

PROMOTING LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES TO ENHANCE TRADE IN MALI

The National Implementation Unit of the Enhanced Integrated Framework Programme for Trade (EIF) established by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in Mali is analysing the feasibility to promote the establishment of territorial services such as LEDAs in the territories where its activities are ongoing.

This initiative was announced in the World Conference of the LEDAs realized in the KIP Pavilion during the EXPO Milan 2015.

In June 2015 the EIF National Implementation Unit of Mali realized an exhibition in the KIP Pavilion at Expo 2015 to present strategies and results in supporting the development of small enterprises through inter-sectorial activities of agro-industry trade.



Exhibiting their project in the KIP Pavilion has enabled the Mali delegation to establish interesting contacts with institutional and private sector organizations and the experiences of the Local Economic Agencies (LEDAs) ongoing in different countries.

During the LEDAs World Conference, carried on in the Expo KIP Pavilion in September 2015, the delegation of Mali has established further exchange of knowledge with the LEDAs representatives and ILS LEDA Programme, in view of the development of operational partnerships for the future.

EIF is a multi-donor programme promoted by six multilateral agencies (World Bank, UNCTAD, ITC, IMFWTO and UNDP) with the management support of UNOPS, that supports Least Developed Countries to be more active players in the global trading system by helping them tackle supply-side constraints to trade. In this way, the programme works towards a wider goal of promoting economic growth and sustainable development.

Based on the number of people from small producers and rural women who are engaged in the sectors, the



EIF Mali has been supporting private and existing local community initiatives in non-traditional agricultural sectors like mango, shea butter, gum Arabic and related sub-products. Besides creating employment for young people and women, the initiative aims also to provide a development model based on the processing of local products while respecting local knowledge.

In this framework, the National Implementation Unit considered that territorial centres such as the Local Economic Development Agencies could provide a set of comprehensive services aimed at strengthening the economic initiatives of small producers, and building a contest in favour of the international marketing of local products.

During October and November 2015, a joint work has been realized between the National Implementation Unit, ILS LEDA and IDEASS, in order to design a strategy to implement territorial services such as the LEDAs in four regions of Mali and two Bamako Districts. The strategy includes the implementation of twinning between the LEDAs created in Mali and the LEDAs operating in other countries and in the European regions, to facilitate knowledge exchanges and joint commercial and economic projects of

common interest. The proposal also includes a relevant component regarding the exchanges of innovative technologies and methodologies with the aim of improving the sustainable use of the territorial resources.

The project proposal is actually used by the National Implementation Unit of the Ministry for Commerce and Industry to consult donors and international organizations potentially interested to participate.

