

UNCTAD'S WORK ON COMMODITIES

Within the United Nations system, UNCTAD is responsible for providing information and carrying research and analysis on commodities and commodity markets, and is recognized as the intergovernmental authority on commodities.

Its work is also aimed at helping to carry out effective and practical action in the field of commodities.

Poor farmers have little chance of getting a fair price for their produce if they do not know how much markets beyond their villages are willing to pay.

INFOSHARE gives commodity producers access to the information they need to negotiate better prices and get their produce into higher-paying markets.

INFOSHARE's action is based on

- An open and shared database accessible over the Internet
- Training for the beneficiaries of the project, to help them understand, analyse and use commodity information
- Training in the use of the database.

INFOSHARE'S STRENGTHS

Infoshare is partly an open system accessible to anyone over the Internet and partly restricted to partners who provide data to the system.

Information is collected locally. It can be consulted in real time and analysed immediately.

Information is transmitted daily to producers and to the media to ensure the widest possible distribution.

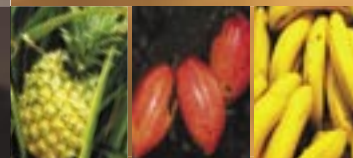
The objective is to improve market transparency and improve the negotiating skills of producers in developing countries.

Infoshare was chosen in 2005 by the United Nations as one of the "10 stories the world should hear more about".

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Infoshare is currently in the pilot phase in Cameroon. The intention is to extend the experiment to other countries that have expressed an interest in it, after adapting it to their particular context and needs.

For further information,
please contact : Mr. Olivier COMBE
+ (41) 22.917.48.98 - olivier.combe@unctad.org



**Economic
intelligence
to serve
the world's
neediest
people**

Designed and printed by the Publishing Service, United Nations, Geneva — GE.07-51038 — June 2007 — 1,000

INFO SHARE

Knowledge is power

Infoshare is promoted by the UNCTAD
Trust Fund INFOCOMM



INFOSHARE'S OBJECTIVES

Infoshare is a tailor-made database conceived to adapt to the national commodity supply chain and to the local telecommunications set-up.

Main objectives

- To make it easier to collect and capture data
- To facilitate data analysis and shed light on the marketing and supply chains
- To facilitate the dissemination of information by making the process automatic and targeting the appropriate users
- To improve the quality of information

WHAT KIND OF INFORMATION?

Infoshare enables partners to collect, analyse and disseminate information on:

- Prices (prices paid to producers, export prices, import prices, futures prices, auction prices, local market prices, etc.)
- Costs (inputs, domestic transport, storage, inspection, fees, etc.)
- Quantities sold, by grade
- Various quality standards

As well as:

- Lists of exporters
- Interest rates in the marketing chain
- Other data related to the marketing chain

INFOSHARE'S ACTION IN CAMEROON

Cameroon was selected as the location to launch the pilot phase of the Infoshare project in 2005 with the Cameroonian National Cocoa and Coffee Board (NCCB).

Action in Cameroon:

- Information collection

- Supporting the collection of information in local markets, at port for export and in international markets

- Information analysis

- By the NCCB: Infoshare enables the Board to rapidly detect any anomaly along the supply chain, to follow price and cost trends and to produce statistics
- By producers: Infoshare allows them to better understand the supply chain and the market and to increase their profits

- Information dissemination

- More specific and more relevant information is conveyed to isolated producers through reliable bodies
- More specialised and customized information is provided, depending on which stakeholders are targeted
- Comprehensive information is monitored by the body in charge of the whole system



INFO

SHARE

Economic intelligence to serve the world's neediest people

www.unctad.org/infoshare