

Request for applications: To conduct studies to generate national data for Standards, Metrology, Conformity Assessment and Accreditation (SMCA) Framework

1.0 Background

Uganda is one of the three founding members of the East African Community, whose main objective is to promote economic integration. To this effect, one of key aspect is to promote regional trade among the partner states. With the coming into force of the EAC Customs Union in 2005 and most recently with expansion of the EAC to include Rwanda and Burundi as well as coming into force of the EAC Common Market, one of the major barriers to cross-border trade are those related to standards and conformity assessment procedures, called Technical Barriers to Trade (TBTs).

EAC Secretariat normally organizes Standards meetings to provide a platform for the EAC Partner States to discuss, negotiate and agree on harmonized actions; aimed at minimizing TBTs and facilitate the free movement of goods across borders. These meetings provide Partner States with the opportunity to discuss and resolve reported, potential and any other new/emerging challenges, related to standards and conformity assessment, faced by the private sector in cross-border trade.

Apart from the regional arrangements, Uganda is a member of the WTO and hence a signatory to both the SPS and TBT agreement. The Committees on Technical Barriers to Trade and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the TBT and SPS Committees) were established with the purpose of affording Members of World Trade Organization (WTO) the opportunity of consulting on any matters relating to the operation of the TBT and SPS Agreements or the furtherance of the objectives of the Agreements.

Also, the following bodies through their secretariat arrange Standardization, Metrology, Conformity Assessment and Accreditation meetings; WTO TBT/SPS(trade and environment), CODEX, OIE, IPPC, ISO, IEC,ITU,OIML, AFRIMET, the African Union – Inter-African Bureau of Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), CIPM, ILAC, IAF, EAC, COMESA, Tripartite Free Trade Area SMCA and ARSO.

The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives (MTIC) while implementing the Quality Infrastructure Programme (QUISP) has allocated funds to support both private sector institutions that form part of the national quality infrastructure to participate in regional and international SMCA for a or related meetings.

2.0 Objective

To equip the National Trade Negotiation Teams /Delegation and **in particular those concerned with SPS/TBT issues** with the necessary data and information required for negotiations and/or to participate in regional and international SMCA fora

3.0 Focus and scope for research studies to be undertaken

To effectively participate in the above meetings, delegates need well researched data/information or thematic papers that can be used as references to form national positions. The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives with support from the QUISP is inviting applications to carry out research studies and prepare thematic papers in areas of:

1. Food safety standards in relation to the Codex Alimentarius Commission requirements (CODEX)
2. Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)
3. Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) issues
4. Non-tariff barriers to trade (NTBs)

4.0 Application Procedures

Interested applicants will be required to fill a standard application form. Applicants must follow QUISP guidelines that can be accessed from the Ministry website; www.mtti.go.ug or request for a soft copy from the following email; quisp@mtti.go.ug

The deadline for submitting APPLICATIONS is **15th February, 2012.**

5.0 For more information on the QUISP programme; please visit the Ministry website.