Case Study



Training The Trainer To Achieve Standards Compliance In Uganda

UKaid
from the British people

Commonwealth Standards Network

Case Study

Standards, formulated by experts, are an agreed way of doing something by implementing best practice, or of manufacturing a product that is fit for purpose and meets user expectations. They bring confidence to regulators, businesses and consumers that products and services are safe, reliable and of good quality. For businesses who implement them, they can help improve performance, reduce risks and increase sustainability.

Following standards is about good business sense – to make products that are of the right quality, to meet consumer demands at a price they are willing to pay. The key is to pass on that knowledge of what good looks like, to boost confidence in bringing better quality produce to more formal markets and attract better business.

> *"Reaching compliance with standards is a journey, and it has to be broken down into steps, especially for small holder farmers who need to start somewhere. So the CSN is trying to get them to take those first one or two steps on the journey."*
>
> *Graham Holloway, Team Leader African Stream, CSN.*

The Challenge: Finding compliance and following standards

Standards help in improving efficiency and productivity, retain quality and reduce risks. And the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS), working closely with the Commonwealth Standards Network (CSN), translated and simplified the standards, developing 26,000 brochures in 13 local languages for the benefit of the small-holder farmers who make up approximately 70% of the people of Uganda.

However, there was more work to be done in ensuring proper compliance of the standards and guarantee that they are distributed, used and followed according to best practice. The farmers needed help in learning how to implement the standards in their businesses.



"We are very fortunate that CSN has partnered with UNBS, to simplify the standards for local farmers. And on top of that, they have funded and trained a number of farmers nationwide."

EM Enock Mutumba, Consulting Expert

"Naturally the translated brochure is useful because they can read it on their own and they can follow the steps on what the standards require them to do... so it's been a useful thing."

Businge Christopher, Chairman TORO Agricultural & Tourism Associates

The Solution: Train the Trainer

With support from the CSN, the UNBS introduced the 'Train the Trainer' programme to address this need, by funding and training several farmers who in turn trained another 50-60 farmers, who then trained several more farmers to help achieve standards compliance across the country. To date around 6,000 farmers have been trained; taking their brochures home to implement what they've learned, resulting in products that are stored, maintained and transported to a very high standard.



Above: EM Enock Mutumba, Consulting Expert

The Results: Increased trade

Thanks to the chain training, farmers have been able to produce products that reach set standards, making them more marketable and profitable to the economy.

For Mirrias Niwobuhungiro, an avocado farmer herself, being trained through this initiative has been a huge step forward in the right direction. The training gave her the skills and know-how to export her produce successfully. "Farmers didn't know how to wash their products, they didn't know about hygiene, whether things are clean... now they know how to wash their products and how to transport them," she explained.

Introducing this initiative has proved very beneficial in creating awareness and understanding about the importance of producing products that are marketable, acceptable and profitable in line with the international standards.



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The CSN is a collaborative network that supports trade, economic growth and prosperity throughout the Commonwealth by promoting increased awareness, development and use of international standards.

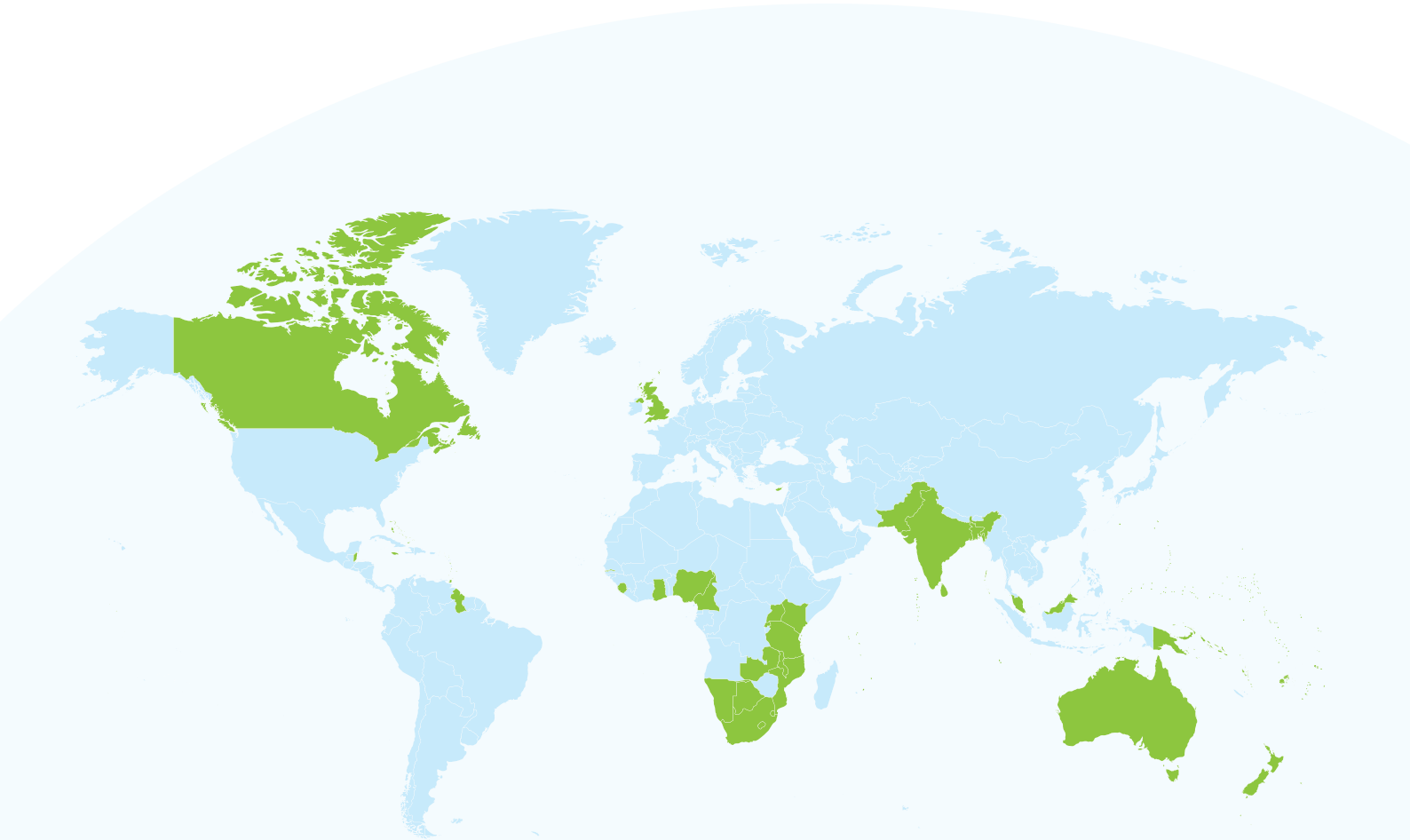
International standards play an important role in promoting productivity and efficiency, reducing costs, removing barriers to trade, and driving economic growth. As such, the CSN is especially relevant to National Standards Bodies from Commonwealth nations that are looking to boost support of their nations international trade capabilities.

The CSN is a collaborative network open to all Commonwealth countries, its members are actively involved in shaping its development so that outcomes will best suit their needs.

Find out more...

If you would like find out more about the CSN or wish to participate or support this important initiative, please visit www.commonwealthstandards.net

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