
Press release: Embargoed until 16.45 CET 08.07.2013

Netherlands contributes EUR 6 million to ITC for export-led job creation

(Geneva, Switzerland) A new EUR 6 million programme signed today will boost the export competitiveness of hundreds of companies in developing countries over four years, generating more stable income and helping to create new jobs. The [International Trade Centre \(ITC\)](#) and the [Netherlands' Centre for the Promotion of Imports from developing countries \(CBI\)](#) launched the third phase of the [Netherlands Trust Fund \(NTF\) programme](#) in the presence of Ms. Lilianne Ploumen, the Dutch Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation.

NTF III follows on the NTF II programme which resulted in development of key export sectors and increased competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Bangladesh, Kenya, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda. The Bangladesh project, for example, enabled 16 of the 40 selected information-technology (IT) companies to sign contracts, most of which consisted of repeat business. ITC works with the countries to implement the projects, while CBI and ITC jointly ensure quality, monitor the results and align programmes.

The NTF III partnership agreement was signed by Mr. Jean-Marie Paugam, Acting Executive Director of ITC, and Mr. Hans Klunder, Managing Director of CBI, at the [Fourth Global Review of Aid for Trade](#) at the World Trade Organization's headquarters in Geneva.

Mr. Paugam said: 'Today's agreement marks another milestone in ITC's long-lasting cooperation with CBI and the Dutch government to develop state-of-the-art Aid for Trade programs. But more importantly, it allows CBI and ITC to continue our joint efforts in ensuring that more developing-country exporters become competitive and are linked to global value chains.'

Mr. Klunder said: 'The new agreement shows the dedication of two Aid for Trade organizations to act as one donor. Together ITC and CBI bring in complementary expertise to achieve maximum impact by offering customized solutions to enable SME exporters and support organizations to become self-reliant in removing bottlenecks and grasping market opportunities.'

The third phase of the NTF programme, set to begin later this year, aims to build sustainable increases in export competitiveness in selected countries to support job creation and higher income for workers, and to strengthen the economic empowerment of women and youth. NTF III will focus on improving value chains, reducing poverty and creating food security in line with Dutch development priorities.

The new programme will retain some of the countries that benefitted from NTF II based on an assessment of results, the quality of existing relationships and the needs of the countries. A maximum of five countries will be selected based on criteria including the quality and commitment of institutions; compatibility with ITC, CBI and Dutch areas of intervention; priority sectors; and potential for growth in regional trade.

CBI is an agency of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was established in 1971. CBI's mission is to contribute to sustainable economic development in developing countries through the expansion of exports from these countries. CBI operates on the intersection of capitalizing on European market opportunities and creating sustainable development. CBI coaches SME producers and exporters in developing countries to better integrate into global value chains and gain a stronger position on European markets, and matches SMEs with importers in Europe; improves the performance of business support organizations in developing countries to better service SMEs in their countries; and advises local governments on market developments and opportunities and trade policies.

ITC is the joint agency of the WTO and the United Nations. ITC assists small- and medium-sized enterprises in developing and transition economy countries to become more competitive in global markets, contributing to sustainable economic development within the frameworks of the [Aid for Trade](#) agenda and the [Millennium Development Goals](#).

Contact ITC:
Jarle Hetland
Media Officer
P: +41 22 730 0145
E: hetland@intracen.org

Contact CBI:
CBI Marketing and Communication
P: +31 88 602 1152
E: mharting@cbi.eu