

African Organisation For Standardisation



AFRICAN ORGANISATION
FOR STANDARDISATION (ARSO)

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One Market
One Standard

**Harmonisation and implementation of food safety
and quality standards in Africa**

**Opportunities for harnessing collaboration
between CODEX and ARSO**

**Dr. Hermogene Nsengimana,
Secretary General, ARSO**



Standards and Trade

In considering **industry to market practices**, food safety considerations include the **origins of food** including the practices relating to **food labeling, food hygiene, food additives and pesticide residues**, as well as policies on biotechnology and food and guidelines for the management of governmental import and export **inspection and certification systems** for foods

It is no more just that “sustainability and AI impacts can not be ignored when we talk about market access and harmonization of standards”

A.INTRODUCTION

What is ARSO

ARSO VISION

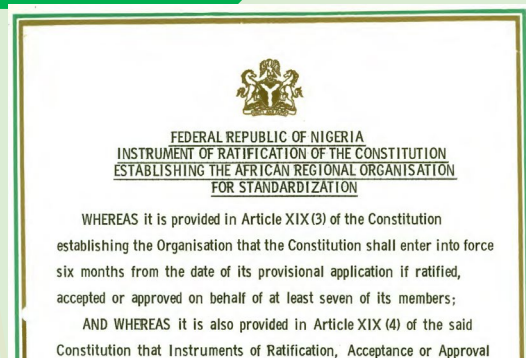
To be an excellent standardisation institution that promotes a **quality culture** in support of **trade, industrialisation and sustainable development in Africa**

ARSO MISSION

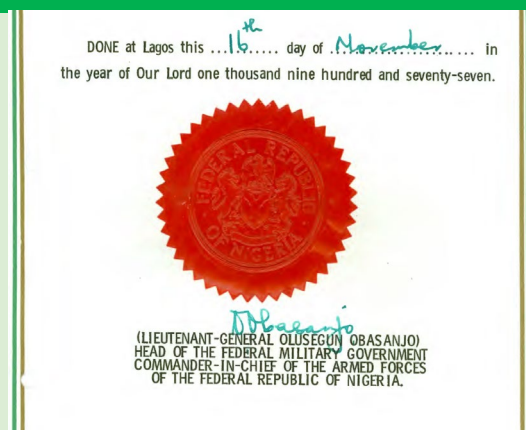
To facilitate African **industrialization, intra-Africa and global trade** by providing harmonized African standards and conformity assessment procedures that **promote sustainable development**

AfCFTA TBT annex 6-Article 6 : Cooperation in Standardisation

1. State Parties shall:
 - a) develop and promote the adoption and/or adaption of **international standards**;
 - b) promote the **adoption of standards developed by the ARSO and the AFSEC**;
 - c) where a relevant international standard required to facilitate trade does not exist, request the **ARSO and/or the AFSEC to develop the required standard to facilitate trade between State Parties**;

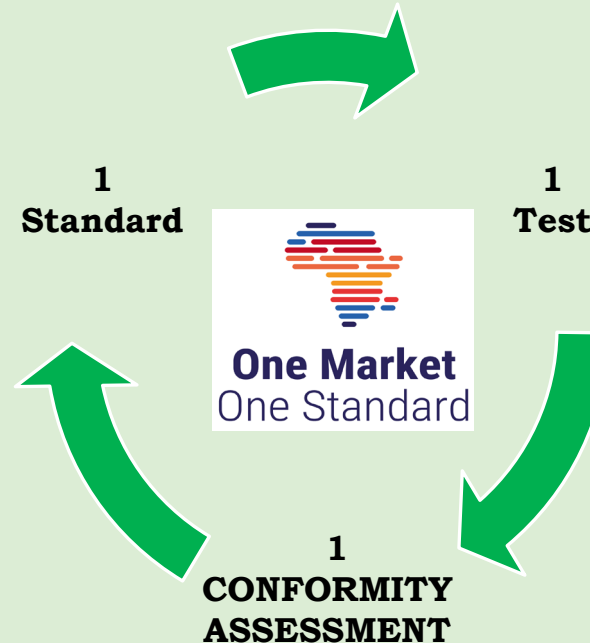
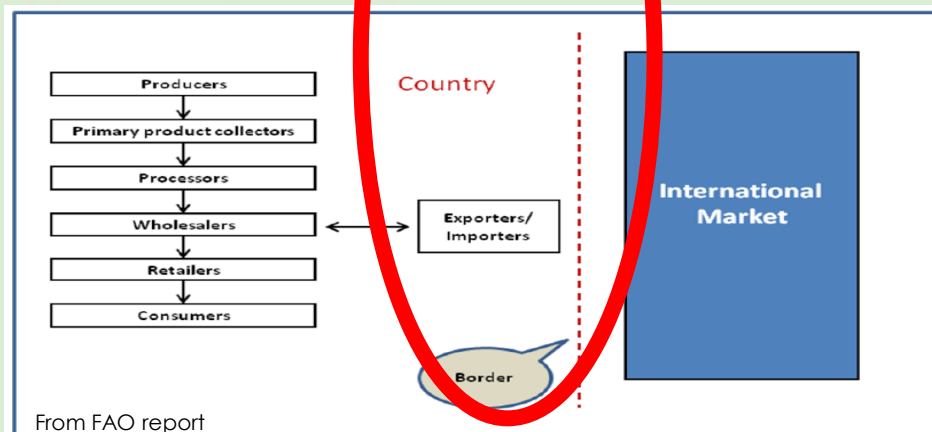
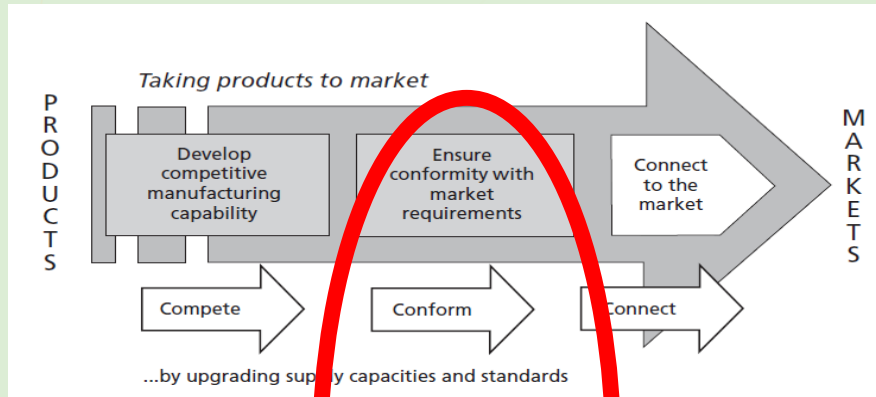


