



COLEACP

COLEACP contribution to the reflection on the potential of nutrient-enriched foods in developing countries



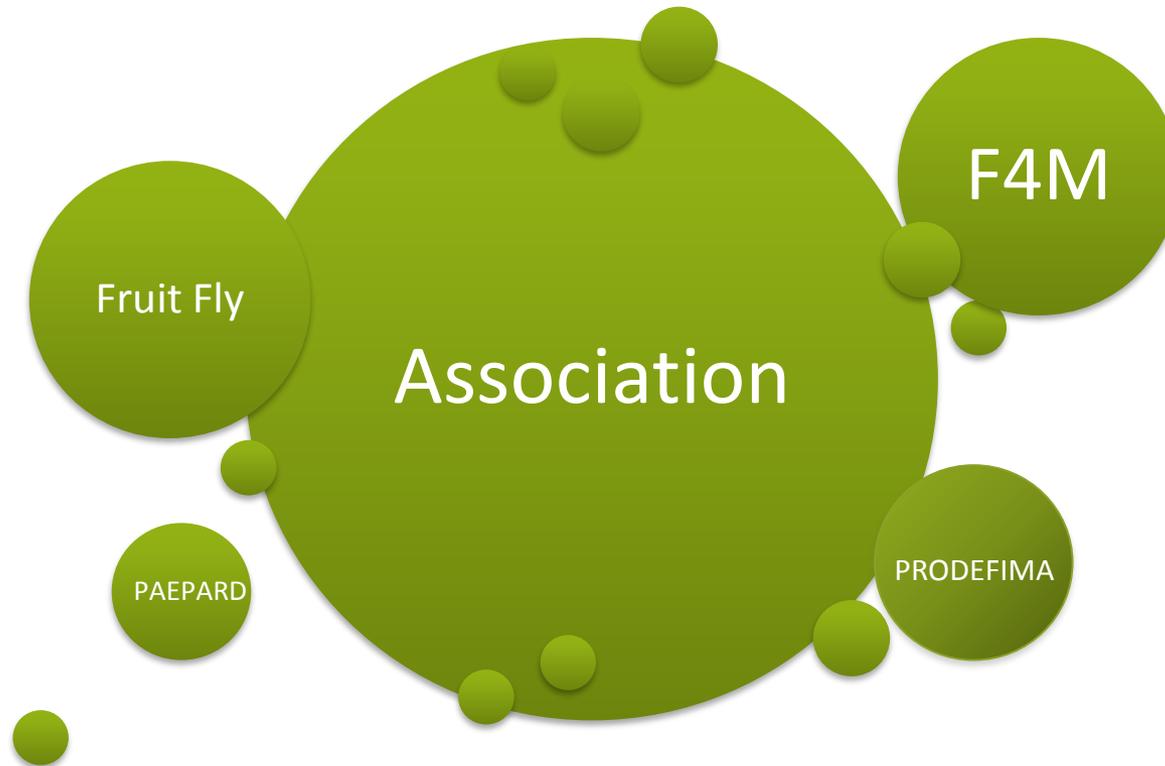
What does COLEACP stand for?

The Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee (COLEACP) is a civil society organisation (CSO), established in 1973 by stakeholders in the international fruit and vegetable trade. COLEACP is a not-for-profit inter-professional association whose main purpose is to support the development of a sustainable and competitive agriculture and agribusiness.

