

REIS workshops private sector on food safety measures

The Regional Economic Integration Support (REIS) Programme, which has been supporting the conduct of awareness raising workshops on sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures for private sector stakeholders held its third and final workshop for the year from 10 – 12 February 2015 in Pretoria, South Africa.

The Pretoria workshop was aimed at raising awareness in food safety standards in the food processing sector. Its objectives were; to deepen the understanding of food safety sanitary issues amongst private sector stakeholders from the SADC Member States; enhance participation of private sector representatives in the development and implementation of harmonized national food standards; establish food safety networks; and identify food safety related specific trade concerns faced by private sector.

Fifty (50) delegates from the farming and food processing industry from 14 SADC Member States attended the workshop where they received technical presentations from renowned SPS experts on Critical Tools in Food Safety and Food Quality & Management including good hygiene practice (GHP), good manufacturing practice (GMP) and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP).

REIS has been supporting the conduct of awareness raising workshops on sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures for private sector stakeholders in the three SPS thematic areas, namely plant health, animal health and food safety. Awareness raising workshops on phytosanitary standards (plant health) and sanitary standards (animal health) were held in May 2014 and October 2014 respectively. The ultimate goal of these workshops is to improve intra-regional and international trade in agricultural and agro-food products.