ARSO is intergovernmental organization established in 1977 by OAU (currently AU) and UNECA



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Acceleration AfCFTA –Market access



1-1-1 principle

➔ Bottleneck- TBT and SPS:

1. Harmonization of standards in priority sector
2. Equivalence in Technical regulations
3. Recognition of conformity assessment results

Standardisation– Metrology– Accreditation– Conformity assessment – Market surveillance

24th January
2025

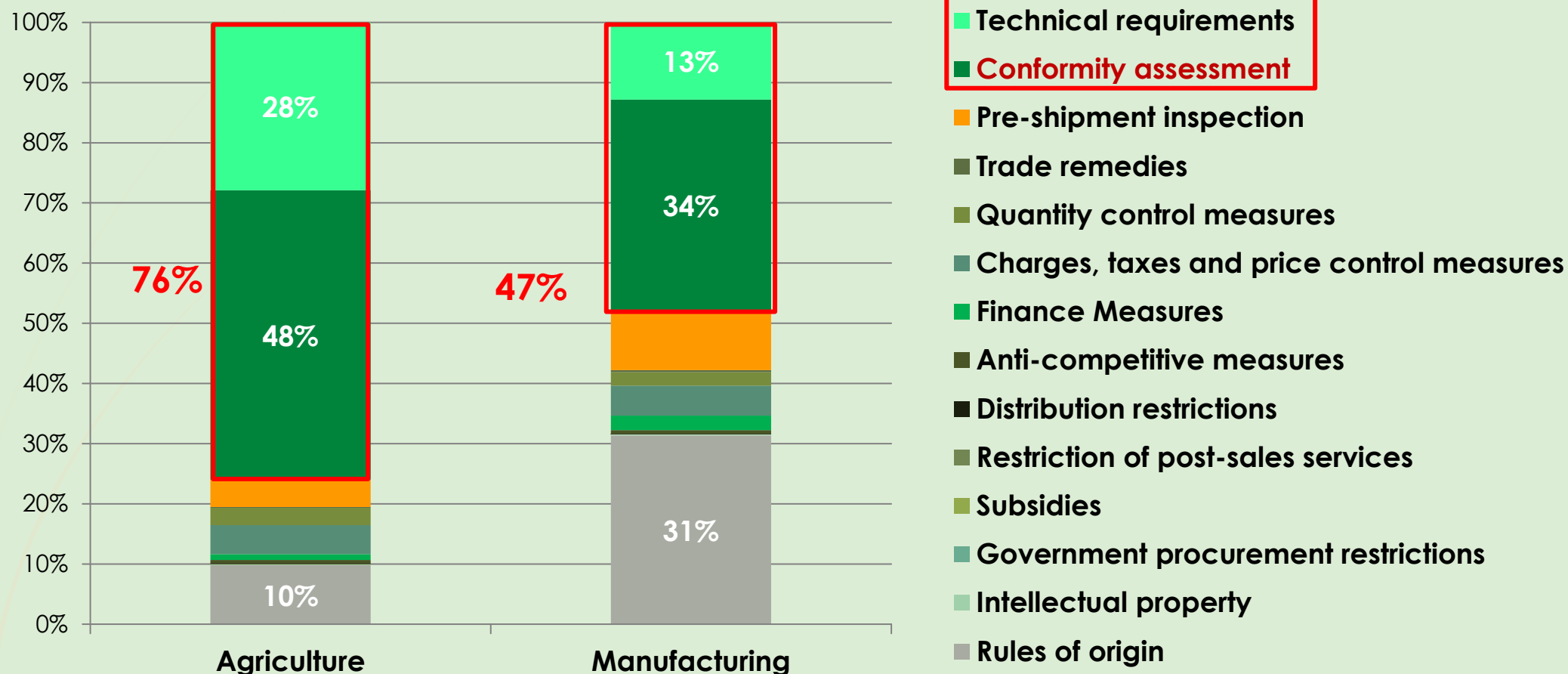
Factors in choosing countries-source of agriproducts

	Fresh fruit and vegetables	Fish and fisheries products
Consistency of quality	1	1
Ability to meet quality requirements	2	2
Consistency of supply	3	
Traceability of produce	4	
Strength of food safety controls within supply chain	5	3
Ability to supply required quantity		4
Availability/reliability of transport		
Cost of transport		
Strength of trade related infrastructure		
Strength of food safety regulation		
Price of produce		5
Ease of communication		
Economic conditions		
Political stability		

NEW SEED,
LOSS OF
BIODIVERSITY

ESG,
EUDR

Rejections-Standards – most burdensome NTMs



Source: ITC Businesses Survey on NTMs in 37 countries, www.ntmsurvey.org, Presentation "What companies teach us about conformity assessment procedures (CAP), Insights from ITC Business Survey on Non-Tariff Measures" by Mathieu Lorian, TBT Committee, Thematic session on CAP, 28 March 2017

Std Compliance disparity-degree of protection



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	Austraria	Japan	US	EU
Mycotoxins	2.2	13.5	0.2	35.8
Food and feed additives	0.7	9.8	9.8	14.1
Bacterial contamination	9.2	23.5	8.4	10.1
Veterinary drugs residues	1	11.4	1	8
Pesticide residues	2.7	2.3	6.3	6.5
Other contaminants	2.7	2.7	1.2	7.3
Heavy metals	2.6	0.1	0.1	5.3
Adulteration/missing documents	8.1	1.2	17.7	5
Hygienic conditions	0.4	12.6	16.3	4.2
Labelling	67.3	0	38.6	0.8
Packaging	0	0.1	0.1	0.75
Others	3	2	0.2	2.15
Total	100	100	100	100

Source: www.unido.org/tradestandardscompliance

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Complexity can be there - different requirement:

1. **EU:** sanitary authorization (**HACCP**) and authorized area, and **official export certificate**
2. **US :** HACCP, **Bioterrorism**
3. **China:** Health certificate, **protocol of speeding up export**
4. **Precautionary principle in some cases**

