The NTF II Steering Group and Executive Committee met in The Hague on 27 March 2012. The meetings are organised at the beginning of each year to take stock of progress and discuss the programme’s strategic direction for the current year (i.e., year 2012).

In the Steering Group, ITC and CBI project teams and their respective Directors discussed the NTF II Consolidated Progress Report for the second half of 2011, and the consolidated Annual Plan 2012. The Steering Group was satisfied with the progress achieved so far by the programme and recommended strategic interventions in April / May in Bangladesh, Kenya, and Senegal focusing on sustainability aspects and intensified collaboration with partner organisations. The Steering Group also decided to visit Kenya and Uganda early June to meet and discuss programme achievements and impact at field level with key partners and stakeholders.

**Bangladesh in the limelight at CEBIT 2012**

More than 20 IT companies from Dhaka exhibited and met with potential clients and partners at the 6-10 March Centre for Office and Information Technology (CeBIT) 2012 Trade Show in Hannover, Germany.

**Gap Analysis Tool Helps Evaluate Export Readiness**

The Gap Analysis tool was used to assess the export readiness of 25 South African businesses during a March workshop organised by ITC and the Durban Automotive Cluster to discuss implementing the NTF II project.

**Rooibos Tea Producers Set Strategic Plan In Motion**

Rooibos tea industry leaders agreed to develop a strategic plan for South Africa’s Rooibos Council that will guide the sector’s development, including export diversification efforts, and to seek new markets.
4 Cs training

Future trainers learned about the importance of ensuring sustainable export competitiveness during a 14-16 March workshop organised by ITC and Uganda's National Union of Coffee Agribusinesses and Farm Enterprises (NUCAFE). More info

Farm Associations Build Knowledge

Leaders of six Ugandan farming associations identified problems confronting coffee producers and proposed solutions during a two-day training session in Masaka last month. More info

Upcoming Events

Uganda

Workshop on NUCAFE Institutional Development
Validation workshop of the Coffee National export strategy
Training session for financial counsellors

Senegal

Training on quality
Training on marketing
Management mission