

2023 COLEAD AND ITS PROGRAMMES TIMELINE

In an international environment that remains highly complex and volatile, COLEAD, through its programmes, strives to fulfil its mission as effectively as possible, which is to facilitate and implement all actions that directly or indirectly increase the contribution of the agricultural and horticultural sectors in particular to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Below are some news items that are representative and illustrative of the activities carried out during 2023.

2023

JANUARY

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF AGRINFO in Brussels, a new European Union programme aimed at informing EU partner countries about the latest legislative and policy developments in the agricultural sector. 119 participants, including representatives of embassies from 45 countries, European Commission services and agri-food associations.

COLEACP OFFICIALLY BECOMES COLEAD: COmittee Linking Entrepreneurship-Agriculture-Development.



FEBRUARY

INTERNATIONAL MARKETS - Participation in Fruit Logistica in Berlin and Biofach 2023 in Nuremberg - Meetings with international fruit and vegetable market players and partners benefiting from the FFM+, AGRINFO and NEXt Kenya programmes.

GHANA - ADAPTING TO CHANGES IN EU ORGANIC FARMING REGULATIONS through the FFM SPS programme. Example of HPW FRESH & DRY adapting to the new EU Organic Regulation 2018/848.

MARCH

THE ACP COME TOGETHER IN ROME TO ADDRESS PLANT HEALTH CHALLENGES. 17th session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CMP) at FAO headquarters in Rome (NPPO-COLEAD exchange through its FFM+ and AGRINFO programmes).

STDF GUINEA PROJECT - Steering Committee of the project "Strengthening the phytosanitary control and certification system in Guinea" (STDF/PG/498).

DESIRA LIFT PROJECT: Launch of the study on the financing of innovation. Definition of the scope. Based on a review of mechanisms for financing agricultural innovation in Africa.

APRIL

SEAFOOD 2023: The AGRINFO programme takes part in Seafood Expo Global/Seafood Processing Global in Barcelona, the world's largest seafood event. Our team was there to share information and views on new EU regulations and standards.

WORLD OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY DAY (28 APRIL), COLEAD welcomes and celebrates ethical and sustainable practices in the workplace. COLEAD and its programmes provide training to help managers and SMEs understand sustainable and ethical production standards and corporate social responsibility.

"COLEAD is a family; we speak from the heart" Leonard Mizzi, Head of Unit at INTPA

"We need to be ambitious and innovative," says Junior Lodge, Deputy Secretary General of the OACPS. "At COLEAD level, this means inspiring others with your good practices."

(Consultative Committee for COLEAD and its programmes, 1 December 2023)

MAY

CARIBBEAN - FOCUS ON SURINAM AND TRINIDAD & TOBAGO - With the NPPO (National Plant Protection Organisation) of Suriname, the aim is to implement good inspection and control practices. Other areas of intervention through FFM+ include capacity building for horticultural operators.

BENIN-SUSTAINABLE SOIL MANAGEMENT - As part of the project "Support for the agro-ecological transition of the pineapple sector in Benin", COLEAD is training the partner clusters of the DEFIA programme in sustainable soil management.

INNOVATION IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. Example in the mango sector through the FFM SPS programme and the CIRAD SOWIT COLEAD collaboration. Introduction of a technology for estimating predicted production yields in Ghana.

KENYA - NExT Kenya LAUNCHES GUIDES ON GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE for beans, peas and avocados.

FFM+ AND AGRINFO
PROMOTIONAL VIDEO



JUNE

FOCUS YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS – Promotion of business opportunities for young entrepreneurs at the Africa Agribusiness and Science Week, Durban, South Africa. Support through FFM+ for parallel sessions.

COLEAD DISTANCE LEARNING: 21,000 USERS IN ALL ACP COUNTRIES. Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire and Madagascar are the top three user countries with over 1,200 learners.

COLEAD GENERAL ASSEMBLY – Activity reports. Financial report. Strategy 2023-2025 and 33 new members welcomed.

JULY

GLOBAL YOUTH SKILLS DAY: THE CARIBBEAN ECOSYSTEM FOR YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP. The IICA-COLEAD Caribbean Agribusiness Series provided an opportunity to continue discussions at the ninth session, which focused on the successes of innovative youth-led SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises) in the agribusiness sector.

EC "TRADE, PRIVATE SECTOR, DEVELOPMENT AND COMMITMENT". DG INTPA has asked COLEAD to communicate on "How to make the Green Deal a positive agenda for our partner countries". An opportunity to promote the FFM+ and AGRINFO programmes.

AUGUST

ETHIOPIA: RAPID ASSESSMENT OF THE SPS SYSTEM through FFM+ using COLEAD's Rapid SPS Assessment Tool (R-SAT) methodology. In partnership with the Ethiopian Agricultural Authority (EAA) to establish more effective SPS food quality control systems.



