

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/TBT/W/247
3 November 2004

(04-4674)

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: English

TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF STANDARDS AND TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

Communication from Switzerland

The following communication, dated 1 November 2004, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Switzerland.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Swiss programme of technical cooperation in the field of standards and technical regulations aims at supporting developing countries and transition economies in effectively benefiting from market access opportunities in the world trading system by assisting them in meeting the requirements of international markets.
2. Assistance is provided mainly to Small and Medium-Size Enterprises (SMEs), which should be made aware of standards for export and their capacities enhanced to adopt quality standards that will increase their competitiveness. SMEs are thus placed in a position to comply with standards requirements in international markets.
3. Environmental and social product qualities, as well as specific production methods, are increasingly being requested in international markets. Developing countries, however, often lack the capacity to adjust their production to these demands. Issues related to compliance with environmental and social requirements are therefore a key component of the Swiss programme of technical cooperation. In this domain, Switzerland actively supports efforts by developing countries to acquire the relevant technology and cope with international standards.
4. Since the Doha Ministerial Conference in November 2001, the Swiss programme of technical cooperation in the field of standards and technical regulations has been further strengthened and expanded to address the importance of having sound and efficient standard-related institutions, such as standardization, accreditation, and conformity assessment bodies, including certification agencies, metrology and testing laboratories.
5. The present communication describes the overall approach of Switzerland in the field of standards and technical regulations in a broad sense. It encompasses not only TBT-related standards, but also SPS measures and even non-governmental labels, provided that these are relevant in international trade.

II. STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS

6. The Swiss programme of technical cooperation focuses its interventions on four broad areas:

- Facilitating access to information on market opportunities and standards requirements;
- transferring technical knowledge in order to facilitate adoption and implementation of international standards as well as compliance with them (e.g. providing access to respective certification);
- strengthening the technical and institutional infrastructure as well as the regulatory framework in the area of standards and technical regulations; and
- promoting fair-trade and environment-friendly labels in the Swiss market.

III. GENERAL APPROACH

7. In order to make the best use of the limited resources available, Switzerland has adopted a two-way approach with respect to standard-related technical assistance:

(a) Working with international institutions at the multilateral level

8. Switzerland finances activities of specialized international organizations, which can provide assistance to a broad number of countries. Such support is often co-financed with other donors. Examples of such an approach include work with commodity-related organizations (ITTO, ICO), as well as with UNCTAD (Biotrade), WTO, UNIDO (metrology and testing), and the ISO.

(b) Development and implementation of selected bilateral projects

9. In selected countries, where Switzerland implements programmes of trade-related technical cooperation, targeted standard-related projects are being developed and implemented. Such projects should take account of the following principles:

- Focus on economic sectors with significant export and poverty reduction potentials;
- transfer of technical knowledge at the local level in order to reduce the dependency on foreign conformity assessment providers;
- promotion of regional cooperation; and
- support improvement of the governance management of national standardization bodies.

IV. MAIN MEASURES

10. *The Swiss Import Promotion Programme* - SIPPO - was launched in 1982 to support SMEs in selected developing countries¹ in gaining access to the Swiss and EU markets. SIPPO is active on four levels: trade and market information; trade promotion; trade development; training. On market information, SIPPO establishes market surveys in various areas of products and core business sectors. The aim of providing this information is to familiarize SMEs in developing countries with European standards, quality requirements and import regulations, such as customs regulations and charges.

11. *In the field of commodities* - As a general approach, Switzerland promotes the vertical and horizontal diversification of commodity dependent economies. At the same time, since the export of raw materials still amounts to the biggest component of many developing countries' trade, assistance is provided to developing countries to produce commodities sourced in a sustainable way. As in the case of processed goods, even in trade of raw material, namely in agriculture commodities such as

¹ Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Vietnam, Peru, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Russia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Egypt, Ghana, South Africa, Ecuador and Argentina.

coffee, cocoa, cotton or timber, the compliance with specific quality standards is increasingly required in export markets. Switzerland assists producers in coping with such standards, i.e. with regard to sustainable forest management, or in the context of sustainable coffee production and trade. Switzerland also plays an active role by facilitating the elaboration and application of new voluntary standards through multi-stakeholder processes, involving producers, the private sector and NGOs (e.g. in the timber, coffee, soy and other sectors). Furthermore, through its participation in International Commodity Bodies, Switzerland supports efforts to harmonize product requirements and make international trade more transparent.