Safety standards may resolve non compliance and more than 50% are relatively less costly
-safety standards like food hygiene, storage-

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B. HARMONISATION OF STANDARDS

Priority sectors for harmonisation in Africa



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Identifying priority products and value chains for standards harmonization in Africa

Technical Study



Most common exports

AfCFTA: opportunity for industrial upgrading

- Some products feature in top 10 exports to Africa (& within REC) but not top 10 exports to world
- These are typically more industrialized products (e.g. cement and motor vehicles)
- Unprocessed raw materials dominate RECs exports to the rest of the world
- Most common REC exports are primary agricultural products and minerals

Analysis of most common exports is not enough

- Overlooks the significant opportunity to tap into “under-exploited” or “untapped” opportunities to scale up intra-African trade under the AfCFTA

Potential export basket

Continental market: more diversified

- Number of products in PEB to Africa is much higher than the number in PEB to the World (exception of ECOWAS)
- REC comparative advantage within Africa (compared to ROW) is more diversified with greater VA & less limited to primary products
- Some products enter REC PEBs for both African & World markets – offer potential for developing competitive RVCs which are positioned to enter GVCs (e.g. leather, textiles, works of art, essential oils and agro-processing)

PEB to Africa

- 4,077 products for which at least one REC has comparative advantage in vis-à-vis Africa
- Majority of products (2,086) enter PEB for only one REC - highlights varying CA across regions, & significant potential for boosting intra-African trade and between-REC RVC development

Priority RVCs for RECs (based on PEBs)

COMESA	EAC	ECCAS	ECOWAS	SADC	UMA
Agro-processing, including vegetables, ea, sugar	Agro-processing including vegetables, tea, cereals, beverages and spirits	Agro-processing including dairy, coffee, tea, cereals, cocoa, beverages and spirits,	Agro-processing including fruits and nuts, coffee and tea, edible oils, cereals.	Agro-processing including fruits and nuts, sugar, beverages and spirits	Fish processing Edible oils
Minerals beneficiation including copper, cobalt, nickel etc.	Cement	Mineral oils	Mineral fuels	Mineral fuels	Cement Minerals beneficiation
Wood and wood products	Precious stones	Wood and wood products	Essential oils	Precious stones	Fertilizer
Mineral oils	Iron and steel	Precious stones	Cotton	Automobile	Textiles
Cotton and textiles	Creative economy	Iron and steel	Precious stones		Iron and steel
Iron and steel		Automobile	Ships and boats		Automobile
Precious stones		Ships and boats			
Creative economy					

Priority products for standards harmonization

Portland cement; fish; milk and milk products; fruits incl. fruit juices; edible oils incl. palm oils; cereals incl. rice, wheat, maize, sorghum; automobiles; mineral water

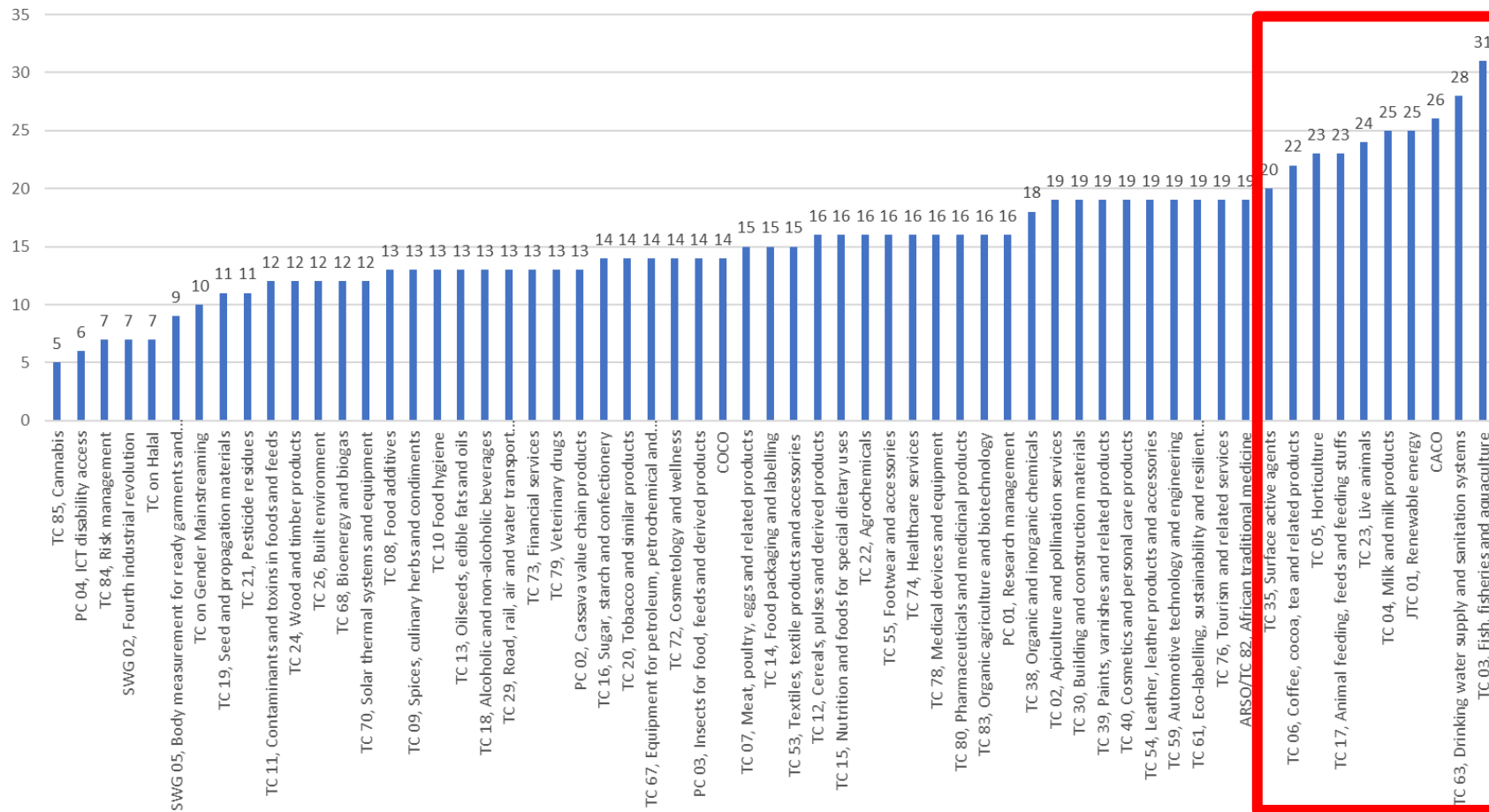
Results: 97 TCs

TCs-Countries participation



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Participation



AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PRODUCTS (28)

