MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE TEA SECTOR

ITC

TRADE IMPACT FOR GOOD

50 YEARS

1964-2014

MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE TEA SECTOR

In partnership with:

FLO-CERT

Rainforest Alliance

Ethical Tea Partnership

Abstract for trade information services

ID=43088 2014 SITC-074.1 MIT

International Trade Centre (ITC)
Mitigating Climate Change in Tea Sector
Geneva: ITC, 2014. xvi, 102 pages (Technical paper)
Doc. No. SC-14-245.E

The manual providing a set of tools and resources to support the tea sector, particularly tea factories and tea farmers, in addressing climate change mitigation and lowering their emissions, divided into four parts - part one focuses on mitigation options for tea factory emissions and is aimed at supporting factory management in addressing climate change mitigation; part two deals with mitigation options for farm emissions and provides descriptions of activities that can be implemented by tea farmers to address climate change mitigation at the farm level; parts three and four of the manual provide information and guidance on collecting data for emissions quantification and aim to support factory management to monitor and measure greenhouse gas emissions.

Descriptors: **Tea, Climate Change.**

For further information on this technical paper, contact Mr Alexander Kasterine (kasterine@intracen.org)

English

The International Trade Centre (ITC) is the joint agency of the World Trade Organization and the United Nations.

ITC, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland (www.intracen.org)

Preface

Sub-Saharan Africa is home to almost 900 million people, 60% of whom are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. Africa's farmers are among the most vulnerable to climate change, despite having the world's lowest rate of greenhouse gas emissions per person. Higher temperatures, variations in rainfall patterns and more frequently occurring extreme climate events are threatening food security. As a result, farmers are now finding themselves in a race to adapt to the changing climate.

In addition, exporters of agricultural products in Africa are increasingly subject to requirements set by buyers and retailers, to measure and reduce their carbon emissions. These requirements take the form of 'Product Carbon Footprinting' (PCFs). PCF standards offer opportunities for exporters to reduce production and processing costs, but they also create new non-tariff barriers, particularly for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). SMEs are in a disadvantaged position compared to larger exporters as they often lack in-house expertise to recognise and to comply with these private standards. An exporter may also have to comply with more than one standard, each of which uses a different methodology. SMEs are the growth and employment engines of the future with over 80% of employment generation in developing countries linked to SMEs. Hence, addressing non-tariff barriers through meeting these new private standards is an important contributor to reducing rural poverty and generating jobs.

The International Trade Centre (ITC) has prepared this guide to help SMEs navigate their way through the technical and managerial challenges for meeting these types of standards. ITC has a concrete mandate to help SMEs to internationalise and increase their competitiveness in regional and global markets and this is coupled with ITC's focus on ensuring sustainable production which minimises the negative impact on the environment.

This guide was produced as a key output from ITC's Trade and Environment Programme that has worked over the last three years in a Public Private Partnership with the Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA), the Ethical Tea Partnership (ETP) and two standard setting bodies: the Rainforest Alliance and FLOCERT. Forging innovative partnerships like these allows ITC to deliver Aid for Trade in an effective way and ensuring value for money and for investment.

The Kenya Tea Development Agency oversees tea production for more than 560,000 smallholder farmers in Kenya. The project piloted the climate change mitigation training at one of their factories in Chinga in the Central Province. Here, extension officers, factory management and KTDA staff were trained on mitigation strategies and energy-saving solutions using this training manual. The management has subsequently implemented the emissions reduction and climate adaptation strategy resulting in cost savings for the company.

ITC stands ready to provide further targeted support to SMEs and trade support institutions in farming communities in the African continent and beyond so that they can maintain their competitiveness in the face of the growing challenges that climate change presents.

Arancha Gonzalez

Executive Director, ITC