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Bundesministerium
für Ernährung
und Landwirtschaft

LEAP-Agri

Call: „African European collaborative research on Sustainable Agriculture and Aquaculture and on Food and Nutrition Security“

Akronym: STEP-UP

Country	Germany
Funding Agency	Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft – BMEL
Project executing Agency	Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung – BLE
Project Budget	830.000,- €
Project Duration	01.09.2018 – 31.08.2021
Key Words	Food value chain, mango- banana- varieties, sustainable intensification, farmer groups, added value, postharvest technologies, storage, shelf life, market hubs
Coordinator	Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF) e. V., PB2, AG SUSLAND (Dr. Götz Uckert)
Partners	Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF), Germany Wageningen University (WUR), The Netherlands Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), Kenya National Environment Trust Fund (NETFUND), Kenya Environmental Alert (EA), Uganda National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO), Uganda Solidaridad Network, Uganda Advisory board: Solidaridad-NL, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Kenya Bureau of Standards

Short Description

The LEAP-Agri project no. 159 (2817LEAP04) STEP-UP „Sustainable Transition to Entrepreneurial Production in Agriculture through Upgrading” will analyse rural food value chains (FVC) in sub-Saharan Africa and their various challenges to implement food securing innovations. Through sustainable intensification (SI) and market linkage (ML) strategies STEP-UP will enable small farm enterprises (SFEs) to step up towards food and nutrition security, sustainable development and income generation at farm and community levels. In mango and banana FVC in Kenya and Uganda new technologies in breeding, processing, packaging and conversion will be implemented and assessed through a participatory multi-stakeholder approach.

The core STEP-UP activities are

1. Screening the banana and mango FVC with consortium experts and stakeholders
2. Participatory development of food system transition pathways and entry points for SFEs with high potential to create added value via knowledge, labour and monetary (re-) investments
3. Selection and adaptation of effective SI and ML strategies, based on a multi-criteria, participatory assessment of their impact using indicators developed by experts and multi-level stakeholders
4. Delivering evidence-based advice and decision support tools for outscaling of SI and ML strategies to other regions and food systems
5. Knowledge exchange and capacity building of FVC stakeholders.

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In Uganda we focus on SI strategies to increase crop production and evaluate how markets can best respond. In Kenya we focus on ML strategies to pull (re-) investment in SI to a higher level. Across the study sites and FVCs, a dynamic monitoring system will enable co-learning and adaptive project management. Understanding the dynamics between SI and ML in different food systems will result in standards and procedures to reduce farmers' and entrepreneurs' risks. SFEs and FVC intermediaries in the case study areas will benefit from improved knowledge, skills and capacities to sustainably upgrade their activities. Decision makers will have a clear view about desired transitions and how to enable them.