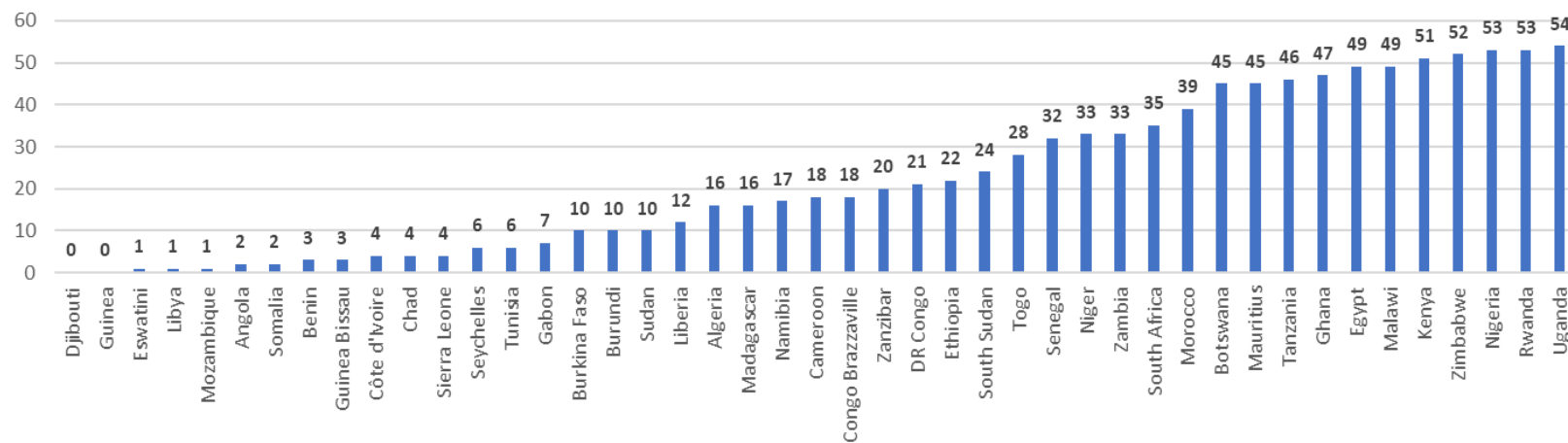
1. ARSO/TC 02, Apiculture and Pollination Services
2. ARSO/TC 03, Fish, Fisheries and Aquaculture
3. ARSO/TC 04, Milk and Milk Products
4. ARSO/TC 05, Horticulture
5. ARSO/TC 06, Coffee, cocoa, tea and related products
6. ARSO/TC 07, Meat, poultry, eggs and related products
7. ARSO/TC 08, Food Additives
8. ARSO/TC 09, Spices, culinary herbs and condiments
9. ARSO/TC 10, Food hygiene and safety
10. ARSO/TC 11, Contaminants and toxins in food and feed
11. ARSO/TC 12, Cereals, pulses and derived products
12. ARSO/TC 13, Oilseeds, edible fats and oils
13. ARSO/TC 14, Food packaging and labelling
14. ARSO/TC 15, Nutrition and food for special dietary needs
15. ARSO/TC 16, Sugar, starch and confectionery
16. ARSO/TC 17, Animal feeding, feeds and feeding stuffs
17. ARSO/TC 18, Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages
18. ARSO/TC 19, Seed and propagation materials
19. ARSO/TC 20, Tobacco and similar products
20. ARSO/TC 21, Pesticide residues
21. ARSO/TC 22, Agrochemicals
22. ARSO/TC 23, Live animals
23. ARSO/TC 63, Drinking water supply and sanitation systems
24. ARSO/TC 79, Veterinary drugs
25. ARSO/TC 83, Organic agriculture and biotechnology
26. ARSO/TC 85, Cannabis
27. ARSO/PC 02, Cassava value chain products
28. ARSO/PC 03, Insects for food, feed and derived products