12. *Promoting environment-friendly technologies* - In developing countries with rapid expansion of industries, the environment is often put under severe pressure. Environmental laws are generally in their initial stages. Producers, however, wishing to export to industrialized countries are faced with the necessity of meeting environmental and social standards, which are increasingly demanded by consumers. To help the private sector in developing countries to cope with these environmental standards, Switzerland is actively supporting the creation of Cleaner Production Centers (CPCs), notably in collaboration with UNIDO. So far, fourteen CPCs have been set up.² CPCs provide an array of services to SMEs including trade information, advisory services, transfer of knowledge and training in the field of environmentally sound production.

13. *Core labour standards* - For the promotion of international labour standards, Switzerland is following a normative approach (in particular based upon the implementation of the ILO's labour standards, and the UN-International Pact on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy; OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises; and the UN Secretary General's Global Compact Initiative) as well as a capacity development approach. Therefore, Switzerland, in collaboration with the ILO, is supporting capacity building projects related to the respect of core labour standards in developing countries for mainly export-oriented SMEs: the latter are offered advisory services and training in social standards, compliance with which will help them to participate in global production chains and raise their competitiveness on the global market. The unique tripartite structure of the ILO (governments, employees and employers as partners with equal rights) in particular plays a central role in that it makes possible a solid multi-stakeholder approach, which is key for the acceptance and the long-term success and sustainability of individual projects.

14. *Strengthening standard-related institutions* - In order to compete successfully in international markets and to develop their industrial base, developing countries must have institutional capacities in areas such as: standard setting, adoption and implementation of standards and technical regulations; internationally recognized conformity assessment procedures (laboratories for precision measurement and testing); improvement of product quality. Through the Swiss programme, national standardization bodies in partner countries are strengthened, metrology equipment and testing laboratories are upgraded, and international accreditation is sought. As explained before, this is a relatively new field of cooperation in the Swiss programme. At present, work is being conducted in three countries: Vietnam, Tanzania and Mozambique.

15. *Organic production* - Organic production is an area in which developing countries have a comparative advantage. Since a large part of the organic output is being produced by small-scale farmers, it has the potential to contribute significantly to poverty reduction. However, farmers often face high certification fees and diverging certification requirements in export markets. In order to overcome these difficulties, the Swiss programme has provided support to partner countries in establishing national certification bodies. So far, such bodies have been set up in four countries:

² Colombia (1998), Vietnam (1998), Costa Rica (1999), Guatemala (1999), El Salvador (1999), Morocco (2000), Brazil (2001), Peru (2001), South Africa (2002), China (2002), India (2002), Jordan (2003), Laos (2004), Cambodia (2004) and Romania (2004).

India, Romania, Ukraine, and Bulgaria. Efforts are also being made at the international level to promote harmonization and equivalence of organic standards and certification procedures.

16. *Fair trade* – Switzerland actively supports the establishment of organisations and initiatives promoting fair trade in the Swiss market (Max Havelaar, STEP), with the aim of contributing to a better awareness of fair-trade products and stimulating the demand. Such initiatives include the introduction of fair-trade textiles and carpets in Switzerland.

17. *Supporting participation in international standard-setting bodies* - Switzerland is currently involved in selected and specific initiatives aiming at facilitating the participation of developing countries in the international standard setting process. This is the case, for instance, in relation to the planned ISO Corporate Social Responsibility standard; or in the definition of specific commodity-related norms; as well as in organic agriculture, where an international Task Force has been set up to address the issue of harmonization and equivalence.

V. SOME LESSONS LEARNED

18. The experience has shown that the following measures have proved to play an important role in the success of technical assistance with respect to standards and technical requirements.

