

Submitting Country, Organization, Company

Australia, NeXTRADE World Pty. Ltd.

If Organization or Company, please indicate the approximate number of employees

5

Title of the action

International Standards supporting interoperable trade facilitation and traceability

Relevant Website<https://nextrade.world>**Partners**

Pro Bono contribution to UNECE UN/CEFACT in Bureau Vice Chair Role International Supply Chain

Type of initiative

Public-private initiative

Description of action

Continuing pro bono contribution as UNECE UN/CEFACT Bureau Vice Chair International Supply Chain - Standards development.

Ongoing development of standards based trade collaboration platform suited to SME engagement in international supply chains

Type of action

Traceability

Transparency

Please select the specific area/s of the action

Norms and standards

Research and Development of Innovative Solutions

Awareness and Education

Collaborative initiatives

Business management systems or instruments

Scope of the action, including a description of the value chain processes that are covered

Objective

SME engagement

Commitments

OPEX subscription based trade facilitation services

Value chain scope

Enable SME engagement in international trade. PoC Pilot projects recognised

Timeframe and/or milestones for the action

Engaging since 1996 with UNECE UN/EDIFACT UN/CEFACT UNESCAP UNNExT GS1

Current - UNECE UN/CEFACT deliverables achieving Plenary approval as international standards.

Progressive Platform services development 2016-2025

Reference instruments and sources used

Ref UNECE TFIG; UNECE traceability Textile & Leather re Sustainable Development Goals; GS1; UN/CEFACT; UNESCAP; UNNExT deliverbles

Expected benefits and impact for the stakeholders involved

Enhanced visibility of compliance with sustainability requirements by industry actors/partners along the entire value chain

Enhanced traceability of the social/environmental/ethical attributes of product(s)/materials along the value chain; for example, for origin, quality, sustainability performance, and compliance with health and safety requirements for consumers and workers

A measurable impact on sustainability in value chains over time, eventually verified through life-cycle assessments and/or sustainability certifications

Enhanced environmental and socially responsible consumption and production, and circularity of the value chain, that may be relevant to and inspire other countries and industry actors/partners

Management of reputational risk for manufacturers, brands and retailers who are selling the products concerned

Improved working conditions for workers along the value chain and, particularly, those who work for "suppliers to suppliers" in parts of the value chain that today are often "hidden"

Stakeholders involved

Business and industry associations

Consumers and consumer associations

Intergovernmental organizations

Investors/shareholders

Scientific and technological community

Key performance indicators for the action

By breaking down the barriers between the digital and physical reality the NeXTRADE Critical Tracking Events (CTE) Key Data Elements (KDE) based service supports intelligence generated from the Internet of Things (IoT). 'Digital Twins' being a virtual representation of the physical to monitor or simulate processes and outcomes, all of which are supported by the benefits available from the application of Blockchain technologies.

Good practices

ABSTRACT

A pilot project was implemented in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, introducing a new cloud-based software as a service (SaaS) designed to facilitate paper-free trade to a selected smallholder, pro-poor, producer organization, the Association of Coffee Producer Groups (AGPC), which exports coffee to Europe. Adoption of the SaaS enabled them to comply with new European Union regulations relating to the presentation of key trade data prior to the shipment of coffee to Europe and to reduce transaction costs through improved efficiencies in their trade documentation processes. The adoption of the SaaS demonstrated that direct savings in time and money can be made by reducing document handling. This serves to demonstrate to governments and small businesses the wider benefits of online information transfer and provide the impetus for streamlining the overall export document approval process.

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INTRODUCTION

The Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Working Group on Agriculture (WGA) was established in 2002 with a mission "to help reduce poverty in the GMS through partnerships with rural communities to promote agricultural trade, food security, and sustainable livelihoods." Guided by the regional cooperation strategy known as the GMS Core Agriculture Support Program (CASP), the WGA has been steering the implementation of CASP, now in its second phase (CASP II).

Under CASP II, the collective vision of the WGA is for the "GMS to be recognized as a leading producer of safe food, using climate-friendly agricultural practices, and integrated into global markets through GMS transport corridors." The WGA aims to promote regional competitiveness to contribute to the broader goal of reducing poverty among the rural poor in the subregion. It meets annually to identify and discuss emerging GMS agricultural issues, establish priorities for WGA activities, catalyze resource mobilization, and build partnerships.

Reaffirming the WGA's commitment to facilitate trade through information technology (IT), at the ninth

WGA Meeting (WGA9) in July 2012, high-level representatives of GMS countries agreed on facilitating paper-free trade as one of the priority areas for enhancing competitiveness in the region. This idea was pilot tested on smallholder coffee producers in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR).

Coffee comprises 80% of the Lao PDR's agricultural exports, most of which are still produced by poor smallholder farmers. Recent developments, such as the consolidation of new export markets in the European Union (EU) and improvements in the quality of coffee, have earned coffee from the Lao PDR a commendable reputation internationally. This has significantly expanded the Lao PDR's coffee industry with more land being used for its cultivation. While the coffee sector is promising, it is still young and fragile. Any impediments in the process of exporting coffee could damage the budding industry, severely affecting the livelihoods of smallholder farmers.

How has this UNECE-UN/CEFACT Call to Action contributed to strategic engagement and/or public awareness in support of your commitment?

Reinforces NeXTRADE's commitment to pro bono contribution to the development of interoperable trade facilitation standards by UNECE UN/CEFACT and other related standards development bodies

Link to relevant goal(s) and specific target(s) of the United Nations