Harmonisation of Standards-Participation

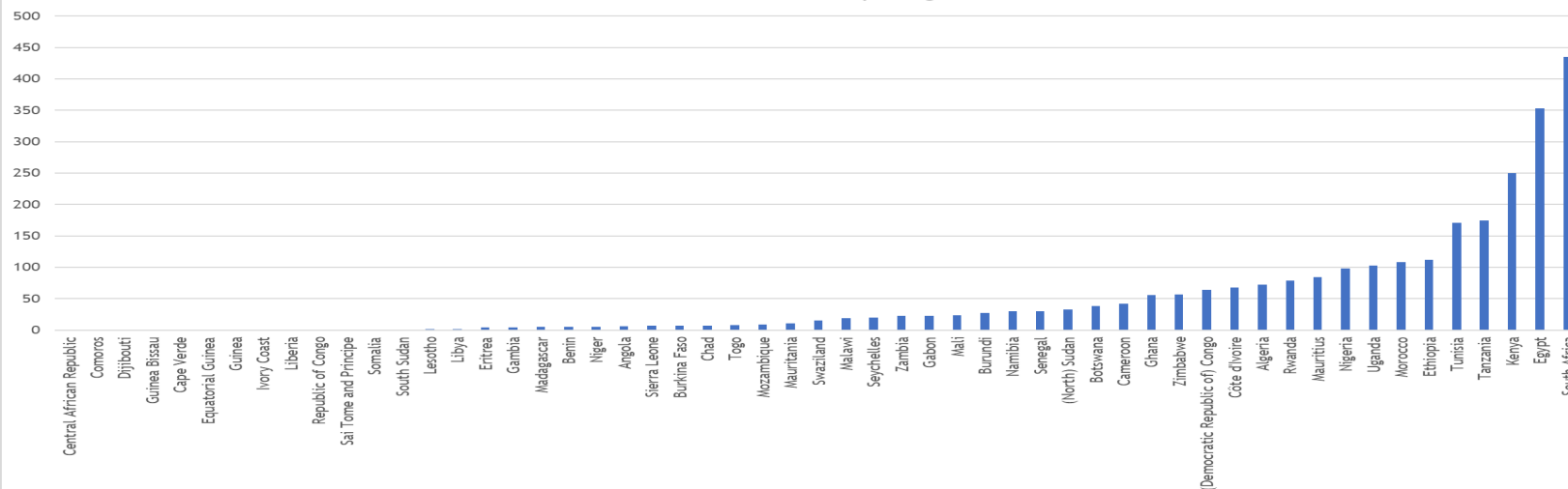


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Number of ARSO TCs



Countries in Africa - Participating in ISO TCs



ARSO	ISO
Uganda	South Africa
Rwanda	Egypt
Nigeria	Kenya
Zimbabwe	Tanzania
Kenya	Tunisia
Malawi	Ethiopia
Egypt	Morocco
Ghana	Uganda
Tanzania	Nigeria
Mauritius	Mauritius

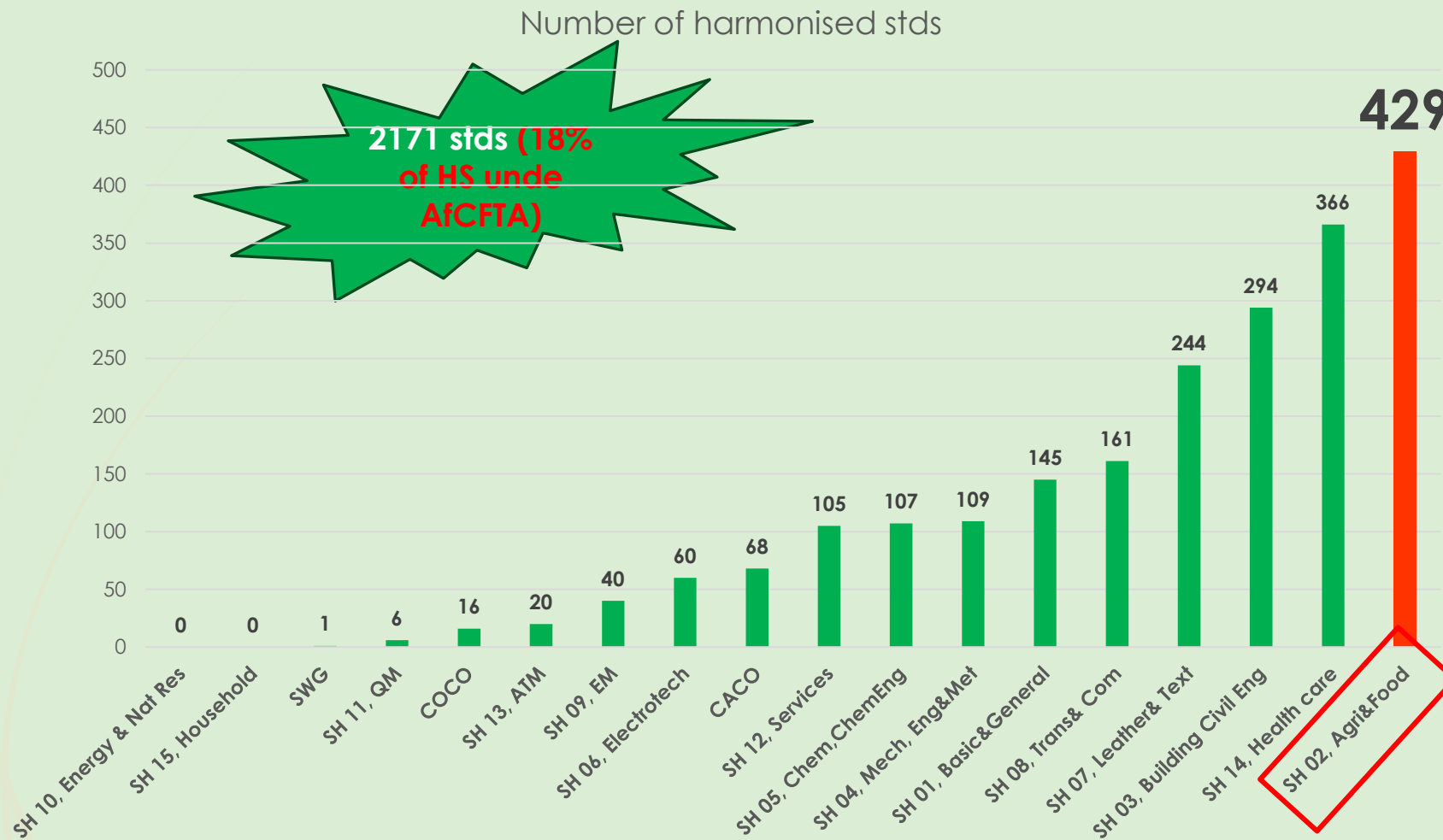
Consideration:

