU Summit of 29-30 November 2017.
- Reiterated the support for CAADP implementation to promote Africa's agricultural production and productivity, with due attention to the environmental and social dimensions of sustainability, as well as build agribusiness and agricultural value chains.

Implementation of the Geographical Indications' Continental Strategy

- Stimulating Regional and Continental Sustainable Value Chains
- Enhanced cooperation on the Action plan for the implementation of the AU GI Continental Strategy. Cooperation on inclusive and sustainable value chains (particularly focusing on smallholder farmers) and including attention to IP through:
 - The Africa GI training programme
 - The Africa GI web platform
 - Support to concrete GI pilot projects

The six outcomes of the continental strategy for GIs in Africa (1/2)

- **Outcome 1:** an African vision on GIs as a tool contributing to sustainable rural development and food security and a GI African approach are developed and shared.
- **Outcome 2:** Enabling a legal and institutional framework at the national and regional levels for the protection of GIs
- **Outcome 3:** the development and registration of GI products as pilots and drivers for rural and sustainable development are supported, to provide learning and demonstrative effects.

The six outcomes of the continental strategy for Gis in Africa (2/2)

- **Outcome 4:** market development for GI products is promoted through innovative approaches on local markets, through regional trade among the RECs and on export markets.
- **Outcome 5:** research, training programs and extension are encouraged to ensure the identification, development and diffusion of the best African tailored practices and to contribute to the African approach, in a context of climate change.
- **Outcome 6:** awareness of all stakeholders, including consumers, is created, communication among stakeholders and information to a wider audience are insured.

Follow up (1)

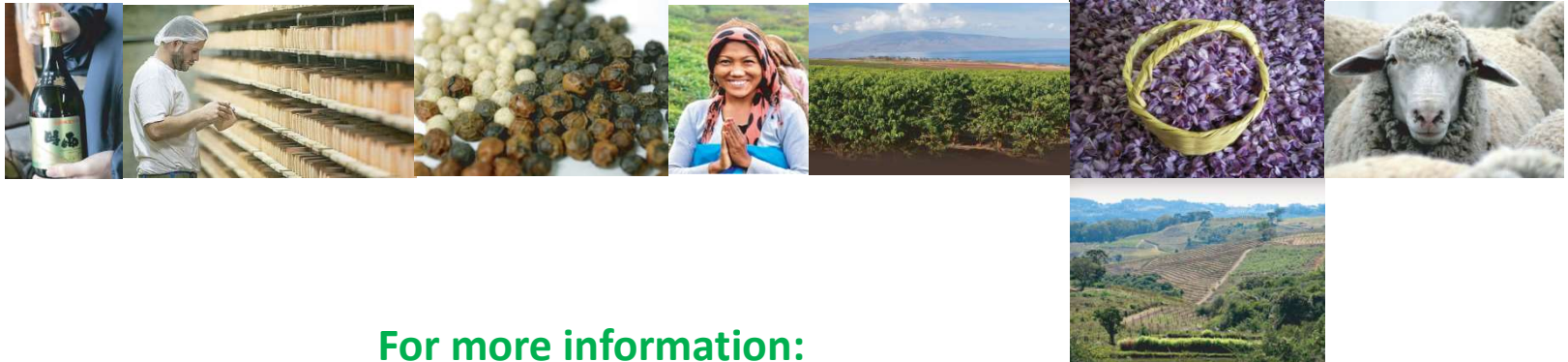
- **An action plan for the implementation of the strategy was discussed between African Union, OAPI, ARIPO, European Commission, FAO, WIPO and AFD in 2018 and 2019 and agreed on;**
 - 1. Information and coordination; Consultative committee meetings organized to discuss GI activities in Africa, and the develop a website/platform**
 - 2. Strengthening capacity to identify, develop, protect, promote and enforce the development of GI-value chains; organization of trainings on GIs in Africa and also the develop pilot GIs in Africa aimed at strengthening the practical expertise**

Follow up (2)

3. Research programs for innovative and tailored approaches for Africa to support the implementation of GIs in Africa. thematic areas will be defined

4. Awareness raising and communication strategies to promote and include efficient and sustainable use of GI in public policy and to promote a better understanding of their benefits by consumers and the public at large; workshops, seminars, exhibitions etc.

Thank you for your
attention!



For more information:

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