

IP4GROWTH – Enhancing Intellectual Property Capacities for Agricultural Development

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Contribution to agricultural and socio-economic development of west African countries through Intellectual Property management applied to agriculture and use of Geographic Indications (GIs). This has resulted in increased knowledge and capacities of HEI academics on the application of these knowledge-based tools and raised awareness of the utility of GIs to protect key products and improve competitiveness. As a result there is increased cooperation between rural communities, HEIs and national IP offices.

BACKGROUND

West African countries face particular challenges when it comes to agricultural innovation, structured practices, trade policy or Intellectual Property (IP) management. The target countries are characterised by a heavy dependence on natural resources, exposure to climate hazards and undiversified small economies with high levels of poverty, and political fragility. This has a negative effect on successful integration and competitiveness and undermines the role of agriculture in development, growth and employment.

IP4GROWTH has targeted these issues by strengthening Higher Education Institutions' (HEIs) capacities in IP management, and by fostering relationships between HEIs, national IP offices and rural communities. The overall aim was to stimulate rural development through the increased use of IP rights in agriculture.

METHODOLOGY

Comparative needs analysis and market diagnosis

Analysis carried out upon a benchmarking, comparative, basis to facilitate HEIs' awareness and openness to new ideas, methods and practices. It also determined the basis for discussions with stakeholders and impact at the policy level. The methodology used was based on the AIDA method (Attention, Interest, Desire and Action; widely used in marketing), adapted to international projects

focused on IP management in HEIs and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Capacity building and training

Training of HEI staff by means of tailor-made modules in IP management and agriculture to gain insight and ability to replicate trainings to benefit students, researchers and other stakeholders and HEIs.

Knowledge transfer

Provide the target groups with efficient and integral Info-service (website, paper-based resources, helpline point) for improving knowledge on IP for agricultural development. Collection of reference documents, guides and resources to improve their understanding and skills in IP management.

Dissemination and networking

Dialogue with stakeholders to stimulate discussion for improving IP management practices in HEIs and the promotion of activities, results and outputs.

Community engagement

Linking IP management for agricultural growth with the particular needs of the local farming communities.



Round Table on the practical aspects of implementation of Geographic Indications, Regional Conference, Abidjan, Ivory Coast (September 2017).

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

October 2013 - October 2016

CONSORTIUM

- Universidad de Alicante (UA), Spain
- Queen Mary and Westfield College (QMUL), University of London, United Kingdom
- Université Ouaga 2 (UO2), Burkina Faso
- Université Felix Houphouët Boigny de Cocody (UFHB), Ivory Coast
- Université de Thiès (UT), Senegal

Associated partners:

- Organisation Africaine de la Propriété Intellectuelle (OAPI), Cameroon
- Réseau des organisations paysannes et des producteurs agricoles de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (ROPPA), Burkina Faso

PROJECT CONTACT

University of Alicante
International Project Management Office
Tel: +34 965 909718
E-mail: project.management@ua.es
Website: www.ua.es, www.opgi.ua.es

PROJECT WEBSITE

<http://www.ip4growth.eu/>



RESULTS

→ Outputs

Capacity building

- 255 people trained in Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) applied to Research and Agriculture:
 - 3 training modules for partner academics.
 - 9 replication seminars for academics from partner institutions and neighbouring universities, NGOs, small businesses and members of rural associations, with the support of national IP offices.

Awareness raising

- 16 rural agricultural and artisanal communities visited to identify potential products that could be protected as GIs.
- 3 informative sessions on GIs for farmers and artisans in rural communities to identify products that could be protected as GIs and provide guidance on the steps to take.
- 1 regional conference on IP for Agricultural Development – with academics, national IP offices, rural communities, agricultural associations, NGOs, students and policy makers from Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast and Senegal.

Documents

- 2 informative brochures on GIs (French)
- 2 guidelines (English and French):
 - Intellectual Property Management – A Guide to Relevant Aspects.
 - Intellectual Property Management in West Africa – Guide for Agricultural Development through use of Geographical Indications in Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast and Senegal.

↑ Outcomes

- Increased knowledge on IP rights applied to the agricultural sector (GIs)
- Awareness on IP rights mechanisms to obtain GIs
- National IP offices, HEIs and rural communities better integrated to achieve added value of agricultural products via IP rights.

🎯 Impacts

Usage

- Researchers at the Institut CIRES of the Université Félix Houphouët Boigny are continuing to work with rural artisanal communities in Ivory Coast on the potential impact of GIs.
- Professors at Université Ouaga II and Université de Thiès have modified the content of their courses to better incorporate the knowledge acquired on IP for Agriculture.

Policy implications

- The relationships developed between the HEIs, national IP offices and OAPI will

provide expertise in Intellectual Property Rights related to agriculture and inform policies and provide support for the identification and protection of products.

Sustainability

- The relationships established with national stakeholders and the rural communities they worked with will serve as a strong basis for future initiatives in this field, and partners are searching for the best mechanism to continue these collaborations.



Meeting with artisans to discuss possibility of protecting Ivory Coast Toiles de Korhogo as Geographical Indications.



Chapeau de Saponé, product of Burkina Faso that could potentially be protected as a Geographical Indication.

TESTIMONIAL



Dr. Serigne Modou Sarr,
l'Institut Supérieur de
Formations Agricole et
Rurale, Université de
Thiès, Senegal

« Nous avons constaté que beaucoup de producteurs ignorent les notions d'indicateurs géographiques ou de la propriété intellectuelle. Ils ne connaissent pas les démarches leur permettant de protéger leurs produits contre le piratage ou la contrefaçon. Les formations reçues peuvent contribuer efficacement à l'amélioration des compétences des communautés locales par le biais des formations et de partage d'informations. »

ACP-EU Co-Operation Programmes in the fields of Higher Education and Science, Technology and Research

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