- Regional vs international interest
- Funding
- Technical expertise

Published Standards



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11% stds
based
on
CODEX

A study on adoption of ARS concluded in June 2023



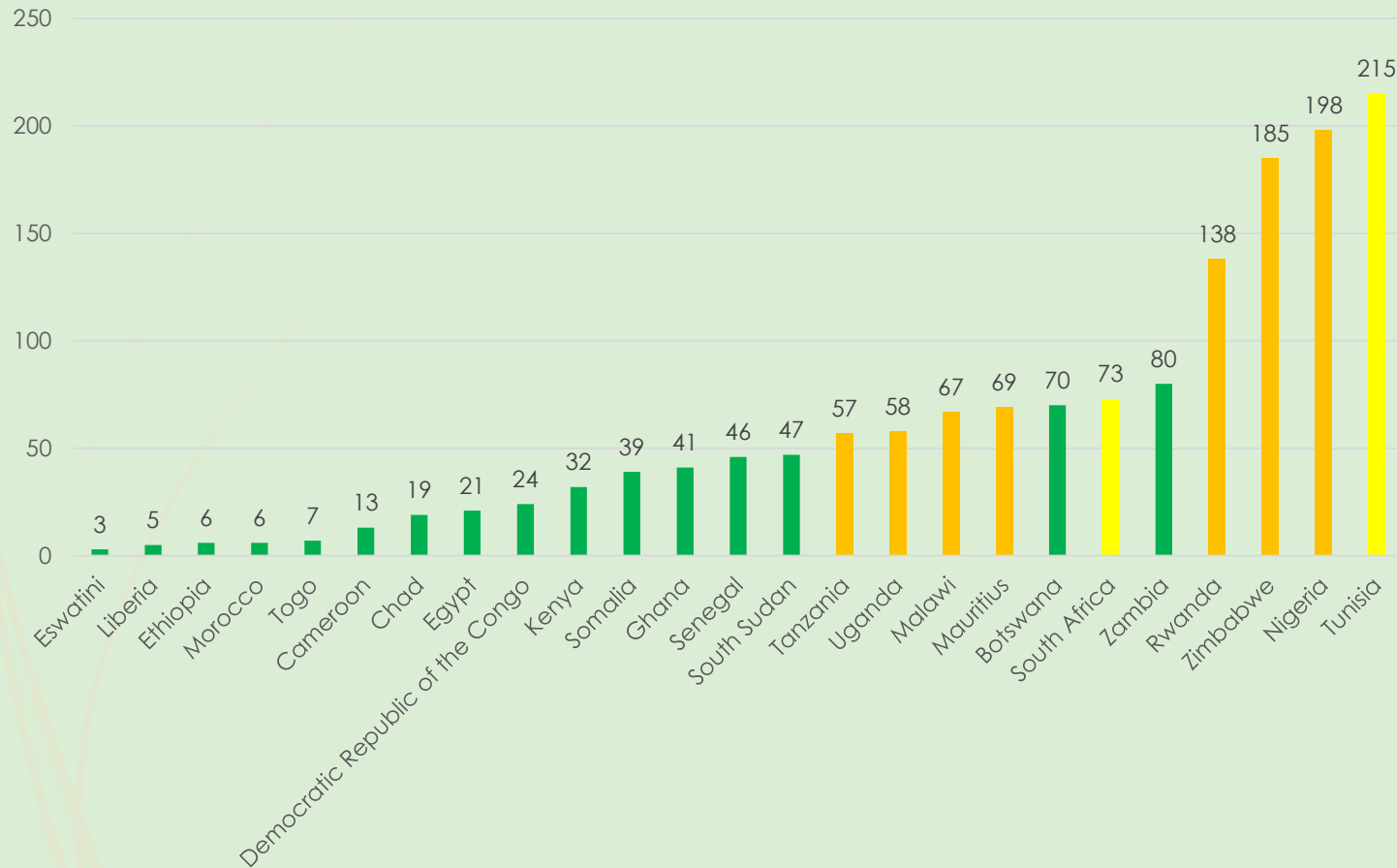
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C. Standards-Adoption and implementation