- *Working with the private sector* - The private sector has to be kept informed in a timely manner of new standards arising at the international level. They also need to establish a close interaction with national standardization bodies in order to be able to raise their concerns and questions, which can subsequently be conveyed by national standardization bodies to international fora.
- *Joining efforts with other TBT-related technical cooperation initiatives* - Donors active in TBT-related technical assistance in a particular country should ensure mutual supportiveness of their respective activities and establish a concerted dialogue with national standardization bodies and government authorities.
- *Improving the governance management of national standardization bodies* - As a consequence of efforts by developing countries to liberalize their economy, national standardization bodies are increasingly asked to provide services to the private sector. For such bodies, this often means that they have to adopt new approaches to deal with the private sector and enhance their governance structure. This implies, for instance, strengthening the commercial orientation of the standardization bodies, as well as establishing marketing, corporate and financial business plans.
- *Mainstreaming TBT-related issues in PRSP and national development plans* - There is increasing consensus that trade, in order to contribute effectively to poverty reduction, must be integrated in PRSP (Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers) and national development plans. TBT issues play a critical role in the export competitiveness of countries and should therefore be appropriately reflected in national development plans.

Country	Partner agency	Title of the project	Description	Budget	Duration	Remark
1. Strengthening institutional infrastructure and regulatory framework						
Bulgaria	Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FIBL)	Establishment of an Organic Certification Agency	The main objective of this project is to transfer knowledge to Bulgarian partners in order to enable them to set up an independent and locally owned certification agency. The set up of an independent Bulgarian certification agency aims at offering a cost-efficient and credible inspection and certification for organic products to farmers, processors and traders of all sizes. Doing so, their access to export and domestic markets should be facilitated. It is furthermore expected that the project will give a fresh impetus to the Bulgarian organic sector.	CHF 1.03 Mio	2002-2007	
Central America (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama)	UNIDO, WTO, UNCTAD, ITC	Regional Integrated Programme for Market Access and Trade Facilitation	The Programme aims at developing Central America's capacity to overcome the technical and other non-tariff barriers that hinder the dynamic expansion of export trade and fulfil the international commitments related to TBS and SPS Agreements.	n.a.	2005-2007	In prep.
China, India, South Africa, Morocco, Brazil, Peru and Costa Rica.	International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)	Increasing Market Access for Sustainable Development – Standards, Certification, Accreditation, Labelling (preparatory phase)	The goal of this project is to ensure that environmental and social development standards applied in OECD countries do not unnecessarily restrict developing countries' exports. The project will achieve this goal both through investments in national and company institutions, and through policy recommendations. The focus of the project will be on the broadly accepted environmental and social standards that exporters must comply with, and the labels, certificates and	CHF 100,000	2003-2004	Second phase in prep.

Country	Partner agency	Title of the project	Description	Budget	Duration	Remark
			other marks that indicate that a product meets those standards. The project will provide the capacity needed to bridge the gap between what developed country markets demand and what developing country producers are able to supply.			
India	Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FIBL)	Establishment of an Organic Certification Agency	The main objective of this project is therefore to transfer knowledge to Indian partners in order to enable them to set up an independent and indigenously controlled certification agency. The set up of an independent Indian certification agency also aims at offering a cost-efficient and credible inspection and certification for organic products to farmers, processors and traders. In doing so, their access to export and domestic markets will be facilitated. It is furthermore expected that the project will give a fresh impetus to the Indian organic sector which should lead to a closer co-operation between the different players and which may result in the establishment of further Indian organizations of organic farming. Besides being a motivation evolving group, such organizations could also have the task to enhance training, marketing and the development of new organic farming technologies.	CHF 1 Mio	2002-2006	
Lebanon	UNIDO	Strengthening Capacities Related to Metrology, Testing and Conformity	This project is part of complementary measures that Switzerland will be supporting in the context of the future trade agreement between EFTA countries and Lebanon.	n.a.	2005-2007	In prep.

