SECTORIAL SELF-ASSESSMENT GUIDE (SSAG) FOR THE
FRENCH BEANS AND SNOW PEAS
SECTOR IN KENYA
WHAT IS EDES?

EDES is a European Union-African-Caribbean and Pacific (EU-ACP) funded programme to support poverty reduction through economic empowerment within a global framework. It is funded under EDF9 for the period 2010-2014.

Launched in 2010, EDES is a cooperation programme managed by COLEACP (Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee) in collaboration with a consortium of European organisations specialising in food safety. The programme is implemented at the request of the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) Group of States, and funded by European Union (€29.5 million/4 years) in order to support ACP exports sustainably.

WHAT IS THE OBJECTIVE OF EDES?

To secure the flow of food products of animal and plant origin towards the EU or between ACP regions and internationally. EDES aims at strengthening the sanitary and phytosanitary systems of ACP countries.

HOW IS EDES WORKING?

EDES focuses on promoting interactions between public authorities at the national level and food business operators in both plant and animal production sectors. Special attention is given to the specific needs of vulnerable groups (small scale producers, farmers and fishermen) so as to contribute to the goals of poverty reduction while at the same time enhancing access to safe food.

WHAT IS THE SCOPE OF THE PROGRAMME?

The programme intervenes in both raw and processed food products. It promotes the setting up of a national risk assessment framework as a basis of the establishment of an efficient sanitary and phytosanitary control system. Public and private sector operators will have the capacity and resources to assess that all food sectors from production to consumption are safe.

WHY FRENCH BEANS AND SNOW PEAS?

Kenya’s horticulture is estimated to be valued at Kshs. 200 billion, with horticultural exports for 2011 valued at over Kshs. 91 billion, mostly to the EU. Trade of high-value crops from Kenya to the EU, especially French beans and Snow peas provide a lucrative market for small-scale growers, providing opportunities for market access to horticultural producers’ as well as rural economic development.
FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY STANDARDS (WHAT IS HAPPENING?)

- Non-compliance with market requirements resulting in interception of produce in the international market.
- Emerging issues related to constant change in MRLs, new EU regulations on pesticide and conformity of fruits and vegetables have made it necessary to have in-depth analysis of our systems.
- Domestically, incidences of food poisoning and increase in cancer incidence have brought extra considerations on issues of food safety.

WHAT IS A SELF-ASSESSMENT SYSTEM (SAS)?

A set of measures to be applied by the operator to ensure that at every stage, production, harvesting, transport, packaging, processing and distribution the product meet regulatory and markets food safety quality and traceability requirements for French beans and Snow peas.

To develop, this will require a number of stakeholders in the value chain – government bodies, private bodies, growers and exporters.

BASIS OF SELF-ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

- Internal and external verification system;
- Each operator verifies their own practices at all stages with regard to compliance to requirements;
- Verification identifies any dysfunction, documents non-compliance at each step;
- Compliance proves that food safety requirements are met.

ADVANTAGES OF A SELF-ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

- Put all the Snow peas and French beans business operators on the same level of safety and quality requirements hence protecting the sector;
- Operators recognized;
- Boost consumer and customer confidence;
- Strengthen market confidence;
- Improve transparency;
- Could be an alternative to the numerous private certifications.

RATIONALE FOR A SELF-ASSESSMENT GUIDE (SAG)

Access to safe food is a right of each individual and consumers are worried about their safety. Food safety issues have in the recent past become important area of concern both nationally and internationally.

The SAG will ensure reduction in the cost of official controls: provide better information to the Competent Authority concerning risks and management measures applied in the French beans and Snow peas sector.

Better targeted, more efficient and less costly.

Strengthened public-private dialogue.
WHO IS INVOLVED IN DEVELOPMENT OF THE SAG?

All stakeholders in the French beans and Snow peas business in Kenya namely; growers, traders exporters, transporters and service providers. These are represented by Ministry of Agriculture, KEPHIS, PCPB, KEBS, HCDA, UON, JKUAT, FPEAK, exporters and processors.

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