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International  
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GOUVERNEMENT DE GUINEE



EUROPEAN UNION

## INTEGRA NEWS FLASH

Issue #5

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**ITC affirms need for Guinea's SME Industrial Development Fund (FODIP) to improve trade opportunities for small businesses**



In the continued bid to develop the nation's industrial sectors the Prime Minister of Guinea, Mr. Ibrahima Fofana has launched an Industrial Development Fund targeting SMES in the country. The fund will mobilise public and private resources to promote industrial development.

During the launch ITC's Chief of the Office for Africa, Ruben Phoolchund, reiterated the organisation's goal to create jobs and business opportunities for the most vulnerable to increase and improve trade in the country. Through the

INTEGRA project, ITC aims to create access to 3000 jobs by generating employment and business opportunities. “The programme will strengthen the entrepreneurial skills and offer financial guidance to Guinea's youth,” said Mr. Phoolchund.

The SME Industrial Development Fund is led by the Ministry of Industry, Small and Medium Enterprises and will target SMES using resources at the national and international level.



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## Chalco Guinea Company SA taps into youth workforce in Boffa



A key contributor to the development of Boffa is the town's mining industry. Locally based Bauxite ore mine Chalco Guinea Company S.A, met with ITC to discuss a potential partnership aimed at engaging local youth by means of employment.

ITC highlighted the need for youth in Boffa to secure sustainable work opportunities at firms such as Chalco Guinea Company. Young workers will utilise the skills gained in vocational trainings and advance their respective small

businesses. “Our company wants to promote local youth from Boffa and reinforce micro, small and medium-size enterprises in the area through potential subcontracting opportunities,” said Souleymane Diallo, Training Leader at Chalco Guinea Company.

With the growing number of mining companies setting up, local youth stand to benefit from increased employment and business opportunities.



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## ITC and the African Development Bank (AfDB) collaborate to develop Guinean agricultural sector



Project leaders from ITC’s INTEGRA programme held a working session to identify possible areas of collaboration in the agricultural sector with the African Development Bank. With a focus on their areas of expertise, representatives agreed to create an institutional framework to support agricultural transformation for local cooperatives and the sector at large.



Encouraging privatisation efforts in agriculture was noted as a shared goal for project outputs in each organisation. Both parties agreed to exchange documents and chart a way forward.



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## ITC holds roundtable to discuss bottlenecks in tourism industry



As a potential employer of youth interested in the services industry, ITC engaged Guinea's primary stakeholders in the tourism and hospitality sector. The meeting sought to identify areas that may benefit from support, as well as gain a better understanding of the current environment.

The roundtable highlighted poor communication with local communities, underdeveloped training guides, limited accommodation spaces and lack of maintenance for tourist sites as the primary problems of the lagging industry.

Following the insight received, the INTEGRA project will work towards strengthening the technical and professional capacities of the country's tourism institutions. Guiding these bodies towards developing a global development policy to ensure an improved strategic approach in the sector.



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## SMEs advance in food drying techniques



Known as the hub of potato produce in Guinea, the city of Pita is located in the mountainous region of the Fouta-Djalón. ITC took 40 young agropreneurs through a dual training to equip participants with technical and professional skills.

Small business owners gained an understanding in the intricate processes involved in drying agro-food products as well as the manufacturing method of the semi-industrial solar dryer. The solar drying system provides a sustainable approach in food processing for SMEs, by using the sun's energy instead of fossil fuel resources to produce dried agro-foods.

The budding agropreneurs also took part in personal development sessions with a focus on providing the young business owners with improved self-confidence and esteem. These sessions are key to ensuring resilience as the small business owners seek to establish and grow their enterprises.





## “Take charge of your success!” youth told at inaugural training in Boffa



Shortly after the launch of the Waliyetebe Incubator, local youth attending took part in the centre’s first training activity. The training focused on progressing the personal development of the striving entrepreneurs placing a focus on continually challenging themselves to surpass their current achievements.

50 participants were encouraged to explore their full potential by identifying their strengths and weaknesses with the aim of gaining employment or establishing a business. “The workshop’s aim is to equip Boffa’s youth with the confidence to challenge themselves and achieve self-sufficiency,” said Thomas Bechmann, ITC Head of Entrepreneurship for the INTEGRA project.

The incubator will prepare local youth to run businesses and provide entrepreneurial support services.



## Ensuring quality for food products headed for export



ITC's INTEGRA programme took 30 entrepreneurs from quality institutions through an intensive training on safety and sanitary quality of food products. The four-day training of trainers sought to improve their understanding on product competitiveness and improving access to market opportunities.

“This training has given me useful tips to increase efficiency with both my colleagues and my employees. I intend to implement all I have learned into my existing business operations,” said Hawa Bah a local business owner.

Following the training, ITC has identified pool of quality experts set to be deployed and train entrepreneurs in Siguiiri and Mamou. The INTEGRA programme is working towards improving the quality and food safety awareness

of 500 small and medium-sized enterprises interested in the export of food products.



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## Up next:

[21 October to 01 November 2019](#) – Youth learn the importance of market research for their businesses

[6 to 7 November 2019](#) – Workshop gathering feedback on countrywide ICT Mapping

[November 2019](#) – Quality and food safety training in Mamou and Siguiri

[November 2019](#) – National training institutions receive capacity building trainings

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