

GSA Participates in ARSO Food Standards Harmonisation Conference in Rwanda



Group photograph of African food standards experts (GSA staff indicated with arrows)

Standards Officers from the Ghana Standards Authority (GSA) attended a four-day International Standards Conference in Kigali, Rwanda, from February 12 to 16, 2024.

The meeting, which was organised by the African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO), brought together experts from 28 African countries, to work on harmonising about 200 food standards in the

areas of fish and fisheries products, milk and milk products, horticulture, coffee, cocoa, tea, live animals, animal feed, agriculture, and biotechnology at the African level.

The Director of the National Quality Inspection Agency at the Rwandan Standards Board (RSB), Raymond Murenzi, said that these experts have met to coordinate the quality regulations that allow

products to go from one country to another.

“All those countries that are willing to trade, are willing to cooperate with all of us and the trade is accelerated without the barriers of the products. Standardisation of quality will reduce many of the problems in this sector in Africa because quality regulations will be established



to facilitate those businesses on the continent,” he added.

The Secretary-General of ARSO, Dr. Hermogene Nsengimana, said that the meeting is expected to make many changes in the establishment of general regulations that will regulate the trade of quality food across Africa.

He further noted that ARSO will continue to work with all Members to ensure all standards needed to fast-track the implementation of the AfCFTA are developed, those available in different economic blocks harmonised to support free and fast movement of products and services.

The conference was attended by experts from countries including Angola, Burundi,

Cameroon, Chad, DRC, Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

The GSA Standards Officers that were in attendance included, Mrs. Nana Pokuaa Asare-Twerefour, Mr. Abass Shaibu Danbaki, Ali Baba Issah, Mr. Samuel Kwatia and Mr. Basim Alhassan.