Adoption of standards

Adopted stds



1. ARS vs IS:

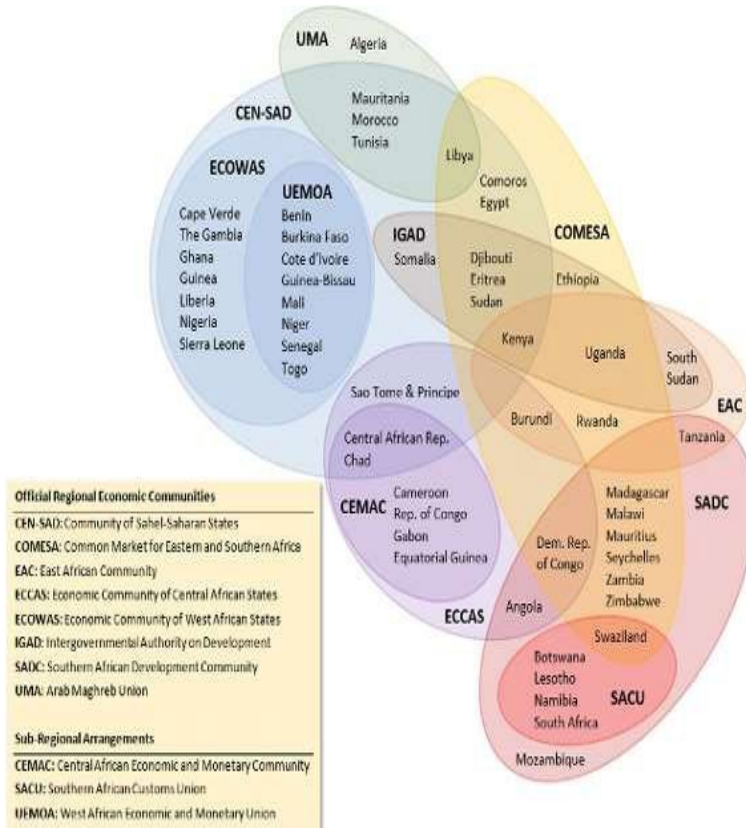
- Level of participation and adoption

2. Leading Sectors:

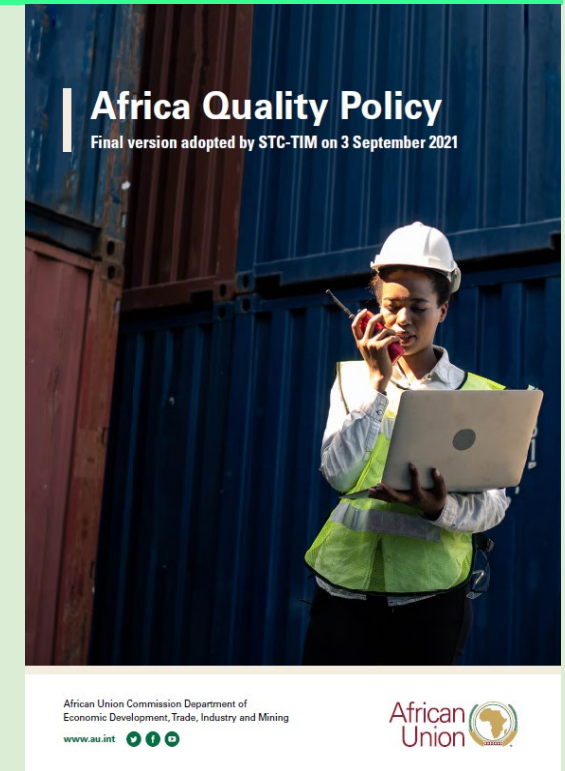
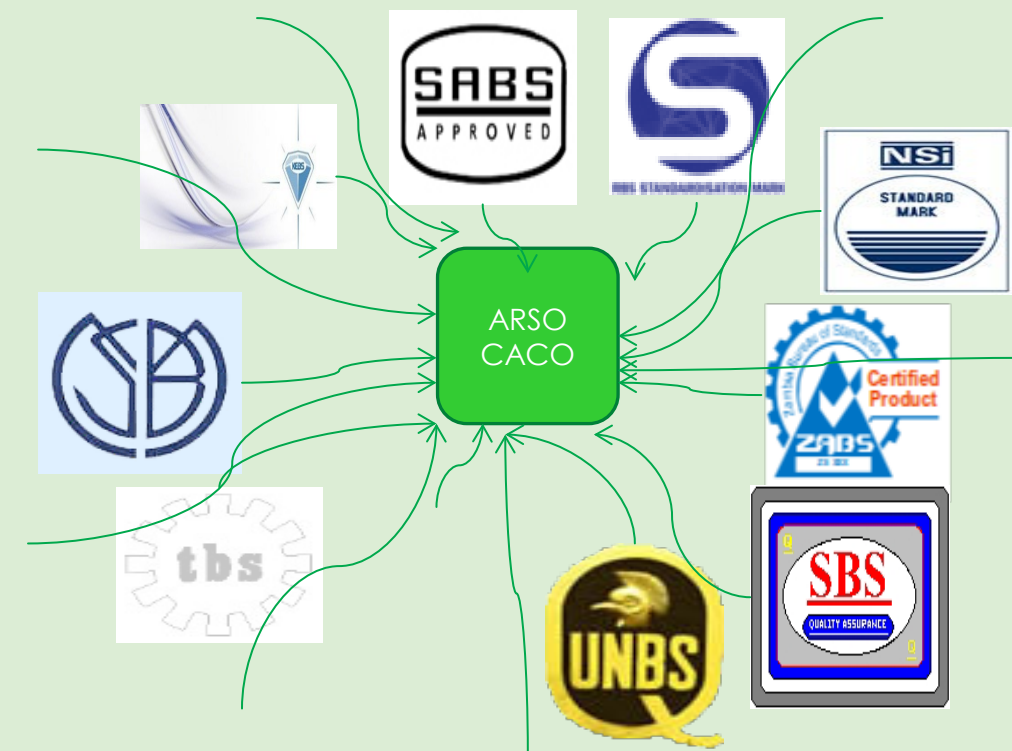
- Sustainability standards
- Africa traditional medicine
- Food products
- Textiles and leather

Mutual recognitions – 1-1-1 principle-AfCFTA

Membership duplication in RECS



AQP and ACTReF- withdrawal of conflicting standards – NSB vs Regulatory bodies

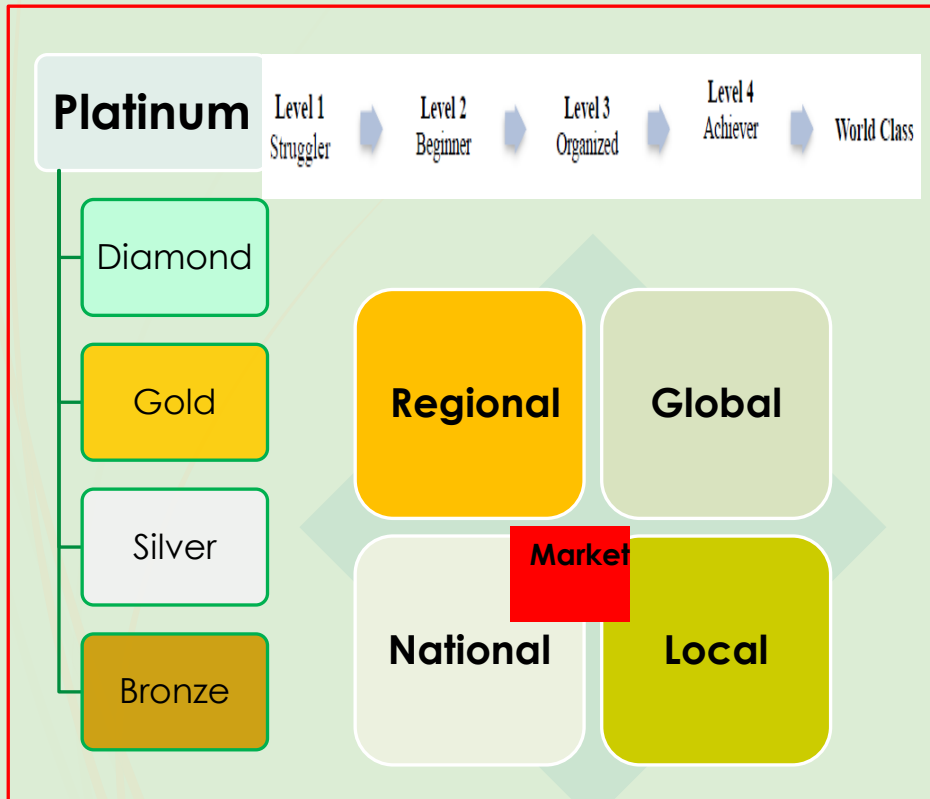


Certification-SMES in Value chain- Maturity model



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ARSO Conformity Assessment Program (ACAP)- Dual Marking



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1. **SCHEME A** - Primary Production (Crops, Livestock, Aquaculture)
 - **SCHEME A1** - Primary Production for Single Farmers
 - **SCHEME A2** - Primary Production for Group of Farmers.
2. **SCHEME B** – Processing of Food
3. **SCHEME C** – Chain of Custody
4. **SCHEME D** – African Eco Mark - Sustainability and eco-labelling
 - **SCHEME D1** – Single site Farms/Companies.
 - **SCHEME D2** - Group of Farmers or multisite production operations
5. **SCHEME E** – African Traditional Medicine
6. **SCHEME F** - Sustainable Capture -Fisheries.
7. **SCHEME G** - Good Financial Grant Practice
8. **SCHEME H** – Cosmetology and Wellness
9. **SCHEME J** – Sustainable Mining
10. **SCHEME I** – Made in Africa (MiA)
11. **SCHEME K** – Ecological Organic Agriculture