CLIMATE-CHANGE-RESILIENT PRACTICES AND INNOVATIONS in agri-food SMEs - the way forward. PAFO COLEAD Innovation Session No. 14

MADAGASCAR: ASSESSMENT OF THE FOOD SAFETY QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM SAHANALA is receiving support from COLEAD through its Fit For Market SPS programme to set up a health quality management system in order to obtain FSSC 22 000 certification for ginger processing.

SEPTEMBER

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: IMPROVEMENT OF THE COPACO TRAINING SYSTEM (1,600,000 PRODUCERS). The Confédération Paysanne du Congo (COPACO-PRP) is a professional association of 452 local organisations.

AGRINFO BOTSWANA-UE: FOCUS ON THE MEAT INDUSTRY. With the support of the Botswana Embassy in Brussels, presentation of AGRINFO and FFM+ and discussions with numerous guests representing the country's public and private sectors.

FIT FOR MARKET (FFM) AND FIT FOR MARKET SPS (FFM SPS): Launch of the external technical evaluation of the programmes.

OCTOBER

FFM+: MORE THAN 700 DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, 60% OF WHICH ARE FOR AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES AND COOPERATIVES. Since the launch of the digital system for receiving applications for support under the Fit For Market+ programme at the beginning of July 2022, 716 applications for support under this new programme have been received (as of 21 September 2023)..



UGANDA - INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE SOIL MANAGEMENT

– In partnership with the Avocado Association of Uganda (AAU), testing and implementation of new data collection and calibration technologies. Aim: to maintain consistently high avocado yields while protecting the environment. Calibration of soil scanner measurements

COTE D'IVOIRE - SARA: Participation in the leading trade fair for agriculture, animal resources, fisheries and forestry in sub-Saharan Africa. Presentation and promotion of the FFM+ and AGRINFO programmes. Multi-partner meetings.

INNOVATIONS AND TECHNOLOGIES TO REDUCE FOOD LOSS AND WASTE – The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and COLEAD are working together to collect and share information on the fruit and vegetable sector.

NOVEMBER

FEEDBACK FROM 200 COLEAD PARTNER BENEFICIARIES ON FFM+: They would strongly recommend COLEAD to a professional colleague, mainly because of the improved skills they have acquired as a result of COLEAD support.

NEXT KENYA: (ROM) EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAMME: Very positive result on all criteria (relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability), especially for cross-cutting issues such as gender, human rights and environment.



TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION in the agri-food sector. PAFO COLEAD Innovation Session no. 15:

"ACCESS TO FUNDING" FOR FARMERS: COLEAD's offer through FFM+ is structured around technical assistance and training to help project leaders build their capacity in business management and business plan preparation, both technically and financially.

"HOW TO SET UP E-LEARNING PLATFORMS": Multi-country webinar for ACP training institutions.

DECEMBER

COLEAD 2023 CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE: THE ASSOCIATION IS AT A CROSSROADS. This is an opportunity for each stakeholder to highlight their priorities, thoughts and constraints, whether entrepreneurial, economic or political, while reaffirming their desire to work together to bring about the expected transformation of the food system

50 YEARS OF COLEAD: COLEAD celebrated its 50th anniversary on 1 December 2023 in Brussels with 120 partners, directors, former General Delegates of the association, team members and friends of COLEAD and with more than 200 members of the association gathered for the occasion in 25 ACP countries.

FROM COP 28 TO REALITY ON THE GROUND: BUILDING BRIDGES FOR GREATER SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE JUSTICE. COLEAD and its partners support the [United Arab Emirates' COP28 Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems and Climate Action](#) by helping the agricultural sector, and horticulture in particular, to improve overall social, economic and environmental sustainability.

COLEAD ACHIEVES ISO 21001 CERTIFICATION - Achieving ISO 21001 certification demonstrates COLEAD's commitment to continuous improvement in education and paves the way for further innovation and growth in the years to come.



GENDER - LAUNCH OF A SPECIFIC PLAN to contribute to gender equality in the association's field of action.



AGRINNOVATORS.ORG: FOR AND BY INNOVATIVE ENTREPRENEURS IN AFRICA. Launch of Agrinnovators, a platform for African entrepreneurs passionate about innovation and sustainability in the agri-food sector, launched by COLEAD and PAFO.

63 AGRICULTURAL JOBS LISTED IN A NEW COLEAD TRAINING SYSTEM TOOL. A new tool for designing, implementing and evaluating effective vocational training programmes tailored to the specific needs of the agricultural sector and the countries in our area of action.

CONSORTIUM EUROPE-AFRICA ON RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF FOOD SYSTEMS (CEA FIRST). Launch of the new collaborative project bringing together 22 European and African partners, including COLEAD. Fairmiles Stakeholder Roundtable to agree on steps for a fair transition to net zero.

FAIRMILES: First meeting of the consortium on 15 December in London.