

African Union: Transforming agriculture through skills development

Agricultural Technical Vocational Education and Training (ATVET) is successfully implemented in selected countries to promote a professional and productive agricultural sector.

The challenge

Over 65% of Africa's labour force is employed in agriculture - the vast majority being smallholder farmers without formal or non-formal training. Across the continent, many families in rural areas still depend on agriculture as their only source of income and economies rely heavily on the sector as a main contributor to gross domestic product (GDP).

However, the agricultural sector in many African countries is not yet sufficiently professionalised to realise its potential for poverty alleviation, food security and economic growth. Farmers and other relevant actors lack the required skills, qualifications and access to training to profitably boost agricultural production, processing, business and trade.

Our approach

The African Union (AU) established the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) as a strategy which aims to achieve agriculture-based growth and food security on the continent. The technical body of the African Union Commission (AUC), the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), has been mandated to coordinate the implementation of CAADP. GIZ on behalf of the German government supports the AUC and NPCA in mainstreaming CAADP in 55 AU member states.

Our area of work promotes Agricultural Technical Vocational Education and Training (ATVET) to strengthen a professional and productive agricultural sector across the African continent. Applying a multi-level approach, ATVET offers a solution for the shortage of well-trained and skilled workers in Africa's agricultural sector. The ATVET approach identified income-generating value chains in selected partner coun-



Project name	Promoting Agricultural Technical Vocational Education and Training (ATVET) in Africa through NEPAD/ CAADP
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Implementing organisation	NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) and GIZ
Project region	Africa (based in South Africa)
Lead executing agency	African Union Commission (AUC)
Duration	01.01.2017 – 31.12.2019
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tries. Based on national labour-market priorities, curricula were developed in partnership with selected pilot agricultural training centres (ATCs). The resulting education and training opportunities target those who are already working in the sector – in particular, smallholder farmers and young people from rural areas. As a result, ATVET is harnessing the potential of Africa's youthful demographic by promoting employability.

In the initial phase, ATVET was successfully implemented in Kenya, Malawi, Ghana, Benin, Burkina Faso and Togo. The approach is now being extended from 6 to 12 partner countries: Tunisia, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Uganda, Namibia and South Africa.



Photos (portraits):
ATVET students at the Latia Resource Center Ltd. and Dairy Training Institution (DTI) in Kenya © GIZ

Photo (landscape):
ATVET training session in Kenya © GIZ



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Photo (left): ATVET student Simone at the Dairy Training Institute (DTI), Kenya © GIZ

Photo (center): Peter Muthee, Managing Director and Head Principal at the Latia Resource Center Ltd. in Kenya © GIZ

Photo (right): A young ATVET student working in the field © GIZ

Results in figures ...

- In six partner countries, over **6,200 students** have received Agricultural Technical Vocational Education and Training (ATVET) in the preceding project phase (2012-2016).
- Acknowledging the heterogeneous nature of Africa's agricultural sector, the ATVET project developed training curricula that are both tailored to countries' skills needs and based on the following high-priority value chains:
 - **Kenya:** dairy, horticulture and aquaculture
 - **Malawi:** mango, pineapple and aquaculture
 - **Ghana:** pineapple and citrus
 - **Benin:** rice and meat (chicken, pork, sheep)
 - **Burkina Faso:** rice, sesame and cashew
 - **Togo:** rice and aquaculture
- As a result, a total of **250 training modules** have been developed for **10 agricultural value chains**. These training modules are not only skills-based – for example, focusing on rice processing or chicken fattening - but also address specific occupations within a value chain, including farm managers, producers and processors.
- The number of people trained - including trainers, tutors, farmers and young students – is set to **double in the next three years** of ATVET implementation.

... and in stories

With its comprehensive support to ATVET, the project contributes to the professionalisation and certification of smallholder farmers and future agripreneurs. The intervention thereby helps to ensure that future employment opportunities are sustainable, planned for and labour market-oriented. Training Centers like Peter Muthee's Latia Resource center are key to achieving that aim. As a consequence, students like Simone can qualify for a successful career in the agricultural sector.

Peter Muthee

Managing Director and Head Principal at Latia Resource Center Ltd.

A pioneer in ATVET, Peter Muthee was among the founding members of Latia Resource Center Ltd. in Naivasha, Kenya. Today, his institution is one of the ATVET intervention's pilot agricultural training centres (ATCs) and trains 40 agriculture students. Thanks to his efforts to increase the number of certified training institutions in Kenya, more graduates now have the prospect of becoming internationally recognised agriculture practitioners.

Simone

ATVET Student at Dairy Training Institute (DTI)

Simone is a final year student at the Dairy Training Institute (DTI) in Kenya. As an ATVET student, he was able to acquire vital skills relating to feeding schemes and nutritional compositions for increased milk production. This brings him one step closer to fulfill his dream of becoming an agricultural entrepreneur.

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