Country	Partner agency	Title of the project	Description	Budget	Duration	Remark
Mozambique	UNIDO	Strengthening Capacities in the Field of Food Safety Standards – Preparatory Phase	An assessment is being conducted on the prevailing conditions at government and institutional levels, as well as at production level, in connection with the adherence to international food safety standards (GMP, HACCP, EUREPGAP). Based on this preparatory work, a fully fledged food safety programme will be worked out.	USD 40,000	2005	Ongoing
Romania	Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL)	Establishment of an Organic Certification Agency	In close co-operation with a group of agricultural organizations, NGOs and private business co-operations, an independent certification agency for organic products/farms is to be set up in Romania between 2004 and 2007. The necessary knowledge will be transferred by the Research Institute for Organic Agriculture (FiBL) in Frick, Switzerland and by bio.inspecta, an international recognized certifier in Switzerland.	CHF 800,000	2003-2005	
Serbia	Safe Food Solutions Inc. (SAFOSO)	Surveillance/Prevention of BSE	The proposed pilot project will utilize Swiss expertise and infrastructure available from FAO to assist the Government of the Republic of Serbia in building capacity, establishing preventive measures, and analysing risks for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). Governmental and private veterinary services, diagnostic laboratories, and the livestock, food and animal feed industries in these countries will be strengthened and supported, and technical capacity built at every step along the food production chain. Initially, the specific needs of each participating country will be	CHF 3 Mio	2003-2005	

Country	Partner agency	Title of the project	Description	Budget	Duration	Remark
			assessed. A system to “train the trainers” from the participating countries will be established by the Swiss Competence Centre (SCC), and comprehensive courses will be provided to selected representatives of all relevant veterinary and food industries. Subsequently, in-country trainings will be given by the trained individuals with technical support from the SCC. Course curricula will be focused to improve understanding of the epidemiology of and relevant risk factors for BSE, and to develop specific knowledge and skills for implementing appropriate controls.			
Tanzania	UNIDO	Strengthening Capacities related to Metrology, Testing and Conformity	The project aims at strengthening the metrology and testing facilities of the Tanzanian Bureau of Standards (TBS), the apex body in Tanzania for Standards, Metrology, Testing and Quality.	USD 2.56	2005-2006	In prep.
Vietnam	UNIDO	Strengthening Capacities related to Metrology, Testing and Conformity	The project aims at strengthening the metrology and testing facilities of the Directorate for Standards and Quality (STAMEQ), the apex body in Vietnam for Standards, Metrology, Testing and Quality. It will give a special attention to facilities related to apparel/textiles and fish, which are two of the main export items of the country. STAMEQ, which was initially providing services to the state-owned enterprises, will increasingly have to deliver services to the private sector. The project will thus strengthen STAMEQ's commercial orientation and provide marketing, corporate	USD 1.1 Mio	2003-2005	

Country	Partner agency	Title of the project	Description	Budget	Duration	Remark
			and organizational planning support.			
2. Promoting better participation in international standards-setting organisations						
Global	International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)	ISO Corporate Responsibility Working Group	Participation of NGOs and representatives from developing countries in the strategic working group, which was established by ISO Technical Management Board to define the elements of a future ISO Corporate Social Responsibility standard.	CHF 359,000	2004-2006	
Global	International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), UNCTAD, FAO	International Task Force on Harmonization and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture	The International Task Force on Harmonization and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture was created in February 2003 to serve as an open-ended platform for dialogue between private and public institutions, from both developing and industrialized countries, involved in trade and regulatory activities in the organic agriculture sector. The objective is to facilitate international trade and access of developing countries to international markets.	CHF 100,000	2004-2005	
Tropical Countries	International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)	Development of Criteria & Indicators (i.e. for Sustainable Forest Management)	Support for Stakeholders from producer countries to actively take part in the further development of ITTO C&I.	USD 300,000	6 years	
South America	WWF	Sustainable Soy Initiative	Facilitation for a Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue to set criteria for a sustainable soy production and trade.	CHF 400,000	2 years	
South America, Africa, Asia	International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)	Pilot Project on Certification of Bioprospecting	The project aims at implementing the concept of Access Benefit Sharing in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Activities include: (i) the development of a management tool; (ii) the broad recognition of the management tool by stakeholders; (iii) the practical implementation of the tool;	EURO 550,000	2003-2006	

