

BioInnovation Africa Information Session

Subject: Monitoring BIA partnerships – assessing BioTrade compliance and project indicators

Date: Thursday, 03/09/2020

Time: 13:30 – 15:00 CET

Discussion points

General monitoring approach

- How to address the cases where national ABS regulations are still unclear, respectively under discussion?
 - The BIA team is very much aware that ABS is a moving target, especially in three of the four BIA countries.
 - BIA is working very closely with the National ABS Focal Points (NFP), who have given their general consent to the BIA partnerships. In addition, BIA has foreseen to further discuss each Value Chain in detail with the local authorities to trigger as much understanding and do as much “ground work” as possible.
- When will BIA engage with the companies? It needs to be considered that the process needs more planning if the cultivation is done by local producers, often acting in remote areas.
 - This will be decided on a bilateral level. However, BIA will follow the most practical approach, also reflecting the current restrictions due to Covid-19.
- Can BIA already say who the local experts conducting the monitoring will be?
 - The selection of the local monitoring experts depends on the country and the according resource. BIA/UEBT will inform the partners in due time.
- Will nurseries be included in the field assessment?
 - Yes.
- Will CITES regulations be considered in the monitoring?
 - The UEFT field check list, which is basis for the field monitoring, does reflect these points.

Monitoring results and use of the data / result

- Is it correct to say that the monitoring will not be about grading but should be seen as incentive for improvement?
 - There is grading but a project will not be qualified or disqualified based on the findings.
 - The grading will be done based on the UEFT Field Check List. A scoring system is used to quantify the results of the assessment.
- What will be done with the results?
 - Results will only be shared with the partners involved in the assessment.

- Accumulated data will serve as proof for commitment to the BioTrade Standard and reported to the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) (BIA project donor) for project monitoring purposes.
- What do we expect from the private sector partners?
 - The BIA project team will reach out to the local partners and discuss the process for each project individually. The team appreciated your cooperation in providing data and supporting the monitoring process.

Partnership documentation and exchange

- Would it be possible to get a mapping of the BIA partnerships?
 - BIA would like to report on our partnerships while respecting requests for confidentiality.
 - As one of the next steps the BIA team will address each partner to ask for approval for the sharing of the basic information. BIA appreciates the suggestion and will produce a visualization of the partnerships.
 - Information shall be shared with all partners, in addition it is planned to publish information on the partnerships on the new BIA website, which will be launched in the end of this year.
- Will there be further exchanges within this group?
 - BIA is happy to organize further exchanges if there is interest by the participants.
 - Partners are invited to express their interest and demand on specific topics that should be addressed.