



## Trade-cooperation of seco in Ghana: Allanblackia project

- A public-private-partnership with the food company Unilever, Ghanaian institutions and NGO's with regard to "Standard setting and sustainable supply chain management for a new commodity".
- The budget is CHF 1 Mio. from the seco-side (partner's contribution is in addition). Duration is 3 years; the project was formally launched in March 2005 by Ambassador Oscar Knapp in Accra.
- Main Partners of this public-private-partnership: Unilever (Food company), FORIG (Forestry Research Institute of Ghana), ICA (Institute of Cultural Affairs, Accra), IUCN (The World Conservation Union, Gland/VD), Technoserve (consultancy for SME development).
- The project promotes a holistic approach to environmental protection, production and trade, through partnerships between the private sector, civil society and public authorities.

### Background

Allanblackia is a tree species found in parts of West, Central and East Africa. Allanblackia oil, made out of the seeds of the tree, is a new commodity with the ability of substituting palm oil for some applications. This seco-financed project aims on establishing structures to ensure that the Allanblackia supply chain is managed from the beginning in a sustainable way while making sure that the local actors in Ghana will have the capacity eventually to take over the supply chain as external partners gradually withdraw from the project.

Allanblackia holds out the potential to provide a novel source of household income for rural populations while contributing to forest landscape restoration and community-based fire management. Unilever will offer a sizeable and commercially attractive market to the project, thus providing a financially sound basis for the future. It promotes a holistic approach to environmental protection, production and trade, through partnerships between the private sector, civil society and public authorities.

### Note

The project has started well since its launching last spring. We feel encouraged by the strong commitment and the competence of local partners (FORIG – Forest Research Institute of Ghana; ICA – Institute for Cultural Affairs) and the encouraging [oral] support given by the Ghanaian government.

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