Country	Partner agency	Title of the project	Description	Budget	Duration	Remark
			(iv) establishment of a final report to the CBD Secretariat.			
Ghana	IUCN, Technoserve	Sustainable Trade in Allanblackia	Development of sustainability criteria for the collection, processing and trade of Allanblackia and its derivatives; strengthening of the producers and processors in relation to ownership and compliance with quality and sustainability requirements.	CHF 1,000,000	3 years	Strong involvement of the food industry (Unilever)
3. Facilitating compliance of quality standards and management methods, technical regulations						
Global	UNCTAD	Biotrade Initiative	The Initiative seeks to enhance the capability of developing countries to produce value-added products and services derived from biodiversity, for both domestic and international markets. It also assists developing countries in creating an enabling environment in the development and strengthening of biodiversity-related sectors by building partnerships with key actors, promoting sustainable business ventures, and providing inputs to policy making.	USD 2.5 Mio	2003-2008	
Bolivia	UNCTAD	Biotrade Initiative: National Programme	The programme, which is part of the Bolivian National Poverty Alleviation Strategy, seeks to promote bio-trade with a particular focus on value chains for domestic and international markets. Activities include: (i) support the development of relevant regulations, policies and strategies; (ii) strengthen national institutional capacity to provide assistance for biodiversity-related sectors; (iii) support enterprise development; (iv) foster the incorporation of sustainability criteria into business activities; (v) promote benefit	USD 1 Mio	2003-2008	

Country	Partner agency	Title of the project	Description	Budget	Duration	Remark
			sharing by involving local and indigenous communities in production processes; (vi) provide market information and foster export promotion; (vii) facilitate access to finance.			
Brazil	Fundação Floresta Tropical	Development of Human Resources in Sustainable Forest Management and Reduced Impact Logging in the Brazilian Amazon	The objective is to increase the adoption of Sustainable Forest Management and Reduced Impact Logging practices by timber producers in Amazonian production forests through practical training.	USD 1,579,610	24 months	Switzerland-Japan-USA
Brazil	Fundação da Tecnologia do Estado do Acre	Integration of Forest-based Development in the Western Amazon (Phase II). Technology for Sustainable Utilization of Raw Forest Materials	The project is about planning and initiating the industrial processing and utilization of timber and non-timber raw materials in the Antimari State Forest, Acre, Brazil.	USD 1,875,000	3 years	Switzerland-Japan
Brazil	EMBRAPA Amazônia Oriental, Belem, Para	Sustainable Management of Production Forests at the Commercial Scale in the Brazilian Amazon	A system to monitor the ecological, social and economic impacts will be developed and tested.	USD 753,954	2 years	Switzerland-USA
Cambodia (1), Colombia (5), (Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador) (6.5), Morocco (2), Brazil (2.5), Peru (2), South Africa (1.7), China (5), India (5),	UNIDO, UNEP, Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Testing and Research (EMPA)	Establishment of Cleaner Production Centers (CPC)	CPC provide consultancy services for SMEs in all matters relating to ecological efficiency and with a view of improving the competitiveness of these companies. The CPC build on already existing structures, but give greater importance to technology transfers, international environment conventions and social themes. CPC also advise sub-suppliers of large export-oriented operators.	CHF 41.8 Mio	1998-	

Country	Partner agency	Title of the project	Description	Budget	Duration	Remark
Jordan (2), Laos (1), Romania (2.8), Egypt (in prep.), Vietnam (5.3)						
China	The Chinese Academy of Forestry	Developing and Extending of Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests in China	The objectives are to carry out training on the ITTO Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests as well as on the Manual for the Application of Criteria and Indicators; to conduct an application test in the tropical regions of Yunnan and Hainan Province; and to develop and extend Criteria and Indicators for the tropical regions of China based on the ITTO Criteria and Indicators.	USD 323,252	2,5 years	Japan-Switzerland-USA-Australia-Korea
China	International Labour Organization (ILO)	Improved Human Resource Development and Management in Chinese Economic Development Zones	Capacity building in export promotion zones to update and deepen the enterprise's knowledge in the areas of HR-Development & Management and labour relations.	USD 1.8 Mio	2001-2004	
Colombia	Corporación Autónoma Regional del Río Negro-Nare	Alternative Financing Model for Sustainable Forest Management in San Nicolas	The project is about designing a financing model that combines the sustainable management of natural forests with alternative financing sources such as the contribution of various industrial sectors and the possible incorporation of the forest sector into the context of the CDM.	USD 566,377 Extension: USD 83,704	18 months	Switzerland-Japan-USA
Korea	Seoul National University	International Workshop on Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) - Opportunities for the Forest Industry Sector in	The major outputs from the workshop are strategic analysis on the opportunities and constraints for carbon forest business and for the capacity building of developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region.	USD 122,960	12 months	Switzerland-Japan-USA

