

# InterDev Agroprocessing

InterDev Food-Processing defines itself as a network of partners competent in food processing and aiming to gather, format and disseminate useful and operational information in order to meet the needs of businesses which process agricultural raw materials.

## InterDev Food-Processing Targets Enterprises in the Wide Sense

In developing countries, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises play a central role in stimulating local economies. Unlike often over-sized industries, these small enterprises are very flexible and adapt to difficult market conditions. They require little investment, they create jobs and added value, they support the production of local raw agricultural materials in an industry dynamic.

Here, we consider food-processing businesses to be economic units that get organised to produce and turn

a profit from their activities; we do not take into account staff size, turnover, legal status, or presence in the formal or informal sector.



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## InterDev Aims to Meet a Need for Operational and Practical Information

Needs pertain to technological aspects (equipment and processing procedures, improving quality, market preparation and packaging, etc.), commercialisation (local, regional and international opportunities) and business management (financial analysis, finding funding, taxes and regulations, etc.). Consumer health has particular importance due to the risks for consumers if businesses sell products of poor sanitary quality.

The useful information supply comes in different products and services: experience fiches and business profiles, technical fiches on processing technologies, professional directories, equipment manufacturers' catalogues, and equipment descriptions.

The relays in the dissemination of information towards businesses are support organisations in the food-processing sector connected to Internet: NGOs,

### InterDev Food-Processing offers:

- **Experience fiches** on development innovations and practices in the sector: case studies, business profiles, methods to support micro, small and medium businesses.
- **Technological fiches** on processing procedures and equipment.
- **Methodological fiches** on supporting food-processing businesses.
- **Directories** containing resource persons, support organisations, experts, equipment and packaging manufacturers, and processing businesses.
- **Bibliographical fiches** on works selected for their operational and concrete natures.

programmes, consultancy firms, and socio-professional organisations. Information is gathered, selected and formatted to meet the needs of this target public.

### Thematic Priorities

Food-processing themes can be identified by sector (milk, meat, fruits, vegetables, cereals, tubers, oil-seed crops, fish, etc.) or transversally (quality, commercialisation, technologies, management, etc.). InterDev Food-Processing's first 18 operating months make up a pilot phase during which the project focuses specifically on three sectors: fruits, milk and cereals and one transversal topic-commercialisation. This restriction should allow InterDev to be launched more effectively on priority themes for developing countries. After this phase, new themes shall progressively be added.

### Partners and network organisation

The InterDev Food-Processing network gather South and North organisations which are involved in projects or in contact with the grass root demand. For



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#### ● Coordinator

GRET (France), Mr Philippe Dudez.

#### ● Partners

ENDA-GRAF (Senegal), Cereal theme organiser.

AGRO-PME (Cameroon), Fruit theme organiser.

CITE (Madagascar), Dairy products theme organiser.

ITDG (United Kingdom).

AGROMISA (Netherlands).

GATE-GTZ (Germany).

instance, the network is built around a small number of partners. Responsibilities are shared between a coordinator and sub-theme organisers (for the sectors fruits, cereals, milk, and product commercialisation). The organisation and validation of information is at the heart of our commitment to quality. Rather than delegating to the coordinator, the steering committee delegated this role to partners chosen among network members.

This two-tiered structure is also a reply to the network's desire to expand the number of partners and themes rapidly.

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