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## **TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) and Centre for Agricultural and Bioscience International (CABI) Sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support Standards, Sanitary& Phyto-Sanitary work in Trade**

**Nairobi 25<sup>th</sup> August:** Regional trade facilitation organisation TradeMark East Africa has this morning signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Centre for Agricultural and Bioscience International (CABI) to cement collaboration and working together for the organisations to promote to enhance market access for regional produce.

The two organisations have collaborated since 2017 to implement various Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Measures (SPS) projects across East Africa in, among other areas, conducting studies on SPS Gaps in the region and tools to remedy the situation.

At a time when SPS issues are significant non-tariff barriers blocking regional produce from lucrative continental and global markets, TMEA and CABI will now jointly support strengthening of national SPS systems, engagement with Regional Economic Communities and support AfCFTA implementation specifically the Protocol on Trade in Goods and Annex 7 on Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures.

Speaking during the MOU signing TMEA CEO Frank Matsaert highlighted the immense potential the region's agricultural sector holds, if risks in food safety, plant health and animal health are addressed *"We look forward to working together in improving the safety of agricultural goods coming from this continent to the rest of the world to enhance market access. We will also bring our expertise of tapping into ICT to modernize how Standards and SPS licensing and regulation is undertaken for efficiency"*

On his part CABI Director for General Development Dr Dennis Rangi noted that the two organisations will create great synergies in SPS work which is a key catalyst to trade. *"The coming into effect of the Africa Free Continental Trade Area (AfCFTA) is creating a huge opportunity for trading in agricultural goods across the continent if standards and SPS issues are well addressed, and I believe working together we shall help exploit this opportunity"*

Under the partnership the two organisations will support the region meet various SPS requirements (Food Safety, Animal Health, and Plant Health) in most markets hence enhancing access of regional produce.

### **Notes:**

1. For interviews contacts: Kaara Wainaina. Communication Manager.  
[Kaara.Wainaina@trademarkea.com](mailto:Kaara.Wainaina@trademarkea.com)
2. About TradeMark East Africa

TradeMark (Trade and Markets) East Africa is an aid-for-trade organisation that was established in 2010, with the aim of growing prosperity in East Africa through increased trade. TMEA operates on a not-for-profit basis and is funded by the development agencies of the following countries: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom, United States of America as well as the European Union. TMEA works closely with Regional Intergovernmental Organisations, like the East Africa Community, national governments, the private sector, and civil society organisations. The first phase of TMEA (2010-2017) delivered results which contributed to gains in East Africa's trade and regional integration in terms of reduced cargo transit times, improved border efficiency, and reduced barriers to trade. TMEA has its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, with operations and offices in EAC-Arusha, Burundi (Bujumbura), Tanzania (Dar es Salaam), Democratic Republic of Congo (Bukavu), Ethiopia (Addis-Ababa), Malawi, Zambia, South Sudan, Uganda (Kampala) and Rwanda (Kigali). To find out more, please visit our website [www.trademarkea.com](http://www.trademarkea.com)