Country	Partner agency	Title of the project	Description	Budget	Duration	Remark
		the Asia-Pacific Region (Republic of Korea)				
Republic of Congo	WRI & Nat. Cent. for Inventories & Forest Management	Use of Remote Sensing Technology and Information Systems to Support Forestry Legislation Monitoring in the Republic of Congo	The aim of this project is to contribute to the sustainable management of forest resources in the Republic of Congo through strict forest law enforcement, with a view to increasing the access to international timber markets.	USD 572,967	36 months	Switzerland- Japan-USA
Gabon	Direction Générale des Eaux et Forêts	Enhancement of the Forest Statistics Information and Management System (STATFOR)	This project aims to integrate two computer modules, namely the management inventory data compilation module and the management of yards for export timber, respecting export specific requirement. The specific objectives are: (1) Create a module allowing to capture inventory data with a field manual computer and to compile them; (2) Create a module allowing the capture of data from yards for export timber.	USD 261,608	18 months	Switzerland- Japan-USA
Ghana	Timber Export Development Board	Manpower Development for the Wood Industry Training Center (WITC)	The project is about training and technical assistance to strengthen the technical level of WITC staff and the Center's capacity to offer extension services to the industries in view of complying with importers requirements.	USD 237,375	3 years	Switzerland- USA-Japan
Guyana	Iwokrama International Centre	A Sustainable Management Model in the Iwokrama Rain Forest	The objective of the project is to design, plan and initiate model commercial forest management of the 160'000 ha Iwokrama forest, in order to improve practices in Guyana and elsewhere.	USD 780,626	3 years	Japan- Switzerland- USA-Korea
India, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda	ISO	ISO 14000 Environment Management System	The objective is to sensitize the private sector concerning environment management system	CHF 470,000	2002- 2005	

Country	Partner agency	Title of the project	Description	Budget	Duration	Remark
			and to train auditors.			
Indonesia	Indonesian Eco-labelling Institute	Consolidating Sustainable Forest Management Certification in Indonesia	The project aims at raising awareness on the implementation of credible certification systems in Indonesia, and at reinforcing national capacities with regard to sustainable forest management	USD 415,131	24 months	Switzerland-Japan-Indonesia-Ford Foundation
Mozambique	Technoserve Local-based NGO	Improving Standards in the Production and Processing of Cashew Nuts, Fruits and Vegetables	The objective of this project is to facilitate the adoption of the highest hygiene, worker safety, product quality and fair trade as well as environmental standards among up to 16 agro processing exporters of cashew nuts.	USD 418,385	2005-2007	
Philippines	Forests Products Research and Development Institute	Processing and Utilization of Almaciga (<i>Agathis philippinensis</i> Warb.) Resin as Source of Industrial Chemicals	The project involves the promotion and transfer of improved tapping techniques for Almaciga resin and carrying out development work for the increased and further processing of Almaciga resin into value-added products.	USD 342,743	3 years	Japan-Switzerland
Philippines	Forest Products Research and Development Institute	Development and Implementation of Stress Grading Rules for Tropical Timber in the Philippines	The objective of the project is to develop and implement stress-grading rules for timber used for construction in the Philippines.	USD 577,909	2,5 years	Japan-Switzerland-USA
Southern Africa	International Labour Organization (ILO)	Enterprise Based Competitiveness Development	Providing export-oriented firms with long-term consultancy services and training so that these firms may adapt their labour conditions to internationally accepted standards.	USD 1.3 Mio	2003-6	
Tanzania	Technoserve Local-based NGO	Export Development Programme	The objective is to enhance the competitiveness of the speciality coffee and cashew nuts sectors, through quality improvement, the introduction of sustainability coffee certification, sustainability best-practice guidelines, and support to processors.	CHF 4 Mio	2005-2008	In prep.

