1. About the Global Mechanism

The Global Mechanism (GM) specializes in providing **advisory services** to country parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) on upscaling finance for sustainable land management (SLM). The GM promotes the positioning of the UNCCD in the broader context of development programming that includes policy processes and thematic areas influencing SLM and rural development.

The main service that the GM provides to partner countries is support to the development of Integrated Financing Strategies (IFS) for SLM. The IFS is a process for identifying and mobilizing a mix of financial resources to fund projects, programmes and priority actions that contribute to SLM and UNCCD implementation in a given country. Its ultimate goal is to ensure adequate, predictable and sustainable financing. In particular the IFS helps countries locate and package three potential sources of funding: internal, external and innovative. Among innovative resources, the GM has identified trade as one crucial area with significant funding potential for the UNCCD.

2. The Global Mechanism's engagement in Aid for Trade and Agriculture

In line with its mandate to mobilize trade resources for the implementation of the UNCCD, the GM has engaged in the Aid for Trade (AfT) Initiative, which aims to:

- strengthen developing countries' productive capacity;
- tackle their supply side constraints; and
- address their needs in trade-related infrastructure.

In this context, the GM focuses on AfT flows to the agricultural sector, with a view to channel increased investments to SLM issues.

GM's engagement in AfT and Agriculture builds on the fundamental role of SLM in determining the quantity, quality and sustainability of agricultural production, and therefore in determining the capacity of the agricultural sector to feed the population in developing countries, to generate an income for rural producers and to provide a stable and quality supply that meets market demand.

In so doing, the GM aims to contribute to **strengthen the cross-sectoral coordination** between the trade and agriculture sectors, with a view to promote AfT investment in agriculture in general, and in SLM in particular.

Specific objectives include:

- promoting the integration of trade policies with sustainable development priorities in agriculture, food security and environment;
- improving the coordination, complementarity and harmonization of trade interventions for agriculture and SLM by fostering synergies between sectoral processes at the country level; and
- increasing the understanding of trade-poverty linkages in the context of rural development, food security and the environment.

3. The Global Mechanism's services to promote trade investments in agriculture and SLM

The GM engages in AfT and Agriculture at two levels:

At the international level

The GM aims to raise awareness of the important linkages between trade, agriculture and SLM and to facilitate dialogue, collaboration and coordination between the agriculture and rural development and the trade stakeholders.

The GM sits in a privileged position in terms of dialogue with rural development actors, thanks to the hosting arrangement with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and to its engagement in the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD), of which the GM is a Board member. At the same time, the GM has built a network with the major trade-related organizations based in Geneva, including the Secretariats of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) and the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF); the International Trade Centre (ITC); the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD); and a number of trade delegates, including donors.



Specific services offered by the GM at the global level include:

- engaging in policy dialogue on AfT, particularly AfT and Agriculture and Rural Development;
- conducting research on AfT delivery, implementation and financing modalities;
- lobbying with trade-related institutions, particularly the Geneva-based institutions, to mainstream SLM issues in their activities, and with agriculture and environment institutions, to promote their engagement in AfT;
- networking and partnership building with international institutions to engage them in providing technical backstopping and financing of country initiatives on Trade, Agriculture and SLM; and
 promoting the development and implementation of integrated approaches to build synergies across sectors.

At the national level

The GM aims to help developing countries, particularly least developed countries (LDCs), to increase AfT investments in agriculture and SLM. To this end, the GM assists countries in **identifying trade projects**, **programmes and priority actions** that are relevant for SLM, sustainable agriculture and food security, and in mobilizing AfT resources for their implementation.

Such trade interventions are identified through cross-sectoral consultations and are coordinated using trade-relevant national structures, such as the EIF. The financing potential for these interventions is determined through assessments of bilateral and multilateral AfT allocations in the specific country.

The GM's capacity to facilitate the cross-sectoral identification of trade interventions for SLM, sustainable agriculture and food security draws on the national platforms for the implementation of the UNCCD (so-called Integrated Investment Frameworks) – which bring together different sectors such as agriculture, forestry, water, environment, energy and land¹ – and on a close collaboration with the National Implementation Unit (NIU) of the EIF in the ministry of trade. The engagement of the EIF NIU ensures consistency, harmonization and complementarity of trade interventions with the Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTIS) and with relevant trade programming frameworks. The EIF umbrella is also useful to align donors' support by pooling AfT resources from the different sectors involved in UNCCD implementation.

Specific services offered by the GM at the national level include:

- supporting policy dialogue and awareness raising on the inter-sectoral synergies between trade and SLM;
- supporting partnership building with trade institutions and SLM mainstreaming into national trade processes;
- providing technical backstopping and financing for background studies and assessments of AfT flows to the relevant SLM sectors, especially agriculture;
- supporting the identification of national trade and SLM priorities and related financing sources, by facilitating and financing inter-sectoral consultations;
- assisting in the formulation, design and financing of inter-sectoral trade and SLM projects by providing technical backstopping, catalytic funding for project design, and resource mobilization for project implementation; and
- building networks and partnerships with donors and development partners to provide technical expertise and financial support for the development, implementation, replication and upscaling of inter-sectoral initiatives that simultaneously address trade and SLM.

The GM's support to countries is often delivered with the help of Trade and SLM Advisors who are able to facilitate the resource mobilization process and to provide related technical assistance where needed.

Knowledge Exchange Programme on Aid for Trade Finance for SLM

In order to improve its outreach capacity and the effectiveness of its activities, the GM has designed a Knowledge Exchange Programme on Aid for Trade Finance for SLM which aims to strengthen the capacity of LDC governments to: i) understand the cross-sectoral linkages between trade, agriculture, environment and food security; ii) increase cross-ministerial coordination and harmonization of sectoral national structures; and iii) build technical and financial synergies among sectors on the development, implementation and financing of trade projects, programmes and priority actions for SLM, sustainable agriculture and food security.

Contacts

Please submit any questions or requests for additional information or further assistance to the GM Market Access and Trade (MAT) Programme Team:

Ms Eleonora Canigiani

Trade and Markets Strategy Officer Tel.: +39 06 5459 2734 Email: e.canigiani@global-mechanism.org

Ms Susan Bingi

Trade and SLM Advisor, East and Southern Africa Tel: +256 414 314283 Email: s.bingi@global-mechanism.org

Mr Salif Touré

Trade and SLM Advisor, West and Central Africa Tel.: +223 20 22 34 65 Email: s.toure@global-mechanism.org



The Global Mechanism of the UNCCD at the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Via Paolo di Dono, 44 00142 Rome, Italy Tel. +39 06 5459 2155 Fax +39 06 5459 2135 www.global-mechanism.org

¹ The stakeholders involved in the development and implementation of the Integrated Investment Frameworks for UNCCD implementation vary by country and depend on each country's institutional set-up. Agriculture and environment ministries are usually UNCCD focal points and coordinators for the frameworks.