Creating value for standard uptake by private sector- Intra-africa trade



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ATWP - Africa Trade Web Portal

Home About Exports and Imports Requirements Tariffs & Quotas Trade Agreements Standards Map Statistics

Intra-Trade in Africa

Trade in Africa

Latest updates

- > World Trade Statistical Review
- > The new USA president to abolish AGOA

[More news updates...](#)

Currency Converter

100

From US Dollar (\$)

To Euro (€)

Convert

Explore areas of activity

- > Search requirements for your product to sell within African Market
- > Over 100,000 standards

Notify me on TBT matters

Under the SPS Agreement,

Outreach Material

ARS GAPM 08:2018
Good Agricultural Practices Outreach Information for African Standards on Sustainable Agriculture

Based on ARS AES 1 -2014 Agriculture - Sustainability and eco-labelling - Requirements

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

ARS GAPM 03:2018
Good Agricultural Practices Outreach Information for African Standards on Fresh Sweet Peppers and Chillies

Based on ARS 891:2018, Fresh Sweet Pepper – Specification

SWEET PEPPERS

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New market demand EUDR, ESG, CBAM-Cocoa

Overview of the ARS-1000 and EUDR.

EU Deforestation Regulation - EUDR

Objective

The EUDR is a regulation that stipulates rules for the trade of products, including cocoa, with the objective of the EU to contribute to halting deforestation, reducing GHG emissions and reducing biodiversity loss. The EUDR has a prohibitive character: products

Key principles

Products may only be traded to and from the EU when:

- they are deforestation-free (cut-off date Dec 2020)
- they are produced in accordance to relevant

Scope

The EUDR focuses on seven commodities and their derivatives

Sustainability - EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)'s scope

- DARS 2151 - 2024 - Shea Butter – Sustainability and Ecolabelling – Requirements
- DARS 1877-2024, Sustainable coffee — Sustainability and eco-labelling — Requirements
- DARS 1878-2024, Sustainable tea — Sustainability and eco-labelling — Requirements
- DARS 1881 - 2024 - Soya Sustainability and Ecolabeling requirements
- DARS 1882 - 2024 - Oil Palm - Sustainability and Eco-Labeling Requirements
- DARS 2149 - 2024 - Sunflower – Sustainability and Eco labelling – Requirements
- DARS 2150 - 2024 - Groundnuts – Sustainability and Ecolabelling – Requirements
- DARS 2159 - 2024, Sustainable rubber — Requirements

food security as availability, access, utilization, and stability

ARSO/PC 03: Insects for food, feed and derived products (16)

- FDARS 1291-1-2025, Edible insects — Part 1 Edible insects' products — Specification
- FDARS 1291-2-2025, Edible insects — Part 2 Products containing edible insects — Specification
- FDARS 1261-2025, Edible insects — Edible crickets — Specification
- FDARS 2050-2025, Edible insects - Edible dried caterpillars — Specification
- FDARS GL 2052-2025, Regulatory framework guideline for edible insects and insects for feed in Africa

Fortification

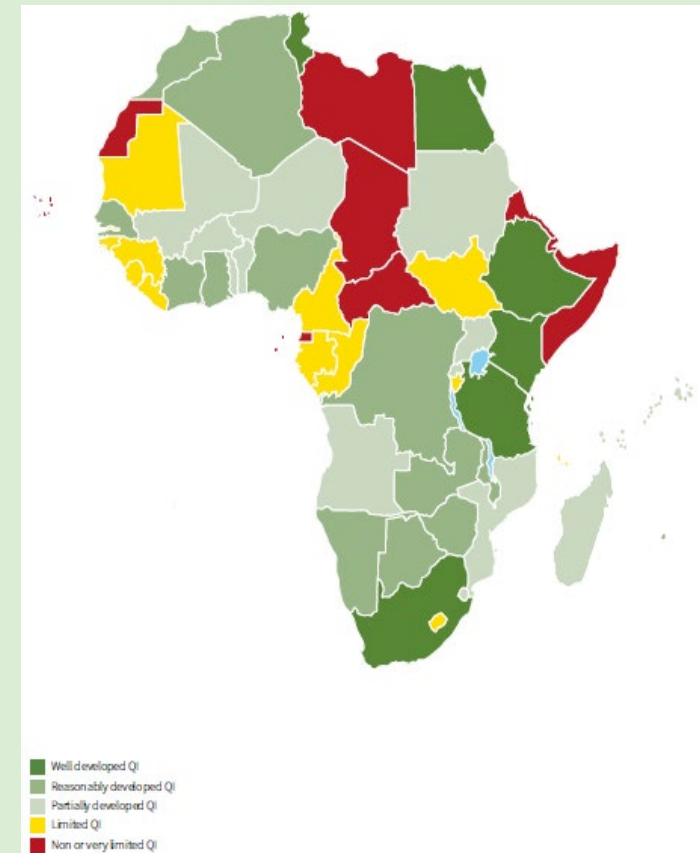
- ARS 860:2016(E), Fortified wheat flour — Specification
- ARS 861:2016(E), Fortified maize flour — Specification
- ARS 862:2016(E), Fortified cooking oils — Specification
- ARS 863:2016 (E), Fortified sugar — Specification
- ARS 938:2014, Textured soy protein product — Specification

Resilience

- ARS 53:2016(E), General principles of food hygiene — Code of practice
- ARS 1101:2018, Good Agricultural practices for food crops — Maize
- ARS 1103:2018, Production and handling of cassava — Good Agricultural practices
- ARS 1104:2018, Good Agricultural Practices for Dairy Farms
- ARS 1109:2018, Good agricultural practices for food crops — Fruits and vegetables

1. Build a quality culture through **Capacity building**
2. Focus on **priority value chain** – standards and value addition – Made in Africa product competitiveness and rebranding
3. Support **cost effective conformity assessment** with Focus on SMES growth and private sector in general
4. Clear responsibility- Regulatory and **institutional framework** for Quality infrastructure

QI status– Stocktaking 2023



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Asante

Merci beaucoup!

Thank you!

شكرا

Muito obrigado!