

German Co-operation (GTZ) Programmes for Citrus Improvement in the Mediterranean

A. Camacho
Citrus Project, GTZ Office
Cairo -- EGYPT

The Federal Republic of Germany has been co-operating with different North African Governments, among others, in certification programmes for Mediterranean fruit crops for over 15 years. As a member of the European Union, Germany also supports the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership activities in these countries.

Citrus is an important crop in the Mediterranean area and an essential component of certification projects implemented by GTZ in Morocco, Algeria and Egypt. The main goal of these projects is to improve the quality of the propagating material and initiate and continue certification activities according to the specific situation of each country.

The logical step of the German co-operation, after successful co-operation activities in the fields of seed production, seed privatisation and seed certification in different countries, was the certification of plant propagating material.

In these Mediterranean countries, the citrus industry has to face similar problems. The average productivity is quite low due to the old age of the orchards, generally infected with different pathogens (CPsV, CEVd, CTV, *S. citri*, *Phytophthora*) and to a sub-optimal management in the orchards. First of all, to improve the present situation, it is necessary to replace the old material with healthy and highly productive plants, produced by a certification programme; in second place, a sound management of the orchard as a whole should be enhanced.

Certification will certainly help the fruit industries in different countries become more competitive in these globalisation times and facilitate the free exchange of material that will become a reality in the next decade.

The different national networks for citrus certification in Algeria, Morocco and Egypt will be outlined later. Working as a national team within these

networks is of paramount importance for the success of certification programmes in the countries concerned. The public and private sectors have to collaborate closely and in a complementary way.

Promotion de la production des plants arboricoles et viticoles certifiables

Algerian-German Co-operation (1993 2000)

Phase goal (97-00): Application of a national system for the production of fruit plants and grapes that can be certified

Project goal: qualitative and quantitative improvement of the production of fruit trees

Partners

ITAF Institut technique de l'arboriculture et de la vigne	- Germplasm - Sanitation
CNCC Centre National de Contrôle et de Certification	- Diagnosis - Certification - Legislation
GDSP Groupe de Développement des Semences et Plants	- Semi-public nurseries
CRAPPS Coopérative Régionale Agricole de Production de Plants et Semences	- Private nurseries
GTZ, CIRAD, MAI-B, FAO	- International network for citrus certification

Controle phytosanitaire

Moroccan German Co-operation (1988 2000)

Phase goal (93-97): Increasing the efficiency of the services for technical and phytosanitary controls

Project goal: Permanent improvement of the sanitary status and the quality of important varieties for agriculture

Partneress

SCSP Service du Contrôle des Semences et Plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laboratoire National des Analyses des Plants - Bureau du Catalogue Officiel - Bureau des Contrôles et de la Certification - Bureau de la Législation et de l'Homologation
SPV Service de la Protection des Végétaux	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quarantine Station
INRA Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Germplasm
SODEA Société de développement agricole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Semi-public nurseries - Sanitation
Domaines Agricoles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Private nurseries - Sanitation
GTZ, CIRAD, MAIB, INRA, IVIA, FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International network for citrus certification

Improvement of citrus production in Egypt

Egyptian-German Co-operation (1999 2008)

Phase goal (99-02): Growers shall exploit the economic potential of citrus production at best.

Project goal: Contribution of the Citrus sector to the increase of agriculture share in GDP

Partners

Central Administration for Agricultural Extension Sector Horticultural Extension	- Bahteem Citrus Centre: - Diagnosis, Sanitation, Repository, Increasing blocks
Central Administration for Agricultural Services	- Quarantine - Certification
Agricultural Research and Research Centre Plant Disease Res. Inst. Horticultural Res.Inst.	- Diagnosis - Horticulture - Germplasm
Public nurseries	- Nursery
Private nurseries	- Nursery
GTZ, MAI-B, CIRAD, FAO	- International network for citrus certification