Country	Partner agency	Title of the project	Description	Budget	Duration	Remark
Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, India, Peru	International Labour Organization (ILO)	Addressing Labour Issues through National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPC)	Introduction of labour-related services in the portfolio of NCPC (cooperation with the NCPC network of UNIDO / UNEP).	USD 2.2 Mio	2003-7	
Vietnam	WWF Indochina Programme	Promotion of Sustainable Forest Management in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia	The project is putting in place a process to enable state and private forest owners to actively promote and implement sustainable forest management and forest certification.	USD 696,278	3 years	
4. Promoting organic production, fair-trade and environment-friendly labels in the Swiss market						
Global	Max Havelaar	Max Havelaar Fair-Trade Textil Initiative	The objective is to introduce fair-trade and environment-friendly textiles in the Swiss market. The label will be based on Core Labour Standards (ILO) and SA8000, as well as CCC Codex Model.	CHF 375,000	2004-2007	
Burkina Faso	Helvetas (Swiss NGO)	Promotion of Organic Cotton	The project aims at promoting organic cotton in the Swiss and European markets, through: (i) Support to the production of organic cotton responding to quality requirements; (ii) certification of organic cotton; (iii) commercialization support; (iv) conducive institutional framework; (v) coordination at the regional level.	CHF 2.42 Mio	2004-2007	
Costa Rica, Nicaragua	Intercooperation (Swiss NGO), Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FIBL), Centro de Inteligencia sobre Mercados	Enhancing Marketing Opportunities for Organic Products from Central America	The project aims at improving the commercialization of organic and fair-trade products from Central America in order to facilitate the diversification of the offer to international, regional and national markets. This will be done through the development of market intelligence, the support of pilot commercialization cases, and the provision of capacity building in marketing techniques.	CHF 2,380,000	2004-2007	

Country	Partner agency	Title of the project	Description	Budget	Duration	Remark
	Sostenibles (CIMS)					
India, Nepal, Pakistan, Iran and Morocco	STEP Foundation (Swiss NGOs)	Promotion of Fair and Sustainable Carpet Production	<p>STEP was founded in 1995 by several development organizations in Switzerland. The STEP Foundation supports development projects in the carpet producing areas and is dedicated to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improving working and living conditions of the weavers and their families - fighting abusive child labour - promoting ecologically harmless production methods - offer training and education programmes (empowerment, medical advice, schools) 	CHF 1.4 Mio	1995-2006	
India	Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FIBL)	Indian Organic Market Development	The overall objective of the project is to enhance the market opportunities for Indian organic and fair-trade products on international, regional and local markets. For this, relevant expertise in market development and marketing is to be developed in India to ensure the long-term-effect of the project. This will be done in co-operation with the Indian Competence Centre for Organic Agriculture (ICCOA), founded and supported by the main stakeholders of organic agriculture in India.	CHF 1.7 Mio	2004-2007	
Kirgistan	Helvetas (Swiss NGO)	Promotion of Organic Cotton	The project aims at promoting organic cotton in the Swiss and European markets, through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Support to the production of organic cotton responding to quality requirements; (ii) certification of organic cotton; (iii) commercialization support; 	CHF 2 Mio	2003-2006	

Country	Partner agency	Title of the project	Description	Budget	Duration	Remark
			(iv) conducive institutional framework; (v) coordination at the regional level.			
Mali	Helvetas (Swiss NGO)	Promotion of Organic Cotton	The project aims at promoting organic cotton in the Swiss and European markets, through: (i) Support to the production of organic cotton responding to quality requirements; (ii) certification of organic cotton; (iii) commercialization support; (iv) conducive institutional framework; (v) coordination at the regional level.	CHF 2 Mio	2002-2004	