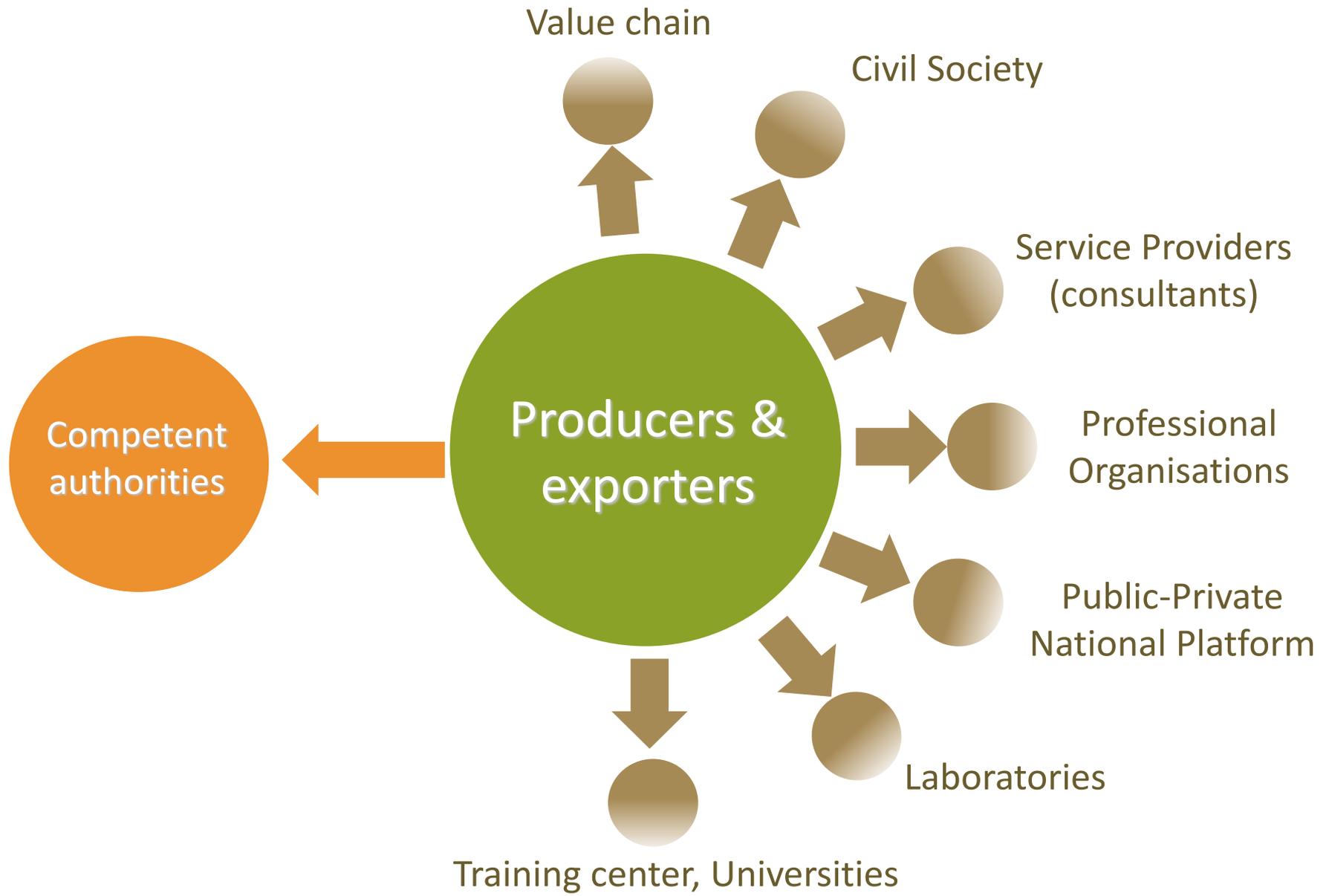
From an operational standpoint, COLEACP is a network and a technical assistance tool for the sustainable and inclusive development of the private sector small and medium enterprises based on expertise and an active training system in 50 ACP countries.



COLEACP'S STRUCTURE



BENEFICIARIES





Support provided by COLEACP under the F4M

- Capacity building through training and technical support in order to reach compliance with national and international SPS regulations and private standards related to food safety.
 - F4M: Stronger focus on local and regional markets and compliance with new F&V's market requirements regarding sustainability (labor conditions, environment, resilience to climate change)
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Characteristics of the fresh fruit and vegetables market in Sub Sahara Africa





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- ✓ The Majority of fruit and veg is still sold through informal markets but in some countries supermarkets are quickly expanding
 - ✓ Because of logistical problems (lack of cold rooms and refrigerated transport) perishables such as leafy vegetables are often grown within the urban areas
 - ✓ Consumer awareness regarding food safety and the importance of a « healthy balanced diet » is still weak, focus is on price
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Characteristics of the fresh fruit and vegetables market in Sub Sahara Africa

- ✓ Access to affordable fresh fruit and vegetables is limited for many consumers in both urban and rural areas (production often limited by seasonality, limited storage facilities, high prices and limited purchasing power)
 - ✓ Fresh fruit and vegetables are often contaminated (MRL, heavy metal, microbiological contaminations) due to bad production and post harvest practices. On cereals aflatoxine and MRL are a major food safety issue.
 - ✓ Implementation of risk assessment, risk management and monitoring of food quality and safety by local competent authority is still weak
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Some characteristics of the fresh fruit and vegetables market in Sub Sahara Africa

- ✓ High prevalence of food born diseases but also, especially in urban areas rapid increase of “Western diseases ” such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and cancer due to unhealthy diets linked to unhealthy lifestyles.
 - ✓ Because access to fresh food is limited :risk of unbalanced and monotonous diets leading to nutritional deficiencies
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Conclusion

COLEACP does not take position pro or against nutrient enriched food for the local market in developing countries.

However we suggest that if nutrient enriched food is to be developed and promoted it should be done through a holistic approach including sensitization of consumers to the importance of a healthy diet and lifestyle and the facilitation of a better access to safe fresh food.





Thank you for your
attention

yessie.meyer@coleacp.org