



# Ghana Private Sector Competitiveness Program

## Fostering sustainable trade, skills and competitiveness in the cashew, palm oil and construction sectors shall contribute to the creation of more and better jobs in Ghana

Obstacles hindering inclusive growth exist on different levels. For that reason, the Ghana Private Sector Competitiveness Program (GPSCP) is structured to find holistic remedy. The GPSCP aims - in close collaboration with the Government of Ghana and other stakeholders - to work on regulatory constraints, to improve both competitiveness and productivity, and to improve skills development by anchoring professional qualification in the agro-processing and construction sectors.

### Rationale

The structural transformation of the economy in Ghana is ongoing. Institutional, regulatory and supply side constraints still weigh down on the growth potential. Improving the competitiveness and diversification of the economy as well as the supply of skilled workforce is critical to make growth more inclusive and sustainable and to create more and better job opportunities. Labor-intensive sectors, such as construction, manufacturing, agriculture and agri-food processing, offer huge potential for higher domestic value creation and more diversified exports to regional and global markets.

The Government of Ghana has decided to prioritise the cashew and palm oil value chains in order to diversify the export base of the country. Moreover, these two sectors may contribute significantly to employment creation and poverty reduction (with due consideration given to women and youth), to export and, ultimately, to GDP growth thanks to increased value addition.

### Objectives and activities

The GPSCP follows a programmatic approach and supports the Government of Ghana to meet the challenges at different levels: it addresses regulatory constraints for businesses in general, supports the development of efficient and sustainable cashew and palm oil sectors and tackles the bottlenecks of supplying skilled labor force in construction, cashew and palm oil.

Country/region  
Ghana

Executing agencies  
GIZ, IFC and  
Solidaridad West  
Africa

Duration  
2018-2021

Total budget  
EURO 48,000,000

SECO contribution  
EURO 15,410,000



The program builds on the following three components:

- **Pillar 1 aims at removing overarching and industry specific regulatory constraints to growth:** The GPSCP joined forces with the *Multi-Country Investment Climate Program* from IFC in Ghana. Areas of intervention are 1) to support the Government of Ghana to improve economy wide investment climate indicators, 2) to upgrade the legal framework and to get rid of obsolete laws, 3) to review and strengthen investment policy and promotion and 4) to foster competitiveness in agribusiness across the cashew and palm oil value chains in a sustainable way. IFC will closely collaborate with Solidaridad and GIZ on the two value chains under pillar 2.
- **Pillar 2 aims at improving the competitiveness and productivity of actors in the cashew and oil palm sectors in a sustainable way:** The GPSCP works together with the *ComCashew* program implemented by GIZ to scale up activities in Ghana. It focuses on the establishment of a regulatory framework as well as technical capacity building in the processing segment. One key aspect is also to facilitate access to finance along the value chain. The GPSCP also collaborates with Solidaridad West Africa's *Sustainable West Africa Palm Oil Program*, which is centered on the large-scale adoption of the sustainable intensification of oil palm cultivation and palm oil processing in the smallholder and SME segments without additional oil palm plantations. The facilitation of access to finance is also central. The monitoring of the commitment of the Government of Ghana for a zero deforestation approach in relation with oil palm is part of the program.
- **Pillar 3 aims at increasing demand-driven training provision in construction and agro-processing (cashew and palm oil):** The Government of Ghana has initiated a reform of the national TVET (technical and vocational education and training) system. The GPSCP supports this by collaborating with the *Ghana Skills Development Initiative* implemented by GIZ on behalf of the German Government and co-funded by the EU. SECO funds will scale up the approach and focus on the formal sector and higher qualification levels (national certificate I & II and above). The training is done in coordination with the implementing partners of pillar 2 described above.

Furthermore, the Swiss Embassy in Ghana organises together with the Government of Ghana (Ministry of Trade and Industries, Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the Ministry of Education) regular GPSCP Platform Meetings involving all program partners to exchange and discuss the results and future directions of the program. One important aspect is also to facilitate a policy dialogue between the program and the Government of Ghana, and to exploit synergies between different program components.

#### **Further information and contact details**

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