The United Kingdom Trade Partnerships Programme (UKTP) is working with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to increase trade between these countries and the United Kingdom and the European Union. The programme is highly relevant for countries facing market shocks and global recession related to the COVID-19 health crisis.

The project in Mauritius is set to improve the overall accessibility and transparency in trade intelligence. This enables policymakers and government officials to monitor national trade performance and enhance trade policy design. They will be able to collect inputs for the preparation of economic recovery plans and disseminate emergency support measures. Moreover, with increased capacity and new value-adding services, local trade and investment support institutions will be empowered to better assist Mauritian economic operators in utilizing preferences under the EPA.

*2019 data on trademap.og
**exportpotential.intracen.org

MAURITIUS

160 million USD of exports to the UK*

111.7 million USD of untapped export potential**
BRIDGING THE INFORMATION GAP

Companies need timely information on market opportunities and conditions to take strategic business decisions and realize their growth potential.

Trade data collection

ITC’s trade intelligence intervention will address existing data gaps and build the capacity of institutions to update this information through customized tools and trainings. These trainings will improve the skills of national authorities in creating, handling and disseminating trade data. The project will put in place systems for the centralization and publication of trade information, and its integration into existing online solutions such as ITC’s Market Analysis Tools. Additionally, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, temporary export and import measures disrupting target markets are being tracked.

Strengthening capacities

ITC will conduct a modular training programme to improve awareness and understanding of market access conditions and preferential access via the EPA. It will cover market analysis, the opportunities associated with the EPA, and the identification of new markets and products that could be exported to the UK/EU. This way countries can anticipate demand swings and growth potential. The training programme will primarily cater to the needs of government officials and trade support institutions, who will employ the relevant market analysis and trade policy skills to advise firms, especially MSMEs.

ESTABLISHING MECHANISMS TO IDENTIFY & MONITOR THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

ITC will support institutions on strengthening and setting up relevant mechanisms to take stock of the business environment.

Business survey

Following ITC’s well established methodology, a business survey aims to evaluate the experiences of importing and exporting firms in Mauritius, and to document the diverse challenges they face in reaching their target markets. It will identify the regulatory and procedural impediments at the national level that companies face when trying to meet the requirements of the EU/UK markets. Furthermore, the survey will take into account the obstacles related to temporary measures put in place.

Monitoring mechanism

To keep up-to-date with evolving regulatory and procedural conditions, a regional monitoring mechanism should bring to light firm-level concerns to relevant policy makers. This mechanism will build the capacity of relevant ministries to identify, monitor and address trade impediments that arise, including both established and temporary measures. It will raise private sector awareness regarding the prevalence of non-tariff measures and trade-related obstacles. In addition, governments will be able to use ePing, the WTO notifications system to inform and prompt dialogue with the private sector on regulatory changes.

ACHIEVEMENTS & RESULTS

This project is expected to increase Mauritian exports to the UK and EU markets resulting in increased generation of foreign currency for the country. Stronger businesses create better jobs and in turn contribute to the fight against poverty.

Through increased trade and investment, the programme therefore supports the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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