



The Beninese-Swiss geographical indications project (BESGIP)

BESGIP aims to contribute to the creation of added value, wealth and jobs in Benin through the increased competitiveness of products with certified geographical indications (GI).

Project background

Benin's economy is heavily dependent on the agricultural sector, which employs around 70% of the working population and which contributed 28% of GDP, 77% of export earnings and 15% of state revenue in 2019. Thus, agriculture is at the centre of the Beninese economy, with cotton as the main source of income. In Benin, the agricultural sector is characterized by relatively stable growth, with considerable under-exploited potential. In order to improve food and nutritional security and rural development, boosting the productivity, diversification and competitiveness of agricultural and agri-food products is considered a high priority by the government of Benin. The National Plan for Agricultural Investments and Food and Nutritional Security (PNIASAN) has been designated as the strategic planning and coordination framework for sustainable agriculture and food / nutritional security. The PNIASAN is structured around five priority axes. Axis 2 concerns 'the promotion and fair structuring of high-value chains (HVC) in the key sectors of plant, animal and fish products for the benefit of men and women in Benin'. The PNIASAN has specific aims relating to the implementation of GIs:

- develop the capacity of institutions and actors in charge of GI promotion
- set up a qualification process for the identified origin-based products
- develop and implement a research program on GIs.

Quick project facts

Project duration

June 2022 – May 2025

Total budget

CHF/USD 591,000

Donor agency

Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs – **SECO**

Implementing partners

Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property – **IPI**;
Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Élevage et de la Pêche du Bénin – **MAEP**;
Plateforme nationale des organisations paysannes et de producteurs agricoles du Bénin – **PNOPPA**

Benin – key facts for 2020

Population: 12 million
Area: 114,760 km²
GDP growth: 4%

Due to the emphasis on product quality and differentiation as well as the inclusion of different actors in the value chain, the GI process is tailored to address concerns regarding value creation, export promotion and, finally, rural development. Consequently, the official recognition and promotion of GIs is an important issue for the economic development of Benin. The BESGIP aims to support this process initiated by the government of Benin.

Objectives of the BESGIP

The BESGIP contributes to the creation of added value in Benin through the increased competitiveness of GI-certified products. Thus, the expected effects of the implementation of GIs are increased income for farmers and food processors along the GI value chain. This source of higher and more regular income should contribute to improving livelihoods. The specific objectives are to:

- raise awareness of the potential of GIs for rural development in the dairy sector and the registration of a pilot GI (*fromage peulh (wagashi)*).
- strengthen the institutional / legal capacities of the Beninese GI system
- boost public awareness of GIs and increased market access for registered GI products (focus: *ananas pain de sucre du Plateau d'Allada*)

Activities

Within the thematic area of GIs, the intervention strategy and its activities mainly consist of building technical capacity through training, workshops and expert input, which are typically led by a national consultant and an international consultant. These activities increase the capacity of the PNOPPA and other GI-related associations to deliver professional services. Furthermore, the project supports the concrete implementation of GI activities for the two selected products mentioned above. Capacity building of the management organisations of these two key



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DE L'ÉLEVAGE ET DE LA PÊCHE
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products is expected to increase the income of local producers. The project thereby supports community development and product marketing activities. On a higher, political level, the project aims to assist Benin and the African Intellectual Property Organisation (OAPI) in joining the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement, which would allow for the protection of Beninese GIs in all member states.

Project partners and beneficiaries

The main partners are the *Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Élevage et de la Pêche* (MAEP) and the *Plateforme nationale des organisations paysannes et de producteurs agricoles du Bénin* (PNOPPA). Other direct beneficiaries include the existing GI management organisation of *ananas pain de sucre du Plateau d'Allada* and the future GI management organisation of *fromage peulh (wagashi)*.

Indirect beneficiaries are, among others, the *Agence Nationale de la Propriété Industrielle (ANAPI)*, the *Comité National de Mise en Place des Indications Géographiques (CoNaMP-IG)*, the *Association Nationale des Organisations Professionnelles d'Éleveurs de Ruminants (ANOPER)*, the *Union départementale des organisations professionnelles des éleveurs de ruminants (UDOPER, Borgou-Alibori)*, and the producers, processors and traders of the GI products supported. Other economic actors, as well as the wider Beninese public, benefit indirectly through improved GI management and the increased quality and competitiveness of Beninese GI products.

Contact for more information

Reto Meili – Project Coordinator Benin

Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property – IPI

reto.meili@ipi.ch / +41 31 377 72 71